

ISSN: (P) 0976-9447
(e) 2454-8391
Impact Factor 8.222(SJIF)

JOURNAL GLOBAL VALUES

A PEER REVIEWED & REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

VOL. XII

SPECIAL ISSUE

JUNE 2021

CONCEPTUAL CHANGES IN MODERN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,
CULTURAL, POLITICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES --- NEED OF THE HOUR



Editors

Dr. Abhai Kumar Mital
Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bansal
Dr. Manish Kumar Gupta

Journal Global Values

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ISSN :(P)0976-9447 (e)2451-8391 Impact Factor: 8.222(SJIF)

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Conceptual Changes in Modern Economic, Social, Cultural, Political & Environmental Issues - Need of the Hour

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Published by JOURNAL ANU BOOKS

Printed by D. K. Fine Art Press Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

<https://doi.org/10.31995/jgv>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It has been a herculean task to invite, collect and edit the various research papers, case studies and articles related to the main theme “**Conceptual Changes in Modern Economic, Social, Cultural, Political & Environmental Issues—Need of the Hour**” for our research journal. As this edition is multi-disciplinary, various sub-themes were also decided to cover all the ocean of knowledge and research around us. These themes were Changing Trends of Human Resource Practices in India; Unemployment resulting due to Covid Crisis and Corrective Actions by the Govt.; Need for sincere Labour Welfare Schemes in India; Developing the Best Human Resources for India—Role of New Education Policy; Hurdles, Challenges and Opportunities of New Educational Policy of India; Online Teaching, Classroom Teaching and Blended Method of Teaching; Changing aspects of Global Cooperation; Effect of Covid on World Economy and on Expenditure Habits, Investment Habits & on Capital & Money Market; Impact of Covid on the Life Style, Attitude and Behaviour of People in the Society; Role of International Organizations in Covid Time; Global Problems—Environmental, Political, Social, Cultural & Economical; Post Covid Damage Control related to Economic, Social, Political, Cultural and Environmental Infrastructure-Variety Aspects & Challenges; Global Environmental Issues—Climate Change, Bio-diversity, Increase in Earth’s Temperature, Melting of Glaciers, Depletion of Ozone Layer, Decrease in Forest Area, Increasing Pollution; Measures to Combat Covid and after Covid Strategies of Different Economies of the world; Real Strength of Modern Humanity—Strong Healthcare Base; Humanity vs. Pandemic—The Various Aspects of the Indefinite Battle; Need of Reshaping the Rules of the Globalization and Liberalization; Post Covid Health Issues & their Cure through Time Management & Stress Management; Allopathy versus Ayurveda—An Infinite Battle; Yoga Therapy and its Relevancy in Modern Hectic Daily Life; Economic and Medicinal Importance of Plants; Public Sector Enterprises, Disinvestment & Privatisation; Capital Formation in Current Scenario; Legislative Reforms and Developments in India; Healthcare Sector of India—need of Strengthening; Banking & Insurance Sector in India—New Trends; Make in India & Ease of Doing Business; Latest Innovations and Developments in the Area of Life Sciences; Latest Trends in Various Streams of Social Sciences; New Horizons of Creativity in the Field of Music, Literature and Fine Arts; Literature as a Tool of Stress Management etc.

We have taken up this task to get published these research papers, case studies and articles, in a Refereed and Peer Reviewed International Research Journal. We are highly thankful to Mr. Vishal Mithal, Anu Books, Meerut (U.P.) who gave his consent to publish these papers as a special edition on “**Conceptual Changes in Modern Economic, Social, Cultural, Political & Environmental Issues—Need of the Hour**” in his Reputed, Refereed, Peer-reviewed & Multidisciplinary International Research Journal ‘**Journal Global Values**’. We highly thank & appreciate the work of Anu Books, Meerut.

I am also highly thankful to my team of expert professors working with me as editors. I am highly thankful to Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Associate Professor in Commerce, N.R.E.C. College, Khurja and Dr. Manish Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor in Commerce, Sahu Jain College, Najibabad.

Also, I would like to extend my special thanks to Dr. Manish Kumar Gupta for managing and co-ordinating this whole assignment. Besides it, I also extend a vote of thanks to various members of my Peer Review Board for their timely advice and suggestions regarding the contents of this research journal.

And all of the above, I extend a vote of thanks to all the subject experts, professionals, academicians and research scholars for their contribution in form of their various research papers, articles and case studies etc.

During this course, despite all the possible efforts, some errors must have crept inside, please ignore. Thanks everybody.

Dr. Abhai Kumar Mital
Chief Editor

PREFACE

Covid-19 pandemic through its different waves and versions in different countries of the world; has forced the mankind to reshape its various economic and non-economic activities. The danger of this pandemic is still not over.

But, this Covid pandemic God knows whether it is natural or man-made; has brought significant conceptual changes in the modern economic, social, cultural, political and environmental issues. These changes are also the need of the hour to fight with the current pandemic along with the purpose of recovery of the disturbed economies. This pandemic has forced us in every aspect of life to change the strategy to fight with challenges and to evaluate the things and surroundings. In this crucial time if we don't change our attitudes, beliefs, methodology & strategy to fight with the challenges and to evaluate the current surroundings, there will be threat to survival in the present pandemic generated situations and also; we will lag behind in the race of growth among all the economies of the world.

If we talk about the economic issues, due to pandemic more thrust is there on Pharma sector and Healthcare industries. Government is depending too much on domestic production not on the imports. As it is suspected that China created this virus in lab and from there it leaked; most of the powerful countries of the world have narrowed their economic terms with China. Vocal for local is being emphasised upon.

There is an overall conceptual social and cultural change in the society due to the pandemic. Public have become frugal & logical and; they are avoiding large gathering in functions, parties and cremation etc. Social distancing has been strictly followed and physical gathering has been avoided to the maximum possible extent. The people have become health oriented and more adaptive, liberal and rational to current situations.

If we talk about the conceptual changes in Political environment of the country especially India; government is focussing first on saving the life of its citizens by increasing Healthcare and Medical facilities; along with the speeding recovery process of the various sectors of the economy altogether. Make in India & Vocal for local have been focussed upon. Import substitution measures have been accelerated but it doesn't mean that the terms with the foreign countries have become stagnated. Export-Import of necessary items, healthcare products, medicines & vaccines have gained momentum among the countries across the global level. During the second wave of Covid-19 in India, many countries of the world came forth to help India and India accepted their help; even from the enemy countries. India also extended its support in fight with Corona by the Vaccine Maitri Programme and other measures.

If we talk about the environmental issues, there is a soothing factor that due to various types of Lock-downs all over the world; different kinds of pollution were seen decreasing to a significant extent and air quality also improved in the top cities of the world; where it was bad position before Covid-19 outbreak. Ozone layer depletion has decreased. Global warming has also reduced. Lockdown proved to be a boon to the natural environment.

In the last we can say that Covid has made conceptual changes in all fields like economy, politics, society, culture and environment. But on the top during this pandemic, the most significant change that was noticed among all countries & all citizen residing in the different parts of the world; was the 'Increased Sincere Feeling For Humanity'. This increased and sincere feeling for humanity increased the Global Co-operation among the world in fighting with the deadly virus Corona and; save the loss of human lives.

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BANKING OF 21ST CENTURY IN INDIA: RECENT TRENDS

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Abstract

Today's banking scenario has changed on the whole. Today's banking does not look like yesterday's banking. Banking has adopted so many innovative & digitalization technologies. It has moved with the help of smart technologies to online and mobile banking. The banking industry is fully in professional mode now. Many foreign and private banks are there with so many innovative ways to attract the customers. So now a days huge competition is also there. Single window system, multiple services, universal banking, globalization of banking, mobile banking, UPI payments, E-cheques, EFT, NEFT, RTGS, ATM, & digitalization of all banking services etc. are the many new trends entering in the banking sector. Indian Banks of Public Sector have also adopted so many innovative tools to attract the customers and they are giving full competition to foreign and private banks. The process of adoption of latest technologies in banks is still continue with a rapid pace and it is the need of the hour too. If any bank wants to survive and grow in the present banking scenario, it will have to be well equipped with latest technology as well as with skilled human resources. Modern, advanced, digitalized trends; like product innovation and branding, focus on strengthening risk management systems, adoption and emphasis on latest technology etc. are the necessary parameters for success in present era in banking industry.

Keywords—UPI, universal banking, digitalization, risk management systems

The scenario of banking has drastically changed in some last decades. In old version of banking, this sector was doing only few jobs majorly like- Deposit, Loan and Locker facilities. Bank was only a safe place for the public to deposit their money safely. The loaning procedure was so tedious and lengthy, so people were avoiding to take this facility from bank. On the employees side, it was only 10 to 5 white collar job on which they sit, do their routine work and go to home. But the time has changed and the services provided by banking sector also have undergone tremendous revolutionary changes. Indian banking environment is witnessing path breaking reforms. Now in the growth of Indian economy, the banking sector is playing a strong role as the largest, major and important player. Indian banking industry is now changing into a new get up. It is gradually moving towards adopting the latest best practices in accounting, corporate governance and risk management. Banks have introduced complete computerized automated systems from accounts opening to all other facilities. There are massive branch expansions of our banking sector in remote, rural and underdeveloped areas. So many private sector and foreign banks are now in the field for competition with nationalized banks. On the whole today's bank does not look like yesterday's bank. The scenario has completely changed from manual banking to smart, online and mobile banking. Now consumer interacts with their financial institutions is more revolving door than teller wall. The banking sector

is now adopting innovative, improved, paper less techniques with new type of services to cater the emerging needs of their customers. In the present era, our banking industry is also dealing in credit cards, plastic money, merchant banking, mutual funds and many more.

Recent Trends in Indian Banking

In the present time, the Indian banking has tremendous pressures to perform their best because there is cut-throat competition. There are so many players in this sector now they are playing with; through the help of so many innovative tools. This is time of IT revolution. Complete automation of banking is going on in its full swing. Information Technology has basically been used under two different avenues in the banking sector. One is communication and connectivity and other is business process re-engineering. So to survive & grow, it is a must for any bank to provide best services to complete the national as well as global challenges. After a detailed analytical study, we find the following recent trends in our banking sector—

1. NEFT: This is a mode of online fund transfer that is introduced by RBI, it quickly transfers money between banks throughout India. According to RBI—“NEFT is a payment system that enables electronic transfer of funds from one bank account to another bank account.” Many transfers can be made by an individual or company’s bank account with any bank who is a member of the NEFT scheme. There are certain procedures of each bank for availing this facility. Anyone who want to make payment to another individual/company can approach concern bank and make payment in cash or give instructions or authorization to transfer funds directly from his own account to the bank account of the concern individual/company/beneficiary. Now a days, NEFT can also be made through Mobile Banking. NEFT was started in November 2005 by RBI, the set up was established and maintained by Institute for development and Research in Banking Technology. Usually the maximum limit of NEFT for money transfer is upto Rs. 2 Lacs.

2. RTGS: According to Investopedia—“RTGS refers to a funds transfer system that allows for the instantaneous transfer of money and/or securities. RTGS is a continuous process of setting payment on an individual order basis without netting debit with credits across the books of a central banks.” It was introduced in India in March 2004. The processing of RTGS is different from NEFT in many sense. In NEFT, the transaction are received at a particular time and are processed in batches. However, in the case of RTGS, the transactions are processed continuously throughout the day by all time. The process of RTGS had been made available twenty four hours since 14th December, 2020. On the other hand the minimum limit of money transfer in RTGS is Rs. 2 Lacs while in NEFT, it is the maximum limit. In RTGS money can reach the beneficiary instantaneously and the beneficiary’s bank has the responsibility to credit the beneficiary’s account for the said or ordered account within two hours.

3. Digitalization of Banking: In simple words, we can explain that the digitalization has transformed manual processes, transactions and activities into digital services. Due to the advent of digital technology, all banking & financial services working in this sphere have undergone a massive and drastic shift in the mode of different operations. The major change came into Indian banking sector during 90s when new phase of liberalization opened the Indian market to the global word. In this phase of liberalization, many more private sector and international banks established their set up in India. It also boosted technological changes in the banking sector. Digital features in banking like card banking, mobile banking, online banking, NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, telebanking etc. have enables customers to avail banking facilities from their home or from anywhere.

4. EFT: According to Wikipedia—“Electronic fund transfer is the electronic transfer of money from one bank account to another, either within a single financial institution or across multiple institutions via computer based systems, without the direct intervention of banks staff.” It is a so speedy system whereby anyone who wants to make payment to other individual/company can approach his concerned bank where he has his own account and make cash payment or give instructions/authorization to transfer funds directly from his account to the bank account of beneficiary. Complete details should be furnished by transferor to the concerned bank on specified format or Performa so that the said amount reaches the beneficiary’s account in correct and speedy manner. RBI is the service provider of EFT.

5. ATM: ATM is an electronic banking outlet that allows customers to complete the basic transactions of money withdrawal without the aid of branch of banking staff. Any individual with a credit or debit card can access cash any time as ATMs have been installed by different banks at so many public places. It is the most popular withdrawal system in India. Now a days apart from withdrawal facility, ATMs are providing a wide range of services like fund transfer, mini statement, cash deposit, Aadhar linking, PAN linking etc. ATM systems work 24x7, so it is easy to a person to withdraw money at any of his convenient time without bothering the banking working hours. Different banks and different type of cards have different specific limits for these types of ATM withdrawals. The balance enquiry, mini statement of last transactions, money transfer in same bank, even money deposit facility on some specific ATMs etc can be availed through ATMs. One has its own four digit confidential pin which is changeable, so it is the safest way to withdraw money with the point of view of customers.

6. Mobile Banking: It is most popular mode now a days; specially new generation & youth are using it so frequently. It is the act of making financial banking transactions through mobile/cell phone/tablet etc. A person can transact so easily or pay his utility bills through mobile banking. In earlier days it was only possible through a laptop or desktop or computer with internet connection. But spread of smart phones have converted banking transactions so cheap and easy with use of small unit of mobile data.

7. UPI and Wallets: UPI is the RBI regulated activity and an instant payment system developed by the NPCI. It is built over the IMPS infrastructure and allows the customers to instant money transfer between any two parties, customers or clients with their bank accounts. Through UPI mode one can pay for goods and services from where he is or whenever he need. It is revolutionizing our payment method of paying and receiving money. Through UPI financial transactions can be done within seconds using interface. Google pay, Paytm, phone pay, amazon pay, free charge, BHIM etc. are popular major interfaces among numerous other services and UPI wallets. Anyone can download these services and can may make payments and receipts so frequently even if you are out of physical cash.

8. Digital Banking or Digital Banks: It means availability of all banking services and activities only on online mode. In this category banking done through the digital platform, doing away with all physical paper work likes cheques, deposit slips, pay-in-slips, demand drafts and so on. All these recent trends developed in banking sector will reshape the banking and financial sector and the mode of transactions. Digital-only-banks are operating in paperless and branchless model and seem to overtake and capture the traditional systems of banking in near future. This is a virtual banking system which is an ideal choice of current fast-paced world.

Recent Challenges Faced by Indian Banking

The Indian banking has completely entered in a new digital world. It is also facing tremendous pressures of competitive forces and also the burden of frauds and NPAs. So many private and foreign banks are entering in the sector as new and powerful players with their full muscle power and new innovative techniques. So in conclusion, the Indian banking scenario is now so complex and competitive and for survival in this age; all banks have to well-equipped themselves with all these latest and digital innovations because banking landscape is changing very fast too. In present banking phase, number of more branches or number of more and more employees is not the parameter of success. In this changing innovative digital age, there is no need to have large number of physical banks branches, no need of mediators, no need of person-to-person physical dealings or interactions. The online loan procedures reduced the bulk filing procedures and red tapism. There is more transparency and disclosure in each transaction now. Advance technological infrastructure has become an indispensable part of this IT revolution and reforms measures in Indian banking system with the gradual development of sophisticated instruments, technology and innovations in the recent market practices. The increasing graph of digitalization in banking creates the great problem of security and e-mail & online frauds in front of our banking sector. It has not been a smooth sailing for banking sector keen to jump onto the IT technicalities. This increased use of IT and digital technology in our banking sector has also brought up many security concerns. To avoid any pitfalls or mishaps on this account, our

banking ought to have in place a well planned, well documented full proof security policy and system including internal as well as external network security. There are so many other barriers for banking sector in this new path. Banks have to reorient their all resources in the form of organized branch network, reduce but skilled manpower, cost cutting in all sphere, manpower planning and human resources management in innovative ways of attracting talented managerial pool. Regular researches and investigation is must on all levels for each bank to play their financial game in successful and in safe manner.

Conclusion and Future Perspectives

All banking systems and techniques are changing globally in last few years, so Indian banking sector should also adopt this modernity and digitalization otherwise we cannot compete with the upcoming challenges. The adoption of revolutionary changing technology in banking industry continues in rapid pace. The concentration is perceptibly more in the metro cities and in urban areas but it is gradually expanding in villages and in remote areas too. The advantage of this rapid and speedy technology is yet to percolate sufficiently to the common man living in his rural and remote hamlet. It is too essential in Indian context because most of the Indian population residing in villages and in rural areas. It is the hour that these upgradation of banking softwares and technology be introduced and spread out in these regional areas in their own languages so that more and more people might get benefited with the same. The Indian banking has undergone remarkable and considerable changes. Today's scenario is redefined, refined and re-engineered with the use of digitalization and information technology and it is assured that forthcoming Indian banking will offer more and more sophisticated services to its customers with the advanced features, paperless services and also innovative benefits and facilities. Thus, there is a paradigm shift in surprising mode from the "seller's market to buyer's market" in the banking industry and finally it will also affect at the bankers end or level to change their business approach from "conventional banking to convenience banking" and "mass banking to class banking". Indian banking industry has to prepare its whole system according to present need and global competition because the mode of banking business converted gradually into electronic side and of concept services at door step of customers has become the main principles of banking business in present context. Banking is now purely converted and need an extreme professional approach towards its business. The banking sector may have to re-orient their resources in the form of strengthen and well equipped branch networks, reduced and skilled manpower, effective reduction in establishment cost, honing the skills of the recruited staff and also innovative ways of attracting advanced, talented managerial pool.

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Abbreviations

1. IT - Information Technology.
2. NEFT - National Electronic Fund Transfer
3. RTGS - Real Time Gross Settlement
4. ECS - Electronic Clearing Service
5. EDI - Electronic Data Interchange
6. RBI - Reserve Bank of India
7. IMPS - Immediate Payment Service
8. ATM - Automated Teller Machine
9. UPI - Unified Payment Interface
10. NPCI - National Payment Corporation of India
11. NPA - Non Performing Assets



CAPITAL APPRECIATION IN PHARMACEUTICAL SHARES – AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Every person is willing to get high return on their investments. Traditionally people don't take risk and deposit their money with banks. At that time various opportunities were not available. But now a days various financial instruments are available to invest in. The risk features are different. So investor can choose any or bundle of financial instruments according to his or her appetite of risk. In this paper, I have analyzed some of the listed pharmaceutical shares in National Stock Exchange. These shares are of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. Purpose of our analysis is to find the best return in these three company shares.

Keywords- Return, Investment, Return on Equity, Dividend, Earning Per Share, Book Value, Market Price, Covid

Now days, every person is willing to increase his return on investments. Traditionally people were investing in Post Office, Banks, Company Deposits, Debentures etc. After that the trend was towards Capital Market. Now in last few years peoples are investing in mutual funds. The investment purpose is to have a better return by taking risk. New generation is willing to take risk and earn high rate of return on their investments. That's why they are investing in Capital Market. In recent last eight months the Capital Market is going in upward directions. This research paper is trying to evaluate the area or shares where a person can invest the sum and can earn high gain on his investment in bullish market.

Introduction

Investors invest in shares to get potential return. Shares are the most volatile investment in capital market. Here volatile investment means the value of shares can drop or go upward in short term period. People will invest in capital market for appreciation in their wealth. There are two areas. One is primary market and another is secondary market. Primary market is a market where company issues fresh equity or preference shares. After listing of these shares, it becomes secondary market. When these shares are listed on stock exchange, the price of the shares fluctuates and demand of these share will certainly help investor to get the gain. In secondary market, shares are traded at National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange. It depends on the company, where to list the shares. Listing creates high liquidity of shares.

The main Question is why people invest money. The purposes of investment are —

1. To appreciate the money
2. To earn higher return
3. To attain financial goals
4. To help the family in unforeseen circumstances
5. To save retirement life
6. To save tax

To fulfill the above goals of the investment, the person invest in such a manner so that the goals can be achieved. The area of investment can be either immovable property investment or movable property investment. In movable property a large amount of sum is required and it will block the money for a longer time. The investment area is decided on the basis of purpose. When investments are made in movable property; then financial products in the market are preferred. Financial products are like Shares, Debentures, Company Deposits, Fixed Deposits and Recurring Deposits in financial institutions etc. Mutual Funds and various other products are also available in the field. Now a days, in banks low return is available due to low rate of interest. Since there is loss of value of money which is due to inflation and low rate of interest, people are not interested to deposit the sum with banks. Various other options are available.

In present Corona time, the income is going down. Due to retrenchment or loss of employment because of shut down; has created big problem. Banks are going to make loan only for those who are able to pay. Such situation is a worst situation. Those having money are not willing to deposit the sum with banks. Hence credit is not available to banks. And hence banks are not in such situation to create more credit. Since non-performing assets of banks are continuously increasing, people are afraid about security of their money with banks. Although such situation of lacking security of money with bank; will not happen in India due to tough regulations and governance. People are moving towards capital market. Capital market is a market, where buyers and sellers are engaged in trading of financial securities like shares, bonds etc. When a person invests in capital market, he is willing to take various types of risk. These various risks are like market risk, liquidity risk, credit risk, inflation risk etc. Investors are now willing to face these risks. The main reasons behind this are; to appreciate the capital and to get better returns. So in capital market funds are continuously increasing and persons are investing more and more money.

Objectives of the Study

In this research paper, we have focused on Pharmaceutical sector companies. In this sector various companies are performing best. Among them, we are willing to have knowledge about the high return companies. Pharmaceutical sector is lucrative due to Covid-19 pandemic. So the purpose of the study are—

1. To investigate the pharmaceutical companies stocks bullish in nature.
2. To investigate the reasons of being bullish.
3. To analyse causes of such valuation.

Research Methodology

The basic data used for this research paper is secondary in nature. Data is taken from various newspapers like Financial Express, Economic Times; form the websites of National Stock Exchange, Bombay Stock Exchange; from various financial reports of the company and from news in Financial Magazines etc. Limitation of this paper is only that only three companies have been taken for evaluation purpose. For our research paper we have taken Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd.

Analysis

During the last four years, the bank interest rates are continuously going down. The middle class which is backbone of the economy; is facing large problems. This middle class' saving was all deposited in banks earlier. The people were depositing the money in banks due to high rate of interest and with low risk. Now scenario has changed. It is evident that when bank was offering 12 percent rate on fixed deposits, then middle class was

interested only for fixed deposits with banks due to safety and security of funds. In stock market; funds are always under high risk. Now, since banks are offering low rate of interest on fixed deposits, hence middle class has shifted towards capital market. In capital market high liquidity is also available. Here another benefit to investor is low rate of tax in capital market long term capital gain.

In last one year Covid-19 pandemic has created health problem in whole of the world. Due to this pandemic, almost all countries are affected and there is requirement of medicines and vaccines for treatment of Covid- 19. To overcome the Corona virus, all pharmaceutical companies are manufacturing the drugs for treatment of Corona virus. Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. are engaged in various activities of manufacturing the drugs and have the rights of manufacturing of special drugs and supply of raw material of drugs. These companies are fundamentally and financially sound and in future; they will certainly do better. The year 2020-21 was in Covid wave. But the stock market soared over 80% from the lows of March 2020 to April 2021. Despite the fact of pandemic, the upward trend has been seen in stock market. All; those invested in March 2020 onwards made money. Even pandemic second wave has not affected the capital market.

In our research paper, first individual data is analysed and thereafter comparative study is made.

Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd.

The first stock under our consideration is Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd. which is an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company. Its head office is in Hyderabad which is in Telangana State. The company was founded by Shri Anji Reddy. This company is engaged in production of more than 190 medications, 60 Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for drug manufacturing, diagnostic kits, and various bio technology products. It means company has three main core segments-Pharmaceutical Services and Active Ingredients, Global Generics and Proprietary Products. In recent Covid-19 cases rise and need for medical support; demand of drugs boost the sale and this resulted into the increase in profits. Profit of the company has grown at 14% CAGR over the last 10 years.

Divis Laboratories Ltd.

This company was established in 1990 in Hyderabad with two manufacturing units in India. Its business is spread in 95 countries. It is having leadership in 11 out of 25 Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients. It is top Generic API manufacturer in India as well as world. This company has competitive advantage in Nutraceutical Ingredients and custom synthesis of APIs.

Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd.

Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. is a chain of diagnostic centers in India. It is providing best high quality diagnostic healthcare services. This company has qualified team of Pathology, Radiology, Microbiology, Biochemist, Senior Specialists etc. Team having specialization with doctorate degrees and young dynamic staff has put; this company in better stage. It has more than 190 clinical labs and more than 1700 patient service centers in India. The presence of this company in International Market has plus point for this. It is operating in United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc. It has temperature controlled environment in sample collection.

In our research paper, the above three companies are under analysis. In recent time, Covid-19 cases are going up and there is need for medical support and high availability of drugs. So there is scope of boost of sale and consequently profits are to be increased. We are studying the various parameters of these companies for the last five years.

Table 1
Analysis of Sales (Crore Rs.) and Net Profit (Crore Rs.) of

Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. (2017 to 2021)

Name	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021		
	Sales	Net Profit	% NP/Sales	Sales	Net Profit	% NP/Sales	Sales	Net Profit	% NP/Sales	Sales	Net Profit	% NP/Sales	Sales	Net Profit	% NP/Sales
Dr. Reddy’s	14196	1257	8.85	14281	912	6.38	15448	1906	12.34	17517	1969	11.24	19047	1903	10.00
Divis Lab.	4064	1060	26.08	3891	877	22.54	4946	1352	27.33	5398	1376	25.49	6969	1984	28.47
Dr. Lal Path.	912	155	16.99	1056	171	16.19	1203	200	16.62	1330	227	17.06	1581	296	18.72

It is evident from the above Table 1 that the sales of Dr. Reddy company is higher than the other two one. The profit in comparison of sales are higher in Divis Lab. In terms of percentage of sales the profit is higher in Divis Laboratory. During the period of 2017 to 2021, net profit ratio of all the three companies is exhibiting stable nature on an approx. But from earning point of view; the Divis Lab stands first and then Dr. Lal Path Lab. On last rank there is Dr. Reddy's Lab.

Table 2
Analysis of EPS (in Rs.) and Book Value (in Rs.) of
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. (2017 to 2021)

Name	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	EPS	Book Value	EPS	Book Value	EPS	Book Value	EPS	Book Value	EPS	Book Value
Dr. Reddy's	77.53	739.57	57.08	757.33	117.53	844.8	122.22	939.56	117.67	1060.20
Divis Lab.	39.95	201.82	33.04	223.2	50.96	262.09	51.85	275.38	74.75	350.15
Dr. Lal Path.	19.02	71.99	20.85	95.00	24.19	114.11	27.42	126.48	35.33	153.18

Above table 2 depicts that EPS for Dr. Reddy's Lab is Rs. 117.67 for 2021 for share face value of Rs. 5. So for Rs.1, it will be Rs. 23.53 in case of Dr. Reddy's Lab. For Divis Lab., EPS is Rs. 74.75 for 2021 against share face value of Rs. 2. So Rs. 1 will be Rs. 37.37 in case of Divis Lab. For Dr. Lal Pathlabs, EPS is Rs. 35.33 for 2021 against share face value of Rs. 10. So Rs. 1 will be Rs. 3.53 in case of Dr. Lal Pathlabs. It is derived that EPS is highest in case of Divis Lab. So Divis Lab. stands first, Dr. Reddy's Lab. second and Dr. Lal Pathlabs. at third rank in EPS as compared against face value of share.

From book value point of view, it looks Dr. Reddy's Lab is highest. But from analysis point of view we have to change to for Rs. 1. Now Dr. Reddy's Share Book value is Rs. 1060.20 in 2021 for face value of Rs. 5. If we convert it into for Rs. 1 then it will become 212. For Divis Lab it will be Rs. 175 for Rs. 1. For Dr. Lal Pathlabs. it is 15.32 for Rs. 1 in year 2021. So it is derived that Dr. Reddy's Lab. Book Value is highest and then Divis Lab.

So on overall analysis from EPS and Book Value point of view; Dr. Reddy's Lab. and Divis Lab. are good.

Table 3
Analysis of ROE (%) and Dividend per Share (in Rs.) of
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. (2017 to 2021)

Name	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	ROE	Dividend Per Share	ROE	Dividend Per Share	ROE	Dividend Per Share	ROE	Dividend Per Share	ROE	Dividend Per Share
Dr. Reddy's (FV 5)	10.53	20.00	7.53	20.00	13.9	20.00	12.98	25.00	11.06	25.00
Divis Lab (FV 2)	19.79	10.00	14.80	10.00	19.44	16.00	18.83	16.00	21.34	20.00
Dr. Lal Path (FV 10)	25.95	3.00	21.67	4.50	21.06	6.00	21.86	12.00	23.42	20.00

The above table depicts that Return on Equity is highest in case of Dr. Lal Pathlabs. from 2017 to 2021. From dividend per share point of view, we have to change it in terms of Rs. 1. In 2021 Dividend per rupee is Rs. 5 for Dr. Reddy's, Rs. 10 for Divis Lab. and Rs. 2 for Dr. Lal Pathlabs. So Dividend per share is highest in Divis Lab. So Divis Lab. and Dr. Reddy's both companies are good from Return on Equity and Dividend Per Share point of view.

Table 4
Analysis of Market Price (in Rs.) of
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Divis Laboratories Ltd. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs Ltd. (2017 to 2021)

Name	01.04.2016	03.04.2017	02.04.2018	01.04.2019	01.04.2020	01.04.2021
Dr. Reddy (FV 5)	2980	2744	2132	2795	3095	4588
Divis Lab (FV 2)	1009	627	1090	1723	1877	3616
Dr. Lal Path (FV 10)	942	973	872	1050	1389	2731

Capital appreciation can be seen in table 4 above. The description follows—

Dr. Reddy's: If any investor invested Rs. 2980 on 01.04.2016 by purchasing one share of Dr. Reddy's Lab., then the market value of share is Rs. 4588 on 01.04.2021. There is appreciation of Rs. 1608 in five years tenure. The gain is 53.96% averaging 10.79% per annum return due to capital appreciation. In addition during the period of 2016 to 2021, Investor got Rs. 110 as dividend. So the total gain is Rs. 1718. If we calculate it in terms of percentage, it will be 11.53% per annum.

Divis Lab: By investing Rs. 1009 in 2016 it will become Rs. 3616 in 2021. So gain is Rs. 2607 in 5 years. The appreciation is 258.37% and average out is 51.67% per annum. During the period investor got dividend of Rs. 72 so total gain will be Rs. 2679. It means total return will be 265.51%. It means average gain to investor will be 53.10% p.a.

Dr. Lal Path: If amount invested in one equity share is Rs. 942 on 01.04.2016; it becomes on 01.04.2021 Rs. 2731. It means gain of Rs. 1789. There is gain of 189.92%. On an average it is 37.98%. In addition dividend of Rs. 45.50 is also added, then the gain will be higher. It means appreciation of 194.75% in last five years. On an average it is 38.95% per annum.

It is evident that Divis Lab. share has given highest gain to the investor. It means that investor is getting higher capital appreciation in this share. On the second rank it is Dr. Lal Pathlabs. Share.

Strengths of the Companies

If we look towards the strengths of the above two companies i.e. **Dr. Reddy's Lab. and Divis Lab.**; strengths of both the companies are same. They both are in manufacturing of APIs. Their strengths are—

1. Both companies are having sufficient working capital.
2. EPS growth is very high in both the companies if we analysis it on quarter to quarter basis.
3. These two companies are managing their assets in such a way so that they can earn more profits.
4. Book value of both companies' share is improving. Divis Lab. has higher improvement.

In case of Dr. Lal Pathlabs. book value is almost double in five years. The EPS is also good and having high growth rate. Company is also generating higher cash flow and it is a zero debt company. Profit margin is also increasing from Rs. 155 Crore to Rs. 296 Crore. Net profit and Reserves of the company are increasing.

Pharmaceutical sector is most loved sector in capital market during the last one year due to pandemic. Rise in demand of essential drugs has boosted this sector. Due to lockdown companies were affected but from long-term point of view, health care sector companies will provide better return in capital market.

Conclusion

From the analysis, it is found that among all the three companies Divis Lab. performed best. But Dr. Reddy's Lab. and Dr. Lal Pathlabs. are also performing in good position. The future of all three companies is good and hence there is scope of higher return on account of rise in price of share and dividend per share. These companies can also issue bonus shares to investors in long term to consume their surplus profits.

The author of this research paper is not recommending the reader or anybody to invest in these companies or in stock market. It should be the investor's decision about the investment. Capital market has higher risk and one should take decisions at its own. This paper is purely academic in nature. In last, I would like to say that Divis Lab. and Dr. Reddy's Lab. shares are better than Dr. Lal Pathlabs. Various parameters are analyzed in this paper but other parameters and overall performance should also be considered. Hence Dr. Reddy's Lab. and Divis Lab. shares are best for investment purpose in long term for capital appreciation. Although risk is there; but without risk there is no gain.

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8. Various Financial websites used for information.



A STUDY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF CPSEs UNDER DHI

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Abstract

In this paper, we are focussing basically on the Performance of the CPSEs run by the Department of Heavy Industries (Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt. of India). There are a total of 29 Central Public Sector Enterprises under the control of the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). Out of these 29, 10 CPSEs are profit making and 12 CPSEs are loss making during the year 2018-19. Remaining 7 CPSEs are under closure. Both the operational and financial performance of CPSEs under DHI is not good. Most of the companies are in loss and the burden of the losses of these companies is being borne by the Profits of the Profit making companies. The position worsens when we see the negative net worth in some of the CPSEs. It seems that CPSEs working under DHI have lagged behind by a far distance from the private sector. In this case, the only option left with the government is to shift the control and ownership of these poor performing companies to the Private Sector or to permanently closing them. Profit-making CPSEs should consistently be run on the basis of Professionalism not by political & bureaucratic influences and methodology. Proper and strict implementation of Cost Management Techniques and a justified Pricing Policy is the need of the hour.

Keywords— CPSEs, DHI, Divest, Net Worth, Gross Block, Capacity, Cost Management

Before independence of India in 1947, there were not a plenty of Public Sector Enterprises in India except Railways, Post & Telegraph, Port Trusts, War Equipment Factories etc. But in Industrial Policy 1956, it was decided by the govt. to expand the no. and areas of Public Enterprises in India. India then was primarily agriculture-based country with a poor level of Infrastructural Facilities. Private Sector was at that time was too weak in terms of resources and areas of functioning. PSEs were promoted and developed with objectives of; building strong infrastructural base for Agriculture & Industrial Sector, diversification of Indian Economy, to reduce regional disparity, to develop industries in core & strategic areas, to increase employment opportunities, to have a check on Restrictive & Monopolistic Trade Activities of Private Sector, to work on basis of social gain or strategic value rather than on consideration of profit, for increase in the rate of Economic Growth, for export promotion & import substitution and to represent PSEs as Model Employer & Entrepreneur etc.

In definitional terms, according to N. N. Malaya, “Public enterprises are autonomous or semi-autonomous corporations and companies established, owned and controlled by the state and engaged in industrial and commercial undertakings”. In simple words, any enterprise in which Government holds more than 50% of the ordinary shares is called public enterprise.

Further Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) mean an enterprise in which stake of Central Government is more than 50%.

But now in 21st Century, India has changed. Private Sector has become too powerful, resourceful and competent enough to run the train of economic growth of India. On the other hand, most of the PSEs have become non-productive hence they are either being closed or disinvested & privatised by the Govt. PSEs are unable to compete with the high degree of competitiveness, professionalism showed by the Private sector of India. PSEs have not been able to adapt themselves to the dynamic industrial environment of the country as well as of the world. Nevertheless some exceptions of PSEs are always there showing their tremendous performance.

Though modern times is the time of Disinvestment and Privatization. But still in this crucial time of changing the ownership of Public Sector Enterprises, there are some sectors which have been kept reserved by the Govt. of India only for PSEs keeping in view their importance to national security, social welfare aspect and for a great importance for the well-being of infrastructural requirements of the country. The areas reserved for public sector enterprises in India are—“Arms and ammunition & allied items of defence equipment, Defence aircraft & warships, Atomic Energy, Coal and lignite, Mineral oils; Mining of iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, gypsum, sulphur, gold & diamond; Mining of copper, lead, zinc, tin, molybdenum & wolfram, Minerals specified in the Schedule to the Atomic Energy (Control of production and use) Order, 1953 and; the Railway transport.

About the Paper

As in modern India, Private sector has developed to a quite satisfactory degree and still the process of development is rapidly on. On the other hand most of the PSEs have become sick, outdated and; lagged behind in the race of growth. So the Govt. has been selling off these units or making disinvestment of its stake in these PSEs.

In this paper, we are focussing basically on the Performance of the CPSEs run by the Department of Heavy Industries (Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt. of India). Besides Department of Heavy Industries, some CPSEs have also being run by various ministries of the Central Govt. Our paper concentrates only on the performance of CPSEs run by DHI.

Objectives of the Paper

The following are the objectives of the Paper—

- To have an idea about the CPSEs under DHI on the basis of their work
- To have an idea of the performance of CPSEs working under DHI
- To study the CPSEs under DHI on the basis of profit making status
- To study the CPSEs under DHI on the basis of net worth
- To derive conclusion and develop suggestions regarding performance of CPSEs under DHI

Research Methodology

The current research is basically a descriptive and analytical research based on the secondary data derived from the various Govt. & Non-govt. Websites, various research paper/articles published in journals and newspapers etc. The main source of data are the website of Department of Heavy Industries, Department of Public Enterprises and the website of Department of Disinvestment and Public Assets Management. Various techniques of segregation and analysis of data have been used like tabulation, ratio analysis, percentage etc.

The time span have been used for the analysis is the last 3 years starting from 2016-17 to 2018-19. At some places estimated data of 2019-20 has also been given.

“In this article, the name of CPSEs have been written in abbreviated form. To see the full name of CPSEs Annexure 1 and Annexure 2 have been given.”

Current Status of CPSEs in India

The table no. 1 shows the current status of CPSEs in India both under Department of Heavy industries and CPSEs under various ministries or departments of Indian Govt.

There are a total of 29 Central Public Sector Enterprises under the control of the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). Out of these 29, 10 CPSEs are profit making and 12 CPSEs are loss making during the year 2018-19. Remaining 7 CPSEs are under closure.

There are a total of 348 Central Public Sector Enterprises under the control of various ministries or departments of Indian Govt. During the year 2018-19; out of these 348, 178 CPSEs are profit making, 70 CPSEs are loss making and 1 CPSE is in no profit/no loss status. In 86 CPSEs production hasn't started yet. Remaining 13 CPSEs are under closure.

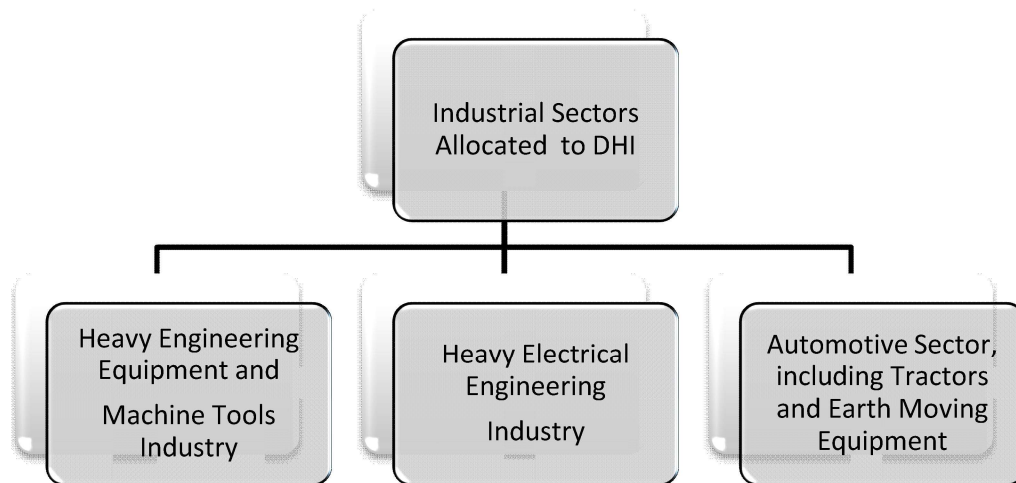
Department of Heavy Industries

The Department of Heavy Industry is being run under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt. of India. At present this ministry is under control of; Central Minister Sh. Mahendra Nath Pandey and Minister of State Sh. Krishan Pal.

DHI is headed by a Secretary to the Government of India and supported by 1 Additional Secretary, two Joint Secretaries, Senior Economic Adviser, Directors/Deputy Secretaries/Joint Directors and a Technical Wing. DHI also gets support by Integrated Finance Wing headed by an Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser.

The Department of Heavy Industry has been allocated the following subjects/ Industrial Sectors——

**Diagram 1
Sectors Allocated to DHI**



Sub-sectors under the above 3 broad sectors are as under——

Electrical Furnace, Boilers, Cement Machinery, Machine Tools, Mining Machinery, Dairy Machinery, Pulp and Paper Machinery, Rubber Machinery, Switchgear and Control Gear, Freight Containers, Material Handling Equipment, Metallurgical Machinery, Oil Field Equipment, Printing Machinery, Shunting Locomotive, Sugar Machinery, Turbines & Generator Set, Transformers, Textile Machinery etc.

Vision of DHI

“To have a globally competitive, green & technology-driven heavy industry manufacturing sector, including automotive and capital goods sectors, which propels growth and job creation.”—— www.dhi.nic.in

Mission of DHI

“To facilitate Auto, Heavy Electrical & Capital Goods Sectors to be globally competitive, growth oriented and profitable and to provide all necessary support to CPSEs to improve their overall performance.”—— www.dhi.nic.in

DHI also maintains a strong coordination with the various Industrial Associations. DHI plays its positive role for the Sectors allotted to it through its policy measures, tariffs control measures, technology enhancement measures, measures for competitive R & D and through a series of its capacity building activities.

CPSEs under DHI

As described in Table 1, there are a total of 29 Central Public Sector Enterprises under the control of the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). Out of these 29, 10 CPSEs are profit making and 12 CPSEs are loss making during the year 2018-19. Remaining 7 CPSEs are under closure. Of these 29 CPSEs, 5 CPSEs are Consultancy/Service Companies, 8 are Non-engineering Companies and the rest 16 are Engineering Companies.

The Total Investment (Gross Block) in the 22 operating CPSEs under DHI was Rs. 9088.24 crore on 31st March 2019. The total paid-up capital of the 22 operating companies was Rs. 4982.48 crores on 31st March 2019 out of which Rs. 4621.92 crores belong to central government or to the holding CPSEs.

Beside the above, the 5 Autonomous Bodies are also administered by DHI which are—

- FCRI
- NATRIP & NATIS
- ARAI & ARAI-FID
- CMTI
- NAB

Some exceptions are also there to the poor performance of CPSEs under DHI. Some of the CPSEs under DHI have also been granted the status of ‘Maharatna’ & ‘Miniratna’ enterprises. The list of these types of CPSEs under DHI is as follows—

- **Maharatna CPSE**—BHEL
- **Miniratna CPSE**—BPCL, BRCL, EPI, HMT-INT, HNL, HPC and REIL.

Analysis & Explanation of Tables (No. 2 to No. 8)

- The table number 2, 3 and 4 shows that out of 29 CPSEs under DHI, 10 CPSEs are in Profit making status, 12 CPSEs in Loss making status and 7 CPSEs are under closure.
- Table 5 shows that out of 10 profit making companies; 5 are engineering companies, 3 Consultancy/Service companies and 2 non-engineering companies. While out of 12 loss making CPSEs; 5 are engineering concerns, 5 non-engineering companies and the remaining two are consultancy or service companies. Out of 7 companies under closure, 6 are engineering companies and 1 non-engineering company.
- As per the data depicted in table 5, we can say that out of 16 engineering CPSEs; 11 are either in loss or in closure. In the same way out of 8 non-engineering companies; 6 are either in loss or in closure process. Out of 5 consultancy/service companies; 2 are loss making. In a nutshell, it can be said that most of the CPSEs under DHI especially engineering and non-engineering companies are poor in performance that is why they need to be closed or disinvested.
- Table no. 6 shows the production CPSEs and their total Final Profit. For the last 4 years ending on 2019-20, the total production of operating CPSEs were Rs. 33600 crores, Rs. 33527 crores, Rs. 36169 crore and Rs. 34426 crore respectively. The total final profit of the operating CPSEs under DHI for the above period was Rs. 249 crores (Negative), Rs. 1403 crores, Rs. 1345 crores and Rs. 70 crores respectively. On the basis of production, there is not any significant growth or increasing trend. Also on the basis of profits the position is getting worse to worst. Both the operational and financial performance of CPSEs under DHI is not good.
- Table 7 shows the Total Profits of the profit making companies and Total Loss of the loss making companies for the last four years ending on 2019-20. It shows that for the last four years the total profit of the profit making companies under DHI were Rs. 567 crores, Rs. 2130 crores, Rs. 2186 crores and Rs. 801 crores. For the last four years the loss of loss making CPSEs under DHI were Rs. 816 crores, Rs. 727 crores, Rs. 841 crores and & Rs.731 Crores.

- The table no. 8 shows the Net Worth of the CPSEs under DHI as on 31st March 2019. The table shows that in terms of Net Worth the best CPSE is Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited having a net worth of Rs. 31400 Crores. The worst CPSE in terms of net worth is HMT Machine Tools Limited having net worth of Rs. 1390 Crore in negative. Out of 22 CPSE the net worth of 10 companies is in negative while the net worth of 12 companies is in positive. The total net worth of CPSE under department of heavy industry is Rs. 29559 crores as on 31st March 2019. The 10 companies having negative net worth sums upto to Rs. 3225 crore negative worth and the 12 companies having positive net worth have a total worth of Rs. 32784 crore.

Reasons of the Poor Performance of the CPSEs under DHI

A no. of reasons for the poor performances of the CPSEs under DHI can be enumerated. Some of them are as follows—

- Non-professionalised Operation
- Red-tapism and too much bureaucracy
- Non-availability and non-timely availability of funds for Fixed as well as Working Capital requirements
- Under-utilisation of Capacity installed
- Obsolete production technology and equipment
- Not proper control over labour force resulting into strikes, slow-down, trade-unionisms etc.
- Poor Pricing Policy and using old methods of cost determination
- Severe competition from strong private sector enterprises of India
- Non-adoption of various measures of Cost Curtailment
- Unnecessary Political Interference
- Non updating of products & services rendered keeping in view the dynamically changing demands of the customers etc.

Suggestions

Though in case of Engineering Sector & Non-Engineering Sector, CPSEs under DHI are too poor on performance. It is better to close them or divest Govt. stake in them. Nevertheless, we are suggesting some measures to enhance the performance of the CPSEs under DHI in India—

- o Modern techniques of cost control and cost reduction should be adopted in CPSEs. Maximum and optimum level of utilization of capacity will also be helpful in cost reduction.
- o Capital Budgeting Techniques i.e. the techniques dealing with the areas or projects in which huge investments are required, should be dealt carefully.
- o Loss making CPSEs should be focused upon. Various measures like disinvestment, autonomy, privatisation etc. can be used to make these units beneficiary.
- o Political interference, bureaucracy, red-tapism, insufficiency of funds etc. limiting factors should be curtailed to the minimized level to improve the performance of CPSEs in India.
- o More schemes like Miniratna & Maharatna should be introduced to motivate the CPSEs towards better functioning.
- o Modern Techniques of Human Resource Management should be concentrated upon in CPSEs. It will help in making the manpower engaged in CPSEs more competitive.
- o Managerial Staff and Administrative Officials should run the CPSEs on professional basis keeping in view the modern competitive and dynamic industrial environment.

Conclusion

At last we can say that the overall performance of the CPSEs under DHI is not satisfactory. Most of the companies are in loss and the burden of the losses of these companies is being borne by the Profits of the Profit making companies. Only the Maharatna and Miniratna companies are performing well. The position worsens when we see the negative net worth in some of the CPSEs.

Keeping in view the modern competitive & dynamic environment with excellence in quality, quantity, availability and with competitive pricing, it seems that CPSEs working under DHI have lagged behind by a far distance. The hope for revival is quite poor. In this case, the only option left with the government is to shift the control and ownership of these poor performing companies to the Private Sector or to permanently closing them. It is not the work of Govt. to be a successful businessman & entrepreneur. Let it be left for the Private sector. Nevertheless some sector or crucial areas must not be given to private sector for the welfare of the country and its people. That is why some sectors have been reserved by the Govt. only for Public Sector Enterprises. For the poor performing industries Govt. has adopted two measures i.e. closure of the CPSEs and the Disinvestment of CPSEs keeping in view the company specific hope or chances of revival. Besides it well performing CPSEs should also been taken special care of so that they continue to be performing good. CPSEs should be run on the basis of Professionalism not by political & bureaucratic influences. The product & quality of the Goods and services provided by the CPSEs should be competitive with the other companies working in the same field. Proper and strict implementation of Cost Management Techniques and a justified Pricing Policy is the need of the hour.

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Table 1
Current Status of CPSEs (As on 31st March 2019)

CPSEs under DHI		CPSEs under various Ministries/ Deptt.	
Status of CPSEs	No. of CPSEs	Status of CPSEs	No. of CPSEs
Profit Making	10	Profit Making	178
Loss Making	12	Loss Making	70
Under Closure	7	No profit /loss	1
Total	29	Production not started	86
		Under Closure	13
		Total	348

Source— Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt. of India

Table 2
List of Profit Making CPSEs under DHI (As on 31st March 2019)

Serial No.	Name of CPSE	Nature of Work
1	BHEL	Engineering Enterprise
2	AYCL	Engineering Enterprise
3	BRCL	Consultancy/Service Enterprises
4	BBJ	Consultancy/Service Enterprises
5	HMT	Engineering Enterprise
6	HMT-INT	Consultancy/Service Enterprises
7	REIL	Engineering Enterprise
8	RC	Engineering Enterprise
9	HSL	Non-Engineering Enterprises
10	CCI	Non-Engineering Enterprises

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 3
List of Loss Making CPSEs under DHI (As on 31st March 2019)

Serial No.	Name of CPSE	Nature of Work
1	BPCL	Engineering Enterprise
2	SIL	Engineering Enterprise
3	HMT-MT	Engineering Enterprise
4	HPC	Non-Engineering Enterprises
5	NPPCL	Non-Engineering Enterprises
6	HNL	Non-Engineering Enterprises
7	NEPA	Non-Engineering Enterprises
8	SSL	Non-Engineering Enterprises
9	BHEL-EML	Engineering Enterprise
10	HPCL	Consultancy/Service Enterprises
11	EPI	Consultancy/Service Enterprises
12	HEC	Engineering Enterprise

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 4
List of CPSEs under Closure (As on 31st March 2019)

Serial No.	Name of CPSE	Nature of Work
1	HPF	Non-Engineering Enterprises
2	HMT-B	Engineering Enterprises
3	HMT-W	Engineering Enterprises
4	HMT-CW	Engineering Enterprises
5	HCL	Engineering Enterprises
6	IL	Engineering Enterprises
7	TSPL	Engineering Enterprises

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 5
Status of CPSEs under DHI (As on 31st March 2019)
On basis of Nature of CPSE

Status of CPSE	Nature of CPSE			Total
	Engineering Enterprises	Non-Engineering Enterprises	Consultancy/Service Enterprises	
Profit Making	5	2	3	10
Loss Making	5	5	2	12
Under Closure	6	1	0	7
Total	16	8	5	29

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 6
Production & Profit Performance of CPSEs under DHI

Year	Production Rs. in Crores	Final Profit Rs. in Crores
2016-17	33600	-249
2017-18	33527	1403
2018-19	36169	1345
2019-20 (Estimated)	34426	70

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 7
Profit/Loss Performance of CPSEs under DHI

Year	Profit of Profit Making Companies Rs. in Crores	Loss of Loss Making Companies Rs. in Crores	Final Profit Rs. in Crores
2016-17	567	816	-249
2017-18	2130	727	1403
2018-19	2186	841	1345
2019-20 (Estimated)	801	731	70

Source— Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Table 8
Net Worth of CPSEs under DHI (As on 31st March 2019)

Sl. No.	Name of CPSE	Net Worth Rs. in Crores
1	HMT-MT	-1390
2	HPC	-1087
3	RC	-250
4	BPCL	-187
5	HNL	-146
6	NPPCL	-87
7	SSL	-47
8	NEPA	-19
9	BHEL-EML	-8
10	HPCL	-4
11	CCI	9
12	HEC	11
13	HMTI-INT	38
14	HSL	47
15	SIL	66
16	REIL	115
17	HMT	140
18	AYCL	190
19	EPI	198
20	BBJ	208
21	BRCL	362
22	BHEL	31400
	Total	29559

Source—Annual Reports of Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises- various issues

Annexure 1
List of CPSE under DHI (Alphabetically)

S.N.	Abbreviations Used in Paper	Name of CPSE under DHI
1	AYCL	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
2	BBJ	Braithwaite Burn and Jessop construction Co. Ltd.
3	BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
4	BHEL-EML	BHEL Electrical Machines Ltd
5	BPCL	Bharat Pumps and compressors Ltd.
6	BRCL	Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd.
7	CCI	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
8	EPI	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
9	HCL	Hindustan Cables Ltd.
10	HEC	Heavy Engineering corporation Ltd.
11	HMT	HMT Ltd.(Holding Company with Tractor Division)
12	HMT-B	HMT (Bearings) Limited (subsidiary of HMT)
13	HMT-CW	HMT Chinar Watches (subsidiary of HMT)
14	HMT-INT	HMT (International) Limited (subsidiary of HMT)
15	HMT-MT	HMT Machine Tools (subsidiary of HMT)
16	HMT-W	HMT Watches (Subsidiary of HMT)

17	HNL	Hindustan Newsprint Limited (subsidiary of HPC)
18	HPC	Hindustan paper Corporation Ltd.
19	HPCL	Hooghly Printing company Limited (subsidiary of AYCL)
20	HPF	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
21	HSL	Hindustan Salts Ltd.
22	IL	Instrumentation Ltd. Kota
23	NEPA	Nepa Limited
24	NPPCL	Nagaland Pulp and Paper company Ltd.
25	RC	Richardson & Cruddass (1972) Ltd.
26	REIL	Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.(subsidiary of ILK)
27	SIL	Scooters India Ltd.
28	SSL	Sambhar Salts Ltd. (Subsidiary of HSL)
29	TSPL	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.

Annexure 2
List of Autonomous Bodies under DHI (Alphabetically)

S.N.	Abbreviations Used in Paper	Name of Autonomous Body under DHI
1	ARAI ARAI—FID	The Automotive Research Association of India ARAI Forging Industry Division
2	CMTI	Central Manufacturing Technology Institute
3	FCRI	Fluid Control Research Institute
4	NAB	National Automotive Board
5	NATIS NATRIP	NATRIP Implementation Society National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project



BONUS ON A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY: SPURIOUS CALLS FROM SCAMMERS—A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

The case is on an incident that a retired defense personnel receives a phone call from IRDA office. The caller purports him that there is some payment pending in his favour. It is for bonus on an insurance policy in his name. The claim is under process in his office. For release of the payment he asked to submit the token money/processing fee in advance through an account told by him. The caller was a fraudster. He tried to trap the innocent person and made several attempts with all possible tricks. But the senior citizen did not believe the cheater and proved to be intelligent and smart against the forgery. He stayed safe and the scammer did not succeed in the case.

There is a large number of incidents where people receive such bogus calls in the name of IRDA. A little awareness and control over one's greed can easily check the happening of the fraud. The IRDA's efforts in this regard are also seen in print media and electronic media as well. Further there is a scope of extending the awareness among masses in this regard. The content may be added in financial literacy campaigns run by the RBI and other agencies.

Keywords: endowment plans, insurance penetration, financial literacy, credentials

Sharma ji is retired from Air Force. On an incoming call from an officer from IRDA told him that his payment for Rs. 68,780 is under process in his office. It is in respect of an insurance policy of LIC of India. The amount is towards the bonus to his policy taken some time long back. Mr. Sharma has no idea about any receivable from any insurance matter. The person, Shukla is in continuous touch with Sharma ji through repeated calls on mobile. He expressed big regard towards the defense personnel and tried to give a personal touch in his conversation. He showed his extreme concern for senior citizen and later he addresses him uncle ji only. He arranged a talk of his section officer and Sharma ji, confirming that the claim file is in process in his office. But, Sharma was not convinced with the content/version of Shukla. He tried to enquire about the IRDA Hyderabad office through his relatives residing over there. His niece after doing her MBA is working in Hyderabad for some MNC there. She confirmed the address of IRDA but emphatically advised him to ignore any such type of calls for unexpected gains. He has no insurance cover at this age. He had some endowment plans and received the maturity value in due course by his superannuation.

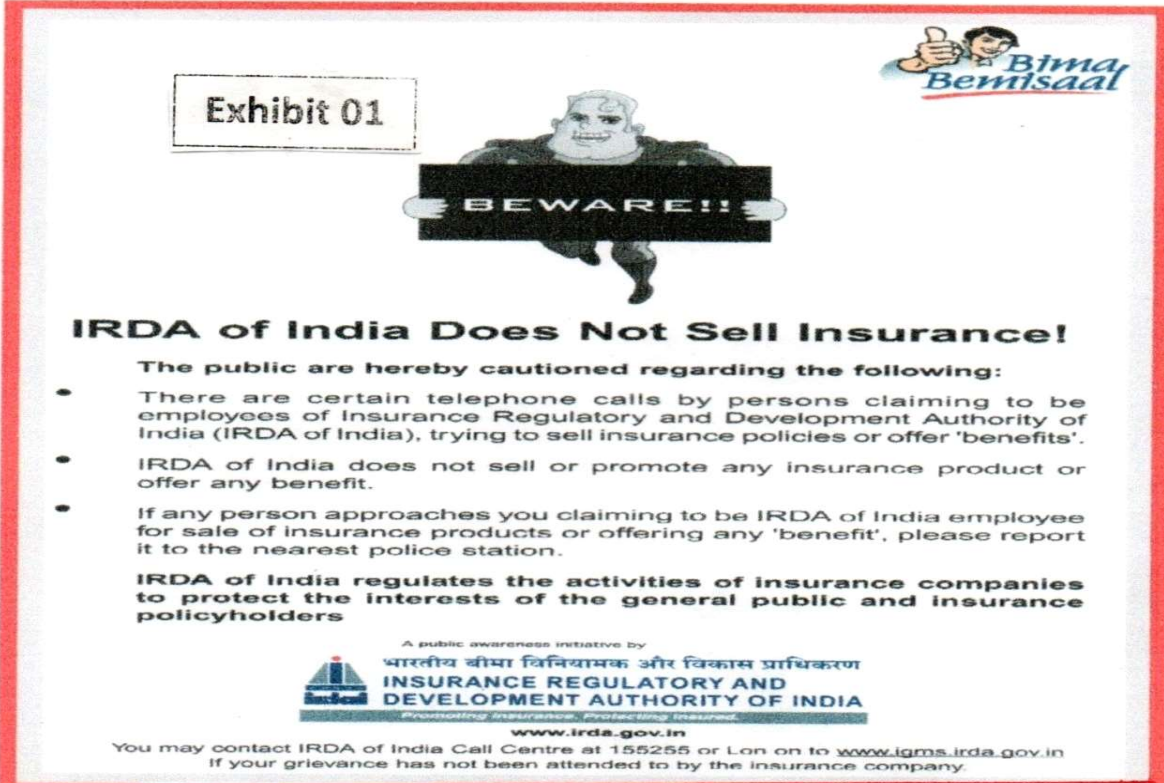
Shukla made several calls to Mr. Sharma for persuading him to share his bank account details and also to deposit Rs. 10,000 token money in an account told by him. Sharma insisted that you deduct the processing fee from his receivable amount only. Sometimes, he has to believe in Shukla's version because he narrated few personal credentials like his date of birth and name of his deceased father. The emotional statements from Shukla were also affecting Sharma's opinion. Today, Mr. Sharma is with his son at his work place, a university campus. He is in Business Studies Dept. over there. Mr. Sharma sees an issue of IRDA Journal on the table. At its back cover page there is an advertisement/ a message of full scape size that IRDA never makes a call to the insurant or any customer. It is further advised in the message that if you have any suspicious call in the name of IRDA, Lodge a FIR.

Now, few months are over. Sharma recollects that once a year before he shared his personal background details including date of birth and father's name with an agent from Reliance Insurance Company. But for some disagreement the deal was not matured finally. Perhaps the same man is making these calls in the name of IRDA. An old man at the age of 76 is not interested in making any complaint against anybody to avoid the irritations of the way.

Moot Questions:

1. Is it a threat for further insurance penetration in Indian masses?
2. Is it advisable to lodge a FIR/complaint against the phone caller?
3. Was Sharma ji alert enough to not involve in the fraud planned by the phone caller?
4. What would have you done in the case, if you were in place of Mr. Sharma?
5. Advise some steps to be taken by the insurance companies in this regard.

Exhibit 1



The advertisement features a central illustration of a muscular man in a black suit holding a sign that says "BEWARE!!". To the left of the man is a box labeled "Exhibit 01". In the top right corner, there is a logo for "Bima Bemisaal" with a cartoon character. The main text of the advertisement is as follows:

IRDA of India Does Not Sell Insurance!

The public are hereby cautioned regarding the following:

- There are certain telephone calls by persons claiming to be employees of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA of India), trying to sell insurance policies or offer 'benefits'.
- IRDA of India does not sell or promote any insurance product or offer any benefit.
- If any person approaches you claiming to be IRDA of India employee for sale of insurance products or offering any 'benefit', please report it to the nearest police station.

IRDA of India regulates the activities of insurance companies to protect the interests of the general public and insurance policyholders


A public awareness initiative by
भारतीय बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण
INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Promoting Insurance, Protecting Insured.
www.irda.gov.in

You may contact IRDA of India Call Centre at 155255 or Lon on to www.igms.irda.gov.in
If your grievance has not been attended to by the insurance company.


Exhibit 2

Exhibit 02

Beware of Spurious Calls and Fraudulent Offers




Did you know?
 Criminals might pose as employees of life insurance companies/IRDAI and contact you through phone calls, SMS or emails.
 They may try to trick you with opportunities to earn bonus or benefits on your Policy.



Stay safe and be financially secure

- Beware of these fraudulent offers.
- Do not respond to such offers or share your personal/policy information.
- HDFC Life will send your policy-related emails only from service@hdfclife.com or support@hdfclife.com. Please add these IDs to your email contact list.
- Please register your policies on My Account for easy self-service.

Report frauds
 If you receive a spurious email, please forward it to service@hdfclife.com.
 If you receive a fraudulent phone call, report it immediately (with phone number and other relevant details) at service@hdfclife.com or on our helpline number 12502679999.



Sar'ukha ke jayo!

www.hdfclife.com
 www.hdfclife.com
 1250-267-9999
 WhatsApp@HDFC Life
 Call Us - 24x7
 Visit Us - 24x7

HINDUSTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (HDFC LIFE) is a member of the HDFC Group of Companies. It is a public limited company registered in India. It is a member of the IRDAI. It is a member of the IRDAI. It is a member of the IRDAI.

Discussion

There is an advisory from the IRDA to the public that if someone receives a bogus call from a scammer, he should report the matter to the police and lodge FIR in this regard. Some time, this message from the IRDA is seen in the news-papers. In television channels also, the message is viewed often. The notice is always published on back cover page of IRDA quarterly Journal. But it is a fact that the response from the police personnel is seen extremely disappointing in such cases. The incumbent will resist a lot and will avoid to accept the complaint. He will make all possible pretenses for not filing the complaint. To register the case online, there is National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal for all types of cyber-crime. In state capitals and even at district head quarter, specialised cyber cells are in existence for redressing the complaints from victims. In real situations, they do not entertain the people, but they refer them to the local police office. In the police stations, the staff is not well versed with the dimensions of financial crimes. Neither, they are equipped suitably nor they are trained for the offences occurred in financial dealings. It has been an experience of people that if customers write to police, they will not respond at all. Some time, they will attend the case but their response will be quite irrelevant and worthless in the matter. They will insist only on closure of the case. The role of cyber-crime cells become very important in the incidents where the fraudsters succeed in cheating the innocent insureds.

In the recent past, numerous cases came to the notice that insureds are getting fraudulent calls stating the misleading facts. Later, they befool the consumer in one or other way. In comparison to bank transaction, there are less chances for happening a fraud in insurance dealings. On the other hand, the insurance business is much more sensitive towards the business environment around the financial market. The insurance penetration is already low in our society. Such type of malpractices in insurance products will further create hinderance in the way of spreading the insurance net among the masses. The fraudsters talk about big amount of benefits out of the insurance plan. In this sequence, they suggest to surrender the current policy and advise some other new insurance plan. The surrender of insurance policies in insurance business is considered to be very bad for the health of insurance industry. The regulator focusses on mitigation of cases of surrender of policies in life insurance business.

In insurance business, there is a need for establishment of self-regulatory system for consumer protection as it is in existence in banking industry. The BCSBI (Banking Codes and Standards Board of India) is working for customers in banking business. It is an autonomous and independent body established in 2006. The BCSBI developed a code to be adopted by the banks on voluntary basis for consumer welfare. The code prescribes norms and standards for banks to be adhered to in respect of various bank products. In similar fashion, there may be a charter/code for insurance companies to be followed in respect of insurance products sold by them. In this regard there are Customer Protection Rules 2002 and 2017 framed by the IRDA. But the rules are not as extensive and detailed as the code of BCSBI offers for bank customers. The banks code may be an illustration before the insurance regulator in the context of customer service in the insurance industry. Further, the implementation of rules in the real world is another tough area for the concerned agencies. In this regard, systematic and constant efforts are required on long term basis.

There is a vast scope of customer education and training of insurance buyers. This is the obligation on vendors to educate and train the customers for the products sold by them but the regulator also has a role in this direction. Some companies put little efforts in warning the customers against the probable frauds in insurance business. The security of the customers money is ultimate liability of the insurers. They should convey the alter messages through all means of communication for their valued customers. The FLCCs (Financial Literacy & Credit Counseling Centres) are run by the banks under the RBI guidelines. There may be parallel arrangements for insurance buyers by the insurance companies. The SEBI also arranges training programmes and workshops for the investors of stock market. The training of agents is another area where there is an ample scope for improvement. It is observed that the insurance agents are not as knowledgeable as they are expected to be about the insurance products. They depend on their development officers who are very few in number in proportion of insurants to be served in the area.

In some countries the six TCF (Treat Customer Fairly) principles have been adopted in financial services. The TCF outcomes in the context of insurances companies are :

- Policy holders can be confident that they are dealing with an insurer where the fair treatment of policyholders is central to the insurer's culture.
- Products are designed to meet the needs of identified types, kinds or categories of policyholders and are targeted accordingly.
- Policyholders are given clear information and are kept appropriately informed before, during and after the time of entering into a policy.
- Where policyholders receive advice, the advice is suitable and takes account of their circumstances.
- Policyholders are provided with products that perform as insurers or their representatives have led them to expect and the associated service is both of an acceptable standard and what they have been led to expect.
- Policyholders do not face unreasonable post sale barriers to change or replace a policy, submit a claim or make a complaint.

The companies may be advised to adopt the TCF outcomes across all business practices, governance framework and day-to-day processes.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE FARMERS AND ADOPTION OF NEW FARM TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

Technology has played a vital role in human development, in overcoming drudgery and in generating additional income in rural areas. Although technology is introduced for the betterment of the human being and the society, yet it is not accepted instantly or whole heartedly. There is innumerable factors affecting human motivation with respect to the adoption of technological innovations. The present study was conducted with a view to look into the various factors of socio-economic background of respondents in relation to their adoption of new farm technology. The independent variable included various measures of socio-economic background of the respondents namely; age, caste, education, family size, land holding and annual family income. The dependent variables of the study consists of new variety of seeds used, treatment of seeds, soil testing and weedicides used.

Keywords : Adaptation, Farmer, Technology, Social background, Economic status.

Introduction

In India the five year plans have periodically worked out the goals of development, in terms of what is to be achieved and, the directions, in which a particular development has to be achieved. One of its objectives for attainment is providing direct benefits to a majority of people, by combining growth with equality, through the design and implementation of economic developmental programmes and technological innovations.

Innovation in technology can be seen in our day to day life. Technology has a strong hand in the transformation of the potential to the kinetic, especially with respect to the change of unutilized and under-utilized natural resources into the main stream of production resulting in rise of the standard of living.

After the industrial revolution, technology has become the key to development and productivity. As an instrument of development it affects all aspects of economic and social life, directly or indirectly.

However, repeated experiences have indicated that developing technologies and introducing developmental programmes by themselves are not enough to make people accept and adopt the technologies and the programmes for their advantage. These experiences have created awareness of human factors which intervenes between stimulation provided for economic development and subsequent outcomes. Human variables, such as needs, values, attitudes & beliefs etc. which are crucial intervening factors have been overlooked.

Review of Literature

The understanding of technology is commonly confined only to the mechanical aspect involved in the change process that is the specific machinery or equipment. But having a technology is different from adopting it. Ettlie (1980) states that the installation of technology, no matter how quick, the expert cannot carry the day unless the user assimilates the system. An innovation of technology does not fulfill its objectives unless it is accepted by the user for whom the technology is made. Just generating a technology and expecting miracles in social welfare to happen is not possible unless the user accepts the technology. Observation indicates that a study of the features of the supplier as well as the user is important for the adoption of a technology. The supplier may transfer the technology to the required area but the adoption of this technology depends upon the user.

The urge for development and willingness to change are not equal in all the people. What may seem desirable to one person, may be undesirable to another. In all of us the motivation to change is opposed by a resistance to change. The human being always has certain reservations in his mind, and keeps a conservative outlook towards change. He is so much physical used, mentally attached and morally bound up with the traditional way of living that he weighs the pros and cons of existing and any new technology before adopting it.

Gallenter (1973) explained the resistance of people as 'Symbolic traditionalization'. According to him, a vocation with which the majority of people in the country are concerned, will take a long time in modernizing. Because the common man in the village will continue to use the traditional form, because he is comfortable with the system with which he is familiar and because the system is much less expensive.

People are resistant to change even when the change is supposed to be in their best interest. In India, the socio-cultural and economic diversities have resulted in creating affluence for a small elite class which controls the instruments of development. In results the development has bypassed and deprived, the vulnerable and the poor.

Objectives of the study

The present paper aims to identify the significant socio-economic factors which are related to, and could be predictors of the adoption of new farm technological innovations. Objectives of the study are following :

1. To study the social factors of the farmers with respect to their adoption of new farm technology.
2. The study the economic factors of the farmers with respect to their adoption of new farm technology.

Research Design

Considering the objectives, sample of present study comprised of one hundred farmers of a western UP village Bamnonli. The respondents were chosen on the basis of purposive sampling. An interview schedule was designed to collect the relevant data from the respondents. Besides interview schedule, investigator also made his objective observations. Finally, the percentages were computed to analysis the data.

Analysis of the Field Study

Table – 1.1

Age of Respondents & Adoption of New Farm Technology

Age Range of Respondents (in Yrs.)	30 – 39	40 – 49	50 & Above
Total No. of Respondents	29	34	37
Primary users of New Variety seeds	16 55%	14 41%	11 30%
Seed Treatment	13 45%	8 24%	10 27%
Soil Testing	8 28%	7 21%	5 14%
Weedicides	20 69%	19 56%	18 49%

Table No. 1.1 shows the proportion of Respondents in three age ranges with respect to different dependent variables. Cross tabulation brings out a consistent trend between the age of the respondents and their adoption of new farm technology. It is seen that respondents in the young age group (30 to 39 years) tend to adopt modern technology more than the middle age (40-49 yrs) and old age (50 & above) respondents. Above table shows that uses of new variety of seeds, seed treatment, soil testing and weedicides techniques 55%, 45%, 28% & 69% respondents respectively by the young farmers (age group 30–39 yrs). Old respondents farmers seem to be less responsive towards uses of new variety seeds (30%), seed treatment (27%) soil testing (14%) and weedicides (49%). The trend shows that young respondents are more progressive while old respondents are traditional with respect to adoption of new technology. This confirms with the studies of Coleman (1951), Bose (1960), Reddy & Kivlin (1968), Jha & Shakhawat (1972), Singh (1974) and Singh and Verma (1985).

Table 1.2
Caste group & Adoption of New Farm Technology

Caste Groups	Higher Caste	OBC	SC
Total No. of Respondents	34	33	33
Primary users of New Variety seeds	26 76%	11 33%	04 12%
Seed Treatment	22 65%	08 24%	01 03%
Soil Testing	15 44%	04 12%	01 03%
Weedicides	30 88%	21 64%	06 18%

Table 1.2 shows that among the high caste respondents the rate of adoption of new technology is more than the OBC & SC respondents. On one hand upper caste respondents in a greater proportion prefer new variety of seeds (76%), seed treatment (65%) weedicides (88%), on the other hand small proportion of SC respondents uses of new variety seeds (12%), seed treatment (3%), soil testing (3%) & weedicides (18%). However, in case of OBC respondents weedicides in being used by about 64% but soil testing 12% only. It may be inferred that the high caste respondents are adopting the new farm technology more than the OBC and SC respondents. This result is supported by the findings of Lionberger (1960), Kar (1967), Ray, Fligal, Kivlin and Sen (1968), Sabramanyam & Laxshman (1973), Patels Patel (1973) & others.

Table 1.3
Education and Adoption of New Form Technology

Level of Education	Illiterate	Up to Middle	High School	Intermediate and Above
Total No. of Respondents	54	21	14	11
Primary users of New Variety seeds	18 33%	07 33%	7 50%	9 82%
Seed Treatment	12 28%	07 33%	6 43%	6 55%
Soil Testing	07 13%	04 19%	4 29%	5 45%
Weedicides	26 48%	11 52%	11 79%	9 82%

The table 1.3 reveals that the education of the respondents is categorized into levels namely; illiterates, upto middle class pass, upto high school pass and intermediate pass and above. The proportion of respondents adopting

new technology increases with the level of education. Among the higher level of education group (intermediate & above) new variety of seeds and weedicides are used by about 82% of the respondents. In case of illiterate respondents, only about one third of them go for new variety of seeds and seed treatment. Only about 13% of the illiterate respondents have ever got their soil tested. It may be inferred that less educated respondents farmers are more traditional in using new farming technique as compared to better educated ones. Similar results have been found by Rayon and Gross (1950), Bose & Das Gupta (1962), Reddy & Singh (1965), Rogers (1966), Dubey (1969) and others.

Table 1.4
Size of Family and Adoption of New Farm Technology

Size of the Family	Up to 5 members	More than 5 members
Total No. of Respondents	34	66
Primary users of New Variety seeds	15 44%	26 39%
Seed Treatment	12 35%	19 29%
Soil Testing	8 24%	12 18%
Weedicides	20 59%	37 56%

Table 1.4 shows a consistent trend between size of the family of the respondents and their preference for the new farm technology. About 66% respondents have more than 5 family members and the rest 34% have 5 or less family members. It is seen that those having small family tend to adopt new technology more than those who have large family. Among those respondents whose family is small, 59% make use of weedicides, 44% use new varieties of seeds and 35% test their soil. However, majority of the respondents having large family stick to old methods of farming.

Table – 1.5
Land holding & Adoption of New Farm Technology

Size of Land holding (in Acres)	0.1 – 2.5	2.6 – 5	5.1 – 10	10.1 & Above
Total No. of Respondents	25	25	25	25
Primary users of New Variety seeds	3 12%	9 36%	13 52%	16 64%
Seed Treatment	1 4%	6 24%	10 40%	14 56%
Soil Testing	1 4%	3 12%	6 24%	10 40%
Weedicides	9 36%	11 44%	16 56%	21 84%

Table 1.5 shows that there are 25 respondents in each of the four categories of marginal, small, medium and large farmers. Marginal farmers have land holding of upto 2.5 acres of land, small have 2.6 to 5 acres, medium farmers having 5.1 to 10 acres and large farmers have more than 10 acres of land.

Further the trend shows that large farmers tend to adopt new farm technology more than the medium, small and marginal farmers. This may be done to their higher economic status and awareness. Table shows that as many as 84% of large farmers use weedicides and 64% of them use new variety of seeds.

Table 1.6
Annual Family Income & Adoption of New Farm Technology

Annual Family Income (in Rs)	up to 6000	6001 – 12000	12001 – 18000	18001 & more
Total No. of Respondents	30	29	23	18
Primary users of New Variety seeds	2 7%	9 31%	14 61%	16 89%
Seed Treatment	2 7%	6 21%	12 52%	12 67%
Soil Testing	1 3%	4 14%	7 30%	9 50%
Weedicides	5 17%	15 52%	19 83%	18 100%

Table 1.6 shows that there are four categories of annual family income of the respondents upto Rs. 6000 per annum (30%), Rs. 6001 – 12000 (29%), Rs. 12001 – 18000 (23%) and Rs. 18001 and more (18%). The results show that the high income group (18001 and more) is adopting new farm technology more than the other income groups. The results highlight that high income group go for new variety of seeds (89%), seed treatment (67%) and weedicides (100%). However low income group, perhaps due to scarcity of economic resource; confine themselves to old methods of farming.

Above results of table 1.5 and 1.6 which are related to land holding and annual family income are supported by the findings of Fliegall (1957), Capps (1958), Van de Ban (1963), Acharya & Bhowmik (1978) and others.

Relevance of the Study

The findings may be useful in designing developmental programmes that include the introduction of new technologies by identifying the crucial factors that determines the adoption behaviours of rural people. This study can also be very important source of information for further research.

Conclusion

Technological advancement has shown us the path of development, progress, advancement and modernization. Most of us consider technology in terms of machine or equipment but it is something more. This technology not only boosts production but also influences our social life.

An attempt has been made in the present study to examine the socio-economic background of the farmers and adoption of new farm technology in a western U.P. village Bannouli. The major findings of the study are given as below :

- Young respondent (age group 30 to 39 years) adopted new farm technology more than the old respondents.
- Higher Caste respondents adopted new farm technology more than the Other Backward Caste and Schedule Caste respondents.
- Educated respondents adopted new farm technology more than the less educated and illiterate respondents.
- Respondents having small families (up to 5 members) adopted new farm technology more than those having large families.
- Large land holder respondents adopted new farm technology more than small, marginal and medium land holder respondents.
- High income respondents adopted new farm technology more than the low income group respondents.

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ROLE OF eNAM DURING COVID-19

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Abstract

A study was conducted related to eNAM during COVID-19 situation in Prayagraj District of Uttar Pradesh and Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh with the objective to assess the impact of eNAM on the income of farmers and variation of price of different commodities during the pandemic situation. The sample included 180 farmers and 37 traders of the Sadar tehsil of the Prayagraj District and; 180 farmers and 34 traders of the Huzur tehsil of the Rewa District. eNAM was found helpful to get more profit & income during COVID-19 situation to the farmers & traders by providing them an online market. Approx. 10.39% in potato, 129.31% in onion and 21.56% in green chilli price were increased in Prayagraj district and 8.90% in Wheat, 2.40% in Mustard Seed and 5.73% in Lentil price were increased in Rewa district in comparison to past year.

Keywords- Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM), COVID-19, Income, FPOs

Introduction

Today the whole world is facing a pandemic situation i.e. occurring due to Covid-19. Till now two waves of Covid-19 have strike in the country, which have caused huge loss of economy as well as population. In this situation, a digital application “Electronic National Agriculture Market” (eNAM) that was launched on 14th April 2016; helps a lot to maintain the food security among the people of the country and it also helps farmers and marketer to do sell and purchase activities of goods or commodities. By the help of this application the government is able to provide green vegetables and other goods to the different places. eNAM is the flagship project of the Prime Minister of India. Ministry of Electronics & Information exhibited eNAM in its Tableau; in 26th January 2021 Republic Day parade.

Currently eNAM is running in 1000 APMCs among 18 States & 3 Union Territories (UT) of India. eNAM portal is running with 12 languages also; for the acceptance of local level. eNAM was created to do online trading.

Till now 125 mandis/APMCs registered out of 251 Mandis/APMCs and 110 unified licenses have been issued by Uttar Pradesh state and in Madhya Pradesh 80 mandis/APMCs registered out of 259 Mandis/APMCs and 5 unified licenses have been issued in this agriculture year till today. Its basic aim is to do hurdle free sale/purchase of goods from farmer to consumer including marketer from anywhere. Indian farmers need a market for their goods. Sometimes access to production of crops decreases the price of goods, farmers have to sell their goods at lower price as compared to what they deserve; because green vegetables and other cash crops have limited life period. Farmers face many problems due to lack of a market, like sometimes they don't get the cost of production that affects the income of the farmers. By the implementation of eNAM their problems related to the market regarding sale and purchase decreased, because eNAM provides a market to the farmer by the online process. Now, farmers can sell their goods at distinct places by online bidding. This application plays a great role in COVID-19 situation, when the physical distance was very important, gathering of people was restricted to avoid transmission of virus from one person to another. In this pandemic situation farmers fulfil the needs of people by the help of eNAM. eNAM helps to control the gathering of farmers in the physical market, they sell their goods by online process and purchasers receive goods by online bidding process without taking physical participation at mandi.

Currently 150 products including fibres, oilseeds, food grains vegetables and fruits are being traded and about 977 FPOs are linked out of which around 98 FPOs are transacting on eNAM. The eNAM platform is available in 12 languages along with a GPS based mandi locator for locating mandis having a range of 100 kms. The farmers using eNAM can track their bids on their mobile and also it is equipped with modern weighing techniques along with features of real time commodity prices in neighbouring mandis. Farmers can get their payments for their commodity through various online payments i.e. BHIM, UPI credit card etc. There are various features like viewing quality certificate, push notification, bunching of invoices, shopping card features, along with 360 degree images of commodity lots etc. which can be used by the traders for making a better decision while bidding on eNAM application.

Improvements have been done on eNAM platform last year by adding various features on 2 April 2020, increasing effectiveness of eNAM for their users during lockdown. These improvements are as follows—

FPO Module

This allows FPOs to provide the details of farmers on their collection centres. This will not only allow healthy competition among the mandis but also decrease the transportation cost which will indirectly benefit the farmer's income.

Warehouse Based Trading

It was initiated for the farmers producing Rabi crops to overcome the transportation challenges during lockdown. This feature allows small and marginal farmers to sell their produce stored in registered Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) selected warehouses declared by states.

Logistic Module

It acts as a bridge between logistics and the eNAM platform. Here traders can use this feature for seamless transportation at competitive rates. Presently 7.76 lakhs of trucks are linked with the eNAM platform.

eNAM Call Centre

A call centre (18002700224) has been established to provide help for logistics and other related issues to the farmers/FPOs/traders.

Objective

- To examine the impact of eNAM during COVID-19.

Review of Literature

- **Pavithra S., Gracy C. P. et al. (2018)** during analysis of "The effectiveness and challenges of e-tendering marketing system" indicated that e-tendering has been successful in reducing transaction time, bringing transparency in price discovery and increasing market revenue, besides enhancing market competition. Because of traders, however, system has not been effectively implemented among all the markets resistance.

By identifying the factors behind the success of e-tendering in some markets and the lack thereof in others, it provide certain key insights into obstacles in successful implementation of innovative marketing reforms with specific reference to the e-National Agricultural Market (e-NAM).

- **Sally (2018)** conducted a study on the new features of e-NAM. In the e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform six new features were added to make it more users friendly that is MIS dashboard for better analysis, BHIM payment facility and mobile payment facility by traders, enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and mobile payments, integration of farmer’s database and e-Learning module in e-NAM website. Its main objective was to provide competitive and remunerative price to farmers for their produce through online competent bidding process.
- **Chaudhary et al. (2020)** stated that government of India introduced eNAM to the agriculture marketing of India that is highly fragmented and having inefficient supply chains. eNAM has emerged as a viable solution to increase direct access to markets, reduce intermediation costs and promote common procedures, scientific storage, quality grading etc.
- **Sharma & Bodoni (2020)** studied all challenges during lockdown and various policies formed by the government either for the MSME sector or for agricultural sector or both. Various measures like RBI measures, economic package, investment plans, FDI rules etc. have been focused on.

Research Methodology

Prayagraj District of Uttar Pradesh and Rewa District of Madhaya Pradesh was selected purposively for the study. Prayagraj and Rewa APMCs were also selected purposively for the study because these districts have maximum number of seller and buyer respondents during COVID-19. Both tehsils were selected randomly for choosing eNAM respondents. 180 respondents from each district were selected as respondents for the study. Data were collected by survey method through personal interview using questionnaire from farmers and traders during 2020-2021.

Findings

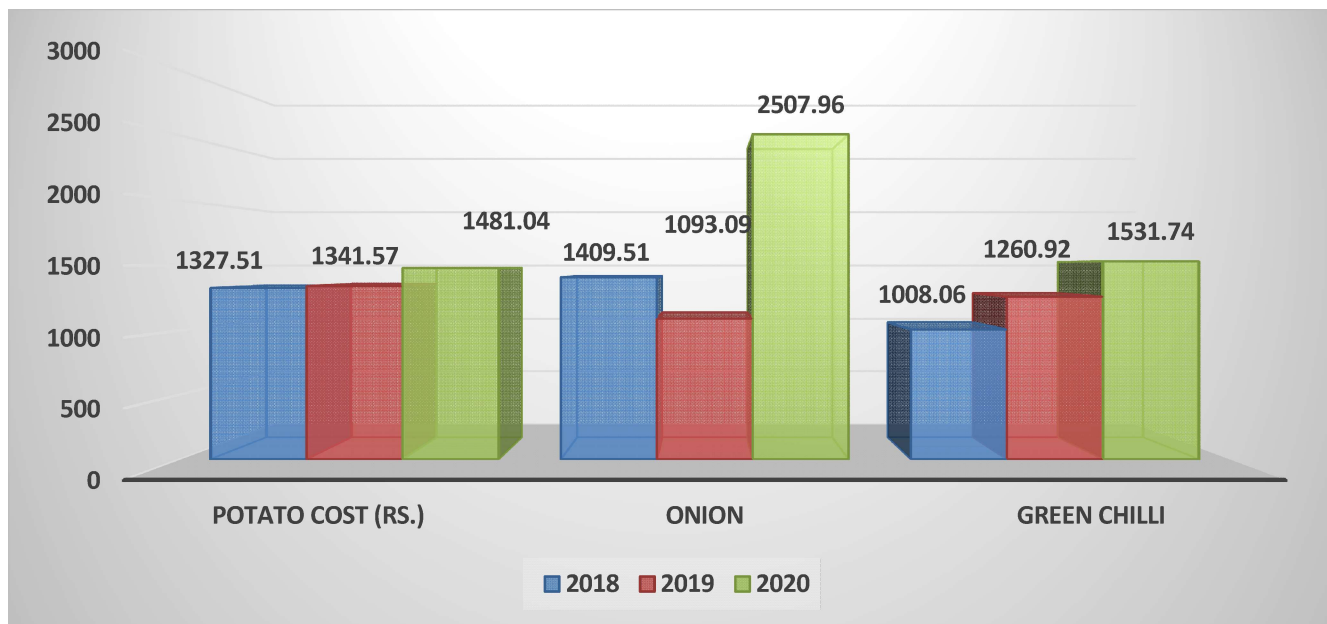
Table 1
Price and Quantity of Traded Commodities in Prayagraj

S. No.	Year	2018	2019	2020
1	Potato			
	Quantity (quintal)	47866740.20	42799829.00	30005134.00
	Price (Rs./Q)	1327.51	1341.57	1481.04
	Price difference (%)	----	+1.05	+10.39
2	Onion			
	Quantity (quintal)	170077773.97	79379676.00	15777582.00
	Price (Rs./Q)	1409.51	1093.09	2507.96
	Price difference (%)	----	-22.44	+129.31
3	Green Chilli			
	Quantity (quintal)	10157280.00	21084623.00	5073915.00
	Price (Rs./Q)	1008.06	1260.92	1531.74
	Price difference (%)	----	+25.08	+21.56

Source: Naveen Mandi Samiti

In Prayagraj district, the price of Potato during 2018, 2019 & 2020 was Rs. 1327.51, Rs. 1341.57 and Rs. 1481.04 per quintal, Onion price was Rs. 1409.51, Rs. 1093.09 and Rs. 2507.96 per quintal and Green Chilli price was Rs. 1008.06, Rs. 1260.92 and Rs. 1531.74 per quintal and arrival of Potato quantity was 47866740.20, 42799829.00, 30005134.00 quintals, Onion quantity was 17007773.97, 79379676.00, 15777582.00 quintals, and Green chilli quantity was 10157280.00, 21084623.00, 5073915.00 quintals respectively for the three agriculture years under study.

Graph 1
Traded Price of Commodities in Prayagraj (Rs./Quintal)



Graph 2
Traded Quantity of Commodities (Quintal) in Prayagraj

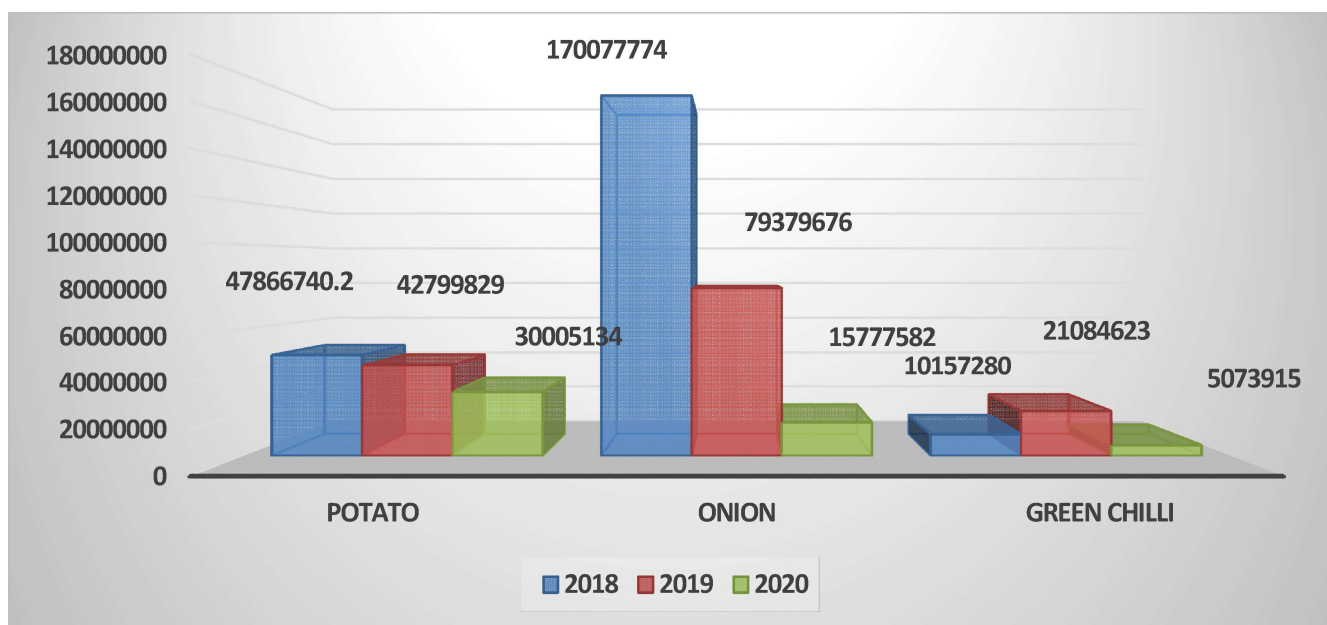


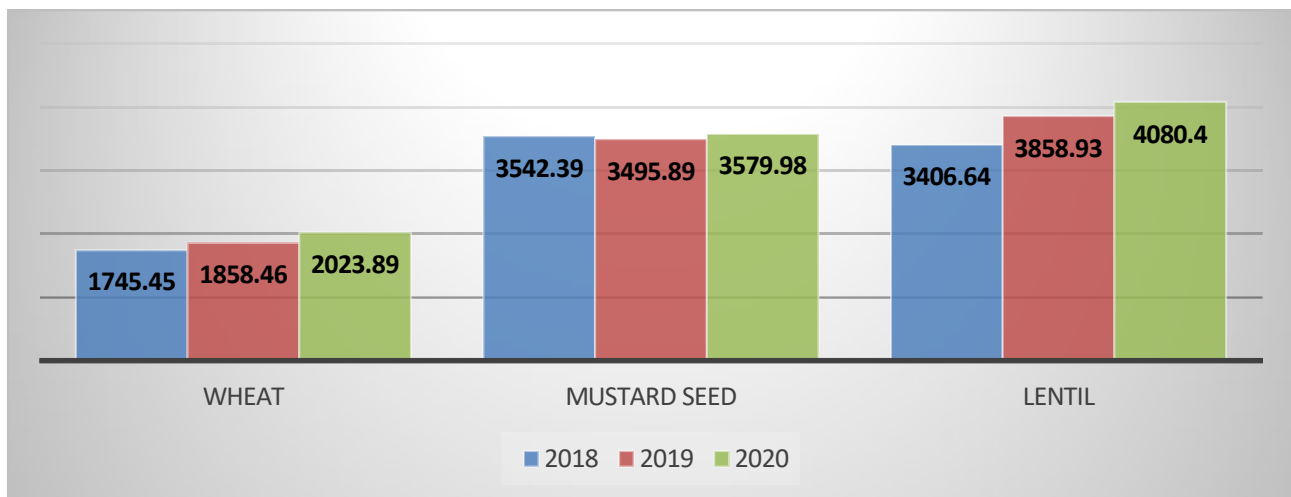
Table 2
Price and Quantity of Traded Commodities in Rewa

S. No.	Year	2018	2019	2020
1	Wheat			
	Quantity (quintal)	114124.32	68369.7	9744.69
	Price (Rs./Q)	1745.45	1858.46	2023.89
	Price difference (%)	----	+6.47	+8.90
2	Mustard seed			
	Quantity (quintal)	11189.13	4449.41	1506.49
	Price (Rs./Q)	3542.39	3495.89	3579.98
	Price difference (%)	----	-1.31	+2.40
3	Lentil (Masur)			
	Quantity (quintal)	16440.39	9364.77	740.70
	Price (Rs./Q)	3406.64	3858.93	4080.40
	Price difference (%)	----	+13.27	+5.73

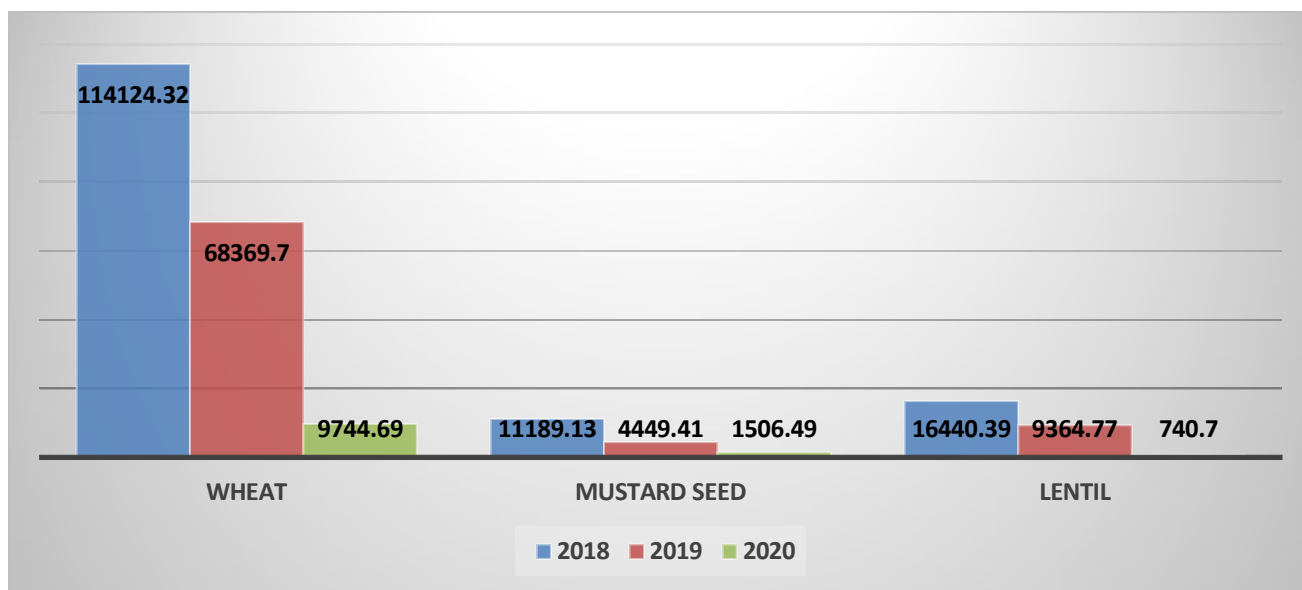
Source: Naveen Mandi Samiti.

In Rewa district during 2018, 2019 and 2020 the price of Wheat was Rs. 1745.45, Rs. 1858.46 and Rs. 2023.89 per quintal, Mustard seed price was Rs. 3542.39, Rs. 3495.89 and Rs. 3579.98 per quintal and Lentil Price was Rs. 3406.64, Rs. 3858.93 and Rs. 4080.40 per quintal. Arrival of Wheat quantity was 114124.32, 68369.7, 9744.69 quintals, Mustard seed quantity was 11189.13, 4449.41, 1506.49 quintals, and Lentil quantity was 16440.39, 9364.77, 740.70 quintals respectively for the three agriculture years under study.

Graph 3
Traded Price of Commodities in Rewa (Rs./Quintal)



Graph 4
Traded Quantity of Commodities (Quintal) in Rewa



Conclusion

During the study of different districts in different years and commodities, it is found that during the COVID-19 situation the arrival of commodities was affected because farmers sold their goods in the local market; due to lockdown situation and unavailability of local transport services and other problems. But during the study the price of crops in year 2020 increased in comparison to past year i.e. 2018 and 2019. And that increase in price of goods or commodities increased the profit percentage of farmers as well as income of the farmer. Thus, the study found that during the COVID-19 situation eNAM plays great role to provide food security among the common people of the country and it also maintains and boosts income to the farmers and traders when the arrival of goods was decreased in comparison to last years due to COVID.

Suggestions

- Logistics related facilities should be handled by service provider.
- Door to door transport facilities should be provided to the farmers to increase the quantity of goods in market.
- Hidden middleman involvement should be checked to provide more profit to the producer.
- Agri-Insurance should be added.
- Prompt grievance redressal mechanism should be there.
- Other State Government & Central Government schemes should be linked up with eNAM.
- Quality assaying must be increased.
- Government should add new private agriculture start-ups for the involvement with eNAM.
- Provisions of Promotion of FPOs in eNAM should be there.
- The service provider must emphasis on packaging of materials.

Limitations of the Study

The researcher has following restrictions during the study:

1. The investigation was limited to Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh and Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh due to limitation of resources and time etc. which visibly let to the purposive selection of the area of the study and also restricted sample size.

2. The methodology of data collection in the investigation was mostly done by personal interview and results drawn were totally based on the verbal expressed opinion and responses provided by the respondent. A questionnaire was filled on the base of these opinions and reviews.
3. One time responses of respondents are not always revealing or reliable all the time. It may also be considered that answers are instantly given without any deep thinking, sometime some incorrect information is given owing to cultural stain, suspicion of perception gap between the respondents and investigator etc.
4. The investigation was restricted to limited geographic location, so the findings may not lead to vast generalization.

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COMPARISON OF PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJNA (PMFBY) WITH PREVIOUS CROP INSURANCE SCHEMES IN INDIA

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Abstract

India is an agrarian country and has very diverse climatic conditions which are bound to make the agriculture sector of the country vulnerable to various unforeseen events. Natural calamities like drought, flood, cyclones, landslides, earthquakes etc. harshly affect farmers' agricultural production, yield and in turn reducing their farm income. These natural calamities are beyond the control of the farmers and are an act of god. Therefore it is very important to protect farmers from any loss and aid them to continue farming activities for the next season and hence crop insurance seems to be one of the best mechanism for protecting and compensating farmers for their losses from such adversities and helping them in continuous agricultural production without any disturbances, even in the case of some kind of natural calamity.

This study is a kind of descriptive research that aims to compare the new crop insurance scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) to its predecessor- National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and MNAIS (Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme) which it replaced in 2016. PMFBY bears the benefits from both former present crop insurance schemes like lower premium rate, full insurance coverage, prevented sowing coverage, localized risk coverage and many more and from its conceptual framework PMFBY appears to be a much better solution to the sorrows of the farmers facing the wrath of nature.

Keywords— PMFBY, Crop insurance, NAIS, MNAIS, risk coverage

Introduction

Agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian economy. India is known to be an agrarian country as India's agriculture sector accounts only for around 14% of the country's economy but for 42 per cent of total employment (The World Bank 2018). The livelihood of the majority of the population of rural areas of the country is still majorly dependent on agriculture. But agriculture itself in our country is dependent on weather conditions, primarily on monsoons with 60% of the cropped area being rain-fed. About 75% of rainfall occurs from June-September months, the fate of the Kharif crops solely depends on the monsoon. Farming community in India, thus, remain at

the mercy of rain-Gods. The agony faced by farmers is evidently shown by the large number of farmers' suicide committed during periods of deficit rainfall.

Droughts, floods, heavy rains, hail storms, etc. are common phenomena in the country along with attacks of pests/insects, diseases that occur on the crops. These are major causes of the failure of crops. All these events harshly affect farmers through loss in production and farm income and are beyond the control of farmers. Since agriculture is extremely susceptible to natural calamities, it is essential to protect the farmers from these adversities which occur frequently across the country.

Crop insurance is one of the alternatives to lower the risk of yield loss by the farmers. Its main aim is to support sustainable production in the agriculture sector by providing financial support to the suffering farmers from crop loss due to natural calamities. It helps to reduce the overall impact on the income loss of the farmer. Thus, it is a vital mean of protecting farmers against the possible variations in their yield, resulting from uncertainty of natural factors which are beyond their control.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was announced on Rabi 1999-2000. The scheme was available to all the farmers— both loanee and non-loanee; regardless of their size of the holding. The scheme was withdrawn after Rabi 2015-16. Later, based on the recommendations of the Joint Group and views/comments of various stakeholders; Modified NAIS was approved for implementation on pilot basis in 50 districts during the remaining period of the 11th Plan from Rabi 2010-11. The major developments made in MNAIS were— unit area of insurance reduced to village/village panchayat level; indemnity for prevented sowing/planting risk & for post-harvest losses due to cyclone in coastal areas; on account payment up to 25% of likely claims as immediate relief; minimum indemnity level of 80% and 90% etc. From Rabi 2013-14, it was launched as a full-fledged component scheme under the guidance of NCIP. This scheme was also withdrawn after Rabi 2015-16.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) was launched on February 2016 by the NDA government in its first tenure. It aims to provide insurance coverage to farmers against any natural calamities and also to encourage farmers to adopt modern innovative agricultural practices. It has replaced the two crop insurance schemes present earlier National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified form of NAIS and is designed to lessen the burden of crop insurance on farmers. It was launched with the idea of One Nation – One Scheme theme. It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time trying to remove the shortcomings/weaknesses of earlier present schemes.

Objective

To compare PMFBY with previously present crop insurance schemes in India which are National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified NAIS.

Comparisons of PMFBY, NAIS and MNAIS are as given below—

- **Farmers covered:** In all the schemes, NAIS, MNAIS and PMFBY all farmers growing notified crops in the notified area were eligible for insurance coverage. In NAIS and MNAIS it was compulsory for farmers availing crop loans and voluntary for others. It was the same for PMFBY, but now the scheme has been made voluntary for all the farmers including farmers who have crop loans.
- **Premium rates:** Unlike its predecessor PMFBY have uniform premium as 2% of the sum insured has been fixed for Kharif crops and 1.5% of the sum insured for Rabi crop. The rate of premium for annual commercial and horticultural crops is 5% of the sum insured or the actuarial rate, whichever is less. Premium rates of PMFBY are much lower as compared to both NAIS and MNAIS.
- **One season-One premium:** NAIS had one premium throughout the season (Kharif season 3.5%- Oilseeds and bajra, 2.5%- Cereals, millets & pulses; Rabi season 1.5%- Wheat, 2%- Other food and oilseeds crops, Actuarial premium for Annual commercial/horticultural crops.) But MNAIS had different premiums for different seasons. Later, again in PMFBY, one premium was fixed for one season.

- **Insurance amount cover:** PMFBY provides full coverage of insurance. While NAIS also had full coverage of insurance, it was capped in the modified NAIS scheme which led to lower claims being paid to farmers.
- **On account payment:** The facility of on account payment was not available in NAIS and was later made available in MNAIS. It is also available in PMFBY.
- **Localized risk coverage:** There was no localized risk coverage in NAIS, while MNAIS did covered risk from hailstorm and landslide. PMFBY also covers the localized risks of hailstorm, landslide and in addition to that it covers the risk from inundation, earlier schemes did not cover inundation.
- **Post-harvest losses coverage:** There was no post-harvest losses coverage present in NAIS, while MNAIS did covered post-harvest losses from cyclonic rain but only in coastal areas. Now, PMFBY covers cyclonic and unseasonal rains all over the country.
- **Prevented sowing coverage:** Coverage for prevented sowing was not included in NAIS. But the risk of prevented sowing was covered under MNAIS and is also covered under PMFBY.
- **Use of technology for yield estimation:** NAIS did not use any technology for yield estimation but used traditional Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs), later MNAIS started using Remote Sensing Technology for pilot studies for yield estimation. In PMFBY use of technology has been encouraged. Remote sensing and drones are motivated to be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments (CCEs) and also to eliminate the discrepancy in coverage of the area. Smartphones have been proposed for capturing and uploading of data to reduce delays in claim disposal of farmers.
- **Implementing agencies:** In NAIS scheme the insurance companies involved were only government insurance companies, GIC till March 2003 then AIC subsequently. But in MNAIS and PMFBY both government (AIC) and private insurance companies were suitable to become an implementing agency at district level.
- **Crop insurance app and portal:** Both earlier schemes, NAIS and MNAIS, did not have any app or portal to be used by farmers to be continuously updated about the schemes. Now, PMFBY has both crop insurance app and portal so that farmers can easily check on various developments in scheme.
- **Toll free number for grievance redressal:** There was no such facility in the previous schemes of NAIS and MNAIS. But PMFBY does have a toll-free number for redressal of complaints from farmers.

Conclusion

It is very much evident that an effective crop insurance is needed in the country to protect our farmers from any kind of natural disasters adversely affecting their income and also to support them in financing inputs so that they can continue their farming activities without any obstacle. Therefore, there is a need of crop insurance for farmers. With the climate changing consistently, crop insurance provides a sense of security to farmers in the face of any adversity, which improves the agriculture sector, particularly the rural economy and in turn boosting the nation's economy as a whole.

Previously present schemes, NAIS and MNAIS had many issues like high premium, cap on claims and linkage to crop loans. PMFBY did removed these issues and combine the benefits from both the previously present crop insurance schemes NAIS and MNAIS which it has replaced in 2016. It will benefit farmers as it has lower premium rates and full insurance cover. The scheme also provides coverage to the post-harvest losses (which were not fully covered in the former schemes), cover localized risks and motivates farmers to adopt new technology in agriculture.

But like any other scheme, PMFBY also does have some loopholes. One being the vagueness over the unit of insurance, whether it is village or block. Also, in these modern times, calamities are not only limited to natural ones; there are man-made calamities too. But the scheme has fallen short of covering farmers from various risks arising from man-made and industrial activities, which can adversely affect farmers and only covers risks arising due to natural calamities and climate change.

This comparative study reveals that the PMFBY is certainly a better scheme so far as compared to its predecessor for crop insurance. It does address a lot of shortcomings present in the earlier schemes and improved on them. But it also fails to address many present days risks which farmers have to face during crop production. And only launching a scheme is not going to do much benefit to ailing farmers, but successful implementation of PMFBY is needed so that it can fully achieve the objectives it set out with and the farmers can get the benefits promised by it.

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MEDICINAL OCIMUM: THE QUEEN OF HERBS

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Abstract

This paper provide information regarding the medicinal uses of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn [Tulsi]. It is an aromatic plant of family Lamiaceae. It is traditionally used for preparation of various types of Ayurvedic formulations for treatment of various disorders. Medicinal properties of Tulsi are also used in Unnani medicines. In India its ethnobotanical use is well established. In the present time due to better understanding & advancement in the field of science research, ethnobotany is utilized for finding new bioactive compounds. *Ocimum sanctum* Linn (Tulsi) is one of the most sacred plants of high medicinal values. It is regarded as “*Queen of Herbs*” for its various unique medicinal values.

Keywords— Ocimum [Tulsi], Medicinal, Disorder, Ayurvedic, Ethnobotany.

Introduction

Plant Description

O. sanctum L. is commonly called as Tulsi in Hindi & Holy Basil in English. It is an erect, very much branched plant, having height of about 75-90 cm. with hairy stem. Its leaves are aromatic. These are simple, elliptic, oblong, opposite, obtuse/acute with entire/sub serrate/dentate margins, growing up to 5 cm length. Inflorescence is of raceme type. Flowers are small & their colour is purple.

Classification of *Ocimum Sanctum*

Botanical name of *Tulsi* is *Ocimum sanctum* (Linn). Its classification is as follows:

Kingdom : *Plantae*

Sub-kingdom : *Tracheobionta*

Super division : *Spermatophyta*

Division : *Magnoliophyta*

Class : *Magnoliopsida*

Sub-class : *Asteridae*

Order : *Lamiales*

Family : *Lamiaceae*

Genus : *Ocimum*

Species : *O. sanctum*

The word *Tulsi* is derived from ‘**Sanskrit**’, which means “**matchless one**”[1]. Its another name is Vishnupriya which means that - the one that pleases Lord Vishnu. This plant is found throughout India [2]. *Sanctum* is the most prominent species of the genera *Ocimum*. The leaves of the plant are considered to be very holy & are used by Hindus in various spiritual ritual. *Ocimum sanctum* has two varieties—

1. Black (*Krishna Tulsi*)
2. Green (*Rama Tulsi*)

Their chemical constituents are same and both of these varieties have almost similar medicinal properties [3].

It is one of the sacred plant of Hindus. Also, it is one of the important medicinal plant. Earliest references available are from Rigveda. The use of tulsi is described in Ayurveda. Tulsi is called as the “Queen of Plants” and it is also known as the “The Mother Medicine of Nature.”

Image 1
Black (*Krishna Tulsi*)



Image 2
Green (*Rama Tulsi*)



Medicinal Uses of Tulsi

Digestive System Disorder:

Tulsi is used in the treatment of gastric and hepatic disorders. The patients suffering from gastrointestinal disorders are treated with the aqueous decoction of tulsi leaves [4]. Tulsi is also used in viral hepatitis. The juice and fresh leaves of the plant are used for treating dysentery, chronic fever, hemorrhage, and dyspepsia. The leaves of this plant also minimise vomiting sensations and also anthelmintric. Gastric ulcers and secretions are also inhibited by tulsi [5].

Eye Disorders:

O. sanctum is used to prepare Ayurvedic eye drop along with triphala. The tulsi containing ayurvedic eye drops are recommended for patients having chronic conjunctivitis, cataract and other painful eye disorders [6]. Basil juice is also an effective remedy for sore eyes & night-blindness. If one takes about three drops of tulsi oil along with honey daily, it is supposed to improve eye sight [7].

Anti-Fertility Activity:

In Kerala the local women as well as the Ayurvedic physicians have been reported to use the leaves of Tulsi for anti-fertility effect [8]. In female rats the petroleum ether and benzene extracts of tulsi leaves have been reported to produce 60% & 80% anti-fertility activity respectively [9]. One of the major constituents of the Tulsi leaves is ursolic acid. It has been found to have possess anti-fertility effect.

Cardiovascular Disorders:

Tulsi is used to cure cardiac weakness which results due to the blockage of the heart arteries. Tulsi help in reducing the blood cholesterol level [10, 11].

Insect Bites:

Tulsi is prophylactic or preventive & curative for insect bites or stings. In case of insect bite a teaspoonful juice of the tulsi leaves is taken & is repeated after few hours. On the effected body part fresh juice must also be applied. Paste of fresh roots is also found affective in case of bites of insects & leeches [12, 13].

Stress and Headaches:

Basil leaves are reported as an adaptogen (anti-stress agent). Studies support that the leaves have significant protection against stress. It helps to purify blood & helps to prevent several common elements. Decoction of Tulsi leaves is a good medicine for headache.

Kidney Stone:

Medicinal properties of basil strengthen kidney. In case of stone in kidney (renal stone) the juice of tulsi leaves & honey is very affective. If it is taken regularly for about six months, it will expel stone via the urinary tract [14]. It also helps in regulating uric acid levels inside the body, thereby minimize risks of developing kidney stones.

Anti-diabetic:

Experimental studies conducted on rats support that leaves of *O. sanctum* also possess very good anti diabetic properties [15, 16].

Use of Tulsi in Children Related Problem:

Tulsi leaves are used in the problems of chicken pox and measles in childrens. If pustules of chicken pox delay their appearance, tulsi leaves given with saffron, it will hasten them [17].

Teeth Disorders:

Tulsi herb is considered useful in teeth disorders. Its sun dried & powdered leaves, can be utilized for brushing teeth. These can also be mixed with mustered oil to prepare paste & can be used as a tooth paste. This help in counteracting bad breath. It is also found useful in pyorrhoea & other types of teeth disorders.

Respiratory Disorders:

Tulsi is one of the main and an important constituent of many Ayurvedic cough syrups & expectorants. Kara and tulsi tea is highly effective in treatment of respiratory ailments i.e. chronic bronchitis, & asthma. It is effective in bronchitis and asthma because it helps to mobilize mucus. Chewing tulsi leaves relieves flu & cold [18].

The herb is found very useful in the treatment of respiratory disorders. A decoction of tulsi leaves, along with honey & ginger is very effective remedy for cough, cold, bronchitis, asthma, influenza and asthma. A decoction of the basil leaves, cloves & common salt gives immediate relief in the problem of influenza [19]. For sore throat, water boiled with basil leaves can be used as drink. Even this water can also be utilized for gargle [20].

Ethno-medicinal/Traditional Use of Tulsi :-

Various species of tulsi are used as ethno-medicine for thousands of years. Every part of plant has medicinal properties. The multiple uses of tulsi has provided it the status of a miracle plant.

Tulsi leaves are used as antidepressant [21], antifatigue[22], antithyroid, anthelmintic, antifertility, anticancer[23], antianxiety [21], antiasthmatic to cure various disorders such as : cold, cough, sore throat, common colds, headaches, malaria fever, emetic syndrome, earache, colic pain, Inflammation, flu, migraine headache, fatigue, wound, ulcers, skin diseases, convulsions, diabetes, chronic fever, insomnia, arthritis, infections of mouth, ulcers, dysentery, gastric diseases, digestive disorders, bronchial asthma, insect bite, heart disease, eye infection, night blindness, snake bite [21,23-28].

Root of this herb are utilized as a diaphoretic in malarial fevers [29] and stem as anticonvulsant [30]. Whole plant of tulsi is found useful to treat inflammation [23], stress [31, 32], diabetes [33, 34], snake-bite and scorpion-sting. It means that it is used as cardio protective, antiseptic, anti-allergic and memory enhancer. Tulsi seeds are found analgesic [24], antiulcer [35], antiarthritic [36], larvicidal [37], anticancer [38] & antihypertensive. Even fruits of tulsi are used for adding flavor to the foods such as poultry & fish, jelly, vegetable, honey, tea [39].

Conclusion

Tulsi is a very sacred plant of Hindus having high medicinal values. All the branches of medicines i.e. Ayurveda, Unnani, even Allopathy is trying to explore the medicinal properties of tulsi. Tulsi has a various biological/ pharmacological activities such as antiprotozoal, antimalarial, anthelmintic, antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal antidiarrheal, anti-inflammatory analgesic, antipyretic, anti-allergic, antihypertensive, memory enhancer, cardioprotective, CNS [Central Nervous System] depressant, anti-hypercholesterolemia, hepatoprotective, antidiabetic, antiasthmatic, anticancer, chemo preventive, radioprotective, antithyroid, antioxidant immunomodulatory, antifertility, antiarthritic, antistress/apoptogenic, anticataract, antiulcer antileukemia & anticoagulant activities. Tulsi is a sacred plant with lots of medicinal values. That's why it is the source of medicinal, nutritional & spiritual importance. All these unique properties make this miracle herb a - *Queen of Plants/Queen of Green Medicines*. It is also regarded as the "*The Mother Medicine of Nature*."

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ALLOPATHY VERSUS AYURVEDA—AN INFINITE BATTLE

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Abstract

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an age old discussion has started over the two methods of medical treatment-Ayurveda and Allopathy. The debate is; which of the two procedures is more effective for treatment. According to Ayurvedic doctors Allopathy only treats the symptoms of illness with medication and not the cause of the disease. Allopathic medicine have side effects which may result in development of other diseases. Allopathy treatment is also very much expensive. Objections of Allopathy Doctors about Ayurveda is that there is a severe lack of scientific and evidence based research which makes it unfit for prescription. Ayurveda and Allopathy, both the schools of medicine, have their own place and are doing well in their domain. For emergency situations Allopathy is an excellent option. Once the condition of the patient becomes stable, Ayurveda may prove to be beneficial for further treatment. Therefore an integrative medicine approach should be used with the optimism of providing an affordable and practical solution to the global health care crisis.

Keywords: Allopathy, Ayurveda, Covid-19, Integration.

Introduction:

In the midst of the current and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an age-old discussion has resurfaced regarding the two strategies for clinical treatment-Ayurveda and Allopathy. The matter of concern is; which of the two procedures is more successful.

This contention among Allopathy and Ayurveda is old. The new struggle began with Baba Ramdev's opinion over Allopathic treatment. He raised the issue of various side effects of Allopathic treatment. He additionally said that there is no permanent cure of BP, Sugar, Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, Indigestion, Headache, and so forth in the realm of Allopathic treatment. Baba further stated that numerous Covid-19 patients lost their life not by Covid but rather by unreasonable utilization of Allopathic drugs like high utilization of steroids and then continued to mention that many of Allopathic doctors were unable to save their own lives. Although Baba Ramdev retracted the last part of the statement after heavy criticism from the Indian Medical Association, but the controversy has still not ended.

Recently a gazette notification by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) specified a list of 58 surgeries that could legally be done by Ayurvedic Doctors who are qualified in post-graduation, including MS (Ayurveda), MS (Gynaecology), MS (ENT) and MS (Ophthalmology); has put Allopathic Doctors and the association on opposite sides. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has taken their complaint up incredibly, holding public exhibits against it and even calling a one-day strike. In a circular dated 15 December 2020, Maharashtra Medical

Council expressed that “A person obtaining qualification in any other system of medicine is not allowed to practice Modern System of Medicine in any form” and said “The physician should practice methods of healing founded on scientific basis and should not associate professionally with anyone who violates this principle”, warning that any such an association would be a breach of ethics.

According to Ayurvedic doctors Allopathy only treats the symptoms of the illness with medication and not the cause of the symptoms. On the other hand Ayurveda, is an all-encompassing well-being theory. Allopathic meds certainly have side effects and long utilization of Allopathic medication might result in development of other diseases. Allopathy Doctors at times do refer Ayurvedic Medicines to their patients, for example, Liv-52 for Liver treatment, Cystone for kidney stone, Neeri for kidney, Isabgol husk for bowel movement and so on. The power of Yoga which is a part of Ayurveda is well known in the world. Numerous Allopathic doctors regularly practice yoga to stay fit in both mind and body. Ayurvedic doctors sometimes do suggest using ayurvedic alternatives for common allopathic drugs.

It is widely accepted that the use of Allopathy (modern medicine) started in the 16th century. During that period there were no Allopathic doctors but rather Acharya, Vaidya, Rishi and Hakim which used to treat people and the methods of treatment used also used to vary. The popular belief says that millions of people died due to spread of several diseases during that period which resulted in Allopathy establishing its roots in the country and gaining people’s trust.

It is a widespread belief among doctors and scientists that modern medicine practice should be named as Evidence-based medicine. The explanation for this point of view lies in the long testing phase through which any drug or treatment method must go. The origins of Allopathy are considered to be in Greece nearly about 2400 years ago.

Ayurvedic medicine is considered to be one of the world’s oldest healing systems developed nearly 3000 years ago which works on a holistic level. The backbone of the system lies in the belief that health and wellness of an individual is dependent upon a delicate balance of mind, body, and spirit. The main goal of Ayurvedic medicine is to promote the good health rather than fighting with a disease. In U.S. it goes by the name of Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM). There is a widespread belief in the students of CAM that everything in the universe (dead or alive) is connected and if your mind, body, and spirit are in harmony with the universe; it leads to good health. Anything that disrupts this balance leads to sickness. There are many things which can cause the disruption of balance such as genetic defects, injuries, climate, seasonal change and even your emotions. Among the Ayurvedic practitioners community each person is considered to be an amalgamation of five elements: space, air, fire, water and earth. The combination of these elements in the human body leads to the formation of three life forces known as doshas: Vata dosha (space and air), Pitta dosha (fire and water), Kapha dosha (water and earth). Each and every person inherits a unique combination of the three doshas with usually one stronger than the other. Each dosha is responsible for a different body function. The disruption of the balance of these doshas is believed to be the reason that people get sick.

There are many herbs and spices that are being used in Ayurvedic medicine. Some of them are as follows:

1. **Ashwagandha:** It is a spice which may help your body manage stress, lower blood sugar levels. Improve sleep, memory, muscle growth and male fertility.
2. **Boswellia:** It is a spice with anti-inflammatory properties which may reduce joint pains, boost oral health, improve digestion, as well as increase breathing capacity in people with chronic asthma.
3. **Triphala:** Triphala represents ayurvedic remedy consisting of three spices- Amla, Bibhitaki and Haritaki. It may help in reduction of joint inflammation, improving digestion and enhancing oral health.
4. **Brahmi:** It is an herb which is believed to lower inflammation, improve brain function, reduce symptoms of ADHD along with increasing your body’s ability to deal with stress. More research is required on this herb.

5. **Cumin:** It is a spice which is commonly used to add flavour to meals. It may lead to decrease in symptoms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), improve risk factors for type-2 diabetes, improve heart condition and perhaps offer some amount of protection against food poisoning.
6. **Turmeric:** It is a spice that is responsible for giving curry its yellow colour. Curcumin, which is the main compound present in Turmeric may help in reducing inflammation and improve heart and brain health. However, large amounts are needed to attain these benefits over time.
7. **Licorice Root:** Licorice is a spice which may help with reduction in inflammation and provide protection against various infections. It also helps with digestive problems and relieves skin irritations.
8. **Gotu Kola:** It is an herb which may help by boosting memory, reducing stress, anxiety, depression and also helps in a variety of skin conditions.
9. **Bitter Melon:** It is a spice which may help in lowering blood sugar levels and boost insulin secretion. It is also found to be helpful in reducing LDL (bad) cholesterol levels, though more research is needed in order to make strong conclusions.
10. **Cardamom:** It is a spice that may lower blood pressure, improve breathing and can also help in the healing of stomach ulcers.
11. **Tulsi:** It is a herb which is recommended as a first aid in the treatment of digestive, skin and respiratory diseases. Ayurveda was able to make use of this herb for diseases ranging from small cuts to tumorous growths. Experimental studies have shown it as a promising immunomodulator, cytoprotective and anticancer agent.
12. **Giloy:** The stem of Giloy is known to be super effective due to its high amounts of nutritional content and the alkaloids, glycosides, steroids, and other compounds which prove to be effective against various disorders such as diabetes, cancer, neurological problems, fever, etc. The roots and leaves can also be used with varying applications.
13. **Aloe Vera:** It is a medicinal plant which has been in use for over a thousand years. It contains various compounds which make it an antioxidant as well as antibacterial. It is found to be helpful in accelerating wound recovery, reducing dental plaque, treating cancer sores, reducing constipation, improving skin and lowering blood sugar levels.

Today there are an aggregate of 69,000 government and private medical hospitals in the nation, while the number of Ayurvedic emergency clinics is only 3600. These incorporate 2,827 Ayurvedic emergency clinics, 252 Unani hospitals, 264 medical clinics of Siddha system of medication and 216 hospitals of Homeopathy.

A research paper was published by Suchitra R Gawde, Yashashri C. Shetty and Dattatray B. Pawar about 'Knowledge, Attitude and Practices toward Ayurvedic Medicine use among Allopathic Doctors in India' which uncovered that Allopathic residents had little information about essential ideas of Ayurveda, that is 'Panchkarma' and 'Tridosha'. Greater part of residents (99%) had no chance to learn fundamentals of Ayurveda, however 67% residents were involved in providing Ayurvedic prescriptions to patients. Numerous residents (76%) believed that cross practice should not be permitted by law. Among the usually prescribed proprietary Ayurvedic medicines were Liv-52 (39%), Shatavari (13%), Cystone (12%), Arthritis (18%), cough and cold (13%), and piles (10%). Almost 76% shared the feeling that the coming together of Ayurvedic medicine and modern medicine would attract more patients and at the same time a majority of the residents (92%) believed that Ayurvedic medicines need scientific testing before use. Although 50% of the residents consented for voluntary training in Ayurveda but 80% denied the compulsory training. Ayurveda was recommended among all Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMs) by almost 63% of the residents. Most of the residents were made aware of Ayurveda via word of mouth from colleagues and friends. Therefore, some interventions are required to increase the knowledge base and awareness of Allopathic resident doctors regarding Ayurvedic medicine usage.

Allopathy provides rapid or symptomatic relief from diseases and has proven to be highly effective in emergency situations. This has led to Allopathy becoming the first choice of treatment. For faster recovery, the patients prefer

Allopathy over Ayurveda. One of the most significant benefit of Allopathy is that its practitioners supported by technology are highly effective in treating life threatening diseases and injuries. With the help of modern imaging techniques problems can be identified even in the early stages. Surgical processes are used to remove or repair diseased or damaged organs and tissues which stop the immediate spread of the disease. Allopathy also helps with life threatening infections which are dealt with potent medications, broken bones are replaced with appropriate metals and damaged joints are replaced.

Due to increasing popularity and acceptance of Allopathy, a majority of talented medical students of India are going towards this system of medicine. The continuous research in this field has led to massive development and establishment of new branches of Allopathy.

Different branches of Allopathy are as follows:

- Aetiology: Study of cause of diseases.
- Cardiology: Dealing with disorders of the heart.
- Chiropody: Treatment of the feet and their ailments.
- Cytology: Deals with the formation, structure and function of cells.
- Dentistry: Study and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of oral cavity.
- Dietetics: Study of food effects on health
- Embryology: Scientific study of embryos.
- ENT: Ear, Nose and Throat.
- Epidemiology: Study of infectious diseases and their causes.
- Genetics: Study of genes and heredity.
- Geriatrics: Study, treatment and care of old people and their diseases.
- Gerontology: Study of the aging processes and individuals.
- Gynaecology: Study and treatment of women reproductive systems.
- Haematology: Scientific study of blood.
- Immunology: Deals with the response of an organism to antigenic challenge.
- Neurology: Study of nervous system and the diseases that affect it.
- Obstetrics: Deals with care of women during and after pregnancy.
- Oncology: Study and treatment of cancer.
- Orthopaedics: Deals with injuries and diseases of body's musculoskeletal system.
- Pathology: Study of diagnosis of diseases.
- Pharmacology: Scientific study of medicines and drugs used for treating medical conditions.
- Radiology: Medical treatment in which radiation is used.
- Rheumatology: Diagnosis and therapy that deals with rheumatism.
- Urology: Study of diseases of the urinary system.
- Virology: Treatment and study of illness caused by viruses.
- Ophthalmology: Deals with the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the eye.
- Otolaryngology: Diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the head and neck.

Drawbacks of Allopathic Medicines

Some of the drawbacks of Allopathic Medicines are as follows:

1. The area of focus is on different parts and not on complete health.
2. There are cases in which Allopathy medicines destroy the good bacteria along with the bad ones.

3. Allopathy focuses more on popping pills in case of an emergency or ailment without medical intervention to slowly cure the disease by attacking the root cause which might be related to lifestyle.
4. Drugs are responsible for suppressing rather than curing.
5. Drug overdose cases are quite common and can sometimes even lead to fatal incidents.
6. Doctors are often over occupied with several patients with a hectic schedule causes them to miss out on the minute details of the patient which sometimes leads to misdiagnosis which further leads to prescription of wrong allopathic medicines.
7. Allopathic drug prescription is done on the basis of frontline symptoms and not the latent symptoms.
8. Speed of relief is faster in case of Allopathy but many times it is expensive for common people.

Integration of Allopathy and Ayurveda

None of the techniques are complete in themselves and both Allopathy and Ayurveda have their weaknesses and strengths. A study was conducted by P Dushyanth, Sumanth Malikarjuna Majjige on the topic “Perspective of interns on integration of Ayurveda and Allopathy in health care: a qualitative study” which showed a mixed response for the integration of Allopathy and Ayurveda.

Some of the perspectives for the integration are:

1. Integration would lead to benefits of both Ayurveda and Allopathy as and when required.
2. For the treatment of chronic diseases ayurvedic drugs prove to be more useful as allopathic drugs have severe side effects.
3. With the help of research and studies Ayurvedic medicines can be incorporated with Allopathic medicine to deal with immediate symptoms as well as attacking the root cause of the disease.
4. Research can be done to find the effectiveness of Ayurvedic treatment on certain specific conditions where Allopathic treatment is not found to be effective.

Some of the perspectives against integration of systems are as follows:

1. There is a sever lack of scientific research on Ayurveda which makes it unfit for prescriptions.
2. Most of the alternative systems of medicine are not developed based on evidence.

“At present, an average population served by a government allopathic doctor is 10926.”- as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) in a government report in 2019. According to WHO guidelines recommended doctor-population ratio is 1:1000.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

Ayurveda and Allopathy, both the schools of medicine have their own place and are doing well in their domains. For emergency situations such as an accident, cardiac arrest, disjointed limbs, or body parts etc.; Allopathy is an excellent immediate response with first aid methods, surgery, defibrillator etc. Once the condition of the patient becomes stable, Ayurveda may prove to be beneficial for further treatment. Similarly, Ayurveda has proven to be more effective against diseases with their origin in the Tridoshas like issues related to stomach, respiratory system, heart, kidney, skin etc. Instead of rivalling for the position of best technique if both systems of medicine collaborate, the overall health of the people will improve significantly. With the help of Allopathy, we will be able to save lives and with the help of Ayurveda we will be able to cure diseases by attacking their root cause along with doing it affordably. Allopathy can prove to be quite expensive for people of India where the average income per head per annum is Rs 1,41,000 especially in cases where the duration of treatment is long. Also, the side effects of allopathic medicines cannot be ignored in cases with long periods of treatment. This is where Ayurveda can prove to be quite effective. With the help of Ayurveda and Allopathy working in tandem; we can provide relatively affordable, effective, and sustaining treatment for all individuals.

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PROMINENT TRENDS IN URBANISM: CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

The Post-modern period in the world had witnessed the emergence of the new economic order in the spheres of Urban Geography. Paradoxically, the so-called concrete revolution that is *urbanism* has increased the velocity of economic momentum around the world. But, ironically didn't have the space for sustainability. Has the race for urbanism neglected or overlooked the sustainability in the policy orientation?

The recently released U.N. Sustainable Goal Report 2020 has advocated and endorsed the issue of sustainability in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic in the World. The underlying idea of the theme was that there is something magical in certain sites that the same city has a tendency to assume successive avatars (bounce back) on the same site even if devastated or destroyed at an occasion. One may find out the dynamics of such a phenomenon and apply this learning for ensuring the sustainability of cities. My personal observation to this effect was that the cities may not be immortal but their names are. Name is the very essence of their existence. The city names have their own tales to tell and messages to convey about their destiny and the impeccable shear resiliency.

Keywords— Urbanism, Sustainability, COVID -19 and Resilient.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyse the different types of cities categorized, defined and developed by the different urban planners during the course of urbanism.
- To have a look of sustainability globally.
- To find out the emerging issues of present day urbanism in India.

Methodology of the Paper

The current study is primarily based upon various secondary sources. Under this component of research methodology various published books, digital and e-books available on the theme had been thoroughly scanned in order to construct valid proposition on the theme. The exploratory and investigative approach will be centered upon Inductive Approach, Deductive Approach, and Generalization of Facts.

The Global Saga of Urbanism

Indeed, the branding of cities in quick succession has been a regular practice now for over more than a century. This has been in response to an accelerated pace of the urbanization process and the pivotal role which cities are

playing in context of the evolving situations. The different types of cities categorized, defined and developed by the different urban planners during the course of urbanism have been discussed as follows—

Garden City— This trend was in motion in 1898 A.D. by Sir Ebenezer Howard who propounded the idiom of ‘Garden City’ as a response to the maladies of an Industrial City. Such a city would have a garden as its nucleus and a green belt on its periphery. He visualized matrimony between town and countryside. Out of this joyous union, he expected the birth of new hope, new life and a new civilization. Evidently his emphasis was upon aesthetics of cities.

Dynamic Cities— After World War II, the discourse on ‘Dynamic Cities’ were remained in fashion for a long time. Dynamism of a city referred to its capacity to attract investment so as to generate additional employment, facilitate a rise in wage level, and strengthen the financial base of the local bodies for providing better services. In the spirit and style of marketing themselves, several cities brought out elegant brochures to highlights as to why they are the best place for a rewarding investment.

A recent global report named Bangaluru [then Bangalore] as the most Dynamic City in the world on the basis of Annual City Momentum Index [A.C.M.I.]. The A.C.M.I. highlights that despite various political upheavals and ongoing economic uncertainties, many cities continues to show impressive dynamism. Keys to their success are the agility and openness that enable them to adapt quickly to each new wave of global change. Cities were judged on how they encourage and foster innovations too. Cities were also adjudged on how well they are connected to a global network.

Planned Cities— The Post – Independence period witnessed the emergence of Planned Cities in India. In 1953, the master plan of first planned city of India, ‘Chandigarh: The City Beautiful’ was formulated by French town planner and architecture Sir Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanerette, Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew the English couple. It is known as one of the best experiments in urban planning and modern architecture of 20th century in India. The City of Chandigarh is planned to human scale; vis a viz Head – Capitol [place of power], Heart – the city center, Stomach – the commercial area, Arms – university and industrial zone, Lungs – leisure valley, open spaces; and Arteries – network of roads. The key of modern urbanism is ‘Sector’ which was defined as a container of family life. [24 solar hours: night and day].

Apart from Chandigarh, the capital city of Odisha– Bhubhaneshwar, was designed by German architect Sir Otto Konigsberger; the city structure of Bhubhaneshwar, historically was depicted as Ekamra Khetra (Temple City).

Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat; the planning was done by the two Indian town planners Prof. Prakash M. Apte and Prof. H.K. Mewada, who had apprenticed with Le Corbusier in Chandigarh. There was a determination to make Gandhinagar a purely an Indian enterprise, partly because the state of Gujarat was the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi.

Jamshedpur [in Jharkhand] the first layout plan of the Steel City was prepared by Prof. Julin Kennedy from Pittsburgh, U.S.A were also planned on the basis of the planning of Chandigarh.

Healthy Cities— By 1987, it was realized that design and dynamism of cities alone would not do. Health is most critical to human life. Hence, we need nurturing and nourishing of Healthy Cities. Human health should be seen in a physical, social, behavioral, and ecological context. Need of the hour is to build our cities to become age–friendly and create settlement which will help promote well–being across all age group. Top five healthy cities of the world are Copenhagen (Denmark), Okinawa (Japan), Vancouver (Canada), Melbourne (Australia) and Monte Carlo (U.S.A). A healthy city is one which caters to the physiological, psychological, and spiritual imperatives of the people.

Sustainable Cities— Soon after in 1990, the focus found a new ideal in Sustainable Cities. Sustainable cities, urban sustainability, or eco–city (also ‘ecocity’) is a city designed with consideration for social, economic and environmental impacts. These cities are inhabited by people whom are dedicated towards minimization of required

inputs of energy, water, food, waste, output of heat, air pollution, CO₂, methane and water pollution. Such places were to meet certain basic conditions. The specified ones were that achievements in social, economic, and physical spheres are to be enduring; natural resources are to remain in lasting supply to accommodate future development needs, and environmental hazards are to be pre-empted and promptly managed. Above all, local governance is to be on sound footing for ensuring functioning of the city. Richard Register and Paul F Downtown, first coined the term sustainable city in 1987. Sustainable cities should meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generation to meet their own needs .

Ideally, a sustainable city creates an enduring way of life across the four domains of ecology, economics, politics and culture. However, minimally a sustainable city should firstly be able to feed itself with a sustainable reliance on the surrounding countryside. Secondly, it should be able to power itself renewable sources of energy. The core of this is to create the smallest conceivable ecological footprints, while producing the lowest quantity of pollution achievable. Adelaide, City of Moreland in North Melbourne, Bafut (in Cameroon), Vancouver and Calgary in (Canada) are some of the example of sustainable cities of the world.

Harmonious Cities— In 2008, the attention got diverted to the idea of Harmonious Cities. The argument put forward was that the construct of sustainable cities is grounded largely in ecological and ethical considerations whereas the need is to synchronize both natural and human resources. Harmonious cities include a concept which always relates to what is harmonious. Harmonious cities are inclusive cities where everyone and every culture are at home. People who live in harmonious city will have scientific recognition of the environment and a strong sense of the harmonious development of man and nature. Harmony as a concept relies on the tenets of mutual support, solidarity and collaboration. Lewis Mumford's ideal vision is what can be described as an "*Harmonious Cities*", where culture is not usurped by technological innovations but rather thrives with it. A city should not merely draw men together in many varied activities, but should permit each citizen to find, near at hand, moments of seclusion and peace.

Prosperous Cities— More recently in 2012, the city branding and nomenclature has taken the form of Prosperous Cities. Prosperous cities and urban prosperity both as a concept and a development outcome has seen important evolutions within the international frameworks and policies in recent. The World Bank has drawn attention to the complexity of prosperity as a broad multidimensional issue that requires large scale transformations. The overall quality of life in a city depends upon the bounty of its natural, physical and aesthetic wealth. Prosperity of a society or a city no longer means what it used in the past; instead of its traditional evaluation of merely the material wealth of a city, it now refers to a more holistic notion, of the overall quality of life enjoyed by the citizens in a city. Accordingly, here are ten most prosperous cities of the world, based on the *State of the World Cities Report, 2012* by the U.N Habitat and U.N.C.E.D. which analyses prosperity of the cities on five dimensions like productivity, quality of life, infrastructure, equity and environmental sustainability. They are Vienna, Oslo, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Dublin, Tokyo, London, Melbourne, Stockholm and Paris.

Prosperous Cities and their prosperity and economic development are intricately connected with resilience, safety, health, justice and inclusion. Prosperous cities therefore, requires a combination of physical interventions, governance reforms, improved knowledge, social cohesion, inclusion as well as partnerships to capitalize on each other's multidisciplinary strengths.

U.N. Habitat and World Vision, 2016 proposed six dimensions which a prosperous cities should provide: - 1.Economic Productivity, 2.Infrastructure Development, 3.Quality of Life , 4. and Social Inclusion, 5.Environmental Sustainability; and 6. Governance and Legislation.

Greater Cities in 2014— The state-of-art expression emerged as Great Cities in 2014. Such places are the ones which provide best of opportunities for growth and self-actualization to everyone. By 2030, 60% of the world's population that is about 5 billion people will live in cities. 'The Greater Cities' is an approximation of the urban centers when this stretches far beyond the administrative city boundaries. To better capture entire urban

center, a greater city level can be created. This is fairly a common approach and several greater cities already exist. Like, Greater Manchester, Greater London, Greater Nottingham, Greater Mumbai and Athens. In most cases, the greater city contains a single city. Thus, Great Cities do three things really well: they achieve smart growth, they do more with less and they win support for change. The governance of Great Cities is well-versed in the management of change which encourages a grand and great civic life.

Smart Cities—A smart city is an urban area that uses different types of electronic data collection sensors to supply information which is used to manage assets and resources efficiently. This includes data collected from citizens, devices and assets and that is processed and analyzed to monitor and manage traffic and transportation systems, power plants, water supply networks, waste management, law enforcement, information systems, schools, libraries, hospitals and other community services. The smart city concept integrates Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T) and various physical devices connected to the network to optimize the efficiency of city operations and services and connect to citizens.

The most important feature of smart city is the fundamental concept of knowledge-based urban development, which has become an important and widespread mechanism for the development of the knowledge City. The various examples of smart cities are Amsterdam, Barcelona, Columbus Ohio, Dubai, Dublin, Madrid, Malta, Manchester, Milton Keynes, New York, and Santa Cruz (in California), Singapore and Stockholm.

Unknown City—Not to miss, by way of diversion is the concept of Unknown City. The Unknown City represents the gap between what city planners intended to achieve and what got actually manifest on the ground. The distance between the desirable and feasible gets revealed. Such realizations have to reckon in while working for resilience of any city.

Transport Centered Cities

Looking back at the trends and patterns of urban development and city development, it quickly becomes clear that cities have almost always been an outcome of and had a strong relationship with the form of transportation that was relevant during the time of their establishment.

In the U.S.A, for instance the first modern city developed around Seaport (Boston, Charleston, and New York City). Then towns popped up along Rivers and Canals (Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Detroit).

Next the invention of the Railroads opened up previously hard-to-reach inland area to manufacturing distribution (Atlanta and Kansas City).

In the 21st century highways facilitated the greater dispersions of people and companies by creating suburbs, and most recently the World's Airports have turned into primary drivers of economic growth, international connectivity and greater economic success.

Aerotropolis—Prof. John Kasarda, U.S. Town Planner has dubbed this global scenario as the Aerotropolis (2018). The Aerotropolis like any other traditional city consists of a central core, however the city's central core is an airport; and all the neighboring development supports; and is supported in turn by the airport industry. These Aerotropolises what he believe to be the future model of a successful city. While, the Aerotropolis vision is economically enticing and has already set many gears in motion around the globe. The Aerotropolises of the world are – Amsterdam, Zurich, Texas, Dubai [the world's largest Aerotropolis connecting east and west].

According to Prof. J. Kasarda- "The rapid expansion of airport linked commercial facilities is making today's airway's as gateways anchors of 21st century metropolitan development where distant travelers can conduct business, exchanges knowledge, shop, eat and sleep. These functional and spatial evolution were to transform many city airports into airport cities i.e., Aerotropolis".

CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Paradoxically, India's contribution towards un-sustainability is very low as compared to other major contributor countries. But the challenges persistent to the rapid urbanization in India and the huge share of global population

can threaten the global sustainability. So there is need to ingrain sustainability in India. India has already stepped in evolving a framework for sustainable development.

As far as the Ecological Foot Print (E.F.P.) [i.e. the measures of the human demand (land and resources) on the Earth’s ecosystem] of India as against the world’s or other developed and developing countries, India’s share is less. This global ecological foot print overshoot also contributes towards resource conflicts, wars, mass migrations, famines, diseases and other socio –economic problems.

Table 1 Countries- Their Ecological Foot Print and CO₂ Emission (2011)

S.N.	Countries	Population (In Millions)	Population Density (In Sq. Kms.)	Ecological Foot Print	Bio-Capacity	Ecological Remainder	CO ₂ Emission 1990	CO ₂ Emission 2007
1	U.A.E.	6.25	30	10.68	0.85	-9.83	29.4	31.6
2	QATAR	1.14	123	10.51	2.51	-8.0	25.2	55.4
3	DENMARK	5.45	126	8.26	4.85	-3.41	9.8	9.2
4	U.S.A.	308.67	30	8.0	3.87	-4.13	19.1	18.1
5	CANADA	32.95	3	7.01	14.92	7.91	16.2	16.5
6	AUSTRALIA	20.85	2	6.84	14.71	7.87	17.2	17.9
7	SINGAPORE	4.49	6389	5.34	0.02	-5.32	15.6	8.0
8	FRANCE	61.71	110	5.01	3.0	-2.01	7.0	6.1
9	NEW ZEALAND	4.19	15	4.89	10.77	5.88	7.1	7.8
10	ENGLAND	61.13	243	4.89	1.34	-3.55	10.0	8.9
11	JAPAN	127.4	337	4.73	0.6	-4.13	9.4	9.8
12	RUSSIA	141.94	8	4.41	5.75	1.34	--	11.8
13	CHILE	16.64	23	3.24	3.83	0.59	2.6	4.3
14	BRAZIL	190.12	21	2.91	8.98	6.07	1.4	1.9
15	SOUTH AFRICA	49.17	36	2.32	1.14	-1.18	9.1	8.8
16	CHINA	1336.6	140	2.21	0.98	-1.23	2.2	4.9
17	GHANA	22.87	87	1.75	1.19	-0.56	0.3	0.4
18	INDIA	1164.7	328	0.91	0.51	-0.4	0.8	1.8
19	BANGLADESH	157.75	1002	0.62	0.38	-0.24	0.1	0.3

1. The figures of Ecological Foot Print, Biological Capacity & Ecological Remainder were in Global Hectore Person.
2. The figures of CO₂ Emission were in Emission Per Capita Metric Tons.

The Table-1 above reveals that, even though India’s contribution towards un- sustainability is very low, but due to huge population and increasing demand to fulfill the needs of the current and future generations it’s necessary to espouse sustainability path at early stage.

Indigenous practices in India are sustainable, but due to the rapid economic development the urge to continue or preserve these knowledge systems is declining. In the last few decades due to globalization, liberalization and privatization there is an economic boom but it has also increased the burden on the resources. There is a concern to safeguard the resources.

To cope up with the challenges, to improve the quality of urban life, it’s essential to prioritize the sustainability issue. India has evolved strong framework of policies and programs, legal provisioning, structural institutional arrangement, technological advancement and measurability measures for sustainable development. But this seems to be only a stepping stone and there is need to evolve research, generate comprehensive and cohesive database, bring more transparency and technological inputs and put efforts for good governance.

All the stakeholders including citizen, policy-makers, designers, planners, activists, administrators, politicians, etc. should know their share of responsibility towards safeguarding our future. They should understand the constraints that prevent success and take a value based action.

End Notes

“The emerging trend of global urbanism is one of the most crucial global spatial trends of the 21st century. No doubt it is a transformative force that can be harnessed to enhance economic growth and productivity as well as wealth and state-building. However, today’s most common urbanization model is weak on sustainability, environmentally, socially, politically and economically.” (Singh, K. 2017).

There is no substitute for imagination to have a future vision of the city based on past experiences, prevailing conditions and emerging scenario. For this, it is necessary to understand the city in terms of not only its visible structure but also hidden flow of daily life. Here, emerges the role of pertinent research which is to form the basis of an action script for every emerging urban issues.

The sustainable urban development has virtually turned into a mantra. It is however not very clear as to what would be the physical manifestation of a sustainable city in process. It is the one urban place which is immortal with continuous growth, or it is the one which offer the best living conditions, or it is the one which offer solution to some critical problem, such as the climate change? Is it an ecological or technological or ideological concept? All this begs clarity.

A holistic approach is recommended as the best path to sustainability. Perhaps reality defies integration. It does not allow translation of a dream into deed.

The idea of placing the elected urban bodies at the centre of the things in implementation of urban mission is most laudable. This is in democratic spirit ensuring roots to the grass. The irony is that generally these bodies do not have the requisite capacity to deliver their obligations. The outcome is visible, the pace of the urban missions is tardy and success far from desired.

Future Research Gap And Emerging Issues

The prominent future research gap and emerging issues of present day urbanism in India; and, elsewhere in the context of sustainability are as follows:-

- I. Climate Change leading to environmental distress and sustaining urbanism.
- II. The issue of Spatial Planning; especially, unprecedented scale of urban planning, metropolization, public policy and scientific planning process.
- III. The issues of Infrastructure deficiency and the role of urban local authority.
- IV. The Social Issues and the endangered existing cultural and social identity.
- V. The ever increasing and much more crucial role of governance as well as e-governance, decision making; and, implementation policies.
- VI. Policy Limitations as the development plans stick to the colonial methodology of segregated urban land use patterns. Enforceable policy and by-laws are toothless.
- VII. Administrative loopholes and issues of overburdened municipalities and bureaucratic empathy.
- VIII. The issues of financing and maintaining urban infrastructure and civic services. The Economic rationale invariably plays second fiddle to political rationale.

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AN INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN SAFFRON [*CURCUMA LONGA* L.]

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Abstract

This paper is regarding *Curcuma Longa* [L]. It is called Haldi in Hindi and Indian Saffron/Turmeric in English. The turmeric possesses high nutritional value. Turmeric/Haldi is an evergreen herb belonging to Zingiberaceae (ginger) family. Turmeric is widely used as a spice, coloring material & food preservative in India, South East Asia & China. *Curcuma Longa* have lots of medicinal properties. In Ayurveda, turmeric is used for its excellent natural antiseptic, disinfectant, anti-inflammatory, and analgesic properties. The underground horizontal stem called as rhizome is generally the part of the plant which is mostly utilized. Curcumin found in turmeric is responsible for maximum of its medicinal properties.

Keywords— *Curcuma Longa*/Turmeric/Haldi, Medicinal, Rhizome, Curcumin

Introduction [1]

India is considered as the largest producer, consumer & exporter of turmeric [haldi] in the world. About 90% of the global turmeric production is from India. Indian turmeric have high curcumin content that is why it is considered as the best, in the world market. In India, turmeric is cultivated in an area of 0.18 million hectares with a production of 0.83 million tonnes in 2014-15. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka are the main turmeric producing states of India. Alone Tamil Nadu shares 14.04% of the total production. Erode district of Tamil Nadu has the major turmeric cultivation belt in the state. This district is famous for turmeric production & turmeric market in the entire country. Erode [Tamil Nadu] is known as Yellow city of India. Here turmeric is grown in about 7731 hectares of land. Turmeric produced in Erode district is sent all over the country. Turmeric is grown as a kharif crop.

Plant Description:

Curcuma Longa [Family- Zingiberaceae] is well known as Turmeric. It is a perennial, erect & leafy plant having very large leaf of about 1.2 m long. Leaves are oblong & pointed. Flowers are funnel-shaped and green/yellow/pink in colour.

Scientific Name: *Curcuma longa*

Common Name – Turmeric

Image 1
Leaves of Curcuma Longa



Image 2
Flowers of Curcuma Longa



Image 3
Rhizome of Curcuma Longa



Classification of Curcuma Longa

Kingdom: *Plantae*

Sub-kingdom: Tracheobionta [Vascular plants]

Super-division: Spermatophyta

Division: Magnoliophyta [Flowering plants]

Class: Lilliosida- Monocotyledons

Sub-class: Zingiberidae

Order: Zingiberales

Family: Zingiberaceae [Ginger family]

Genus: Curcuma L.

Species: Curcuma longa L.

Synonyms of Curcuma [2]

There are several synonyms of *Curcuma longa* i.e. Sanskrit– Ameshta, Hindi– Haldi, English- Turmeric/ Indian saffron, Bengali– Halud, Gujarati- Halad, Haldar Assamese- Kordoi/Rohdoi, Marathi- Halad, Telugu- Haridra, Tamil– Ameshta, Malayalam– Manjal, Sinhala– Kaha, French– Curcuma, Indonesian– Kunyit basah.

The oldest reference of haldi was noticed in the ‘Atharvved’. It has about 55 synonyms in Sanskrit which indicate its religious or medicinal values [3]. It is also named as the golden spice/yellow root/Indian saffron. *Curcuma longa* L. [turmeric/haldi] is widely used as spice & also as a colouring agent. Medicinal properties of plants have been utilized since ancient time & are very important sources of modern drugs [4].

The Composition of the Turmeric/Haldi rhizome [underground horizontal stem][5,6,7,8]

Turmeric: Carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals, volatile & non-volatile oils, fibre, moisture, and curcuminoids.

Curcuminoids are: Curcumin (curcumin I), Demethoxycurcumin [curcumin II], Bis-demethoxycurcumin [curcumin III], & Cyclocurcumin [curcumin IV]. Curcuminoids give yellow colour to turmeric.

Essential Oils: Mixture of sesquiterpene ketones & alcohols, cineole, borneol, d-sabinene, á-phellandrene, & zingiberene. Oils provide the taste & the aromatic smell [6].

Nutrient Values of Turmeric

Turmeric has great nutritional value. Nutrient Values of Turmeric per 100 g is:-

Calories 354 kcal, Energy Value 1481 kj, Total Fat 9.88 mg, Carbohydrates 65 g, Protein 8 g, Dietary Fiber 21 g, Sugars 3 g, Sodium 38 mg, Zinc 4.35 mg, Potassium 2525 mg, Vitamin C 25.9 mg, Magnesium 193 mg, Copper 0.603 mg, Calcium 183 mg, Iron 41.42 mg, Vitamin E 3.1 mg, Vitamin B3 (Niacin) 5.14 mg, Vitamin B6 1.8 mg, Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) 0.152 mg, Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin) 0.233 mg.

Medicinal Uses of Turmeric

Antioxidant Activity

Turmeric is reported as a powerful scavenger of oxygen free radicals. Antioxidant property of it is just like vitamins C and E [3]. Turmeric blocks the free radicals and have capacity to stimulates the antioxidant mechanism in body. The antioxidant activity of curcumin was reported by many workers [9-11]. It also protects hemoglobin [found in blood] from oxidation [12].

Heart Disorders

Keeping healthy cholesterol level is essential to prevent cardiovascular problems and other serious health problem. High cholesterol level can create other health related problems, so people are always looking for ways to lower cholesterol level. Various studies indicate & proven that the just adding turmeric to season the food can significantly decrease blood cholesterol. Studies also suggested that turmeric may also be helpful in preventing atherosclerosis. Studies indicate that an extract of turmeric can lower cholesterol levels in animals. It stops clumping of platelets together & can also prevent blood clots.[13].

Gastrointestinal Effects

Turmeric has been reported to inhibit ulcer formation caused by alcohol, stress etc. by enhancing gastric wall mucus in the study conducted on rats subjected to these gastrointestinal insults. In an trial performed on about 25 patients suffering from gastric ulcer [diagnosed] if such patients are given 600 mg powdered turmeric five times daily, that complete healing in 48 percent of patients was noticed, with no adverse effects or blood abnormalities [14].

Anti-Cancer Effect

Several studies indicate anti- cancer effects of turmeric [15]. Curcumin has also been shown to inhibit the mutagenic effect of UV rays [16-20].

Anti-microbial Activity

Various experiments conducted on animals indicates that turmeric has ability to inhibit the growth of various types of bacteria, pathogenic fungi & parasites [21-23]

Anti-Inflammatory Action

The laboratory experiments have identified many molecules involved in inflammation which are inhibited by curcumin including phospholipase, cyclooxygenase-2, leukotrienes lipooxygenase, thromboxane, nitric oxide, prostaglandins, collagenase, elastase, monocyte chemoattractant protein-1, hyaluronidase, interferon-inducible protein, tumor necrosis & interleukin-12. The essential oil have ar-termerone & it is the main component with anti-inflammatory activity. Anti inflammation effect has been reported by several workers [24, 25].

Protective Role in Skin Diseases

Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, free radical scavenging, anti-mutagenic & anti-carcinogenic properties of curcumin found in turmeric, help to protect the skin from harmful effect of Ultra-Violet [UV] radiations [26,27].

Protective Role in Alzheimer's Disease

Several studies indicates that the turmeric help in prevention of Alzheimer's disease [28-30].

Anti-Allergic Action

Glycosides found in curcumin [bis-demethoxy-curcumin & tetra-hydro-curcumin] works in allergic reactions because it inhibits the release of histamine. Curcumin is reported to possess the ability to inhibit specific & non-specific mast cell-dependent allergic reactions [31].

Traditional Uses

Several species *Curcuma* i.e. *C. longa*, *C. zedoaria*, *C. kwangsiensis*, *C. aromatica*, *C. caesia*, *C. comosa* & *C. phaeocaulis* have been utilized in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Chinese, Folk & Veterinary medicine all over South-East Asia. It is known to be a very common household remedy for so many ailments i.e. cough, anorexia, rheumatism respiratory ailments, dysentery, abdominal pain & dental problems. Gastrointestinal disorders like, acidity, dyspepsia, indigestion, ulcers, liver disease & flatulence are also been treated. To relieve pain in muscles and inflammation [due to injury] hot poultice prepared from turmeric & slaked lime is utilized. After child birth women are given drink of warm milk along with turmeric, ginger & honey. Turmeric [haldi] paste is used for several skin related problems like burns, bites etc. To get relief it is applied on skin surface. Turmeric along with neem are utilized for the treatment of chicken pox & small pox [3, 5, 32-34].

Turmeric is traditionally used from birth to burial in Indian society. People have strong belief for turmeric to be sacred. In India brides and even grooms are smeared with turmeric on the previous day of the wedding. By alkalizing the turmeric powder, kumkum is traditionally prepared. Married women apply it on the parting of the hairline or on the centre of the forehead. Clothes marked or dyed with haldi are considered to be auspicious. Turmeric is utilized in homes as well as temples during rituals [havan & pooja]. People use to wear it as an amulet to ward off evil spirits [3, 35].

Conclusion

Haldi is known as Indian Saffron, it is used as spice in India and China. It is also traditionally used in every auspicious occasion in Indian society. Turmeric has anti-oxidant anti-allergic, anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensives, anti-septic, anti-ulcer, anti-coagulant, anti-diabetic, anti-microbial & wound healing properties. It is used in Ayurveda because of its various medicinal properties. It used in treatment of respiratory disorders, allergy, rheumatism, diabetic wounds, liver disorders, anorexia, cough etc. Curcumin is a non-toxic, highly promising natural antioxidant compound found in turmeric. Such natural compound should be used to develop modern medicines also. Medicinal properties of turmeric should be used for the development of new drugs after proper extensive research & investigation, to use them in the modern system of medical sciences.

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IS MAKE IN INDIA A SUCCESS? — A REVIEW FROM PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR IN INDIA

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Abstract

Make in India aims at variety of policies to enable and encourage the expansion of pharmaceutical sector to meet the domestic demand by domestic production and to capture a significant market share of the International Pharma Industry. In this paper, we have analysed the export-import figures of Indian Pharma Industry from 2014-15 to 2018-19. And we find that Make in India has been successful; in increasing exports of pharmaceutical sector and to a great extent to have a control on the amount of imports of pharmaceutical sector. During the Corona Crisis; instead of being dependent on China and other countries, India developed & produced with increased capacities the necessary PPEs, Gloves, Vaccines, Medicines, Oxygen-concentrators, ventilators etc. to save lives of its citizens.

Keywords- Make in India, pharmaceutical sector of India, India's foreign trade, Government policy

Objectives of the study

- To review the Performance of Pharmaceutical sector in Indian Foreign trade
- To Analyse the trends in Exports of pharmaceutical sector
- To Analyse the trends in Imports of pharmaceutical sector
- To check the effect of Make in India Initiative on India's Pharmaceutical sector

1. Introduction

There are many plans to regulate drug prices and approvals & one of the most recent initiative is the "Pharma Vision 2020" program initiated in 2013 for Drug Price Control. The government has always been keen on backing the sector through various policy implementations.

India exported a huge number of Pharmaceutical drugs which is over 1.3 trillion rupees in the year 2019. This has attracted foreign investors to this sector and many manufacturing units are being set-up all over India thus generating employment and motivation to Indian Pharma Sector. Ayushman Bharat Yojana and an increase in health expenditure, along with cooperative agreements with foreign pharmaceutical companies have boosted the growth of new domestic companies in India.

Government of India has launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharma Sector of India to substitute imports, to profit domestic makers, to boost product diversification & innovation etc. with a funding of Rs. 15000 Crore during the period 2020-21 to 2028-29.

India has set up Rs.1 lakh Crore fund to motivate manufacturing of pharmaceutical ingredients domestically by 2023.

India as manufacturer of cost-effective & Quality generic drugs; supplies around 20% percent of the global pharmaceuticals demand in terms of volume. As per www.ibef.org, “The pharmaceutical industry in India, US\$40 billion by value, world’s 3rd largest by overall volume and world’s largest supplier of the generic medicines globally, with 20% and 3.5% share of total global pharmaceutical exports by volume and value respectively to more than 200 countries and territories in 2021. Indian exports reach at a standard and requirements of highly regulated markets of USA, UK, European Union and Canada.”

According to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, “Domestic pharmaceutical market turnover reached Rs.129,015 Crore (US\$18.12 billion) in 2018, growing 9.4 percent year-on-year and exports revenue was US\$17.28 billion in FY18 and US\$19.14 billion in FY19.”

2. Make in India and Related Policy

Make in India programme aims at making India the Manufacturing Hub of the World. Various policies and plans under this program aimed at promoting new manufacturing units, on other hand with the rise in existing manufacturing of intermediate and final goods. Export Promotion & Import Substitution is also the purpose of this programme. Make in India aims at rapid growth in India’s GDP.

2.1 Policy Measures adopted by the Government of India

The government adopted a variety of policies to enable and encourage the expansion of pharmaceutical sector to meet the domestic demand by domestic production and to capture a significant market share of the International Pharma Industry.

2.2 Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council

The government of India has taken various measure to promote pharmaceutical export. In 2004, Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Government of India) to promote Indian Pharma exports.

3. Data Collection and Methodology

This paper is based on the basis of secondary data sources, extracted basically form the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), New Delhi. Literature review is collected on the basis of survey of different sources, includes articles, research papers, annual reports of department of pharmaceuticals, and reports of government of India. The study covers a period of 2014-15 to 2018-19 on the basis of available data. We have calculated simple growth rates to show the trends of pharmaceutical exports & imports and simple trends of balance of trade.

3.1 Some Key Highlights & Trends in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

- Pharmaceuticals exports of India were US\$ 20.70 billion in 2019-20 making India one of top three international pharmaceutical markets in terms of incremental growth by the year 2020.
- India is also the largest supplier of generic medicines globally having 20-22% share of the global exports in volume.
- India’s drug manufacturing costs is lower than that of USA and almost half of Europe.
- Generic drugs have 70%, OTC medicines 21% and patented drugs 9% share in India’s Pharma market respectively.
- Pharma sector contributes to around 1.72% of India’s GDP.
- India’s Pharmaceutical industry has the second-highest number of US FDA approved plants outside the US. Indian pharmaceutical sector is divided into key Segments of Generic drugs, Contract Research & Manufacturing, Over The Counter Medicines and API/Bulk Drugs, Vaccines and Biosimilars & Biologics.

3.2 Some Latest Achievements of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

As per the Govt. of India official website for make in India i.e. www.makeindia.com, the latest achievements of Indian pharma sector are—

“Under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana’, the sales worth Rs. 484 crore was recorded at the 7064 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras across all districts of the country selling quality generic medicines up to 12th January 2021. 102 Jan Aushadhi Kendras under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) opened in June 2021 across country taking an cumulative sum of 7867. Under the ‘Janaushadhi Suvidha’, over 3.43 crore sanitary napkins have been sold at Rs. 1 per sanitary napkin since August 2019. About 11600 educated unemployed youth of the country have got direct sustainable employment under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). The total size of the drugs & medical device industry is around US\$43 billion. Currently, the growth rate is 7-8% in the drug sector and 15- 16% in the medical device sector. The total export of drugs and medical devices is US\$20 billion of which drugs form around 90% of the total exports. During September 2020, 26 new medicines retail prices were fixed. This brings a cumulative figure to 1417 till September 2020. Under PLI Scheme for API/KSM/DI received total 215 application and PLI Scheme for Medical Devices received 28 application in November 2020.”

3.3 Analytical Study

Table 1
Exports of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

Year	USD Million	In Percentage
	Exports	Export Growth
2014-15	15429.30	-
2015-16	16905.60	9.57
2016-17	16775.50	-0.77
2017-18	17,286.20	3.04
2018-19	19,161.70	10.85

Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

Table 2
Imports of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

Year	USD Million	In Percentage
	Imports	Import Growth
2014-15	5,431.10	-
2015-16	5,434.50	0.06
2016-17	4,993.60	-8.11
2017-18	5,481.70	9.77
2018-19	6,355.20	15.93

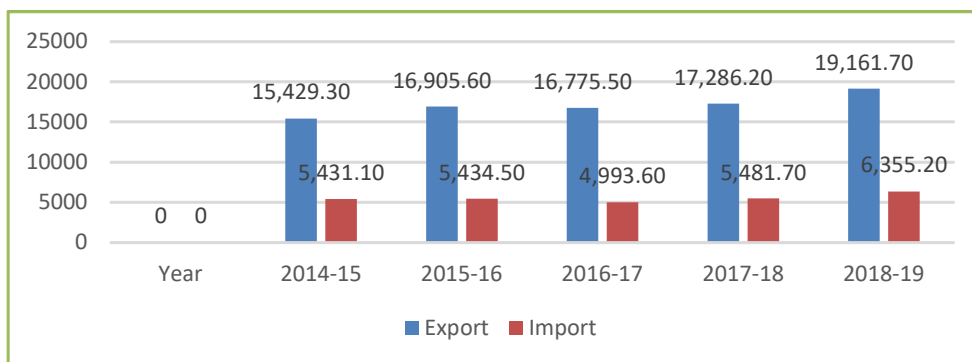
Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

Table 3
Balance of Trade in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

Year	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
	Export	Import	Balance of Trade
2014-15	15,429.30	5,431.10	9998.2
2015-16	16,905.60	5,434.50	11471.1
2016-17	16,775.50	4,993.60	11781.9
2017-18	17,286.20	5,481.70	11804.5
2018-19	19,161.70	6,355.20	12806.5

Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

Graph 1
Exports & Imports Trends in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry



Source: CMIE Economic Outlook

3.4 Analysis and Result

Table 1 shows the trends of India’s pharmaceutical exports during the period 2014–15 to 2018–19. Trends have been increasing above the period; although, in the initial years, i.e. 2016–17 saw a low growth rate of -0.77 percent. But thereafter, it exhibited a rising trend of 3.04 percent in 2017–18. Exports increased rapidly in the year 2018–19 & saw a growth rate of 10.85 percent.

Table 2 shows the trends of Indian pharmaceutical industry imports for the period 2014–15 to 2018–19 on the basis of available data. The growth rate of imports was found to be negative during 2016–17, which means that the imports decrease as compared to the previous year. The government of India has taken many measures to decrease dependency on foreign countries. Though there was an increase in imports in some years, for instance it was 9.77 percent in 2017–18 and 15.93 percent in 2018-19.

The balance of trade under Indian Pharma Industry has always been positive and with significantly a high amount under the period of our study. Balance of Trade in 2014-15 was positive 9998.2 USD Million and it increased upto 12806.5 USD Million in 2018-19.

4. Conclusion

Make in India with reference to Pharmaceutical sector of India have focused on export promotion and import substitution. Make in India aims at variety of policies to enable and encourage the expansion of pharmaceutical sector to meet the domestic demand by domestic production and to capture a significant market share of the International Pharma Industry. In this paper, we have analysed the export-import figures of Indian Pharma Industry from 2014-15 to 2018-19. And we find that Make in India has been successful; in increasing exports of pharmaceutical sector and to a great extent to have a control on the amount of imports of pharmaceutical sector. The pharmaceutical sector of India is the 3rd largest with reference to volume and the 13th largest in value. India has become a global manufacturing and research hub specially in this Corona Crisis. Abundant raw material base and the plenty availability of skilled/trained workforce gives the Indian manufacturers a great competitive advantage.

Most recent eruption of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has exposed some weaknesses in the Indian pharma sector but Indian Pharma sector faced this crisis bravely. Instead of being dependent on China and other countries, India developed & produced with increased capacities the necessary PPEs, Gloves, Vaccines, Medicines, Oxygen-concentrators, ventilators etc. to save lives of Its citizens. Though there was no denial to International support in both-ways exports & imports of necessary tools & medicines for fight with Corona. Vaccine Maitri Programme of Indian Govt. has been appraised by all over the world. Under “China-plus-one” programme (2020) of Govt. of India to reduce dependency on China; 53 drug raw materials and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients were identified and planned to be produced in India on priority basis by investment of over 1.3 billion USD in Indian pharmaceutical companies and Govt. Units. Some new rules & restrictions have also been framed on the exports of some pharma products to ensure enough supplies for citizens of India.

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PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN ICT BASED GROUPS: A STUDY OF DEGREE COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Technology can be viewed as an extremely sophisticated tool that makes things possible when it comes to ICT and human beings. As time goes on, those tools change and new ways are introduced. With the huge number, people are involved nowadays with social networks through ICT. It is very interesting to note, how they are influenced by each other in many different ways. When people engage in social networking, there is no doubt that they start to have a tremendous impact on each other. This study seeks to understand why youth join ICT based groups and to know pros and cons of ICT based groups. This study explores the Participation of Youth in ICT based Groups. Respondents are students of Degree College.

Keywords— ICT, Social groups, Group formation and Youth

Introduction

Dynamic boundaries of ICT are being pushed forward on a daily basis because of the pervasive presence of mobile platforms and the inventiveness of young people in adapting technological devices to meet their needs. The logic that drives internet use among the young is accelerated by the economic incentive of low cost cell phone devices and internet. Mobile phones and internet have become the most pervasive form of modern ICTs. ICT tools also allow for anonymous expression by youth who can now dare say what they have on their minds. ICT can empower young citizens to engage constructively in the development of new mechanisms. ICT provide new opportunities for those who are literate, have a good education and adequate resources.

We are living in a world which is, directly or indirectly, under the influence of ICT. ICT has become an integral part of our life, especially for young people in society. Youth are drivers and consumers of technology and they are in majority in India. So, it becomes important to examine the role of ICTs and its impact on youth.

Methodology

- (i) Type of study-** Empirical research with Qualitative & Quantitative approach
- (ii) Area of study-** Gulab Singh Hindu Degree College, Chandpur – Siau, Bijnor, U P, India
- (iii) Sampling techniques-** Purposive and Convenience Sampling
- (iv) Sample size-** 25 respondents

(v) Data collection- Primary data has been collected through observation, Interview and Interview Schedule. For secondary data different books, articles, journals, government reports and other reports have been gone through.

Review of Literature

Ilavarasa (2013) explores how youth in India understand, get involved in and actively use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in civic engagement. Indian youth do, however, engage in other forms of civic engagement. Helping the needy outside of work and college is a common form of community work for young Indians. ICTs are used in the everyday lives of Indian youth for personal purposes like entertainment and social networking, but relatively little for activism.

Shrivastav and Dr. Ekata (2013) stated that Internet and Communication Technology has influenced every wake of our life in one or other way. In comparison to other developing country, the higher ICT penetration in India is appreciable. Most of the Internet users and perpetrator of Cybercrime in India are young persons of the age group 18-30. This is in harmony to the world figure.

Ben-Attar and Campbell (2013) found that youth are leading the way in utilizing technology for sharing information and generating content relevant to their lives. One expression of this trend is the development of youth-to-youth ICT platforms connecting social media, internet and mobile phones, to serve as a catalyst for civic engagement, encouraging young people to take a proactive role in building awareness regarding issues affecting their lives, make informed decisions and take action.

Fallahi (2011) conducted a study to test the relationship between ICT and social behavior with a random sampling included 500 people from the society of Shiraz University. Result shows; the internet, web blogs, ICT and others internet applying are going to increase. These kinds of applications not only have an important role in the development of knowledge and improvement of quality of life but also increased communication between the people from the entire world. Communication by the internet never can displace with face to face interaction with the member of family and others in the society.

Schwittay (2011) describes India as the world's second most populous country. The ways Indians have access to and make use of ICT depend on their socio-economic position within Indian society. Such differential access is usually called the digital divide, this means that the exposure of Indians, including young Indians, to new media technologies depends heavily on social locations including gender, caste, class, and place of residence; in this highly stratified society.

Hache and Cullen (2010) found that young people are actively engaged in the "Knowledge Society". Youth is seen as playing an important role in the development of knowledge societies as they are, generally speaking, "leading innovators", being the first to use, appropriate and share knowledge on new ICT. This view owes much to the notion of "Digital Natives" which refers to the intensity of use of ICT (Internet and other multimedia digital technologies) by young people.

McEwen (2010) findings showed that mobile phones were the devices of choice to mitigate feelings of loneliness, with deleterious consequences for the development of new relationships. The social success of the Internet and the mobile phone communication media have brought about opportunities to remain in-touch with friends, family and colleagues both in the immediate environment and also across great geographical distances.

Boyd (2008) stated that virtual places assembled by communication technologies increasingly provide fertile ground for youth sociality; forming, maintaining and even terminating relationships. Virtual places are constructed via instant messaging, text messaging, wikis, blogs, social networking sites (e.g. Facebook and MySpace), massively multiplayer online role-playing games and other social media like Twitter.

Johnsen (2003) conducted research on Norwegian young people, and considers that sustained mobile interactions include idle chatting (i.e. small talk) as well as discussions of more intricate personal matters, to be charged with expressive symbolical content. While on the surface small talk exchanges may appear to be insignificant.

Johnsen considers them digital gifts and explains that this type of communication has a very important function apart from the instrumental exchange of information.

Wellman and et al (2003) concept of Networked Individualism introduced earlier implies that because relationships and connections are to people and not to places, mobile phones allow us to shift community ties from linking people-in-places to linking people at any place.

Data Analysis

In the present study, Participation of Youth in ICT based Groups, all respondents (18 male and 07 female) are students of Degree College belonging to age group of 18–25 years.

Purposes of creating and joining groups

On the basis of purposes of creating and joining groups respondents are divided as follows:

Table 1: Purposes of creating and joining groups

S. No.	Purposes of creating and joining groups	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	To connect with family & friends	8	32
2	To share information (about class, exams & hostels etc.)	11	44
3	To interact with other persons	2	8
4	To know something new	2	8
5	Entertainment	2	8
Total		25	100%

According to the data we can conclude that 11 (44%) respondents are creating and joining groups to share information, 8 (32%) respondents’ purpose of creating and joining groups is to connect with family and 02 (8%) respondents creating and joining groups in each category- to interact with other persons, to know something new & entertainment.

Thus, majority 11 (44%) respondents are creating and joining groups to share information with each other.

Criteria of fulfillment of purposes

According to criteria of fulfillment of purposes respondents are divided as follows:

Table 2: Criteria of fulfillment of purposes

S. No.	Criteria of fulfillment of purposes	No. of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Maintaining relations	6	24
2	Providing information and data	8	32
3	Helpful in communication and connectivity	3	12
4	Useful in starting but with course of time become useless	5	20
5	Not providing knowledge up to mark	2	8
6	Good time pass	1	4
Total		25	100%

As per data we can conclude that out of 25 respondents according to 8 (32%) respondents ICT based groups are fulfilling purposes as they are providing information and data, 06 (24%) respondents said that it is helpful in maintaining relations, 05 (20%) respondents believed that these groups are useful in starting but with course of time become useless, 3 (12%) respondents think these groups are helpful in communication and connectivity, 02 (8%) respondents thought that these groups are not providing knowledge up to mark and 01 (4%) respondent feel that groups are fulfilling their purpose if it is providing good time pass.

Thus, according to 8 (32%) respondents ICT based groups are fulfilling purposes as they are providing information and data.

Advantages of ICT based groups

Number of responses

Some respondents gave more than one answer in favour of this variable. The classification of the respondents according to their number of response(s) is as follows:

Table 3.1: Number of responses

IMPACT	NUMBER	RESPONSE
1	15	15
2	7	14
3	2	6
4	1	4
TOTAL	25	39

Out of 25 respondents, 1 gave four responses, 2 gave three responses, 7 gave two responses and 15 gave one response.

Thus, majority 15 respondents (60%) gave one response.

List of responses

After the calculation, the total number of responses becomes 39. Numbers of responses for the Pros/advantages of virtual groups are presented below

Table 3.2: List of responses

S. No.	Pros/advantages of ICT based groups	No. of Responses
1	Connectivity	13
2	Knowledge updating	9
3	Group discussion	1
4	Nothing much	3
5	Information	6
6	Entertainment	4
7	Availability	2
8	Guidance	1
Total		39

Out of 39 responses, majority of responses (13 and 9) come in the categories of Connectivity and Knowledge updating. Minority of responses come in the categories of Group discussion and Guidance (01 and 01 respectively).

Overall/Cumulative impact

Respondents gave different and more than one answer so it is necessary to make combination of their answers. According to the different response(s) the combination of the answers is presented below.

Table 3.3: Overall/Cumulative impact

S. No.	Pros/advantages of ICT based groups	No. of Respondents
1	Connectivity	6
2	Knowledge updating	5
3	Group discussion	1
4	Nothing much	3
5	Information + Entertainment	3
6	Connectivity + Availability	2
7	Connectivity + Knowledge updating	2
8	Knowledge updating + Connectivity + Information	2
9	Connectivity + Information + Guidance + Entertainment	1
Total		25

In the analysis of advantages of ICT based groups, Out of 25 respondents, 6 respondents shows the advantage as connectivity, 05 respondents as knowledge updating, 03 each respondents shows the advantage as- ‘no advantages’ & ‘information + entertainment for both’, 02 respondents shows advantage of ICT based groups in each category as ‘connectivity + availability’, ‘connectivity + knowledge updating’ & ‘knowledge updating + connectivity + information’ and 01 respondent shows advantage in these two category- ‘group discussion’ & ‘connectivity + information + guidance + entertainment’.

Thus, majority 06 respondents shows the advantage of ICT based groups in the form of connectivity.

Disadvantages of ICT based groups

Number of responses

Some respondents gave more than one answer in favour of this variable. The classification of the respondents according to their number of response(s) is as follows:

Table 4.1 Number of responses

IMPACT	NUMBER	RESPONSE
1	17	17
2	6	12
3	2	6
TOTAL	25	35

Out of 25 respondents, 2 gave three responses each, 6 gave two responses each and 17 gave one response each.

Thus, majority 17 respondents (40%) gave one response each.

List of responses

After the calculation, the total number of responses becomes 35. Numbers of responses for the purpose of creating time and task oriented groups are presented below.

Table 4.2 List of responses

S. No.	Cons/disadvantages of ICT based groups	No. of Responses
1	Wastage of time	17
2	Disturbance	8
3	Unnecessary chat	3
4	Create misunderstanding	1
5	Loss of concentration	1
6	Loss of study	1
7	Wrong information	2
8	Over emphasis on virtual reality	2
Total		35

Out of 35 responses, majority of responses (17 and 8) come in the categories of wastage of time and disturbance. Minority of responses come in the categories of create misunderstanding, loss of concentration and Loss of study (01 each).

Overall/Cumulative impact

Respondents give different and more than one answer so it is necessary to make combination of their answer. According to the different response(s) the combination of the answers is presented below.

Table 4.3 Overall/Cumulative impact

S. No.	Cons/disadvantages of ICT based groups	No. of Respondents
1	Wastage of time	10
2	Disturbance	3
3	Unnecessary chat	3
4	Create misunderstanding	1
5	Wastage of time + Disturbance	5
6	Loss of concentration + Loss of study	1
7	Wastage of time + Wrong information + Over emphasis on virtual reality	2
Total		25

In reference of disadvantages of ICT based groups, Out of 25 respondents, 10 respondents consider wastage of time as main disadvantage, 05 respondents considered wastage of time + disturbance, 03 respondents consider disadvantage in both category- disturbance & unnecessary chat, 02 respondents consider wastage of time + wrong information + over emphasis on virtual reality as disadvantage and 01 respondent consider disadvantage in both category- create misunderstanding & loss of concentration + loss of study.

So, majority 10 respondents consider wastage of time as main disadvantage.

Conclusion

Interestingly, in many ways, ICT has brought people together at a level unlike anything other. From this point of view, this study focused on the participation of youth, degree college students, in ICT based groups. Data brings out that all respondents are member(s) of ICT based groups, apart from their membership many of them are creator(s) of some groups. Students join & creates different type of ICT based groups such as friends groups, family group, motivational/ informative groups, entertainment groups, political group, communities. The purposes of these groups are as to maintain relations, to obtain information & knowledge, for communication, connectivity and time pass.

Everything has some pros and cons; this is also true in the case of ICT based groups. Advantages of these groups are connectivity, knowledge updating, availability, entertainment, information sharing, group discussion and guidance. In case of disadvantages; wastage of time, disturbance, unnecessary chat, wrong information, over emphasis on virtual reality, creating misunderstanding, loss of concentration and loss of study are major one.

With all counts and with proven results, it is no wonder that ICT based groups have both advantages and disadvantages. Clearly, there is need for a great focus on studies related to group formation based on ICT. More research should be done to expand and add something new in our existing knowledge.

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A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON YOUNGSTERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NAINITAL DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND

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Abstract

The global accessibility of the internet is one of the defining phenomena of our day, transforming the world as we know it. Social media gives youngsters opportunity to connect with others immediately and share their lives through photos, videos, and status updates. Young people themselves describe these platforms as an important tool for making connections and maintaining relationships, creativity and understanding the world. You also need to deal with the more negative aspects of social media use, such as drama and bullying, or feel pressured to present yourself in a certain way. The objectives of this paper are to see how social media affects young Indians. This paper refers to how people use social media & for what purposes. This paper analyses the users of various social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp etc. in Nainital district of Uttarakhand and its findings are that social media sites are quite popular among young people. Spending long hours chatting on social media sites decreased productivity amongst the youth. While sharing information on social media; cultural and religious values must be considered, and no one should be harmed. It is preferable to use social media as a positive mean of contributing to society by establishing a new platform for showcasing youngster talent and opportunity.

Keywords—Social Media, Social Network, Youth

Introduction

Since 2004, social media has grown exponentially, but its popularity has not yet reached its peak. It is undeniable that social media platforms are currently the main source of news and information. But this is not all. Social media platforms are unique in the way they interact with customers. They not only provide users with a platform to communicate across local and social boundaries, but also provide many opportunities to share user-generated content (such as photos and videos).

Social media refers to all application and websites or blogs that enables people around the globe to interconnect via the Internet. For a person to be member of any social media he or she has to first sign up and then sign in to access content and be able to share and chat with other users of that social media platform some of the common and widely used social media platforms include Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat and many others.

Over the past two decades, social media have gained so much growth and fame worldwide to an extent that many searchers are now interested in learning more about these social platforms and their effects on the community. Despite the fact that almost everyone in the community is connected to at least one social media platform, the youth and teenager are the leading and most fanatic of these social platforms.

The power of social networking is such that the number of worldwide users is expected to reach some 3.43 billion monthly active social media users by 2023, around a third of Earth's entire population. In 2023, an estimated 800 million of these users are expected to be from China alone and approximately a 450 million from India.

—(Statista 2020).

The latest social media statistics show that there are 3.78 billion social media users worldwide in 2021 and this number is only going to continue growing over the next few years. In 2020, the global social penetration rate reached 49 percent, with East Asia and North America having the highest penetration rate at 71 and 69 percent respectively, followed by Northern Europe at 67 percent.

Social networking has been proved to have both positive and negative effects on our youths. Individuals should make a conclusion whether to go on using these sites or stop or even moderate on their usage. Parents should guide and advise their children on current matters like the usage of social media and warn them of its negative impacts to them when misused or over used. The education curriculum also should be revised so that it can include social media studies in its disciplines so as to alert students that they need to be careful in their social media.

Review of Literature

Kusuma (2020) suggested that as the impact of new media grows, it would be critical to establish evidence-based strategies for encouraging and improving young people's usage of social media.

Divya (2019) concluded that Social Media is most popular among youth, especially Facebook and WhatsApp. It has thrown both positive as well as negative impact on the youngsters.

Dimitrov (2017) found that youngster always seeking public attention and sharing intimate information that may have an impact on their personal lives. Students are constantly engaged in social media and struggle to focus on their education, physical activity, and other activities.

Halakerimath (2017) found in its study that the majority of respondents enjoy reading information on the internet and believe that social media is beneficial in the field of education and has both positive and negative effects on youth.

Jacobsen and Forste (2011) stated that electronic media had a detrimental impact on grades; over two-thirds of students used media while performing academics, which had an adverse impact on their grades at school.

Objectives of the Study

- To get the information about demographics of social media users.
- To know the popular social media platform.
- To find the average time spent on social media sites.
- To know the most important purpose of using the social media
- To know the benefits of using social media sites.
- To examine the dangers associated with usage of social media sites.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in and around Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The method used in this paper is descriptive analysis. Random sampling method was used for the study. The total sample size was 100. Researcher had prepared the Google form to take the response from respondents. For that purpose, framed a structured questionnaire in Google forms and take the online views over different topics of social media. The collected data were tabulated, analyzed by using frequency table and percentage.

Results and Discussion

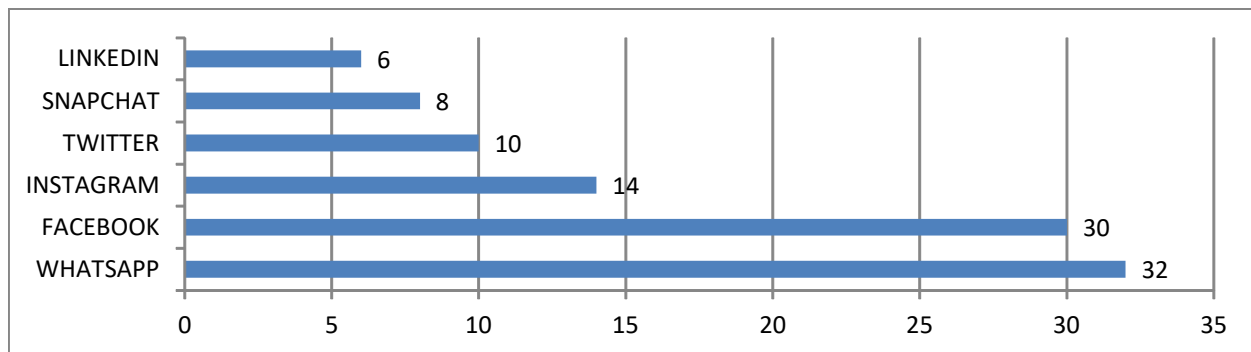
Table 1
Demographic Information

Respondent profile		Frequency
Gender	Male	62
	Female	38
Age	Below 20	43
	20-30	32
	30-40	18
	40 above	7
Occupation	Self employed	9
	Homemaker	16
	Service	13
	Student	62

(Source: primary data)

Out of the total respondents, 38% were female and 62% were male. 43% are in the less than 20 age group, 32% are in between 20-30, 18% are 30-40 age group and 7% are above 40 age group. 13% are in service, 9% are self-employed, 62% are students and 16% are homemakers. According to researchers, students under the age of 30 are the heaviest users of social media sites.

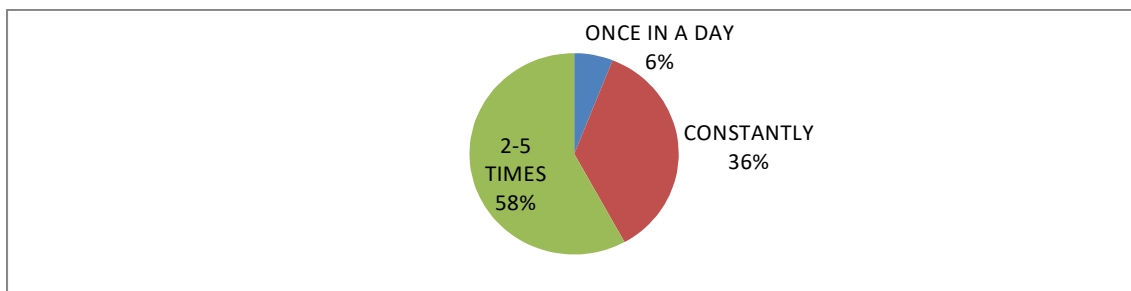
Diagram 1
Rank of Social Media Sites on basis of their Usage



(Source: primary data)

Diagram 1 shows that WhatsApp and Facebook were most widely used social networking sites among the youngster with 32% and 30% frequency respectively. Instagram is one of the rapidly growing sites in the youth age group with 3rd rank and twitter, Snapchat and LinkedIn have minimum users in Nainital.

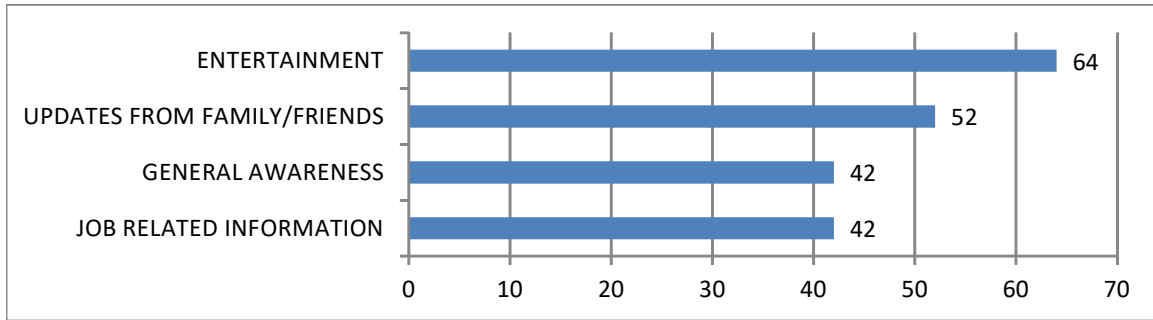
Diagram 2
Average Time Spent on Social Sites Per Day



(Source: primary data)

When asked about the average time spent on social sites per day, 36% respondents agreed that they are constantly using it whereas 58% said they spend 2-5 hours approximately per day and only 6% login to social media once in a day. In the research, it was also discovered that youngsters who used the internet on a regular basis were more likely to be exposed to dangers.

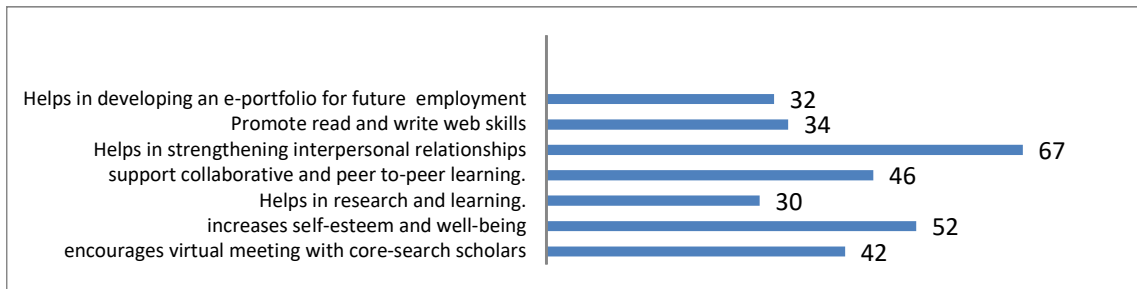
Diagram 3
General Purpose of Using Social Media



(Source: primary data)

Diagram shows that what kind of information they acquire from these sites. 42% preferred job related information, 52% seek for information or updates from friends and families, 42% choose for general awareness and 64% seek entertainment. The graph clearly depicts that most of the youth are interested in knowing what is going on in other's lives and used these sites only for entertainment.

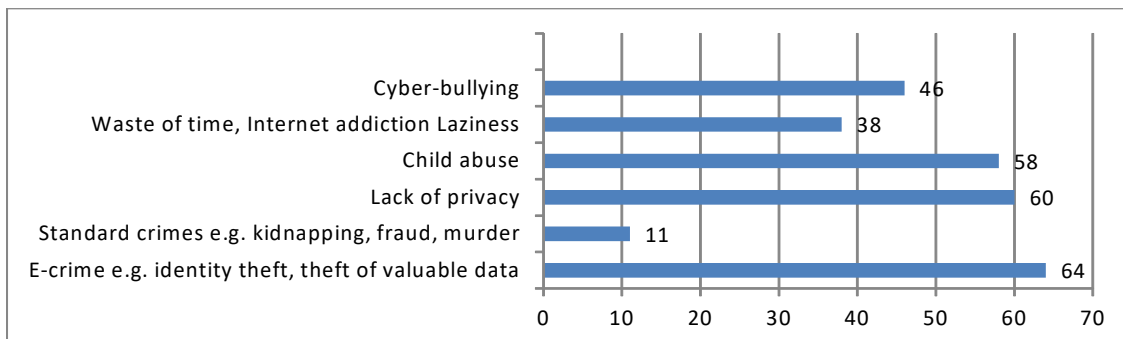
Diagram 4
Benefits of Using Social Networking Sites



(Source: primary data)

Besides few negative aspects, majority agree to the positive side of benefits. For example 67% respondents believe that social media helps in strengthening interpersonal relationships. Whereas 46% still believe that social media supports collaborative and peer-to-peer learning and 30% agree with the fact that social sites help in research and learning. 32% agree with the fact that social sites help in developing an e-portfolio for future employment.

Diagram 5
Dangers Associated With Social Networking Sites



(Source: primary data)

Privacy on social platform is the major concern for majority of people. When researcher asked about the dangers associated with the social networking, 60% agree that there is lack of privacy. 64% think that these sites are more vulnerable to e-crimes like identity theft. 57% respondents agreed upon child abuse through social media.

Findings

- Majority of 62 percent respondents are male and 38 percent respondents are female who have access to social networks.
- Majority of 43 percent respondents who use social networks are below the age of 20.
- Majority of 62 percent respondents are students who accesses social media.
- Majority of 32 percent respondents use WhatsApp.
- Majority of 58 percent respondents spend 2-5 hours daily on social networking sites.
- Majority of 64 percent respondents using social media sites for only entertainment purpose.
- Majority of 67 percent respondents strongly agree that usage of social networking sites strengthens interpersonal relationships.
- Majority of 64 percent respondents strongly agree that these sites are more vulnerable to e-crimes like identity theft.

Conclusion

Social media has changed our way of life, from the way we receive information to the way we interact with our loved ones. Social media is everywhere, it is inevitable, it is powerful, and it will always be.

Social media is one of the shortest forms of communication, and it has a significant impact on how young people live their lives. Despite the fact that it is quite popular with young people, spending long hours chatting in social media sites also decreased productivity amongst the youth. One of the reasons for the growing use of social media is that mobile capabilities for users are constantly developing, making it easier to access social media from any location.

The aim of this study was to see how networking affects young people. It is noted that they are squandering valuable time, as well as causing health issues due to sleepless nights. While sharing information on social media; cultural and religious values must be considered, and no one should be harmed. Excessive use of social media can lead to addiction, which can lead to social isolation. It is preferable to use social media as a positive mean of contributing to society by establishing a new platform for showcasing youngster talent and opportunity.

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PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION IN UTTAR PRADESH (A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF AMENDMENT ACT 1994)

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Abstract

After independence, when the Congress government assumed office, it passed the United Province Panchayat Raj Act XXVI 1947 and in 1949 Gram Panchayat were established across the state. Subsequently after about a decade in 1961, the state adopted a three tier system of Panchayati Raj as had been recommended by the Balwant Rai Mehta study team. The U.P. Panchayat Raj Act 1947 and, the Kshetra Samiti and Zilla Parishad Adhinyam 1961 have been amended as on 22 April 1994 in consonance with the constitution 73rd amendment act 1992. This paper, after outlining the salient features of the 1994 amendment act presents a critique of their various parts and analyses, as to what extent they purport to establish the institution of self-government in the state in the real sense or the term.

Keywords— Panchayati Raj, Kshetra Samiti, Zilla Parishad, self-government

Introduction :

Democracy is never complete unless there is active involvement and participation of the people at all levels. The institutions of democracy at the national and state levels have gained considerable strength since independence. Recognising the importance of democratic decentralization, Article 40 in part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the constitution states, “The state shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.” But the institutions at district, block and village levels have not been able to acquire the status and dignity of viable and responsive people’s body.

Panchayati Raj institutions seek to realize the good of decentralized administration and decision making by people themselves especially at grassroots level. The U.P. Panchayat Act 1947 and, the Kshetra Samiti and Zilla Parishad Adhinyam 1961 have been amended as on 22 April, 1994 in consonance with the constitution 73rd amendment act 1992. Under this amendment, the words Samiti and Parishad have been replaced by Panchayat.

The study of U.P. Panchayat Acts, apart from other factors, is relevant for two reasons. First it was the first state after independence to establish the Panchayats in rural areas. Second, the state holds more than 16 percent of the country’s population in a geographical area of about 9 percent. It has 33.33%, 16.34% and 16.98% of the total Gram Panchayats, Kshetra Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats of India. Thus, the study of the Panchayat Raj

set up in the state has a tremendous importance for the institutional set up in the country as a whole. For the establishment of local self-government institutions in the real sense of the term, in this paper there are critiques of various provisions of the 1994 Panchayat Raj Amendment Act of Uttar Pradesh.

Gram Sabha

Holding of two meetings (section-11) of Gram Sabha in a year after the harvesting of Kharif and Rabi crops is mandatory under the amendment act. The meetings shall be presided over by the Pradhan of the Gram Panchayat. More than two meetings can also be held if required by the Pradhan or the prescribed authority or not less than one fifth members of the Gram Sabha. The Gram Sabha shall consider the annual statement of account along with the report of the administration of the preceding year, the audit note and replies and the preceding and current year reports in respect of the developmental programme of adult education within the village. The Gram Sabha may also make recommendations and suggestions to the Gram Panchayat and Gram Panchayat shall give due consideration to them (section-11-4). Besides, the Gram sabha shall mobilizes voluntary labour, identify beneficiaries for various programmes and provide assistance to implement agencies.

Gram Panchayat

The Gram Panchayat shall consist of the Pradhan and Uppradhan and 9 to 15 members elected from the different constituencies depending on the size of panchayat. The Pradhan will be elected directly while the Uppradhan will be elected indirectly. Reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs for the post of Pradhan has been made as per the proportion of their population in the state. However the reservation for the backward classes shall not exceed twenty percent. The meetings of Gram Panchayat shall be held at least in a month (section 12 B). A provision for honorarium and allowance for the Pradhan, Uppradhan and members has also been made (Section 12 A). This is a welcome step as it will increase the efficiency of the Panchayat and also may reduce corruption to some extent at their level.

The functions of Gram Panchayat are specified under sections 15, 15A and section 16 of the amendment act. Two types of functions are assigned to Panchayat. One, those already assigned to it by the government as per the 11th schedule of the constitution and the second those may be assigned by the government. The Panchayats also have some powers such as that to make contribution to an organization outside its jurisdiction, exercise control over public streets, water ways and other facilities, improve schools and hospitals, establish primary schools, hospital dispensaries, enquire and report about the misconduct of certain officials and to contract for collection of taxes and other dues for proprietors (Section-16 A- 24)

According to section 25(11), the Gram Panchayat shall have a secretary. Provision is also made that the Panchayat may appoint its staff, if necessary. The act also has the provision (section 28A) for constituting the Bhumi Prabandhak Samiti (land management committee) to oversee general management, preservation and control of all properties of the Panchayat. Lekhpal shall be its secretary and Pradhan and Uppradhan shall act as Chairperson and Vice-chairperson respectively. This body has been kept under overall control of the collector (section 29). The Samities can co-opt members from organization engaged in the development of rural areas and also recognized by the state government. In the Shiksha Samiti, three persons from amongst the guardians of the students of the primary school shall be co-opted. This is also a welcome step as it will establish an organic link between school and the beneficiaries. Gram Panchayat may constitute other committee to assist these committees. Provision for establishing a Joint Committee (section 30) comprising representatives of more than one Gram Panchayat is also made in the act. The provisions of a Gram Panchayat Fund for each Gram Panchayat (section-32) for carrying out its duties and obligations is also there. It is also empowered to acquire land, borrowings and impose taxes and fees and any other tax which is in the Act. In addition, the state legislature has the power under the constitution (article 277) thereof to impose taxes & fees in the state and of which imposition by the Gram Panchayat has been authorised by the state government.

A Critique

After outlining the salient features of the acts, let us critically evaluate their various provisions. State should have repealed the existing acts (U.P. Panchayat Raj act 1947 and U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zilla Parishad Adhiniyam 1961) instead of amending them. A new act would have been more understandable than the present amended acts. Now if some body wants to study these acts, he has to refer to their earlier versions. The idea behind this suggestion is that the acts should be as simple as they can be made so that the common man can understand them.

As constituting the Gram Sabha was mandatory, a provision has been made for it. But the substance is missing. As per section 11(3), Gram Sabha “shall consider” and “may make recommendations and suggestions” to Gram Panchayat on the statement of account, report of development programmes, promotion of unity and harmony and adult education. And Gram Panchayat shall (section-11-4) give consideration to these recommendations and suggestions. Besides, it is also mentioned that Gram Sabha shall perform function such as mobilizing voluntary labour, identification of beneficiaries and rendering assistance in implementation of various activities. After reading these provisions it can be said that practically nothing has been devolved to this assembly of village people except proverbial identification of beneficiaries. The Gram Panchayat should have been made accountable to Gram Sabha for this, power of seeking clarification from the Pradhan and members, scrutiny of the completed work location of the schemes and other works should have been endowed in Gram Sabha. Besides, for monitoring the working of the Gram Panchayat, provision for vigilance committee should also have been made. The member of this committee should not be the member of Gram Panchayat. This committee should present its report in the general body meeting of village assembly. If these provisions are made in the act, they would bring transparency in the functioning of the Panchayats besides preventing corruption in them.

A new section 11B regarding elections of Pradhan has been added in the Gram Panchayat Act. Under it if, in a certain panchayat Pradhan is not elected and less than two third of the total number of members of Gram Panchayat are elected, the state government or its authorised officer will either appoint an administrative committee consisting of some members of the Gram Sabha or an administrator for six months. All powers of the Gram Panchayat shall be vested in this body (section-11B-5). This arrangement shall be deemed as a duly constituted Gram Panchayat for the purpose of this act. This is an innovation by the state government to control Gram Panchayat exploiting a particular situation. Why not instead of an appointing administrator, election for the post of the Pradhan should be held immediately. And then, what is the guarantee that the election will be held immediately after six month because flood, drought and social tension etc. may come to the state government’s assistance extending the period further.

The functions of Gram Panchayat are enumerated in section 15 to 23, which may be categorised into two parts. One, those already devolved to Panchayats and the second those that can be assigned to them. In the case of the former; a list containing more than 30 items of works is included. However, in substance, the Gram Sabha has been made only an assisting agency. The creamy functions under the second list are management and maintenance of forest situated within the panchayat area, management of waste land area, and pasture lands, or vacant lands of government situated within the panchayat areas and collection of any tax or land revenue and maintenance of land records. These functions should have also been given to the Gram Panchayat so that they can enhance their resource mobilization capacity. Under section 16A, provision is made to take contribution for organization etc. outside the panchayats jurisdictions, the real power is in the hands of the state government. Similarly under improvement of sanitation (section-18), there is clause concerning removal of certain things which pollute environment. But here again the ultimate power of decision making is vested in the District Medical Officer “who may vary, set aside or confirm it.” Under section 23, the Panchayats are empowered to inquire and report about the misconduct of certain officials such as vaccinator, constable, village chowkidar, patwari, teacher of primary school etc. After

inquiring into the case, the Panchayat may forward its report to the proper authority. “The authority shall after such further enquiry which may be required, take suitable action and inform the Gram Panchayat of the result.” It means the government does not have faith in Gram Panchayat and higher tiers of Panchayat. Yes, if further enquiry is needed, why not the same can be conducted by the higher Panchayat body.

As per section 25, Gram Panchayat may appoint its staff, except Panchayat Secretary, from time to time. But for appointing such staff, prior permission of the prescribed authority is indispensable. It is interesting to note that the Gram Panchayat does not have any control over its Panchayat secretary. His name also does not appear in section 23 which empowers Gram Panchayat to enquire and report about the misconduct of certain officials. When the Pradhan neither has direct nor indirect control over his panchayat secretary how will the latter be faithful to Gram Panchayat ? The Panchayat secretary shall be faithful to his boss who will write his annual confidential report. It may be mentioned here that initially, as per the Report of the Commission on District Level Administration (RCDLA) secretaries were the employees of the Gram Panchayat as their pay etc. used to be paid out of their funds. At that time they were accountable to the Gram Panchayat. Over a period of time, they ultimately become government employees with no control of Gram Panchayat on them. It was stated under section 23 that Gram Panchayat can enquire into the misconduct of certain government employees such as canal petrol, primary school teacher, chowkidar, constable, tube well operator etc. But the fact is that as said by RCDLA “The various departments do not heed the representation of the Panchayat in respect of the functioning of these workers. No department has ever issued even a circular telling the Pradhan of their powers and responsibilities in respect of these functionaries.”

As per section 28, a Bhumi Prabandhak Samiti will be constituted at Gram Panchayat level to manage, observe and control certain properties and lands. The Pradhan and the Uppradhan shall be its chairperson and vice chairperson respectively. Lekhpal shall act as its secretary. The real controlling authority is the collector who can suspend the Pradhan or Uppradhan if any irregularities have crept in. It is not understandable why this committee should have a separate identity with wholesale control of collector. Why should it not be made a committee of development and welfare committee etc. which are under the supervision of the Gram Panchayat.

In case a Panchayat or some Panchayats want to acquire any land to construct or carryout some activity jointly, they approach the land owners and enter into negotiations. If they fail to arrive at an agreement, they request to the collector and he may enquire such land for that purpose. This again shows the superiority of bureaucracy over the elected body (section 33)

It is clear from the above that the state government and its bureaucracy have sweeping powers to supervise and control these democratically elected bodies. In this regard the words of the RCDLA (Report of the Commission on District Level Administration) are worth recalling. “In a democratic country the local self governing bodies are allowed full freedom to function. We are in full agreement with this, half hearted measures never work. If these bodies are to be involved and play their role, they should be given adequate functions and responsibilities along with appropriate powers. Accountability can be demanded only if necessary powers and functions have been given to an institution.”

Conclusion

Only those institutions which fulfill three basic conditions (i) institutional existence – means decisions must be taken by the people’s representatives (ii) institutional capacity-means institution must be empowered independent rule making and (iii) financial viability- means it must be sufficiently empowered to raise financial resources to meet its responsibilities; can be said as institutions or self government. In the light of these preconditions, we may say on the basis of the above analysis that the Panchayats in U.P. are not an institution or self government. The state controls Gram Panchayats to Zilla Panchayats.

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A STUDY OF THE INDIRECT CREDIT PROVIDED BY SIDBI

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Abstract

The micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) sector plays a crucial role in the growth of Indian economy due to its income and employment generating nature. The Government has invested a significant amount of time and attention for the development of MSME sector in India. It contributes about 30% of GDP of India. To address the issues that MSMEs have in accelerating their performance and competitiveness, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has taken a multi-pronged approach to fulfil their capital, term credit, working capital, receivable finance, partnership credit arrangements, institutional finance and other needs. As we know, SIDBI is a chief provider of finance to the financial institutions in India for financing to small scale industries. In this research article, it has been tried to throw light on the Indirect Credit provided by SIDBI to various Banks, SFBs, FIs, MFIs and NBFCs for the financing needs of MSME sector in India.

Keywords- SIDBI, Direct Finance, Indirect Finance, MSME Sector

Introduction

As per the new definition of MSMEs—

“A micro enterprise is a business with an investment of not more than Rs. 1 crore and a Rs. 5 crore turnover, a small enterprise is one with an investment of not more than Rs. 10 crore and a Rs. 50 crore turnover, and a medium enterprise is one with an investment not exceeding Rs. 50 crore and a Rs. 250 crore turnover.” — an announcement made in Budget 2020-21

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was founded on April 2, 1990, by an Act of the Indian Parliament, as the primary financial institution for the financing, promotion, and development of the MSME sector, as well as the coordination of the functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. Currently, the bank provides financial and developmental assistance to micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. It gives direct & indirect financial support to such banks and institutions, which are engaged in financing to the MSME sector. SIDBI has been working to satisfy the unique needs of MSMEs through numerous tailor-made initiatives since its founding.

The Charter establishing it, The Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 envisaged SIDBI to be “the principal financial institution for the promotion, financing and development of industry in the small scale sector and to co-ordinate the functions of the institutions engaged in the promotion and financing or developing industry in the small scale sector.”

SIDBI also provides micro finance support to accredited NGOs/Micro Finance Institutions, Self Help Groups, and other organizations in the form of loans and grants for on-lending and other services to economically disadvantaged people. Through the SIDBI Foundation for Micro Credit, SIDBI is actively involved in the creation of Micro Finance Institutions and assists in the extension of microfinance through the MFI method. Its promotion and development programme focuses on the promotion of rural businesses and the development of entrepreneurship.

SIDBI administers a refinance programme known as Institutional Finance in aim to expand and support money supply to the MSE sector. SIDBI offers Term Loans to Banks, Small Finance Banks, and Non-Banking Financial Companies through this programme. SIDBI lends directly to MSMEs in addition to refinancing operations.

While SIDBI's 64 branch offices provide refinance help to a large network of qualifying primary lending institutions for onward lending to MSMEs, direct assistance is provided by SIDBI.

The bank's authorised capital is Rs. 1,000 crores, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 450 crores held by 36 government-owned or controlled organisations, public sector banks, and insurance firms.

Mandate of SIDBI (as per The Small Industries Development Bank of India Act 1989)

- **Indirect Lending** through Banks, SFBs, NBFCs, MFIs And New Age Fintechs.
- **Direct Lending** to fill the existing credit gaps in the MSME sector
- **Fund of Funds** boosting entrepreneurship culture by supporting emerging start-ups
- **Promotion And Development** of Entrepreneurship and Handholding Budding Entrepreneurs for Holistic development of MSME sector
- **Playing like a Facilitator** through roles like Nodal Agency for the MSME Oriented Schemes of the Government.

Functions of SIDBI

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India refinances loans made by PLIs to small-scale industrial entities and also provides them with resources.
- SIDBI offers discounts and rediscounts on invoices for machinery sold to or manufactured by small-scale industrial entities.
- It also aids in the expansion of marketing channels for SSI (Small Scale Industries) products in both domestic and international markets.
- It provides services to small-scale industrial enterprises such as factoring and leasing.
- It encourages the development of employment-oriented sectors, particularly in semi-urban areas, in order to provide jobs and prevent people from moving to cities.
- It also starts the process of modernising and technologically upgrading existing units.
- In collaboration with commercial banks, it also ensures the timely flow of credit for working capital as well as term loans to Small Scale Industries.
- It also co-promotes state-level venture funds.

Special Schemes of SIDBI during COVID-19 Waves

SHWAS

Under this scheme SHWAS i.e. "SIDBI Assistance to Healthcare Sector in War Against Second Wave of Covid-19; SIDBI provides finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises engaged in manufacturing of oxygen cylinders, oxy-generators, oxygen concentrators, liquid oxygen or providing services in transportation, storage, refilling to supply of these items." (www.sidbi.in)

AROG

Under this scheme AROG i.e. "SIDBI Assistance to MSMES For Recovery & Organic Growth During Covid-19 Pandemic; SIDBI provides finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises engaged in manufacturing of

products or providing services which are directly related to fighting corona virus, such as Pulse Oximeters, Permitted drugs (Remdesivir, Fabiflu, Dexamethasone, Azithromycin, etc), Ventilators, PPEs etc.” (www.sidbi.in)

TWARIT

Under this scheme AROG i.e. “Timely Working Capital Assistance to Revitalise Industries in Times Of Corona Crisis; SIDBI provide needed relief to MSMEs, whose operations are impacted by COVID -19.” (www.sidbi.in)

SAFE & SAFE-PLUS

“These Schemes are for SIDBI’s Assistance to Facilitate Emergency Response to MSMES against Corona Virus.” (www.sidbi.in)

Objectives of the study

To study the quantity of loans i.e. indirect credit provided to Banks, Small Finance bank (SFBs), Financial Institutions (FIs), MFIs and NBFCs; by SIDBI.

Methodology

The article has been prepared using secondary data available on the various authentic websites & data/information published in various articles/research papers pertaining to the relevant areas. Annual reports of SIDBI have been read thoroughly to analyze the trend of indirect finance provided by the bank. The study period ranges from the year 2015-16 to 2019-2020.

Tools used in the study

The tabulation method, growth rate method and the compound growth rate method (using Geometric Mean) has been used for the analysis in the study.

Meaning of Indirect Credit:

The bank’s indirect assistance includes refinancing and resource support in the form of short-term loans/lines of credit to Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs), which include State Level Financial Institutions and banks with a network of over 950 PLIs and over 65,000 branch locations. It also offers banks the ability to rediscount bills.

Schemes of Indirect Credit

Under indirect loan schemes, SIDBI provides refinancing support to primary lending institutions such as Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Non-Banking Financial Corporations (NBFCs), and Financing Institutions (FIs) and Micro-finance Finance Institutions (MFIs).

Assistance to NBFCs

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) include Asset Finance Companies, Loan Companies, and Infrastructure Finance Companies (both deposit-taking and non-deposit-taking) registered with RBI and engaged in financing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). All of these entities (as specified by the MSMED Act 2006) are eligible for SIDBI resource support if they meet the Sanction standards.

Assistance to Small Finance banks (SFBs)

SIDBI gives financial assistance to small industries through small finance banks. It provides financial support to meet Small Finance banks their capital gaps. Small Finance Banks (SFBs) have been provided equity investment for the establishment/capitalization of SFBs in order to fill their initial equity/capital shortfall, with a focus on the need for equity from domestic sources.

Refinance Schemes

Scheduled Banks (including State Co-operative Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks, Private Sector Banks, and Foreign Banks, among others) and select Financial Institutions are eligible for SIDBI funding under the Micro and Small Enterprises Refinance Scheme (MSERS). Regional Rural Banks are also included, based on their capacity building. Assistance from SIDBI is also accessible under the scheme.

SIDBI's help is also offered through the scheme to banks with strong financials who meet the following criteria:

1. It should have been operational for at least three years.
2. During the previous two years, they should have made a profit.
3. Should have a sizable outstanding portfolio/financial support for micro and small businesses (MSE) and
4. Based on the most recent audited balance sheet, it should have excellent fundamentals of—
 - a. Net worth of not less than Rs.50 crore.
 - b. Capital to risk weighted assets (CRAR) ratio of not less than 9%
 - c. Level of Non- Performing- assets (NPAs) of not more than 10%.

Tables & Analysis

Table 1
Total Indirect Credit Provided by SIDBI (Outstanding Amount)

Financial Year	Amount in Crore Rs. As on 31 st March	% Growth Rate
2015-16	54235	----
2016-17	57678	6.35
2017-18	85614	48.43
2018-19	126819	48.13
2019-20	155429	22.56
% CAGR		30.11

Source— Annual Reports of SIDBI— various issues

Analysis- The total amount of indirect credit provided by SIBDI (outstanding amount as on 31st March) increased from Rs. 54235 crores in 2015-16 to Rs. 155429 crores in 2019-20. The amount has become 2.87 times in a time span of 4 years showing the overall Compound annual growth rate of 30.11%. this growth rate is quite significant.

Table 2
Refinance to Banks, SFBs & FIs

Financial Year	Outstanding Amount Crore Rs. (as on 31 st March)	% Growth Rate
2015-16	46544	--
2016-17	48503	4.21
2017-18	72622	49.73
2018-19	116277	60.11
2019-20	143233	23.18
% CAGR		32.45

Source— Annual Reports of SIDBI— various issues

Analysis- The above table shows that the outstanding amount of indirect credit to Banks, Small Finance banks (SFBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) has become Rs. 46544 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 143233 crores in 2019-20. The amount has become 3.08 times in a time span of 4 years showing a compound annual growth rate of 32.45%. This growth rate is quite significant.

Table 3
Assistance to MFIs

Financial Year	Outstanding Amount Rs. in Crore As on 31 st March	% Growth Rate
2015-16	2013	----
2016-17	2308	14.65
2017-18	1580	-31.54
2018-19	1172	-25.82
2019-20	1821	55.38
% CAGR		-2.47

Source— Annual Reports of SIDBI— various issues

Analysis- The above table shows that the outstanding amount of indirect credit to Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) has become Rs. 2013 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 1821 crores in 2019-20. The amount has become 0.90 times in a time span of 4 years showing a compound annual growth rate of negative 2.47%. This growth rate is quite unsatisfactory as it is in negative. It shows that SIDBI is not focusing on MFIs when we talk about indirect credit provided by SIDBI.

Table 4
Assistance to NBFCs

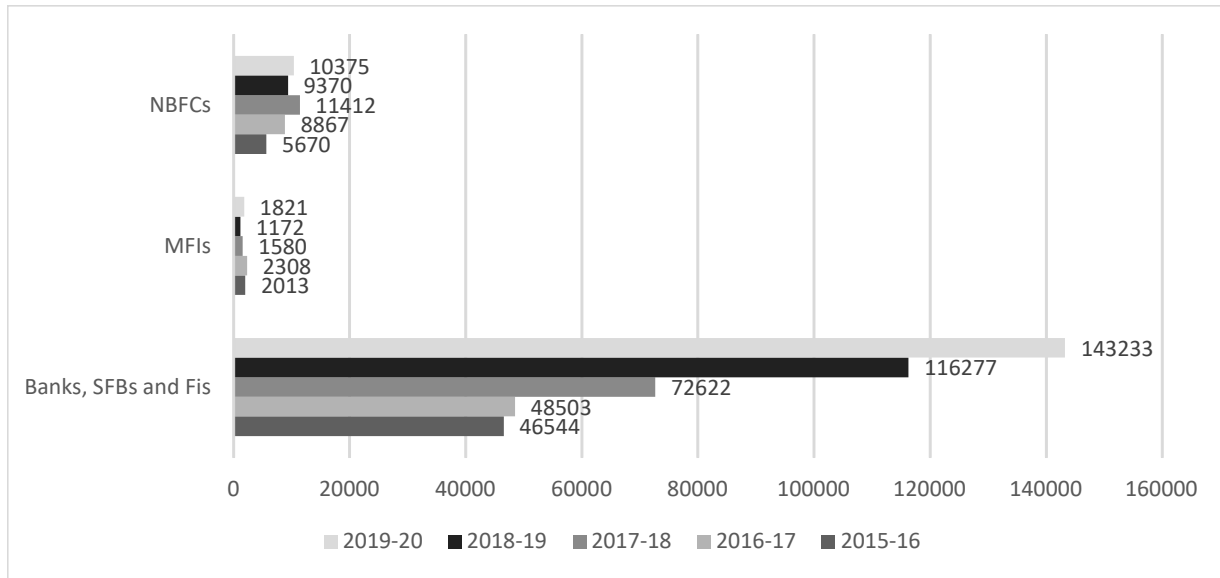
Financial Year	Outstanding Amount In Crore Rs. As on 31 st March	% Growth Rate
2015-16	5670	----
2016-17	8867	56.38
2017-18	11412	28.70
2018-19	9370	-17.89
2019-20	10375	10.73
% CAGR		16.31%

Source— Annual Reports of SIDBI— various issues

Analysis- The above table shows that the outstanding amount of indirect credit to NBFCs has become Rs. 5670 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 10375 crores in 2019-20. The amount has become 1.83 times in a time span of 4 years showing a compound annual growth rate of 16.31%. This growth rate is quite satisfactory.

Graphical Presentation

Diagram 1
Outstanding Amount of Indirect Credit
(In Crore Rs. & As on 31st March)



Conclusion

With the help of other institutions and government backing, SIDBI can offer credit and loans at reduced rates directly or indirectly to various entities involved with MSME financing. As per the above research article it is clearly depicted that the Indirect financial support provided by SIDBI through Non-Banking financial Institutions (NBFCs), FIs, MFIs, Banks & SFBs to the various needs of MSME sector in India is quite significant. After Corona crisis SIDBI is focusing on the development & expansion of new & innovative schemes for the revival of MSMSs sector in India banks products as MSME sector has been badly affected due to this Corona crisis. SIDBI should also focus its activities on Micro-finance needs of the MSME sector.

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RECENT TRENDS OF EDUCATION IN INDIA : PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

The education system is the soul of any country; it is the root cause to develop society and remove evils from. Any education system need changes according to the need of hour or as per global changes. India's education system was inherited from British and was full of bookish knowledge. There was lack of vocationalization and professionalization. It was not skilled based education, so unemployment problem is gradually shaping in the country in huge count. Any education should accept recent changes of the time so that it could be able to compete with global changes. The grass route education of India i.e. primary education system of our country has a very horrible look, it has dearth of basic needs and prime facilities. Higher education is also not in a commanding position, so our all education system needs complete restructuring and overhauling at all levels. Government schemes and policies are there but lack of proper execution is a very big task. Now the time has come to accept recent changes. Government is going to introduce NEP 2020 for upliftment of our education system. From individuals to institutions, from private to government, from small to large units, NGOs all should join hands to change and upgrade our education system as it is not only the demand of the time but it is too necessary to strengthen our country and economy.

Keywords— NEP 2020, ancient education system, restructuring and overhauling, prime facilities

Our Ancient education system was too much traditional and with the ongoing present scenario, it has become outdated and obsolete. So it was the demand of the hour to restructuring the whole education system. There were both formal and informal ways popular in the society in our ancient India. Indigenous education was imparted at home, in temples, pathshalas, gurukuls etc. Education system changed with the development of society in India to formal chalk, duster & blackboard education. Now the scenario has entirely changed to online and computer education system which is the demand of the hour and we have to understand that only strong education system can solve most of the problems of country. Education is the back bone of any country's development. It is the lifeline of humans to grow in progressive way. Education has the power to resolve & remove most of the evils and issues like unemployment, corruption, or orthodoxness & superstitions etc.

An Overview of Education in India

During the past three decades, since the last National Education policy 1986-1992 was formulated; the economic, social & political environment in India has changed significantly. India has one of largest education systems in the

world with more than 150 million schools and college students. Our official machinery and government focused on making schools more accessible in recent past, which resulted in close to 97% enrollment among school going children. But for these school aged children learning outcomes remained low as the Indian education was struggling with improving the quality and consistency of education. Our basic problem of education system is that it was inherited from the British rule and the education imparted under it is predominantly theoretical. The British evolved a system of learning aimed at producing 'Brown Sahibs', clerks and lower cadres in large number; they didn't like any authorization of Indian people. So education system of India needs the complete overhauling and renovation as per Indian environment.

Education means the complete and all round development of human being inculcating him/her with all the human values that need to be kept intact in order to let the society be progressive. There are so many more things as patriotism, discipline, obedience and as well as self respect which should be built up through our education system. With these various flaws in the inherited educations in India, the number of universities, institutions and colleges has increased manifold since independence.

After independence several issues were there in education system for which so many committees and commissions has been formed with regular time gap. If we view the education system at that time, we find that four major aspects were there which needed to be resolved—'Implementation of free and compulsory primary education in the country', 'Equality of opportunity in education', 'Education of the socially and educationally backward classes in country' and 'Multiple language coordination in education'. With a view to fulfill all these major objectives, the central and state governments have been attempting to give a concrete structure and; shape to several programmes under the five year plans. A full-fledged educational ministry has been structured and setup at central as well as state levels. Setting up of the University Grants Commission previously University Education Commission (Radhakrishnan Commission) in 1948; was a grand landmark for encouraging the major goals and objectives of higher education in Independent India.

In subsequent years, various committees and commissions were also constituted by the central government for the upliftment of educational system and to restructure the higher education in India according to the need of the hour. Some important documents regarding education in India that have been published time to time and it is noteworthy to mention here are—

- Report of Education Commission- 1964-66
- National Policy on Education- 1968
- Policy Draft on Education- 1978
- National Commission on Teachers- 1983
- National Policy on Education- 1986
- National Policy on Education- 1992
- Janardan Reddy Report- 1992

Current Educational Structure of India

According to the Amendment of Constitution in 1976, some of the subjects and areas of education have been the joint responsibility of state and centre, while the several states of the country are made responsible for progress and development of education in their respective states and areas. The centre is responsible for determining the standard of higher education, technical education, science innovations in education and higher research in the relevant educational areas. The higher education is entirely the responsibility of different universities which can be classified in various categories in present time as Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Technical Universities, Agriculture Universities, Private Universities (in self finance status) and Open Universities for distance learning. The Central Advisory Board of Education has been constituted to assist and coordinate the functioning of the two Governments and ensure that parity is maintained in the area of higher education. There are so many tier systems ongoing in India for the smooth running of our education system. UGC is there to control and

manage the higher education at traditional level. At technical education level in the country; it mainly covers engineering, technology, architecture, management, medical, pharmacy, law etc. areas. The Ministry of Human Resource Development previously known as Education Ministry supports all educational programmes and systems at undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and research levels comprising of IITs, IIMs, IISc, NITs and AICTE too. Here it is noteworthy to mention that the Indian higher education also deals with the professional education. For this a network of government and private polytechnics & vocational and professional institutions; controlled, managed and supervised by different councils having specialization in each discipline. These councils like AICTE, DEC, NCTE, MCI, BCI and others are responsible for recognition, promotion, management of all courses and also providing grants to various programmes and courses mainly at undergraduate level.

The Central Government established NCERT in 1961 for implementing the educational policies and plans of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The NCERT contributes in the field of all-round educational promotion and progress by cooperating with various universities in the country & also with Boards of Education in various states for school education. The NCERT also runs four Regional Colleges of Education situated in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore. These colleges train teachers and also arrange for in-service training of teachers during summers. In our education field AICTE, DEC, ICAR, BCI, NAAC, NCTE, RCI, MCI, PCI, INC, DCI, CCH, CCIM, VCI, etc. also support at different levels in various ways in relevant fields. The government has its reservation policy for weaker sections like SCs/STs, OBCs in all areas of education. Some states have their own reservations in addition to reservations by central government like for freedom fighter's dependents, economically weaker sections, defense personnel, handicapped etc.

Recent Trends

The Indian education system contains some fairly and innovative trends and; changes over the last ten years including NEP in recent. These trends are the beginning only according to the need of time; not the end of changes which are vitally important to our educational industry developing into something that can provide true quality, professional and job oriented education in a sustainable way to larger volume of aspirant students. For so long time India has been characterized as an economy where undergraduates and graduates are focused mainly on becoming Engineers, Doctors, CAs, Lawyers, and MBAs, and though this is by and large still true in present phase. But now there has been a remarkable shift away from these courses and careers due to a broadening of the spectrum when it comes to different programmes offered. Now in present time a large number of students are looking to pursue more skill, vocational and professionally oriented courses like IT sector, fashion design, architecture, film making and allied areas, communication, advertising marketing as well as more niche areas like retail management, hospitality, food, catering and hotel management etc. Previously, these are all areas and courses that student would have to apply outside to India. So naturally only few number of students were able to attain, approach and think about these. But more and more of these courses are now emerging within India with well equipped and advanced facilities to take advantage of the present time demand. Due to the pandemic of Corona; another definite trend that is emerging; is the move towards virtual learning. More and more programmes and educational institutions are placing a strong emphasis on the kind of learning that can be supplemented with the help of virtual environment. Distance, online and virtual learning is the more effective and popular trend of education among students due to pandemic and other reasons. There is a vast technological revolution riding in our educational sector. Even in schools; more and more teachers and staff are using mobile groups, laptops, iPads and more connected devices for students in teaching and learning activities. In true words, gamification is arising in educational and learning environment. More and more even school education is turning to the smart classes, applications on tablets or on other related devices to aid learning. This is changing the dynamics of how a subject is taught as well as the kind of content that can be thought of for this education. The establishment of NSDC, which is looking at more skilled based vocational and professional education; is a landmark imitative but yet lacks some proper guidance in some of the thrust areas. Year 2020 has brought out a drastic and dramatic change in education in the shape of storm of pandemic of CORONA globally. For all we spoke in early time about new education trends in 21st century, no one

of us could have imagined and dreamed that the biggest disrupter would come from a virus. All over the world, each and every person has directly or indirectly got affected and had to grapple with remote learning and its attendant challenges; either as students, parents, teachers, governing bodies, management or policy framers. We are considering now that how to manage our education system in the light of threats of pandemic, how to manage safe school and college reopening etc.

National Education Policy 2020

The new National Education Policy 2020, which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India on 29th July 2020 paints the vision of new Indian education system. This new policy replaces the previous one of 1986. This education policy formulated by the central government of India to promote and regulate the whole education system of our country; covers elementary to higher education also in remote, rural and urban areas. In a significant change from the 1986 Education Policy, which pushed for 10+2+3 structure of school and college education, the NEP 2020 pitches for 5+3+3+4. The NEP is of the view that students until class 5th should be taught in their mother tongue or in regional language. The NEP also suggests phasing out of all institutions offering single stream and that; all universities and colleges must aim to become multidisciplinary by 2040. The government has a broad outlook about NEP and set up a long term concrete systematic plan so that all-time sufficient funding also could be provided for each segment because the 1986 NEP was hamstrung by shortage of funds. The government plans to setup subject-wise different committees including members from relevant ministries at both the central and state levels to develop plans for each aspect of the new NEP. These plans will list out actions to be taken by multiple bodies, including the state education officials, HRD ministry, different boards of school education, CBE, NCERT, AICTE, and NTA, among others.

Problems of Education in India

The education system of any country is the back bone of progress graph of the country. Strong and healthy education can push the economy on top in global context. In old times the Indian education system and its educational centers and universities were treated as the temples of knowledge. Our ancient universities like Nalanda, Takshshila, Ujjaini and Patiliputra were considered as the reservoirs of knowledge in whole of the world but the glory of the past did not transcend into the future. Foreign invasions and britishers destroyed our whole educational system. After independence our education system was inherited from British. From that time so many reforms, experiments and transformations have been made also included as trial and error method. We can say that we are in far better position as regard to our education but still so many stairs are there to climb. There are so many shortcomings, so many problems which should be removed to upgrade our education system, youths and economy too. These problems of our recent education system can be summarized in following manner—

- 1. Lack and Appropriate use of Funding:** There are three tier education systems popular in India which are Government Institutions, Private but Government Aided and entirely Private Institutions in self-finance structure. At basic education there are so many schools with less staff; even some schools are running without staff. The lack of funds is a major problem in government schools and colleges in Govt. sector; on the other hand management operated or aided institutions have mismanagement of funds as they don't utilize or spend funds in proper manner. The self finance colleges run like profit making business houses. So the standards for appropriate education lack in every educational institute. The inadequate payment to working staff, lack of equipments, lack of proper facilities in labs are the usual problems of education industry which the institutions have. In basic education large number of government schools don't have the basic facilities live drinking water, urinals, electricity, furniture etc. due to non-availability of funds from government or due to improper utilization or mismanagement of funds. Due to insufficient funds, most educational institutions lack infrastructure, science equipment, computers, libraries etc.
- 2. Lack of Professional and Vocational Approach in Education:** The Indian education system provides certificate and degree; not the necessary skills to work. The basic shortcoming of our whole education system

is that it is purely based on theoretical principles with traditional values. Students don't have the scope to learn practical things or working skills in real life. Education system is lacking with professional, vocational and job oriented approach. From school to higher education; 90% of syllabus is theoretical with minuscule scope for practical learning, innovations and research. It has lack of any creativity and positive practical thinking. Generally in our country we measure talent by the grades and percentage achieved by the candidates at school and college level. Our syllabus and teaching methodology is highly monotonous and there is an absolute dearth of mobility and agility in it. The theoretical examination system of our country judges the students on the basis of his/her marks or percentage or performance in the class, school and college. The marks, percentage and performance at annual exams are heavy like mania on the mind of students, teacher and even parents and society.

- 3. Lack of Infrastructure and Fundamental Requirements:** In Indian education system we are still owing the chalk and board for primary education even at college level somewhere. Basic needs like drinking water, electricity, clean toilets, play grounds are not available at many schools. Teaching tools and technology are absent or insufficient in schools/colleges. Library facility and recent books availability is on bottom at college level while it is the soul of any educational institution. The absence of functioning infrastructure and utilities leads to a significant loss of instructional time; ultimately affecting educational outcomes. In government schools the conditions are more bitter regarding facilities and staff. Well trained qualified and skilled staff is the universal problem in Indian schools and colleges. In spite of common knowledge that school/college/institution infrastructure plays a crucial and important role in the performance of students, teachers and institution; its marked absence in general is there in our educational institutions from primary school to higher education.
- 4. Methods of Teaching or Methodology:** We are still using the traditional methods of teaching at school level; syllabus are too theoretical and lengthy that need complete reform while teachers and teaching methodology require a complete makeover. Not only our teaching methods are outdated and traditional but also we are lacking with qualified teaching staff too. Global world is moving towards e-learning and online education but we don't have connectivity of internet all around. The colleges and institutions don't have so much professional approach as they should have. The curriculum of higher education and professional courses too need to be restructured to make the student able to get a job after completion of course. If we look into almost some last decades of the syllabus from any Indian Board or from any Indian University or any professional course; we can easily find and conclude that there have been minor or negligible changes in any curriculum. As per our learning and teaching methods we know the theoretical background of subject but we don't know how it appears or how to do it. Our methodology lacks the practical, vocational and professional knowledge and functional literacy of the subject or process.
- 5. Covid Pandemic Problems:** The pandemic of Covid affected whole world all around, India was not an exception. First wave in 2020 and Second wave in 2021 crushed the whole system of country of country and our education system too. The return of student to classrooms, schools and colleges physically is still a long task because of threats of Third wave. In this time we must have dependency on online education but in villages and remote areas availability of internet facilities, resources with poor people were the major setbacks to our education. Challenges of pandemic are still there and we have to plan our systems of education according to need of the hour. We have to move towards our education system in very careful mode; the health and safety concern can't be ignored. Parents are not prepared mentally for physical presence of children to schools because of pandemic fear and it is quite natural.

Suggestions for Improvement in Indian Education System in the light of Recent Trends

Indian government announced new ambitious education policy with new trends. The process is on; the new academic session may adopt the changes. On the other hand, world is moving so fast and to compete with the global challenges; we have to adopt recent changes in our education system. Some useful suggestions are here in the light of recent trends that may strengthen our education system—

- 1) **Improvement in Infrastructure and Prime Facilities:** Government should care and make norms for minimum basic facilities for each school, college and institution and; norms should be strictly followed. Some governing body should have the power to evaluate these basic needs regularly specially in government schools and colleges. Availability of qualified staff, basic needs like drinking water, clean toilets, strong and rich library facility should be given top priority. The building, class rooms & tools for teaching should be provided to school or college and there should be strict monitoring system developed for all these facilities. The regular and proper maintenance of these facilities is another most important requirement of schools and colleges.
- 2) **Adoption of Latest Techniques:** Chalk, black board and dusters days are gone now. Our schools, colleges and institutions should move towards recent modes of education. India's most population is living in villages and in remote areas. There is keen thrust in these areas to improve quality of education as they can also adopt these new techniques of education. Some financial and economical aid should be provided to weaker or poor sections of society in the form of books or educational tools to study because availability of means is a very big problem and task for poor people. Internet facility should be vast in & upto last village. The internet company should be asked to provide free or concessional connectivity to school, colleges and academic institutions. But it is necessary that government should take required steps because in a country like India without the initiative of government the efforts and success will be far away from the reach of common people.
- 3) **Financial Help to Economically Weaker Sections:** India has vast population in poor section, they are unable to procure their bread and butter regularly. In this situation they found themselves failed to bear educational expenses of their children, even they themselves are uneducated. Without the help of government aid and promotion; it is quite impossible to spread literacy in India all around. But it should be also ensured that the any help and aid should be in the form of books, meal, educational tools etc. Any kind of cash help can be misused by the parents for any cause other than education. There must be free education system introduced at primary level in private schools too; either state government or central government can establish a system for reimbursement to these institutions. In the present structure, the govt. institutions at primary level are in their worst shape in all respects. This is a great challenge in front of government. The improvement in this respect is must; all infrastructural facilities, skilled staff should be provided and maintenance of prime requirements should primarily be focused.
- 4) **Execution of Planning and Policies:** All state governments as well as center have so many schemes and policies regarding the improvement of our education system but there is lack of proper execution. Our colonial office system open a door of formalities, filing and barriers in front of common man, so the benefits and advantages don't reach to the real beneficiary. The bureaucracy and red tapism are the main hurdles in the proper execution of any planning. Policies and schemes are there but proper execution and benefit up to right person is the great problem. Even so many schemes don't move beyond declaration or these are only the show of posters or files; even in many cases the real beneficiary is all unaware. So the scheme and policy fail on working their original root cause. Proper system to inform the real beneficiary and the common man and; the healthy and proper execution of each and every scheme & policy are the prime needs of our education system.

Conclusion

The NEP is going to be implemented soon, government is trying to get suggestions from experts and different committees; to improve this policy up to its best. It is a very ambitious plan but it is necessary on the part of government that they ensure proper execution of this policy at all levels. Our education system need a complete overhauling and restructuring, but in Indian context without the government initiative nothing can be done. Another fact is also there that without the improvement of our education system, we will fail to compete with global challenges. So it is the need of hour that we should overcome our shortcomings and; government, private sectors, NGOs and all other sectors should make efforts collectively on this way only then we can achieve our targets and goals of future. Education can remove so many evils from the society. Any strong education system is the backbone and life

line of any country which should always be upgraded time to time and should accept all relevant changes. We are in a process of golden change; we should welcome changes with all the safety measures of pandemic which is necessity and thrust of our present education system.

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Abbreviations Used

- UGC- University Grants Commission
- AICTE- All India Council of Technical Education
- IIT- Indian Institute of Technology
- IIM- Indian Institute of Management
- IISc- Indian Institute of Science
- NIT- National Institute of Technology
- DEC- Distance Education Council
- NCTE- National Council of Teacher Education
- MCI- Medical Council of Education
- BCI- Bar council of India
- ICAR- Indian Council of Agriculture Research
- NAAC- National Council of Assessment and Accreditation
- INC- Indian Nursing Council
- DCI- Dental Council of India
- CCH- Central Council of Homeo Pathy
- CCIM- Central Council of Indian Medicine
- VCI- Veterinary Council of India
- NEP- National Education Policy
- CA- Chartered Accountant
- NSDC- National Skill Development Council



ONLINE TEACHING, CLASSROOM TEACHING AND BLENDED METHOD OF TEACHING

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Abstract

Online teaching is the newest and most popular form of education system now a days. It is the teaching that takes place over the internet. Students are free to attend the online classes from their home and from anywhere. But the online teaching does not improve the social interaction and it does not play a key role in social development of a child. The interaction between the two and the social development took place in classroom, that is traditional classroom teaching. The traditional classroom teaching is an interactive mode of teaching. Teacher can understand the students' behaviour as it is face to face contact process. Teacher can change or modify its teaching method and teaching style according to the requirement of the student to maximize the learning process. The use of technology in the classroom leads to the blended method of teaching. It is one of the best method. Both student and teacher have the eye to eye contact and face to face interaction and also there is e-content for the student. Blended teaching method is totally student-centric teaching method and it is one of the most effective method of teaching.

Keywords- distance learning, umbrella teaching, traditional classroom teaching, blended teaching

Introduction

Teaching learning is a life long process. Traditionally, the meaning of formal teaching is a process in which teacher is in the centre and the teaching is time bounded and also take place within a certain boundaries called as school and college and the process take place in classroom and the teaching is known as classroom teaching. Now a days the whole human race is suffering from Covid-19. The every aspect of life seems to be collapsed. Effect of pandemic is on education system also. Primary, secondary as well as higher education is suffering; not only in India but all around the world. We as academicians came forward and started online teaching. The new pattern of teaching has been arisen due to use of technology.

Online Teaching

We can define the Online teaching as a faculty-delivered instructions via the Internet. Online teaching includes Synchronous real-time and anytime, anywhere interaction & Asynchronous interaction.

We can explain the online teaching as—

“Two parallel processes take place in an online environment in which:

1. Students become more active, reflective learners.

2. Students and teachers engage in learning through the use of technology and become more familiar with technology by using it”

The best way to maintain the connection between online teaching and the values of traditional teaching is through ensuring that online learning is “delivered” by teachers, fully qualified and interested in teaching. Online teaching is the newest and most popular form of education system now a days. It is the teaching that takes place over the internet. It is referred to as E-learning in another term. We can say that this online teaching is just another form of distance learning. This distance teaching learning is an umbrella term for or any other kind of teaching learning that doesn’t take place in traditional classroom. Distance learning has its own history and there are several types of distance learning available today—

- * Correspondence course such as Tele course, CD ROM course
- * Online teaching learning —internet based course
- * Mobile learning

This pandemic situation has affected education system badly. But the online teaching and learning help the teacher and student and process of teaching learning continues. The private and the government institutions switch on to online teaching. The new virtual classrooms have been created in form of Zoom, Google classroom, Webex etc. The online teaching allows for learning something beyond the traditional norms. The learner has access to unlimited topics and global experts in different subjects. Online teaching allows the student a wide range to learn at their own pace without inhibition and without compromising on their other responsibilities.

During this pandemic Covid-19, online teaching has trickled down to the most basic level upto primary schools. Online teaching is more flexible than traditional teaching. It has a welcome change from the strict traditional schedule and long distance communication to attend classes. Teachers are also making their best for the situation by adopting and exploring new method of teaching and assessment. This is encouraging, but the moment online teaching moves from an optional to the compulsory teaching-learning and that too long term is not much effective. Because in India using the internet for entertainment is very common but for online teaching it is a big challenge. Teacher may not be well trained with creating a content and displaying and conveying it effectively online. Certain expectations from them to upgrade and from Student adopt is not fair.

Advantages of Online Teaching

Online teaching learning process has a lots of educational benefits-

*** Student-centered learning**

The online teaching process draw tools on the basis of individual learning styles and help students become more versatile .

*** Collaborative learning**

In Online teaching, teacher provides the group work. It allows students to become more active participants in the learning process.

***Benefits to Teachers**

Online teaching can benefit the teacher as it provides the opportunity to think about the teaching in a different and new way.

- * Online teaching can allow the teacher to experiment with techniques only available in online environments, such as threaded discussions and webliographies.
- * Online teaching provide new ideas and technique to the teacher to implement in the traditional classroom.
- * Online email discussions which is frequently used in online teaching learning, can be incorporated into traditional courses to facilitate group work. Some other techniques, such as web-based course calendars and sample papers posted on the Internet can be incorporated into a traditional course.

- * Online teaching learning can expand existing curriculum to students on a regional, national, and international level
- * Online teaching provide the satisfaction to teacher as online teaching can be an enormously rewarding experience for teachers. Teachers often cite the diversity of students in online courses as one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching online.
- * Online teaching can offer teachers conveniences not available in traditional classroom settings; for example, at-home, office hours and flexible work schedules.

Challenges of Teaching Online

Online teaching has challenges also. Such as; teacher must be prepared to meet the special requirements of teaching at online and at distance. Some of the challenges for teachers of online teaching are:

- Familiarity with the online environment
- Capacity to use the medium (different tools of internet) to its advantage
- Being available to students through a virtual platform for an extended time period.
- Providing quick responses and feedback to students

Overcoming of Challenges

These obstacles can be overcome by employing the following techniques:

- **Become familiar with the technology used in online course**
Long before course starts, teacher must become familiar with the technology used in online course, including hardware and software, and spend some time exploring their options. An online course requires a high level of computing power and reliable telecommunications infrastructure. Before teaching teacher should make sure that he/she have access to both.
- **Teacher should use the online medium to his/her advantage**
The online teaching learning environment is essentially a space for written communication. This is both a limitation and a potential of online teaching learning. We know that written communication can be more time consuming, but “the ability to sit and think as one composes a question or comment also raise the quality of discussion.” In addition to this, shy students who have trouble participating in a classroom discussion often feel more comfortable in an online teaching learning classroom. Online classrooms can be developed with this fact in mind to take advantage of these consideration.
- **Keep connected with students**
Use the technology of the online environment to help the teacher to keep in touch with students. Communicate frequently with students, both individually and as a group. While keeping connected with students can be a challenge. The online environment offers a number of interesting pedagogical opportunities.

Classroom Teaching

In Teaching-Learning process; Body language, face to face interaction, eye contact etc., these are the important aspect for student’s personality development and it is missing in online teaching. For overall development of the students; traditional teaching is must that is the classroom teaching. The classroom is a positive place where a student can come to work toward specific goals set before them. The teacher is to be positive, organised, outgoing, confident, and compassionate. The teacher often sets the tone for the entire classroom such as if the teacher approaches her/his day with dread, is not prepared, and often seems overwhelmed then her/his students will play off of her/his attitude and disposition. Teachers often have very hectic schedules; however they should not let their anxiety bleed over into their classroom.

Classroom behaviour and classroom communities are extremely cohesive components of classroom management. Positive classroom behaviour has a positive effect on having positive classroom communities. Classroom communities

are subsets of the classroom population. If the students are encouraged to be positive and work together to complete a given task, then classroom behaviour becomes more positive. The classroom community provide the students the opportunity to get to know their fellow students. The idea of classroom communities fosters positive and productive classroom behaviour and classroom activities

The classroom should be a place where students can come and enjoy their class time and learn the information being taught to them. Classroom management style is very strict and should expect the best from each and every student. The motto of classroom is to be respectful, be responsible, be prepared, and give 110%.

Classroom teaching is interactive and multilayer teaching. It is one of the most traditional teaching method. The classroom teaching is not the one way transmission of information as student influences the process as much as the teacher does. The role of teacher is extremely important in establishing a meaningful classroom environment, but we can say that in classroom teaching the social and psychological activities and mutual response of students and teachers also; are important.

Characteristics of Classroom Teaching

Classroom teaching have some specific characteristics such as—

- * The role of the student is very important as the way in which student perceive and interpret the process and understand the classroom activity not what the teacher does in the class.
- * Teacher use different teaching method and maxims to have the students attention.
- * The classroom teaching promote the collaborative learning. The classroom environment is essential to promote and stimulate the collaborative learning. Collaborative learning enhance the student's self-awareness about how other student learn and enable them to learn more easily and effectively. For the personality development classroom teaching is a must . It enhance students critical thinking skills.
- * The classroom gives student an opportunity to engage in group discussion and solve the problems in creative way.
- * Classroom teaching increases the social interaction and social adjustment capacity.
- * In the classroom teaching, teachers work hard to increase the skill of organisational capacity of the students beginning with the basics like arriving to school on time, accountability increase, and discipline increase etc.
- * The teacher affects the students behaviour and can modify the students behaviour. This type of modification cannot be done by the online teaching method. As for modification of the behaviour, teacher adopts different teaching methods and teaching maxims and also promote the classroom activities so that the students behaviour may modify as required.
- * Teacher can get a clear idea of; whether students are following his instructions or not.
- * In classroom teaching Teacher develop the personality of the student and career building skills by adopting the various of teaching methods and teaching techniques.
- * Communication, interaction, humanity, listening skill, emotional maturity etc. occur in the students while they are in classroom. So we can say that the traditional classroom teaching is a necessity for the overall development of the student.

Challenges of Classroom Teaching

Although the traditional classroom teaching is one of the best teaching method and is necessary for the development of human values in the students but it has some challenges such as—

- * Traditional classroom teaching is more or less teacher-centred teaching. Student have to follow the instructions given by the teacher.
- * Teacher remains active and student plays a passive role or we can say they are inactive.
- * It is very strict and heavy teaching method and very hectic for the students.

Blended Teaching Method

Blended teaching learning shifts the teacher's role from knowledge provider to mentor. This shift does not mean that teachers play a passive role in teaching learning process. Quite the contrary, with blended learning, teachers can have an even more effective influence on students' learning than a traditional classroom teaching learning.

We know that Traditional classroom teaching has largely been teacher-directed, top-down, and one-size-fits-all, with a little bit of differentiation thrown in, but with blended teaching it now becomes more student-friendly, bottom-up, and customised, with some differentiation as a main feature. This new learning dynamic is due to the enhanced role of technology in teaching.

Blended learning provides an appropriate balance between online teaching, which offers the interactive, tech-based learning, individualised pacing, and keep students continuously engaged and motivated, and traditional classroom teaching, which personalises the learning experience and adds the face to face interaction for encouragement, compassion, and caring guidance that only teachers can give.

This is a new teaching learning process which benefits students and teachers alike. Giving students permission and space to become more active learners who gain knowledge directly; lets them have some control over their learning and helps them to develop self-reliance. As more students are working independently, time opens up for teachers to provide face-to-face interaction and individualised instruction more frequently for more students, effectively improving the differentiation.

Blended teaching learning provides teachers with a fuller, more accurate picture of how each student is learning. Blended teaching method is a teaching learning approach that combine face to face classroom method with media activities to deliver the instructions. So we can say that blended teaching approach means a mixture of classroom teaching and online teaching and the integration of synchronous and asynchronous learning and teaching tools, thus providing and optimal possibilities for the arrangement of effective teaching learning process. Blended teaching method is a term given to the process in which traditional classroom teaching is combined with the multimedia teaching and learning tools.

In blended teaching both students and teachers be physically present in the class or a place located in the same place. The digital tools used in the class should be able to be utilised by the student in order to enforce some control over the speed of the topic which they are learning.

Flipped classroom model is similar program aimed to utilise the digital technology in the class in order to maximise the teaching learning process.

The new NEP 2020 clearly said that it is time to take on a policy that is undoubtedly student-centric. The students are the main stakeholder and efforts must be taken to make the system response to their dreams and aspiration. In this time policy clearly state the acceptability of many mode of learning; classroom, online as well as blended. It also promotes the use of vocational, multidisciplinary courses and so many other courses approaches there by focusing on blended teaching learning.

A blended teaching learning mode provides ultimate flexibility in many aspects and most of all; it can be practiced to any e-program which holds on to the values of traditional classroom teaching learning process and use of media with it. It is one of the most and acceptable and effective teaching method than any other has been ever before. Students, teachers, policymakers etc appreciates the needed flexibility.

So we can say a blended teaching method is the best teaching method as it solves the problem of online teaching method and breaks the monotonous activities of classroom teaching.

Conclusion

According to National Education policy it is time to take on a policy that is undoubtedly student-centric. The students are the main binding force and efforts must be taken to make the system response to their dreams and aspiration. In this time policy clearly states the acceptability of different modes of learning including eye to eye

contact i.e. face to face classroom teaching learning, online teaching learning and virtual mode of teaching. It also promotes the use of vocational, multidisciplinary courses and so many other courses & approaches there by focusing on blended teaching learning.

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HURDLES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY OF INDIA

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Abstract

The New Education Policy of India is a historical mile stone reform in the overall education system of India, having the salient features of modified pedagogical structure, digitalization in education, goal to achieve 100% GER, international collaborations, multiple entry and exit system and academic credit bank etc. For exercising such huge and out of the box reforms, many challenges and hurdles are in the way to sort out like financing issues, poor digital infrastructure, poor research and development base, minimizing drop out ratio, building a huge physical infrastructure, colonial mind set of people etc. On the other hand this policy provides us with the opportunities like inclusive quality education without discrimination, world class education, employment generation, professional and technical education, multilingualism etc.

Keywords: New Education Policy, Digitalization, Academic Credit Bank, Multiple Entry and Exit System, World Class Education, Quality Education

Introduction

“Education is the manifestation of the perfection already present in man.” –Swami Vivekananda

The above given definition of Education by Swami Vivekananda vividly indicates about the importance of Education in the human life. Man takes birth with the perfection already present with him. It is Education only that makes him capable of manifesting all his perfection. In fact Education is the foundation stone for and of all round development of man. The man is born as uncivilized, crude, and incompetent creature on earth. Education transforms him into a civilized, refined, sophisticated and competent citizen with a gradual ongoing process. But the manifestation of human perfections is possible only when the Education itself has a vitally systemized form that is called Education System and; for developing an appropriate, inclusive, vibrant, equitable, and quality Education system, Education policy is the focal point.

Education policy is a policy that relates with the all round reforms to transform over all education system. In the history of independent India the very first National Education Policy was brought into existence in the year 1968 by Indira Gandhi government based on recommendations of Kothari Commission, 1964. Next (Second) Education Policy came into force in 1986 by Rajiv Gandhi government.

The latest Education policy is the National Education Policy 2020, introduced by the present day Narendra Modi government under the chairmanship of Dr. K Kasturirangan based on more than 2 lakh suggestions from the

people all over the country, from almost each and every sector and area. The primary vision of this policy is to develop an Education system in the country which should be all inclusive, economical, without discrimination and based on quality. The main objectives of the New Education Policy are to ignite the minds of the children and the youth towards achieving the ambitious goal of attaining the title of 'Vishwa Guru' for our country once again as it was in past times. For achieving this ambitious goal, the framework in the form of new, much awaited and unique Education policy is all ready and we the citizens of India have to walk hand in hand together and with the government of India for the successful and most suitable implementation of this policy and contribute our part for making India the hub of quality education and quality research once again.

Salient features of New Education Policy

The New Education Policy 2020 has a number of following unique features which are going to be the milestones in developing a world class education system in the country-

- **New and More Appropriate Pedagogical Structure-** This policy introduces a new more inclusive class structure in the form of 5+3+3+4. This structure can be classified under following stages-
 - **Foundational Stage-** This stage will be in the form of 3+2. First 3 years for pre primary schooling by play way method and next 2 years for primary schooling of class 1 and class 2. The child will take admission at the age of 3 and by the end of this stage will be 8 years of age. There are no provisions for examination.
 - **Preparatory Stage-** In this stage the child will start studying Science, Arts, Social Science and Mathematics for 3 years (From age 8 to 11). The studies will be based on activity based learning. Exams will start taking place.
 - **Middle Stage-** Along with Mathematics, Science and Arts, Computer Coding and Vocational/Technical Education will become the part of the curriculum (From age 11 to 14).
 - **Secondary Stage-** There shall be no stream system at this stage. The child shall study multiple subjects of different streams together. Focus will be made on in-depth learning and critical thinking abilities. (From age 14 to 18).
- **Multiple Entry, Multiple Exit System-** For improving the literacy rate and making the education system more flexible for the students, multiple entry and multiple exit system, introduced by NEP 2020 is going to be a revolutionary step. After implementing this provision a student shall remain qualified for taking admission in the same institution or the other and in the same class where he had left the studies. There is no time bar for readmission.
- **4 Year Undergraduate Degree Course-** The undergraduate degree course will be of 4 year in all. A certificate will be provided on successfully passing the 1st year, diploma on passing the 2nd year, degree on passing the 3rd year and degree with research on passing the 4th year. Due to any reasons if a student leaves the education midway even then he will be eligible for getting a certificate, diploma or degree etc. only if he completes the education of that full year and passes the respective exam successfully. This provision will help the student in getting employment on the basis of certificate, diploma or degree etc. after completing respective number of years in graduation.
- **Formative Assessment-** Formative assessment is an effective tool of measuring overall learning and personality of the students. This type of assessment runs throughout the year with a summative type paper pencil exam at the end of the year. This type of assessment is already running in CBSE schools. The New Education Policy aims to introduce it in government-run and government-funded schools also.
- **Vocational Education from middle stage-** The NEP 2020 aims to provide quality vocational education from class 6 to higher education level. This will help in producing meritorious professionals in different fields who will be the job giver not the job seekers.

- **Internationalization of Higher Education-** This policy makes the provisions for world's top 100 universities to open up their campuses in India and India's standard universities and higher education institutions will also open up their campuses abroad. This will help the education of India to attain higher standards of International level.
- **Digitalization in Education-** The NEP 2020 aims to digitalize the education system especially at school level with Smart classes, WIFI connectivity, Audio Visual rooms etc. The limitations of physical mode of education can be seen especially in this pandemic (Covid-19) period therefore this policy looks for the alternative modes of education through digitalization and computerization.
- **Academic Bank of Credit-** The concept of Academic Credit Bank is unique. This bank will work as a digital storage space for storing academic credits of the students earned from recognized higher education institutions. The present institute shall provide the degree to the students taking into accounts the overall credits earned in previous higher education institutions.

Apart from the mentioned above, the New Education Policy 2020 possesses numerous other unique features which can bring an overall transformation in Indian education system in the most positive manner.

Hurdles and Challenges of New Education Policy of India

New Education Policy, 2020 suggests a historical shift from present education policy to new education policy after 34 years. A number of provisions of the New Education Policy are revolutionary. In fact this policy is to break away the education system of the colonial era mindset completely. In such case this education policy cannot be devoid of hurdles and challenges. The major hurdles and challenges this policy definitely has to face are as under-

- **Achieving 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2030 is a big challenge-** Achieving 100% GER in school education by 2030 is an ambitious and challenging task. The July, 2021 UDISE+ report reveals that in 2019-20, GER at Elementary Level was 89.7%, at Secondary Level 77.9% and at Higher Secondary Level was 51.4%. This data itself reveals that at school level, the GER is astonishingly low and government will have to make extra efforts and deploy extra sources for achieving 100% GER at school level by 2030.
- **Decreasing drop out ratio is not an easy task-** The MHRD report on Educational Statistics at a Glance 2018 reveals the dropout rate of primary school students at 4.13%, upper primary school students at 4.03% and secondary level students at 17.06%. The UDISE+ report 2019-20 says that about 30% student of secondary level do not go ahead to senior secondary level. A survey of National Statistical Office (NSO) points out that over 62% of overall drop out happens at school level only. Boys drop out to support their families financially and girls drop out happens mostly due to their marriages at early ages. For achieving the ambitious objectives of the NEP 2020, it is essential and a difficult task for the government to lower down the drop out ratio in school education.
- **Arrangement of Funds-** The New Education Policy directs towards the overhauling of the entire education system of the country which includes physical infrastructure, digital infrastructure, manpower, training, research and development etc. For such huge exercise of overhauling, it needs a very large amount of funds and at present the government is running short of money especially in this Covid-19 pandemic times. Therefore fund arrangement is going to be a herculean task for the government.
- **Digital Transformation-** The NEP 2020 talks about the digitalization of education system. Especially in the Covid-19 times, digital transformation has been proven as an essential and needful truth of the education system. Smart classes, Audio Visual rooms, WIFI, Internet, fiber cable etc. are the essential necessities for promoting quality education and research in the country. But the country like India where digital infrastructure is in a very poor stage, most of the remote areas are still devoid of even smart phones and internet connectivity, and digitalization has happened only in a handful of schools, it is going to be very difficult to equip the whole chain of educational institutions at every level with digital tools and equipments.

- **Recruitment of Teachers and their training-** The New Education Policy emphasizes on gaining 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030 and 50% GER on higher education level by 2035. Such a huge enrollment base will definitely require a large number of quality teachers and arrangements for their proper training in future. Unfortunately teacher recruitment has been a matter of controversy; politically in our country for a long time. At present, also a huge number of teaching posts are vacant at every level of education. Therefore the process of recruiting teachers needs to be accelerated. For quality training of teachers standard training institutes are to be established in a large number.
- **Building Infrastructure for Quality Research-** In the field of research India is lagging far behind of most of the countries of the world. As per the data of Wikipedia in the year 2018 India spent only 0.65% of its GDP (PPP) on research and development. On the other hand USA, China, Japan, S. Korea, and Taiwan spent 3.1%, 2.2%, 3.2%, 4.6% and 3.5% of GDP (PPP) respectively. India is not even amidst the top 10 countries in terms of producing quality research in Natural Sciences. This presents a challenging picture before the government. The success of NEP 2020 depends on research and development largely. Therefore the government has to introduce concrete reforms in the field of research and development infrastructure.

In addition to all above, there are various other challenges before the government for successfully attaining the objectives given in the NEP 2020 like preparing curriculum according to the provisions of NEP, cultural and social bounds, improvement in the teaching standards, practically multiple exit and multiple entry is a challenging task, uniformity in syllabus all over the country etc.

Opportunities under New Education Policy of India

The New Education Policy, 2020 is the policy which has space for infrastructural reforms for each and every aspect of education for each and every class, sector and segment of the society. This policy is definitely going to be beneficial for the whole education system of the country. The opportunities or advantages of the NEP 2020 can be studied as under-

- **Opportunity of Getting Education of International Standards-** The NEP 2020 makes provisions about allowing the world's top 100 university to open up campuses in the country and vice versa. This will provide the youth of India the opportunity to get admission in world class university campuses to get quality higher education and pursue quality researches.
- **Inclusive and Quality Education without Discrimination-** This policy aims to get the 100% GER by 2030 at school level and 50% GER by 2035 at higher education level with special focus to OBCs, SCs, STs and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups. This provision will for sure bring equal opportunities to get quality education for the rich and poor, prosperous and destitute, elite and deprived class of the country without any discrimination. This policy makes various provisions for improving the standards of the education being provided by government or government aided institutions. Such steps will prove helpful in making the standards of government educational institutions at par with private educational institutions.
- **Multidisciplinary Education and Research of International Standards-** The NEP 2020 emphasizes much on providing higher standard multidisciplinary education and improving research base and infrastructure in the country. To serve this purpose various Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) will be set up. A separate National Research Foundation (NRF) will be set up especially for the promotion of research culture in the country. By introducing such a research friendly policy the present government seems to be addressing this most important issue for the first time in the history of education of the country.
- **Vocational Education-** NEP 2020 aims to providing the vocational educational of higher standards to the students from an early stage i.e. from class 6 to the stage of higher education. Computer coding will be taught from class 6th only. This provision will definitely bring opportunities of employment for the youth of the country which will be helpful in reducing unemployment ratio further.

- **Increase in Literacy Ratio-** Provisions of gaining 100% GER at school level and multiple entry, multiple exit system will be very helpful in increasing the literacy rate of the country. If a student leaves the education midway, he or she can rejoin from the class where he had left the studies from. There is no time bar for such readmission.
- **Opportunities for Employment-** For achieving the goal of 100% GER and all inclusive and quality education; a large number of man power will be needed. A huge number of quality subject teachers, Indian and foreign language teachers, technical staff, vocational education teachers, sport teachers, and others will be in demand after implementing this policy in coming years. This will provide the youth with the opportunities of getting employment.
- **India seeks opportunity of rapid growth and development in this policy-** India is not an inanimate entity for us. She is alive in fact. After a very long period of time, she is hoping to attain that space in the universe which was held by her a few centuries ago. The New Education Policy with all hope and ambitions will prove successful in fulfilling the aspirations and desires of our country that is alive that is Bharat.

Conclusion

The much awaited New Education Policy 2020 has come into existence after a long period of 34 years. This policy has the potential of walking hand in hand with the aspirations and requirements of speedily changing time and educational environment. This policy shall definitely be capable of providing the quality education without any discrimination to the last man in the queue. Definitely this policy has a number of challenges and hurdles to cope up with, still there are certain provisions in the policy itself in the form of opportunities to overcome those challenges and hurdles. The only need is to have a clear vision and will power to implement this policy to the best to replace the present day obsolete education policy.

“By education, I mean an all-round drawing out of the best in child and man- body, mind, and spirit.”

–Mahatma Gandhi

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FUTURISTIC PRACTICES ADOPTED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY: E-COMPETENCE OF FACULTY

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Abstract

In this information and knowledge-oriented society, the education sector is widely affected by Information Technology (IT). Educational institutions and also faculty members have to be prepared to survive in uncertainties without compromising the quality of teaching-learning output. The faculty members have to improve their digital competency to sustain themselves in society. It becomes one of the key competencies as it is also a requirement for the recruitment of faculty members nowadays. The administration of educational institutions and the faculty members both are responsible for the development. The purpose of the study is to find out the issues of digital teaching and the remedies which have already been taken and should be taken for the digital literacy of faculty members and students.

Keywords- Faculty E-Competence, Sustainability, Enhancement of e-competence

Introduction

Today IT has made its own way in every field. All the communication processes, either formal or informal is conducted through IT. In this digital era for interaction in the teaching-learning process, not only face-to-face but also many other online platforms are used. The number of users on the internet is tremendously increasing these days. Almost 4.57 billion people were using the internet actively till April 2020 in the world around and China, India, and the US are the top rankers (Statista.com). In 2020 around 700 million internet users had across the country which was projected to around 900 in 2025 (Statista.com). But still, there are people with no internet connection and cannot access online education.

Students are more comfortable than teachers while using the new digital tools so, to avoid alienation from society the development of e-competence of faculty members is necessary. Digital competency is very important for the systematic support of teacher's development (Poldoja et.al., 2012) therefore, even if the faculty has no knowledge of ICT tools, they have to learn and develop these skills to sustain in the academic world. It is the responsibility of both the institution and the faculty members themselves to develop digital competency. The use of

technology makes the teaching-learning process more interesting. The audio-video aids are helpful in improving the students' knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking ability (Jitjumnong, Chujai, & Kamata, 2020). During the uncertainties like the Covid-19 pandemic, it is very easy to analyse its importance. Those faculty members who had some knowledge of technology and the institutions which are already upgraded and developed the digital competence in their faculty faced a little difficulty during the Covid-19 pandemic or vice versa. Therefore, an institution should always try to be updated with the contemporary era and also it is the self-responsibility of the faculty members. They must have the capability to execute emergency remote teaching (ERT) and online teaching, whenever required. This paper is an attempt to focus on the issues while using technology in the teaching-learning process and to identify the measures that have already been taken and should be taken to develop the digital competency in faculty members by the educational institutions and the faculty member itself.

Research Methodology

This is explanatory research that is based on secondary data. The research seeks to comprehend the measures and methods that should be adopted by the educational organisations for the identified issues to develop or enhance the digital competencies in their current faculty members. The data was collected through secondary sources i.e. journal articles, books, websites, etc. Through the literature review, it has been tried to know the meaning of digital competency, its importance for a faculty member.

Digital Competency

Competency is defined as a mix of personal characteristics such as skills, knowledge, experience, attitude etc. which is required to perform an activity in a specific work-related context; these competencies may be possessed by the individual or also may be required to develop (European Commission, 2007; Sampson & Fytros 2008; Poldoja et.al. 2012). A competence becomes key competence when all individual needs that competence to get the employment, personal fulfilment and development, social inclusion and for active citizenship. And digital competence is among the eight key competencies which need for lifelong learning (European Commission, 2007). Therefore, digital competency is a key competency for faculty members.

Digital Competency is a general word in today's scenario which simply means to describe the ability of an individual; whether a citizen or a student or a teacher, to use information technology for a specific purpose and context (Rizza, 2013). The meaning of digital competency has also changed with society; it is not limited to learn how to use MS-word like software. It is now for improving the work and students learning with this digital technology. Digital competence is also defined as multilevel competence in many studies. According to Cerisier et al. (2008), these levels have been classified as operational level (Instrumental competences), functional level (transversal competences), and strategic level (Meta- competences). The term educational technology competency was used synonymously in a study by Poldoja et.al. (2012). The study defines digital competency as a requirement to facilitate not only efficient and creative learning of their students but also for edging their professional competencies and sustainability where technological innovations are continuously increasing at a fast pace. Some major ICT competencies which are required by a teacher is: using ICT tools in teaching and mastering of assessment paradigm; making personal use of ICT; mastery over the educational paradigm that make use of ICT; make use of ICT as mind tools; and understanding the policy dimensions of the use of ICT for teaching and learning (Kirschner & Woperies, 2003).

In literature, it is also defined or described by different denominations digital skills, e-competence, e-skills, twenty-first-century skill or competences, having different concepts but not synonymous (Rizza, 2013). Table 1 shows the frameworks of digital competency for faculty members given by different authors.

Table 1: Frameworks of Digital Competency/Digital Literacy

S. No.	Author(s), Year	Frameworks/components of Digital Competencies
1.	Goodyear et al., 2001	Facilitating online courses with different hardware and software.
2.	Martin, 2005	Digital literacy includes several key elements: 1) being able to carry out successful digital actions embedded within life situations, which may include work, learning, leisure, and other aspects of everyday life, 2) to vary according to a subject's particular life situation, and to be an ongoing lifelong process, developing as the individual's life situation evolves, 3) to be broader than ICT literacy and to include elements drawn from several related "literacies", such as information literacy, media literacy, and visual literacy, 4) to involve acquiring and using knowledge, techniques, attitudes, and personal qualities, and to include the ability to plan, execute and evaluate digital actions in the solution of life tasks, and the ability to reflect on one's digital literacy development.
3.	Martin, 2005	"Digital Literacy is the awareness, attitude and ability of individuals to appropriately use digital tools and facilities to identify, access, manage, integrate, evaluate, analyse and synthesize digital resources, construct new knowledge, create media expressions, and communicate with others, in the context of specific life situations, in order to enable constructive social action; and to reflect upon this process".
4.	European Commission, 2007	Digital competence involves the confidence and critical use of Information Society Technology (IST) for work, leisure and communication. It is underpinned by basic skills in IT: the use of computers to retrieve, assess, store, produce, present and exchange information, and to communicate and participate in collaborative networks via the Internet.
5.	Hogenbirk & Rijcke, 2006; Calvani et al., 2008	These competences refer for instance to distance collaboration and communication; creation, sharing and mastering knowledge through filtering information; allocation of materials, creation of communities, etc.
6.	European Computer Driving License (ECDL), 2012	A digitally literate person has knowledge of basic concepts of Information Technology (IT) like the concept of ICT, presentations and communication, using a personal computer and managing files, word processing, spreadsheets and databases. Technically it should be accepted in any field or occupation.
7.	Poldoja et.al. 2012	1. Facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity 2. Design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments 3. Model digital age work and learning 4. Promote and model digital-age citizenship and responsibility 5. Engaging in professional growth and leadership (without paraphrasing)
8.	UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT-CFT), 2012	The framework addresses six sub-domains of the teachers' work: 1. Policy and vision, 2. Curriculum and assessment, 3. Pedagogy, 4. ICT, 5. Organization and administration, and 6. Teacher professional development

Issues in Faculty E-Competence Development

The ICT-related competencies can be defined through two approaches i.e. the traditional skill-oriented approach towards mastering the hardware and software and the other approach which focuses on the development of competencies for wider competencies that can be developed while using the software as means (Hinostroza et al., 2008). The faculty members find difficulties in using the digital platforms of teaching, searching the online activities, making corrections online, creating and editing online study materials. Portillo, Garay, Tejada and Bilbao (2020) reported that the faculty members are finding difficulties in remote teaching due to lower technological competence and noticed the lack of training to improve their digital skills. The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) of the European Union presents two most important strategies to make education and training systems fit for the digital age is: fostering the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem and enhancing digital skills and competencies for the digital transformation.

Unfortunately, the faculty members are not so attentive in developing digital literacy. Therefore, the world's recognized largest online free e-learning platforms SWAYAM MOOCs are still giving unsatisfactory outcomes. Only a few faculty members are participating in the program and in which very few got qualified the program successfully. Another problem is of unavailability of digital equipments, favourable environment and infrastructure or the technology available in the classrooms of the institutions. Gender gap issue in ICT is subjected by the researchers; males are more interested, have more knowledge and skills of computer and confident while using computer and technology (Sefyrin, 2005).

Steps already taken for Faculty E-Competence Development

However, the digitalization of education is not a new concept but it was not so much focused on in past days. Many of the initiatives have already been taken by the government and institutions. Many of the conferences, seminars and webinars are organized by educational institutions and other firms or companies. The short-term and long-term, online and offline (with practical exercises) workshops are organized to develop digital literacy among faculty members. The faculty members are encouraged to join the free online courses such as Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) for teacher's professional development (Jobe et al., 2014; Kiers, 2016). Today, most of the training programs are focused on the effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), E-content development & MOOCs, academic leadership and strategic planning and management (Department of Higher Education, MHRD, 2018). Online free e-learning platforms like SWAYAM, MOOCs are started by the government in 2006 to enhance the digital literacy and other professional competency development of teachers and learners with no differentiation in race, caste or gender.

Steps should be taken for Faculty E-Competence Development

For efficient planning of professional development and training of digital competency, it must be important to know their existing level of digital competency or educational technology competencies; it can be measured through web-based assessment tools (Poldoja et al. 2012). With this in-depth analysis, it can be known that what has been done and what should be done for improvement for not done. Many framework and models are already developed but no adequate instrument is available which can exactly measure and promote the educational technology competencies so this task becomes very difficult (Calvani et al., 2008).

The literature suggests that to improve digital literacy number of training in a structured manner should be increased. Every student and teacher should be suitably trained to acquire and develop digital competence which they need to survive in the digital environment (Gewin, 2020). To face the uncertainties digitalization of education is necessary so that the quality of education would not compromise like today's scenario where the teachers and the students both are untrained and quality of education suffered. The availability of infrastructure, connectivity and

digital equipments should be ensured by the administration of institutions. Plans to promote digital education should also be made in India like the other countries i.e. The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) of the European Union; “Digital Spain Plan 2025”.

Conclusions

Digital competency becomes the key competence for the faculty members of today and tomorrow. The study shows the importance and issues related to digital competency. If the faculty and organizations both will try together to improve the skill, it can be achieved easily and efficiently.

The Implication of the Study

This study will help the policy makers of educational institutions in framing the development strategies specifically for digital competencies in faculty members and students of India.

Direction for the Future Research

The researchers may empirically analyse the effectiveness of development strategies followed by the educational institutions.

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ANALYSIS OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020— HURDLES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION

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Abstract

Education is the most important tool to transform a human being and is very important for the country to progress. India has adopted an education policy in 1986 which was modified in 1992. New Education Policy 2020 was introduced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In this NEP 2020 government has brought reforms to the schooling system. NEP 2020 will also focus on skill development and multi-disciplinary education. It will also promote enrolments in Higher Education. NEP 2020 will have to face certain challenges and hurdles while its implementation but if implemented, it will raise the level of Education in India and create opportunities for students and teachers. In this research paper hurdles, challenges, and opportunities of New Education Policy 2020 have been discussed.

Keywords- National Education Policy 2020, Higher Education Institutes, Professional education, Online and digital education, Employment

Introduction

The worldwide education development agenda mirrored within the Goal four (SDG4) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by India in 2015; seeks to “ensure quality education and long-lasting education for all” by 2030. Such a lofty goal would force the entire education system to be reconfigured to support and foster learning, thus as that everyone amongst the crucial targets and goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda might be achieved. The gap between present state of learning outcomes and what is required; have to be compelled to be bridged through enterprise major reforms that bring the absolute best quality, equity, and integrity into the system, from early childhood care and education through instruction. This National Education Policy 2020 is the {first} education policy of the twenty first century and aims to address the various growing process imperatives of our country. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, also as its regulation and governance, to form a replacement system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st-century education, also as SDG4, whereas building upon India’s traditions and price systems. The National Education Policy lays specific stress on the event of the creative potential of each individual. It has supported the principle that education ought to develop not entirely psychological feature capacities but both the ‘foundational capacities’ of attainment and talent and ‘higher-order psychological feature capacities’, such as necessary thinking and problem-solving but jointly social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions.

The NEP brings many changes among the system of higher education reaching to improve it with the goal of 'creation of larger opportunities for individual employment'.

The key points to focus from the New Policy are:

1. Creating a Higher Education (HE) system consisting large, multidisciplinary universities and schools, with a minimum of 1 in or near to every district, and extra HEIs across Republic of Asian nation which offer their programmes in local/Indian languages.
2. Shifting from a rigid HE data to multidisciplinary student education.
3. Offering school and institutional autonomy.
4. Revamping the data, pedagogy, assessment, and student support for inflated student experiences.
5. Reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit- appointments and career progression supported teaching & research.
6. Establishing National Analysis Foundation to fund brightest, peer-reviewed analysis and to actively seed analysis in universities and schools.
7. Improved Governance of HEIs by high qualified freelance boards having academic and body autonomy.
8. "Light but tight" regulation by one regulator for higher education.
9. Giving exaggerated access, equity, and inclusion through an expansion of measures like giving scholarships by private/philanthropic universities for disadvantaged and unfortunate students.
10. Giving access to education to any or all or any learners (disadvantage/learners with special needs) through on-line education, and Open Distance Learning (ODL).
11. A goal of the NEP is to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio.
12. NEP will replace the fragmented nature of India's existing pedagogy system and instead convert pedagogy institutions (HEIs) into large multidisciplinary universities, colleges, and HEI clusters/knowledge hubs. The policy states that over time, single-stream HEIs will be phased out over time.
13. For now, whereas the NEP states that a system of granting hierarchic autonomy supported franchise system adopted for schools; will help in remodelling them into associate autonomous degree-granting faculty, or a constituent faculty of a university.
14. New and existing HEIs will be developed into three distinct categories:
 - a) Research Universities (RUs)
 - b) Teaching Universities (TUs)
 - c) Autonomous Degree Granting Schools (ACs)

Hurdles in Implementation of New Education Policy

For any new policy or system to be implemented; it has to face some challenges as it proposes some changes in the old system and people do not like to change the old system as per their comfort level. Some of the hurdles, challenges and opportunities of NEP are mentioned below:

1. Curriculum and Content

The NEP seeks to introduce a shift from 10+2 structure to 5+3+3+4 structure, wherever infancy education is a section of formal education. Additionally, the NEP 2020 focuses on reducing the course of study content to create area for important thinking and successively, develop people with 21st-century skills instilled in them. Hence, all aspects of the course of study and pedagogy got to be restructured to realize these goals. The challenges in with success implementing these changes embody modifying the course of study in accordance with the National course of study Framework. Also, educators got to rethink the educational content rubric and modify the textbooks consequently.

2. Teacher Handiness and Coaching

The policy envisages the plan of the varsity course of study. However, so as to deliver the course of study effectively, colleges and anxious authorities will have to train lecturers and perceive the education which must create a swish transition to the new education system. What is more, they have to shift the main target from teacher-centred learning to student-centred learning to foster cooperative skills, important thinking, problem-solving and decision-making talents within the youth. A study suggests that we would need nearly seven million additional lecturers to handle the increasing student population.

3. Focus on Multi-disciplinary Education

The existing education regime excludes formal coaching and orientation towards pedagogy for faculty and university educators. This desperately incorporate associate degree overhaul of the course of study style to create it versatile and organic for facultative foundational and higher-order thinking and ability ingraining at totally different levels of education. The policy seeks to ascertain multi-disciplinary establishments for educational activity by exchanging the single-disciplinary ones. The road to achieve this goal has been sealed with smart intentions.

4. Funds for Implementation of New Education Policy 2020

Over 250 million students are expected to enrol in colleges in India by 2030. With a teacher-student magnitude relation of 1:35, India desires a calculable seven million academics to handle this vast student population. Teaching additionally happens to be one in all the lowest-paid professions in India with a mean teacher earning around Rs. 200,000 p.a. Because of these constraints, abstract and experiential teaching are powerful as compared to the prevailing written content-oriented teaching. A lot of fund allocation is needed from the government to beat this major disadvantage. Also, this pool of academics needs to be oriented towards the new-age teaching techniques.

5. Technology

The NEP 2020 lays stress on investing the advantage of technology in creating the youth future-ready. But, developing digital infrastructure like digital lecture rooms, remote expertise-driven teaching models, AR/VR tools to bridge gaps in physical teaching and laboratory infrastructure could be a nice challenge as a result of the bulk of the faculties don't have a correct set-up to support these tools. Also, the price related to building digital infrastructure won't be reasonable for all colleges across the country. Moreover, in rural areas of the country wherever the web property is sort of absent; deploying digital learning tools is out of the question. Hence, the govt. ought to work on the fundamental infrastructure that may support the digital infrastructure in all over India specially the rural & backward area.

6. Examination Structure

The NEP focuses on formative assessment for learning instead of additive assessment. The first purpose of adjusting the assessment system is to push continuous trailing of learning outcomes. However, continuous assessment needs colleges and lecturers to use innovative analysis approaches and assignments. These approaches demand technological intervention and active involvement of lecturers and students.

Thus, the govt. must have a scientific phased approach to successfully implement the NEP 2020 and supply quality education to all or any students, regardless of their place of residence. Thus, the NEP 2020 lays stress on creating the education system holistic, versatile and aligned to the requirements of 21st century education. However, so as to accomplish these goals, we should overcome all the execution challenges in a very sustained manner for years to come.

Opportunities from New Education Policy

At present, the Indian education system is criticized by many; due to many reasons like its memorization ways, outdated programme etc. India is ranking 35th in World Education Rankings of 2020. If New Education Policy is implemented, it will create certain opportunities such as:

1. Increased Chances of Recruitment

This is an extremely very important issue to dialogue, from schooling to higher education. Employment may be the most important issue because any person register himself into any course to learn the basics and move on to the advanced stages. This helps him in building & development of his career. This is a typical state of affairs. But in today's competitive world, companies/organizations like to recruit better of the best people for them. NEP aims at developing Skilled Human Resource. The New Education Policy 2020, proposes all the tools like choosing the right subject combination to see, introduction of line of labour courses at early stages, changing the exam/marking pattern, target learning, skill development and many more. From these effort of NEP, the businesses will have the right people to fill the right position.

2. Self-employment

This is another half associated with the use wherever an individual makes a trial to begin his/her own venture. "Start-ups" aren't simply a cup of tea. It needs the talent set and keen information of understanding the needs of the individuals. Several start-ups having their revenue in millions are obtaining national and international funding opportunities for future growth and development. "Flipkart" can be one in every of the instance, another to count the "food delivery" firms like "Zomato" and "Swiggy". NEP 2020, plans to enhance the talent set of the scholars in order that they can use their talent to seek out the gaps within the trade to begin their own venture.

3. Effect on Academe & Trade

Students with correct ability set are helpful for his or her personal growth and development similarly as for the expansion of the trade. Several new things have been proposed within the NEP 2020 to induce the proper ability set at the proper time like job courses at the side of the regular studies if the students prefer the proper course or subject combination according to the inborn talent. The gap between trade and academe are bridged in close to future.

Conclusion

The NEP, that is meant to ease the burden of room teaching and examination on students, can play a crucial role in making the long term future of the country. Its success however; lies in uniform and clear implementation at all the education levels with proper & unbiased distribution of resources. This mammoth-like task may be realised only if there is a 100 percent co-operation and collaboration between the Policy makers, Implementing Authorities and the Ground levels. Let us hope that NEP 2020 will be able to develop a skilled, smart and talented human resource for the country.

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IMPACT OF ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM: A REVIEW

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Abstract

In India during the end of March 2020, the pandemic had reached all over the India, resulting in shut down the schools, colleges and universities. COVID-19 pandemic has been disrupted the education sector at a significant level. Many negative and positive impacts of pandemic on educational system were observed. E-learning platforms have emerged as one of the best measures to help the students continue their studies. Therefore, the objective of the present study is to assess the impact of the pandemic on the education system in India, The recent pandemic has led to a change in pedagogical approach and explored the importance of online mode of education at all level. As no one knows when the pandemic will end, so in this time of crisis, virtual platform for education emerged as an option to continue the education for students. So, COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of digital technologies. Ministry of HRD, NCERT and UGC etc. jointly with other agencies have lunched various e-portals for school and university students. Therefore, students are advised to make full use of these online resources especially during the COVID-19 outbreak to avoid any obstacles in the path of learning. Right now most schools and colleges are delivering online education with their limited resources, but surely in the coming time they shall be able to provide more meaningful and systematic online education. However it could not be possible to poor and rural students as they lack internet and digital devices. They struggled to obtain the gadgets needed for digital learning. If government can connect marginalized people with online education, then it will be a big step for the marginalized people.

Keywords- COVID-19, Lockdown, Online education, Pandemic situation.

INTRODUCTION

Educational system around the world has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic, leading to near the total closures of schools, early childhood education and care services, universities and colleges. Most countries temporarily closed educational institutions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.^{[1][2][3]} In India too COVID-19 pandemic has been disrupted the education sector at a significant level. The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Thrissur, Kerala on 30 January 2020^[4], which increased to three cases by 3rd February 2020; all were medical students had returned from Wuhan.^{[5][6]} After that, in this month no significant increase in the transmission was reported. But 22 new cases were observed on 4th March 2020, including 14 infected members of an Italian tourist group.^[7] In India on 12th March 2020 a 76-year-old man, who had returned from Saudi Arabia became the first COVID-19 death.^[8] On 25th March lockdowns were announced in country. Five major cities Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmadabad,

Chennai and Thane accounted for around half of all reported cases in the country during mid-May 2020.^[9] In mid-September daily cases peaked with over 90,000 cases per-day. In January the number of daily cases dropped to below 15,000^[10]. The second wave that began in March 2021 was much larger than the first in parts of the country.^[10] By the end of April, India had led the world in new and active cases. As on 30th April 2021, India became the first country to register over 400,000 new cases in a span of 24-hour.^{[11][12]} On 12th June 2021, India became country of second largest COVID-19 confirmed cases in the world with 29.3 million reported cases and also became the country of third-highest number of COVID-19 deaths with 367,081 deaths.^{[13][14][15]} To prevent the doctors, paramedical, senior citizens and other corona warriors, COVID-19 vaccination programme in India was started on 16th January 2021. The country had administrated more than 200 million vaccine doses as of 25 May 2021.^[16]

In India during the end of March 2020, the pandemic was all over the places, resulting in shut down the schools, colleges and universities. Many negative and positive impacts of pandemic on educational system were observed. E-learning platforms have emerged as one of the best measures to help the students continue their studies during COVID-19 pandemic. However it is very challenging to India as many people live in area without internet, and others attend more poorly equipped schools run by Government. To keep continue educational activities, various innovative methods were launched by the government for students at all levels; however it could not be possible to poor and rural students as they lack internet and digital devices. Therefore, the objectives of the present study were to assess the impact of the pandemic on the education system in India, various initiatives taken by government to continue the education system. Apart from these authors suggestions for schools and colleges facing the challenges created by COVID-19 pandemic were also included in the study.

METHODOLOGY

Since it was not possible to collect data from outside due to lockdown, data has been collected from various authentic websites, magazines and e-content related to the impact of COVID-19 on India's educational system. Hence, this research is based on the national and international reports from various agencies.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT DURING PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, every sector including education sector are facing major crisis. Most of the exams have been cancelled during the final assessments. On 16th March 2020, the Union Government decided to close schools and colleges.^[17] On 18th March 2020, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) released revised guidelines for examination centers incorporating social distancing measures.^[18] On 19th March 2020, CBSE and JEE examinations for the Indian Institute of Technology and other engineering college admissions were postponed.^[19] States across the country either postponed or cancelled the school and university examinations; in most of the courses students were either automatically promoted or promoted based on prior performance.^{[20][21][22]} CBSE had cancelled both class X and XII board examinations of the year 2020-21 and results are to be declared on the basis of a credible, reliable, flexible and valid alternative assessment policy.^[23] Due to the fear of third wave of COVID-19 pandemic CBSE has planned to divide the school examinations into 2 terms with approximately 50% syllabus in each term for academic session 2021-22.^[24] The Union Public Service Commission also had postponed the Civil Services examination interview.^[25] Only a few educational institutions in India have been able to effectively adapt to e-learning and remote learning. Electricity issues and lack of internet connectivity are major obstacle in the use of digital technologies.^{[26][27][28]}

In these worst conditions due to COVID-19, online platforms have played as one of the best role to help the students to continue their studies. Ministry of HRD (Govt. of India) advises students to carry on with their studies using the digital learning platforms.^{[29][30][31][32][33][34]} Here is a list of some excellent digital initiatives launched by Ministry of HRD and UGC for school, college and university students—

- i. **Diksha portal:** The Ministry of HRD has launched this to equip teachers from 1st class to 12th class into the world of e-learning. The platform is available for both teachers and students requiring learning material.

Here is the more than 80000 e-Books solely created to train and enhance the learning of Class 12th students. The aim of this e-portal is to ensure that the students do not miss out online learning in case they miss out on physical classroom learning. The portal is available in multiple languages for students. Diksha app is available on Google Play and iOS Store.

- ii. **e-Pathshala:** It is the web-portal/app initiated jointly by MHRD, CIET and NCERT for students from class 1st to 12th. Through this web-portal, students are able to access almost 1886 audios, 2000 videos, 696 e-books and 504 flip Books.
- iii. **National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER):** It is an excellent initiative launched by the Ministry of HRD. Portal provides an exposure to e-libraries, e-books, e-courses. Apart from this, teachers and students can use the portal in multiple languages. It has a total 16000 registered users, and 14527 e-learning resources. Constructive repository of 2779 documents, 1345 interactive, 1664 audios, 2586 images and 6153 videos on different languages is available for teachers and students to access.
- iv. **Swayam:** It is an initiative of Govt. of India for the students of schools, graduate and post graduate programs. It provides Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with 140 universities approved credit transfer feature. Students can access study material in the form of Video lectures, reading material, self-assessment tests, online discussions and doubt sessions.
- v. **Swayam Prabha:** Swayam Prabha is a collection of 32 DTH channels which provides high quality educational programs for students. Top education bodies of the nation such as NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT and NIOS provide content to INFLIBNET Centre which runs these channels. The programme schedule and other details are available at the portal.
- vi. **e-PG Pathshala:** e-PG Pathshala is an initiative of the MHRD under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT) being executed by the UGC. It is for postgraduate students. Its contents are of high quality & standards, curriculum-based and interactive. It provides e-content in 70 subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts and humanities, natural & mathematical sciences. Post graduate students can access this platform for e-book, online courses and study materials.
- vii. **e-Adhyayan (e-book):** e-Adhyayan is a digital platform of e-books for Post graduate students. It provides 700+ e-Books. All the e-Books are derived from e-PG Pathshala courses.
- viii. **e-Pathya (Offline Access):** It is a vertical of e-PG Pathshala i.e. a software driven course/content package that facilitates students pursuing higher education in distance learning as well as campus learning mode. It also provides off line facility to students.
- ix. **National Academic Depository (NAD):** It is national e-platform run by UGC that has tie up with approximately 55 school boards, 359 state universities, 123 deemed universities, 47 central universities and 260 private universities.
- x. **National Digital Library of India (NDLI):** It is run by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) to provide content to not just school students but also students pursuing higher education and Ph.D. level education on multi disciplines for all kind users like students, teachers, and researchers. It is being developed at Indian institute of technology, Kharagpur.
- xi. **Virtual Labs:** This is another key initiative of MHRD and Govt. of India under the mentorship of NMEICT. It is a consortium of 12 IITs which aim to deliver online classes and study resource through Virtual labs wherein 700+ virtual experiments are designed and promoted for the aspirants to study and understand.

There are numerous initiatives and program launched by Govt. of India and MHRD for the aspirants. The digital world and e-learning are expanding its presence globally. Therefore, students are advised to make full use of these online resources especially during the COVID-19 outbreak to avoid any obstacles in the path of learning.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION

Education sector in India faced the major crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but at the same time pandemic accelerated the adoption of many digital technologies to continue education. To ensure that there is no break in the education and students get full-access to classes like before; Ministry of Education, Govt. of India advises students to carry on with their studies using the digital learning platforms. The digital learning portals are helping the students and also allowing them to engage in online classes with the teachers. Therefore, the pandemic has had the following positive impacts on the education—

- i. Increased adoption of blended learning
- ii. Rise in use of e-learning portals
- iii. Increased the use of e-books, soft copy etc.
- iv. Increased tendency to work together.
- v. Rise in online meetings/ conferencing
- vi. Enhanced digital awareness
- vii. Use of digital media for sharing information.
- viii. World wide coverage
- ix. Helpful in better time management.
- x. Demand for Online courses increased.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON EDUCATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, every sector including education sector are facing major crisis. Most of the exams have been cancelled during the final assessments. CBSE had canceled about half the board examinations of classes X and XII in the session 2019-20. After this CBSE also cancelled both class X and XII board examinations of the session 2020-21 and results are to be declared on the basis of a credible, reliable, flexible and valid alternative assessment policy.^[23] Recently CBSE has issued a notification to divide board examination in two terms for the academic session 2021-22 with approximately 50% syllabus in each term.^[24]

Negative impacts of COVID-19 are as follows—

- i. Educational activity hampered due to lockdown
- ii. Several teachers' recruitment had to be postponed out of turn.
- iii. Lack of awareness about online education in students and teachers.
- iv. Reduced worldwide employment opportunity
- v. Responsibility of parents to educate their wards has also increased.
- vi. Loss of mid-day meal due to school closure
- vii. Delay and shortfall in the payment of school, college's fee.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Teachers and students should be trained to use online teaching learning process so that they can use digital tools effectively. To encourage online learning, a policy should be adopted by the government schools and colleges to provide free internet and free digital gadgets to all the learners, as a result of which remotest and poorest communities will also be able to complete their education by staying safe during the pandemic.
2. Urgent measures are needed to reduce the impact of the pandemic on teacher jobs, and other research projects.
3. The quality of online education needs special attention. So that online education does not become a mere formality in the name of education.
4. While promoting online education, the interests of teachers will also have to be kept in mind. Otherwise a new problem of unemployment of teachers is slowly coming to the force, especially in schools and colleges of private sector.

5. It should also be kept in mind that online teaching methods can never completely replace offline teaching methods. Hence it should be used and developed as an alternative and supporting teaching method.

Therefore, according to all the suggestions mentioned above, the government should make creative strategies in which a quality and sustainable education must be completed for all including the poorest and remotest students in pandemic.

CONCLUSION

The recent pandemic has led to a change in pedagogical approach and explored the importance of online mode of education at all level. Therefore, this study has outlined the various impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the education system in India. As no one knows when the pandemic will end, so in this time of crisis, virtual platforms for education emerged as an option to continue the education for students. So, COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of digital technologies. The digital world and e-learning are expanding its presence globally. Ministry of HRD, NCERT and UGC etc. jointly with other agencies have launched various e-portals for school and university students. Therefore, students are advised to make full use of these online resources especially during the COVID-19 outbreak to avoid any obstacles in the path of learning. Right now most schools and colleges are delivering online education with their limited resources, but surely in the coming time they shall be able to provide more meaningful and systematic online education. However it could not be possible to poor and rural students as they lack internet and digital devices. They struggled to obtain the gadgets needed for digital learning. If government can connect poor and rural children with online education, then it will be great achievement for Govt.

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ROLE OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

In modern educational environment, success of Open Education System largely depends on the perception of teachers. The aim of this paper is to know the teacher's (teaching in the study centres of IGNOU and UPRTOU) reaction and satisfaction with the present admission criteria, course structure, usefulness and utilization of the facilities available in the study centres, exam & evaluation system of Open Universities (OUs) as well as the changes that teachers want in the existing system.

The researcher has selected 40 teachers from 04 Study centres (10 from each) as sample. A self constructed Questionnaire is used for collection of data. Data analysis is performed through Chi-Square test and percentage.

Key words: Open Universities, Expansion, Higher Education.

Introduction:

The greatest challenge of the present scenario is to provide extensive access to quality higher education opportunities. In modern educational environment, success of Open Education System largely depends on the perception of teachers. According to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan – "The teachers' place in society is of vital importance. He acts as the pivot for the transmission of intellectual traditions and technical skills from generation to generation and helps to keep the lamp of civilization burning." The aim of this paper is to know the teachers' views about the adequacy of the present admission criteria, course structure, usefulness & utilization of the facilities available in the study centres, examination and evaluation system of OUs as well the changes that the teachers want in the existing system.

At present there are 14 Open Universities in India 01 National (IGNOU) as well as 13 state Open Universities which are in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Patna, Nashik, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Mysore, Kolkata, Prayagraj, Chennai, Bilaspur, Nainital & Guwahati. IGNOU claims to be the largest Open University in the world with total active enrolment of over 11 million students (IGNOU report 2017-18). While in UPRTOU the total enrolment of students in year 2014-2015 was 66812.

The researches done in this field are by Thakore (2004), who found that India has one of the largest higher education system in the world with 311 universities and 15600 colleges, as of producing 2.5 million graduates each year.

The studies conducted in this area are by V. Agarwal (2007-08) who find that total enrolment carried out of NIOS in 2006-07, only 0.55% students were handicapped, 12.53% were from S.C. category and 7.23% were from S.T.

Horspool and Lange (2012) found that students choose to take on-line courses to avoid travel time to class and scheduling problems.

Shanti Kundu (2014) found that IGNOU is securing top position enrolling 7million students per year from 36 countries around the world.

Need of the Present Study:

All of us know that millions of students are getting education through Open Universities (OUs). Though these Universities are claiming about providing all essential facilities and aids to students as well as to the teachers; through study centres. In order to know the teachers views and their satisfaction with the present admission criteria, course structure, usefulness & utilization of the facilities available in the study centres, examination and evaluation system of OUs and the changes that the teachers want in the existing system; this study has been conducted.

Statement of the problem:

“The Role of Open Universities in the Expansion of Higher Education.”

Objectives of the study:

To study the perception of teachers about IGNOU & UPRTOU study centres with regard to following components:

- 1) Adequacy of Course structure and Self Learning Material.
- 2) Utility of Study centres activities.
- 3) Suitability of place & schedule of examination as well as existing evaluation system.

Delimitations of the study:

- 1) Present study is delimited to two open universities i.e. Indira Gandhi National Open University (Delhi) and U.P. Rajarshi Tondon Open University (Allahabad).
- 2) The coverage of present study is restricted to the study centres of Kanpur city.
- 3) The sample of 40 teachers (20 from each IGNOU & UPRTOU) has been taken for the study.

Research Methodology:

Descriptive survey method was adopted for the investigation.

Sources of Data:

Data is collected from the teachers of related study centres of IGNOU & UPRTOU (Kanpur, U.P.).

Population of the study:

All the teachers working as mentor in IGNOU & UPRTOU (Teaching Centres Kanpur) were the population of the study.

Sample of the study:

For the present study random sampling method was used. The researcher has selected 40 teachers (10 teachers from each study centre) working in the study centres of IGNOU (P.P.N College, Kanpur & College of Nursing-GSVM Medical College campus, Kanpur) and UPRTOU (Christ Church college, Kanpur & V.S.S.D College, Kanpur).

Tool:

A self constructed Questionnaire was used for collection of Data.

Statistical Techniques:

In the present study, data has been analysed through suitable statistical techniques (Chi-square test and percentage) and the results were interpreted. The data were presented through tables. Formula of X² is as follows:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{Observed value} - \text{Expected value})^2}{\text{Expected value}}$$

Tabulation and Interpretation:

Regarding the perception of teachers, the component wise description and analysis of the data is as follows-

Component 1: X² test for knowing the satisfaction of the teachers with the different types of courses available in study centres component wise:

Table 1.1(a)
Satisfaction of the Teachers with the General Course

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
LE	15	14	29	0.1254
SE	5	6	11	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

*LE means Large Extent * SE means Some Extent * NA means Not At All

Table 1.1(b)
Satisfaction of the Teachers with Professional Course

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
LE	11	10	21	0.1003
SE	9	10	19	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

Table 1.1(c)
Satisfaction of the Teachers with Diploma Course

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
LE	11	10	21	0.1003
SE	9	10	19	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

The X² value stated in Table 1.1(a) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the satisfaction with the general course. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (75% i.e. 15 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (70% i.e. 14 out of 20) about the satisfaction with the general course.

The X² value stated in Table 1.1(b) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the satisfaction with the professional course. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (55% i.e. 11 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (50% i.e. 10 out of 20) about the satisfaction with the professional course.

The X^2 value stated in Table 1.1(c) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the satisfaction with the diploma course. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (55% i.e. 11 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (50% i.e. 10 out of 20) about the satisfaction with the diploma course.

Component 2: X^2 test for knowing the opinion of the teachers about the overall quality of the study material used in study centres-

Table 1.2
Quality of Course Material

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X^2
High Quality	19	18	37	0.3604
Avg. Quality	1	2	3	
Below Avg. Quality	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

The X^2 value stated in Table 1.2 shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the satisfaction with the quality of course material. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (95% i.e. 19 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (90% i.e. 18 out of 20) about the satisfaction with quality of course material.

Component 3: X^2 test for knowing the opinion of the teachers about the adequacy of the following facilities and materials at study centres component wise-

Table 1.3(a)
Adequacy of Print Materials, Text Books, Reference Books & Journals

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X^2
Available adequately	19	9	28	11.9048
Available but not adequate	1	11	12	
Not available	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not Significant at 0.01 level

Table 1.3(b)
Adequacy of Library Facilities

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X^2
Available adequately	18	15	33	1.5584
Available but not adequate	2	5	7	
Not available	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

Table 1.3(c)
Adequacy of Counselling Programme

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
Available adequately	20	20	40	0
Available but not adequate	0	0	0	
Not available	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

Table 1.3(d)
Adequacy of Contact Programme Session

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
Available adequately	20	20	40	0
Available but not adequate	0	0	0	
Not available	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

The X² value stated in Table 1.3(a) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the adequacy of print material, text books, reference books & journals at the study centre. The majority of teachers of IGNOU (95% i.e. 19 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (45% i.e. 9 out of 20) said that print materials, reference books and journals are available adequately at study centre.

The X² value stated in Table 1.3(b) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the adequacy of library facilities at the study centre. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (90% i.e. 18 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (75% i.e. 15 out of 20) about the adequacy of library facilities at the study centre.

The X² value stated in Table 1.3(c) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the adequacy of counselling programme. All the teachers of IGNOU as well as of UPRTOU said that counselling programmes are available adequately at the study centre.

The X² value stated in Table 1.3(d) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the adequacy of contact programme session. All the teachers of IGNOU as well as of UPRTOU said that counselling programmes are available adequately at the study centre.

Component 4: X² test for knowing the opinion of the teachers about the suitability of examination system for the students of OU in terms of –

Table 1.4(a)
Suitability of the Pattern of Examination

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
LE	18	19	37	0.3604
SE	2	1	3	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

Table 1.4(b)
Suitability of Credit Based System

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
LE	16	13	29	1.1285
SE	4	7	11	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

The X² value stated in Table 1.4(a) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the suitability of the pattern of examination. The largest no. of teachers of UPRTOU (95% i.e. 19 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of IGNOU (90% i.e. 18 out of 20) about the suitability of the pattern of examination.

The X² value stated in Table 1.4(b) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the suitability of credit based system. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (80% i.e. 16 out of 20) agree on large extent than their counterparts of UPRTOU (65% i.e. 13 out of 20) about the suitability of credit based system.

Component 5: X² test for knowing the teachers view about the adequacy of evaluation system in terms of –

Table 1.5(a)
Weight given to Project/Assignment work

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
Most Adequate	4	5	09	0.1434
Moderately adequate	16	15	31	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

Table 1.5(b)
Weight given to Minimum Marks/Grade to get Degree/Diploma

	IGNOU	UPRTOU	Total	X ²
Most Adequate	17	15	32	0.625
Moderately adequate	3	5	8	
NA	0	0	0	
Total	20	20	40	

Not significant at 0.05 level

The X^2 value stated in Table 1.5(a) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the adequacy of evaluation system in terms of weight given to Project/Assignment work. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (80% i.e. 16 out of 20) regards it moderately adequate than their counterparts of UPRTOU (75% i.e. 15 out of 20) that weight should be given to Project/Assignment work.

The X^2 value stated in Table 1.5(b) shows that the teachers of IGNOU & UPRTOU do not have different views about the weight should be given to Minimum Marks/Grade to get Degree/Diploma. The largest no. of teachers of IGNOU (85% i.e. 17 out of 20) regards it most adequate than their counterparts of UPRTOU (75% i.e. 15 out of 20) that the weight should be given to Minimum Marks/Grade to get Degree/Diploma.

Suggestions:

- 1) In order to improve the standards of Education, formal qualification of the students/entrance test should be given priority at the time of admission in all courses.
- 2) There should be provision of guidelines for the preparation of lesson scripts/course material.
- 3) There should be provision of orientation training for teachers at every alternate year.
- 4) Examination should be partly internal & partly external.
- 5) Guidelines for the evaluation should be supplied to all the evaluators.

Abbreviations Used—

- LE — Large Extent
- SE — Some Extent
- NA — Not At All

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COVID-19 : AN ANALYSIS OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract

The Covid-19 impact was all over, that resulted within the closure of faculties and different academic establishments. Initially, most governments have determined to quickly shut the colleges to cut back the impact of Covid-19. By the end of March 2020 this epidemic had unfold to over 185 countries and resulted, sixty three million academics were affected. A total of 1.3 billion learners around the world weren't able to attend colleges or universities. It has modified the normal education system to the academic technologies model within which teaching and assessments measures were conducted on-line. This paper aims to analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Indian Education System, focusing on education through online teaching and assessment of scholars obtaining on-line categories during this pandemic.

Keywords— Covid-19, Education, Online teaching, Blended teaching, Impact

Introduction

The coronavirus outbreak came to light on December 31, 2019 when China informed the World Health Organization of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of an unknown cause in Wuhan City in Hubei Province. Subsequently the disease spread to more Provinces in China, and to the rest of the world. The WHO has now declared it a pandemic. The virus has been named SARS-CoV-2 and the disease is now called COVID-19.

On the 24th of April 2020, the number of COVID-19 deaths in the world, according to the COVID-Case Tracker by Johns Hopkins University, was 195,313 and the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases was 2,783,512. First death by COVID-19 was the 61 year old man in Wuhan, China on January 11, 2020. The first case the COVID-19 in India was reported on 30 January 2020 in the state of Kerala and first death was registered in India on March 12, 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic represents a massive impact on human health, lifestyle changes, and their attitude as well as effect on education also.

Initially, most governments have decided to temporarily close the schools to reduce the impact of Covid-19. Later it was reopened for a few days, which increased the number of infection rates and then closed again. On March 25th 2020 to combat COVID-19, finally government imposed Lockdown nation wise. India has the world's second largest school system, after China. By the end of March 2020, this epidemic had spread to over 185 countries and resulted, 63 million teachers were affected. A total of 1.3 billion learners around the world were not

able to attend schools or universities, and approximately 320 million learners are affected in India alone. On mid-April, a total of 1.725 billion students globally had been affected by the closure of schools and higher education institutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has changed the traditional education system to the educational technologies model in which teaching and assessments are conducted online. The lockdown has compelled many educational institutions to cancel their classes, examinations, internships etc. and to choose the online modes. Initially, the educators and the students were quite confused and didn't understand how to cope up with the situation of this sudden crisis. But later on all realized that the lockdown has taught so many lessons to manage with the emergence of such pandemics. Thus, COVID-19 has challenges and opportunities for the educational institutes to strengthen their technological knowledge and the lockdown has given them a ray of hope for teachers and students to continue their educational activities through online. The teachers assigned work to students via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different Apps like Zoom, Google meet, Facebook, YouTube, and Skype etc. But only a handful of schools and universities could adopt such methods and the low-income some private and some government schools are quite inefficient to adopt the same, thus resulting in a shutdown.

Objectives

This paper focused on the following objectives:

- To know the various initiative steps taken by Govt. of India for education sector during this pandemic.
- To highlight the points which have impact on student and teachers.
- To focus on various positive and negative impact of COVID-19 on this sector and to explore the corrective steps to overcome the negative impact.

Methodology

This study is based on secondary data. Data have been collected from different secondary sources like newspapers, reports by leading organizations, E-library and blogs, published research papers etc. Information have been collected from various authentic websites also.

Limitations of the Study

- i) No primary data that is direct feedback of stakeholder's considered for this research.
- ii) Only Indian perspective is considered here.

Emerging and Initiative Steps Taken by Government During Covid-19

During lockdown government decide to use online learning method in more efficient and productive way. So, the digital India vision of the government is emerging as a vital tool for solving the present crisis due to Covid-19. It is a fact that technology-based education is more transparent with all respect. Looking at this challenge of colleges and schools being shut, government of India, as well as state governments and private players have undertaken proper initiatives. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has made several arrangements, including online portals and educational channels through Direct to Home TV, Radios for students to continue learning etc. During lockdown, students are using popular social media tools like Whatsapp, Zoom, Google meet, Telegram, YouTube live, Facebook live etc.

The digital initiatives of MHRD for secondary as well as higher education during COVID-19 are listed as below—

Diksha

It is a unique initiative which leverages existing highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures, while keeping teachers at the center. It is built considering the whole teacher's life cycle. The app is available to use offline. It has more than 80,000 e-Books for classes 1 to 12 created by CBSE, NCERT in multiple languages.

e-Pathya

It is one of the verticals of e-PG Patashala which is software driven course/content package that facilitates students pursuing higher education (PG level) in distance learning as well as campus learning mode. It also facilitates offline access. The app houses books, videos, audio, etc. aimed at students, educators and parents in multiple languages including Hindi, Urdu, English and Regional Languages.

Swayam

This was launched officially on 9th July 2017 by the honorable President of India. It provides free access to all the users and included courses from class 9 to post-graduation. It is very useful for professors and faculty of centrally sponsored institutes such as IITs, IIMs, IISERs, etc. to teach students. The courses offered by this platform are available in 4 types— video lectures, specifically equipped reading material that could be downloaded or printed, self-assessment via various tests and quizzes, and finally an online discussion medium for clarifying the doubts. There are many measures taken to enhance the learning experience by employing audio-video, multimedia, and advanced technologies.

National Digital Library

This app aims to accumulate and organize data and offer full-text index from many national and international digital libraries, along with other relevant sources. It is a digital repository comprising textbooks, articles, videos, audiobooks, lectures, simulations, fiction, and all other types of learning media. The National Digital Library offers free of cost access to various books in English and many other Indian languages. To provide access to exact resources without wasting much time or effort there is a filter search option. The National Digital Library is built to have any type of content from multiple languages and offers complete support for all Indian languages.

Vidwan

Vidwan is the best database of profiles of scientists/researchers and other faculty members employed at top academic institutions and various R & D organizations engaged in education and research in India. It offers crucial information about the researchers' background, contact address, experience, scholarly publications, skills and accomplishments, researcher identity etc. The database has been built and supervised by Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET) with funding from the National Mission on Education via ICT (NME-ICT).

Challenges Faced By Teachers & Students

Number of problems are faced by both teachers and learner during online education. The most important challenge faced by teachers in online teaching is to reach/teach students of remote areas because there is unavailability of strong internet access, no continuous supply of electricity, difficult to monitoring students, lack of technical/software knowledge, and lack of income source of parents who cannot afford to buy a laptop or android mobile for their children. Teaching numerical subjects like— math, financial accounting, cost accounting etc. or numerical problems are difficult and sometimes tedious in online teaching as compared to classroom teaching. In online teaching methodology- it becomes difficult for teachers to motivate learners and they faced the problem of keeping records of students' progress especially in higher education institutions where the number of students is large. On other side learners also faced various problems during online such as adaptability struggle, time management, technical issues, self-motivation etc. To motivate online learners, the learning environment needs to be designed in an attractive way and teacher should focus on critical based learning rather than knowledge-based.

Positive & Negative Impact of Covid-19 On Education

By the end of March 2020, this epidemic spread was everywhere, resulting in the closure of most of the schools, colleges and universities in India. If we look at the positive side, we found that Covid-19 has brought with it some new opportunities that will transform the higher education system worldwide and especially in a country like India which is planning to bring about a planned reform in this sector. So, there are so many points considered as positive impact on education:

Positive Impact

- ***Amplify the use of soft copy of learning material***— In lockdown situation students were not able to collect the hard copies of study materials and hence most of the students used soft copies of learning materials for reference.
- ***Save paper save environment***— In Soft copies' material, there is no use of papers so, it is helpful in reducing the cut down of trees to make new paper and thus making our environment pollution free.
- ***Rise in online meetings***— The pandemic has created a massive rise in tele-conferencing, virtual meetings, webinars and e-conferencing opportunities.
- ***Enhanced Digital Literacy***— The pandemic situation induced people to learn and use digital technology and resulted in increasing the digital literacy.
- ***Rise in Blended Learning***-- Universities and colleges will shift to a model of blended learning where both face to face delivery along with an online model will become a norm. This will require all teachers to become more technology savvy and go through some training to bring themselves to the level that would be required.
- ***Improvement in collaborative work***-- There is a new opportunity where collaborative teaching and learning can take on new forms. Collaborations can also happen among faculty/teachers across the world to benefit from each other .
- ***Worldwide exposure***-- Educators and learners are getting opportunities to interact with peers from around the world. Learners adapted to an international community.
- ***Better time management***-- Students are able to manage their time more efficiently in online education during pandemics.
- ***Demand for Open and Distance Learning***-- During the pandemic situation, most of the students preferred Open and Distance Learning mode as it encourages self-learning providing opportunities to learn from diverse resources and customized learning as per their needs.

Negative Impact

Indian education system has suffered a lot due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has created many negative impacts on education and some of them are as pointed below:

- ***Educational activity restricted***- Schools are closed and classes have been suspended. Different boards have already postponed the annual examinations and entrance tests across India.
- ***Role of Parents'*** - In urban areas, some educated parents are able to guide but some may not have the adequate level of education needed to guide children in the house.
- ***Digital gadgets***- Especially in rural area many students have limited or no internet access and many students may not be able to afford computer, laptop or supporting mobile phones in their homes. Online teaching-learning may create a digital divide among students. The lockdown has hit the poor students very hard in India as most of them are unable to explore online learning.
- ***Creates Difference***- This online teaching-learning method creates a big gap between rich vs. poor and urban vs. rural student.
- ***Inattentiveness of teachers and students***- Teachers and students are unprepared for online education; they were not ready for this sudden transition from face to face learning to online learning.
- ***Loss of nutrition due to school closure***- Mid-day meals is a school meal programme of the Government of India which is designed to provide nutritional food to school-age children nationwide. The closure of schools has serious implications on the daily nutrition of students as the mid-day meal schemes have temporarily been shut.

Suggestions

- Teachers and students suggested continuous faculty development. They recommended a reduction in cognitive load and increased interactivities during online teaching. Offering short training courses to improve their digital skills will help.
- To enhance quality, they suggested buying premium software and other proctoring software to detect cheating and plagiarism.
- Due to lack of Decorum and discipline in online teaching. Decorum and discipline is necessary to be maintained by through supervision of students, setting ground rules for online interaction, counseling etc.
- Immediate measures are required to lessen the effects of the pandemic on job offers, internship programs, and research projects.
- Proper Internet facility should be provided everywhere with proper connectivity.
- Government and educational institutes should plan to continue the educational activities maintaining social distancing. 30-40% students and teachers may attend schools/colleges in two shifts per day to carry on educational activities by obeying guidelines for COVID-19.

Conclusion

The Coronavirus Covid-19 rampant has had a very broad and measurable impact on life in general in the world as well as education sector also, which due to the nature of the sector (commercialized), relies on the physical presence of the teacher and the students in the schools, colleges and universities. The lockdown enforced to reduce the menace of the virus; has had an effect on this sector as students are being taught, via the online route by the teachers who are adjusting themselves to this new paradigm. Issues relating to the changed situation, connectivity of internet and supply of electricity are a few of the various challenges being experienced in this current lockdown period. However, every cloud has a bright side and there are a couple of chances that can be gained from this new normal which can benefit the student and the teacher in the long run.

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IMPACT OF SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 ON TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN INDIA

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has largely affected the Indian economic activities. On the other hand a lot of people have lost their life. It has affected all the sectors negatively. Textile Industry is one among the biggest contributors to the country's exports with around 11.4% share in India's total export for the fiscal period ended 2018-19 valuing to almost USD 37.5 billion (INR 2,596 billion) and growing at a CAGR of 7% since 2004-05. The pandemic has offered enough time to the fashion industry to slow down and think beyond just extending an identity and individual expression to its end consumers. It is an opportunity to re-evaluate industry practices, streamlines, and coordinate efforts to priorities accomplishments and strengthened business supply chains.

Keywords- COVID, textile, exports, fashion industry

The first wave of pandemic had a massive impact in India, in the financial year 2020-2021. India's economy appeared to be slightly emerging, but in April 2021, India saw a second wave of the pandemic. Due to this wave, half of the country including several big states had to take strict steps like lockdown again, due to which the economy has again suffered a major setback. The second wave of the epidemic has badly affected the domestic economy and the unorganized sector has suffered more within the country. The market capitalization of listed companies in the capital market in the organized sector has increased by 60% in April 2021 as compared to the previous year. If we talk about the employment sector in the country, according to the Center for Monitoring Economy (CMI), the unemployment rate in 2020 was 24% due to coronavirus, which came down to 7% in January 2021 but it has increased again to 9% due to the second wave of COVID. The movement of goods and services has also been badly affected. Due to the second wave of Covid-19, most rating agencies are measuring the rate of economic growth in India from 8% to 10%, which was earlier measuring from 10 to 12%. At the beginning of the second wave of Covid, the government was expecting that now people will not have to follow strict lockdown as before because now the vaccine has arrived, but this wave was so terrible and widespread. The death rate was very high as compared to first wave. Lockdown had to be imposed in all parts. Covid-19 second wave completely shook the Indian economy. According to Vijay Bhavwani, a well-known trader in the stock market said, "Due to the second wave, the activities of the country's economy will decrease, production will also be less and the level of consumption will also decrease." While according to economist Vivek Kaul, "All sectors like auto sector, real estate, banking, airlines, tourism, hotels etc. will be affected." But the opposite effect of this

wave will be seen, according to HDFC Bank, in April 2021, the cases of check bounce due to medical reasons have increased significantly.

About 70 to 80% of hotels in Mumbai are vacant. Hotel owners do not even have money to pay the staff. If any industry is earning since last year, it is the people who deliver food at home. The hotel, restaurant and tourism sector have suffered the most, while domestic and foreign companies are producing with utmost care and goods are being delivered to the people through e-commerce. Goods belonging to the common man are being produced continuously as their consumption remains constant.

Textile Industry in India and COVID-19

Textile industry in India has also been badly affected due to the second wave. Textile Companies have made many changes in the methods of production and sales. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the global textile industry as governments closed down manufacturing plants, retail stores and public events to slow the escalate of corona virus. The coronavirus pandemic is not only the problem of Indian fashion industry but it has affected the whole world's fashion industry. At the same time, the fashion industry is facing a massive problem in fulfilling customer's demand. On the other hand, new opportunities are also coming as fashion brands started to make fashionable coronavirus face masks.

According to Indian Appraisals and Research, second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the nation may slightly affect the textile sector's demand and supply in the first quarter of the financial year of 2021. The production network is affected by lockdown limitations across numerous part of the country, particularly at significant centers including Ludhiana, Tripura, Bhilwara, and Surat. The lockdown has resulted in restricted movement of raw material, which means non-availability of inputs such as fabric, yarns etc. In the short term, it may affect the final product but Companies are better prepared to follow protocols, respond to restrictions and minimize loss of operations.

According to the ratings agency, with reference to textile firms balance sheet and liquidity remains stronger compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020-21 due to constant export demand combined with learning from the first COVID-19 wave. It will allow the sector performance to remain stable in the current financial year. Festive demand temporarily supported demand during the third quarter of the financial year 2021, which increased consumer confidence in the second half of financial year 2021, according to the report. This encouraged higher rush in marketplaces. In the current conditions, the work force availability is also affected but when compared to first wave it was moderately low.

The foreign demand will remain favorable with geo-political tensions due to China, which is at least 30% of the India's total textile production. Though raw material prices increased in the second half of financial year 2021, the product pricing is only now beginning to catch-up across upstream, mid-stream and downstream segments, leading to a margin expansion in financial year 2022.

The full recovery for Indian textile industry is likely to be delayed to financial year 2022-23 due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Business performance in financial year 2022 as compared to financial year 2021 is expected to grow. This trend is supported by good results from the vaccination program. Moreover people are more interested in online purchasing.

Digitally advanced brands have invested in new technical tools to move their business online but due to broken supply chain, short inventories and labor shortage; the problems remain constant. According to new rules by the government, production hubs in industrial areas are allowed to work while retail shops and market are still facing the problem of lockdown. Due to this, supply chain and livelihood of retailers are badly affected.

The second wave of Covid-19 has largely affected Gujarat's textile industries. Since April 2020, the production of fabric has decreased all over the state from 5.50 crore meters to almost 4 crore meters per day. According to president of Federation of Gujarat Weavers' Association (FOGWA), "Production of grey fabric has also decreased from 1 crore meters from 4.5 crore meter to less than 3.5 crore meters per day." Large demand of yarn came from all over the world and spinning mills tried their best to fulfill the demand and succeed at the end.

Garment units employing 10-50 workers and relying on orders from larger factories, had completely shut down since no new orders were coming in. Workers who were called to finish the pending orders from second wave of corona virus, complained about half of their wages were not paid. According to them, employers used different excuses in paying their wages like not getting the full amount from the buyers etc. Home based women workers who are expert in thread cutting, collar and button sewing; have not received any orders since first wave of Covid-19.

Organizations including the Garment and Textile Workers' Union in Bengaluru have requested government to start bus service with less fares and required Covid 19 protocols, so that workers can travel from work to their homes.

Changes to disposable income and available leisure time are influencing consumers' attitudes, behaviors and purchasing habits. As people are not getting paid and they are relying on their savings during the pandemic, a significant number of consumers are having a hard time with less disposable income. They are looking for cost effective products that can save burden on their pocket. On the other hand there are few consumers who have enough money but no time, in lockdown they have enough time and enough money, they are spending a lot of money for their leisure. Consumers are getting more intelligent and more aware of their needs, they know what they want and what they need and at what cost. Number of people with this mindset is growing rapidly. Government is also advertising "go local" and it is spreading among the consumers as well. Consumers can trust local products, thus the demand for local products is growing day by day. Because of the pandemic, consumers are not going outside very often, they buy a lot of things in one go. Consumer behavior and trends are changing, so retailers also need to change themselves to cop up with pace. They need to change their business modal both offline and online. Smart retailers need to invest in Omni channel capabilities to beat the effects of covid 19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has affected whole fashion industry from top to bottom & from small retails to big companies. They need to update their strategy, business modal and ways to reach customers. Technology can also help in easy transition; it can define how brands build trust, collaborate with their supply chain partners and empower them to deliver on-time, to a high quality.

Artificial Intelligence is a key player of modern technology and is now being used in almost every field. Companies are using AI to maximize their supply chain, which helps in improving quality and sustainable network. They also need to focus on safety protocols to ensure that everyone related to the supply chain is safe.

Technology also helps in maintaining stocks. It helps in optimizing machines used in production. New models like "pre-order" and "3D sampling" are the new ways companies are using. For example, our new dead stock material initiative enables factories to sell fabric from previous orders that may have been cancelled, to work on new orders with shorter lead times.

Conclusion

The fashion industry has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak on every level from retailers to supply chains. A large number of retail stores have been closed. In most part of the country production units have been affected as well and in whole it affected the demand and supply. Large organizations are trying to save their profits which have affected workers and their wages. Popular Brands that are located on high and popular streets have closed their stores/outlets due to high rents and expenses. However, customers are shifted from offline to online ways. This unique set of circumstances can hopefully bring about a positive change in the fashion industry that has been needed for years. The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of the carbon emission and drying water source. Fashion industry was overproducing before the pandemic. It can be hoped that the time we have spent indoors will make us more conscious of its harmful impacts. COVID-19 pandemic has offered enough time and enough learning for the fashion industry to slow down & re-evaluate industry practices.

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PASSION FOR INDIVIDUALITY AND SELF-IDENTITY AMONG MODERN INDIAN WOMEN POET

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Abstract

The post-independence era is marked by women's search for their own identity. This is one of the remarkable features of literature penned by Modern Indian women writers. Our constitution has imparted many rights to women such as right to equality of opportunity, rights equal to men regarding marriage and divorce and liberty of education and expression. But the condition of women did not improve much. In spite of all types of progress, women are even today humiliated and harassed in homes as well as at public and work places. Ours is a male-dominated society and women are sexually colonized and biologically subjugated by men everywhere. Now several women poets in India and abroad compel attention by their works. We can see their passion for individuality as a movement towards self-identity and freedom, freedom from all old and out-dated customs and traditions which are painfully traumatic in their effects on women. This paper aims to highlight it in proper manner.

Keywords- Marked, Remarkable, Equality of Opportunity, Humiliated, Harassed, Colonized, Subjugated, Customs and Traditions

The post-independence era is marked by women's search for their own identity. This is one of the remarkable features of literature penned by Modern Indian women writers. It is ironic that in India where goddesses are worshipped by millions of men, a large number of women are still harassed by their husbands at home, by colleagues at work places and by corrupt-minded people on public places. This is why a girl child is still considered burden on the family. In this reference Clara Nubile, in "The Danger of Gender" (2003), writes about what does it mean to be a woman in modern India?:

"Being a woman in modern India means to be entrapped into the inescapable cage of being a woman – wife – mother.... A woman cannot exist outside the boundaries of married life and motherhood, otherwise she is perceived as useless and unworthy according to traditional Indian views.... Indian women do not appear to have their independent role in society. Moreover, they must become a male appendix in order to have a role. Indian women are thus linked by male-definitions, sex-segregation patterns... Individualism is considered a western perversion and female individual space is unacceptable and inconceivable".¹ (Clara Nubile, 2003)

The position of Indian women is worse than it appears. They suffer a lot at the hands of men but still they are struggling for their rights. Ours is a male-dominated society and women are sexually colonized and biologically subjugated by men everywhere. As Sarah Grimble observes:

*“Man has subjugated woman to his will, used as a means to promote his selfish gratification, to minister to his sensual pleasure, to be instrumental in promoting his comfort He has done all he could do to debase and enslave her mind.”*²(Sarah Grimble, 1970)

But now-a-days women are becoming aware of this fact that their inferiority is not ordained in Heaven, it is a man made construct which can be deconstructed. Women have now realized that the system of patriarchy which existed since a long time, no longer serves the needs of the rapidly changing society. The woman of today has courage to express her essentially feminine sensibility, frankly, honestly and sincerely. We are celebrating ‘Woman’s Day’ and ‘Mother’s Day’ to show the tremendous change in women’s position, but the celebration is not sufficient to change the mentality of male-dominated society. ‘Women’s Day’ should be more than a slogan for women’s rights. It is the heading of an article published on March 21st, 2008 in “The Times of India”, New Delhi. Mita Ghosh writes:

*“A day – long celebration of a woman’s supposedly special status in society hardly justifies the other 364 days of wrong doing towards women.”*³(Mita Ghosh, 2008)

It is true, too, that we can’t compensate 364 days’ insults, abuses, physical and mental tortures by one day’s honour and respect.

*“Women of every race are the only discriminated group with no territory, no country of their own not even a neighborhood. In a patriarchy a poor man’s house may be his castle but even a rich woman’s body is not her own. Somewhere in our lives, each of us needs a free place, a little psychic territory”.*⁴(Iqbal Kaur, 2005)

But with the dawn of the new millennium, the modern Indian woman has started protesting against this masculine dominion. She is standing strongly to prove that she is free, liberated and assertive. The man does not understand or rather ignores her concerns, interests and ambitions. Literature proved the best medium for her to express emotions and advocate ideas as it has a unique power of transcending all barriers of time and space. The manner in which it treats a particular theme and invests it with a universal meaning, binds the strangest of the people with the remotest of the places. It delineates the inner-life and subtle impersonal relationships of the characters in a subtle and sensible way. It records dreams and desires, fears and furies, facts and fiction in its minutest details to soothe and soften mankind in the hours of loneliness, agony and anguish.

The modern Indo-Anglian women writers are mapping new heights today with passion for individuality and self-identity, and are breaking new grounds for them and the new generation. Their protagonists are setting new trends in the society. Writers like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Manju Kapur, Shobha De, Kamla Das, Mamta Kalia, M. Silgado, Eunice de Souza, Imtiaz Dharkar and Smita Agarwal are firmly advocating individuality and self-identity in their writings. They vividly delineate the pains and sufferings of women in united families. They plead that sex-exploitation, hypocrisy, traditional expectations of the family, obligations to society and snatching away of the individual freedom only results in identity crisis. They don’t want to tolerate any underhand dealings in the field of love and have no inhibitions in giving due place to sexuality and the demands of body, mind and heart.

In the present paper, I have tried to show the causes and consequences of the passion for individuality and self-identity among modern Indo-Anglian women writers. The majority of post-independence women poetry reflects this passion a lot. Here, I have taken Kamala Das, Mamta Kalia and Imtiaz Dharkar to discuss in detail their passion for individuality. Kamala Das, as Bruce King observes, *“is a natural poet with an excellent feeling for sound rhythm, phrasing, image, symbol, word play and drama.”*⁵(Bruce King, 1987) While H. M. Williams in his survey of Indo-Anglian literature maintains that her poems succeed *“because of the identity of feeling and structure.”*⁶(H. M. Williams, 1974) She has been a versatile genius who has presented woman in many roles as

wife, beloved, mother, street-walker, lovelorn, ecstatic, despondent, hoping, despairing, whoring, enduring, caught up in the vortex of her passions.

Kamala Das was born in 1934 in a village of south Kerala and belonged to a well-reputed family. Despite the highly intellectual family set-up, she received only a negligible amount of formal education. She was forbidden even to complete her matriculation and an early marriage was forced on her. But there were so many problems in her married life and it proved a failure. She says:

“If I had not learnt to write how would I have written away my loneliness or grief? Garnering them within, my heart would have grown heavy as a vault, one that only death might open a release then I would not be able to feel or sense....” (Iqbal Kaur, 2005)

Writing for her became the best way of attacking society, which expected total surrender and total silence on the part of women. She further says:

*“All the pain unexpressed and the sad tales left untold, made me write recklessly and in protest.”*⁸ (Iqbal Kaur, 2005)

In her marriage, she failed to find that fulfillment which a woman craves for. It had been a hollow relationship and the result was frustration and disillusionment that colored all her poetry. She expressed her distaste for the marriage and told the world that women are not mere toys in the hands of men, rather they are also individuals with their own preferences. She rejected the male-dominance with a view to achieve freedom and equality with man. She is displeased with the kind of social conditioning and gender stereotyping a woman is given since girlhood. She feels that it is the gender discrimination and certain predetermined male defined roles imposed on girls that construct her feminine identity.

*“Dress in sarees, be girl
Be wife, they said. Be embroiderer, be cook,
Be a quarreler with servants. Fit in. Oh,
Belong, cried the categorizers.”*

-‘An Introduction’

Her resentment against institutionalized marriage and its enforced cohabitation comes across sharply in a poem like ‘Of Calcutta’ in which she questions the very foundation of such unwilling alliances:

*“I was sent away, to protect a family’s
Honour, to save a few cowards, to defend some
Abstractions, sent to another city to be....
A relative’s wife a walkie-talkie one to
Warm his bed at night.”*

Das records her despair, discomfiture and frustration in majority of her poems. In ‘Dance of the Eunuchs’, the opening poem of “Summer in Calcutta”, she represents; the vacant ecstasy, unfulfilled love, suppressed desire of a woman, and a gulf between the outer simulated passion and the inner sexual anesthesia or emotional drought within herself. She finds her self-esteem bruised and her very soul fragmented. The dilemma in Das is compounded and intensified by the conflicting and inevitable roles that she has to play as a creative writer and as a daughter/wife/mother. In her love poems she attempts to convert the loss into pure presence of joy.

Mrs. Das was a courageous and significant poet who had learnt to ignore what people will think and say. She was a thorough investigator of all the sensuous feelings that a woman’s mind is capable of experiencing. In ‘The Looking Glass’ the poetess gives directions to fellow women in the light of her own experiences. She tells her audience that fullness is achieved only when a woman makes maximum use of her sex potentials.

*“Getting a man to love you is easy
..... stand nude before the glass with him
So that he sees himself the stronger one
And believes it so, and you so much more
Softer; younger; lovelier.....
Gift him what makes you woman, the scent of
Long hair; the musk of sweat between the breasts,
The warm shock of menstrual blood, and all your
Endless female hungers.”*

Her poetry is naturally Indian and by creating her own verse–universe, she has really enhanced the glory of Indian English literature at the national and International level. As Bruce King perceptively remarks:

*“Kamala Das’s most remarkable achievement, however is writing in Indian English often her vocabulary idioms, choice of verbs and some syntactical constructions are part of what has been termed the Indianisation of English. This is an accomplishment. It is important in the development of a national literature that writers free themselves from the linguistic standards of their colonizers and create a literature based on local speech; and this is especially important for women writers.”*⁹(Bruce King, 1987)

Undoubtedly, Kamala Das was such a great poet who left no stone unturned for the accomplishment of her poetic task and also to unravel the agonies of man–woman relationship of the modern age. Her poetic excellences can be seen in the total impression which Kamala Das’s poetry produces with a bold, ruthless honesty tearing passionately at conventional attitudes to reveal the quintessential woman within. Many critics charge Kamala Das and her poetry obscene but what she has written is the reality of her life. *“Women are not born; they are made”*¹⁰(Semone de Bevoir, 1965) said the great French feminist Simone de Beauvoir in her thought provoking book *“The Second Sex”*. As she advances in her poetic journey she disentangles herself from her gender identify and feels greater need to prove herself as an ‘individual’, and she has done this with great passion and vigour. Finally, we agree to Devendra Kohli who says:

*“Kamala Das is essentially a poet of the modern Indian woman’s ambivalence giving expression to it more nakedly than any other Indian woman with the possible exception of Amrita Pritam in Punjabi.”*¹¹(Devendra Kohli,1980)

Mamta Kalia, the next modern Indian poetess, who dared to speak out her mind and pronounce the anxieties, agonies and angers in high tones about herself in reference to Indian women. In her poetry, she has also given a shocking treatment to the orthodoxy of traditions. Like Kamala Das, Mamta Kalia has also many causes which fanned her passion for individuality and self-identity. Restrictions and expectations, the male–dominance and rotten social values and customs made her a rebel.

She was born in a talented and educated family as her father was a teacher and her uncle a well–known poet of the progressive movement. She has fairly liberal views, and so generation gap between Kalia and her father can easily be seen in her first volume of poems *“Tribute to Papa and Other Poems”*. She did not like to fulfill the expectations of her tradition–bound father. Normally, a woman does not possess her own identity. But now the modern woman is becoming aware of her own identity and strength. She no more likes to repress her desires. Mamta Kalia too does not care for anybody, even her father, as she writes in ‘Tribute to Papa’:

*“Who cares for you, Papa?
Who cares for your clean thought, clean
words, clean teeth?
..... I am seriously thinking of
Disowning you, Papa.”*

Like Kamala Das, she has poured her frustrations and other restrictions and expectations imposed on her in her poetry. Sometimes in adolescence, which is called as a period of transition, too much restrictions and expectations make the child either obedient or disobedient. I feel that this psychology made her to rebel against her father in her first volume “Tribute to Papa and Other Poems”. She could not revolt and oppose at that time when her father wished her to be like Rani Lakshmi Bai, but her inner-self wanted to disobey. To express her feelings she chose poetic-genre and filled it with her fervour. She writes:

“Who cares for you, Papa?...

Who wants to be an angel like you?

Who wants it?

You are an unsuccessful man, Papa.”

–‘Tribute to Papa’

In her married life, her husband’s cold treatment towards his responsibilities and household chores forced her to revolt against him. Besides, her relationship with her husband became lifeless because of their ego-clashes. Her inner-self is disconcerted and conflict-ridden. Through her poetic efforts, she attempts to find some resolve for her inner conflicts and thus prove her self-identity. Kalia’s poetry is not only about the frustrations and sufferings of married life; it is also about the happy-times what they shared with each other. As she misses her husband in poem ‘Sunday Song’:

“I wonder at the emptiness

Of this Sunday and of all Sundays.

.....when you were here.

We’d rise late,

Sip each other’s tea,

bathe together,.....

We’d come back, make love again, call it a day.”

On the contrary, she reveals her anger in poem ‘Dubious Lovers’:

“Every time I open my mouth,

You feel let down,

and every time you discuss your pay scale,

I try hard not to frown.

If this goes on where will we end?”

Thus, whatever she has written in her poems, gives glimpse of her passion for individuality and self-identity.

Intiaz Dharker, born in Lahore, was raised and educated in Britain, and now lives in India. She is also a versatile genius being a documentary film-maker, a poet and also an artist. Her poetry reveals her frustrations and tensions due to the restrictions and oppression forced on women. She voiced against the discrimination in our society. However, *“discrimination against women in the foetus, proceeds through systematic undernourishment in childhood and deprivation of education in adolescence and ends in domestic violence and bride burning.”*¹² (Anita Singh, 2003)

Dharker’s passion for individuality and self-identity can clearly be seen in her poems as well as in her drawings. Dharker’s first collection of poems is “Purdah” that is an Urdu word for the veil. The ‘Purdah’ is used not only as a veil but it is also a powerful symbol employed by mankind to signify the domination of man over woman. She conveys the irony when she says:

“Purdah is a kind of safety,

A body finds a place to hide”

–‘Purdah I’

Actually, she wants to say that ‘purdah’ is a mode to repress woman, even they are not allowed to express their feelings. It is like a cover to hide the identity of a woman as an individual human being. Dharker is bold enough to raise her voice against all the suppressions and humiliations done against women in our society. To prove oneself as an individual is not an easy task, especially for women in our society. Everybody can not dare to raise her voice, hence in such conditions, poetess like Imtiaz Dharker and others become the mouthpiece of women who are compelled to be ‘deaf and dumb’ against all the tortures and sufferings. The poetess refers sarcastically the traditional manner of marriage. She says that the custom of ‘mehar’, the money assured or given to a girl as a security against divorce or the misfortunes of widowhood, is nothing but a business.

*“They have been sold and bought,
the girls I knew.” –‘Purdah’*

The poetry like this discloses the poetess’s search and craving for freedom. The constraints of the purdah and their destruction of the individual’s thinking and intelligence are referred to sarcastically:

*“Unwilling virgins who had been taught,
especially in this stranger’s land, to bind
their brightness tightly round,
whatever they might wear,
in the purdah of the mind.” –‘Purdah’*

The word ‘unwilling virgins’ is sufficient to show Dharker’s inner urge for liberty. The unmarried girls are forced to bow themselves against the male dominated society and crushed for the sake of customs and traditions. The following lines from the poem ‘Tissue’ show the poetess’s wish to change the present heavy things into light and desirable shapes.:

*“If buildings were paper, I might
feel their drift, see how easily
they fall away on a sight,
a shift in the direction of the wind.” –‘Tissue’*

In the poem ‘Grace’, Dharker expresses her anger for not being allowed into mosques. But an old man from whom the narrator would expect word of wisdom, accuses her harshly of making the Masjid impure by coming inside, hinting at the state of menstruation, he spits out his words with contempt:

*“A woman comes
with her eyes concealed.
She trails the month behind her.
We are defiled...
God the compassionate, the Merciful,
Created man from clots of blood.” –‘Grace’*

The poetess resents the conservative attitude and comments with irony on the grounds for considering women impure during menstruation. It is strange and humorous too for the menstruation is the natural procedure that shows that the woman is healthy and capable of producing children. But the woman is deprived even from worshipping the God and this irony is enhanced in the poem by the fact that a woman is humiliated with contempt in the abode of God who is compassionate and Merciful. In her poetry, there is a desire to liberate women from injustices and inequalities surrounding them and treating them as custodians of old and out-dated traditional values.

Imtiaz Dharker is the foremost and the most rebellious poet to be reckoned with in the post-independence generation of Indian women poets writing in English. She brings forth, through her poetry and drawings, the altered attitude of the modern woman who is not just a corpus of flesh and blood, but one who has a heart and a mind. Inside the body, a woman does have a highly sensitive and effervescent heart, which cannot be ignored.

Conclusion

To conclude, it can be said that apart from these women poets, there are several other women poets in India and abroad, whose works compel attention. We can see their passion for individuality as a movement towards self-identity and freedom, freedom from all old and out-dated customs and traditions which are painfully traumatic in their effects on women.

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AESTHETIC MOVEMENT IN MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract

The term 'Aesthetics' derives from the Greek word for sensation or perception, 'aesthesis'. It came into prominence as a label for the study of artistic experience with Alexander Baumgarten. The word 'Aesthetic' means the branch of philosophy that studies the principles of beauty especially in Art where a person has love and understanding of Art and beautiful things. It also means enjoyment and appreciation of beauty, which aimed at enjoyment of Art and Art's sake, without any reference to its moral effects. 'Aestheticism' or the 'Aesthetic Movement' was a European phenomenon in the arts, including literature during the second half of the nineteenth century that had its chief philosophical headquarters in France. The aim of the author in this paper is to present the Aesthetic Movement in modern English literature.

Keywords– Modernism, Aestheticism, English literature, culture, society, morality.

'Aestheticism' or the 'Aesthetic Movement' was a European phenomenon in the arts, including literature during the second half of the nineteenth century that had its chief philosophical headquarters in France. Aestheticism is particularly associated with Aubrey Beardsley, Ernest Dowson, John Davidson, Arthur Symons, Oscar Wilde and Max Beerbohm in 1860. Among English artists Burne-James, D. G. Rossetti, William Morris, James Macneill, Whistler and Aubrey Beardsley were the main exponents of Aestheticism. The prominent modern authors as W. B. Yeats, T. E. Hulme, T. S. Eliot and in the theory of the new critics has great influence of Aestheticism. Walter Pater is the best exponent of the movement.

Aestheticism, A literary and artistic movement of the nineteenth century emerged in France and developed in England and other European countries. Unlike the mere devotion to beauty that characterizes aestheticism in other historical periods nineteenth century, Aestheticism generally held that life should be lived as art and that art should be independent of social, political or moral teaching.

The 'Aesthetic movement' came into being in 1880's. Its leaders declared that the artist's religion should be the creation and worship of beauty. In practice, the aesthetes adopted in literature and sentimental archaism as the ideals of beauty. They also adopted affectation of speech and manner and strange kinds of dresses. They borrowed the idea of beauty worship from John Ruskin. Then they adopted the French doctrine of 'art for art's sake'. They also adopted the doctrine of Hedonism according to which pleasure is regarded as the chief good or the proper end of action. Mixing these things to other, they propounded their literary faith which is called English literary Aestheticism. Its propagation came to be called Aesthetic movement.

The cult of beauty, the revival of the doctrine that the real purpose of art is for the sake of art, is known by the name of Aestheticism in literature. To Aesthetes art has no moral purpose – it must afford pure joy, exclusive delight termed as aesthetic pleasure. Didacticism and moral teaching had overburdened the art and literature in the eighteenth and the nineteenth century. The eighteenth century for literature was the age of prose, reason, moderation, common sense as also of neo-classicism and as classicist strictly imitated the classical pattern, forms of ancient art and literature and employed literature as a means to reform people through moral teachings. Pope satirised the manners and behavior, fables and fobberies, falsehood and corruption of the so called genteel-society of his age. He laughed at him, likewise, the pens and minds of the Victorians were also tied, with the tendency that art is for the sake of life. Carlyle biblicalized literature too excessively, Mathew Arnold condemned poetry in particular and literature in general for the lack of high seriousness and high seriousness Mathew Arnold used for morality.

‘Aesthetic’ is taken from a Greek word that means perceptible through sense. The word aesthetics was made quite popular by Walter Pater. So Aestheticism was a movement in English literature that stood for the sake of art. It was certainly a reaction against sordid realism matter-of-factism and didacticism in contemporary literature. It did not consider art as a platform either of moral teaching or of propaganda. To Ruskin the worship of beauty was a religion. It fitted well with the demand of moral and social ideas with which the Victorian literature is fully saturated. It tended to health and balance. Already in the pre-Raphaelites, in spite of the pious and medieval tone, which their imaginations assumed, a very different attitude was fore-shadowed. Feeling their influence, Swinburne glorified the beautiful with a reckless and blasphemous flavor as if adoring it out of enmity to the useful abjects. So through Swinburne as also through many other channels, this French doctrine of Art’s sake was creeping into England. Naturalism became similar to Aestheticism, when it regarded the artistry of artist outside of and above moral.

Broadly, speaking Aestheticism may be taken to mean the love and worship of beauty for the sake of beauty. It is certainly not art for the sake of life but rather art for the Art’s sake. It also denotes that art is self-sufficient as also that form is more important than essence. The aesthetes subordinated morality to art. The cult of aestheticism can be traced further back to the four great German philosophers and poets, namely Kant, Goethe, Schelling and Schiller. Although the term ‘Aesthetics’ was used for the first time by Baum Garten in his book *Aesthetics* (1750) yet these fours advocate the cult of beauty.

The aesthetes knocked down utilitarianism and held that art was to be pitted against sensualism, emotionalism, moralism and didacticism. Art should not aim at ordinary pleasure which is subjective, as also momentary; it should aim at aesthetic pleasure the trinity of truth, goodness and beauty, again it should belong to the world of imagination. Because “Aesthetic judgment in neither relative nor absolute; it is neither completely individual, as this would mean an anarchy and complete frustration of criticism, nor it is absolute in the sense that we can apply established external norms.”

Schiller is regarded to be the father of the doctrine art for art’s sake. According to him, an artistic work must meet be a free aesthetic activity instead of being guided by any utilitarian consideration. To him form and matter were as important as spirit. Goethe believed in the entirety, the organic wholeness and order of art. He also stressed the necessity of art as an independent organism.

Besides that aforesaid forerunners of Aestheticism, the literary aesthetes include Walter Pater, Edgar Allen Poe, Theophile, Gautier and Oscar Wilde. Walter Pater is the master of the movement who teaches the movement with an intellectual zeal in his scholarly writing. Edgar Allen Poe is the author of the well-known creations, namely, “The philosophy of composition” and the poetic principles, which sounded a new note in the history of aesthetics. In his view didacticism is the arch-enemy of all art. In his poetic principles he ruthlessly attacks “the heresy of the didactic.”

In the eyes of Poe, the conflict between art and morality is two thousand five hundred years old. Plato banished poets from his ideal Republic as he was opposed to poetry written intellectual and ethical view point. Aristotle,

though considerably, differing from Plato, stressed nevertheless, the moral value of poetry, Phillip Sidney, following in the footsteps of Plato, upheld the moral doctrine of poetry, though he maintained a balance, when he said that poem ought to teach and delight. Spenser too believed that poetry should teach as well as delight. This balance of teaching and delight was also maintained by Dryden. When he maintained that delight is the Chief, it not the only, end of poetry. Dr. Johnson too sought the teaching of 'moral truth' in a work of art. Even Wordsworth maintained that every great poet is a teacher – 'I wish either to be considered as a teacher, or as nothing.' While Shelley recommended a synthesis of philosophy, morality and art. Keats was however, partly an aesthete, as he loved the cult of beauty through he did not differentiate beauty from truth.

The Victorian age is an age of prophets and teachers. The poets and critics are "all moralists in one way of another. Although they have different conceptions of the moral status of poetry, each gives us unusual force and meaning to the word moral." According to Arnold poetry "interprets by expressing with inspired convictions, the ideas and laws of the inward world of man's moral profundity of poetry." The moral teaching of Carlyle, Arnold and Ruskin possess the characteristics note of Victorianism. To Victorians moral considerations had an edge over all other considerations.

Aestheticism in this way was a slow reaction against the school of Art for the sakes of morality, rather than being a sudden development in England. The cult of beauty is present in Keats, Tennyson and the pre-Raphaelite poets. The Aesthetes were lovers of sensations sensuousness. Pater sought to treat life in the spirit of art. According to him the function of art is not to teach lessons, or enforce rules, or even to stimulate us to noble ends; but rather to withdraw our thoughts even for a little while from the mere machinery of life; to fix them with suitable emotions, on the spectacle of those great facts in man's life which no machinery affects. According to Pater, a work of art can be said to be successful only if it affords a unique impression of pleasures. Oscar Wilde, the leader of the aesthetic movement and the disciple of Pater, pushes his master's academic doctrine to an excessive and cynical display. In his view "emotions for the sake of emotion is the aim of art, and emotion for the sake of action is the aim of life." According to him, we use an artistic work not for aiming utility or moral consideration, because, "No artist has ethical sympathies. An ethical sympathy in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style." He declares, 'art is neither moral immoral but amoral.'

James Macneil Whistler, the forerunner of Oscar Wilde made a great contribution to aestheticism. In his 'Ten o'clock Lecture' he maintains that art is "selfishly occupied with her own perfection only having no desire to teaching and finding the beautiful in all conditions and in all times." According to him "a poet cannot be a philosopher or moralist or teacher or critic, his glory was to be an artist only, successfully presenting his vision of life, however untruthful or immoral that vision may be." To him artist was a dreamer and creator of beautiful dreams for his enjoyment. He had no connection with the public nor the public had any claims on him. According to this view "art happens and it is merely a natural phenomenon and the artist is as helpless in the presence of his art as a fascinated person in the presence of a natural phenomenon. Following Pater strictly, Oscar Wilde became the most enthusiastic leader of the art for art's sake movement, maintaining that "there is no such thing as moral or immoral. Books are well written or badly written; that is all."

James M. Neille Whistler was also great exponent of the movement who shot himself into fame by his crusading zeal against the moralistic view of art set forth by Ruskin. The name of George Moore, Swinburne, Virginia Woolf may also be included in the list of aesthetic. All of them were opposed to Ruskin's view that the artist is bound to deal with moral questions or that a beautiful work of art cannot fail to have an ennobling effects.

Conclusion

The aesthetes were the great lovers of beauty, who studied art in isolation from society. Poetry for the sake of poetry, art for the sake of art were their slogans. They were impressionistic, who hated the governance of art by rules. They were romanticists, who cared a while for either the society or moral function of art. They sought an

escape from the world of sordid and mundance reality to a world of beauty, romance or art. In their view the artist wrote not for other people but for himself and he was bound by no morality, no duty, no responsibility to society because he is above everything the undisputed monarch of his visionary realm.

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TRANQUILLIZING IMPACT OF LITERATURE ON MAN

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Abstract

In this fast-paced contemporary world, stress is engulfing our peace of mind. There are many ways to reduce stress. One of the best ways to brush off stress from our daily life is to read literature. Literature serves as an effective tool to manage stress and creates a placid effect on our agitated minds. Literature helps us to cure the maladies of the mind. It unplugs us for some time from the persistent connectivity which is the chief cause of strain these days. Literature transports the reader into a world of fancy far from the harsh realities which exert mental pressure. Literature gives a better understanding of life and its problems, which helps us to cope with the minor stresses of life. Reading literature provides catharsis which brings emotional relief and provides a release to the repressed feelings which lead to mental strain. Good literature is replete with humour, optimism and hope, it dispenses consolation to the distressed minds.

Keywords- stress, anxiety, stressor, coping skills, literature, mental peace, reading

It is an ironic fact that in the present age of advanced technology and unlimited information access, a good majority of people are enduring stress to eliminate stress from their lives. Stress is so firmly interwoven in their lives that it has become an inseparable thread of their life. It is a term that has acquired a permanent place in the vocabulary of people all around the world. It is used intuitively for any kind of mental pressure, strain, worry, tension or anxiety. The sense of the word 'stress' switches from person to person. Its connotation changes with the change of circumstances or conditions. "In a general sense, stress refers to a collection of physiological, emotional, behavioural and cognitive reaction that occurs in response to environmental demands." (Broman-Fulks 01)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared 'stress' as a 'health epidemic' of the twenty-first century. Hans Selye who is recognized as the 'Father of Stress' has defined stress as "the non-specific response of the body to any demand." According to psychological studies, there are three stages of stress, the first stage is the 'alarm' stage, it is when you feel some kind of pressure or strain due to something, the second stage is of 'resistance' when the stress continues to affect the person and the body strives to counter the constant stress. The third stage is 'exhaustion' which arrives when the stress is drawn out for a long time resulting in the body's immune system becoming weak leading to numerous health problems.

Stress is like a burden which most of the people nowadays are carrying as a backpack on their shoulders willy nilly. And it is taking a heavy toll on their emotional and mental well-being as many people are not able to cope with even mild stresses. To cope with stress either one has to fight it out i.e. overcome it by adopting different techniques or by keeping oneself away from any such thing which might cause stress. Walter Bradford Cannon, a psychologist

working at Harvard University has coined the term ‘fight or flight’ to describe a person’s response to threats. It has been widely observed that; “Despite considerable research into stress and anxiety and seemingly innumerable approaches to stress management and reduction, stress is an unavoidable fact of life. It’s the human condition and always has been. We all live with and cannot escape from uncertainties, difficulties, illness, ageing, death and an inability to fully control life events.” (Stahl and Goldstein 03)

The main cause of the accelerating stress these days is the fast pacing modern lifestyle and the hurry and worry of day to day life. Everyone is busy round the clock in routine chores; fulfilling responsibilities; meeting deadlines of work; viewing social networking sites-checking, e-mails; chatting; visiting fitness and lifestyle sites etc. Being always in a mode of hurry automatically generates worry. Moreover taking a glimpse of another person’s success or enjoyment on social media creates a kind of pressure to compete and smash glass ceilings, making a person overburdened with work. This intensified work pressure and a desire for perfection in all walks of life suck a lot of energy. People are dragged aimlessly, trying to do so much without any focus or aim. All this leads to a feeling of breakdown making a person listless and fatigued.

There are a plethora of other causes also which hype the stress levels, like economic instability; chronic illness; death of a loved one; noise and visual pollution; peppering of information both positive and negative. Over-exposure to these makes us anxious. The transience and fleeting nature of life amplify the anxiety. Besides this endeavouring to meet our own as well as other’s expectations adds to the pile of our stress. Our mind gets astounded by the striding gait of life and pounding of information which makes us vulnerable to mental pressure, irritation, fear, restlessness and other such symptoms. This stress can be minor or major. A large majority of us suffer from minor stress which springs from our mad rush to finish our daily activities. If we ignore the initial alarm of stress which rings in the form of irritation and mental strain and we allow it to continue for a long time without hampering it, it will wear out our body and become troublesome.

It is therefore imperative to take care of this jeopardizing stress. We should immediately take action to cure stress without any dilly dally. Any kind of delay in curing our stress might lead to indeterminate effects on our body, mind and behaviour. Uncurbed stress might breed many problems like obesity, heart trouble, diabetes, indigestion, insomnia, joint pain, skin diseases and many psychological complications. There are many studies and researches in the field of psychology to prove this fact. The networking of mind and body is interlaced and interdependent. If the mind suffers the body is affected and if the body suffers the mind is also strained. Hence we should identify the cause of our stress i.e. stressor and try to get rid of it to enjoy the awe and wonder of life which is so valuable.

There are innumerable tools to eliminate this stress which causes such harmful effects on our body and mind and devastates our placid life. One such tool is Literature. Reading literary works creates a very soothing impact on the mind. Even the psychologists are trying to prove it.

A study by the University of Sussex showed that sixty minutes of reading can help reduce stress levels. Jin (1992) found that after a group of 24 healthy adults participated in a stressful task then read for sixty minutes, they experienced a significant reduction in anxiety, heart rate and blood pressure.

It is an undeniable fact that stress has become a part of our life and we cannot become completely stress-free. But we can try to keep our stress at bay or at least reduce our stress level. The best way to do it is to manage it. In this paper, I propose that literature can serve as a handy tool to manage the stress of our daily life. Reading our favourite piece of literature can decrease the symptoms of stress which disturb our routine life.

Literature helps us to unplug from the persistent connectivity with social media and from the volcanic eruptions of information and technology which creeps into our mind and disturb its calmness. We have involved ourselves so much in the hustle and bustle of life that we have severed ourselves from God and nature. The more we are getting closer to materialism, the further we are moving away from nature. William Wordsworth states this reality in his sonnet, *The World is Too Much With Us* :

*“The world is too much with us: late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!”*

Literature teaches us that taking refuge in nature can cure many maladies of the mind. It has a calming effect on the distressed souls, who are tired of running the rat race.

Reading good literature gives us lessons about life. We learn how to deal with various situations in life from the experiences of the characters of a book. We also learn to infer the thoughts of our fellow beings; we learn compassion and empathy which help to provide good and positive thoughts in our minds. Now the question arises which literature is good? The answer is aptly given by the great critic and writer. Dr Samuel Johnson in his *Preface to Shakespeare*. He writes that “the only test of literary greatness is the length of duration and continuance of esteem.” Thus, that literature which has passed the test of time, which has a universal theme, which is based on an idea which is of some enduring significance, which gives pleasure and which is written in an exquisite language can be called good literature. Reading a good book can captivate our consciousness and make us ignore the strains of day to day existence.

Literature can help to create some breathing space for us. If we disconnect ourselves from this whirling world and engross ourselves in some good book of our choice we can escape from the cruel realities of this world into the world of fancy. John Keats, the celebrated English romantic poet expresses this truth faithfully in his *Ode to the Nightingale* :

*“And with thee fade away into the forest dim :
Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget
What thou among the leaves hast never known,
The weariness, the fever and the fret
Here, where men sit and hear each other groan;
Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last grey hairs,
Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and dies,
Where but to think is to be full of sorrow.”* (Keats 58)

By reading such romantic poems we learn how to get away from the grinding realities which bother us. For some time we can escape into the world of imagination and forget our problems. Books especially novels; transport us into the world of imagination where the story is going on. This point has been enunciated strongly by the renowned novelist Paulo Coelho who said in an interview: “The book is a film, that takes place in the mind of the reader. That’s why we go to movies and say, ‘Oh the book is better’.” and Harper Lee writes in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*; “Beautiful things floated around in his dreamy head . . . he preferred his own twilight world.” (Lee 146)

Reading fiction enables the reader to forget his loneliness. Even if we have no good friends and no one to interact, we can find friends amongst the characters of fiction. We can easily associate ourselves with these characters, live in their world for some time, share their joys and sorrows, their adventures and experiences and overlook our realities which are becoming a source of stress for us. This association with the characters of the book breaks the monotony of the life of the reader and adds colour to life even though for a short while for instance if you are reading R. K. Narayan’s *Swami and Friends* you will find yourself in ‘Malgudi’ (the fictitious town) spending time with Swami and his friends. Fiction also teaches us much about life. World famed writers like Leo Tolstoy through their novels give a better understanding of life. His famous novel *Anna Karenina* opens with the lines, “All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” (Tolstoy 19 Vol. 1) Further in the

novel he writes; "That's what people were given intelligence for- to get rid of things that upset them." (Tolstoy 380 Vol. 2)

Empathy, sympathy, compassion are those values that we learn from good books. If we can perceive other person's pain and difficulties, we can realize the behavioural problems of people whom we come across in our lives. This will help to lessen the stress which is caused due to the awkward and unsocial behaviour of the other person. Through literature, we come in contact with fellow human beings belonging to different socio-economic backgrounds; different communities and races, different temperaments and personalities; different emotional backgrounds. When we immerse ourselves in the lives of the characters we improve our efficiency to understand people in a much better way. This fosters harmony and empathy and reduces much of our emotional and mental stress. Harper Lee rightly writes; "You never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them." (Lee 282)

Another great advantage of reading Literature is that it improves our coping skills. We read about the characters caught in difficult situations. We are also exposed to several causes of scuffle and conflict between people. And from their encounters, we learn how to manage the struggles and troubles of our life. If you read a novel like *The Old Man and the Sea*, you are motivated by the tough life of the old man. He faces all odds in trying situations and does not give up. Such novels teach us how to cope with our daily problems and keep away from tension. Nobel Laureate Ernest Hemmingway the author of the novel writes; "But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated." He further mentions "Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is." Like Hemmingway's old man we should consider that "Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready." and forget our past and not think of our future worries. This awareness will help us to cope with our present perturbation and prevent us from its adverse consequences like despair, depression and anxiety.

Aristotle the ancient Greek Philosopher in his work "Poetics" has discussed Catharsis which refers to the purification of emotions especially pity and fear. In literary works like tragedies, there is an emotional release that is experienced by the characters as well as the readers. Sophocles *Oedipus Rex* is an excellent example of Catharsis experienced by the main characters Oedipus and Jocasta. The purpose of Catharsis is to bring about some positive change. It brings relief from emotional distress and anguish. Thus reading tragedies also helps the readers to vent out their pent up feelings of pity and fear and feel light and relieved.

The prime aim of literature is to give aesthetic pleasure and entertain the readers. Literary text has the power to captivate the attention of its readers. If we are stressed, we just have to choose a book which suits our fancy and enjoy reading. When the mind gets involved in the book, we forget all the stressors of our life. Literature is a good means of entertainment also; it gives us relief from our daily routine tasks. When we are glued to the books and follow the plot carefully, we find ourselves involved in it. We feel amused after reading a thriller, mystery or comedy. This makes us dispose of our work pressure and improves our mental health. Literature makes our hearts dance with joy.

The quality of 'Humour' to create positive mental changes is a well-accepted fact. When we read a humorous literary text it serves as a stress relief medicine. Endorphins hormone is released by the brain which gives a feeling of joy and relaxes our mind. The experience of mirth and happiness calms the mind absorbing all the stress. Many books like Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* are replete with humour. Here is an example of her delightful and ironic humour. She portrays a funny scene between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet. Mrs. Bennet always complains of Mr. Bennet's failure to understand her nerves. Mr. Bennet gives a very hilarious response to this complaint: "You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these twenty years at least." (Austen 7)

Most of our anxiety surfaces because of the negative thoughts and foreboding. The fear of the unknown and unpredictable future lurks in our minds and breeds despair. Authors of creative writing dispense priceless insights

into agony and hope. Hope, as we all know is an ideal therapeutic tool. Reading literary texts full of hope and optimism is helpful for those who are engulfed by desolation and desperation. It does wonders and provides consolation to distressed minds. The poems of Browning are full of optimism. Height of optimism is revealed in this line from Pippa's Song: "God's in his Heaven/All's right with the world." Emily Dickinson conveys her views on hope in her poem, "Hope is the Thing with Feathers":

*"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all."*

Noted romantic poet P. B. Shelley highlights extreme optimism in these lines of his poem "Ode to the West Wind"; "O, wind, If winter comes can spring be far behind?"

The most remarkable thing about reading literature is that it is the best form of both mental and physical relaxation. After a hard day's work if we sit or lie down comfortably in the privacy of our room without any distraction from the outer world with a book that kindles our interest, we will surely experience the best form of mental repose. When we read our heart rate slows down and our stress level falls drastically leaving our mind composed. The fatigue vanishes within a few minutes. Paulo Coelho, the well-known writer of *The Alchemist* writes about the serene and cool effect of reading; "He told himself that he would have to start reading thicker books: they lasted longer and made more comfortable pillows." (Coelho 03)

"Reading and mental health is currently an identifiable and expanding field of research; What the field currently lacks, however, is a comprehensive recognition of its findings and a core consolidation of its insight: it lacks a centre." (Billington 2). Billington has also stated that reading is a kind of therapy to decrease the stress levels of the mind. This is best done by reading literary texts.

In *The Sonnet Cure: Renaissance Poetics to Romantic Prosaic*, Grace Farrington and Philip Davis trace the therapeutic value of Literature to Renaissance poetics. Samuel Daniel's *Defence of Rhyme* (1602) held that the poet made form out of human chaos through the creation of structured rhythmic patterns, a holdfast against disorder. George Puttenham in his *Art of English Poetry* (1589), drew a direct analogy between poet and physician; a poem offers cathartically, he said 'one short sorrowing' as 'the remedy of a long and grievous sorrow'. "These concerns were re-introduced into the modern lyric tradition." (Billington 3)

In the book *Reading and Mental Health*, the authors mention that the Victorian novel laid the foundation for Bibliotherapy. "The authors' contention here, however, is that Victorian realism's mission was to reach into the real life of the reader, transformatively. Literary realism, as it developed from Charles Dickens to George Eliot, it is argued, offers a model and rationale for modern-day reading therapies." (Billington 3)

Conclusion

It can be deduced that reading literature does wonders to a stressed person, it gives fresh life and strength. It transforms the frame of mind and provides delight and felicity. It breaks the monotony of daily regular life, boosts our spirits and adds hue and fancy to our life. Managing stress is important for our well-being and literature serves as a reliable tool to manage our stress. It helps to dismiss small stressors and imbibe a precious thing that is wisdom, which helps in making us emotionally strong and stable. Hence it can be asserted that literature has a tranquillizing impact on the fretted minds.

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LITERATURE AS A TOOL OF STRESS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

Listening and reading great literature is a pleasure and relaxation of mind. Whether it be poems, essays, novels or short stories; all these address human nature and conditions which affect the people. Through the study of Literature, we learn to be hopeful; we learn to be positive and we learn that life must be enjoyed to the fullest. Literature really; teaches us the life's beauty, mind's beauty and heart's beauty. Stress has become a common problem in our fast paced lives. It disturbs our everyday life by attaching the control centre of our body: the brain. Stress is, as someone calls it "The inability to decide what is important." Literature teaches us to live happily. It teaches us to appreciate the things we are blessed with and fight against the problems we face in life. It teaches us where, there is hope; there is a way. We can conclude that literature is a great tool for stress management. It diverts your mind from all the worries and sorrows and takes you to a world full of happiness and peace. Literature is considered as a mirror of society but in other sense, we can also call it a mirror of your heart. Literature helps you to remove your stress and lead pure and happy life.

Keywords- Life's beauty, Mind's beauty, Heart's beauty, Mirror of society, Peace of mind

What is Literature

Firstly, let us throw light on the meaning of literature. According to Robert Frost, "Literature is a performance in words." Another view holds that "literature has in it, a sense of entertaining display and provides pleasure in addition to the element of 'truth' involved."

Literature really gives a lot of happiness, love, joys and truth. Listening and reading great literature; it is a pleasure and relaxation of mind. Whether it be poems, essays, novels or short stories; all these address human nature and conditions which affect the people. Through the study of Literature, we learn to be hopeful; we learn to be positive and we learn that life must be enjoyed to the fullest. What is literature? These examples show—

*"What is this life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare"*

* * * * *

*"no time to see, when woods we pass,
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass,
no time to see, in broad daylight,
stream full of stars, like skies at night,*

*A poor life this, if full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare.”¹*

—W.H. Davies.

Literature really, teaches us the life’s beauty, mind’s beauty and heart’s beauty. When we learn from literature, there will be no stress in life.

What is Stress

Stress is the feeling of being unable to cope with mental or emotional pressure. It is a feeling of emotional or physical tension that makes you feel frustrated, angry, or nervous.

Stress has become a common problem in our fast placed lives. It disturbs our everyday life by attaching the control centre of our body: the brain. Stress is, as someone calls it “The inability to decide what is important.” When stress is on its heights, no medicine or exercise seems to work. Now a days stress has become an imperative part of our life. No one can lead his life without taking stress because of tough life’s problems. In all sphere of life we take stress on some minor issues as well as on major ones. No one got escape from this beast called stress. Even school going children are under stress for completing their assignments timely and for better scoring in exams. From children to aged man, primary students to Ph.D. scholars, common man to politicians; everyone is under stress to make their life best.

There are various causes that lead to stress i.e. financial problems, familial issues, overload of work or responsibilities, tiresome or over thinking about past that takes away even our presents and ruins the future. In these situations, we need someone or something that takes us on the track and lets us not be deprived of hope.

Literature as a Tool of Stress Management

In literature, we find infinite compositions that help us be back to hope and happiness. A lyric poet P.B Shelly says-

*“If winter comes,
Can spring be far behind?”²*

One of the most famous American poet “Robert Frost” through a short but fruitful poem “Dust of Snow” illustrates how a small incident can save our whole day from being ruined and help us to pull ourselves together—

*“the way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
of a day I had rued.”³*

Literature teaches us where, there is hope; there is a way. When stressful evils like worry, anxiety, pressure, tiresome and anger encircle a human brain and we feel lifeless; Literature takes us back to life by making us realize its beauty. Literature makes us count our blessings and teaches us to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of nature. It tells us—

*“A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
its loveliness increases: it will never
pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quit for us. and a sleep
full of sweet dreams, and health, and quit breathing.”⁴*

—John Keats

These lines of 'John Keats' from his poem 'Endymion'; one of the best pieces of literature, it creates among the readers the longing to appreciate and enjoy nature. The poem suggests that although the life is full of stress, sufferings and gloom; the existence of beautiful things on earth such as nature brings much required zeal and enthusiasm in our lives. Therefore these things bind us to earth like a 'flowery band.'

*"Therefore on every morrow are we wreathing
a flowery band to bind us to the earth,
spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
of noble natures, of the gloomy days
of all the unhealthy and o'er – darkened ways
made for our searching : yes, in spite of all."*⁵

This is another poem of John Keats. The poem is 'A Thing Of Beauty'. In this poem the poet wants to say that we possess the evil qualities of malice and disappointment. We suffer from the lack of noble qualities that is why we feel despondent. Really, literature teaches us how to remove the sadness of life. The poet also says that some beautiful shapes or thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness from our heart or spirits. So we should remember that we are weaving a flowery wreath to bind us to the beauties of earth.

Above mentioned poems prove that literature gives a lot of happiness and show the reality of life and remove the stress of life.

Literature as a Peace of Mind

In the present age, the most desired thing by people is peace of mind. In this age of advanced science and technology, people are working as a machine. Everyone is spending his days and nights; earning and more & more earning. The money has become everything for us. We have attached our happiness with all the worldly things. We have become materialistic. In the words of Wordsworth-

*"the world is too much with us and soon,
getting and spending, we lay waste our
powers."*⁶

In this materialistic world full of machine like people, the peace of mind is lacking. Everyone we come across, is found to be in stress. The best cure for stress is peace of mind. In order to acquire peace of mind, literature is proved to be an important tool. Literature is an out-standing tool for peace of mind. Now in the poem "Keeping Quit" by Pablo Neruda-

*"Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the earth
let's not speak in any language
let's stop for one second
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.
Fisherman in a cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt*

would look at his hurt hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.
What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it about;
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.⁷

The theme of this beautiful penned poem is: peace, fraternity and unity. The poet wants us all not to be greedy and selfish instead; he wants us to stop doing everything for a moment and introspect ourselves and our actions. Once we do it, we will feel a strange happiness. This happiness is what is called peace of mind. This is where we are free from stress. This is how literature contributes in providing us peace and happiness.

Conclusion

Students and other readers of literature have much to understand the life's beauty and life's problems as literature engages with life and everything in the world. Literature is also engaged with love because life rounds around the axis of love. While literature has always engaged with love and sorrow from a creative and aesthetic approach; it has always been an honest critique of heart manifestation.

As we know well that chronic stress is harmful for both our body and brain. Chronic stress can lead to severe health problems. So to avoid chronic stress one should avoid that which leads him to stress. It's not very easy to do so but literature can help us in doing this. Literature has been assumed a tool of stress management. When a person reads literature, he gets to know a lot of the social, economical and cultural aspects of the current era because literature is very vast and deep rooted.

After considering all the above aspects, we can conclude that literature is a great tool for stress management. It diverts your mind from all the worries and sorrows and takes you to a world full of happiness and peace. Literature is considered as a mirror of society but in other sense, we can also call it a mirror of your heart. Literature helps you to remove your stress and lead pure and happy life.

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EFFECT OF PARTNER'S PRESENCE ON STRESS AND RELIGIOSITY IN OLD AGED INDIVIDUALS

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study is to study the effect of partner's presence on Stress and Religiosity in old age. Stress is a normal reaction and part of life. When we have a large number of stressful events in our life, we can become overwhelmed and these feelings can create problems. Religiosity is a comprehensive sociological term which is used to refer the numerous aspects of religious activities, dedication, values, rituals and beliefs. Old age is when a person becomes old and near the time when he or she may die. In this stage they will start to have many health problems. The old age is one of the stages in which people feel lonely and unable to cope with this situation. In this stage people also face some physical and economic problems, and they need a support to face all problems. This support they get from their life partner. But those people whose life partner is not present, they are emotionally weak and have feeling of loneliness. In this condition, people reduce their loneliness and stress by diverting their mind and involve in the other activity like Religiosity. Religious activities help people to reduce the level of loneliness and stress.

Keywords- Stress, Religiosity, Old age, Emotionally weak

Stress

Stress is a normal reaction and part of life. When we have a larger number of stressful events in our lives, we can become overwhelmed and these feeling can create problem. It is sometimes used to describe threats or challenges or other times; to describe our response. The stress response are the body's ways of protecting you. When working properly, it helps you stay focused, energetic and alert. In emergency situation, stress can save our life, gives you extra strength to define yourself. The stress response also helps you rise to meet challenges.

Definition of Stress

"Stress refers to non-specific response of the body to any demand made upon it."

—**Hense Selye (1979)**

"Stress is many faceted process that occurs in us in response to event that disrupt or threaten to disrupt our physical or psychological functioning." —**Baron (1992)**

Types of Stress

There are different types of stress; good or bad types of stress are as follows:

Distress: The bad stress, stress due to an excess of adaptive demands or expectations placed upon us. When the demands upon us are so great that they lead to bodily and mental damage, it becomes bad stress or distress which will bring out the weakness within us and make us vulnerable to fatigue and illness.

Eustress: The good stress, the optimal amount of stress which help promotes health and growth. When psychologists speak of controlling stress management, it usually means quantitatively reducing the amount of stress that we experience and an active attempt to change distress into eustress.

Religiosity

Religiosity is a powerful institution which plays important roles in shaping of our social behaviour. Religions have value frameworks that guide adherents in determining between right and wrong. Religiosity, in its broadest sense, is a comprehensive sociological term used to refer to the numerous aspects of religious activities, dedication, and beliefs. Another term would work equally well though less used is; religiousness.

Review of Related Studies

d'Epina, C. L., Cavalli, S., & Spini, D. (2003) studied the effect of losing close relative or friend. By this study, they investigated their family and social life also. Results show that the death of a significant other has no impact in the measures of function and physical health, nor is it a factor of isolation. The loss of a close relative is associated with more depressive symptoms while that of a relative is associated with more depressive symptoms while that of a relative or friend is related to the survivals felling of loneliness. Felling of loneliness developed the level of stress. And they are unable to cope with this situation.

Paul, Ayis and Ebrahim (2006) studied the effect of loneliness and disability on stress in old age. For this study 999 subjects have been selected whose age is 65+. In this study he measures the prevalence of psychological distress and loneliness in old men and women and to clarify the association between psychological distress and loneliness. After a long term study they found that the feeling of loneliness is the single most important predictor of psychological distress in old age.

Misra & Singh (2009) studied stress and loneliness in old age. In this study they selected a sample of 50. They found that many people experience loneliness and depression in old age, either as a result of living alone or due to lack of close family and reduced connections with their culture of origin, which result in inability to actively participate in the community activities. Loneliness in old age is one of the bigger factors of stress.

Choi, Tirrito and Mills (2008) studied spirituality and its influence on maintaining the elderly and disabled peoples. This study explored if persons who use religious beliefs and practices cope with caregiver stress better than who do not use religious beliefs and practices. The study also explored the role of religious coping as a factor affecting decision to institutionalize and the role that faith based practices and organizations play in helping caregiver maintain the elder and disabled older peoples.

Johnson, Mullins(2006) studied the religiosity and loneliness almond the older. Data were collected through interview with 131 peoples whose ages were 61+. Result of the regression analysis showed that greater involvement in the social aspects of religion was significantly related to less loneliness more consistently than involvement in the various family and friendship relation. Religiosity is a more powerful factor to reduce the felling of loneliness and stress.

Pokorski, Warzecha (2011) studied the effect of religiosity on stress in old age. in this study a total of 34 older adults, all catholic believers, completed self-reported questionnaires on the presence of depressive symptoms, religiosity, health, worry and the style of coping with stress. The depressive and non-depressive sub-group were then created. The results further show that religious engagement was powerful enough to cope with the stress. Results show that religiosity helps to reduce the feeling of stress.

Cox and Hammonds (1988) studied the effect of religion on old age. This study show that religion affect some important psychological need in older adults, help them to face impending death, find and maintain a sense of meaningfulness and significance in life and accept the inevitable losses of old age. Religion can play an important

role to reduce the feeling of loneliness and stress. With the help of religiosity and spirituality almost older people live a peaceful life.

Jeff (2010) studied the effect of religiousness on mental health in old age. Study shows the relationship between religiousness and mental health. This study shows that the positive relationship between religiosity and mental health. Religion is an important aspect of life. People who believe in spirituality; have less stress. The result shows that the religiousness affects the mental health.

Methodology

Problems—

To study the effect of life partner's presence on stress in old age.

To study the effect of gender on stress in old age.

To study the effect of life partner's presence on religiosity in old age.

To study the effect of gender on religiosity in old age.

Hypotheses—

There will be significant effect of life partner's presence on stress in old age.

There will be significant effect of gender on stress in old age.

There will be significant effect of life partner's presence on religiosity in old age.

There will be significant effect of gender on religiosity in old age.

Description of Variables

Independent Variable—

(1) **Life partner**— (A1) Partner Present (A2) Partner Absent

(2) **Gender**— (B1) Male (B2) Female

Dependent Variable—

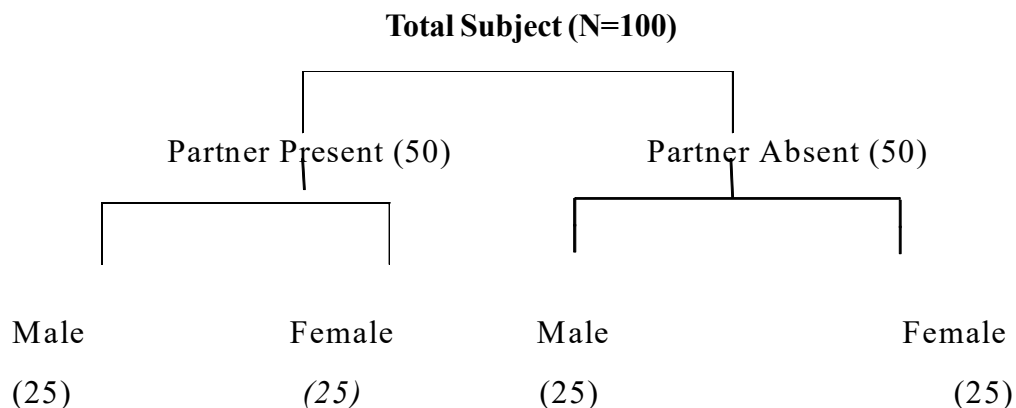
(1) Stress (2) Religiosity

Experimental Design—

The experimental design for this study was 2*2 factorial design which consists two independent variables. The first independent variable was Presence of life Partner varied at two levels i.e. life partner's presence and life partner's absence. The second independent variable was Gender also varied at two levels i.e. male and female. There were two dependent variables i.e. Stress and Religiosity.

Sample—

100 subjects were selected for this study. The minimum age range is 60 years old for the study.



Results

The main purpose of the present study was to find out the effect of presence of life partner on stress and religiosity in old age.

Results related to Stress

The mean score of stress for factor A1 (Life partner's presence) is 24.62 and the mean value for factor A2 (Life partner's absence) is 52.28.

The mean score of stress for factor B1 (Male) is 36.96 and the mean value for factor B2 (Female) is 39.94.

Mean Score of Stress Factor (A) (Life partner's presence/absence)

Life Partner (A)	N	TOTAL	MEAN
Life Partner's Presence (A1)	50	1231	24.62
Life Partner's Absence (A2)	50	2614	52.28

Mean Score of Stress Factor B (Gender)

Gender (B)	N	TOTAL	MEAN
Male (B1)	50	1848	36.96
Female (B2)	50	1997	39.94

Results related to Religiosity

The mean score of religiosity for factor A1 (Life partner presence) is 117.3 and the mean value for factor A2 (Life partner absence) is 148.1.

The mean score of religiosity for factor B1 (Male) is 126.7 and for B2 (Female) is 138.8.

Mean Score of Religiosity for Factor (A) (Life partner's presence/absence)

Life Partner (A)	N	TOTAL	MEAN
Life Partner's Presence (A1)	50	5867	117.3
Life Partner's Absence (A2)	50	7407	148.1

Mean Score of Religiosity for Factor B (Gender)

Gender (B)	N	TOTAL	MEAN
Male (B1)	50	6334	126.7
Female (B2)	50	6940	138.8

Discussion

The purpose of the present study was to find out the effect of life partner's presence and gender; on stress and religiosity among old people.

In present study first independent variable was life partner's presence, varied at two levels i.e. A1 (Life partner's presence) and A2 (Life partner absence). The second independent variable was gender, varied at two levels i.e. B1 (Male) and B2 (Female). Obtained data was analysed with the help of mean & t-test. The mean score of stress

for factor A1 (Life partner's presence) is 24.62 and the mean value for factor A2 (Life partner absence) is 52.28. Measured t-value is 9.25 which is found significant on level 0.01. The result shows that people whose life partner is present show low stress than those old people whose life partner are not present. Loneliness is one of the most important predictor of psychological distress in old age.

The mean score of stress for factor B1 (Male) is 36.96 and the mean value for factor B2 (Female) is 39.94. The t-value is 0.733 which is non-significant. There is very minor difference has been found between two groups. Result shows that female was more prone stress than the male on both of group (life partner's present and life partner's absent).

The mean score of religiosity for factor A1 (Life partner presence) is 117.3 and the mean value for factor A2 (Life partner absence) is 148.1. The t- value is 5.56 which is found significant on 0.01 level. we can say that people whose life partner is present show low level of religiosity in comparison to those old people whose life partner are not present. In this stage people also face some physical, social and economic problem, and they need a support to face all problem. This support they get by their life partner. But those people whose life partners are not present, are emotionally weak and have feeling of loneliness. In this condition, people reduce their stress by diverting their mind and involve in other activities like religiosity and spiritual activities.

The mean score of stress for factor B1 (Male) is 36.96 and the mean value for factor B2 (Female) is 39.94. The t-value is 01.907 which shows the significant difference between male and female on religiosity at 0.01 level. Females are more religious than male.

Conclusion

Life partner's presence significantly affect feeling of the stress which indicate that people who have life partner have less stress in comparison to those who have not their life partner.

Life partner's presence significantly affect feeling of the religiosity, which indicate that people who have life partner have low religiosity in comparison to those who have not their life partner.

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A STUDY OF STRESS AND A FEW REMEDIAL TOOLS OF STRESS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

Stress is by-product of modern life hubbub. Stress of target deadlines, being left out, and peer pressure is all encompassing modern lifestyle. Moreover Covid-19 induced anxiety is new normal. According to a study published in Indian Express—"74% Indians suffering from stress, 88% from anxiety." Despite it, stress and anxiety is often ignored which in turn result into overall blow to mental as well as physical health. This paper attempts to outline some broad conceptualities of stress with a few remedial tools for stress management in our day to day life.

Keywords: Stress, Stress Management, Mental Health, Conceptualities, Anxiety

Introduction:

Now a days we all are suffering from stress which may be due to lockdown isolation, the fear of pandemic or work pressure. As we know that stress affect health in numerous ways, it can cause physical health problems as well as mental health problems and much more. We don't need magic to change our self as we carry all the power within ourselves.

We have the power of imagination and we can use this power of imagine for our betterment. Sometimes vivid imagination of negative consequences leads towards stress and anxiety. Therefore one must be mindful and cautious while living our life.

Basics of Stress

Stress is a psychological condition and body discomfort. It is a common phenomenon associated with the feeling of emotional or physical tension. Demands of Desired Targets Accomplishments may lead to potential stress.

NCERT defines stress in their books as a pattern of response in an organism to stimulate an event that disturbs the equilibrium and exceeds a person's ability to cope. Fred Luthans defines stress as an adaptive response to an external stimulation that results in physical psychological or behavioral observations for organizational participants.

Nature of Stress

"Stress is not a factor that resides in the individual or the environment, instead it is embedded in an ongoing process that involves individuals transacting with their social and cultural environments."

Types of Stressors

There are many types of stressors. Some of them are— Emotional stressors, Family stressors, Social stressors, Change stressors, Chemical stressors, Work stressors, Decision stressors, Commuting stressors, Phobia stressors, Physical stressors, Aziz pressure disease stressors, Pain stressors, Environmental stressors etc.

Dimensions of Stresses

- On the basis of Intensity— low intensity versus high intensity
- On the basis of Duration— short term versus long term
- On the basis of Complexity— less complex versus more complex
- On the basis of Predictability— unexpected versus predictable

Intensity of Stress

The stress experience will be determined by the resources of the person such as money, social skills, coping style, support networks etc. Some Personality Characteristics also affect the intensity of stress. These personal characteristics are—

- **Physiological**

Individual's experience of stress depends on psychological strength of the person. Individual with poor physical health and weak constitution will be more vulnerable than the person who enjoy good health and strong constitution.

- **Psychological**

Psychological characteristics such as mental health, confidence level, and attitude etc. also affect stress intensity.

- **Cultural**

The cultural contexts in which we live determine the meaning of any event and define the nature of our response that is expected under various conditions. Our response to the events affects the stress intensity.

Effects of Stress

- Lack of motivation
- Depletion in job performance
- Poor decision making
- Decline in creativity
- Deterioration in physical health
- Overall decline in Personality

Different researches and WHO has proved that stress is a significant problem of this new era. We know that stress affect both physical and mental health. We can define stress as a situation where the organisms homeostatic is threatened. Stress coping method may be Cognitive, Behavioral or Psychological.

Stress Management Techniques

Stress management means to reduce the different types of stresses upto the maximum possible extent. The techniques or methods of stress management can be described in two broad categories—

1. Self-help methods
2. Learnt methods

Self-Help Methods

This category covers ways of managing stress by observing it, its causes, effects and relationship with other response and thereby controlling, eliminating or reducing the stressor.

In addition to this, to handle the stress; our response to the stressor either by delaying the response; also reduces intensity of stress. For example if you get exhausted by driving through traffic jam and experience commuting stress, it is better to start little early to avoid heavy traffic. It is essential to identify the stressors and to be creative in handling them .

Stresses are also due to minor, chronic and unattended health problems. Therefore it is important to value and enhance well-being by attending to health problems & getting proper treatment for them.

In other words of managing stress is to change your lifestyle and adapting new ways of viewing the world. A lot depends on how we perceive the world. It is essential to be optimistic and be objective in during the tough situation. This is the method where we learn to view situation from a different view point. Lot of stresses can be eliminated and nullified by objectively evaluating their influences, values or and by simply ignoring or overlooking them.

Sometimes we react blindly to the situation instead we should rationally handle it. Identify the stressors and look for alternative methods of handling these stresses. A balanced diet and some physical exercise like yoga and little entertainment can help to reduce stress.

Exercise can be a key Central method to combat with stressors. Exercise not only promotes overall fitness but it helps us to manage emotional stress and tension as well. Regular exercise can provide an active outlet for psychological and physiological arousal experiences in response of stress. Regular exercise improves the efficiency of heart, functions of lungs and maintains good blood circulation, lowers blood pressure, reduces fat in blood and improves the immune response system. Walking, running, cycling, skipping etc. help to reduce stress.

We can use literature as a tool of stress management in varied ways. A book can be used as a stress management tool because simply when we open a book we start getting relaxed. It is proven fact that reading a book, article, novel or any other mind opening reading objects; can reduce stress. These days reading is taken for granted due to our excess emphasis on social media.

We spent lots of time reading in our daily life WhatsApp chat, e-mail, face book etc. There is a question how often we read for our pleasure. Reading can be a healthy and amazing escape from the stress of day to day life. Just open a book and we allow ourselves to be invited into the literary world which will distract us from our daily life's stress. Reading can even relax the body by lowering the heartbeat and easing the tension in muscles. Research has proven (University of Sussex) that reading can reduce stress up to 68%. Reading a book works better and faster than listening music or drinking hot drink such as tea coffee etc.

For stress management, if one is a reader he/she must know the powerful impact of writing down. Writing down the problems can help us to cope with stress, anxiety and depression. If we use writing as a part of our daily life routine it can be helpful in reducing the stress.

Writing is one of the most effective tools of stress management. Writing down the problems can help manage the stress in very effective and different ways. The simple act of sitting down at a favorite quiet place to collect the thought can have a positive impact on mood and mind. Writing helps stress management by giving us a bird's eye perspectives of our problems. When we write them out, we look at our problems from different perspective and then we will definitely find the ideas to manage our problems and reasons of stress and these ideas and thoughts will be useful in future also.

When we write our problems, we can express our feeling in different way about the problem and stress. This process will help us to see the stressors in new way. As we begin to write, we realise that the things that we were stressed out about weren't all the problematic. We also find the solution of our problem as we write about the problem. It is very similar as we discuss our problem with someone to get a solution. But there is a difference in these two. While writing the problem, no one will judge but when we discuss our problem with someone probability of being judged by the person; increases. We can write our anger and anxiety, depression and all other things that make us stressed and we won't be inhibited by someone else listening in.

Writing will help us in releasing all the stress and emotions which we have been holding inside. Once we start the practice of writing down the reasons of stress and anxiety, we will find that the act of writing will be like a releasing of built up pressure, so writing can be useful tool of stress management.

We know that stress is related to both internal and external factor. External factors include our physical environment, our job, relationship with others, our home and all the situations, challenges, difficulties etc. confronted with on a daily basis.

Internal factors determine our body abilities to deal with the external stress inducing factors. Internal factors that influence our ability to handle stress include our nutritional status, our overall health and fitness level, ability to control stress true relaxation technique and sleep hours and rest we get.

Learnt Methods

There are many ways to use structured relaxation techniques to help in stress management. Some types of meditation and relaxation therapies are the best learnt in the class. It's also possible to learn meditation techniques itself. There is a lot of literature related with self-meditation technique. One should go with that for stress management. There are hundreds of different types of relaxation methods ranges from audio visual and other group of material arts and fitness classes.

In addition to above all, gardening is not only a hobby but also it brings us close to nature which helps us to relax and feel alive. Painting also helps us to express our agony. Art is best form of self-expression. Therefore things which seem quite generic in nature help us to release our pressure and anxiety.

Spirituality, Nishkama Karma and Stress Management

In Hinduism karma yoga or *Nishkama Karma* is the path of unselfish action, as stated in the Bhagavad Gita. It teaches that a spiritual seeker should act according to his dharma (duty), without being attached to the fruits or personal consequences of such work.

On the battlefield, Krishna told Arjuna, "*Do your duty without thinking about the outcome.*"

What he meant was, one cannot be sure about the results and hence must not think about the outcomes, when one is performing his/her duty. One may or may not attain the desired result in the end, but thinking in a loop about the possible outcomes will only pile to the confusion, make one doubtful, distracted and increase chances of failures.

This is the significance of karma-yoga in spiritual progression, to do one's duty for duty's sake. It's not work which is painful, it is the attachment to that work and the desire for expected results that brings pain.

What significance does 'karma-yoga' holds in our life in general? After all, the words of the wise must help us deal in our practical lives too.

Krishna is saying to Arjun— "Life is the battlefield and you are Arjuna! You will have to be the Krishna for yourself and tell yourself to do your duty of preparation, without clinging to the results. What yields frustration, disappointment in you is the fear lurking around the results. The more you fret about the results, about the meaning of your labour and toil if you don't get through, the more cynical and self-sabotaging you'll get."

When one understands and embraces that preparing well is one's responsibility and not the outcome, when one learns to remain even minded in success and failure, the fear of not making to the list will start to fade away. What will remain is pure hard work and a motivation to give one's best.

Having said that, no one of the person is saint-like, who can stay unfazed with the negative or positive value of the result. We are humans and not attaining something in which we've invested so much is definitely going to prick and pierce. But, one can grieve (or rejoice) once the outcome is known, till then "*Do your duty without thinking about the outcome.*"

Karma Yoga

*“Your work is your responsibility,
not its result.*

*Never let the fruits of your actions
be your motive.*

Nor give in to inaction.

*Set firmly in yourself, do your work,
not attached to anything.*

*Remain evenminded in success,
and in failure.*

Evenmindedness is true yoga.”

—Bhagavad Gita, 2.47-49

Therefore detached Karmas based on our labour are keys to our personal mental well-being as well as motivation in life. It also helps us to strive for our best effort in life. This spiritual thought process helps us to retain our sanity of mind in tough times like these and will surely reduce our stress.

Conclusion

The stress and anxiety which are twin by-product of our day to day life need to be tackled with empathy. With its identification, various life style changes must be inculcated. Activities reducing stress such as exercise, reading, writing, gardening, music etc. must be taken up. The spirituality is alternative path of keeping mind calm and composed in our tough times, in this regard discussion of Nishkaam Karma yoga comes to our rescue in times of uncertainty. If condition is not improving; advice of a psychologist must be taken unapologetically. ‘Mental Health is of primordial importance’, so it must be taken seriously without any taboo.

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DISINVESTMENT OF CPSEs IN INDIA—AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract

In this study “Disinvestment of CPSEs in India-An Overview”, a study of the Disinvestment Process in India with reference to CPSEs has been made for the period 2014-15 and onwards upto 2020-21. Approaches and Methods to Disinvestment have been discussed. Analysis of Disinvestment Data has also been done for the above period. Govt. has been disinvesting its stake in most of the CPSEs which are sick and also in the profit making CPSEs. Govt. says that it is not the work of it to run industries except in some crucial areas. So by a wide range of methods Govt. is disinvesting its stake in CPSEs. Further we can say Govt. of India is implementing the Disinvestment Policy of India in a proper manner. To make Disinvestment Policy more influential; less political interference, proper timing, prompt implementation and productive utilization of the Disinvestment proceeds are required in a more intense manner so that the dual objectives of Disinvestment to make CPSEs more productive & to generate funds for the various social welfare & economic requirements of the Govt.; might be fulfilled.

Keywords—Disinvestment, CPSEs, Infrastructure, Strategic, ETF

Disinvestment

In definitional terms— “Investment refers to the conversion of money or cash into securities, debentures, bonds or any other claims on money. As follows, disinvestment involves the conversion of money claims or securities into money or cash.” In practical aspect, Disinvestment can also be defined as the action of an organisation (or government) selling or liquidating its ownership i.e. ordinary shares in PSEs to Private Sector or Public. Disinvestment is the process in which certain percentage or full of ordinary shares of public sector units is disinvested to private sectors or public by the Government. Through disinvestment government can withdraw its resources invested in public sector undertaking (PSUs) and can use such resources for development of the economy.

In 1991, it was realized that The ‘State in business’ theory has lost its significance. Govt. adopted the policy of Disinvestment to get rid of the unproductive units by selling them or transferring controlling power to Private sector. Due to the poor performance of PSEs, it became the need of the Govt. to get rid of sick public sector enterprises(PSEs) and to concentrate only on core activities identified for the security and welfare of India and India Public. The Government also took a view that it should move out of non-core businesses, especially the ones where the private sector had now entered in a significant way Besides it, the funds generated through Disinvested Units are utilized by Government to meet its fiscal deficit and as well as for its development needs.

The Government adopted the 'Disinvestment Policy' with the following main objectives——

- To reduce the financial burden on the Government
- To Finance the increasing fiscal deficit
- To Finance large-scale infrastructure development
- To redeem Public Debt
- To introduce competition and market discipline among disinvested PSE
- To arrange funds for growth and welfare requirements
- To encourage wider share of ownership
- To depoliticise non-essential services

Disinvestment Governance in India

The process of Disinvestment in India began in the year 1991-92, when 31 selected PSUs disinvested for Rs. 3,038 crore. In August 1996, the Disinvestment Commission, chaired by G. V. Ramakrishna was set up to advise, supervise, monitor and publicize gradual Disinvestment of Indian PSUs. It submitted 13 reports covering recommendations on privatisation of 57 PSUs. Dr R. H. Patil subsequently took up the chairmanship of this Commission in July 2001. However, the Disinvestment Commission ceased to exist in May 2004.

The Department of Disinvestment was set up as a separate Department on 10th December, 1999 and was later renamed as Ministry of Disinvestment from 6th September, 2001. From 27th May, 2004, the Department of Disinvestment is one of the Departments under the Ministry of Finance. The Department of Disinvestment has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) from 14th April, 2016.

About the Study

In this study "Disinvestment of CPSEs in India-An Overview", a study of the Disinvestment Process of India with reference to CPSEs has been made for the period 2014-15 and onwards upto 2020-21. The start has been done from 2014-15 as during the year 2014-15 on 26th May 2014 BJP led Govt. under leadership of PM Narendra Modi came into force. Upto now 7 years have completed of NDA Govt. that is why we have selected 2014-15 to 2020-21. CPSE; hereby means a Public Sector Enterprise in which Central Govt. hold more than 50% stake in ownership whether directly or indirectly.

Objectives of the study

- To have an idea of the Approaches of Disinvestments in India
- To have an idea of the methods of Disinvestment in India
- To have a quantitative analysis of the CPSEs disinvested in India during the continuing tenure of NDA Govt. i.e. 2014-15 to 2020-21.
- To have a conclusion and provide suggestions for the betterment of Investment process in India

Research Methodology

This paper is basically a descriptive and analytical paper based on the secondary data which has been derived from the various resources. These resources are the website of Bombay Stock Exchange and website of Ministry of Finance, Department of Disinvestment & Public Asset Management. Various research paper and articles have also been gone through to clear the various aspects of Disinvestment in India.

The time period for quantitative data has been taken 2014-15 to 2020-21.

Analysis and Interpretation technique have been used to explore data. Some statistical methods have also been used such as tabulation etc. For giving a clear picture of the facts, ratio analysis technique has also been used to draw conclusion.

Major Approaches of Government towards Disinvestment

There are three major types of approaches adopted by Govt. towards disinvestment which are—

- **Disinvestment of Minority Shareholding**—In this type of disinvestment, the resulting ownership of the government in divested PSE remains more than 50% so that the ownership and control may remain in the hands of Govt.
- **Disinvestment of Majority Shareholding**— In this type of disinvestment, the resulting ownership of the government in divested PSE becomes less than 50%. It means that government has sold the major part of its shareholding. In this type of disinvestment the ownership and control goes away from the Govt. to the buyer entity.
- **Disinvestment resulting in Complete Privatisation**— In this type of disinvestment, the resulting ownership of the government in divested PSE becomes Nil. Government sales all its holding to the buyer. The Govt. has no stake in divested PSE neither major nor minor. Hundred percent ownership and control is in the private hands.

Besides the above approaches sometimes Govt. divests some part of its minor shareholding in PSE and the resulting ownership of Govt. reduces to a further lower level. Also, sometimes Govt. sells all its minor stake to make the entity fully privatised.

Some PSEs are also divested by the method of Slump Sale. In slump sale the existing business of PSE or a division/segment of it; is sold on going concern basis to the buyer for the consideration of a lump sum amount. The divested PSE carries on its business with the new ownership and control.

Methods of Disinvestment

- **Strategic Sale**—In this method, govt. sells its stake in PSE to its strategic partners/entities. These partners are selected on the basis of highly competitive bidding mechanism and they are offered govt. equity on the basis of call or put option. Approaches of Disinvestment may be different as described above in this paper. For example— disinvestment in Tata Communications Ltd. etc.
- **Public Offer**—In this method Govt. sells its stake through the public offer instead of selling it to the strategic partners. Approaches might differ as per circumstances. For example – disinvestment in Cochin Shipyard Limited, SAIL, HAL, General Insurance Corporation, IRCTC, New India Assurance, Rail Tel Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Power Finance Corporation, Axis Bank Limited, BEL, Hindustan Copper Limited, National Fertilizers Limited, NTPC, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited etc.
- **CPSE to CPSE Sale**—In this method Govt. sells its equity in one CPSE to another CPSE. Normally a bad functioning i.e. loss making CPSE shareholding is sold to a CPSE having a sound functioning to make the transition of bad company towards a good company. For example—disinvestment in Dredging Corporation of India, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, THDC, REC Ltd. etc.
- **Issue to Employees**—In this method Govt. sells its equity in CPSE to the employees of that CPSE. For example—disinvestment in Bharat Electronics Ltd., Coal India Ltd., Container Corporation of India Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., IRCTC, NHPC, NTPC etc.
- **Auction to Private Entities**— In this method Govt. sells its shareholding in CPSE to the Private Entities through auction process. For example— disinvestment in ICI India Ltd.
- **Auction to Financial Investors**—In this method Govt. sells its shareholding in CPSE to the specified type of financial investors like Public Sector Financial Institutions through auction process. For Example— Disinvestment in Maruti Udhyog Ltd. etc.
- **Institutional Placement Method**— In this method only selected financial institutions like mutual funds, pension funds, insurance & banking companies etc.; are offered the CPSE shareholding by Govt. For example— disinvestment in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

- **Market Sale through Block Deals**—In this method, Govt. sells its CPSE shareholding in market through an offer of Block Deals. Block Deal comprises of a large no. of shares to be traded through one transaction. For example—disinvestment in BHEL, ITC Ltd., Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Axis Bank Limited, Enemy Property Share Sales etc.
- **ETF**—In this method Govt. sells its shareholding in CPSE through Exchange Traded Fund. ETFs are a pool of shareholding in various CPSEs. ETFs are normally listed and traded in the all major stock exchanges in the form of shares produced via creation blocks. Change in the share price of an ETF depends on the costs of the underlying assets present in the pool of resources. Examples of ETF are—BHARAT 22-ETF, CPSE ETF.
- **Buy Back of Own Shareholding**—In this method CPSE itself purchases its own shareholding from the Govt. itself to avail the market opportunities. For example—disinvestment in Antrix Corporation, Bharat Dynamics Limited, BEL, BHEL, GAIL, HAL, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, MOIL, NHPC, NLC India Limited, NTPC, NMDC etc.

Analysis of Tables (Tables exhibited at end of Paper)

- Table No. 1 shows the Disinvestment Targets & Disinvestment Achievements of the Govt. Disinvestment Achievement of the current Govt. has been extremely good. In the year 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2020-21 disinvestment achievements have been more than 100%. Overall disinvestment achievements for the last 7 years have been 90.09% which is quite good. Only in the year 2014-15 the disinvestment achievement was poor as it was just 41.68%. But the govt. can't be blamed for this as it was the first year of the BJP led Govt.
- Table no. 2 describe the disinvestment proceeds of the Govt. stated on the basis of methods of disinvestment adopted. For the period 2014-15 to 2020-21 a total of Rs. 365975.42 Crores were realised through disinvestment proceeds. This table shows that out of this investment proceeds 34.44% was realised on the basis of Public Offer Method, 27.04% through the Exchange Traded Fund, 18.23% through CPSE to CPSE sale and 12.10% through buy back method. The use of other methods is not so significant. It means that the most popular method of disinvestment for Govt. is Public Offer Method(excluding fresh issue) and Exchange Traded Fund.
- Table No. 3 shows the year wise Disinvestment proceeds on the basis of Method of Disinvestment. It shoes that Public Offer Method has been a choice of Disinvestment form the very beginning of our study period 2014-15 i.e. the first year of the BJP led Govt. in Centre.
- Table No. 4 provides the list of fully privatized CPSEs along with the method of their final disinvestment during the period of our study. No CPSEs were fully privatized during the period 2014-15 to 2016-17. In 2017-18 Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd., in 2018-19 HSCC (India) Ltd. & Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.; in 2019-20 Kamarajar Port Ltd., North Eastern Electric Power Corp. Ltd & THDC India Ltd. and; in 2020-21 Tata Communications Ltd. were fully privatized.

Suggestions for Betterment of Disinvestment Process in India

- There is no need of Disinvestment in Profit making CPSEs & CPSEs having Ratna Status. Only sick and low profitable company should be in the Disinvestment Process. Maharatna and Miniratna CPSEs should be given the role of prospective buyers in the Disinvestment Process. These companies should take over the responsibility of sick & less profitable companies and convert them into productive companies.
- There should be right adoption of the Approach of Disinvestment. There should not be fully privatization. In my opinion, Govt. should always be in a role of minority shareholder. Method of investment should be properly selected. Offer to public, ETF method or Buy Back Method are quite good.

- Disinvestment proceeds should not be used only to cover the Budgetary deficit but major part if Disinvestment Proceeds should be used in the various welfare and development programmes of the Govt.
- The entire Disinvestment Process should be transparent. There should be no space for political interference, middlemen commission and red- tapism. Disinvestment decisions should be implemented at proper time so that the market factors will be helpful in better realization from the divested stake.

Conclusion

It is well known fact that the performance of CPSEs under DHI as well as under various ministries of the Govt. is not upto the mark. That is why the Govt. has adopted; for the removal of this burden of sick CPSEs, the method of closing them permanently or to divest its stake in them. The Govt. has kept itself with those PSEs which are purely for the welfare, security of the India and India people. It has kept itself with some extremely sound performing PSEs. Govt. has been disinvesting its stake in most of the CPSEs which are sick and also in the profit making CPSEs. Govt. says that it is not the work of it to run industries except in some crucial areas. So by a wide range of methods Govt. is divesting its stake in CPSEs. Further we can say Govt. of India is implementing the Disinvestment Policy of India in a proper manner. Achievement Ratio is significant. Proper methods of Disinvestment have been selected keeping in view of the nature and characteristics of the company to be divested, market forces and the maximum realization concept. Factor of Control has been also considered in divesting socially important companies and profit making companies. There is a transparent mechanism of decisions regarding Disinvestment. So in the end it can be said that India is implementing a superb Disinvestment Policy regarding CPSEs in India. This disinvestment is helping the Govt in two ways. On one hand sick CPSEs on being privatized are being run on professional basis and they have become or soon going to become productive in every aspect. On the other hand the amount realised by the disinvestment of CPSEs help the Govt. to meet out its expenditures. Here we would also like to say that Govt. while doing disinvestment in a unit should choose the proper method of disinvesting and degree of disinvestment with consultation of various concerning experts. This pre-planning will help to govt. to realise a proper, & huge amount for its stake in divested unit. To make Disinvestment Policy more influential; less political interference, proper timing, prompt implementation and productive utilization of the Disinvestment proceeds are required in a more intense manner so that the dual objectives of Disinvestment to make CPSEs more productive & to generate funds for the various social welfare & economic requirements of the Govt.; might be fulfilled.

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Table 1
Disinvestments—Targets and Achievements

YEAR	Disinvestment Targets Rs. in Crore	TOTAL Disinvestment Proceeds Rs. in Crore	Achievements of Disinvestment Targets in %
2014-15	58425.00	24348.70	41.68
2015-16	25312.00	24057.73	95.04
2016-17	45500.00	46378.37	101.93
2017-18	100000.00	100641.97	100.64
2018-19	80000.00	87512.61	109.39
2019-20	65000.00	50293.71	77.37
2020-21	32000.00	32742.33	102.32
Total	406237.00	365975.42	90.09

Source— Official website of Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management & Official Website of Bombay Stock Exchange

Table 2
Total Disinvestment Proceeds on the basis of Method of Disinvestment
(for the period 2014-15 to 2020-21)

Year	Total Disinvestment Proceeds Rs. in Crore	As a percentage of Total Receipts
Public Offer (Excluding Fresh Capital Raisin	126050.49	34.44
Exchange Traded Fund	98949.09	27.04
CPSE to CPSE Sale	66711.96	18.23
Buyback	44295.64	12.10
Block Deals/Market Sales	20147.03	5.51
Proceeds from SUUTI Investments	5497.00	1.50
Strategic Sale to Private Entity	3389.21	0.93
Sale to Employees	935	0.26
Total	365975.42	100.00

Source— Official website of Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management & Official Website of Bombay Stock Exchange

· SUUTI means Specified undertaking of the Unit Trust of India

Table 3
Disinvestment Proceeds on the basis of Method of Disinvestment (Yearwise)
For the period 2014-15 to 2020-21

Year	Strategic Sale to Private Entity	Public Offer	CPSE To CPSE Sale	Sale to Employees	Buyback	Block Deals/ Market Sales	Exchange Traded Fund	Proceeds from SUUTI Investments	Total
2014-15		24277.16		71.54					24348.7
2015-16		19574.51			4483.22				24057.73
2016-17		7532.06		529.36	19026.97	8790	8499.98	2000	46378.37
2017-18		38017.58	36915	315.11	5340.63	4153.65	14500	1400	100641.97
2018-19		12590.9	15913.96	17.33	10682.04	3228.46	45079.92		87512.61
2019-20		1771.49	13883	0.89	822.08	2347.06	30869.19	600	50293.71
2020-21	3389.21	22286.79		0.77	3940.7	1627.86		1497	32742.33
Total	3389.21	126050.49	66711.96	935.00	44295.64	20147.03	98949.09	5497.00	365975.42

Source— Official website of Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management & Official Website of Bombay Stock Exchange

Table 4
CPSEs fully Privatized after Disinvestment
For the period 2014-15 to 2020-21

Year	Companies Fully Privatized after Disinvestment
2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding to Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd.)
2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSCC (India) Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding To NBCC India Ltd.) • Dredging Corp. of India Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding to Vishakapatnam Port Trust, Paradeep Port Trust, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust & Deendayal Port Trust)
2019-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kamarajar Port Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding To Chennai Port Trust) • North Eastern Electric Power Corp. Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding To Ntpc Limited) • THDC India Ltd. (Through Sale of Entire Shareholding To NTPC Limited)
2020-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tata Communications Ltd. (Through Initial Sale of Complete Shareholding to Panatone Finvest Ltd.)

Source— Official website of Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management & Official Website of Bombay Stock Exchange



WEALTH CREATION BY FMCG COMPANY – COLGATE PALMOLIVE (INDIA) LIMITED

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Abstract

Fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) manufacturing companies are giving better return to the investors. In this paper, study of wealth creation for investors has been made on; one of the FMCG i.e. Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited. The investor who has invested in this company, is getting approximately 20% per annum return during the last five years i.e. 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Keywords- Return, Investment, Return on Equity, Dividend, Earning Per Share, Book Value, Market Price, Fast Moving Consumer Goods.

FMCG means fast moving consumer goods. It is a sector with high turnover of consumer goods. Consumer markets are the market which is flooded with products which are purchased by individuals for their consumptions. Consumption can be for self, family use or for other persons. To satisfy the needs of consumers, FMCG Companies are focusing on their product and services and make them fit for the benefits of the consumers.

Introduction

Consumer products are like Toothpaste, Ice cream, Shampoo, Car, LED TV, Refrigerators, Apparels, Air Travels etc. Consumer market can be classified into various categories; one of them is FMCG. FMCG include a wide variety of frequently purchased products for consumption. A large number of companies are engaged in manufacturing and marketing of fast moving consumer goods. These companies are Godrej, Indian Tobacco Company, Amul, Dabar, Britannia, Hindustan Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Colgate Palmolive India Limited, Johnson and Johnson, Marico etc.

These companies are manufacturing Food and Beverage products, Personal Care products, Cigarettes and Alcohol, Home Care products & Over the Counter products etc. These fast moving consumer goods products are of low unit value with high volume potential. These products are frequently purchased and consumed by the consumers. In addition, fast moving consumer electrical items are frequently changed or replaced by consumers. Now a days, due to Innovation better models are available. Examples are smartphones, smartwatches, MP3 players, and digital camera etc.

Fast moving consumer goods market can be classified into Food & Beverage, Personal Care, Cigarettes & Alcohol, Homecare and Over-the-Counter. In total FMCG market, the market share of Food and Beverage is 49%, Personal Care 18%, Cigarette And Alcohol 17%, Homecare 11% & Over-the-Counter 5%. I have taken Colgate Palmolive India Limited for study purpose.

Table 1
Share of Products in overall FMCG Market

S. No.	Name	% Share
1	Food and Beverage	49
2	Personal Care	18
3	Cigarettes and Alcohol	17
4	Home Care	11
5	Over the Counter	5

Source: Website

First of all, FMCG market have to be understood—

The first one is Food and Beverage. Its share is 49% and it includes Staple Foods-Floor, Pulse; Impulse Foods—Chocolate, Ice-Cream, Chips, Baked Items; Convenience Goods – Maggi, Safal (which Includes Snacks, Dairy Products Etc.)

Second is Personal Care Products. These are Hair Care– Sunsilk, Clinic Plus, Parachute, Navratna; Soap & Bath– Lux, Dove, Cinthol, Hamam, Dettol; Skin Care- Fair And Lovely, Garnier, Revlon; Oral Care- Colgate, Close-Up; Baby Care- Johnson And Johnson Etc.

Third is Cigarette and Alcohols.

Forth is Home Care. In home care products Fabric Care– Wheel, Surf Excel, Sunlight, Rin, Aerial, Tide, Nirma etc. Surface Care– Dettol, Colin, Lizol; Toilet Care Products- Domex, Sanifresh, Harpic etc. Home Insecticides- Good Night etc.

Fifth is OTC (Over the Counter). Over the counter products are medicines etc. which are available without any prescription by competent person. Examples of over-the-counter products– Iodex, Vicks, Coldrin, Hajmola, Shilajit etc.

Objectives of the Study

Purpose of this study is to evaluate the financial performance of selected fast moving consumer goods company i.e. Colgate Palmolive India Limited with a purpose of Wealth creation for investors. Wealth creation for investor is important. If an investor is willing to get High return, then he can choose fast moving consumer goods sector companies. We have evaluated only Colgate Palmolive India Limited for study purpose. The main objective of this study is to find out the wealth creation by this company for its investors.

Research Methodology

I have taken secondary data for study purpose. Data are collected from various newspapers, websites of National Stock Exchange & Bombay Stock Exchange and annual reports of the company. Annual Reports are available on company's website. Financial results' information is taken from annual reports. The fast moving consumer goods company selected is Colgate Palmolive India Limited

Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited

In this paper, Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has been considered to analyse the financial performance from Investor point of view. Data is taken from this company's Annual Reports. This company is engaged in Personal Care Products. Colgate Palmolive was established by Shri William Colgate. In early time William Colgate company sold soap and candle maker. In 1896 company sold toothpaste in tube. It is still popular till today. Company Colgate Palmolive India Limited was incorporated in 1937. Before going to study Colgate Palmolive India Limited, we have to go through about parent company– Colgate Pal Olive Limited (USA based company). In 1928 Colgate company bought Palmolive Peet company and the name changed to Colgate-Palmolive Peet Limited. In 1953 Peet was dropped from the title. Then the company name became Colgate Palmolive Company. It's the USA

based company. This company started a subsidiary company which is known as Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited in 1937.

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited is providing scientifically proven oral care products. These are with multiple benefits at various price levels. The range includes toothpastes, toothpowder, mouthwash, toothbrushes and dental gel. All these are under the ‘Colgate’ brand. The Company also provides personal care products. It has range of shower gels and liquid hand washes. These are under the ‘Palmolive’ brand name. Colgate is Most Trusted Oral Care Brand from 2011 to 2019, by The Economic Times Brand Equity Survey, conducted by Nielsen.

Mr. Ram Raghavan, Managing Director at Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd, said, “We are very pleased with not only the continued momentum on the business but also the quality of the results across the P&L. Our strategic and disciplined approach to building brands, driving innovation & relentless focus on winning on the ground continues to deliver per our expectations. Particularly pleasing is the double digit sales growth (10.1%) we’ve delivered, striking the right balance between volume and pricing. We continue to invest in our brands with higher advertising spends to support our innovations. Our continued efforts to amplify efficiencies across our operations have helped deliver strong gross margins, EBITDA and NPAT growth. Our unwavering focus on the consumer and our efforts to re-define oral health is reflected in our recent new product launches. We’ve broadened the Colgate Vedshakti franchise from just toothpaste to newly introduced categories like Mouth spray and Oil Pulling. In our efforts to create new segments, we have recently launched Asia’s first Toothpaste for Diabetics. It’s unique formula harnesses the goodness of Ayurvedic ingredients with cutting edge oral science helping diabetics to keep their gums strong and healthy. We also expanded our Naturals toothbrush portfolio with the launches of Super Flexi Salt and Zig Zag Turmeric.”

This company is known for oral hygiene products. This Indian Subsidiary Company has widest distribution network in India. Company started partnership with Indian Dental Association to spread the message about the oral hygiene to school children. This program name was ‘Bright Smile Bright Futures’. This programme spread the awareness about oral hygiene among the children. This served two purposes; awareness about teeth care as well as advertise of Colgate tooth paste. Strong relationship and trust has been generated among the consumers by this programme.

Analysis

If any investor has invested money in the shares of Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited five years ago then the return is higher than the traditional investment schemes like Bank Fixed Deposits, Posts Office Deposits etc. It can be seen in table 2 and table 3.

Table 2
Market Price of Share of Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited

01.04.2016		01.04.2017		01.04.2018		01.04.2019		01.04.2020		01.04.2021	
Rs.		Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %
833		995	19.45	1057	6.23	1258	19.01	1242	-1.2	1562	25.76

Source: Website of National Stock Exchange

Table 3
Dividend Paid by Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited (In Rs.)
(Face Value of Share Rs. 1)

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
10	24	23	28	38

Source: Website of National Stock Exchange

The share price of Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has growth rate of 19.45% in 2016-17, 6.23% in 2017-18, 19.01% in 2018-19 and 25.76% in 2020-21. Negative growth on 1st April 2020 was due to coronavirus pandemic. Due to lockdown in India, Company could not earn high net profits.

It is observed from the above table 2 and 3, if any investor purchase one equity share of Colgate Palmolive India Limited on 1st April 2016 @833 then during the period of 5 years 01.4.2016 to 01.04.2021, he will get total dividend of Rs.123. In addition capital value of one equity share increased from Rs. 833 to Rs. 1,562. The capital appreciation of Rs. 729 and total dividend of Rs. 123 on one equity shares during this period, the total gain to investor will be Rs. 852 on an investment of Rs. 833.

It means wealth generation during 5 years period averaging 20.45% per annum. It is evident that wealth is generated and in 5 years almost money is doubled.

Table 4
Net Profit, Earning Per Share, Reserve, Return on Equity of Colgate Palmolive India Limited

	2016-17	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Rs.	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %	Rs.	Growth %
NP (Core Rs.)	577	673	16.64	775	15.16	816	5.29	1035	26.84
EPS (Rs.)	21.23	24.76	16.62	28.52	15.18	30.02	5.23	38.07	26.81
Reserve (Core Rs.)	1246	1497	20.14	1416	-5.21	1567	10.43	1139	-27.31
ROE (%)	45.33	44.16		53.60		51.21		88.80	

Source: Website of National Stock Exchange and Company Annual Reports

The above table 4 shows that net profit of the company is continuously increasing. There is a growth in net profit. It is almost doubled. Earnings Per Share (EPS) is also increasing continuously. It is Rs. 21.23 in 2016-17; Rs. 24.76 in 2017-18; Rs. 28.52 in 2018-19; Rs. 30.02 in 2019-20 and Rs. 38.07 in 2020-21. The growth rate of earning per share is 16.62%, 15.18%, 5.23% and 26.81% in 5 years period under study. Return on Equity (ROE) is also continuously increasing.

The share prices are continuously increasing with steady growth. Since the net profit is also increasing, so company's dividend is also growing with the same pattern.

The strengths of Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited company are—

1. This company has high earning per share growth.
2. Company's return on equity is also improving.
3. Company is exhibiting growth in net profit.
4. It is also a zero debt company. The debt to equity ratio is zero during 2016-17 to 2020-21 except in 2018-2019; it was 0.05.
5. It is a company in which promoters pledge is also zero.
6. Foreign Institutional Investors and Foreign Portfolio Investors are continuously buying this stock and have interest in this company.
7. Return on Capital Employed (%) was 64.10, 62.91, 70.74, 60.73 and 106.38 during the period of 2016-17 to 2020-21 respectively.

Conclusion

The company Colgate Palmolive India Limited share price has been doubled in five years period of 2016-17 to 2020-21. The money of the investor has earned high return and it is evident from the above analysis. If anyone is willing to earn high return then he can invest in this company share. The results of this study are on basis of

historical data. It is not necessary that historical events will repeat. But fast moving consumer products of this company are always liked & used and the market penetration is so high that competitor companies cannot snatch the market share of this company. If any prospective investor is willing to invest in this company then definitely on the basis of past historical data he can. This company has strong market share about its products. So we can say that company's profitability will not be reduced under any circumstances. So it is better option to invest in this company share instead of traditional investments. The author of this research paper is not responsible for any loss by any investment in the capital market done on basis of conclusion of this paper. Any reader or any person can consult his or her financial advisor before investment in this company share. Author, Editor or Publisher all are not responsible for any loss on account of investment in Colgate Palmolive India Limited. This study is for academic purpose. The reader of this paper should take its own decisions about Investments in the Colgate Palmolive India Limited. At the end, I will say that the performance shown by this company is very good during the last five years.

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PERCEPTION OF PEOPLE REGARDING DIFFERENT FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IN INDIA

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Abstract

With the introduction of various financial reforms, it is becoming very important to have a proper financial planning. With the increasing awareness for savings and investments lots of instruments are being introduced in the market. The various financial products in the market includes shares, mutual funds, bank deposit schemes, post office schemes etc. The government is making efforts to increase financial awareness among the people but it is observed that people lack financial literacy. This paper aims at highlighting the different financial instruments that are available in the market and the perception of the people regarding it. This study outlines that people are more concerned regarding the safety of their investment than the return. In spite of the introduction of new schemes, traditional schemes play a dominant role in the market. It was also observed that both men and women are not equally financially literate and lots of improvement in technology is required to make the post office schemes popular among the people.

Keywords: Financial planning, financial instruments, perception of people, financial awareness, post office schemes

Introduction

Earning more and more money is the dream of each and every individual. People indulge in various high risk investment schemes with the aim to earn higher returns but many a times due to lack of knowledge and proper awareness they end up incurring losses. Investors mostly focus on the safety of their principal amount by ensuring the appreciation of the value and maintaining high liquidity at the same time. There are many investment schemes available in India like investment in stocks, bonds, gold, silver, bank deposits, post office deposits etc.

With an increase in the life expectancy rate the need for proper return and liquidity has become a need of the hour. The rate of return is accompanied by the safety of the funds for its availability in the later stages of life. Among the various avenues available the choice of any instrument depends upon the need, risk, preference, demography, age group etc. of the investors. Any decision made by today is the root of the result that the person will get tomorrow. Therefore, a person needs to be very careful while making any investment as the decision taken today will specify the return that they will receive tomorrow.

People get information regarding mutual funds, stock market etc. from the internet and newspapers. Postal services are the oldest and largest network for mobilizing the small savings among the people. Savings and investment

play a vital role in the growth of both individual and economic growth of the country. There are in all 155015 post offices divided into 23 circles in India. The deposits in post office are 100% backed by the government that maintains the safety of funds. The paper mainly aims at exploring the different investment avenues available and the perception of the people regarding those financial instruments.

Review of Literature

Mutual Funds

K. Viyyanna, R. A. O. & Daita N. (2011) in their paper 'Fundamental factors influencing investment in the mutual funds' found that the real economic factors do not significantly impact the investment decision in mutual funds. They also do not have much bearing in predicting the market movements. It was seen that the entire mutual fund market is dominated by few big asset management firms. People have lost their interest to closed-ended funds and the P/B ratio and the P/E ratio has the much bearing over the returns produced in the mutual funds.

Arathy B., Nair A. A., Anju Sai P., & Pravitha N. R. (2015) in their study highlighted that major factors influencing the investment decisions are the tax-benefits, risk-return trade off, capital appreciation. It was seen that there has been bitter experience of the people with the investment in mutual funds and their satisfaction with regards to mutual funds can be rated to average.

Singal V. S., & Manrai R. (2018) suggested that investors prevent from investing in mutual funds due to their bitter experience and difficulty in selection of schemes. The satisfaction of people was found to be average from these schemes.

Khitoliya P. (2014) in her paper highlighted that of 95 respondents who were aware about the mutual funds; only 57 of them would like to invest in it. It was seen that people are redundant to invest in MF due to distrust and high consultation fee charged by investment managers. Investors generally like to discuss the mutual funds schemes with their friends and relative which is not a feasible or safe approach. It was seen that tax benefits and diversification are the two main reasons that encouraged people to invest in Mutual funds.

Stock Market

Kaur S., Batra G. S., & Anjum B. (2013) in their studies found that investment in stock market is complex and risky. People need to have the proper knowledge of their investment plans and must be aware about the changes in corpus of funds against the schemes. Investors can make investment by using Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio, Jensen Alpha, Fama's methods but most of the people lack knowledge about these measures.

Bhargava, A. Bhargava, A. & Jain S. (2016) in their study 'Factors affecting stock prices in India' analyzed that the macro economic factors such as oil price, exchange rate and inflation has a significant impact over the price of stock whereas it was very interesting to know that the fluctuations in the gold price does not have the major bearing over the price of the stock.

Fixed Deposits, Bank Savings and Other Government Securities

It is observed that liquidity risk was considered secondary risk before the global financial crisis (Matz & Neu, 2007), however after the global financial crisis the policies makers got their attention diverted over the liquidity factor and saw the shift of the savings from private to the public sector banks. Liquidity crisis refer to the situation wherein the bank is not able to honor the payments without selling off the assets or without making any undesirable expenses. Such a situation is very dangerous for any economy as it erodes the confidence of the people in that institution. To maintain the confidence of the people in the banking system government announces various deposit insurance scheme so that people can invest in banks as the funds from the banks are the major source of funding for government.

Earlier, in India deposit insurance provided to the consumer was Rs. 1 Lakh but after the failure of PMC bank the confidence of the people deteriorated and a larger population that was unaware about their deposit's safety came to know that their savings were covered with insurance of Rs.1 Lakh only. This resulted in panic among the

people and government extended the deposit insurance to Rs. 5 Lakh to restore the confidence of the consumers in banks.

Deposits in Post Office Schemes

Singh M. (2018) observed in his study 'Perception of people towards post office savings in reference to the state of Himachal Pradesh; that most of the savings are either on the monthly or half-yearly basis or annually basis. It was seen that about sixty percent of people save 5-15% of their income. Forty-two percent are able to save above 10% and there are only fourteen percent of the people that save above 20%.

Singh S. (2019) in their paper observed that most of the college teachers are unaware about the investment in shares, mutual funds and other financial instruments and still prefer to invest in traditional investment avenues like fixed deposits and post office schemes. They have the high priority towards the safety and security of their funds and majority of them invest in fixed deposit schemes followed by the post office schemes.

Abhinandan A. & Al-Gamal E. (2019) in their study 'Analysis of investment pattern of different class people' suggested that different class of people prefer to invest in different financial instrument. Knowledge is the key power to invest in shares, stocks and mutual fund. Investment awareness programmers needs to be organized to remove the fear of investment from the minds of people. In India people are still dependent on the traditional avenues like the bank deposits.

Dr. N. Rameshkumar (2018) suggested that rural women has the positive attitude towards the post office schemes. They are more inclined to invest in post office scheme than in any other scheme.

Objectives of Study

- To analyze the perception of people regarding different financial instruments in India.

Perception of the People for Different Financial Instruments

Mutual Funds

These are the funds meant for the investment by the common man. It consists of mixture of various instruments like equity, bonds, short-term debts and other various types of growth schemes. There are managers that handle the funds of their clients by investing into various schemes and by applying their knowledge in order to off beat the market returns. They charge fees for their services. These funds are comparatively riskier than the government backed security. The studies have shown that the overall perception of the people is affected majorly by these things like psychological status of mind, lack of knowledge, awareness among the people and the sources available to them to invest in mutual funds. It is very necessary to educate both the investors and mediators regarding the suitability of the mutual funds and proper advertising of the schemes should be done in order to encourage investments. The advice of the investment should be focused on the type of need and the age of investors. The studies have shown that there was a huge gap between the ratio of males and females who can take risk. It was seen that the number of males were around 60% who are ready to assume the higher risk whereas this ratio in the case of females lies to around 30% only. It was analyzed that the people who were of 45+ age group preferred to invest in the funds providing them regular income rather than taking risk.

Stock Market

Stock market also known as equity market is the market wherein the stocks of various companies are traded at some specified price. The price of the shares is determined by various factors including the performance of the company, its growth avenues, demand and supply of the stock in the market. These are instruments that provide higher rate of return and are also associated with the high level of risk. The knowledge of market is very important while making investment decision in the market. Some people make irrational decision due to their limited access of knowledge or limited time. They ignore the relevant information regarding the stock and the market and end up making losses. A timely review and a proper knowledge are very essential to earn profit in the market. People mainly tend to invest in stock market in order to gain higher returns. Earlier it was seen that around 64% of the

Indian only traded in the stock market however after the entry of COVID-19 and market crash people had very high expectations of the economic recovery and the ratio of the people investing in stock market has increased dramatically. Most of the people have a tendency to invest for the long run while small number of people invest for medium term range however after the impact of 2008 crisis people are more inclined to invest for the short or medium term to ensure the safety of their funds. Due to increased educational level & financial literacy, people like to deal directly through online mode by their own accounts rather than going for offline mode or having a broker. People in the Indian market are more inclined towards investment in the equities that reap them a high return on the annual basis.

Fixed Deposits, Bank Savings and Other Government Securities

Deposits in the bank are the major source of funds to the banking sector. It is the major portion of the savings that are deposited in the bank. Studies have shown that in the Islamic countries the rate of interest does not have the major impact over the quantum of savings either in the short-run or in the long run as in Islam the interest income is forbidden but it is seen that in the Non-Islamic countries the rate of interest have an impact over the quantum of savings. The deposit in the banks is considered as the safe deposits as it does not have any risk over the principal amount however the rate of interest has the major influence. Income of a person is one of the key factors that plays role in investment. The people with low income does not have the tendency to take high risk so they prefer to invest in banks as the security of their fund is not compromised. Safe investment avenues like FD's are very much preferred by the people of old age. The technological advancement and the convenience in savings and safety has inclined people more towards bank deposits in spite of low returns against stock market and mutual funds.

Deposits in Post Office Schemes

Investment in post office schemes is considered as one of the safest investment avenues as the deposits in post office are 100% backed by the government and the fear of losing the investment is eliminated in the minds of people due to government guarantee. With the introduction of globalization and liberalization many companies have stepped into the financial sector. Even many foreign companies have entered this sector but still the post office remains the most reliable agency of the government. The studies have shown that the investment in the post office is also triggered due to the tax-free interest rates, past experiences, good contacts with the agents and risk-free returns. Recurring deposits, post office savings bank account schemes, post office monthly income schemes are the major schemes in post office. It was analyzed that the investments in the post office by the people is lacking due to lack of advertisement owing to which many people are unaware of those schemes. The people tend to invest in post office schemes mainly to avail the tax-benefits. In this growing world people are more inclined towards the quality and speed of service and these two things play key role in the decision making. The lack of technological advancement, convenience and information has forced the investors to shift towards banking and other investment schemes rather than post office. It is seen that mainly 3 factors that include benefits, return and convenience influence people to invest. Post office possess the first two but the convenience to invest is highly missing which results in reduced interest of the people in these schemes. People still prefer post office schemes over any other schemes due to 100% security and tax benefits but lack of service quality is avoiding them to do so. Post office department needs to work in this area very seriously as the deposits in the post office can directly be used by the government for the development of the economy.

Discussion

There are lot of studies available on the perception of the people for the investment in the different financial avenues but it can be seen that people prefer to investment in the instruments that provide them tax-benefits, safety, returns, liquidity etc. It was observed that people lack knowledge regarding the mutual funds, stock market etc. and still prefers to invest in bank deposits and post office schemes. The satisfaction level from investing in mutual funds is average and they suffer from the problem of complexity and distrust on brokers.

Post office is a government entity and can serve as the major source of providing funds to the government. Introduction of new schemes and technological advancement can help in growth of this sector and help in better mobilization of funds. More and more awareness programs need to be implemented to educate people regarding these schemes. Other financial instruments like shares, mutual funds etc. require a good knowledge by the investor to invest in as due to the lack of knowledge and experience; they can end up making losses.

Conclusion

The purpose of this paper was to outline the various investment avenues available and to know the perception and the satisfaction level of the people from these instruments. It was observed that traditional schemes are still more popular among the people. The network of post office is the largest network of the world and technological advancement, introduction of new schemes, awareness programs can help this sector grow with a very fast pace and in turn it will also help the government in mobilizing the funds from the masses. 100% backing by the government will act as the support for the illiterate people and would save them from incurring losses which can happen in other financial instruments. The technological advancement in this sector will help these schemes to popularize among the urban masses. Post office can prove to be one of the major financial sources for the government. More research and findings are required to improve this sector and work towards the technological advancement, introduction of new schemes and imparting knowledge among the people.

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NON-PERFORMING ASSETS OF SELECTED PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS AND PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS

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Abstract

The Indian banking system can be broadly categorized into nationalized (government owned) banks, private banks and specialized banking institutions. Non-performing assets are a problem that all banks are dealing with today, whether they are public or private. The Indian banking sector has been struggling with the problem of increasing non-performing assets (NPAs). Non-performing assets (NPAs) are the key metric in evaluating a bank's financial performance since they have resulted in lower margins and higher provisioning requirements for questionable debts. To strengthen the financial soundness of the banking system, NPAs must be reduced. This study takes into account data from selected public and private sector banks over the recent five-year period. On the basis of secondary data, the research study depicts the trend of non-performing assets. This research study provides a conceptual understanding of non-performing assets, various non-performing asset ratios and a comparison of non-performing assets in public and private sector banks.

Keywords- Non-Performing Assets, Gross Non-Performing Assets, Net Non-Performing Assets, Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Net Profit.

Introduction: Non-Performing Assets

After the first phase of economic liberalization in 1991, the banking industry underwent a major transformation and credit management was born. The primary function of banks is to lend money to a variety of sectors including agriculture, industry, personal finance and housing as well as to accept deposits. Receiving a deposit carries no risk because the banker is obligated to reimburse the deposit whenever it is requested. On the other hand because there is risk or less guarantee of repayment, lending always carries a high level of risk. Banks have become more cautious about issuing loans in recent years, owing to rising non-performing assets. Non-performing assets has been the single biggest source of annoyance for India's banking sector. The Narasimha Committee-I had previously found that the fundamental reason for commercial banks' reduced profitability in India was the emphasis placed on priority sector lending. The committee had stated that priority sector lending was causing banks to accumulate non-performing assets and hence recommended that it be phased out. Following that the Narasimha Committee-II emphasized the importance of having zero non-performing assets for all Indian banks with overseas operations. The public deposits account for a significant share of the money lent. The majority of these deposits are repayable

on demand. As a result, while approving credit the banker must assess the project fairly otherwise loans and advances will not be repaid. Most Indian banks are now exposed to default risk, with a portion of their profits set aside to cover non-performing assets.

Definition of Non-Performing Assets

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NPA is “An asset, including a leased asset, becomes non-performing when it ceases to generate income for the bank.”

Types of Non-Performing Assets

- Gross Non-Performing Assets
- Net Non-Performing Assets

Gross Non-Performing Assets

According to RBI criteria, “Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) are the total of all loan assets categorized as non-performing assets (NPAs) as of the balance sheet date.”

The genuine NPAs and the quality of the loans made by banks are reflected in gross NPAs. It includes all non-standard assets such as sub-standard, questionable, and lost assets. The following ratio can be used to compute it:

$$\text{Gross NPAs to Gross Advances Ratio} = (\text{Gross NPAs}/\text{Gross Advances}) \times 100$$

Net Non-Performing Assets

Net non-performing assets (NPAs) are those for which the bank has deducted the provision for NPAs. Net NPA is calculated by subtracting provisions from Gross NPAs, and it depicts the banks’ true burden. Because bank balance sheets in India contain a large number of non-performing assets (NPAs) and the process of recovering and writing off loans is time consuming. The provisions that banks must make against NPAs in accordance with central bank requirements are enormous. As a result, the gap between gross and net NPA is fairly large. The following formula can be used to compute it:

$$\text{Net NPAs} = \text{Gross NPAs} - \text{Provisions on Gross Advances}$$

Categories of Non Performing Assets

Banks are expected to further classify non-performing assets into the following three categories based on the length of time the asset has been non-performing and the reliability of the dues:

- Substandard Assets
- Doubtful Assets
- Loss Assets

Substandard Assets

A substandard asset is one that has remained non-performing for less than or equal to 12 months as on balance sheet date. In such circumstances, the borrower’s/guarantor’s current net worth or the current market value of the security charged is insufficient to secure full repayment of the banks’ debts. In other words, such an asset will have well-defined credit problems that risk the debt’s liquidation and are marked by the distinct prospect of a loss to the banks if the inadequacies are not remedied.

Doubtful Assets

An asset has been classed as questionable if it has stayed in the substandard category for more than 12 months. A loan categorized as dubious has all of the flaws found in assets classed as substandard with the extra feature that the flaws render full collection or liquidation highly uncertain and improbable based on currently known facts, conditions, and valuations.

Loss Assets

A loss asset is one that has been detected as having a loss by the bank or internal or external auditors or the RBI inspection but the value has not been completely written off. In other words, such an asset is regarded

uncollectible and of such low value that it is not warranted as a bankable asset, despite the possibility of salvage or recovery value.

Literature Review

Researchers have attempted to compile a brief “Review of Literature” based on research articles and technical papers published in associated journals, periodicals and websites. The purpose of this study is to look at the status of gross non-performing assets (NPAs), net non-performing assets (NPAs), net profit and; comparison among selected public and private sector banks.

Bhandari, M. (2019)- The goal of this study was to determine how well public and private sector banks handle non-performing assets (NPAs). They look into the position of non-performing assets (NPAs). Finally, it was concluded that NPAs in the banking industry have an impact on the economy. Various measures such as credit risk management, credit monitoring, handling corporate governance issues, strict NPA recovery, and asset reconstruction companies are essential to keep NPAs under control.

Miyan (2017) used a statistical approach to compare the NPAs of public and private sector banks in India. NPAs have been on the decline over the study period although PSB NPAs are still higher than private sector banks. As a result, public sector banks performed poorly in comparison to private sector banks.

Singla (2015) attempted to compare the gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) in different public, private and foreign banks in India. He came to the conclusion that private sector banks had a lower increase in gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) than public sector banks and foreign banks operating in India.

Mohnani, P. & Deshmukh M. (2013)- This paper’s goal is to examine the operational performance of a few public and private banks in India. They also look at how well those banks handle their non-performing assets. They drew the conclusion that NPAs have a variety of effects on operations including increased cost of capital, lower return on investment and a negative impact on bank profitability. NPAs indicate poor bank performance, hence they must be reduced.

Srivastava V. & Bansal Deepak (2012) conducted a “Research of trends of non-performing assets in private banks in India” to see if there is a positive trend and control of NPAs by India’s private sector banks. They found that quantity of non-performing assets (NPAs) in India’s public sector banks is worrying yet there is a minor improvement in asset quality as evidenced by a decrease in the NPA percentage. Banks must act quickly to prevent the depreciation of good-performing assets.

Chaudhary and Sharma (2011) in their study paper “Performance of Indian Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks: A Comparative Study,” claimed that the time has come to implement appropriate and tough steps to address the NPA problem. It is necessary to create an effective management information system. The bank personnel in charge of sanctioning the advances should be educated on correct paperwork and security charges as well as motivated to take steps to avoid advances from becoming nonperforming assets. To compete with private sector banks, public sector banks must pay attention to how they operate. Banks should be well-versed in proper borrower/project selection as well as its financial statement analysis.

Research Methodology

The Study’s Importance

This study will help selected banks to understand their non-performing assets performance in comparison to other banks. Non-performing assets are a problem that all banks are now dealing with. This non-performing assets analysis is highly helpful to know their non-performing assets and the causes of non-performing assets. The interest on loans is a bank’s primary source of revenue. Non-performing assets are created when borrowers do not pay their interest or principle amount on time. Non-performing assets have a direct impact on the income and profitability of a company. As a result, this research will assist banks in improving their profitability. This study will be very valuable to public and private sector banks in determining their success, in managing non-performing assets in comparison to other banks and in improving their performance.

Problem to be researched

Interest on advances is a bank's primary source of revenue. The income or profitability of any bank determines its performance. On the other hand, non-performing assets are today's biggest issue for any bank. If the banks are unable to recover its interest and principal amount, then the advances become non-performing assets. As a result, bank profitability is directly linked to the state of non-performing assets. This research is based on a comparison of selected public and selected private sector banks and their non-performing assets' trends.

“Comparative Analysis of Non-Performing Assets of Selected Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks” is the key research problem.

Objectives

The following broad objectives have been established for the study—

- To learn about the performance of selected public and private sector banks in terms of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) over the last five years.
- To learn about the performance of selected public and private sector banks in terms of net non-performing assets (NPAs) during the last five years.
- To learn about the performance of selected public and private sector banks in terms of net profit over the last five years.
- To compare the non-performing assets (NPAs) of selected public and private sector banks.

Design of the Study

The specification of methods and procedures for obtaining the information needed to structure or solve the problem is known as a research design. What information is to be collected from which source and by what technique is determined by the project's overarching operational pattern or structure. The entire study is conducted using a descriptive research design. This research methodology enables us to evaluate and analyze non-performing assets (NPA's) in public and private banks.

Sources of Information

We analyzed and compared non-performing assets (NPAs) in public and private sector banks in this study using secondary sources of data. Secondary data is utilized to generate several non-performing asset ratios such as gross and net non-performing assets. The essential data for this study has been obtained from selected banks annual reports, some data from websites such as moneycontrol.com, websites of selected banks & from; journals, magazines, newspapers, research papers on NPAs etc.

Unit of Measurement

We will look at two public sector banks in this study namely **Bank of India** and **Bank of Baroda** as well as two private sector banks namely **Axis Bank** and **HDFC Bank**.

Size of the Sample

We used a sample size of two public sector banks and two private sector banks in this investigation. In this study, we look at five years of annual reports from public and private sector banks from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Design of Sampling

We used simple random sampling to identify public and private sector banks from the population for this investigation.

The Study's Limitations

Every study has its own set of limitations. This research is not an exception. The following are the limitations of the study:

- The research is confined to only two public sector & two private sector banks.
- The research is only based on last five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- This study is based on secondary data.

Data Analysis

The information was gathered from the respective selected public and private sector banks' annual reports.

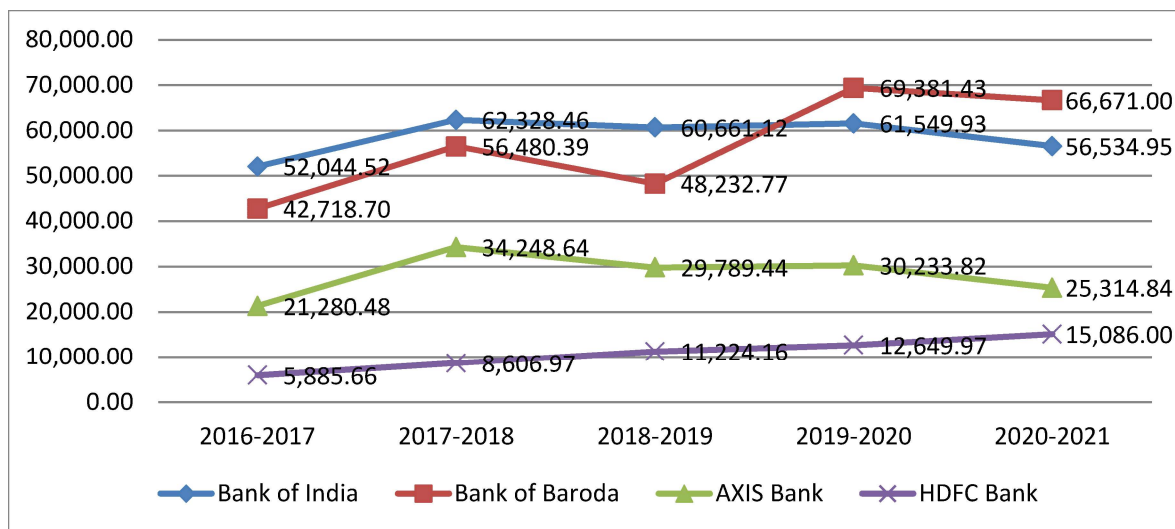
Gross Non- Performing Assets

The following table 1 shows the year wise Gross NPAs and Ratio of Gross NPAs of the four selected banks.

Table 1: Gross NPAs (Rs. in Crores) and Ratio of Gross NPAs of Selected Banks

Year	Public Sector Banks				Private Sector Banks			
	BANK OF INDIA		BANK OF BARODA		AXIS BANK		HDFC BANK	
	GNPA	GNPA %	GNPA	GNPA %	GNPA	GNPA %	GNPA	GNPA %
2016-2017	52,044.52	13.22	42,718.70	10	21,280.48	5.04	5,885.66	1.05
2017-2018	62,328.46	16.58	56,480.39	12	34,248.64	6.77	8,606.97	1.3
2018-2019	60,661.12	15.84	48,232.77	10	29,789.44	5.26	11,224.16	1.36
2019-2020	61,549.93	14.78	69,381.43	9	30,233.82	4.86	12,649.97	1.26
2020-2021	56,534.95	13.77	66,671.00	9	25,314.84	3.7	15,086.00	1.32

Graph 1: Gross NPAs of Selected Banks (Rs. in Crores)



Interpretation

On the basis of above table 1 and chart 1, we can say that Gross NPAs and Gross NPA ratio are mostly fluctuating. It sometimes increases or sometimes decreases.

It is clear that Gross NPA and Gross NPA ratio in case of public sector banks are more than private sector banks among the selected banks.

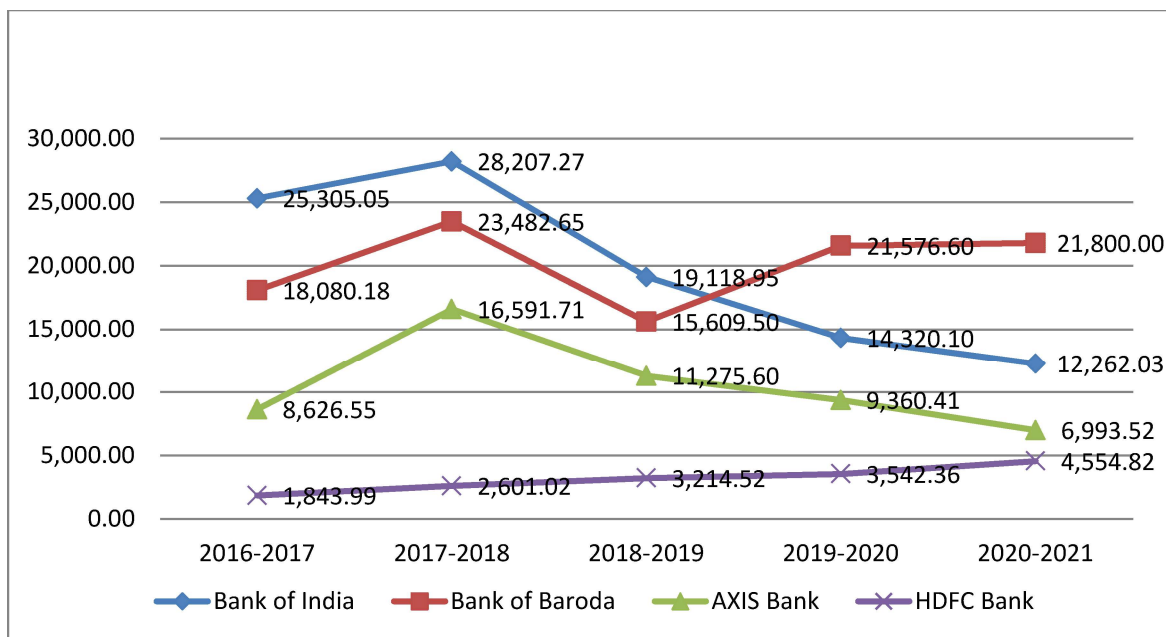
Net Non- Performing Assets

The following table 2 shows the year wise Net NPAs and Ratio of Net NPAs of the four selected banks.

Table 2: Net NPAs (Rs. in Crores) and Ratio of Net NPAs of Selected Banks

Year	Public Sector Banks				Private Sector Banks			
	BANK OF INDIA		BANK OF BARODA		AXIS BANK		HDFC BANK	
	NNPA	NNPA %	NNPA	NNPA %	NNPA	NNPA %	NNPA	NNPA %
2016-2017	25,305.05	6.9	18,080.18	5	8,626.55	2.11	1,843.99	0.33
2017-2018	28,207.27	8.26	23,482.65	5	16,591.71	3.4	2,601.02	0.4
2018-2019	19,118.95	5.61	15,609.50	3.33	11,275.60	2.06	3,214.52	0.39
2019-2020	14,320.10	3.88	21,576.60	3.13	9,360.41	1.56	3,542.36	0.36
2020-2021	12,262.03	3.35	21,800.00	3.09	6,993.52	1.05	4,554.82	0.4

Graph 2: Net NPAs of Selected Banks (Rs. in Crores)



Interpretation

On the basis of above table and chart, we can say that Net NPA and Net NPA ratio are mostly fluctuating. It sometimes increases or sometimes decreases.

It is clear that Net NPA and Net NPA ratio in case of public sector banks are more than private sector banks among the selected banks.

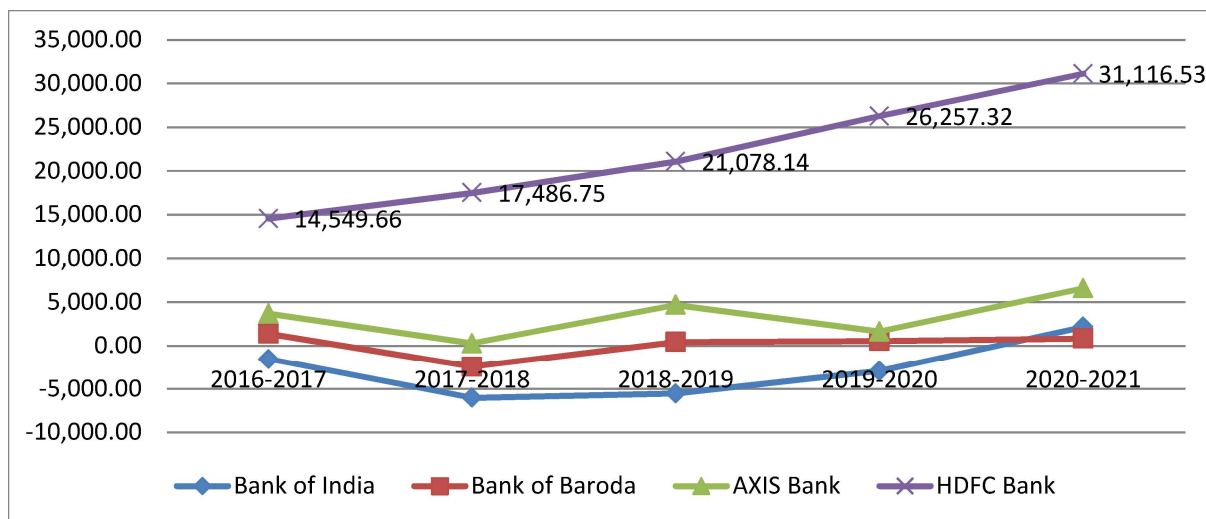
Net Profit

The following table 3 shows the year wise Net profit of the four selected banks.

Table 3: Net Profit of Selected Banks (Rs. in Crores)

Year	Public Sector Banks		Private Sector Banks	
	BANK OF INDIA	BANK OF BARODA	AXIS BANK	HDFC BANK
2016-2017	-1,558.34	1,383.13	3,679.28	14,549.66
2017-2018	-6,043.71	-2,431.81	275.68	17,486.75
2018-2019	-5,546.90	433.52	4,676.61	21,078.14
2019-2020	-2,956.89	546.18	1,627.22	26,257.32
2020-2021	2,160.30	828.95	6,588.50	31,116.53

Graph 3: Net Profit of Selected Banks (Rs. in Crores)



Interpretation

On the basis of above table and chart, we can say that Net profits of selected banks are mostly fluctuating. It sometimes increases or sometimes decreases, but as an exception HDFC Bank net profit is continuously increasing.

It is clear that Net profit in case of public sector banks are less than private sector banks among the selected banks.

Findings

We discovered a considerable discrepancy in non-performing assets between public and private sector banks after studying the data. In fact, I discovered that non-performing assets in public sector banks are far higher than in private sector banks. In public sector banks, the ratios of gross non-performing assets and net non-performing assets are higher than in private sector banks. In comparison to private sector banks the amount of gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) in public sector banks is higher. When it comes to net profit, private sector banks outperform public sector banks. As a result, we discovered that a higher level of NPAs had a negative impact on bank profitability.

Conclusion

From 2016-17 to 2020-21, we looked at the trends in gross non-performing assets (NPAs), net non-performing assets (NPAs) and net profit of selected public and private sector banks. NPAs have an impact on bank financial

performance but also on the economy's financial growth. Because Indian banks rely heavily on interest on money lent. Money tied up in NPAs has a direct impact on the bank's profitability. This study reveals that the scope of non-performing assets (NPA) in public sector banks is significantly higher than in private sector banks. Although the government has taken several initiatives to reduce NPAs but much more has to be done to address this issue. Our banks' non-performing assets (NPAs) are still high when compared to foreign banks. It is impossible to have zero percent non-performing assets (NPAs). The recovery process should be accelerated by the bank's management. The difficulty of recovery is not with little borrowers but with large borrowers and to solve this problem a stringent policy must be implemented. The government should also make greater provisions for the faster resolution of ongoing cases as well as minimize required lending to the priority sector which is the main source of problem. Finally, the problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) requires a lot of serious attention otherwise NPAs would continue to eat into bank profits, which is not good for the rising Indian economy.

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AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF LIC HOUSING FINANCE

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Abstract

The proposed paper “An Analytical study of Assets and Liabilities of LIC Housing Finance” aims at analysing the assets that LIC HFL contains as well as with the liabilities it owes. The study as proposed in the paper is related to the financial and non-financial assets and liabilities. The study aims at finding co-variability relationship between financial assets and financial liabilities along with the co-variability relationship between non-financial assets with non-financial liabilities. The study analyses the various assets and liabilities on their categorization as being financial and non-financial. Annual Growth Rates & Compound Annual Growth Rates of financial assets and financial liabilities as well as non-financial assets & non-financial liabilities have also been computed and analysed.

Keywords: Financial assets, financial liabilities, non-financial assets, non-financial liabilities.

About LIC Housing Finance

LIC Housing Finance is one of the trusted and oldest housing finance companies amongst the housing finance companies in India. It holds a good market share in the housing finance industry. It had been serving a wide customer base since 1989. With its headquarter in Mumbai, it is serving its customers across the country with various regional and area offices along with two overseas offices in Dubai and Kuwait.

Its presence on the market was more strongly felt when it came with its Initial Public Offering in 1994. Ever since, it had been traded on both the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.

Over its years of operation, it has been honoured with many awards and accolades for its successful and satisfying performance.

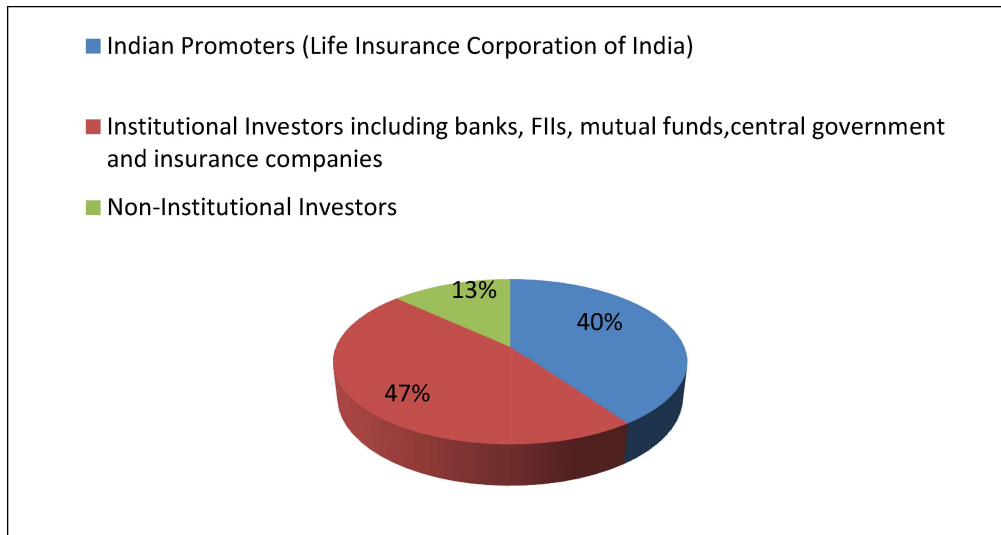
The company had been a front-runner in the area of housing finance, primarily promoted by Life Insurance Corporation of India. Below is a table containing a broad breakup of the shareholding pattern¹.

Table 1
Shareholding Pattern of LIC Housing Finance (as on 31st March 2020)

Category	Percentage(rounded off)
Indian Promoters (Life Insurance Corporation of India)	40%
Institutional Investors including banks, FIIs, mutual funds, central government and insurance companies	47%
Non-Institutional Investors	13%

Source—Annual Report of LIC Housing Finance

Figure 1
Shareholding Pattern of LIC Housing Finance (as on 31st March 2020)



Source— Table 1 of this paper

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the paper is to analyse the growth of the financial assets, financial liabilities, non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities of LIC Housing Finance. Co-variability among Financial Assets & Financial Liabilities and among Non-financial Assets & Non-financial Liabilities has also been tried to find out. The objectives can be briefed as follows—

- To compute and analyse the annual and compound annual growth rate of financial assets.
- To compute and analyse the annual and compound annual growth rate of financial liabilities.
- To compute and analyse the annual and compound annual growth rate of non-financial assets.
- To compute and analyse the annual and compound annual growth rate of non-financial liabilities.
- To compute and analyse the correlation between financial assets and financial liabilities.
- To compute and analyse the correlation between non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities.
- To derive conclusion and develop some suggestions for LIC Housing Finance

Meaning of Financial Assets

“A financial asset is any asset that is:

- (a) cash;
- (b) an equity instrument of another entity;
- (c) a contractual right:
 - (i) to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or
 - (ii) to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or
- (d) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity’s own equity instruments and is:
 - (i) a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity’s own equity instruments;
 - or
 - (ii) a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity’s own equity instruments. For this purpose the

entity's own equity instruments do not include puttable financial instruments classified as equity instruments in accordance with paragraphs 16A and 16B, instruments that impose on the entity an obligation to deliver to another party a pro rata share of the net assets of the entity only on liquidation and are classified as equity instruments in accordance with paragraphs 16C and 16D, or instruments that are contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.” —**As per Para 11 of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 32-Financial Instruments: Presentation²**

Meaning of Financial Liabilities

“A *financial liability* is any liability that is:

- (a) a contractual obligation :
 - (i) to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
 - (ii) to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity; or
- (b) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - (i) a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments;
or
 - (ii) a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose, rights, options or warrants to acquire a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments for a fixed amount of any currency are equity instruments if the entity offers the rights, options or warrants pro rata to all of its existing owners of the same class of its own non-derivative equity instruments. Apart from the aforesaid, the equity conversion option embedded in a convertible bond denominated in foreign currency to acquire a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments is an equity instrument if the exercise price is fixed in any currency. Also, for these purposes the entity's own equity instruments do not include puttable financial instruments that are classified as equity instruments in accordance with paragraphs 16A and 16B, instruments that impose on the entity an obligation to deliver to another party a pro rata share of the net assets of the entity only on liquidation and are classified as equity instruments in accordance with paragraphs 16C and 16D, or instruments that are contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.” — **As per Para 11 of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 32-Financial Instruments: Presentation²**

Meaning of Non-Financial Assets

A non-financial asset is an asset which has a real existence. It means that these assets have a value which is being derived from an actual physical item like vehicles, plant and machinery, furniture and fittings, real estate etc.. Intellectual property rights like patents, copyright, trademarks are all a part of non-financial assets. These items are difficult to liquidate and their valuation is a time consuming process. But these items build a strong and reliable image of the company for investment.

Meaning of Non-Financial Liabilities

Non-Financial liabilities are mostly non-cash type of liabilities like deferred revenue, payments received in advance, provisions made for uncertainly in business like provision for bad debts, provision for depreciation etc.

List of Assets and Liabilities of LIC Housing Finance³

Financial Assets

- Cash and Cash Equivalents
- Bank Balance other than above

- Derivative Financial Instruments
- Loans
- Investments
- Other Financial Assets

Financial Liabilities

- Derivative Financial Instruments
- Lease Liabilities
- Payables -
Trade Payables - - -
(i) total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises
(ii) total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises
- Debt Securities
- Borrowings (Other than Debt Securities)
- Deposits
- Subordinated Liabilities
- Other Financial Liabilities

Non-Financial Assets

- Current Tax Assets (Net)
- Deferred Tax Assets (Net)
- Property, Plant and Equipment
- Capital Work in Progress
- Right of Use Assets
- Other Intangible Assets
- Other Non-Financial Assets

Non-Financial Liabilities

- Current Tax Liabilities (Net)
- Provisions
- Deferred Tax Liabilities (Net) - - -
- Other Non-Financial Liabilities

Research Methodology

In the given study we have taken four years data related to assets and liabilities from the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance. The years taken are from financial year 2016-2017 to 2019-20. The data is arranged categorically. The annual growth rate as well as the compound annual growth rate is calculated from the set along with the correlation of financial assets with financial liabilities and non-financial assets with non-financial liabilities.

The formula used for calculating annual growth rate is:

$$\text{Annual Growth Rate} = \frac{Y_1 - Y_0}{Y_0} \times 100\%$$

Where

Y_1 = Current Year

Y_0 = Previous Year

Compound Annual Growth Rate is defined as:

$$\text{Compound Annual Growth Rate} = \left(\sqrt[3]{\frac{Y_4}{Y_1}} - 1 \right) \times 100\%$$

Where

Y_4 = Financial Year 2019-20

Y_1 = Financial Year 2016-17

Calculations and Results

The following are the calculations from the data drawn from the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance.

Table 2
Annual Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate of Financial Assets

Year	Financial Assets (In Crore Rs.)	Annual Growth Rate in %
2016-17	149907.82	----
2017-18	170295.79	13.60
2018-19	199641.48	17.23
2019-20	215565.18	7.98
Compound Annual Growth Rate in % =	12.87	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

From the data drawn from the asset side of the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance and the calculations done using equation (1), it can be inferred that from 2016-17 to 2017-18, the company saw a 13.60% increase in the financial assets, and further from 2017-18 to 2018-19, the increase was around 17.23%. While in the year 2019-20, the company experienced a slightly lower increase of 7.98%. But overall, there was an increasing trend in the financial assets of the company in these four years.

Using the equation (2), we could infer that the compound annual growth rate of the financial assets of the company stood at approximately 12.87%.

Table 3
Annual Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate of Non-Financial Assets

Year	Non-Financial Assets (Rs. in Crore)	Annual Growth Rate in %
2016-17	573.77	---
2017-18	794.03	38.39
2018-19	941.99	18.63
2019-20	1240.41	31.68
Compound Annual Growth Rate =	29.30	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

From the data drawn from the asset side of the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance and the calculations done using equation (1), it can be inferred that from 2016-17 to 2017-18, the company saw a 38.39% increase in the non-financial assets, and further from 2017-18 to 2018-19, the increase was slightly lower at around 18.63%. While in the year 2019-20, the company experienced a little pace, resulting in an increase of 31.68%. Overall, there was an increasing trend in the non-financial assets of the company in these four years.

Using the equation (2), we could infer that the compound annual growth rate of the non-financial assets of the company stood at approximately 29.30%.

Table 4
Annual Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate of Financial Liabilities

Year	Financial Liabilities (In Crore Rs.)	Annual Growth Rate in %
2016-17	137769.09	----
2017-18	156728.82	13.76
2018-19	184210.63	17.53
2019-20	198243.5	7.62
Compound Annual Growth Rate in %=	12.90	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

From the data drawn from the liabilities side of the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance and the calculations done using equation (1), it can be inferred that from 2016-17 to 2017-18, the company saw a 13.76% increase in the financial liabilities, and further from 2017-18 to 2018-19, the increase was around 17.53%. While in the year 2019-20, the company experienced a slightly lower increase of 7.62%. But overall, there was an increasing trend in the financial liabilities of the company in these four years.

Using the equation (2), we could infer that the compound annual growth rate of the financial liabilities of the company stood at approximately 12.90%.

Table 5
Annual Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate of Non-Financial Liabilities

Year	Non-Financial Liabilities (In Crore Rs.)	Annual Growth Rate in %
2016-17	100.55	---
2017-18	119.82	19.16
2018-19	113.57	-5.22
2019-20	368.99	224.90
Compound Annual Growth Rate in %=	54.24	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

From the data drawn from the liabilities side of the balance sheet of LIC Housing Finance and the calculations done using equation (1), it can be inferred that from 2016-17 to 2017-18, the company saw a 19.16% increase in the non-financial liabilities and further from 2017-18 to 2018-19, there was a decrease in the non-financial liabilities by 5.22%. The financial year 2019-20 witnessed a radical growth in the non-financial liabilities by 224.90%. Overall, the non-financial liabilities grew in these four years.

Using the equation (2), we could infer that the compound annual growth rate of the non-financial liabilities of the company stood at approximately 54.24%.

Table 6
Relationship of Financial Assets with Financial Liabilities

Year	Financial Assets (In crore Rs.)	Financial Liabilities (In Crore Rs.)
2016-17	149907.82	137769.09
2017-18	170295.79	156728.82
2018-19	199641.48	184210.63
2019-20	215565.18	198243.5
Correlation=	1.00	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

The correlation coefficient between financial assets and financial liabilities derived using the excel worksheet in-built formula of correlation resulted in 1 which means that with an increase/decrease in financial assets, the financial liabilities also have the tendency of increase/decrease in the same pace. It is a very strong correlation which is positively related. On seeing the results in Table 2 and Table 4, we can infer that the change in financial assets and financial liabilities for these four years is approximately the same.

Table 7
Relationship of Non-Financial Assets with Non-Financial Liabilities

Year	Non-Financial Assets (In Crore Rs.)	Non-Financial Liabilities (In Crore Rs.)
2016-17	573.77	100.55
2017-18	794.03	119.82
2018-19	941.99	113.57
2019-20	1240.41	368.99
Correlation=	0.86	

Source—Annual Reports of LIC Housing Finance— various issues

The correlation coefficient between non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities derived using the excel worksheet in-built formula of correlation resulted in 0.86 which means that with an increase/decrease in non-financial assets, the non-financial liabilities also have the tendency increase/decrease in a very significant manner. It is a positively related strong correlation since it is more than 0.75.

Suggestions

LIC Housing Finance has a good network of offices yet its presence in rural areas and small cities is limited. Its reach to the masses may require some work from the company's side. It needs to set up offices in rural areas and small cities and educate people about housing finance. The awareness amongst these locations may need more advertisements and campaigns to bring housing finance to the forefront and help the needy borrower.

Conclusion

From the number of customers it serves, we can infer the credibility of the company and its attractiveness. It gets reasonable funds to keep operating. Its shareholding is a dominated by institutional investors, clearly indicating the interest that the market has in it.

On analysing the combined results, it can be drawn that LIC Housing Finance has a strong asset and liability management system. The company keeps a good balance between the assets and liabilities. It also means that LIC Housing Finance is good at backing all its liabilities with sufficient assets. A company like this is stable and attracts more investment. The only thing this company requires; is to spread its outreach to the small cities, rural areas and remote areas of the country.

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IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DIGITAL MARKETING

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Abstract

As we push past the principal commemoration of the COVID-19 pandemic, endless lives have been changed everlastingly, how society capacities has met another ordinary, and business has been changed for the time being. There is no rejecting that this previous year has been trying for without question, everybody. Not just have organizations needed to transform to change in accordance with the new ordinary; the purchase habits and the philosophies that run the business world also have been adjusted until the end of time. Since advanced advertising has consistently centered around adjusting a brand to client inclinations and necessities, we should take a gander at both to totally see what the COVID-19 pandemic has meant for computerized showcasing i.e. digital marketing all in all.

Keywords- computerized showcasing, digital marketing, sustainable, advertising

Introduction

“The internet has upended how consumers engage with brands. It is transforming the economics of marketing and making obsolete many of the function’s traditional strategies and structures. For marketers, the old way of doing business is unsustainable.” (Edelman, 2010)

At an undeniable level, computerized promoting alludes to publicizing conveyed through advanced channels like web search tools, sites, web-based media, email, and versatile applications etc. Utilizing these online media channels, advanced promoting is the strategy which organizations have embraced for their products, services and brands. Customers intensely depend on advanced intends to explore items.

While cutting edge advanced promoting is a huge arrangement of channels to which advertisers basically should installed their brands; publicizing on the web is substantially more mind boggling than the channels alone. To accomplish the genuine capability of computerized advertising, advertisers need to dive profound into the present tremendous and perplexing cross-channel world to find procedures that have an effect through commitment promoting/ advertising. Commitment advertising is the strategy for framing significant connections with the potential and returning clients dependent on the information gathered over the long haul. By drawing in clients in an advanced scene, producers have constructed the brand mindfulness and set their business at the cutting edge when the client is prepared to purchase.

By executing an omnichannel progressed exhibiting method, sponsors can accumulate critical information into the objective group rehearses while clearing the path for the new procedures for customer responsibilities. Forbes estimates that “Web-based media will turn out to be progressively conversational into the B2B space, video

content will be refined for the search engine optimization (SEO) purposes, and email showcasing will turn out to be much more customized.”

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To study the concept of digital marketing.
2. To analyse the impact of Covid-19 on digital marketing.
3. To understand the future role of digital marketing post Covid-19.

Scope of the Study

Scope of the study is related to understand the concept of Digital Marketing, and to know the impact, of Covid-19 pandemic had/has on digital marketing and also understand the future of digital marketing post Covid-19 pandemic.

Research Design

The study is based on the secondary sources of data, collected through published sources like text books, journals, and magazines and through the blogs and articles published on various websites.

Limitations of Study

- Based on secondary data only
- Time constraints while collecting the secondary data
- This study can't be generalized.

Digital Marketing

According to Kotler and Armstrong— “Digital marketing is a form of direct marketing which links consumers with sellers electronically using interactive technologies like emails, websites, online forums and newsgroups, interactive television, mobile communications etc.”

Digital marketing refers to advertising through digital channels like search engines, social media, email, websites, and mobile apps etc. Utilizing these online media channels, computerized showcasing is the technique by which organizations advertise their products, services and brands. Customers highly depend on advanced tools to explore items. For example, Think with Google advancing Encounters found that “48% of purchasers start their solicitations on web crawlers, while 33% desire to stamp locales and 26% request inside flexible applications.” Publicizing on the web is more challenging. As per a report by Invesp, “Organizations with solid omnichannel client commitment procedures hold a normal of 89% of their clients contrasted with organizations with powerless omnichannel programs that have a consistency standard of simply 33%.”

Tools for Digital Marketing

As the customers' response for traditional marketing approaches are reducing in recent times, the consumers' engagement with brands and marketing activities through digital platform has increased considerably. This increase in engagement has led to the development of various digital marketing tools—

- a) Search Engine Optimization:** Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is regularly about making little changes to parts/contents of your site. When seen exclusively, these progressions may seem like gradual enhancements, however when joined with different advancements, they could visibly affect your site's client experience and execution in natural query items. This optimization helps the both seller and the purchaser. These optimizations help the buyers to enhance their knowledge about the goods or services they are going to purchase. In result, sellers get increased sale consequently increase in profits.
- b) Search Engine Marketing:** Unlike SEO, search engine marketing is a paid process, in which the search engine is paid by the marketers to show their website link on top of the search list whenever the products' keyword (or group of keywords) are searched.

- c) **Online Media Advertising:** It is an amazing way for organizations to connect clients with brands through online media via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest etc. Extraordinary promoting via online media can carry wonderful accomplishment to the business, making dedicated brand advocates and surprisingly driving leads and deals.
- d) **E-Mail Marketing:** This is an apparatus utilized by advertisers to focus on the clients straightforwardly through e-messages. Here e-messages are utilized to send information regarding limited time offer and other sort of messages to the likely clients and; spur interest for the item or service offered.
- e) **Affiliate Marketing:** It is a promoting model in which an organization pays outsider distributors to create craze & demand about the organization's items and offerings. The outsider distributors are offshoots, and the commission expense boosts them to discover approaches to advance the organization. This method is becoming quite popular now.
- f) **Mobile Marketing:** As the number of smartphone users are increasing world-wide; to bank on this opportunity brands have started to connect with their customers on mobile phones through mobile apps, e-mails, Mobile-Optimizable Websites, and social media etc.
- g) **Influencer Marketing:** It is a crossover of old and new advertising devices. It takes the possibility of VIP support and places it into a current substance driven showcasing effort. The primary differentiator on account of influencer advertising is that the after effects of the mission are joint efforts among brands and influencers. Influencer marketing is also becoming popular as Cricketers, film stars etc. are being used to influence the buying habit of the customers.

Impact of COVID-19 On Digital Marketing

The wide spread of Covid-19 had a drastic negative impact on on-field marketing activities, mainly due to lockdown. However, this opened the doors for digital marketing as people shifted to digital mediums faster than anticipated. The following points explain the impact of Covid-19 on digital marketing and advertising—

i. Increased Social Media engagement paved way for Increased Social Media Marketing:

Because of Covid-19 flare-up bringing about lockdown and work from home being set up, individuals had parcel of spare energy, which they for the most part spent via online media. Subsequently, this gives a chance to advertisers to profit by and better interface with their clients through different Social Media locales such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and so forth.

ii. Increased Importance of AI based Chat-bots:

While the online activities of people have extended during pandemic, and the vast majority of the workforce was on work from home status, the associations got to Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Chat-bots, that would give key assistance to the customers notwithstanding a pre-adjusted talk room. The usage of such talk-bot (chat-bot) has extended unexpectedly, and thus these chat-bots are performing the role of distant assistants to the customers.

iii. Increased Online Product Research among Customers:

Throughout the different waves of Pandemic, individuals are investing more energy in exploring about items, services and brands on the web. This research has helped brands and advertisers to deal with their online standing successfully and be responsive towards the client surveys and satisfy their queries. This helps the customers in their buying decisions.

Contingent upon the nature of business, supportive substance or tools for digital marketing may vary. Proper use of these digital tools is important and desirable for growth of business. Clients will be appreciative if sellers advertisers give a fun, and valuable experience/advice for them while they have been stuck at home. Indeed, the Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report likewise found that, "Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic a bigger number of than 33% of buyers (82% in China, 60% in India) said that they have begun utilizing another

brand on account of the imaginative or empathetic way that it has reacted.” Therefore, putting forth the attempt to increase web-based media endeavors can bring about reinforcing existing client connections and producing new ones.

Scope of Digital Marketing Post Covid-19

“Digital marketing facilitates many-to-many communications due to its high level of connectivity and is usually executed to promote products or services in a timely, relevant, personal and cost-effective manner.” (Bains et al., 2011)

As mentioned above, the growth of digital marketing has been very impressive and the numbers show that the growth is going to see an upward trend in the future. Simply put, the future of digital marketing looks secure and bright. More and more opportunities will keep coming in and thus, being creative, innovative, and updated with the latest trends is the basic principle of every digital marketer.

The development that we have seen on the Internet over the course of the years particularly since Coronavirus, is digging in for the long haul. Individuals are adjusting to the new ordinary and indeed are currently truly alright with completing things on the web, be it for shopping, requesting food or prescriptions, or in any event, doing banking exchanges on the web etc. Hence, to cater to these new-formed demands of the consumers, digital marketing is extremely essential.

Furthermore, a significant angle to consider is the group of people yet to come will be a piece of the all around advanced world and will be acquainted with everything being on the web. So to have the option to convey to these future purchasers, organizations should put forth computerized promoting attempts beginning today.

A significant take away from this is; that the eventual fate of computerized promoting is exceptionally encouraging. Right now in post Covid era, computerized showcasing is an ideal opportunity to get this chance for the potential benefit of the business.

Conclusion

Brands advertising has changed from on-field advertising to internet advertising during the Covid-19 pandemic. The scope of digital marketing has widened. Marketers have reached out to customers through multiple platforms such as social media, websites, paid ads, influencers, virtual events, games, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), and Virtual Reality (VR) etc. Although demand for digital marketing has increased, but still there is a sizable shortage of professionals regarding digital aspects of advertising. It’s time to get equipped with the necessary skills for a flourishing career in digital marketing. Right now in post Covid era, computerized showcasing i.e. digital marketing is an ideal opportunity for sellers & advertisers to convert this chance into the potential benefit of the business.

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IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract

Unemployment is one of the most serious problems which is being experienced by most of the countries including India. The unemployment crisis has been in existence for a long time. India has been witnessing a slowdown in the growth of employment over the past few years, despite the boost in the economic sector. The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown added to the already existing slowdown and had a devastating effect on the unemployment rate in India. Some of the private sector companies fired their employees. The informal sector employees were hit hard as a result of this lockdown as the majority of them started losing jobs. Thousands of people without any money left cities, migrating to their homelands several hundreds of miles away. As many as 21 million salaried jobs have been lost between April and August, 2020 and 3.2 million salaried jobs have been lost during April-May, 2021 according to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). This paper aims to describe the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment in India.

Keywords— Unemployment, COVID-19, pandemic, informal sector

Introduction

India has been facing the problem of unemployment for a very long time. The removal of unemployment in India is one of the most complicated problems. It can't be removed instantly by a golden touch. India has to have robust planning – a plan that is durable, creative, disciplined and, above all; sensitive. Unemployment, particularly the literate unemployment, is one of the most serious hurdles in the development of India. In India, any person who works for about 8 hours a day for 273 days annually is considered as employed on a standard person-year basis. "Thus, a person to be called an employed person must get meaningful work for a minimum of 2184 hours in a year. The person, who does not get work for this duration, is known as an unemployed person." (Arun Khurana 2018).

The magnitude of employment opportunities is directly proportional to a large extent on the progress of a nation, therefore when a country is making progress and its production is expanding, employment opportunities will be increasing. India, unfortunately in spite of expanding its production in all sectors (primary, secondary, and tertiary) over the past four decades, could not transform this gain into employment generation and unemployment has amplified. This was primarily due to the significantly lower growth rate than targeted, during the first three decades of economic planning. Therefore, jobs were not created in significant numbers. Moreover, economic growth alone cannot serve as the solution for employment generation.

“It is evident how COVID-19 pandemic has incapacitated the global labor market and governments around the world. Governments around the world are still feeling helpless to deal with such a mass unemployment. The same is the situation in India as its income in the coming years 2021-22 and 2022-23 will be much lower than in the years 2019-20. There will be a huge economic pain ahead, both politics and policymaking have to work together to get the edge out of it.” (Parul 2020).

The report of the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that “More than 2.5 crore jobs have been threatened worldwide as a result of the spread of the novel coronavirus. It has been seen that four out of five, which is about 81 percent of the 3.3 billion people worldwide, have been affected either by partial or full closure of their workplaces.”

Objective

This paper aims to study the effects of COVID-19 on unemployment in India.

Methodology

The research is based on literature review aiming to investigate the current issue of unemployment due to COVID-19. The research also relies heavily on secondary data from various books, journals, and authentic websites. Data analysis has been performed using Tabulation Method.

Discussion

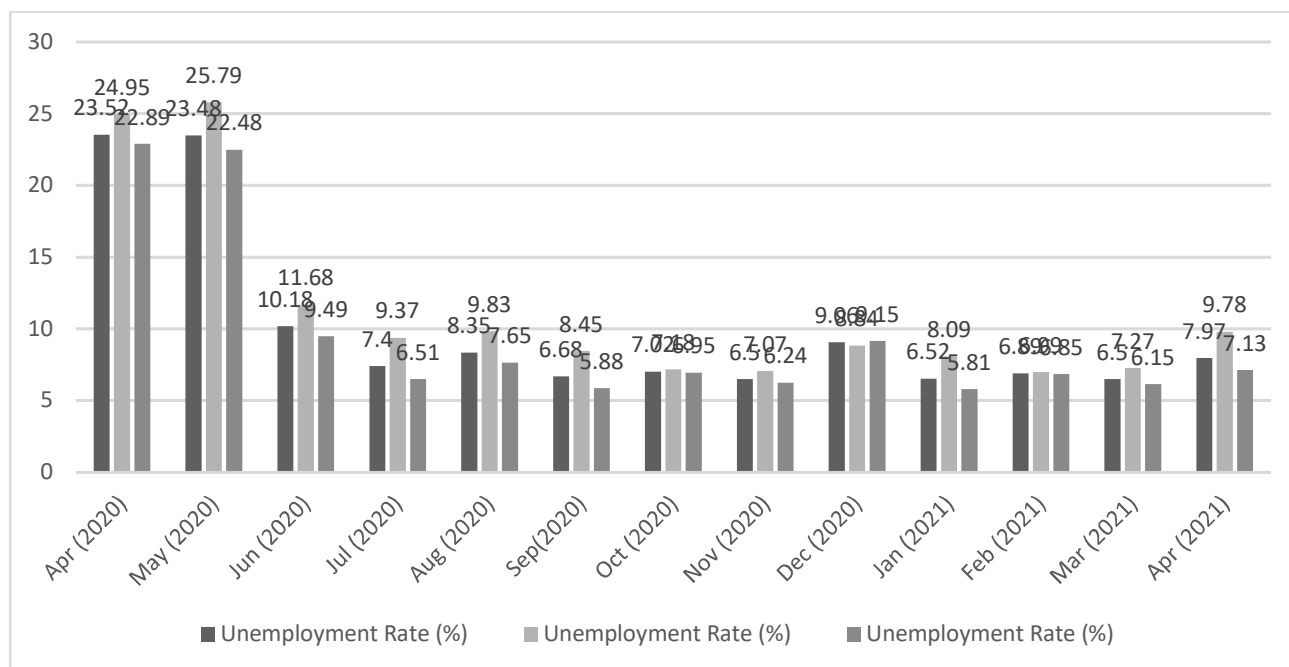
Unemployment is the most serious problem that the country is facing today. The planners and policy makers have been much concerned about the unemployment and in each plan the emphasis has been on the removal of unemployment by increasing the growth rate. “Most of the planners argue that a higher growth rate can clear the backlog of unemployment and provide employment to the people, but unfortunately till now this argument has not been validated so far.” (Dobriyal, K. 1970, January 01) “Although India is ranked among the first eight industrially advanced countries of the world, it remains by and large, underdeveloped.” (Giri, V. 1973, January 01)

Table 1
Unemployment Rate of India (April 2020-May 2021)

Month	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	India	Urban	Rural
Apr (2020)	23.52	24.95	22.89
May (2020)	23.48	25.79	22.48
Jun (2020)	10.18	11.68	9.49
Jul (2020)	7.40	9.37	6.51
Aug (2020)	8.35	9.83	7.65
Sep(2020)	6.68	8.45	5.88
Oct (2020)	7.02	7.18	6.95
Nov (2020)	6.50	7.07	6.24
Dec (2020)	9.06	8.84	9.15
Jan (2021)	6.52	8.09	5.81
Feb (2021)	6.89	6.99	6.85
Mar (2021)	6.50	7.27	6.15
Apr (2021)	7.97	9.78	7.13
May (2021)	11.90	14.73	10.63

Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.

Figure 1
Unemployment rate in India (April 2020-May 2021)



The Indian economy consistently maintained the unemployment rate below 7 percent between October 2016 and March 2019 except December 2018 and February 2019, when it was 7 percent and 7.2 percent respectively. The Indian economy started to slow down from April 2019, contributing to a gradual rise in unemployment. The unemployment rate hovered around 7-8 percent from April 2019 to February 2020. It grew to 8.8 percent in March 2020 but rose abruptly to 23.5 percent in April and May 2020 amid coronavirus lockdown (table 1).

The rate of unemployment in urban India stood higher at 24.95 percent in April 2020 and 25.79 in May 2020 as against rural 22.89 percent in April 2020 and 22.48 per cent in May 2020 (Table 1).

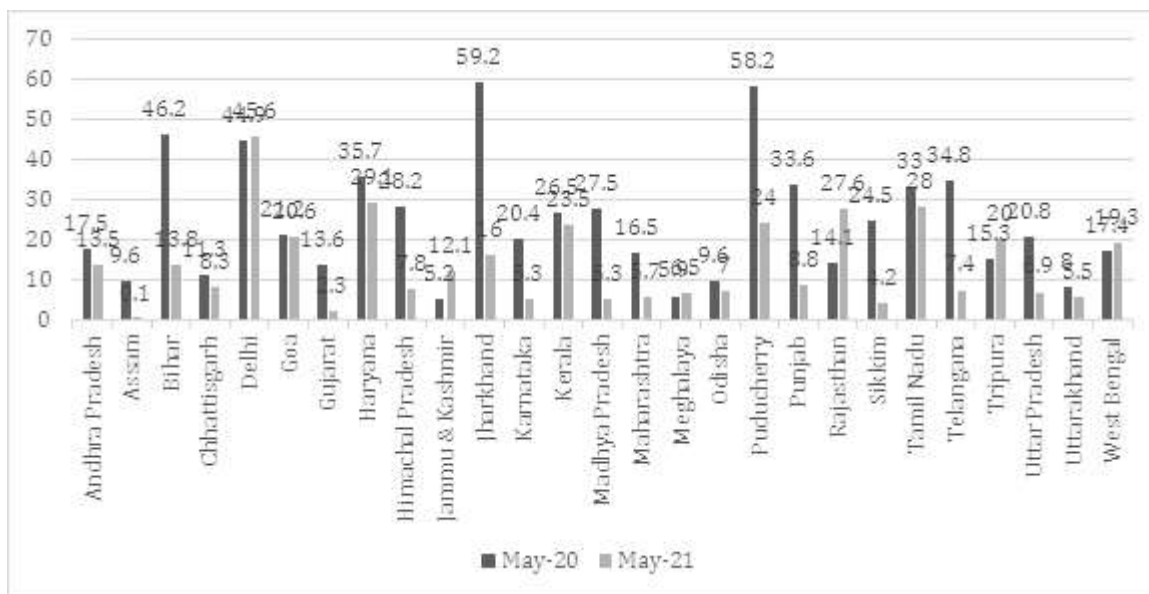
India witnessed record unemployment rates of around 23.5 percent in April and May 2020, when several companies suspended their operations due to countrywide lockdown. India’s unemployment rate dropped to 11 percent in June 2020, when several companies resumed operations following weeks of coronavirus pandemic closures. India again witnessed a high unemployment rate of 11.90 percent in May 2021, when the second wave of COVID-19 hit the country (Table 1). But this time the unemployment rate was not as pronounced as it was last year, when a countrywide lockdown was announced, following COVID-19 outbreak in India.

The Report of CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) says, “The unemployment rate in India jumped to 29 percent since the country went into lockdown from March 2020.” “The lockdown to contain the corona virus outbreak has forced many industries to shut down thus increasing unemployment across the country.”(Admin, H. 2020, July 21)

Table 2
Comparison of Unemployment Rates (%) of Indian States & UT between May 2020 & May 2021

S. No.	States	May 2020	May 2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	17.5	13.5
2	Assam	9.6	0.1
3	Bihar	46.2	13.8
4	Chhattisgarh	11.3	8.3
5	Delhi	44.9	45.6
6	Goa	21.2	20.6
7	Gujarat	13.6	2.3
8	Haryana	35.7	29.1
9	Himachal Pradesh	28.2	7.8
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5.2	12.1
11	Jharkhand	59.2	16.0
12	Karnataka	20.4	5.3
13	Kerala	26.5	23.5
14	Madhya Pradesh	27.5	5.3
15	Maharashtra	16.5	5.7
16	Meghalaya	5.9	6.5
17	Odisha	9.6	7.0
18	Puducherry	58.2	24.0
19	Punjab	33.6	8.8
20	Rajasthan	14.1	27.6
21	Sikkim	24.5	4.2
22	Tamil Nadu	33	28.0
23	Telangana	34.8	7.4
24	Tripura	15.3	20.0
25	Uttar Pradesh	20.8	6.9
26	Uttarakhand	8	5.5
27	West Bengal	17.4	19.3
28	India	23.48	11.9

Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.

Figure 2**Comparison of Unemployment Rates (%) of Indian States & UT between May 2020 & May 2021**

The extent of unemployment, at a period when the Indian economy was growing at a decent rate, indicates that there was something intrinsically wrong with the policies as well as the whole structure. Inequalities grew where rich got richer and the poor get poorer. According to the Oxfam study in 2019, “The top 10 percent of the Indian population owned 77 percent of the overall national income.”

“It was calculated that 73 percent of the wealth produced in 2017 went to the wealthiest 1 percent, while 670 million Indians, who make up the poorest half of the nation, saw just a 1 percent rise in their income.” (Savera 2020, July 22).

This desperate condition of growing unemployment and deprivation on the one hand, and an unprecedented accumulation of wealth in fewer hands on the other, was the result of the wrong policies of the government. “The government, sold off public sector units to private companies, authorized the sale of natural resources, eased labour laws and gave numerous concessions to corporate sectors.” (Savera 2020, July 22)

This condition has contributed to a loss of purchasing power of the people. Without jobs or low-paying jobs people didn’t have the money to buy things. This decreased the demand and, in effect, also impacted the factory output and services market. The country has now undergone a downward trend. The government reduced corporate tax in September 2019. The loans issued to corporate houses were written off, thereby squandering public funds.

Then came the twin shocks of COVID-19 and the lockdown announced on 24 March. It has taken economic growth to a juddering halt. The biggest effect of this tragedy was the unparalleled loss of employment in all sectors of the economy.

Suggestions

1. The government needs to give a major boost to the micro, mini and small-scale industries including village and cottage industries. This can be done by providing financial aid, raw materials and professional or technical knowhow.
2. Self-employment is the best solution to the growing unemployment. The government should support people engaged in self-employment by providing financial aid.
3. Emphasis should be given on vocational education. Only those students who want to pursue higher studies should be admitted to higher studies.

4. Government should follow a policy which creates jobs for all. Increasing production in agriculture and industrial sectors is important to increase employment.
5. Both the organised and unorganised sectors must adopt labour-intensive technology if sufficient employment opportunities are to be generated in both the rural and urban sectors of the economy.
6. Accelerating the public and private sector investment in agriculture and its diversification is the need of the hour.
7. For solving unemployment problem in urban areas, the organised industrial sector must also absorb a sufficient number of workers.

Conclusion

Unemployment is one of the biggest problems of any economy and India is no exception. It creates negative effects on the unemployed persons as they are jobless and suffer from worse prospects to find new jobs and those who are employed feel less secure to keep their jobs in future. However, for overall development of the economy, governments and individuals should take steps for increasing productivity and improving the standard of living. To keep India moving on the progressive path, it is necessary that available resources should be appropriately used. Covid-19 pandemic has affected every section of the Indian society but the disadvantageous and marginalised sections of the society suffered the most because of factors such as their status as migrant workers, lower wages, lower education etc. Nevertheless, steps must be taken to increase employment and boost the living conditions for sustainable economic growth.

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RECENT TRENDS IN BANKING & INSURANCE SECTORS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Apart from performing their traditional functions banks are now innovating, improving and coming up with new types of services to meet the evolving needs of their customers. The welfare activities of the govt. are mainly carried out through the banking system in India. With the advent of electronic banking, electronic fund transfer, RTGS, NEFT, UPI and other similar products, funds transfer within the time limit which seemed impossible few years back; has made it a reality. With networking and Internet connections new challenges are arising regarding security, privacy and confidentiality of transactions. Present era is of cashless transactions, e-cheques and mobile wallets etc.

No one can deny that the insurance industry is going through a period of drastic changes. Innovative schemes, electronic insurance and minimal role of agents have all contributed to the modernization of the insurance industry in India. Now, a policyholder can choose online; the insurance plan according to his needs and purchasing power. The application of ICT has made the process of buying insurance relatively easy and convenient.

This paper attempts to present the emerging trends in banking sector and insurance sector with special emphasis on digitization.

Keywords- Digitalization, Mobile banking, UPI, NEFT, RTGS

Introduction

The banking system and financial institutions are integral parts of the economy. Uninterrupted functioning of these sectors is important for the growth of the economy. Due to the advent of digital technology, the way banking and financial services are conducted; has changed drastically. The new trend is rapidly gaining momentum as customers find it convenient and flexible at the same time.

The introduction of new trends has resulted in many technological advancements in the industry. Internet banking and mobile banking are some of the examples of the new trends.

There are 57 insurance companies in India's insurance trade, 24 are in the life insurance business, while 34 are non-life insurers. In the middle of the life insurers, the only public sector company is Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Other six public sector insurers are in the general or non-life insurance segment. Apart from these, there is only one national reinsurer, namely General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). Agents, brokers, surveyors and

third party administrators serving health insurance claims are some examples of stakeholders in the Indian insurance market.

Objectives of the Study

- To understand the latest trends in Banking Sector in India and technology adopted for it.
- To understand the latest trends in Insurance Sector in India and technology adopted for it.

Research Methodology

The research methodology is descriptive in nature.

Data Collection Method

This present study is totally based on secondary data source which has been collected from government official websites, journals, newspapers and related studies.

Latest Trends in Banking Sector of India

- **Digitization in Banking Sector-** Digitization is the renovation of data into digital format with the implementation of technology. Acceptance of digitalization is very important in current scenario for the banking sector. Banks can provide better customer services by adopting digitization. It provides convenience to the customers and helps in saving time. Digitization reduces individual mistake and thus builds customer loyalty. Today, due to online banking, people have round the clock access to banks. It has also become easier to manage large amounts of funds. Customers have also benefited from digitization by facilitating cashless transactions. Customers no longer need to deposit cash; they can conduct online transactions and can transact at any place and time.
- **Mobile Banking (M-Banking)-** Mobile banking refers to the execution of banking and financial services with the help of mobile telecommunication devices. The scope of the services offered may include facilities to conduct bank and stock exchange transactions, operate accounts and access customized information. M-banking is a service offered by banks or other financial organizations to its clients to carry out financial transactions distantly using a mobiles. Unlike internet banking related it uses software, commonly called an 'App', provided by a financial institution for this purpose. Mobile banking is generally available on a 24-hour basis i.e. 24X7X365.

Some financial institutions have restrictions on which accounts can be accessed through mobile banking, as well as limits on the amount that can be transacted. Mobile banking is dependent on the availability of internet or data connection to the mobile device. Transactions through m- banking depends on the services of m-banking app provided which generally include account balance and latest transaction list, electronic bill payment, remote check deposit, P2P payment, and transfer of funds between accounts of others etc. Some applications are also enabled to download the copy of account statement and sometimes printed account statement is provided to the customer's premises. Using a m-banking app increases productivity of the client and ease of use, speed, flexibility which also improves security as it integrates with user-generated mobile device security mechanisms.

From the bank's point of view, m-banking reduces the cost of handling dealings by reducing the need for clients to visit the bank branch for non-cash withdrawal and deposit transactions. M-banking does not handle transactions involving cash, and requires the client to visit an ATM or bank branch for cash withdrawal or deposit. Many apps now have a remote deposit option; using the device's camera to digitally transmit the check to your financial institution. Mobile banking differs from mobile payments, in that the use of a mobile device to pay to vendor for goods or services acquired, either at the point of sale or remotely, is corresponding to the use of a debit or credit card to effect an EFTPOS payment.

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-** It is a system that powers multiple bank accounts in a single mobile application (of any participating bank), combining multiple banking features, seamless fund routing and

merchant payments into one hood. It also caters to “Peer to Peer” collection call which can be scheduled and paid as per condition and convenience. Keeping in view the above context, NPCI launched UPI with 21 member banks. The UPI launch was done on 11 April 2016 in Mumbai by Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan, Governor, RBI. From August 25, 2016 banks have started uploading their UPI enabled apps on Google Play Store for their clients.

UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by the (NPCI) National Payments Corporation of India that facilitates inter-bank transactions. The interface is controlled by the RBI and works by transferring funds instantly between two bank accounts on a mobile platform. As on December 2020, there are 207 banks available on UPI with a monthly transaction volume of Rs. 2334.16 million.

- **Blockchain Technology-** Blockchain technology is an open, distributed ledger that efficiently and permanently records transactions between two parties. A blockchain consists of individual blocks of data consisting of a series of related transactions, which are linked together in a specific order. All involved parties can share a digital ledger over a computer network without the need for a centralized authority or middlemen. Hence the process of transactions through blockchain is faster.

Speed is one of the many potential benefits that blockchain brings to banking. It is not only about greater efficiency but also a new level of clearness, safety and security.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Robots-** Banks are using artificial intelligence (AI) as an analytical solution and to better serve customers and handle internal tasks. AI serves as a cure for many challenges that the banking sector faces such as scams, clients’ experience, safety & security, operations and financial forecasting etc. Banking sector uses AI to improve effectiveness, services and productivity, as well as to condense costs and improve return on investment.

The banks most likely to advantage from AI are those that can reorganize their approach to people and processes. There is a need to innovate at scale and speed. AI increases operational and process efficiencies. The applications of AI will generate growth through both clients’ experiences and members of staff’s experiences.

- **Chatbots-** Chatbot/Digital Personal Assistant is an AI software that allows users to communicate interactively with the system. Under Chatbots system user can chat in natural language using deep learning algorithms that translate the conversation using a rule-based approach. In banking, chatbots create an interactive experience by reducing the easy queries that a customer needs to refer to a human agent.

Patrons get a pleasing digital experience while banks can reduce their costs. Furthermore, a chatbot can operate 24 hours a day without a break, creating it a highly competent associate of the workforce. Customers can access the service whenever they want.

- **Digital-only Banks-** Only Digital Bank provides banking facilities exclusively through digital platforms like mobile, tablet and internet. It provides basic services in the simplest approach with the help of electronic documentation, real-time data and automatic processes. ICICI Pockets (India’s first digital bank on mobile phones) are starting to offer some of the best-selling features of digital-only banking, which consists of signing up for a new account by simply uploading a picture and providing minimal information, view account balances by sliding the login screen from the app-bar, photo bill payment, ATM card ordering and ATM PIN reset through the app, hashtag expenses to be sure to highlight them etc.

- **Mobile ATM-** Largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has deployed Mobile Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in 19 cities in view of rising COVID-19 cases in different parts of the country and restrictions like lockdown. This will help in eliminating the need for the general public to go outside their locality to withdraw cash. Customers can do more than 15 types of transactions using mobile ATMs, which will be operational for a specific period at significant locations. Mobile ATMs will have 3-4 stops in a day.

Latest Trends in Insurance Sector of India

The insurance industry in India has witnessed a huge growth in the last decade with the introduction of a large number of advanced products. This has given rise to stiff competition with positive and healthy results. The insurance sector in India plays a dynamic role in the well being of its economy. It increases the savings opportunities among individuals to a great extent, protects their future and helps the insurance sector to create a huge pool of funds. With the assistance of these funds, the insurance sector contributes immensely to the capital market, thereby spurring large infrastructure development in India.

Due to COVID, the Indian insurance segment is mostly expected to search for expansion all the way through new service-based models, innovative products and better focus on prevention. The latest trends in Insurance Sector are—

- **Digitalization in Insurance Sector-** In the past months, insurers have begun to realize the fact that the traditional way of selling insurance products to customers will no longer be sufficient for insurers who want to stay ahead of their competitors. The base of the entire insurance sector is based on providing customers with products and services that help protect them from losses resulting from an unfortunate event. And, in the current year, while this will go on to be a significant component of what insurers do, we will also see a technology-driven move in the way insurance is sold.
- **New Insurance Products-** The awareness of the need for protection has increased manifold since the start of this deadly disease COVID. The need for insurance has become omnipresent as more and more people are investing in insurance products as per their requirements. Interestingly, the demand for insurance products has started picking up for a lot of risks not usually covered by insurance companies. These covers range from pandemic protection to seasonal diseases like dengue.

However, they would prefer to pay a reasonably priced premium for these policies. Take, for example, the Corona Rakshak plan, which is available for tenures ranging from 3.5 months to 9.5 months and is available at a premium of as low as Rs. 100/month. With the ease of use of such goods and services digitally as well, these will exactly provide convenience to the digitally savvy generation of people.

- **Rise in Demand for Standardized Products-** The current year i.e. 2021 will be the year of typical insurance products. In the year 2020, all general and specialized health insurers came up with the standard health insurance product- Arogya Sanjeevani on the instructions of IRDAI. Later, the controller directed all life insurers to come up with a customary term life insurance plan- Saral Jeevan Bima, with effect from January 1, 2021. Later, the governing body asked insurers to come up with a standard personal accident cover and, now the regulatory body has asked insurers to introduce a standard travel insurance from April 1, 2021. The preface of standard insurance products across all key insurance sectors— health, life and travel; is leaving no stone unturned to boost the insurance coverage rate in the country. The objective of the regulator is to bring more and more people under the ambit of insurance and provide them maximum financial assistance. All these standard products are expected to gain momentum in the year 2021 as many more are enrolling themselves beneath these products. In the last 10 months, people have realized very well the significance of insurance and the need to stay safe and protected. The majority of the people in India are not roofed under any insurance product and these customary products will give boost and confidence to the first time buyers.

The standard features and terminology of these products will make them the first choice for buyers who cannot afford a comprehensive insurance policy. Apart from this, many more standard insurance products are expected to arrive in the new year.

- **On-demand Insurance-** Another type of insurance products that will be in high demand in the current year 2021 is switch-on and switch-off insurance. Today's consumer looks for products that provide adequate coverage only when they need it. A classic example of one such product is use-based car insurance. This new type of car insurance policies launched under the sand-box category of IRDAI allows car owners to insure their vehicles for kilometers run instead of time. For all those looking for a car insurance policy that costs based on how much you actually drive; pay-as-you-use insurance may be the answer. For drivers who are not constantly on the road, these plans can provide a prospect to reduce car insurance costs. Moreover, the option to cover multiple vehicles under one policy makes this policy more value-added.

- **Wellness Products and Internet of Things (IoT)**

Over the years, the structure and features of health policies have evolved drastically to meet the specific needs and requirements of customers. The customers have started practicing a healthy lifestyle supported by efficient & effective health and preventive health care measures. In the coming year, insurance companies will come up with schemes that will focus on making customers fit and healthy. Even the insurance regulator has issued guidelines on wellness and preventive facilities to insurers. Insurers are expected to come up with a number of exciting benefits to offer to the policyholders. Some of such benefits include discounted OPD consultation or treatment, pharmaceuticals, health check-up/diagnosis, redeemable vouchers for availing health supplements, membership in yoga centers, sports clubs and many more.

Another key technology that will play a key role in influencing the online insurance industry in the coming years; is the Internet of Things (IoT). This technology will help insurers, particularly the auto insurance industry; cut their overall costs, while customers will be able to automatically initiate the damage repair and claim process. Also, a significant focus of insurers on the interaction and experience with customers will address the need for voice analytics— an efficient voice detection tool to analyze and record a spoken conversation.

Conclusion

Nationalized banks are trusted brands in the Indian banking sector, so these banks are using their brand equity as it is a valuable asset for them. Competition from global banks and technological innovation has forced public sector banks to rethink their policies and strategies. Ultimately, the banking sector will need to master a new business model by building management and customer services. Nationalized and commercial banks should overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities in the changing banking scenario.

Today, information technology is used in banking in two different ways- Communication & Business Process Re-engineering (BPR). E-banking, m-banking, net banking and ATM facility have achieved success among the clients. Today's generation is showing keen interest in adopting all such technology enabled banking facility. Payment settlement systems like RTGS, NEFT, EFT, ECS and CTS have proved to be successful among customers using these facilities. Therefore, the IT revolution has set the stage for overcoming the challenges faced by the new economy keeping in view the unprecedented growth in financial activities across the globe.

Life insurance sector is continuously growing and still a large number of people in India are not insured and this sector has good potential to grow. The industry has to be prepared for more challenges due to the ongoing changes in the economy and employment patterns. More number of players from across the world have planned to enter India considering the possibilities available here. It is very important for insurance companies to survive in a globally competitive landscape. Perhaps it is important to understand the customer's expectation and attitude for insurance products. It's time to reimagining the business model.

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COVID CRISIS AND PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA

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Abstract

The necessity for robust health systems worldwide has been emphasised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our meagre healthcare resources have been stressed by the COVID-19 Pandemic in India. Every citizen must have access to healthcare. The India Government has established and launched several programmes throughout this epidemic to provide all residents with basic health services. In order to monitor the pandemic of COVID-19 in India, prompt and efficient actions as well as recommendations have been drawn up. The pandemic of coronavirus has led to several problems for industrialised nations and will become even more challenging for emerging countries like India. Developed as well as developing nations like India suffer multiple challenges during this pandemic. Covid Pandemic has put vast burden on the healthcare system in India. During Second wave the elevated demand for health services resulted in let-down of the essential health system in India. This Paper provides information pertaining to health programmes, policies & schemes for combating the corona virus disease. This paper deals with schemes under public healthcare, budgetary provisions, COVID treatment under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Covid vaccination drive and other efforts to fight coronavirus. This article is a literature review of the challenges and existing government policies for public health in India during the pandemic.

Keywords—Public health, Covid-19, Vaccination, Primary Health Centres, health Infrastructure, Health and Wellness Centre

Introduction

The COVID-19 Pandemic has casted vast burden on the healthcare system in India. During Second wave the elevated demand for health services resulted in let-down the essential health system in India. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely effected lives, livelihoods, and the economy in India. The second wave had a devastating impact on Indian economy, especially on poorer citizens. A good healthcare system should be within the reach of every citizen. Government of India have come up with various schemes & programmes from time to time to provide citizens best health services. These schemes could be either State government or Central government operated. Sometimes, it may be operated by joint collaboration between Centre and State. In the constitution of India, State government is more responsible for healthcare rather than Central Government. There was a lack of any centralized policy or scheme before the National Health Policy 2017.

“India has 1154686 registered doctors in the speciality of modern medicine. At present single Government Allopathic Doctor accommodate the need of 10926 persons. Currently, 60% of the total of India’s population lives

in rural India. To provide healthcare facilities to the people living in rural India, the government has established 25743 Primary Health Centres, 158417 Sub Community Health Centre. Prompt and efficient measures, as well as guidelines, are being chalked out to control the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Currently 0.55 beds per 1000 inhabitants are provided in government hospitals in India, which lead to a total of 713986 beds in India. Some states such as Assam, Haryana, Gujrat, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh have a population to bed ratio that is even lower than the national average, but others Kerala, Sikkim, and Tami Nadu, have population-bed relationship better than other state. The government of India has announced the world's largest lockdown on 24 March, asking 1.3 billion Indians to stay home for 21 days to slow the spread of COVID-19 but due to sustained increase in the number of cases, it has been extended thrice till 17 May, 2020.”(1)

Social distancing is an important measure to prevent coronavirus infections because when an infected person sneeze or cough; social distancing and wearing a mask stops the spread of airborne droplets. Awareness programs have been launched to educate people about hand sanitization, mask wearing and social distancing to avoid the spread of the virus. Government and private laboratories are being accredited for COVID-19 testing. India has won its fight with the two waves of COVID-19. But the new variant of corona virus 'Delta Plus' has created fresh concerns across the country, cannot be yet linked to a third wave of the pandemic.

Understanding the Indian Health System

In India, the private sector is responsible much of our curative healthcare, and it is generally through out of our pocket expenditure. Our public health sector is financed from general taxes which plays an important role in providing preventive services such as vaccinations, community spraying during malaria season and other such activities. Public sector also provides treatment to needy population who don't afford private health care. The public system also provides primary health care whereas secondary and tertiary services are provided by private setups in big cities.

In India, our public health system involves various health facilities controlled or financed by Indian government. Some are controlled by central government and some are controlled by state government. The ministry of health and family welfare controls the central government interests.

Community Health Centres are basic health unit in the urban areas. Primary Health Centres are the basic units at the level of panchayat with the most basic facilities, and especially serving rural India. Sub-centers are the most basic units of healthcare in rural India to connect villagers and public health care system in India.

Ayushman Bharat programme

Ayushman Bharat Yojana is a Government of India plan that was introduced in 2018. In his budget address for 2018-19, Minister of Finance Arun Jetley announced two important health initiatives in Ayushman Bharat which are 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PM-JAY) and 'Health & Wellness Centres'. PM-JAY popularly known as Ayushman Bharat Yojana; was intended to make path-break operations in the primary, secondary and tertiary systems to address health holistically and encompassing both prevention and promotion of health. Ayushman Bharat Yojana had included the treatment for Covid-19 since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. The testing and treatment of Covid - 19 is free of cost in private hospitals empanelled for Ayushman Bharat scheme. Along with the government hospitals private hospitals are also empanelled for Covid treatment under this scheme.

“This insurance scheme covers treatment of almost all types of health problems such as surgery for cancer, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, cardiac surgery, neuro and spine surgery, dental surgery, eye surgery and special tests like MRI and CT scans. To get benefits under Ayushman Bharat scheme, a person must surely be admitted to a hospital at least for one day. Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, treatment and medicines are available free of cost. Various packages have been included in this scheme which covers ICU, laboratory tests, room charges and food expenses in the hospital.” (2)

Poor and needy people can get free treatment at the government hospitals but they can also get treatment at private hospitals under this scheme. The aim of the Ayushman Bharat scheme was also to add private hospitals under this scheme.

Health and Wellness Centre

The National Health Policy 2017 projected Health and Wellness Centres as the main pillar of India health system. On 14 April 2018, the first Health and wellness Centre was launched in Jangla village in Bhai Ramgarh tehsil of Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. Government of India announced to make 150,000 Gram panchayat Health and Wellness Centres in country functional till the end of 2022. Health and Wellness Centres provide inclusive healthcare including non-communicable diseases and child and maternal health services etc. Essential drugs and diagnostic services are freely provided at these Centres.

National Health Protection Scheme

Another programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme. Under this programme over ten crore poor and vulnerable families will be covered. These families will be covered up to 5 lakh rupees yearly per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. This is the world largest government funded healthcare programme. For the smooth implementation of this programme, government has provided adequate funds. In financial year 2019-20, Rs. 6,400 crore has been allocated by government for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

“Ayushman Bharat, the health scheme received Rs 4,000 crore boost from the previous fiscal year. The scheme is targeted at poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers’ families.”(3)

National Rural Health Mission

The National Rural Health Mission was launched in April 2005 by the Government of India. The goal of the NRHM was to provide operative healthcare to villagers in different states which have poor public health indicators.

Healthcare and Union Budget 2021-22

The budgetary provisions for healthcare announced on 1st February, 2021 by finance minister are as follows-

- The government announced outlay of Rs. 2,23,846 crores for healthcare which is an increase of 137 percent from the previous year figure of Rs. 94,000 crores. It includes Rs. 35,000 crore earmarked for COVID-19 vaccine in the fiscal year 2021-22.
- Rs. 71,269 crores have been assigned to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Financial Year 2021-22, which is 10 percent increase over previous year figure of Rs. 65,012 crore. This also includes the budgetary allocations of Rs. 36,577 crore to National Health Mission.
- “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been allocated Rs. 6,400 crore.”(4)
- “Department of Health Research has been allocated Rs. 2,663 crores which is an increase of 27 percent over previous year figure of Rs. 2,100 crore.” (4)
- “Ministry of AYUSH has been allocated Rs. 2,970 crore, an increase of 40 percent over previous year allocation of Rs. 2,122 crores.” (4)
- In 2021-22, “Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) under National Health Mission stands at Rs. 7,000 crore, an increase of 16 percent over the allocation of Rs. 6,020 crore of last year.”(4)
- This year under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, a new allocation of Rs. 30 crore has been assigned to National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- Rs. 2.23 lakh crore were also allocated to the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy).
- The allocation of Rs. 35,000 crore has been announced for made in India COVID-19 vaccine.(4)

Covid -19 Vaccination in India

India launched the world’s largest vaccination drive against Covid-19. “The greatest challenge at the moment lies in the logistics of dispensing the vaccine to the vast population, a task that is extraordinarily difficult to accomplish. With just about 30,000 cold storage facilities scattered across the country, the numbers don’t add up.” [5]

In India, there are two India-made vaccines available for the coronavirus Covishield and Covaxin. The Serum Institute of India makes Covishield; at the same time the second largest producer, Bharat Biotech, makes the Covaxin. Primary Care centres are playing significant role in provisioning COVID-19 vaccination services in India. The Sputnik-V vaccine is also available, with three million doses supplied by Russia. This vaccine will also be produced in India in future. In India, vaccination drive was started in January 2021 with two indigenous vaccines Covaxin and Covishield with initial focus on frontline warriors and healthcare workers. From 1st May 2021, COVID-19 vaccination programme in India has been opened to all above 18 years. The Government Operational Guideline for Covid-19 vaccination has defined an important role of primary health care system in covid vaccination.

Challenges of Indian Healthcare System

A weak primary healthcare sector— Primary Health Care is the backbone of the health system in India. It includes a vast network of community healthcare workers – Doctors, Nurses, Paramedical staff, Health and Wellness Centres, and Primary Health Centres. From the initial phase of Covid-19, Primary Care played an important role in India. It is always difficult for rural people to access prime healthcare services, as most of the hospitals are located in urban areas. There is always a shortage of skilled healthcare workers, hospital beds, equipment, testing facilities etc. During the second wave of Covid; the shortfalls of required number of beds and the accessibility of advanced equipment highlighted the need for a strong healthcare system to deal with such situations in the future. During second wave in India Hospitals and specialty centres are coming forward to increase their capacities. In the public health care sector of India, a number of drugs and even many diagnostic tests are still unavailable and out of reach of most of the population.

Skilled healthcare worker's availability— There aren't enough skilled healthcare professionals in India despite recent increases in MBBS programmes and nursing courses.

“Only 2% of doctors are in rural areas, where 68% of the population live”. India's response to Covid has been ruined by an acute shortage of medical staff, technicians, Beds, oxygen etc. For the record, the country has 37.6 health workers for every 10,000 people. The World Health Organization benchmark is a minimum 44.5. At 562, India has the highest number of medical colleges in the world. Not surprisingly then, we have the second highest number of doctors globally. But given our 1.3 billion population, the doctor-patient ratio is awful.

“It is only 9 doctors per 10,000 people in India. The doctor patient ratio is 42 in Germany, 28 in the UK and 26 in the US. Likewise, India has around 3.2 million nurses and produces 335,000 nursing professionals every year through 5,085 institutes. There are only 15 nurses for every 10,000 individuals in India. The UK has 150, Germany has 132, the US has 85 nurses for every 10,000 individuals.” (6)

Relying on private rather than public sector— There are several reasons for relying on private hospitals rather than public sector Hospitals. The main reason is the lack of latest technology and better quality of care in the Public Health Centres. Most of the public healthcare serve rural area. The poor quality arises because experienced health care providers are not willing to visit the rural areas. Consequently public healthcare system in the rural areas relies on less experienced and unfit interns. These interns are assigned to work in public health clinics as a part of their curricular requirements. Few more reasons are long distance, long waiting and inconvenient hours of operation. Health care services in India are dominated by the private sector as 75% of services are provided by the private sector.

Low public spending on health— Public health expenditure remains very low in India. It has also been found out that in India 1% of the GDP is spent on the public health care services. Various Surveys pointed out that 65% of the Indian population cannot afford modern medical facilities. It is a soothing factor that healthcare has received a huge fillip in India's Union Budget 2021-22.

“India's overall allocation for health and wellbeing has soared by 137% in the financial year 2021-22 to Rs. 2.23 lakh crore compared to the budgeted spending in 2020-21 to boost the capacity of healthcare system to eradicate new emerging diseases in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic”. (7)

Fragmented health information systems— The need of hour is to use digital technologies to strengthen pandemic management, and future preparedness for COVID-19.

“Digital technologies are being used to support the public-health response to COVID-19 worldwide including population surveillance, case identification, contact tracing and evaluation of interventions on the basis of mobility data and communication with the public. On the technological aspect, the Union Health Ministry has launched a mobile application called “Aarogya Setu” that works both on android and iOS mobile phones. This application constructs a user database for establishing an awareness network that can alert people and governments about possible COVID-19 victims” (8).

The Government of India has created Communication Strategy Guidelines, mostly implemented by primary care professionals. The relevance of digital technology in healthcare sector and in the preparation of pandemics; needs urgently to be recognised.

Irrational and spiralling cost of treatment— COVID-19 makes no difference between rich and poor even in countries and provinces. The Covid-19 treatment cost differs in the private and the public sector medical facility. Costs of medical treatment is very high in Private Multi-specialty hospitals. Ayushman Bharat covers 1350 medical packages covering surgery, day care, diagnostics and cost of medicines. COVID-19 hospital care does not cost anything at all in some states like Kerala while others have to pay depending on the rooms they prefer while admitted to hospitals. Some have to pay more depending on the severity of their complications.

Weak health insurance system and less accountability—

“One of the biggest challenges of COVID-19 is its huge treatment cost which can take a toll on the finances and mental well-being of different sections of society, especially the poor and the middle-class. This shows that now more and more people are considering a health insurance plan as essential as other necessities for survival. In a country like India, where insurance stood below 4% in the pre-covid times, we are now seeing a steep upward trend in the sale of comprehensive health insurance plans. During the pre-covid times, the number of people who purchased insurance plans was approximately 32%, while now after being hit by one of the biggest pandemics, this percentage has grown up to 55%.”(9)

The above data shows that this pandemic has increased consciousness among people and increased the importance of preventive health insurance in the country.

In the past 20 years, the government has introduced several new laws to strengthen governance of the health system, but many of these laws have not been widely implemented.

An Indian government study in 2014 claimed that “Only about 17% of India’s population was insured. Public healthcare is free for those below the poverty line. Penetration of health insurance in India is low by international standards. Private health insurance, which constitute the majority of insurance schemes availed by the population, do not cover costs of consultation or medication. It covers only hospitalisation and associated expenses.”(10)

In this regard, government of India launched ‘Ayushman Bharat Yojana’ as a part of National Health Policy 2017 in order to achieve Universal Health Coverage. The programme provided insurance coverage to at least 40 percent of India’s population which is majorly deprived of secondary and tertiary care services.

Covid-19 Time—Use of Technology

Online consultancy and technology platforms are mandatory in post Covid-19 times. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the ‘eSanjeevani’ app in August 2019. This app aims at making healthcare services fair by narrowing the gap between developed and undeveloped India. eSanjeevani app is an integrated web telemedicine solution. The health sector along with the central and state governments strongly tackle the pandemic by setting up dedicated Covid hospitals, isolation centres and app enabled mapping of resources. The Indian government also leveraged technology and developed various applications in order to effectively manage the outbreak. The Aarogya Setu app is widely used all over India for self-assessment, contact tracing and syndromic mapping. Technologically advance schemes were used to provide tele-consultations with patients, bed management and also supplement the

response management, which included delivery of essential items in containment zones and real time monitoring and review by the authorities.

Conclusion

We must not forget the hard lessons that the second wave of COVID-19 has taught us. We have seen distressing effects that an outbreak can have on society when the public healthcare system is not able to handle the load of pandemic. India need to invest more in our public health system as Viral mutations are going to happen after second Wave. The need of hour is to build a strong health system with better capacity and inter-connectedness.

Public healthcare investment, particularly in rural and peri-urban regions, should be expanded. Stronger rules should be introduced to identify and address unlicensed practitioners in the country. Ayushman Bharat is used to cover the medical insurance market. The government should expand the group insurance plans for the poor. Under Ayushman Bharat Yojana for fostering coordination between Centre and States ‘Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council’ is proposed at apex level. At State level there is need to have State Health Agencies to implement the scheme. This will help in improving quality of life for the Indian population. The programme will significantly reduce out of pocket expenditure for hospitalization.

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UNEMPLOYMENT DURING AND AFTER COVID PERIOD— GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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Abstract

India's economy is badly affected by the impact of Covid-19 and the unemployment rate has increased sharply during this period. The pandemic has created uncertainty regarding the economic growth prospects. The demand and supply sides of the economy both have been badly disrupted during this period resulting in loss of incomes and job. The employment rate has risen to unprecedented level of 23.52% in the last week of April 2020. Some sectors like trade, tourism, hotel and restaurant were so badly affected that substantial number of people became unemployed because of lock down. The Government soon realized the disruptive impact of Covid pandemic and charted a plan for containing the effects of the pandemic on economy. Various schemes were formulated to re-employ the migrated labour and boost the economy.

Keywords- Unemployment, Covid, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Pandemic

India's economy is reeling from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen by 7.3% in 2020-21, and seen a sharper decline in per capita GDP because of population pressure. The pandemic has created uncertainty and this uncertainty is worst for any economy. Our GDP has fallen first time since 1979-80, when our GDP shrunk by 5.2%. Indian economy which was already passing through a rough passage in the previous few quarters, is badly affected by this disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is the challenging global health crisis of our time and the worst global humanitarian challenge the world has faced since World War II. Unlike the first wave of pandemic, the second wave of the pandemic was short lived but has created panic among the peoples and thus the government. In fact, government had not anticipated the brutality of the second wave of pandemic. Indian economy which was recovering from the lock-downs of the first wave, have again felt a severe blow of the fresh restrictions, shutoff and layoff within the factories, resulting un-employment numbered around 34 million. Though, Agriculture have shown a good performance during this period, but failed to provide employment to the growing unemployed persons who were trying to seek out work.

Like many other economic problems of the country, problem of unemployment is additionally the legacy of colonial rule. The Kuteer Udyog of the country were destroyed during the colonial rule and thus the over dependance on land has created majority of disguised employment in India. In fact, like all developing or underdeveloped countries, India is also suffering from structural unemployment which exists in open and disguised forms. India's population have increased at an alarming rate of 2.1% per annum and so, the number of labour force in search of

their livelihood have increased many folds, but the employment opportunities have not increased with the same pace during 1951 to 2018-19. India has adopted neo-liberal economic policies since 1991. The 1991 new economic policy of globalization had two major components—reducing the fiscal deficit and implementing structural reforms. The structural reforms had put India into the high rate of economic growth but the employment opportunities were not created at the same pace.

Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) has presented an analysis based on International Labour Organization data base (ILOSTAT) that India had highest unemployment rate in 2020 since 1991. India's unemployment rate had increased up sharply to 7.11% in 2020 from 5.27% in 2019. The employment rate of the India remains almost static during the last decade. It was 5.65% in 2010, rose to 5.67% in 2013 and dropped to 5.27% in 2019. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has informed that India's unemployment rate has touched 14.73% in the week ended May 2021 (India's unemployment rate had reached an all time high of 23.52% during the week ended April 2020) because of recent lock downs and restrictions from many state governments. The rural unemployment had also reached 9.7% during the week ended May 2021 as per CMIE data. A study by Azim Premji University found that half of the formal salaried workers moved into informal work as self employed (30%), casual wage (10%) or informal salaried worker (9%) during the April 2020 to December 2020. Their income level had also declined considerably. According to a report about white collar job data, India had 18.1 million white collar workers in April 2020 that dropped to 13.8 million by April 2021. India has the largest youth population in the world and it is estimated that 62% of the total population of India are under the age of 35. There is rapid fall of dependency ratio in India (the number of children and elders being supported by work force). This creates shortage of employment opportunities for the bulge of young people when they enter the labour market.

Unlike the national lock down imposed during the first wave of pandemic in March 2020; the state governments only restricted the movement of the people at local level during the second wave of pandemic and the economic activities were less disrupted this time. The commercial activities were halted only in local areas, therefore there were no major labour migration from one state to other states. The rural areas were affected but no panic condition was created among work force. Moreover, the working class and the businesses were adapted to new pandemic conditions.

This corona virus pandemic has affected both demand and supply sides of the economy. The supply side of the economy was more disrupted due to closure of economic activities and restricted movement of labour force specially during the first wave of pandemic. At the same time, demand side also faced difficulties because of loss of incomes and jobs, weaker growth prospects, curtailment of spending options and increased uncertainty. The disruption of supply side economy has resulted in a large amount of wage and income losses. This phenomenon had multiplied affect as this demand and supply side of economy has disrupted all over the world resulting pushing down the India's international trade and financial linking. The spread of second wave of Covid-19 induced double economic shock which can be broadly defined by lowering Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/Gross Value added (GVA) and increased rate of unemployment.

Employment in contact-sensitive sectors like trade, transport, tourism, hotel, restaurant and malls etc. were more affected. The construction and mining activities that employ sizable number of formal and informal workers were almost halted during the first wave. Though these activities have soon started during the unlock period, but these activities can not find the pace during the pre-covid period. A large number of workers are still unemployed. It is worth noted that our rural population were less affected during the first wave and that is why our agricultural sector have shown remarkable growth during the FY 2020-21. But, the second wave have cast its shadow on the rural population of the country and we cannot expect such remarkable performance during the current year despite projection of good monsoon.

The manufacturing sector was also hit hard by the pandemic but soon recovered as demand for the medical equipment, medicines and consumer durables have started picking up. Our economy that has witnessed sharp

contraction during the first quarter of 2020-21, rapidly recovered during the third and fourth quarters of 2020-21 on the back of state fiscal support and RBI's monetary package. Though the second wave is again shocking our economy but the affect on economy shouldn't be so serious. The prospects of demand normalization are under way because the second wave is brief lived and losing its deadly pace although its pace is contingent on further Covid outbreak and successful rollout of vaccination.

Our government soon realized the disruptive impact of the Covid pandemic and charted a plan for containing the spread of Covid as well as to minimize its effects on our economy. Our central bank has also poured liquidity into the money market through Open Market Operations (OMOs), Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTROs) and by reducing Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) from 4% to 3% of Net Demand and Time Liability (NDTL). The government has also announced a relief package of almost Rs. 29 lakh crore to revive the economy and to re-employ the work force.

Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yozna (GKRY) – The long and continuous lockdown during the first wave of Covid-19 renders thousands of workers specially who were in unorganized sector, jobless and homeless. As per a rough estimate around 1.5 crore workers migrated to their native town or villages from metro and big cities like Mumbai, NCR, Bangalore and Ahmedabad etc. Their employers have not helped them during the crisis or their small business have shattered. They were jobless and their means of livelihood have exhausted completely during the lock-down. Government has raised its hand to help these migrated workers to provide gainful employment on sustainable basis.

Government has launched a new employment cum rural public structure campaign named 'Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yozna' (GKRY) to provide opportunities of employment for the returning sizable number of migrated workers at their home village. An initial amount of Rs. 50000 crore was allocated for building rural infrastructure in villages under GKRY. There were 25 works and activities that were related to meet the needs of villages such as rural housing for poor, plantation, providing for drinking water through Jal Jeevan Mission, construction of community toilets etc. taken up on priority for employment under GKRY. GKRY aimed to provide 125 days of employment to around 7 lac migrant workers in 116 districts of the country.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Employment- Various provisions were made in Aatmanirbhar Bharat Scheme to provide relief to migrants and to employ work force which are as follows—

- a) Government of India has permitted State Governments to utilize State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for setting up shelter for migrants and providing them food and water etc.
- b) Hygienically prepared three meals a day provided for the residents of Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUH) during the lockdown w.e.f. March 28, 2020.
- c) Average wage rate rose under MGNREGS to Rs. 202 from Rs. 182.
- d) Drive being undertaken to enroll returning migrants in MGNREGS.
- e) Planning for continuing MNREGA works in Monsoon as well.
- f) Universalization of right of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all workers including unorganized workers
- g) Statutory concept of National Floor Wage introduced. This will reduce regional disparity in minimum wages.
- h) Fixation of minimum wages simplified, leading to a smaller number of rates of minimum wages and better compliance.
- i) Definition of inter-state migrant worker modified to include migrant workers employed directly by the employer, workers directly coming to destination State of their own besides the migrant workers employed through a contractor.

- j) Extension of ESIC coverage pan-India to all districts and all establishments employing 10 or more employees as against those in notified districts/areas only.
- k) Re-skilling fund introduced for retrenched employees.
- l) Extending EPF Support for business and organized workers for another 3 months for salary months of June, July and August 2020 will provide liquidity for workers in MSME and other Businesses
- m) Technology Systems to be used enabling Migrants to access Public Distribution System (Ration) from any Fair Price Shop in India by March 2021-One Nation One Ration Card.
- n) Loan moratorium has been granted by RBI under Mudra-Shishu loan.
- o) A Scheme of special credit facility for street vendors is also introduced with total outlay of Rs.5000 crores. The street vendors are provided working capital of Rs.10000. The scheme has supported around 50 lac street vendors.
- p) Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) was set up for afforestation and plantation work to create job opportunities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

The government had presented a bold budget which boosted spending on infrastructure and healthcare and also enhanced expenditure for re-employment of workers. This budget has envisaged to make India's growth trajectory proper; through asset monetization, spending on public health and public infrastructure and thereby creating jobs and demand. The budget, on the one hand addresses our welfare issues, health matters which are of utmost importance at this juncture, on the other hand it draws a dynamic road map to strengthen our economy and infrastructure.

Conclusion

India was well on its path of progress before the pandemic. Though the pace of economic progress was slow due to business slackness in international arena, but the country was moving steadily towards its goal of \$5 trillion economy by 2025. The pandemic created hurdles in its path of progress as we had clocked negative return of GDP first time since independence. Our Govt. has considered the life of our citizens more important than that of economic progress. Job losses during the pandemic is a grim reality, but our government has taken firm steps for revival of economy and to increase the employment opportunity for our young generation. It should be kept in our minds that the pandemic has not been completely won and we have fear of the third and the fourth wave of the pandemic. It is important for the government and the private sector to work together to face the severity of the Covid-19. The Government and the private sector have to join their hands for creating new demand and to link supply. The new technology needs consistent improvement and the youth generation of India may become torch bearer for becoming our country self-reliant.

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COVID-19 AND INDIAN GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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Abstract

Covid-19 is a deadly virus that has spread around the world. Scientists believe that the virus may have undergone multiple mutations, resulting in new strains, which are referred to as mutants in scientific terms. The more chances a virus has to propagate, the more it replicates, and the more chances it has to evolve. The majority of viral alterations have little or no effect on the virus's capacity to infect. However, depending on where the alterations are made in the virus's genetic material, they may have an impact on its propagation and virulence. COVID-19 impacts have been seen on a bigger scale in India due to the unexpected onset of the pandemic. The government was forced to put the country on lockdown, causing businesses and other important operational units to shut down abruptly, causing a great amount of economic and emotional loss. People have lost their jobs in the private sector, and small businesses have failed. People are being held captive in their houses around the country as a result of the lockdown. In these circumstances, the government has put in place certain plans, schemes & relief measures to deal with the worsening conditions brought on by the epidemic. Many of these initiatives are summarised in this paper to show the Indian government's efforts.

Keywords—replicate, mutations, relief measures, economic and emotional loss

COVID-19

“Our destruction of nature is not just bad stewardship, or stupid economics or a betrayal of family responsibility; it is the most horrid Blasphemy. It is flinging god's gift into his face, as if they were of no worth beyond that assigned to them by our destruction to them”. To quote Wendell Berry, “The damage mankind has done to mother Earth explains itself.” “Take care of the land and it will take care of you; damage the land and it will destroy you.’ We interfered with nature's processes, tampering with its genetic makeup, creating hybrids, cloning, and artificially attempting or maybe creating bio-weapons.

As a result, we're now dealing with another issue. A virus that is mutating at a rate that has never been seen in nature before. Evolution is a natural process that occurs over time. It has been going on from the beginning of time and continues to this day. Every life on the planet is undergoing evolution. Natural selection and evolution have played a critical part in Earth's evolution. Bacteria, virus, prions, and viroid have all had an impact on human health, but scientists have always come up with a cure or at the very least precautionary techniques to prevent people from becoming sick, which has led to an even more disturbing cause, namely the evolution of new bacteria and viruses. This resulted in the emergence of a novel virus known as COVID-19, also known as the Novel Coronavirus.

Coronavirus gets its name from the Latin word corona, which means “crown” or “wreath.” June Almeida and David Tyrrell, the first to observe and study human coronavirus, coined the name. [1]

When an acute respiratory infection of farmed hens first appeared in North America in the late 1920s, it was the first report of a coronavirus infection in animals. The infection was reported to have a high fatality rate of 40% to 90%. Infectious bronchitis virus was the name given to the virus at the time (IBV). The virus spread to two other species of ape in the 1940s. Following then, multiple other virus strains were obtained and cultivated by scientists all over the world.[2] After their unusual cub-like spikes physical appearance, this new category of viruses was given the name coronaviruses. The human corona virus 229E and the human corona virus 0C43 have been studied for decades.[3]

Because the human corona virus is 96% similar to a bat coronavirus, it is usually assumed to have originated in bats as well. Within less than 80 years, this virus that began infecting hens had spread to people as well. At a fundamental level, these viruses divide at a considerably higher rate, generating evolution and mutation in their genetic composition. This virus did as well. Officials in Wuhan, China, reported the first human case of new corona virus or Covid-19, later known as SARS - CoV-2, in December of 2019. India’s first case was reported on January 27, 2020 when a 20 years old woman went to the emergency room of a general hospital in Thrissur, Kerala. The girl had a dry cough and sore throat for one day.[4]

Coronavirus is a family of related RNA viruses that infect mammals and birds. They cause respiratory tract infections in humans and birds that can range from moderate to fatal. In humans, mild sickness included the common cold and fever. It induced diarrhoea in cows and pigs, as well as jaundice, hepatitis, and encephalomyelitis in mice.[5]

Coronaviruses have a wide range of risk factors. As the number of coronavirus cases recorded in Wuhan increased, cases began to be reported in other parts of the world, and before long, no place was immune to the swirling effects of new coronavirus. People had their own beliefs and speculations about where and how a virus emerged in China’s most important industrial and commercial city, a superpower in its own right. The world demanded an explanation from China as to why the virus, which could not be contained to a single country, was unable to spread throughout China and why it only struck Wuhan and not the other Chinese cities. There were conspiracies, and the media covered every imaginable expert theory and official response. Some even suggested that the virus had been artificially modified to make it a bioweapon, but when the virus leaked out of one of Wuhan’s laboratories and infected itself, the WHO (World Health Organization) investigators, assisted by Chinese experts, determined that the lab leak was “extremely unlikely.”[6]

Despite all of these schemes, there was something more serious going on, namely the global spread of the virus. Corona cases and deaths were reported in every country, and individuals lost loved ones. There have been at least 3,369,766 confirmed deaths and more than 162,536,189 confirmed cases in the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide[7] as of May 16, 2021, with 2,81,386 cases and 4106 deaths in India alone on 16th May.[8] Scientists believe that the virus may have undergone multiple mutations, resulting in new strains, which are referred to as mutants in scientific terms. The more chances a virus has to propagate, the more it replicates—and the more chances it has to evolve. The majority of viral alterations have little or no effect on the virus’s capacity to infect. However, depending on where the alterations are made in the virus’s genetic material, they may have an impact on its propagation and virulence. In comparison to the initial viral strain, the current strain that is hitting India in April 2021 has a 50% higher transmission rate and is far more severe.

As a result, India is now experiencing COVID-19’s effects on a larger scale. Due to the sudden outbreak of this pandemic, the government was forced to put the country on lockdown, resulting in the abrupt shutdown of businesses and other vital running units, resulting in a huge amount of loss not only economically but also mentally. People are locked up in their homes, with no access to the outside world, in fear of their safety. Despite the government’s best efforts to mitigate the impact of the new coronavirus, the virus has left an indelible mark on

people's life. Many fresh start-ups and small enterprises died as a result of lockdown. It also snubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of a 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. People have had to work from home, many have lost their employment in the private sector, and many have fallen into serious debt as a result of the corona-virus.

While we continued to learn more, we needed to do everything we could to avoid the virus from spreading and causing changes that would impair the efficacy of existing vaccinations. As a result, the WHO issued guidelines of Social separation, Mask use, Sanitization, 2 metre separation and Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals. People are following these rules, and those who didn't were subjected to fines from the government.

Govt. Plans, Schemes & Measures to Combat COVID-19

To combat the pandemic of COVID-19, Govt. is following a strategic track through its plans, schemes, initiatives and relief measures. The brief description follows—

Initiatives—

- The Indian finance minister announced a relief package worth Rs.1.7 trillion on March 26, 2020. On May 15, 2020, India's prime minister announced a COVID assistance package worth Rs. 20 trillion. The Finance Minister of India unveiled a comprehensive stimulus package worth Rs. 2.65 lakh billion on November 14, 2020. Tax payment deferrals or tax rate reductions have also been announced regarding the direct & indirect taxes in India.
- The government have launched a number of food-related initiatives through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana covering around two-thirds of the Indian population. Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) of India is playing an important role in implementing this scheme.
- The government has begun paying the instalments of PM-KISAN scheme (minimum income support scheme) to the farmers since April of last year.
- Wages for MNREGA employees have been increased from Rs.182 to Rs. 202.
- Last year, 30 million senior citizens, widows, and disabled people were given Rs.1000 in two instalments for two months during the lockdown. 200 Million woman JAN DHAN account users received an ex-gratia payment of INR 500 each month for three months to help operate their households. Women in 83 million low-income families who are part of the Ujwala Scheme will receive free LPG cylinders for three months.
- The welfare money for building and construction workers has been directed to state governments. The District Mineral Fund, which is estimated to be worth Rs. 310 billion, will be used to assist those who are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the lockdown.
- The finance minister announced a Rs. 50 lakh insurance cover for sanitation workers, ASHA workers, doctors, nurses, and paramedics.
- Employees who contribute to the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) can withdraw up to 75 percent of their account balance or three months' basic income and dearness allowance, whichever is less.
- New employees working for EPFO-registered companies will be eligible for a variety of perks, including subsidy support through EPF payments.
- For the months of March to May 2020, the government paid the employee provident fund contribution of both the employer and the employee (12%) for establishments with up to 100 employees and 90 percent of whom earn up to INR 15,000 per month.
- Non-refundable advances were issued to members of a provident fund, subject to certain circumstances, for further three months, from June to August 2020.

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has allowed partial withdrawals from the NPS to meet financial needs for COVID-19 treatment for a member, his or her spouse, children (including adopted children), or dependent parents.
- Several categories of foreign nationals are permitted under specific conditions; to enter India via sea routes or aircraft, including those under the Vande Bharat Mission or the ‘Air Bubble’ (Bilateral Air Travel Arrangements) Scheme, or any non-scheduled commercial flights as permitted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has agreed to reduce visa requirements for a wider range of foreign nationals who wish to visit India. Foreign nationals with a Journalist (J-1) visa, as well as their dependents with a J-1X visa, are allowed to enter India.

Liquidity Measures by RBI

The Reserve Bank of India announced relief measures on March 27th and April 17th, 2020. These measures include a 75-basis-point cut in the policy repo rate, (from current 5.15 percent to 4.40 percent), conducting of TLTRO (Targeted Long Term Repo Operations) auctions, reduction in Banks’ Cash Reserve Ratio etc. The system will get Rs. 4.74 lakh crore in liquidity as a result of these liquidity initiatives of RBI.

Relief for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Govt. has taken a variety of relief measures for MSMEs sector in India as this sector has suffered a lot due to COVID-19. These relief measures include grant of Collateral-free loan of Rs. 3 lakh crore with 100 percent credit guarantee, Subordinate debt worth Rs. 20,000 crore for stressed MSMEs, Funds infusion of Rs. 50k crore for MSMEs with growth potential and viability etc. Besides it, MSMEs have been given a new definition. The investment ceiling has been raised, and additional turnover conditions have been added.

Relief for Non-Banking Finance Corporations (NBFCs)

Govt. has taken a variety of relief measures for NBFCs in India. These measures include Rs. 30k crore liquidity infusion for NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs and Rs. 45k crore partial credit guarantee scheme for NBFCs etc.

Relief Measures for Real estate sector and Contractors

Govt. has taken a variety of relief measures for Real estate sector and Contractors in India. These include—time extension of up to 6 months to Railways, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Central Public Works Dept, etc. to complete the projects, partially release of guarantees if contracts are only partially finished, time extension for Registration and completion of all registered real estate projects, extension of several Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) legislative compliances etc.

Regulatory Measures

Govt. has also done various amendments in the various laws and legislations prevailing in the country to combat COVID-19 and for the healing of suffered national economy. The acts modify include Companies Act, Disaster Management Act, Minimum Wages Act, Banking Regulation Act, Competition Act, MSME Act, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Income Tax Act, GST etc.

Conclusion

“It’s okay to have more questions than answers while you’re in a crisis. There is no room for “not invented here” in a crisis. We should all be learners in times of crisis.”— Global Forum on the Future of Education and Skills in 2030, organised by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The above statement reflect that this is not the time; to discuss & raise question regarding how this Covid spread, which country is responsible for it or whether Govt. is handling it properly or not etc. This is the time to fight with Corona with all the measures suggested by the Govt. and WHO. We have to save our mankind with the future waves of COVID. To bring back on track the derailed train of economic growth; the government is operating so many schemes, plans and relief measures during this period of crisis. A double sided war against Corona is still going; on one hand we have to save lives and on other hand we have to save our economy. Many of our Corona

warriors, such as healthcare personnel, sanitation workers, police officers, the army, and municipal officials, are still fighting valiantly. Let us join them in the fight with this virus. And finally, also try to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

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UNEMPLOYMENT TRIGGERING DUE TO COVID-19 CRISIS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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Abstract

From the historical background it was found that whole world including India faced various pandemics such as— in 1896 Bombay plague epidemic, 1817 to 1923 cholera pandemic occurred six times, 1918 to 1920 Flu pandemic, 1974 small pox epidemic, 1994 plague and 2009 swine flu. Outbreak of pandemic carried various worst consequences on social and economic condition of the country. It also compelled massive migration which intruded livelihood of people.

This study is regarding Covid-19 pandemic's one of the consequences; Unemployment. To deal with pandemic situation, government adopted measures of lockdown that affected employment of workers mostly daily wage workers and led to reverse migration.

The study is descriptive and empirical in nature. Main objective of the study is to know extent of unemployment situation arisen in country, to study measures by government, unemployment Insurance Policy of other countries, and recommend the Government any scheme as an everlasting solution to unemployment.

Key Word: Lockdown, Migration, pandemic, unemployment, unemployment insurance scheme

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly bring change in the living way of people. It is hazardous to the health and life of people. To control and mitigate this life threatening effect of pandemic it was essential to use the weapon of lockdown¹. In lockdown, non-essential retail stores are shut and closed. People have been advised to stay at home as much as possible and when outside wear face mask, maintain a physical social distance of two metres and sanitize frequently whenever touch anything.

Historical pandemic or epidemic situation also tackle with such measures like lockdown, social distance and wearing face mask and quarantine of affected person. Menon (1959) stated regarding spreading of influenza in 1957 in India that In each area, the pattern was one of sweeping spread through the most crowded capital and other cities, followed by a relatively slow spread across villages and other towns. In 1896, Bombay plague epidemic, worsen the situation in such a way that thousands people were killed and many run away from the city resulted to a drastic fall in the population of the city. During that period, to eradicate the plague various measures have

undertaken by the health department such as searching of plague affected persons by police, their isolation, travellers were detained in camps and in some parts of the city compelled individuals forcefully to evacuate their residents. Thus pandemic ruin the social as well as economic status of people.

Objectives of the Study:

- 1) To know extent of unemployment due to Covid crisis.
- 2) To study impact of migration on socio-economic environment
- 3) To study Unemployment Insurance Policy of other countries.
- 4) To recommend the Government any scheme to introduce for benefit of unemployed.

Methodology:

The study is based on secondary data which are available on various platform such as books, journals, newspapers, e-newspapers, articles, research papers, websites etc. Data has been extracted as per the need of the study.

Present Condition

And now, current outburst of Covid-19 pandemic induce measure like lockdown which extended to Manufacturing as well as service sector. It impacted severely on the employment as well as earning source of public. The Financial Express (25 March 2020) news, stated that across the India some of the major companies such as Larsen and Toubro, Bharat Forge, UltraTech Cement, Grasim Industries, the fashion and retail wing of Aditya Birla Group, Tata Motors and Thermax temporarily shut down or significantly reduced their operations. iPhone producing companies whose manufacturing unit in India also suspended a majority of operations. Production of two-wheeler and four-wheeler companies were almost ceased till further notification. Cummins has temporarily shut its offices across Maharashtra. Certain companies like Hindustan Unilever, ITC and Dabur India stop their manufacturing unit rather engaged in producing essentials in their factories. Foxconn and Wistron Corp, iPhone producers, suspended production during lockdown period.

NDTV 24 March 2020 news, stated that E- retailers like Amazon, Walmart-owned Flipkart, BigBasket, Grofers temporarily suspended some of its services on its e-commerce platform but continued selling and distributing only essentials.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a distressing effect on several sectors of the economy and consequentially on the rate of employment. As per FICCI survey in March— “In India up to 53% of businesses have specified a certain amount of impact of shutdowns caused due to coronavirus on operations, By 24 April the unemployment rate had increased nearly 19% within a month, reaching 26% unemployment across India.”

According to the ‘Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.’— “Around 140,000,000 Indians lost employment during the lockdown. More than 45% households across the nation reported an income drop as compared to the previous year. Various business such as hotels and airlines cut salaries and laid off employees. Revenue of transport companies such as Ola Cabs went down nearly 95% in March–April resulting in 1400 layoffs.”

CII, ASSOCHAM and FAITH estimate that a huge chunk of the workforce involved with tourism in the country faces unemployment. Live events industry saw an estimated loss of Rs. 3,000 crore. According to a KPMG report, “Venture capital in Indian startups has fallen over 50% in Q1 2020 from Q4 2019. Government revenue has been severely affected with tax collection going down, and as a result the government has been trying to find ways of reducing its own costs.” Some states of India didn’t have enough money to pay salaries in the near future.

So these reports showed that Socio-Economic situation of country had totally collapsed. The employees who works in these manufacturing and construction industries are Migrant workers consisting majorly of daily-wage labourers. Most migrants in the state originate from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, followed by Rajasthan and Madhya

Pradesh. The cities of Mumbai and Delhi attract the highest number of migrants. They are often denied adequate healthcare, nutrition, housing and sanitation, since many of them work in the informal sector. They are mostly from rural areas but live in cities for work for most of the year. Many have no savings and lived in factory dormitories, which were shut due to the lockdown. Additionally, there was no central registry of migrant workers, despite the existence of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979.

Lockdown imposed by government of various states, leaving the migrant workers with no work. Thousands then gathered at the train and bus stations, seeking transport to their hometowns. With the nationwide lockdown, all transport facilities were closed.

Government Directives:

Several measures were instigated to tackle the problem of unemployment accompanied with migration, to cease workforce from reverse migration and lure them to stay at workplace with the apprehension of further shortfall of workforce when lockdown will terminate and factories need to start again.

It is essential for the state to implement adequate financial schemes and programs that provide assistance to the unemployed and poor till they are once again gainfully employed, to prevent unemployed individuals from falling into poverty and homelessness.

On 27th March 2020, the Home Ministry ordered the states to ensure that migrants would not move during the lockdown, permitting the states to use the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for providing food and shelter to the migrants.

On 29th March 2020, the government issued sweeping orders for the landlords not to demand rent during the period of the lockdown and; instructed that—”Employers including industrialists and shop owners, should pay wages without deduction for the period their commercial establishments remain closed during the lockdown.” If any landlord is forcing labourers and students to vacate their premises, will be liable for action under the Disaster Management Act. The Central government had announced a slew of measures to extend support to the needy by providing them with free cereal, pulses and gas cylinders, beside cash transfer of Rs. 500 per month for the next three months to the women having Jan Dhan accounts.

The Prime Minister on 19th March 2020 urged businesses and high income sections of society—

“To take care of the economic needs of all those who provide them services. During the live telecast, he also appealed to families to not cut the pay of domestic help.”

The Ministry of Finance on 23rd March 2020, stated that—

“Contractual, the casual and outsourced staff of Ministries/Departments and other organization of Government of India is required to stay at home in view of lockdown, they shall be treated as ‘on duty’ during such absence period and necessary pay/wages would be paid accordingly.” These instructions shall apply until April 30th, 2020.

But The Supreme Court advised the Govt. on 15th May 2020 not to take coercive action against employers for not paying wages & salaries during the lockdown.

Relief Measures

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs. 1.7 lakh crore spending plan for the poor .
- By 3rd April 2020, the central government had released Rs. 11,092 crore to states and UTs under the NDRF, to fund food and shelter arrangements for migrants.
- The average daily wages under the MGNREGA were increased to Rs. 202 from the earlier Rs. 182 on April 1st 2020.
- Rs. 1,000 crore from the PM CARES Fund was allocated for the help of migrant workers on 13th May 2020.

- On 14th May 2020, Finance Minister of India announced free food grains for the migrant workers, targeting 80 million migrant workers by spending Rs. 35 billion .
- On 20th June 2020, the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan was launched by Govt. to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers with an initial funding of Rs. 50,000 crore for 116 districts in 6 states.
- The governments of U.P., M.P. and Gujarat temporarily revises their labour laws in May with a view of promoting & attracting industries and investments to their states.

Insurance Schemes for Unemployed

To provide solution to unemployment situation, various countries have framed policies and programs to implement effectively such as unemployment insurance schemes. Some of them have been described as follows—

1. Unemployment Insurance in the United States

United States enacted in 1935 unemployment insurance policies, which provide most of the funding and pay for the actual benefits given to workers. The person was last employed at in the state or even now lives in different state are eligible to receive these benefits.

In most states, unemployed are provided 26 weeks of benefits to replace about half of their previous wages. In worsens situation, additional 13-20 weeks of compensation under the unemployment insurance is programmed. Those who lost their job “through no fault of theirs”, and is actively seeking work and must have earned at least a certain amount of money during a base period prior to becoming unemployed are entitled for unemployment insurance.

On March 18, 2020, President Trump signed into law ‘The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)’ which provided— “Additional flexibility for state unemployment insurance agencies and additional administrative funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

‘The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act’ was signed into law on March 27. It expands— “States’ ability to provide unemployment insurance for many workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including for workers who are not ordinarily eligible for unemployment benefits.”

2. Unemployment Insurance in the United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, in 1995 the Jobseekers Act was passed. As per this act—”All unemployed people would be required to enter a Jobseeker’s Agreement which committing them to a plan of action to seek work.” Enrolled jobseeker is being provided allowance.

Similarly, in other countries also having a strong scheme of unemployment insurance such as Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Netherlands etc.

3. Unemployment Insurance in India

In India, The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) offers two unemployment benefits schemes—

- “Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna (RGSKY)”
- “Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna (ABVKY)”

Both these scheme are applicable to factories where only if at least 10 people are employed. Thus it restricts the avail of unemployment insurance benefit to those who are part of less than 10 workers as well as who are not working in factories.

Another act was introduced in 1948, ‘The Employees’ State Insurance Act’. This act is to— “Provide benefits to employees who employed in factories and other establishments such as shops, commercial establishments, residential hotels, restaurants, eating-houses, theatre or other places of public amusement or entertainment in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury and to make provision for certain other matters in relation thereto.”

Thus also in this act there is no provision for those who caught in unemployment trap due to irrelevant factors and circumstances.

Recommendation:

1. Government should develop list of unemployed people, state wise, age wise, skill and qualification wise and update it on continuous basis.
2. Each unemployed should provide certain amount for his maintenance through special account on repayment basis when recruited at job.
3. Unemployed Allowance Scheme should be generated, state wise.
4. Care should be taken that each and every employable person should get work to his hands.
5. Pandemic Disaster Management should be included in Disaster Management and sufficient funds should be reserved .

Conclusion:

Unemployment and migration affect adversely on country's economy and its GDP growth as manufacturing and service activities are totally stopped and consumption capacity of individuals also reduced. It leads to disturbance of social environment.

To deal with such disaster in future, there should be ideal, long lasting and concrete solution. Government should engage the most of the people by training them in nursing to serve sick people as well as oversee their family by offering some remuneration. Thus supporting staff will upsurge and people's involvement in pandemic eradication movement will build their attachment with societal cause. Also, help should be provided to those who are unemployed due to irrelevant factors and circumstances.

Insurance sector should extend their scheme from life & health to unemployment. During crisis, unemployed people should get financial aids to dispose their liabilities till the employment is regained which will prevent to some extent unemployed individuals from falling into poverty, homelessness and it will also restrict migration.

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AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE MICROFINANCE FOR WOMAN IN INDIA BY RASHTRIYA MAHILA KOSH

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Abstract

The term Microfinance has been recognized as the credit for micro scale businesses to the poor and needy section of society who were not given the credit by the financial institutions. Microfinance contains easy rates of interest & terms of finance so that the weaker section can repay in with in sufficient time and with ease. Millions of income-insecure women in rural India are facing financial challenges to earn their bread and butter. So, it is a need of this era to provide the best micro finances schemes to Women in India. RMK (Rashtriya Mahila Kosh) in this direction is playing a crucial role at national level to facilitate women with micro finance schemes by its NGOs and SHGs (self-help groups) termed as IMOs (Intermediary organizations). In this paper we will discuss and analyze how successfully this institution is disbursing finance to woman in two states namely U.P. and Uttarakhand for last seven years.

Keywords- Microfinance, Entrepreneur, NGOs, SHGs (self-help groups).

Introduction

Micro finance facilities are playing significant role for women especially in India and it is a paramount poverty reduction and women entrepreneurship encouragement attempt. Micro Finance through self-help groups and NGOs of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has been recognized as the modern tool of finance to the poor and needy section of the society. Woman have been most underprivileged and discriminated strata of the society of our India. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh through its self- help group (SHGs) and other IMOs; is quite effective to reduce poverty, that finally result in empowering woman and making awareness. Objectives of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh establishment is to secure needy women to stand in business competition environment successfully by providing them credit and finally fighting the poverty. Our country is facing backward rural population and joblessness too. For the solution of all these problems it is needed to establish the institution for discharging, managing microfinance to encourage woman as an entrepreneur. RMK is fulfilling the need of this type of institution.

Objectives of the study

The paper is planned with the following objectives:

- To have an idea about the profile of RMK in India.
- To have a glimpse of finance provided by RMK in last seven years on all India basis and for the states of U.P. and Uttarakhand

- To have an idea of the IMOs (NGOs and SHGs) associated with RMK since its inception in two states (U.P. & Uttarakhand)
- To have a glimpse of finance provided by RMK in last seven years on all India basis; year-wise.

Methodology

This study is primarily based on secondary data which has been collected from different published books, articles/research papers published in different journals, periodicals, conference papers, working papers, blogs and; through various authentic websites. Data from Annual Reports of RMK has also been extracted.

About Microfinance

The term Microfinance refers to the provision of those basic financial services such as loans, saving account and insurance for low income group by which government cater the finance needs of economically weaker section in India. Rural women are the most-needy section of our country who need micro credits to become micro entrepreneurs. So, we selected this topic to study the financial assistance by RMK to women in India.

Definition of Microfinance

The definition given by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** states that—

“Microfinance is a provision which pertains to a broad range of financial services such as deposit, loans, payment services, money transfers and insurance to the poor and low-income households and their micro-enterprises.”

According to **Canadian International Agency (CIDA)**—

“Micro finance is the distribution of wide range of financial services to poor families, poor microenterprises which typically do not have access to formal financial services.”

Importance of Microfinance

“All that is necessary to save the poor from poverty is to create a functioning environment. Once the poor can unleash their energy and creativity poverty will vanish quickly.” — (Muhammad Yunus, professor of economics, Grameen Bank, Lecture at the Nobel Peace Prize award, Oslo, 10 December 2006)

The above statement is quite true because through the help in form of microfinance; poor and needy section of the society is able to use its energy in productive works, thus developing its entrepreneurial abilities with the accomplishment of the goal of living a better life standard and to come out of the trap of poverty.

Microfinance impacts positively & highly on the lives of poor people. Micro finance has increased awareness among the poor people in the areas of health, small business and education of the society. Micro finance plays a very important role in the economic development through following ways—

Poverty Alleviation- Micro finance has been proved an operational mean of uplifting the standard of poor by providing them financial services to start or expand a new small business that made them able to fight with poverty.

Women Empowerment- Micro finance has played a beneficial role for women empowerment. Poor women could access small loans to start their new small businesses. These business activities will raise their income.

Financial Inclusion- Micro finance has reached to unbanked poor people through financial services like saving and money lending. Rural areas are now rich in stablishing new small/micro business due to finance availability everywhere.

Mobilization of Savings- Microfinance improves the saving habits of the people. Low income groups get in habits to save money also and made themselves bankable.

Development of Skills- Micro finance has supported in finding the potential of rural entrepreneurs. RMK inspires its members to start their own business independently or mutually thus developing their skills.

Financial Stability- Micro finance provides financial stability to the people which contributed to local economies importantly. In rural areas, especially women are ignored as an entrepreneur. RMK has bring financial stability as starting small business through its help give an encouragement to all the women.

About Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK or the National Credit Fund for Women) was set up in 1993 by government of India as an autonomous body of national importance under control of **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. Women get loan from SHGs (self-help groups) and NGOs associated with RMK; to start business independently in the unorganized sector.

About Ministry of Women and Child Development

It is an apex body for administrating and formulating rules & regulation regarding women and child development in India. Ministry discharges its functions through various programmes to support the welfare services for women & child, for training for employment, for income generation & gender sensitization.

How Rashtriya Mahila Kosh works?

RMK performs different functions successfully. The description follows——

- RMK provides credit to women section and make them independent in their entrepreneurship specially.
- RMK facilitates in economic and production activity by giving loan to start new businesses.
- RMK also provides loans for research, skill development & leadership training of women etc.
- RMK works for motivating voluntary organizations and co-ordinate with other credit development agencies which have been created and; are associated for the well-being of women.
- RMK also gives grants, donation, subscriptions etc. to achieve its objectives of women empowerment.

Loan Schemes of RMK for Woman

Schemes extended by RMK are as follows-

- **Loan promotion scheme-** This scheme is for new, smaller organizations those who have at least of 6 years of experience.
- **Repeat loan scheme-** For this scheme, NGOs or SHGs must have repaid 80 percent of previous loan availed without any delay in repayment.
- **Housing loan scheme-** This loan is provided through IMOs to construct or repair house to the needy women associated with SHGs and NGOs.
- **Main loan scheme-** This type of credit facility is for organizations having minimum 3 years of experience. IMOs can avail Rs. 2 crore loan for 1 state under this scheme.
- **Gold credit scheme-** This loan is for the organizations having no default in repayment. Organizations can avail up to Rs. 5 crore loan.

Analytical Study of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh Financing

Table No. 1
Cumulative Amount Sanctioned & Disbursed by RMK
(Since inception to 31/03/2019)

Particulars	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in Lakhs)
Uttar Pradesh	1002.25	675.12
Uttarakhand	419.24	389.89
India	37152.29	31117.39

Source—Annual Reports of RMK—various issues

The above Table No. 1 shows that since its inception to 31/03/2019, RMK has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 37152.29 lakh all over India. Out of this Rs. 31177.39 lakh has been disbursed. It represents disbursement ratio of 83.76%.

Also, it is exhibited in the table that for the above period U.P. has got benefited with RMK with a sum of Rs. 1002.25 lakh. Out of this 67.36% amount has also been disbursed by RMK to the various IMOs for the beneficiaries.

Our neighbouring state, Uttarakhand has been sanctioned total amount of Rs. 419.24 lakh for the above period and Rs. 389.89 lakh have been distributed representing a disbursement ratio of 93%.

Thus disbursement ratio in Uttarakhand is quite good as compared to U.P. and India as well.

Table No. 2
Beneficiaries of RMK
(Since Inception to 31/03/2019)

Particulars	No. of New NGOs	No. of SHGs	No. of Women Beneficiaries
Uttar Pradesh	144	2694	26939
Uttarakhand	21	315	3148
India	1528	74035	740353

Source—Annual Reports of RMK—various issues

The above Table No. 2 shows the total no. of IMOs benefitted from RMK various schemes. All over India, since its inception to 31/03/2019; RMK has extended its micro finance facilities to 1528 NGOs and 74035 SHGs. All these activities in result benefitted 740353 women beneficiaries.

With reference to U.P.; RMK has benefitted 144 NGOs & 2694 SHGs. Thus, a total no. of 26939 women have been benefitted by RMK’s microfinance activities through its IMOs.

If we talk about Uttarakhand, the total NGOs & SHGs financed through RMK are 21 & 315 respectively; thus resulted into the help of 3148 women beneficiaries.

Table No. 3
Year-wise Amount Sanctioned & Disbursed by RMK—All over India
(2012-2013 to 2018-2019)

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in Lakhs)
2012-13	2258	1849
2013-14	1029	1242.2
2014-15	-	334
2015-16	-	-
2016-17	-	55
2017-18	653.00	117.50
2018-19	475	766.50

Source—Annual Reports of RMK—various issues

The above table no. 3 shows the amount sanctioned & disbursed by RMK year-wise in all over India. For the seven years ending on 31/03/2019; amount sanctioned all over India by RMK was Rs. 2258 lakh, Rs. 1029 lakh, Nil, Nil, Nil, Rs. 653 lakh & Rs. 475 lakh respectively. The amount disbursed was Rs. 1849 lakh, 1242.2 lakh, Rs. 334 lakh, Nil, Rs. 55 lakh, Rs. 117.5 lakh & Rs. 766.50 lakh respectively for the last seven years. These figures exhibit that disbursement rates of RMK has been quite inconsistent.

If we see statistical records of RMK at national level, we could conclude that the functions of RMK stopped in some years. Its functions are slowly and gradually becoming stable in the year 2017-18 & 2018-19. In 2017-18, Rs. 653 lakh rupees were sanctioned out of which Rs. 117.50 lakh were disbursed; and in 2018-19, amount sanctioned was just Rs. 475 lakh but disbursement was Rs. 766.50 lakh.

Table No. 4
Year-wise Beneficiaries of RMK —All over India
(2012-2013 to 2018-2019)

Year	No of new NGOs	No of SHG	No of women beneficiaries
2012-13	15	2147	21465
2013-14	9	800	8080
2014-15	-	-	-
2015-16	-	-	-
2016-17	-	-	-
2017-18	12	291	2915
2018-19	6	219	2199

Source—Annual Reports of RMK—various issues

The above Table no. 4 shows the year-wise data of NGOs & SHGs benefitted through the finance services of RMK with respect to all over India.

The year 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17 recorded Nil beneficiaries of RMK. For the remaining years under our study of 2012-13 to 2018-19, the no. of new NGOs benefitted were 15, 9, 12 & 6 respectively. The data related to SHGs for the above period is 2147, 800, 291 & 219 respectively.

For the year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2017-18 & 2018-19, the RMK finance activities benefitted a total no. of women beneficiaries 21465, 8080, 2915 & 2199 respectively.

The above data shows, slowing down of RMK activities consistently. In three years 2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17; its activities were Nil. This is because of the very low infrastructure & finance availability of funds with RMK. Severe competition with private sector Micro-finance institutions has also hampered & slow-down the functioning of RMK.

Conclusion

As we know that we are going through a tough competition and economic depression from Covid-19. In these times where our GDP rate is decreasing day by day, there is a strong need to setup new businesses in all those areas where already existing business are shut down due to financial crisis and low demand. Besides this, women are lacking funds for new startups & maintaining the growth of existing business. Micro credit by RMK and these type of institutions could play a vital role in psychological, social and economic development of women in India. Keeping in view the population & skill-potential of women in U.P. and Uttarakhand, there is a lot of scope for RMK to extend its micro finance facilities to the needy women. Though there was a slow-down in RMK

activities in 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 but after that recovery is appreciable. RMK should be provided more funds to extend its financing activities and also it should advertise its activities & schemes through its IMOs among the needy areas.

Micro finance has been proved as a key mantra for developing a nation specially in rural areas and women. So, by these microfinance efforts reaching poor people on massive scale by starting new business products could encourage every skilled women to rethink her condition in a better established economic position. Here this is required to make known every needy women about RMK functions, schemes and new initiatives for women. Micro finance literacy programs organized by authorities should be directed to approach rural and backward areas of the countries. Apart from household women; female students, women entrepreneurs should be targeted and made aware about different alternatives available to benefit them in terms of micro finance needs.

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MENTAL HEALTH AND REHABILITATION - ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

IF I AM NOT FOR MYSELF, WHO WILL BE?

IF I AM ONLY FOR MYSELF, WHO AM I?

This famous quote from Rabbi Hilal clearly delineates among mental health issues mankind has faced in 20th century and is apt to face or is facing in this highly digital 21st century. 20th century has evidenced mankind more as a social and emotional being thus faced issues largely emotional in nature. Whereas 21st century has witnessed the advent of more independent-individualistic generation, but highly dependent digitally and virtually on secondary means of maintaining social relations. Comparatively newer generations are coming up with a variety of mental health issues.

Keywords- Mental health, Muskurayega India, WHO, NMH, UNICEF

“Mental health is a state of successful performance of mental functions, resulting in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with other people and the ability to adapt to change and to cope with adversity specific to the individual’s culture” (WHO, 1998). Human behaviour has to analyse unique environmental conditions that are interfering with optimal human functioning. Individual appraisals of this potential harm of discrepant environmental array largely determine how irresistible environmental conditions affect human health and well-being.

During the COVID-2019 pandemic people all over world face mental health issues and India is not an exception. Corona virus effect not only physical health but it effects psychological well-being in great manner. Strikingly conceptual mental health elements resulting in poor mental health are still without the label of mental illness by psychiatrists and mental health workers in clinical frame of reference. This under consideration is still the main hindrance in rehabilitative practices for distressed population. Through this paper hopefully we will be able to highlight and delineate some markers of mental health and conductance of effective rehabilitation practices.

Health is pivotal for the boom, development and productiveness of a society and is essential for a glad and wholesome lifestyles everywhere in the global sphere. The World Health Organisation definition of health consists of bodily, social, non-secular and mental fitness, and now not simply the absence of disorder or infirmity. Since historic times, India, has given importance to the fitness of humans and has highlighted the need for a bodily and mentally healthy society. The maxim, “there’s no health without mental health” underlines the reality that intellectual health is a quite essential and crucial aspect of fitness.

Mental health is now recognized as a critical requirement and is engaging the attention of policy-makers, professionals and communities in India and all over the world.

A true mental health machine has the duty of lowering the giant burden of untreated mental disorders, reducing human rights violations, making sure social safety and enhancing the pleasant of lifestyles specially of the maximum inclined and marginalized subgroups in a society. Moving beyond care, it have to additionally combine and include mental health advertising and rehabilitation components.

WHO estimated that globally over 450 million people be afflicted by intellectual problems. Currently mental and behavioural problems account for approximately 12% of the worldwide burden of illnesses. This is likely to boom to 15% by way of 2020. India is presently home to a population of over one billion citizens. A survey conducted by the World Health Organization in 2015 indicates that one in five Indians may also suffer from melancholy in their lifetime, equivalent to 200 million people.

The NMH survey reports that common mental disorders (including co-morbidities such as substance abuse) are a huge burden, affecting nearly 10 percent of the population. Individuals and families also ignore and neglect these disorders till they become severe. Nearly 1.9 percent of the population was affected with severe mental disorders in their lifetime and 0.8 percent was identified to be currently affected with a severe mental disorder. The prevalence is highest in the age group 30–49, and most of the persons who were identified as suffering such disorders experienced severe disability and were unable to work for long durations.

1 in 20 individuals in India suffer from depression. It turned into mentioned to be higher in women, inside the age group 40-49 years and among those residing in urban metros. Substance use issues had been customary in 22.4% of the populace above 18 years. Nearly 2% population became affected with intense intellectual problems in their lifetime and 0.8% turned into diagnosed to be presently affected with a excessive intellectual ailment. Both genders are affected with intellectual disorders. The universal incidence of intellectual morbidity become better among adult males (13.9%) than amongst ladies (7.5%). Specific intellectual disorders like mood sickness, agoraphobia, GAD, OCD, phobic anxiety disease, were better in women. Neurosis and strain associated disorders affected 3.5% of the populace and become suggested to be better amongst women nearly twice as a whole lot as men. Children and teenagers are susceptible to mental problems. Prevalence of intellectual disorder amongst age group 13-17 years was 7.3%. Nearly 10 million of young Indians elderly among 13-17 years are in need of lively interventions. The need is higher in urban metros (13.5%) as compared to rural (6.9%) area. 3 out of 4 persons with a severe mental disorder experience significant disability in work, social and family life. Males in the age group of 30-49 years were the most affected indicating that mental disorder contributes to greater morbidity in the productive population.

India has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Nearly 1% populace is said to have excessive suicidal risk. The incidence of high suicidal chance turned into more within the 40-49 years age (1.19%), amongst girls (1.14%) and in the ones dwelling in urban metros (1.71%). In our country, the invention of a intellectual contamination is frequently observed through denial and hesitation to searching for help. Despite its big social burden, intellectual health remains a taboo challenge. This is vulnerable to age-antique stigmas, prejudices and fears. Even although mental disorders may be cured or managed, most people tend to sweep their issues underneath the carpet and go through in silence. Due to the stigma associated with mental illness, a lack of awareness, and limited get entry to expert assist, hardly 10-12% of these patients are searching for help.

The salient factor that emerged from the survey is that, intellectual fitness programmes and activities had been fragmented, dis-organised, and had a low priority during implementation. Vision, project and route are seriously critical in intellectual health programmes.

The presence of health care facilities varied from 14.8 facilities per lakh population in Uttar Pradesh to 31.2 per lakh population in Rajasthan. The availability of psychiatrists (per lakh population) in the NMHS states varied from 0.05 in Madhya Pradesh to 1.2 in Kerala. Kerala has the highest availability of clinical psychologists (per lakh

population) i.e. 0.6. All other states are below this level. Across the 12 states, nearly 69 NGOs were reported to be functioning prominently in mental health.

Psychological rehabilitation is positive in focus, reflecting individuals' possibilities rather than his or her limitation. Psychological rehabilitation is the process that facilitates opportunities for individuals who are impaired, disabled or handicapped by mental disorders in order to reach their optimal level of independent functioning in the society. It implies both improving individual competencies and introducing environmental changes in order to create a life of the best quality possible for people who have experienced a mental disorder or who have had an impairment of their mental capacity, which produces a certain level of disability.

The huge burden of mental, behavioural and substance use disorders, in India, calls for immediate attention of political leaders, policy makers, health professionals, opinion-makers and society at large. The data from the NMHS, it is hoped; will inform mental health policy and legislation, help shape mental health care delivery systems in the country. Most significantly, mental health should be given higher priority in the developmental agenda of India. All policies and programmes in health and all related sectors of welfare, education, employment and other programmes should include and integrate mental health agenda in their policies, plans and programmes.

A National Commission on Mental Health comprising of professionals from mental health, public health, social sciences, the judiciary and related backgrounds should be constituted to oversee, support, facilitate, monitor and review mental health policies, plans & programmes in a continuous manner. Such a task force that works closely with the Ministries of Health at the national and state levels can provide strategic directions for mental health care programming to ensure speedy implementation of programmes.

The pre COVID-19 situation for intellectual fitness in India changed into already a reason for deep issue. One in seven Indians has mental problems of varying severity, with Indians accounting for almost one quarter of world suicide deaths. Healthcare shipping groups are completely seized of the enormity of the mental health toll of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is well known that COVID-19 extracts a huge toll on the intellectual fitness of sufferers and leaves in the back of a slew of neurological sequelae in its wake. A research discovered that the prevalence of 14 neurological and psychiatric disorders starting from bleeding into the brain to psychosis befell in greater than a third of 236379 humans who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 within the previous six months. Predictably, the extra critical results were seen in sufferers who had excessive illness requiring hospitalization, or even extra in the ones admitted in depth care gadgets. However, what's alarming is the wide gamut of intellectual and neurological disorders visible even people with milder signs. Such patients regularly said being demanding, depressed and having problem in snoozing. A higher prevalence of frank psychosis manifesting as disorganization of thought techniques and personality problems turned into additionally mentioned. Many survivors of COVID-19 had to conflict substance abuse in its instantaneous aftermath. There was a steep boom in the amount of alcohol ate up by way of normal drinkers. Persons who had stopped smoking and consuming alcohol resumed their habit in disconcerting numbers. The occurrence of neurodegenerative issues like Parkinsonism is alarming as this would portend lengthy-term disability within the form of impaired mobility and memory decline.

According to a survey among Indian urban adolescents approximately life in lockdown, a majority of respondents throughout all age agencies felt that their intellectual health become incredibly impacted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in April 2020. About 39% of male respondents among 18 and 25 years of age said that their well-being turned into strongly affected at that time. About 42% of girl respondents between age group of 18 and 25 years said that their well-being turned into strongly affected at that point. Over 55% of the respondents in a survey stated they'd not felt down, depressed or hopeless in any respect for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas, close to 5% said having felt down, depressed or hopeless. A majority of respondents felt lonely occasionally all through the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown in April 2020. About 20% of respondents felt very lonely at some stage in the lockdown due to disruption in their regular hobby and social lifestyles.

We can say that there were various mental health problems faced by Indian people. Numerous efforts were made by Indian government and state governments all over. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science leads these efforts by providing free psychological counselling services and support on a helpline number. Similarly NSS unit of Uttar Pradesh launches a program “MUSKRAYEGA INDIA” which has a dedicated team of mental health counsellors who provided 24x7 psychological help and support to covid patients as well as normal individuals. With the onset of COVID-19, human beings are confronted with new realities—restrained motion, physical distancing, isolation, worry of contracting the sickness, monetary uncertainty, among many others. These are taking a toll on intellectual fitness with fear. Fear and strain are turning into a steady partner. In these tough occasions; cases of loneliness, well-known apathy, anxiety, melancholy, suicidal thoughts, domestic violence and family discord have seen an upward push.

The NSS, Uttar Pradesh is playing an important role in COVID times through its precise and novel initiative—MUSKURAYEGA INDIA (India will smile).

Campaign to cope with intellectual health issues NSS, Uttar Pradesh released Muskurayega India in partnership with UNICEF (Uttar Pradesh) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). UNICEF (Uttar Pradesh) supported the initiative with digital platforms to train the counsellors through the problem experts in the course of the training classes. PHFI helped plan the technical classes on intellectual fitness and supplied backend guide for the initiative. Further, PHFI offered assist in digitising the reporting system through an android app and analysing the caller pattern and behaviour to support the counsellors. Building a cadre of Mental Health Counsellors NSS, Uttar Pradesh has an expansive network of 307600 youth volunteers, 3076 programme officers (school from universities), 75 district nodal officials within the 75 districts of the state and 24 programme coordinators in 36 state and private universities. In April 2020, the NSS Cell of Uttar Pradesh nominated 300 programme officials from every district as Mental Health Counsellors. Their qualifications ranged from Professor (1%), Associate Professor (19%) to Assistant Professor (80%), with 78% having completed their Ph.D. and 22% put up-commencement. The counsellors had been added to mental fitness in education sessions held on April 11 and 14, 2020. In May 2020, a cellular software named NSS-UP was released for the counsellors.

Support Provided by the Counsellors

The counsellors offered multiple solutions for the problems brought up by the callers. Suggestions and solutions provided by them are categorised as:

Psychological Counselling	59%
Practical Steps Advised	28%
Referred to Local Authorities	6%
Referred to Police	1%
Other Actions	4%
Referred to Hospital	2%

Muskurayega India has highlighted the monstrous importance of mental health counselling for college students and normal public. In a short span this initiative has acquired an encouraging reaction and showcased the openness of society to attain out for counselling and have an honest dialogue with the mental health counsellors. This will actually provide an impetus for more such tasks and for building the know-how of counsellors who work on mental fitness troubles.

Conclusion

20th century has evidenced mankind more as a social and emotional being thus faced issues largely emotional in nature. Whereas 21st century has witnessed the advent of more independent-individualistic generation, but highly dependent digitally and virtually on secondary means of maintaining social relations. Comparatively newer generations are coming up with a variety of mental health issues. The huge burden of mental, behavioural and substance use

disorders, in India, calls for immediate attention of political leaders, policy makers, health professionals, opinion-makers and society at large. The data from the NMHS, it is hoped; will inform mental health policy and legislation, help shape mental health care delivery systems in the country. Most significantly, mental health should be given higher priority in the developmental agenda of India. All policies and programmes in health and all related sectors of welfare, education, employment and other programmes should include and integrate mental health agenda in their policies, plans and programmes. In this regard, Muskurayega India initiative in U.P. has acquired an encouraging reaction and showcased the openness of society to attain out for counselling and have an honest dialogue with the mental health counsellors.

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CLIMATE CRISIS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD BANK GROUP CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

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Abstract

The basic issue of modern time is to address the climatic problems while still fulfilling pressing development demands. This research paper presents conceptual overview of the World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan and analyze the role of the World Bank in this process. Climate change adversely affects the developing nations because of their geographical and climatic conditions, high dependence on natural resources within these nations, the poorest least resources, and capacity to tackle the climate crisis. The World Bank will support public and private investments in five key sectors including energy; agriculture, food, water and land, cities; transport; and manufacturing; to its client countries. These investments will support the developing countries to build sustainable infrastructure, creation of new jobs and help in lowering down the carbon emissions. The world would have to spend trillions of dollars in the coming years to successfully achieve the goal of climate change management and sustainable development.

Keywords- World Bank, Climate Change, Sustainability, Developing Nations

Introduction

Climate change is one of the biggest problems of the present time. However, climate change is different from the other major problems faced by humanity and it forces us to think differently on many levels. Climate change is a change in the weather pattern and changes in ocean & land surface. Population's health is dependent on the biosphere's ecological balance system, often known as life-supporting system; remaining stable. We neglect this historical truth at our risk; especially at a time when the humans are becoming increasingly urbanized and distanced from these natural systems. "The world's environment system is an undivided part of this complex of life supporting processes, one of the largest natural systems, that is now under the pressure of increasing human population and economic activities."¹

The main problem faced by the world is to achieve sufficient reduction in Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emissions so as to exclude perilous intervention in the environmental system. Greenhouse Gas effect is a natural process that warms the Earth's surface. Greenhouse Gases include water vapor, Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Ozone layer and some artificial chemicals such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). "Climate change is only one of a set of destabilizing environmental changes that reflects the increasing human ascendancy of the exposure. The level of greenhouse gases is continuously increasing in the atmosphere due to the burning of fossil fuels and changes in

land uses. The major changes in the environmental system are like stratospheric ozone depletion, biodiversity loss, global land degradation, freshwater depletion, and others like global elaboration of resolute organic pollutants.”²

Climate change is affected by many factors that influence flows of energy through the environmental system. Climate problems fluctuate naturally. These natural fluctuations can generate the variations among the atmosphere, Sea-Ocean, and climate system. Traditionally, environmental issues were targeted on toxicological and microbiological perils. “However, in the early years of the twenty-first century, human life supporting activities are directly amplifying environmental concentration of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, etc. These man-made gases enhance natural Greenhouse Gas Effect.”³

Climate changes will have wide effects on the environment, water resources, agriculture, food security, human health & biodiversity etc. Increasing temperature will affect the seasonable crop pattern which affects food security and changes in the distribution of diseases. But some studies show that, food shortages are never due to extreme climate alone, it also depends on many social and political factors. The latest report from the inter-governmental panel on climate change (IPCC) makes several compelling clear points, such as human originated warming has apparently begun. “The surface temperature increased this century within the range of 1.4^o to 5.8^oC. It is increasing faster than expected in the IPCC’s previous report, in 1996. It has been considered that human life can be affected by ecological disruption.”⁴

Objective/Methodology

This paper aims to study the World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan and analyze the role of the World Bank in this process. The research paper provides a conceptual overview. It is based on existing literature review.

Paris Agreement and World Economies

The world economy has doubled in size of GDP since 1990. India, China, and other developing countries which represent one-third of humanity, are rapidly catching up with the developed economies. However, this enormous growth, both in the developed and developing countries, comes at the cost of advance climatic changes. “China and India are increasingly paying much higher prices for renewable energy sources than for carbon-based sources. The renewable source of energy is an example of Green Technology.”⁵

Technology has not disrupted all sectors equally at the same time. Technologies have affected different sectors differently for their specific function. During technological changes, the transition from medium technology to higher technology in the production reduces the level of environmental pollution and increases the efficiency. Sustainability is the top priority for all economies in the world. At the same time, technological changes continue to grow, with accelerating global rates of production and consumption.

World’s Largest CO₂ Emission Countries (Year–2019)

Country	Annual CO ₂ Emissions
China	10.17 Billion tons
US	5.28 Billion tons
India	2.62 Billion tons
Russia	1.68 Billion tons
Japan	1.11 Billion tons
Germany	701.96 Million tons
Iran	779.53 Million tons
South Korea	611.26 Million tons
Saudi Arabia	582.15 Million tons
Indonesia	617.51 Million tons

Source: Global Carbon Project (2020)

However, technological advancement both in the developed and developing countries comes at a significant environmental cost. Developed and developing countries are struggling at their own level to cope up with climate changes. This problem is a global emergency. It is a problem that requires multi-level coordination of solutions. To tackle climate change, the Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 countries in December, 2015. “The Paris Agreement seeks to significantly cut world GHGs emissions and limit global temperature rise to 2°C in this century, with the goal of limiting it not further to 1.5°C. All nations have agreed to cut their CO₂ emissions and work cooperatively to adapt the impacts of climate change.”⁶

Countries all around the world are still dealing with energy crises and reforms. For example, Argentina, India, Indonesia, and several countries took important steps towards reducing their energy subsidies for the consumer. “Investment and green finance address the issues relating to the transition to a green, low-emission and climate-resilient economy.”⁷

World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020

“The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and knowledge of developing countries. Its five institutions (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID) share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development.”⁸

The World Bank Group’s (WBG’s) main purpose is to address climate change. The World Bank Group’s Climate Change Action Plan outlines how it plans to address the challenges and possibilities by increasing climate action, integrating climate change into all of its activities, and collaborating more closely with others. The World Bank invested in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency as part of its 2016-2020 Action Plan to assist clients decrease emissions, adding, 48 GW of renewable energy.

“The WBG is committed to increasing climate finance, from 20% of lending in 2016 to 28% by 2020. The share of WBG projects with some climate finance rose from 26 percent in 2015 to 62 percent in 2020.”⁹

World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025:

“Climate change will affect the existing poverty in the world. The developing nations are adversely affected because of their geographical and climatic conditions, high dependence on natural resources within these nations, the poorest less resources, and the least capacity to adopt, is there for a serious distress to poverty eradication. However, the present development process trend to overlook climate change risks.”¹⁰

The Climate Change Action Plan 2021–2025 aims to advance the climate change aspects of the World Bank Group’s Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development approach, which pursues poverty eradication and shared prosperity with sustainability. World Bank will support countries and private sector clients to maximize the impact of climate finance, aiming for measurable improvements in adaptation and resilience and measurable reductions in GHG emissions. The Action Plan also considers the vitality of natural capital, biodiversity, and ecosystems services. Plan will increase support for nature-based solutions, keeping in view; both the mitigation and the adaptation.

Understanding the outcome of climate change on the economy and ecosystem; plays an important role in building up pace for policy action. “Government should align policies for adaptation and mitigation to avoid the largest negative consequences. Adaptation refers to the methods through which societies improve their ability to cope with an uncertain future.”¹¹

Globally, the poor people are the least responsible of greenhouse gas emissions but widely suffer from climate change. The new climate change action plan has been in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main objective of the plan is to increase climate finance. In 2016, after the Paris agreement, the World Bank developed a five-year Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020 to increase financial and technical support to client countries and private sector. The client countries are those that rely economically, diplomatically, or militarily dependent on other countries. “Today, the World Bank is the largest multilateral funder of climate investment in developing countries, with \$83 billion committed to climate investment. Climate change related funding reached a highest level \$21.4 billion in 2020.”¹²

Due to Covid-19 pandemic the economic crisis has been devastating. The World Bank supports countries to respond to the crisis and build back. The integration of climate change and development strategies is urgently needed to provide the inclusive growth and sustainable development for developing countries. Currently, the cost of not addressing climate change is much higher and it will be more expensive. The World Bank assumed the poor, who are least responsible for GHGs but they suffer more from climate change. “The World Bank will support public and private investments in five key sectors including energy; agriculture, food, water and land, cities; transport; and manufacturing. These sectors are prioritized because they generate more than 90% of global GHGs emissions.”¹³

Conclusion

The research paper represents a shift from low carbon emissions to greening economies. Developing countries are already suffering from effects of climate crisis. Several developing countries have devised adaptation strategies to address the climate problems. The new Action Plan of World Bank supports a transition process to climate action that will require meaningful funding. It will help the poor countries to invest in global public goods such as reducing coal usage, and finance adaptation efforts which need to spend more. According to the World Bank Group; by 2030, developing countries will require annually 4 trillion dollar expected investment in the development of its infrastructure. These investments will support the developing countries to build sustainable infrastructure, creation of new jobs and help in lowering down the carbon emissions. The world would have to spend trillions of dollars in the coming years to successfully achieve the goal of climate change management and sustainable development.

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POST COVID-19 IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE & CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FARMERS AFTER THIS PANDEMIC

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Abstract

Agriculture is the nervous system of Indian economy. Without any development in this sector, country can't grow. Now the time is so difficult for each and every sector and every sector is facing some issues like supply, storage, promotion etc. Nearly 90% of our population is working in agriculture anyhow and most of the farmers are small or medium farmers those who are having less amount of land to produce. They are facing various types of problems. The main objective of this research paper is to find the solution of these challenges/problems.

Keywords- Covid-19, agricultural system, food system, Covid impact

Introduction

COVID-19, started from Wuhan, China (the epicentre) has in due course spread throughout the whole world and emerged into a pandemic. India has already become a hotspot for the virus, next to the USA, infecting 9.6 million (14.6% of global infection) as of December 6th 2020. Lockdown resulting due to pandemic lowered Indian GDP and increased unemployment in India. This shock of pandemic is too intense for the economies all over of world because this loss of human lives has affected more as compared to weather shocks such as drought or flood or cyclones etc. Undoubtedly, all these shocks affect agricultural systems; but human lives shocks affect all the sectors of an economy. The pandemic has disrupted demand and supply of food, had worst effect on the global supply chain; while natural disaster tends to be localized affecting only the associated sector or stakeholders. Similarly, shocks due to a trade gapping affect every sector. These can be corrected in the short-term with suitable policy measures. For example, in case of supply shortage due to droughts, floods etc. all the globally linked wholesalers and retailers procure goods from other sources to avoid harmful effects. On the contrary, loss of human lives impact may be wide-ranging and despotic and may even push a country into recession.

Farmers have faced another problem in sowing summer (April–June) and south-west monsoon (July–October) season crops, harvesting winter (March–April) crops while making marketing decisions. At the time of the state acquisition operations of the winter harvested wheat, because of the need of time, for government regulation reforms; for social distancing norms, the Government of India drape the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act authorising many temporary local markets. To see the successful completion of a record acquisition operation, the Government of India thought it for an opportunity in the pandemic to conduct various reforms to agricultural marketing and think to minimize restriction and sale of agricultural commodities by announcement of three laws that included:

- Amending the APMC Act to allow private trade.
- Encouraging contract farming to safeguard the agreement on price assurances and
- Amending the Essential Commodity Act 1955

Post Covid Impact On Agriculture And Others

Amid the COVID-19 emergency, agricultural activities related to production and marketing have been considered essential services and were not prohibited in any state. However the lockdown shut the operations of retail sellers and bounded their movement, control the movement of goods some times, and shut down processing units. Govt. also shut down some *mandis* and markets. When the country begins to open up again, there was mixed impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the different sub-sectors. Some subsectors are in a position to get well and some continue to struggle. Due to this pandemic various sub-sectors of Agriculture and allied activities suffered. These sub-sector include poultry, floriculture, vegetables, fisheries, dairy, fertilizers, seeds, farm mechanization, farm labour etc.

The Government of India (GOI) and many state governments have made some measures to address the problems that farmers face. Nearly 90% of India's agricultural sector is made up of small and marginal farmers. These farmers are particularly vulnerable to economic shocks; include those sparked by COVID-19 lockdowns.

Major Crops Vs. Perishable Foods: Impact of Govt. Reforms

Reflecting on India's March 2020 nationwide lockdown J. V. Meenakshi presented her research focussed on "Differential impact on major food crops and perishable produce in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh". This research resulted that a greater degree of market reforms undertaken by Govt. were positively protecting farmers from disturbance and procurement and agricultural market reforms reduced the lockdown's adverse impacts.

Meenakshi's research (2020) on agriculture predicted that the acquisition of market reforms, matters much more for the perishables than for major crops. This is because the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat acts as a price announcer. The results suggests that fruits and vegetables which are not listed in agriculture market were able to prevent a decrease in prices by over 10 percentage points. Market arrivals affect price of the perishable goods. It was seen that perishables saw relatively more sales where markets were no boundations. This highlights the importance of the government's role both in acquirement and market amendments.

Supply Chain and Labour Disturbance: Consequences for Harvesting

Due to COVID-19 related lockdown, some problems are faced by the farmers as well as labour because the time of lockdown was same as the crop cutting, so both of them are facing same problem and other problem is transportation. Trains movement is also restricted and labour can't move from one city to another city.

Farmers in Bihar found their movements cramped and faced a shortage of labourers like farm workers and operators for harvest machinery etc. When the government switch off the ban on the transition of farm workers, 650 drivers had to be mobilised from Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh to help the harvesters in Bihar.

Shortage of labourers in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh cause pressures on the farmers and they don't know how to complete their work on time. Mobilisation of labour is also a big problem for every sector in India during this time.

Efforts made by the government of India to improve the agriculture supply chain at this time include increasing income through Rs. 6,000 to every farmer.

This pandemic has also affected the commodity market because loss of human lives is affecting everywhere. Second wave of Covid was too furious as compared to first wave.

Table 1
Best Selling Price Of Commodities Before And After Second Wave 2021

COMMODITY	Feb 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
Agridex	1042.25	1095	1134	1191	1207	1468
Barley	1459	1357	-	-	-	1635
Castor seeds	3930	4024	4082	4300	4700	5477.52
Chana	4204	4389	4942	5432	5321	4896
Coriander	6280	6630	6920	6824	6940	5650
Cotton seeds oilcake	2129	1910	1863	1851	1955	2962
Guar gum 5MT	5520	6574	6450	6755	6625	6563
Guar gum 10MT	3630	4170	4037	4318	4196	4289
Jeera	13715	14325	14180	14285	14645	13485
Kapas	988	1011	1032	1110	1163.5	1349
Maize	1302	-	1300	-	-	1335
Muster seeds	4665	5159	5447	5814	6099	7238
Ref soya oil	801.6	878.2	899.2	963.2	1003	1377
Soy bean	3720	3800	3904	4340	4319	6006
Turmeric	5750	5930	6158	6450	6180	7498

Source: ncdex.gov.in

Report of Niti Aayog after Second Wave

Niti Aayog member (agriculture) Ramesh Chand on June 6, 2021 said, “The second COVID-19 wave will not impact the Indian agriculture sector in anyway as rural areas saw spread of infections in May when agriculture activities remained at bare minimum.” He added, “It (May) is a peak summer month and no crop is sown, no crop is harvested except some vegetables and off-season crops.”

Agriculture activity, Mr. Chand said, peaks in the month of March or middle of April, after which it comes down significantly and again peaks with the arrival of monsoon.

“So, even if there is less availability of labour in the month of May till mid-June, I don’t think that will impact agriculture in anyway.” Mr Chand said.

So it should be explained that second wave that started from April 2021 to June 2021 can’t affect the agriculture because at that time work for farmers is too less and they were leisure and do not work as much as compared to January and February.

Challenges Faced by the Farmers After Covid-19 & Suggested Solutions

- Long food supply chains have so many stakeholders that are clearly permeable to shocks such as the pandemic. Searching and optimizing supply chains will be for future rebound.
- Building a rebound food system is not about production but also about ensuring access to nutritious food to people in times of crisis.

- Small landholder farmers are highly affected to crisis because of their limited access to resources. Credit and basic healthcare facilities are also limited. Measures will need to be taken by governments and businesses to protect this community.
- Supply of the food grains, fruits and vegetables and other necessary items available to consumers both in villages and cities is the most evaluating challenge for Government during the lockdown period.
- Distribution of the commodities to the whole population with maintaining prescribed guidelines and protocol, especially of social distancing, must be effectively monitored.
- The sale of dairy products likes fish; poultry, etc. has also been affected during the lockdown period. This was the challenge for the unorganized industry players that was affected due to shortage of employees and transport issues.
- Weather has been unpredictable over past few months in many parts; so collected produce must also be protected from these types of risks.
- Raising productivity per unit of land will need to be the main focus for the agricultural growth so that effectively all cultivable land is farmed.
- Water resources are also limited. Water for irrigation must not be used in increasing industrial and urban needs.
- All measures to increase productivity will need to change so that yield should be increased. Division of higher value crops, and developing value chains help in reducing marketing costs.
- Promoting new technologies and reforming agricultural research are extension in Major reforms. Providing good opportunities to strengthening of India's agricultural research and adjunct systems is one of the most important needs for agricultural growth. These services have been in danger over time due to terrible underfunding of infrastructure and operations.
- No replacement of old researchers or broad access to state-of-the-art technologies is there.
- Now research has little to provide after the time-worn packages of the past. All those services which are public friendly are struggling and offer little new knowledge to farmers. There is small connection between research and adjunct. And also a small connection between these services and the private sector.
- Encouraging farmers to diversify valuable commodities will be a remarkable factor for valuable agricultural growth especially in rain-fed areas where poverty is high. Mostly appreciable capacity exists for enlarging agro-processing to make some competitive value chains from producers to town centres and export markets. While assorted initiatives should be left to farmers and businessmen. The Government can first and foremost simplify restrictions which are applied on marketing, transport, export and processing in agricultural businesses.
- Government should play an active role for taking care of barriers or rules that the government form because every person can mould these rules according to their convenience.

Conclusion

So impact of Covid-19 on agriculture is less in second wave as compared to first wave. In first wave harvesting had started and that mostly affected the farmers because the time was of rabi season and that was very busy time for the farmers. But farmers accepted this challenge and did their work passionately. More challenges were there like, how they can supply their produce, how they can sell their produce, is there any risk for the selling of the product but all these challenges they handled and helped those people who can't do for their selves.

Government of India also helped the farmers to free from all the restriction like, selling their produce anywhere in INDIA, storage restrictions also removed that helped the farmers to store their produce as much as they can.

Second wave couldn't affect the agriculture productivity otherwise it strengthened the farmers and taught them to behave logically & patiently at the time of this pandemic situation.

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