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### EDITORIAL NOTES

We are feeling great satisfaction that the Journal of Economic & Commerce (JEC) is successfully completing the eleventh year of publication. We are proud of our Editorial Board for the *Journal of Economics & Commerce (JEC)*, **Which** includes academicians in the fields of Economics and Commerce, who have marks of records of accomplishment in their respective disciplines and also share a burden of referee as per required from time to time. Ever since its inaugural publication in 2010, **JEC** has emerged as one of the most respected publications, encompassing both Economics and Commerce. We intend to build on this tradition with our present issue.

Over the years, **JEC** has endowed with a platform for the progression of knowledge and the quest of academic excellence. Many prominent scholars from different part of India have published inspiring high quality articles analogous to those in leading journals in the field. Even as maintaining its focus on contemporary developments in the broad areas of Economics and Commerce, the journal is now also pledged to the spreading out of research frontiers further.

Within this orientation the present issue of the journal provides a set of eleven articles, which includes some special articles on COVID 19 issues and case studies on burning issues of economics and commerce along with two proceedings of the International webinars organized by jointly DAV PG College and University of Manchester, UK, for the benefit of the students and faculty. In addition to this we have also kept our commitment towards promotion of new contributors and young researchers in the present issue. There is one special review article which shows the journey through the decade.

As the last words, we would like to tell our respected readers that our forthcoming issues intend to focus for theoretical, applied, and methodological work, with emphasis on development of critical issues with the use of empirical evidences, and the edifice policy measures. The Editors welcome submissions in this spirit on vital issues concerning our economy and commerce, **with a token of note that these will strictly be referred before acceptance.** We congratulate each member of the editorial team, advisors, contributors and well wishers for the successfully completing of the eleventh year of our 'Journal of Economics and Commerce'.

The journey will continue .....

July - 2020

**Anup Kumar Mishra**  
Managing Editor

## **BETTER WORK, BETTER LIVES FOR WOMEN: HOW A PARTNER NETWORK CAN IMPROVE WORK CONDITIONS**

**Wendy Olsen\*, Amaresh Dubey\*\*, and Purva Yadav\*\*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Changes are needed to help women work in more comfortable conditions across the north central Indian zone of UP, Jharkhand and Bihar, and in Bangladesh. The paper reports on a project run in urban and rural Uttar Pradesh involving civic workshops. Each workshop was a moderated small-group discussion; they were held in Lucknow, Kanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, and Delhi.*

*We found that women need bus transport, more transport options, more respect and dignity, and better toilet facilities when they are working. Without these basics, working outside the home is very challenging for women.*

*The usual approach that focuses mainly on money-earning work is inferior to a full-economy approach. All the institutions and norms of the society are relevant to work outcomes. Time-use data are convenient. All the groups were highly positive about women working. What women do is respected, they said. All people in all the groups urged that society give up patriarchal power of men over women.*

**Key Words :** *Gender, employment, time-use diary, civic workshops, institutional economics, gender norms.*

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Data collection for the ESRC DFID study was carried out by an extremely skilled multi-method field research team in each country. Special thanks go to Sahida Khondaker, Anup Mishra, Amaresh Dubey, Sohela Nazneen, Daniel Neff, Santosh K Singh, Maheen Sultan, Sadia Mustafa, Lopita Huq, Krishna Singh, and Samantha Watson.

The second grant paid for a series of civic workshops on the topic of women and work. Team members were Prof. Olsen; Prof. Amaresh Dubey, Professor of Economics, Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSR D), JNU Delhi and also based at the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies, Delhi; Punita Chowbey, Sheffield Hallam University; Dr. Anup K. Mishra, Associate Prof. of Economics,

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The problems facing women in Uttar Pradesh and other north central Indian states are numerous, as identified by the women themselves, and by politicians. This paper aims to show what changes are needed to help women work in more comfortable conditions in Uttar Pradesh and more generally, across the north central Indian zone of UP, Jharkhand and Bihar, and Bangladesh. This is a report on a project run in urban and rural Uttar Pradesh involving civic workshops.

Indian women working face problems of many kinds: low earnings if they do waged work; difficulties with the toilet facilities if they work away from home; transport problems; poor working conditions; and being criticized by other people for going outside the home. In Bangladesh, which we studied earlier, conditions for women working are similar.

*“Message: providing better public services could improve the mobility and autonomy of women”, Rahman and Rao, 2004: page 262*

Some people claim that India can achieve progress on all fronts through the 'growth strategy' involving a slow upgrading of public places. For example we need bus transport and more working toilets in public areas, separated by sex. Without these basics, working outside the home is very challenging for women. By contrast, men are taught to be flexible, to use a vehicle or hitch a ride to work, and to use any secluded area to meet the need to urinate. The net result of the gender-differentiated working conditions and different gender norms is a well-documented 'gender pay gap' in India. When women work outside the home, women earn less than men even in comparable work. Furthermore, this gap is smaller in Bangladesh, and it is worse in the north central zone of India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand; see Dyson and Moore, 1983; Rahman and Rao, 2004).

The problems facing women are also shared by men – and are not unique to 'women who work for pay' – in the following sense. All people are affected when women come down with depression or tension. Women's issues affect everyone (Kabeer, 2016). Women's problems are also made worse when their socio-economic position is bad (Shidhaye and Patel, 2010, Table 2). Shidhaye and Patel showed that 11% of Indian women (one in every nine women) had a mental disorder condition, such as anxiety, serious enough to be recorded in an ordinary household survey. They used the National Family and Health Survey 2003 to show that tension, sleeplessness, chronic fatigue, a state of confusion, anxiety, depression and stress were felt by many women in India. They used a criterion that five or more of the General Health Questionnaire answers must be positive. Their estimates thus reflected any mixture of stress, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness or confusion. Low household living standards contributed to a doubling of the risk of these common mental conditions among women. In recent years, updates to these estimates have not shown a downward trend. Indeed over 3% of India's women suffer from depression alone, each year. Shidhaye and Patel (2010) used mixed methods to be sure the survey was of adequate accuracy (Patel, Araya and Chowdhary, *et al.*, 2008). Their team also cut across disciplinary boundaries in seeking possible ways in which economic or social mechanisms had contributed to mental suffering. The odds of mental problems were halved for those women in the 'high' socio-economic group. The odds of having mental disorders were also higher if the husband was not satisfied with their dowry. The odds were higher if he has beaten her more than once, and/or if he

drinks alcohol. Figures like these reveal that women's well-being is considerably hard to achieve in India day-to-day.

We set up a project in 2019 focused on women at work, including women working at home, on farms and off the farm. This project was facilitated by numerous organisations and sites. We thank them all, but we keep them anonymous. After concluding our project we want to stress that work and domestic chores are all part of one economy. As shown below, the formal modern sector jobs are very few, and the informal sector absolutely huge (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Size of the Formal Sector in Rural Zones of North Central India and Bangladesh

	Formal Sector	Informal and Other	Domestic Chores
India: Principal Status of Female (Percent)	4%	7%	89%
India: Principal Status of Female	17 women	38 women	444 women
India: Subsidiary Status of Female	6 women	176 women	227 women
Bangladesh: Principal Status of Female (Percent)	<1%	2%	97%
Bangladesh: Principal Status of Female	2 women	7 women	414 women
Bangladesh: Subsidiary Status of Female:	6 women	10 women	407 women

Units: Number of people who stated this was their primary (principal) economic activity status during a questionnaire interview.

Source: Primary data on principal personal activity, 2015-6, round 1.

Many men also work in the informal sector. The usual economic approach of looking at waged labour only is not adequate. We advocate a full-economy approach which sees all the institutions and norms of the society as relevant to the work outcomes. We also see that the time-use is not just in formal jobs, but mainly in farming, informal-sector work and domestic work including child care.

## 2 POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER ACTION

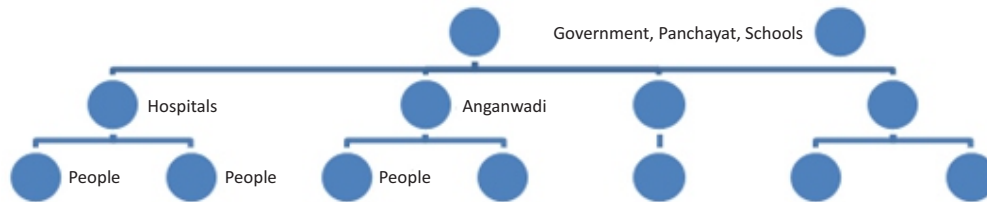
In the first section we suggested that suffering will arise if work of women is not decent. We showed that the mental tension some women feel is an ongoing problem. We next created a project to attempt to find solutions, from the grassroots people themselves.

It is possible to list the kinds of Actors who can change the world. Each 'actor' might be a person, a school, a Panchayat or other form of collective unit. Every organisation is potentially a force for good, an actor, and we use the word 'agency' to mean any actor that potentially can improve things or carry out changes. For better or worse, a wide range of actors are changing the Indian scene as it faces women: they respond to problems, in an ongoing way, taking decisions that matter. Actors, agents, collective agency, and mechanisms of change all work within set social contexts. Thus, it's possible to have a theory of change, which in a simple way can identify which kinds of actors or stakeholders do demand change from other actors and from themselves. Figure 2 illustrates how many 'agents' there are.

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3. There is total 32 countries have bound total AMS, 17 developing countries and 15 developed countries.

Figure 2. Agents are Stakeholders in the Economy



Source: The idea of agency, illustrated here at three levels, is found in the structure-agency approach, see Kabeer, 2016.

The key institutions of the state at all levels dynamically affect women's and men's lives by providing exemplary schemes, standards and rules, and both laws and practical norms for daily life. Private workplaces also affect women's lives, and in Figure 2 they are seen at the second row. Women and men themselves are affected by all these large, corporate agents. Governments in particular are agents of change and they manage change. Private companies have become very influential over time. Some are so large that they influence a whole zone (e.g. tea estates, manufacturing of soft drinks). We can imagine lines not only going downward (top-down influence) but also upward (grassroots influence). Personal actions when put together become collective agency, which has a long history in the women's movement trying to protect and improve women's lives (Kumar, 1993). Chen, Bonner and Carré also argue that the informal sector has dynamic change arising out of grassroots collective action (2015).

Based on this analysis, notice one remarkable fact: the people who would improve the world for women are not only the women – it is a wider variety of agents. This important point assumes that people are thoughtful, kind, politically active and engaged. Both men and women, along with collective agents, including corporations and government, can change the economy of women and work. As is widely recognised among feminists, agents can work with women and partly are composed of women... so it is crucial not to assume that people do things **to women**. What happens is a series of steps, with people engaged in discussion, then reflexive action, and ultimately strategic action. This is part of the theory known as 'gender and development' (Pearse and Connell, 2016; Kabeer, 1988).

In this map of stakeholders, as in real life, no one wants to harm women. The injuries arising from patriarchy and poverty are unintentional. They are unwanted outcomes of the whole political economy. Our agenda of research is to find levers of action that can improve the situation.

We define 'reflexive action' as acts based upon careful reflection about the social conditions and women's problems. We define 'strategic action' as acts based upon discussion and choices made with the express intent of changing certain outcomes. The sum of all these agents' actions, along with the discussion and some evaluation and feedback loops, is known as 'development' for and with women. Thus, instead of focusing on Gross Domestic Income, we focus on the well-being of women and men, and we target strategic careful actions at improving well-being and reducing suffering (World Bank, 2010). This position is not only taken outside economics, but more and more is taken within economics itself. We then see the issues around work as being all the ones in Figure 1: not only waged work but all forms of work.

Moving to simple terminology using concrete issues that can be discussed in any local group, we asked these questions:

--- Who is free to go out to pay a visit to others?



--- Are women jobless or not?

--- Who decides on who does the outside work?

--- Are women doing too much work overall?

And we may soon reach these concrete problems:

--- Women are not free to decide when/where to go out, because men (particularly in north central India) are more likely to be driving/walking them to their destination. Thus women are not the decision makers about going out on a visit. Typically, the head of the household decides about the travel behaviour of women, as stated during our interviews; an exception is when the man is absent for migrant work in a different town or city.

--- Women's jobs are usually considered as 'helper' in a household business, farm or with livestock. This common situation causes women's paid-work-related needs to be ignored (Rodgers, 2012). Some women do not get paid in money at all. Even when paid in cash, there is negative, well-known wage differential vis-a-vis their male counterparts.

--- Many adult women in Uttar Pradesh do not drive, use or ride a vehicle. Transport is mainly dominated by men, and women must either ask for a ride, or pay for one. Public transport is male dominated and many times women do not feel comfortable to travel independently. As a result they cannot go alone, or else they must walk if they go alone. Going to do paid work is thus fraught with complexity.

--- The tradition of purdah contributes to this restriction on women's mobility. It is common to observe purdah after puberty and through adulthood in several communities. It is not intended to hurt women, but to protect them.

--- Women also work long hours, if we take into account their double burden. They do 5 or even 10 hours of domestic work per day plus any other work. This takes its toll by reducing the time available for leisure, friendships, rest, and taking care of a woman's own health.

### **3 GENDER NORM DILEMMAS**

We conducted a study from 2014-2017 which showed the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, and to some extent western Bihar and northern west Jharkhand, to have gender norms in common. This study held interviews for example in Gazipur, UP and several other districts in the three named states. For many women, women's own values are a barrier to equality. Both the woman herself and her mother-in-law may hold very traditional values about how a household should allocate its work. Women and men rarely disagree about gender norms, in this region. (More generally, norms are the values that are widely shared; see Pearse and Connell, 2016.)

Let us be clear about norms versus personal values. Norms are social shared standards of behaviour which, in a particular place, offer a set of expectations and some boundaries on what can be considered acceptable. Often the norms are tacit, not explicit. They are well known, and habitually followed, and they underpin a sense of what is morally good. People do diverge from local norms, though. (One reason is that some norms contradict others.) Values are personally held moral beliefs and standards, which together comprise a structure of principles for living. They are different from norms in being more consciously held. Thus values could diverge from local norms and values can be diverse. We can think of norms as bigger, cultural foundations and values as smaller-scale, personally upheld standards. Stereotypes are important when looking at work and labour markets. Stereotypes are commonly shared images of proper behaviour. Stereotypes that link gender to a task or role are called 'gendered work stereotypes'. These link a role or task with a specific gender. Since gender is the set of ascribed associations of lifestyles or proper behaviour norms with a certain sex, gendered work

stereotypes are going to be changeable over time. Gender itself can be questioned, whereas sex is one's biological structural pattern, usually male or female. We think gendered work stereotypes need to change, and gender often can be de-linked from the work or the task. This will help everyone to modernise and update norms, or at least our personal values, thus enabling people to work with a greater feeling of ease.

Yet households disagree with each other, and people may disagree on their values or on gendered work stereotypes. There are some households where both husband and wife believe that women should experience equality and fairness. In others, however, this is considered a ridiculous idea because it is not practically experienced, or because of the purdah tradition. Our research studies, mainly based in rural areas, did show wide variation from one extreme to the other. We could call these the traditional and egalitarian extremes.

As shown by Harriss-White (2004), a widely-shared norm can be shared across social classes, even when the economic conditions of the classes are very different.

We also found that the norms within one social class were highly contested and were not at all settled in relation to women and work.

Many women are withdrawn from the actual labour market when they have children, or when household income rises with migrants' incomes (Neetha, 2014; Rahul Lahoti and Swaminathan, 2015; Dubey, Sen and Olsen, 2017). This withdrawal has been associated with women having slightly more education than 'none', eg. Primary complete or secondary partial (Olsen and Mehta, 2006).

#### **4 EXAMPLES AND FINDINGS FROM THE GENDER NORMS STUDY**

To illustrate the situation where the husband and wife in a rural area believe that women should experience equality and fairness, we can quote briefly from two respondents in 2016.

The first is a Hindu woman in Gazipur, age 30. Phoola Devi (pseudonym), who has no formal education and is not able to read, has a husband and three children age 5 to 12 years. She said she was pleasantly pleased with her work, as shown in this dialogue with the interviewer:

Phoola Devi: I always think that I should finish my work in time. So that I may cut some grass for my buffalo. In the evening, I have no time for the animals because I have to cook, clean utensils and feed the children that time. We prepare food on stove, burnt with wood not on gas stove.

Q: What is your thinking about your work, - good or bad?

Phoola Devi: Everything is o.k.

... Q: What does your husband think about your work?

Phoola Devi: He thinks very positively about me. I share his all problems, so he treats me as his brother, sharing and caring like a brother. He is unable to do the work related to the farming. I do farming. He does not perform any work in the field. What can I say more? I am able to bear all the responsibility of my family, either he helps or not. Without my suggestion, he does nothing. He always values my ideas. It means he respects me.

Q: How do you think or feel?

Phoola Devi: Our thinking is always positive. We are satisfied in every situation. (Interview data line 10322, primary data, 2016).

The respondent uses concrete reference points that indicate the kinds of work she does. Her husband is not ill – he is recovering from a period of work in Mumbai as a migrant.

An example in Bangladesh briefly illustrates that there, too, the rural people can have marital relationships of great mutual respect.

Avijit is a Hindu man, age 44 who does both fishing and agriculture. He and his wife have three children. He responded to the interviewer's questions at length.

Q: How does your wife view your line of work?

Avijit: My wife has become more aware, she stays with me at the *gher* [prawn pond]. She cannot be found in the house anymore. She knows exactly where rot has set in, where the grass has grown too long, she overturns the earth where it has become too hard, gets rid of the moss if it has settled somewhere. She also helps me to take out the fish.

Q: How do the other family members view your work?

Avijit: I am working for them. I don't have anyone else. My children are growing up and becoming smart. That is what I work for. But whenever I need something, suppose if I say that come to the *gher* [prawn pond] today to work on a part of it with me, they will come.

Q: Do you consult with your wife about how much work you will do, or whether she will help you out in your work?

Avijit: Yes, that happens. I do consult her, because it is not possible that my judgement will be accurate all the time. For example, I have to think more than her about these things. When it becomes too much I tell her that my brain is not working, how would it be if I do this or that in such a way, she then tells me to do it in such and such way, in the way she judges to be right. On such occasions I have to adapt my way of thinking and listen to her. In that regard it can turn out to be good or bad, but when both our thinking is accurate then things turn out okay.

This interview shows the respect that a man can give a woman, including in rural Bangladesh.

In urban areas as well as in rural areas, the attitudes and norms about gender are diverse. We therefore define terms carefully. First, a **norm** is the term we use to refer to shared group culture. Norms can be held and sustained within a caste group, inside a social-class group, or among a regional group of people. Eastern Uttar Pradesh has norms similar to rural western Uttar Pradesh, but very different from those in urban Delhi for example. Second, the term **attitudes** is one we use to refer to personal cultural practices. Views of individuals often coincide with the person's own group's norms. Therefore, practices also actually often coincide with the group's norms. However there is diversity. There is not always conformity. In particular, there are rural/urban differences of gender norms. When one person migrates, their own attitude may change; or they may stay traditional but their left-behind partner may change their own attitudes.

I can give three further examples from our rich fieldwork in rural north central India. These are briefly presented.

First Case (Hindu): A widow who is the female head of her own household, not having a Son or Uncle looking after her, often has a problem of attitude not coinciding with her own practices. She goes out for paid work. She feels forced to do it by her great need. She has traditional norms, and would prefer a man to look after her. Yet when she works, she discovers the independence that arises from controlling her income. Her money is precious to her. She therefore both appreciates the value of working, and yet disapproves of her paid work. Others also disapprove of her quite routinely. (Interview Data Lines 125-158, Case ID 21206, Buxar, Bihar.)

Second Case (Hindu): Another example is an elder couple over age 60, who have no children living with them. The adult children have left, moved away, and occasionally visit. Yet this couple is assetless, and after a long day's work, they go to bed hungry. (Interview Data Lines 10712-10716, Case ID 31327, Jharkhand)

Third Case (Hindu, UP): A woman who is in a middle or higher caste Hindu household may look after

cows and chickens. She may enjoy the work but have mixed feelings about it. Again, in Uttar Pradesh (rural western villages), we found that she has traditional norms. She would prefer a man to look after her. Yet when she works, she discovers the richness of controlling her cow, visiting the fields to graze and water the cow, getting out of the house frequently. Her work is valued by her family. Yet it is not precious to her. Instead, she expresses to us her high disapproval of what outdoor work she does. She disapproves of her paid work. It is beneath her dignity. She also disapproves of her husband for not earning enough money to keep her well. She would prefer to be a housewife. (Interview Data Lines 6792, 6812, Case ID 12220, Gazipur)

These three examples are based on actual interviews. I will now turn to what problems we can identify more generally.

The study found that many women simply could not do 'outside' work when they have 2-3 or more children at home. Others were enabled to avoid doing paid work if their husband or another household member was sending remittances home (this was rarely reported). These withdrawals were generally reported to be temporary, and most women working purely as a housewife expressed a desire to go back to work outside, either on farming activities or other activities, once their children got older. In this sense there was diversity of norms: the norm of females as housewives and the norm of purdah clashed with the reality of women's work choices, which do include remunerative work.

## 5 THE MAIN DILEMMA ABOUT GENDER IS THE UNDERVALUING OF WOMEN'S WORK

### \* Problem 1.

Gender role stereotypes are strong. For example, taking eastern Uttar Pradesh village respondents only, Table 1 shows their 'principal' and 'subsidiary' activities. This table is based on a questionnaire about their main work status. Just 11 out of 205 were manual labourers as secondary to their housewife role, and just 7 manual labourers as a principal role (81 women did not report a secondary activity, as they were purely housewives, they said). Many other occupations were named: own-account worker, which means a trader or business person, for example. These have higher social status than manual labourer (kuulie).

Table 1: Occupations of Rural Women, East Uttar Pradesh

Occupation of Usual principal activity	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
Self-employed (with employees)	1	0.49	0.49
Employed workers	6	2.93	3.41
Own account workers	9	4.39	7.80
Manual Labourers	7	3.41	11.22
Family worker	5	2.44	13.66
Housewife	175	85.37	99.02
Student	2	0.98	100.00
Total	205	100.00	

Occupation of Usual subsidiary activity	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
0	81	39.51	39.51
Self-employed (with employees)	2	0.98	40.49
Employed workers	3	1.46	41.95
Own account workers	7	3.41	45.37
Manual Labourers	11	5.37	50.73
Family worker	85	41.46	92.20
Housewife	15	7.32	99.51
Student	1	0.49	100.00
Total	205	100.00	

Source: six villages surveyed 2015/6.

Key: '0' means that no subsidiary occupation was stated.

The problem is that while housewifery is seen purely as women's work, little effort might go toward improving women's ability to do other work. It might be seen as inappropriate.

\* Problem 2.

Figure 3 illustrates a second major problem facing the Uttar Pradesh rural women. Their time is taken up with their double burden, yet at the same time their outdoor work particularly raises issues around potential harassment, violence if they walk outdoors at night, lack of toilet facilities, and perhaps also having to suppress their own voice to enable men to stand out as masterful. The masterful man was a stereotypical, common image raised by both men and women in the interviews. People say that men 'tell women' what to do. But women typically 'help others'.

Figure 3: The Problems Facing Women



Source: Figure 3 is based on the evidence from civic workshops about Women and Work held in 2019. The languages were Bhojpuri, Hindi and English, and about 25 people participated while 5 to 7 people moderated each workshop.

Table 2 illustrates a similar situation with regard to which industry women are allocated to. Again, in terms of 'industry', most women are seen as working only in housewifery services (Table 2). Some are seen as agriculturalists, but mostly only in a subsidiary position. That is, women's main work is unpaid, while their remunerative work with livestock or crops is seen as secondary. The longterm durability of this social norm is stressed as the 'monotony' of patriarchy. The rule of men, as a gender, has some self-perpetuating facets. As a result we see over many generations a continuing rule of men, as a gender, over women. Of course there are exceptions but this is a social norm in Uttar Pradesh.

Table 2: Industrial Location of the Work Women Do, East Uttar Pradesh

Industry of Usual principal activity	Freq.	Percent
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	18	8.78
Construction	1	0.49
Accommodation and Food service	2	0.98
Education	2	0.98
Social work and health	4	1.95
Other service activities (e.g. barber)	178	86.83
Total	205	100.00

Industry of Usual subsidiary activity	Freq.	Percent
0	80	39.02
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	88	42.93
Manufacturing (e.g. pottery, beedi)	2	0.98
Wholesale, retail trade; repair activit	5	2.44
Education	3	1.46
Other service activities (e.g. barber)	27	13.17
Total	205	100.00

Key: '0' means that no subsidiary industrial location was stated.

Source: six villages surveyed 2015/6.

**Problem 3.**

The third problem facing women is the double-burden of work itself, which takes up so much of their time. Their total work hours are over 10 hours per day, no matter which social class they are in. There are huge sex differences in work hours but very low differences (comparatively) across social classes.

**6 FINDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH CIVIC WORKSHOPS**

If women are experiencing conflicts over roles, low pay in paid work, mental suffering, and risks of social criticism, then social agents should do something about it. We set out to discuss with key social actors what kinds of actions might help to improve the situation.

We have named the stakeholders earlier in this paper. The women are not the only ones: also men, organisations, government staff, professionals. We found plenty of agents who want to change India to make it better for women. Staff in businesses, NGOs, schools and hospitals shared a strong interest in improving women's lives. We held workshops in Kanpur, Lucknow (2), Mirzapur, Varanasi and Delhi. This was part of our programme of strategic action. Later we will have a website and further projects.

We found that workers themselves are keen to discuss the conflicts and contradictions. Our aim was to develop or look for a wider strategic action plan. This could be called a 'Charter'. A Charter would need not only spell out the vision, but also the actions that might produce that vision. If the vision is equality, what would create equality?

India has a rich and vibrant women's movement (Kumar, 1993). The Indian women's movement has many kinds of actors, including political parties' women's wings; feminist groups; action groups for women; trade union women's wings; the Self-Employed Women's union SEWA; and individual women.

Further actors, who are important for progress on women's questions include the officials in the public sector and in local government. In Uttar Pradesh, many large employers have a 'women's wing' to represent the wishes of women staff. Employees, engineers, nurses, cleaners, farmers, traders, and workers can be brought together. This becomes a social movement.

We showed women what a charter might be like. It is a list of desired, concrete actions. It is a public document (Figure 5).

Figure 5: The Charter for Women and Work, Created in Kanpur

- Toilets: Needs proper toilet with water facility & public toilet, employers should allow us to use toilet.
- Roads are not in good condition, we want good roads.
- No proper/ permanent source of water.
- Want adequate wage and regular hike of wage in informal jobs.
- Government schools' quality of teaching should be improved.
- Multiple transport needed, transport takes too much time and money. Need easy transport.
- Need alternative easy transport for women.
- Employers should arrange for vehicles / woman-friendly vehicles.
- Employers should arrange for security of women workers.
- Teasing and bullying happens in school against girls.
- Administration of schools and colleges against 'eve teasing' – the problem is acute in co-ed schools.
- Decisions are not being taken by women so, while going to market, women needs other women or men for security. Young daughters in law do not know the area.



Girls have to get permission. The family should support daughters equally like their brothers. The charters were not our only findings. We also had small group discussions, note-taking, and moderator reflective diaries. We are working on a further interpretation.

Three aspects stood out: The groups were highly positive about women working – both what women do as work is respected, and what women could do was promoted. Secondly, the groups reached conclusions via polite debate and sometimes via moving from concrete to abstract concepts. The use of a concrete example did not fit well on a flipchart so someone would suggest a moderate phrase to cover each case. This favoured generalities and abstractions. Thirdly, men as well as women were enthusiastic about removing the patriarchal submissiveness from the whole question of women and work. We did not find anyone defending patriarchy. We found a unity in diversity about how, where, women might work and be rewarded better than they are now.

This led groups to share two key concrete findings. Women need toilet facilities at work. Women need transport to work. The toilets, we concluded, need to be clean with water and waste disposal as well as a secure door and privacy. The transport, we found, need to be cheap and timely, with seats and not too crowded. The wishes in relation to these two aspects were a vision far beyond what they actually had. At a village in Mirzapur for example there are no busses at all. In Lucknow and Kanpur, too, bus frequency is extremely limited, and do not serve the needs of daily workers. Public toilets too are very rare. Women were struggling to imagine how to work outside their own street or their home. The general tone of the workshops also showed strong confidence that men can share domestic tasks. The attitude of women, and their views about the men, was surprisingly modern at all the workshops, in spite of the rudimentary facilities in some of the poor urban and village sites.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS: WHO CAN ACT? WHOSE STRATEGIC ACTIONS MATTER?**

We tried to develop strategic action plans for women in work. We encouraged agents to enunciate their plans, state their visions, work out how to get there, find out what barriers women believe exist, notice what men think about women's work. Then we tried to help groups work out where and how to act to change gender stereotyping of work tasks. Instead of thinking of waiting for others to serve women's needs, and instead of just taking personal (isolated) action, people began to consider how people can act together with mutual support. This is collective action. In history, acting together in concert – known as 'Collective Action', -- has proved more successful than personal action alone (Kumar, 1993).

The project explored civic workshops held in public in rural and urban India. The public expression of gender-related norms in all six workshops gave no support at all to patriarchy. To express what is desirable is to explore a world in which men and women share domestic and childcare work. We found the implicit message was to de-link gender from work roles, removing the genderedness of stereotypes. Further, the groups agreed that removing obstacles to women working was urgent: Improve their transport options, their wage levels, and the access to good toilets with water, waste removal, and privacy. Lastly we found an urge to fairness in the labour market. There was a strong urge, targeted at employers, to give better conditions and more hours so that women workers could earn more money.

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## Appendix: Two Civic Charters, Uttar Pradesh, 2019

Charter 1: Produced in a civic workshop held on the premises of Lucknow University, a group of 25 men and women.

### "Better Work, Better Lives for Women" Charter from Lucknow

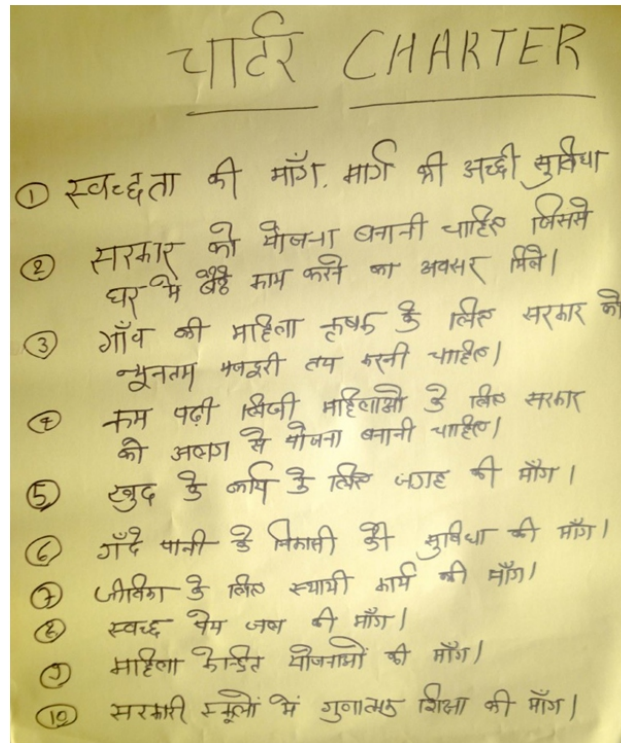
(this version in English, based on flipchart summaries in mixed English and Hindi)

1. Education and awareness of women and men
2. Change in stereotypical thinking



3. Financial independence of women
4. Reconstruct the societal norms
5. Reforms in the laws
6. Safe public transport (day and night)
7. Accessible, affordable and women-friendly transport
8. Special purpose vehicles for women (e.g. pregnant working women)
9. Safe working environment
10. Introduction of technology
11. Employment opportunities for women in the transport sector
12. Recognition of domestic work in economic terms
13. Increase in women's political participation
14. Well maintained and hygienic toilets at the workplace/schools.
15. Implementation of women-friendly rules and regulation at the workplace
16. Installation of sanitary vending machines at the workplace/schools

Charter 2: Produced in a civic workshop held in a village in Mirzapur District, south east Uttar Pradesh, 3 km from the river Ganges border, 30 women. In Hindi.



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## SANITATION ISSUE AND COVID-19

Anup Kumar Mishra \*

### BACKGROUND

In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right, and called for international efforts to help countries to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation. Sustainable Development Goal target 6.2 calls for adequate and equitable sanitation for all. The target is tracked with the indicator of “safely managed sanitation services” – use of an improved type of sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and from which the excreta produced are either safely treated in situ, or transported and treated off-site. Defecating in the open is a health hazard. Not only does it contaminate food, water and soil, it also exponentially increases the risk of diarrhea and protein-energy malnutrition, according to the World Health Organisation. It also has hidden costs associated with dignity, self esteem and women's safety.

Then come the economic costs. By 2015, India was losing Rs 12.2 lakh crore due to unsafe sanitation ---a significant portion of its gross domestic product. Just by eliminating open defecation, India can improve household savings, according to a study by Unicef. Including savings from medical costs, property value and the intangible value of time and lives saved; if India achieves 100 percent toilet usage then it will result in annual savings of Rs 50,952 per household.

### PM MODI'S CALL FOR 'GANDAGI MUKT BHARAT'

Stating that “swachhagraha” (insistence on sanitation) has helped in the fight against COVID -19 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020 launched a week-long sanitation drive called 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat' and urged district officials to construct community toilets across the country. Inaugurating the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra in New Delhi, Modi lauded the people of India for making sanitation a “jan andolan” (mass movement).

“Just imagine, what would have happened if a pandemic like coronavirus had come before 2014? In the absence of toilets, could we control the infection? Would a lockdown-like system have been possible when 60 percent of India's population was forced to defecate in the open?

Swachhagraha has given us a lot of support in the fight against corona,”(Modi)

Recalling the Quit India Movement launched on August 8, 1942, Modi stated, “The evils that make the country weak (should) quit India... With this thinking, a comprehensive 'Quit India' campaign has been going on in the country for the last six years.”

The present chapter is a honest attempt to address the concern of the Prime Minister of India through background study and concern for the COVID-19.

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**WHY PM MODI LINKED COVID WITH SWACCH BHARAT ?**

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from a survey conducted in 2012; which has once again underlined the abysmal state of sanitation in the country, particularly in rural India.

According to this survey, only 32% of rural households have their own toilets and that less than half of Indian households have a toilet at home. There were more households with a mobile phone than with a toilet. In fact, the last Census data reveals that the percentage of households having access to television and telephones in rural India exceeds the percentage of households with access to toilet facilities.

Of the estimated billion people in the world who defecate in the open, more than half reside in India. Poor sanitation impairs the health leading to high rates of malnutrition and productivity losses. India's sanitation deficit leads to losses worth roughly 6% of its gross domestic product (GDP) according to World Bank estimates by raising the disease burden in the country.

Children are affected more than adults as the rampant spread of diseases inhibits children's ability to ABSORB NUTRIENTS THEREBY STUNTING THEIR GROWTH.

**SANITATION IN INDIA TILL 2014**

Poor sanitation and high population density act as a double whammy on Indian children half of whom grow up stunted". It is not a coincidence that states with the poorest levels of sanitation and highest levels of population density such as Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh also have the highest levels of child malnutrition in the country.

Globally, an estimated one in four children under age 5 suffer from stunting, a form of malnutrition in which children are shorter than normal for their age.

In India, almost 62 million children (48 percent) across all income groups are stunted .

Stunting, or chronic malnutrition, is accompanied by a host of problems—weak immune systems, risk of sickness and disease, arrested cognitive and physical development, and a greater risk of dying before age 5.

**THE SANITATION ECONOMY**

The world continues to grapple with the critical issue of sanitation, and the inability of current sanitation systems to keep pace with burgeoning population growth and rapid urbanisation. According to UN reports, more than 2 billion people worldwide do not have access to basic sanitation facilities. In 2015 many of those without sanitation were in India. In 2019 we are starting to see progress via innovative new approaches to sanitation by governments and businesses. India is now leading the charge, with the success of its 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and the launch of the 'Jal Shakti Ministry'.

India's 'Swachh Bharat Mission' has been revolutionary in bringing about behavioural change amongst consumers, industries and entrepreneurs, paving the way for the growth of new sectors and supply chains in the Sanitation Economy. This is a clear example of building advocacy around sanitation and setting a precedent that can be emulated globally.

India has showcased how a swift transformation in the sanitation sector is possible with speed and scale. With the world now undergoing massive socio-economic, environmental and digital transformations, sanitation systems cannot be left behind. Building a robust Sanitation Economy provides a viable and profitable avenue for safe, sustainable and resilient sanitation while delivering new resources and information to drive economic growth and development.

As resources become scarce, sanitation systems globally can become new reservoirs for renewable

resources, materials, and data. Toilet Resources are the only resource that grows with a rising population. In fact, the Toilet Resources of our current global population are amount to 3.8 trillion litres of renewable resources per year. This presents a vast opportunity for businesses and organisations across the world, to tap into unexplored resources.

The Sanitation Economy has emerged from this unexplored territory, which is turning toilet provision, products and services, biological resources, health data and information to monetary and social benefits. The potential is immense. The Toilet Board Coalition has estimated the Sanitation Economy market to be worth about \$62 billion in India alone!

To fully realize the benefits of the Sanitation Economy it will be necessary to facilitate pathways to achieve scale. One pathway includes bringing new technologies into the sector including digital technologies for smart sanitation approaches. Smart Cities can replicate an array of new opportunities via smart sanitation approaches. Cities can establish Sanitation Intelligence through smart public toilets, smart treatment and smart health – integrating sanitation systems into newly developing smart city infrastructure to provide better services at lower costs to cities and citizens.

Secondly, various sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, with their massive workforce offer another avenue for the proliferation of the Sanitation Economy. By making use of Circular Sanitation approaches to unlock resources such as water, nutrients and renewable energy – using Toilet Resources for tangible benefits, can have a significant social, economic and environmental impact.

Sanitation needs to be an integral part of every company's sustainability agenda. Companies, across sectors, now have the responsibility to provide safely managed sanitation to their employees, throughout supply chains and in communities where they operate. In doing so, companies can radically impact the achievement of SDG 6 – universal access to water and sanitation by 2030. Sanitation Economy approaches enable companies to recover the costs of sanitation and make sanitation a net value proposition.

Thirdly, establishing standards for public toilets and the safe use of Toilet Resources can help governments, business supply chains and cities to ensure access to sanitation services safely and sustainably. Standards for the use of data from sanitation systems can lead to the emergence of actionable Sanitation Intelligence, which can then be used to ensure sanitation access, the formation of a more efficient sanitation system management, and the emergence of new information about human health and behavior.

The Sanitation Economy has the potential to drive the next wave of innovation, economic growth and development by converting previous unaffordable costs of sanitation into sustainable and resilient business opportunities. (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>)

**Table 1: Distinct areas of the Sanitation Economy**

THE TOILET ECONOMY	THE CIRCULAR SANITATION ECONOMY	THE SMART SANITATION ECONOMY
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Toilet product and service innovation that provides toilets fit for purpose for all contexts and incomes.</li> <li>2. This spans centralised and decentralised, sewerred and non-sewerred, high water tables and low, low-income to high, rural, urban and periurban.</li> <li>3. Toilet designs apply Circular Sanitation Economy principals to minimise waste and GHG, and capture data to feed the Smart Sanitation Economy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Toilet Resources (the TBC’s preferred term for human waste) feeding into a system which replaces traditional waste management with a Circular Economy approach.</li> <li>2. It connects the biocycle, utilising multiple forms of biological waste, recovering nutrients and water, creating valueadding products such as renewable energy, organic fertilisers, proteins, and more.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Digitised sanitation systems that optimise data for operating efficiencies, maintenance, plus consumer use and health information insights - and is a key part of smart cities architecture.</li> </ol>

**UNEXPLORED AREA**

The Sanitation Economy has emerged from this unexplored territory. Which is turning toilet provision, products and services, biological resources, health data and information to monetary and social benefits? The potential is immense. The Toilet Board Coalition has estimated the Sanitation Economy market to be worth about \$62 billion in India alone! To fully realize the benefits of the Sanitation Economy it will be necessary to facilitate pathways to achieve scale. One pathway includes bringing new technologies into the sector including digital technologies for smart sanitation approaches. Smart Cities can replicate an array of new opportunities via smart sanitation approaches. Cities can establish Sanitation Intelligence through smart public toilets, smart treatment and smart health – integrating sanitation systems into newly developing smart city infrastructure to provide better services at lower costs to cities and citizens.

**INDIA'S ROLE**

- India's 'Swachh Bharat Mission' has been revolutionary in bringing about behavioural change amongst consumers, industries and entrepreneurs, paving the way for the growth of new sectors and supply chains in the Sanitation Economy. This is a clear example of building advocacy around sanitation and setting a precedent that can be emulated globally.
- India has showcased how a swift transformation in the sanitation sector is possible with speed and scale. With the world now undergoing massive socio-economic, environmental and digital transformations, sanitation systems cannot be left behind. Building a robust Sanitation Economy provides a viable and profitable avenue for safe, sustainable and resilient sanitation while delivering new resources and information to drive economic growth and development.

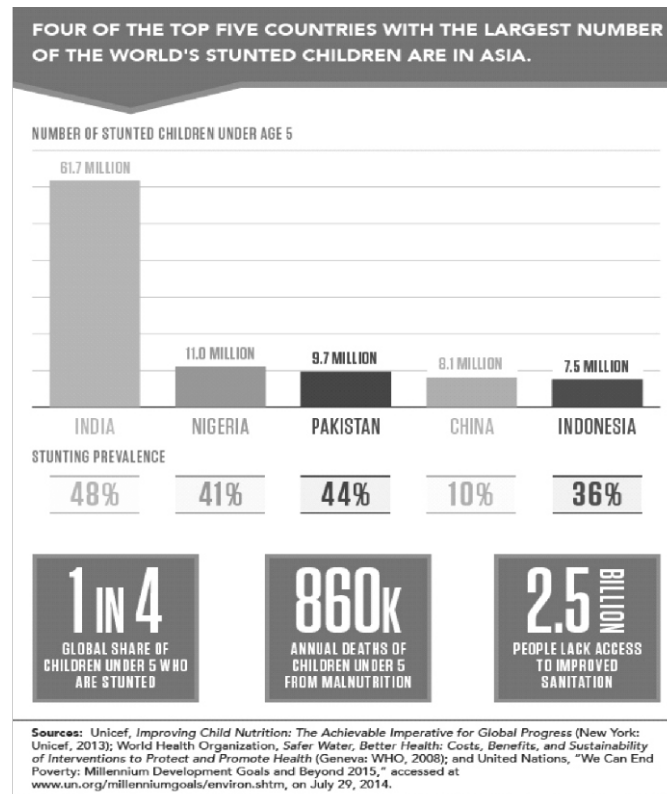
### **KEY FACTS REGARDING THE SANITATION**

- In 2017, 45% of the global population (3.4 billion people) used a safely managed sanitation service.
- 31% of the global population (2.4 billion people) used private sanitation facilities connected to sewers from which wastewater was treated.
- 14% of the global population (1.0 billion people) used toilets or latrines where excreta were disposed of in situ.
- 74% of the world's population (5.5 billion people) used at least a basic sanitation service.
- 2.0 billion people still do not have basic sanitation facilities such as toilets or latrines.
- Of these, 673 million still defecate in the open, for example in street gutters, behind bushes or into open bodies of water.
- At least 10% of the world's population is thought to consume food irrigated by wastewater.
- Cropland in peri-urban areas irrigated by mostly untreated urban wastewater is estimated to be approximately 36 million hectares (equivalent to the size of Germany)
- Poor sanitation is linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio and exacerbates stunting.
- Poor sanitation reduces human well-being, social and economic development due to impacts such as anxiety, risk of sexual assault, and lost educational opportunities.  
([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sanitation](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/sanitation))

### **SANITATION AND HEALTH**

Some 827 000 people in low- and middle-income countries die as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene each year, representing 60% of total diarrhoeal deaths. Poor sanitation is believed to be the main cause in some 432 000 of these deaths. Diarrhoea remains a major killer but is largely preventable. Better water, sanitation, and hygiene could prevent the deaths of 297 000 children aged under 5 years each year. Open defecation perpetuates a vicious cycle of disease and poverty. The countries where open defecation is most widespread have the highest number of deaths of children aged under 5 years as well as the highest levels of malnutrition and poverty, and big disparities of wealth.

Globally, an estimated one in four children under age 5 suffer from stunting, a form of malnutrition in which children are shorter than normal for their age. In India, almost 62 million children (48 percent) across all income groups are stunted (see figure). Stunting, or chronic malnutrition, is accompanied by a host of problems—weak immune systems, risk of sickness and disease, arrested cognitive and physical development, and a greater risk of dying before age 5. Stunting happens over time and can be caused by inadequate maternal nutrition, poor feeding practices, or substandard food quality as well as frequent infections. The high rate of stunting in India is surprising given its economic growth, especially in contrast to sub-Saharan Africa where GDP is lower.



### SANITATION A POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTOR TO MALNUTRITION

The interaction between diarrheal disease and malnutrition is well established. Diarrhea is often caused by a lack of clean water for proper hand-washing. A lack of toilets further exacerbates the problem as feces on the ground contribute to contaminated drinking water and water resources in general. The World Health Organization estimates that 50 percent of malnutrition is associated with repeated diarrhea or intestinal worm infections from unsafe water or poor sanitation or hygiene.

Stunting can stem from enteropathy, a chronic illness caused by inflammation that keeps the body from absorbing calories and nutrients. Children who are exposed to open defecation or who don't have a clean water supply may ingest bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites that cause intestinal infection; chronic inflammation in a child's gastrointestinal track is linked to stunting and anemia, and puts children at risk for poor early childhood development.

Many organizations have adopted an integrated approach to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene, known as WASH programs. One of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals is to halve by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. However, despite progress, 2.5 billion people in developing countries still lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

### THE CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR INDIA

Diarrhea prevalence drops substantially only if open defecation is completely eliminated. Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, pledged to add 5 million toilets by the end of September of this year. Unfortunately, the toilets that have been built in India have sometimes gone unused or have been



used to store tools, grain, or building materials.<sup>9</sup> Changes in social norms and behaviors must change too. According to Unicef, India has revamped its national sanitation program to focus less on subsidized toilet construction and more on helping the population understand the benefits of toilets. Dean Spears, an economist and visiting researcher at the Delhi School of Economics, writes, “Open defecation is everybody's problem. It is the quintessential 'public bad' with negative spillover effects even on households that do not practice it.”

More Indians living in villages owned a latrine in 2018 than four years ago, yet 44% of them still defecate in the open, according to a survey covering Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh that was released on January 4, 2019. These four states together contain two-fifths of India's rural population and reported high open defecation rates, over 68% in 2016. Almost a quarter (23%) of those who own a latrine defecated in the open, a figure that has remained unchanged since 2014. . This can mostly be attributed to deeply entrenched beliefs about caste “impurity” associated with emptying latrine pits, the paper concluded. (Govt. Report)

There has been a 26-percentage-point decrease in open defecation since 2014 when 70% of people did not use toilets, as per the study. By 2018, almost 57% of households without a latrine in 2014 had acquired one. However, there was a problem with the new structures: Most were based on the single pit design, not the twin-pit one the government recommended. The twin-pit design allows decomposition of faecal sludge in one pit while the other is being used, providing a safe way of emptying it. Single pits require undecomposed sludge to be emptied manually or through expensive suction machines. The Swachh Bharat campaign was largely focused on latrine construction and it did little to address attitudes to latrine pits, rooted in notions of purity and pollution,

#### **ODF UNDER SCANNER**

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, two states that had declared themselves open defecation-free, are yet to achieve that goal. In Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh 53% and 25% respectively were estimated to be defecating in the open. Open defecation had not been eliminated in any of the districts surveyed in north India, This is despite a “rapid” decline of almost 6 percentage points in open defecation rate every year, as per study.

There has been 34-percentage-point increase in latrine ownership in north India from 37% in 2014 to 71% in 2018. The highest difference was reported in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan--47 percentage points. However, the survey found 40% of households with latrine and 56% of all households had at least one family member defecating in the open. Bihar at 60% and Rajasthan at 53% led the four-state open defecation list. Madhya Pradesh had the lowest rate--25%.

A study found that the decrease in open defecation rate in last four years was driven not by behaviour change but was the result of increased latrine ownership. This is the also reason that the 23% of latrine owners who defecated in the open unchanged from 2014 to 2018. (Yadveer S. 2019 )



Table 2 : Latrine Ownership & Support From Government, 2018					
Indicator	All Four States	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh
All Households					
Owns latrine	71%	49%	90%	78%	74%
Any government support	39%	19%	53%	46%	43%
Government money	21%	9%	24%	42%	20%
Government built	14%	9%	25%	2%	16%
Households That Did Not Own A Latrine In 2014					
Owns latrine	57%	37%	83%	65%	61%
Any government support	42%	18%	66%	37%	55%
Government money	20%	5%	29%	33%	23%
Government built	17%	11%	33%	2%	22%

Source: RIC1; Figures in percentage of households

### MANUALLY SCAVENGED SINGLE PITS STILL PREFERRED

Most toilets built (40%) had single pits, while twin pits were observed in only 25% of latrines. Moreover, 31% of the latrines had a containment chamber which meant they had to be emptied by a suction machine and was the most expensive of all toilet designs. However, in the latrines that were supported by the government, the twin pit was the design of choice especially in Uttar Pradesh where 61% of latrines had this design. One reason for this could be that people could access a government subsidy of Rs 12,000 if they opted for a twin pit.

### ADIVASIS, DALIT HOUSEHOLDS MORE LIKELY TO FACE THREATS, FINES

In all four states, 56% of respondents said they were aware of coercive methods--fines, threat of denial of benefits, stopped from open defecation--used to persuade people to construct a latrine. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, 47% and 42% of respondents, respectively, had heard of government benefits being denied to those without latrines.

Table 3 : Threat, Fines, Coercion Faced To Persuade People To Construct A Toilet, 2018						
Coercive state action	Faced By	All Four States	Bihar	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh
Stopped from open-defecation	Own household	9%	11%	11%	11%	6%
	Aware of in village	47%	40%	67%	54%	42%
Benefits threatened	Own household	5%	3%	9%	13%	3%
	Aware of in village	25%	9%	47%	42%	20%
Fine threatened	Own household	2%	1%	6%	1%	2%
	Aware of in village	26%	14%	47%	25%	28%
Any of these three	Own household	12%	12%	17%	19%	9%
	Aware of in village	56%	47%	78%	68%	50%

Source: RIC1

In all four states, among households that owned a latrine, Dalit households were twice as likely, and Adivasi households thrice, to face coercive practices compared to other social groups. They were more likely to face threats irrespective of whether or not they owned a latrine. (Yadveer S. 2019)

### INDIA FREE OF ODF

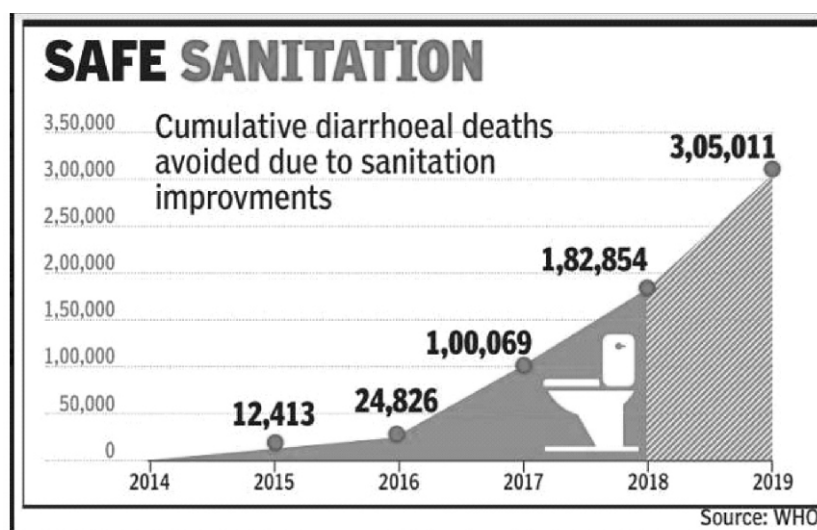
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally declared India free of open defecation, when people relieve themselves in fields, bushes, forests, bodies of water, or any other open spaces, rather than use a toilet. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi's birth ( 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019) Prime Minister Modi said "The world is amazed that toilets have been provided to more than 600 million people in 60 months, building more than 110 million toilets, No one was ready to believe earlier that India will become open defecation-free in such a short period of time. Now, it is a reality."

Modi launched the project -- part of his flagship Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign -- in 2014, in an effort to eliminate public defecation by 2019. If government figures are correct, it would mark a huge achievement. But experts say the statistics are "misleading" -- and that open defecation has not been eliminated in the country.

### THE PROBLEM

According to UNICEF , India had the highest number of people in the world -- about 620 million -- who defecated in the open, with the vast majority in rural areas. Open defecation is a major public health hazard, especially for children who risk catching potentially deadly diseases like diarrhea. According to UNICEF, fecal contamination and poor sanitation is a leading cause of child mortality, disease, under nutrition and stunting. Open defecation also exposes women and girls to the danger of physical attacks and rape, and they often have to wait until dark to relieve themselves. The World Health Organization estimated that Modi's Clean India campaign could help prevent the deaths of 300,000 people from diarrhea and protein-energy malnutrition between 2014 and this October.

An absence of adequate toilets and water facilities, as well as a lack of awareness about proper sanitation and hygiene, were reasons why people defecated in the open. But attitudes towards defecation in India are a significant challenge in eliminating the practice, and many in rural areas consider defecating in an open space to be cleaner than having a toilet inside the home.



### **IS INDIA REALLY OPEN DEFECATION FREE?**

Before the Clean India campaign started, only 39% of households had to a toilet. Yet a World Bank-supported national survey that concluded in 2019 found 10% of people in rural India defecated in the open -- and 96% of people who had access to a toilet used it. The government now says 100% of the country has toilet coverage. However experts say the figures are overblown, and that many people are still living without access to a toilet -- or don't use one even if they can. A RICE study of households in four northern states in 2014 found 70% of rural people surveyed defecated in the open. A second survey, in late 2018, had that figure at 44%.

### **HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE OF INDIA**

In the 2019 Global Health Security Index, which measures pandemic preparedness for countries based on their ability to handle the crisis, India ranked 57, lower than the US at 1, the UK at 2, Brazil at 22, and Italy at 31, suggesting it is more vulnerable to the pandemic than countries that have seen a high number of fatalities so far. India's low investment in the health sector, dedicating only 1.3% of its GDP, is now making it vulnerable to COVID-19. It contrasts with other developing countries such as Brazil, which spends 7.5% of its annual GDP on health, Bhutan, which has allocated 3.6%, and Bangladesh, which dedicates 2.2%.

Among developed nations, South Korea has kept its healthcare expenditure at a whopping 8.1%, Japan 10.9%, and the US at 8.5%. India has a severe shortage of healthcare workers. According to the Health Ministry data released in October last year, there is one doctor for every 11,082 people, which is more than 10 times the doctor-patient ratio that the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO mandates that the doctor to population ratio should be 1:1,000, while India had a 1:1,404 ratio as of February 2020.

In rural areas, this doctor-patient ratio is as low as 1:10,926 doctors as per National Health Profile 2019. According to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development available for India for 2017, India has 0.53 beds for 1,000 people compared with 0.87 in Bangladesh, 1.1 in Indonesia, 2.11 in Chile, 2.73 in Turkey, 1.38 in Mexico, 4.34 in China and 8.05 in Russia. In a recent study, the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (India) and Princeton University said the country currently has 713,986 beds, including 35,699 in intensive care units, and 17,850 ventilators for 1.3 billion people. (Kaoor, C. 2020)

### **UNICEF OBSERVATION**

- According to the UNICEF, hand washing with soap, particularly after contact with excreta, can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by over 40 per cent and respiratory infections by 30 per cent.
- Hand washing by birth attendants before delivery has been shown to reduce mortality rates by 19 per cent while a 4 per cent reduction in risk of death was found if mothers washed their hands prior to handling their newborns.
- Until now, a number of innovative public health campaigns and programmes to improve health and hygiene have been implemented in India but more needs to be done. These include community-led public-private partnerships to improve access to toilets and awareness campaigns in schools and slums in both urban and rural sectors. There is an urgent need for more such campaigns all across India.

### **BENEFITS OF IMPROVING SANITATION**

- Benefits of improved sanitation extend well beyond reducing the risk of diarrhoea. These include:

- reducing the spread of intestinal worms, schistosomiasis and trachoma, which are neglected tropical diseases that cause suffering for millions;
- reducing the severity and impact of malnutrition;
- promoting dignity and boosting safety, particularly among women and girls;
- promoting school attendance: girls' school attendance is particularly boosted by the provision of separate sanitary facilities; and
- potential recovery of water, renewable energy and nutrients from faecal waste.
- A WHO study in 2012 calculated that for every US\$ 1.00 invested in sanitation, there was a return of US\$ 5.50 in lower health costs, more productivity, and fewer premature deaths.

### STATUS OF ODF IN INDIA

The *Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)* claims to have improved the coverage of toilets in rural India from 39% to over 95% of households between 2014 and mid-2019. The prime minister set an ambitious goal of eliminating open defaecation by the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2019). This galvanised government bureaucracy, while early success in 100 flagship districts reduced the scepticism of government employees, a cadre of 500 young professionals placed in districts imparted new ideas and energy, social and mass media were used to inform and motivate the public, and new norms of ethical behaviour were demonstrated by leaders.

**Table 4: ODF status in India ( in percentage)**

Region	2011	2019
<b>All India</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>97.21</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>100</b>
Rajasthan	35	100
Madhya Pradesh	28.8	100
Chhattisgarh	24.6	100
Bihar	23.1	88.8
Jharkhand	22	100
Odisha	22	74.68

*Source: Govt. Report*

- More Indians living in villages owned a latrine in 2018 than four years ago, yet 44% of them still defecate in the open, according to a survey covering Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh that was released on January 4, 2019. These four states together contain two-fifths of India's rural population and reported high open defecation rates, over 68% in 2016, as per government report.

### LOCKDOWN SAVES LIVES AND AVERTED COVID-19 CASES

As per Boston Consulting Group's model, the lockdown saved between 1.2-2.1 lakh lives and number of Covid-19 cases averted is between 36-70 lakh, said Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday. In a series of tweets, the ministry showed how the lockdown has apparently helped contain the spread of the virus.

The summary of various estimates is that the number of Covid-19 cases averted due to lockdown is in range of 14 lakh-29 lakh and the number of lives saved is between 37,000-78,000.

"We are fully confident that lockdown, with full public cooperation, has reaped rich dividends," said the ministry. According to Public Health Foundation of India, nearly 78,000 lives have been saved due to lockdown, said government. Model by two independent economists shows that around 23 lakh

COVID-19 cases and 68,000 deaths have been averted due to lockdown, the government further said. Some independent experts, including retired scientists, have calculated that around 15.9 lakh cases and 51,000 deaths have been averted due to lockdown, said the ministry.

As per a joint study by Ministry of Statistics and Indian Statistical Institute, around 20 lakh cases and 54,000 deaths have been averted due to lockdown, the ministry said in another tweet. The Union health ministry on Thursday said the period of lockdown has been gainfully utilized to “ramp up the health infrastructure”, with around 3,027 dedicated COVID-19 hospitals and 7,013 care centers being readied across the country to fight the disease. The announcement came after some media reports questioned the country's preparedness to deal with the highly infectious disease. There are reports in a section of the media about some decisions of the government regarding the lockdown implementation and response to COVID-19 management. The period of the lockdown has been gainfully utilised to ramp up the health infrastructure in the country. (<https://www.livemint.com/>)

<b>Table 5 : Summary of Various Estimates ( Cases and death averted)</b>		
	<b>Cases Averted</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
Estimate 1 ( BCG)	36-70 lakh	1.2 – 2.1 lakh
Estimate 2 (PHFI)		78,000
Estimate 3 ( MIC and SR)	23 lakh	68,000
Estimate 4 (AP,RMM,SM, PN)	15.9 lakh	51,000
Estimate 5 ( MoSP /ISI)	20 lakh	54,000
	Range 14- 29 lakh	Range 37000- 78000

### COVID-19 Impacts

The coronavirus pandemic helped develop a sanitation and cleanliness consciousness. The outbreak of the pandemic, which has severely impacted the economy and livelihoods, however, has helped achieve some Swachh Bharat Mission goals in the following ways:

#### 1. Personal hygiene

The government spent nearly Rs 4,000 crore under SBM towards information, education and communication to promote personal hygiene. But a noticeable behavioural change happened post the Covid-19 outbreak when people sought ways to avoid getting infected by maintaining personal hygiene and social distancing, also nudged by awareness campaigns.

#### 2. Industry impact

Companies spanning sectors like FMCG, pharma, liquor and paints launched in record time a range of hygiene products such as hand washes, sanitisers, female hygiene products, face masks and surface sanitisers to cater to a sudden demand surge. This is expected to spike further as the lockdown eases and more people step outdoors.

#### 3. Institutional change

Companies are taking a range of precautionary measures to prevent transmission of the virus at workplaces, from having most employees work from home to making changes in office design. The pandemic is changing the way companies are functioning and streamlining their cost structures.

#### 4. Daily life

The need for social distancing and personal hygiene is going to bring about several structural changes right from how people stand in a queue or get a haircut to flying or

watching movies. The new institutional practices are likely to remain in place for a longer period of time, with some becoming a permanent feature of public life.

#### **5. Single use**

The global spread of the coronavirus has had innumerable side effects, one of which has been the resurgence of single use plastics.

#### **OBSERVATION**

The need for universal access to safely managed sanitation has never been as exposed as it has been over the last month of lockdown and Covid-19 anxieties in India. In the last five years, two national flagship programmes — Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation or AMRUT — have increased access to basic sanitation and, to an extent, wastewater treatment capacity. However, the weakness of the primarily 'infrastructure first' approach of these programmes — side-lining their other goals, including urban reform and capacity strengthening, sustaining service delivery, and eradication of manual scavenging — has been brought to the forefront in this crisis.

The Narendra Modi government must revisit and restructure Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U) to address sanitation vulnerabilities underscored through Covid-19 by (i) improving basic shared infrastructure and hygiene, (ii) expanding waste treatment and (iii) protecting sanitation workers.

#### **SHARED BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND HYGIENE**

SBM-U focused on the construction of in-house toilets and built 66 lakh household toilets (December 2019) compared to the estimated requirement of 97 lakh at the beginning of the mission. The mission also constructed 5.8 lakh community and public toilets for those not covered through in-house toilets against an initially estimated requirement of about 3.5 lakh toilets. So, nearly 50 per cent of the targeted unserved and most vulnerable population, mainly living in high-density unauthorised colonies and slums in India's cities, have been served by community and public toilets under the mission despite its being tenure neutral — that is, allowing for in-house toilet construction regardless of whether the beneficiary lives in an authorised/unauthorised colony or a notified/non-notified slum.

Past studies have highlighted how challenges like high user charges, lack of water supply, long queues, broken doors, and safety issues deter slum dwellers from accessing shared sanitation infrastructure. Exacerbated during Covid-19, where handwashing, hygiene and social distancing are the only precautions available, concerns about shared infrastructure and hygiene in informal settlements have come to the forefront. The investments for wastewater treatment instead formed a part of AMRUT, which additionally included water supply, stormwater drainage, green spaces, and transportation as thrust areas. Although AMRUT reports that sewerage and septage treatment make up for 42 percent of the programme's total outlay of Rs. 77640 crore, projects worth only 13 percent of the total outlay have been completed. Moreover, unlike SBM-U, AMRUT targeted only 500 large cities, leaving more than 3,500 smaller cities with more vulnerable populations without financing for treatment infrastructure and therefore, open to unmonitored pathogen risks. The Indian government estimates that more than 50 crore people have stopped defecating in the open since the country began its toilet building spree. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, which won praise from Unicef, WHO, World Bank and most recently from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has significantly improved accessibility of toilets to Indians. As of 2019, eight



out of 10 households had their own toilets while the rest relied on either shared or community toilets, according to the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey. The survey, which covered over 90,000 households in more than 6,000 villages across India, also found that for every fifty functional toilets, there was only one that was not functional. Besides, a large number of people were also disposing of the solid waste safely.

#### WAY FORWARD

The Modi government claims that the SBM-U has achieved most of its target, but given the current unprecedented circumstance, the weaknesses of our sanitation arrangements are exposed. While SBM-U originally had noble objectives, many of them remained unfunded or underfunded and not monitored. The Covid-19 crisis, therefore, is a time to take a long hard look at how SBM-U needs to be reformed – so that our urban areas could truly have durable sanitation systems.

The government has spent over Rs 50,000 crore for facilitating building of toilets through a subsidy programme and running educational campaigns for public awareness. In the process, nearly every state has now declared itself free of any open defecation. More than nine crore toilets have been launched.

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## PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF MSMEs IN INDIA

Kumari Rajni\* & Rajiv Kumar Bhatt\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, generally known as MSMEs, are recognized as a very important ingredient to a national economy because they make a sustainable contribution to the national income, employment and exports besides reducing regional imbalances and assuring more equitable distribution of national income and wealth. Moreover, they have the potential for greater employment-generation with lesser capital investment as compared to large industries. Accordingly, Indian government has been making efforts for the development of this sector.*

*However, the growth of MSMEs does not appear to be encouraging in India. Infact MSMEs are considered as a driving force for innovation and employment. MSMEs policy open new opportunities and market for the small scale industries sectors. It enables Indian small industry internationally competitive and contributes to national income and employment. In India MSMEs are providing employment opportunities to around 14.9 million people every year and become the highest job creator with the sector contributing about 3.6 crores of jobs, which is about 70% in the manufacturing sector in 2017-18. MSME's account for about 90% of total business and 50% of employment worldwide. The contribution of the MSME sector in India GDP remain stagnant around 30% in recent years.*

**Keywords:** *Competitiveness, Economic Growth, Financial Institutions, MSME's.*

JEL Classification: L-20, L-22, L-26, L-53,

### INTRODUCTION

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in the economic development of the country and providing a ground for development of entrepreneurship. Being as an entrepreneur, they help economy to grow with their efficient innovative spirit which turns in creation of employment for the youth population of the country and simultaneously adding to industrial production. MSMEs are having significant contribution in the country's industrial output, employment, exports and consistent growth in employment followed by agriculture. Globally MSMEs are considered as growth factor to economy and hence attracting attention of the Government as a key success factor. Importance of MSMEs has increasing since last few decades as it is acting as an instrument of overall development of the nation. The major advantage of MSMEs is its employment potential at low capital cost. Employment generation capacity of MSME is much higher than big corporate houses in the country. MSMEs contributes towards more than 90% of total industries in the country and having 45% and 40% share in industrial output and export respectively. In last few years MSMEs has consistently registered higher growth rate compared with overall

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industrial growth. The MSMEs sector in India is having huge product range and consisting of various sectors like, manufacturing, chemical, pharmaceuticals, repairing, agriculture etc. with diverse set of innovativeness, technologies and services. The MSME sector not only providing employment, but also helped in rural development, which was the biggest challenge in front of the Government as in initial phase of industrialization, which has attracted rural population towards urban region. It has provided balanced regional development of the country and proved as a key success factor for rural development.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the contribution of MSMEs in Indian economy from 2006-07 to 2015-16.
2. To analyze the various challenges of Indian MSMEs.

### METHODOLOGY

This paper is based on exploratory research. In this paper we have used the financial data compiled from Annual Reports of MSMEs, Reserve Bank of India, Small Industrial Development Bank of India and 4th MSME Census.

### MSMES - BACKBONE OF INDIAN ECONOMY

MSMEs in India are continuously gaining importance due to their significant contribution towards key factors of Indian economy. MSME units contribute more than 90% of total industrial units in India. To promote the national economy, Government is taking several steps to boost manufacturing sector. Government's intention towards industrialization can be analyzed through formation of various institutions for policy designing and allocation of funds. Formation of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council by Government, suggests the ways to enhance competitiveness in the manufacturing sector to make sector globally competitive. Government has announced National Manufacturing Policy for raising the share of manufacturing to 25% of GDP by 2022. Make in India announced in September 2014 by the Government aims to make India as a Global Manufacturing hub.

Table-1 shows the performance of total number of MSMEs in India since 2006-07 to 2015-16.

**Table-1: Performance of Total Number of Working MSMEs Sector in India**

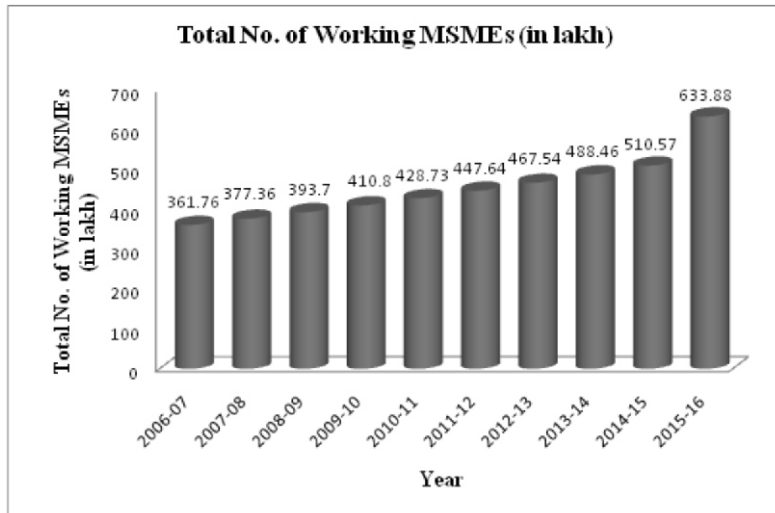
Year	Total No. of Working MSMEs (in lakh)	MSMEs Added in the Year (in lakh)
2006-07*	361.76	-
2007-08	377.36	15.60
2008-09	393.7	16.34
2009-10	410.8	17.10
2010-11	428.73	17.93
2011-12	447.64	18.91
2012-13	467.54	19.90
2013-14	488.46	20.92
2014-15	510.57	22.11
2015-16	633.88	123.31

Source: Various MSME Annual Reports.

\*2006-07 is taken as base year.

Figure-1 shows the total number of working MSMEs was 361.76 lakhs in the year 2006-07 which rose to 633.88 lakhs by 2015-16. During the period under the study there has been a continuous growth in the number of MSMEs. However, the rate of growth has been comparatively more prominent from 2012-13 onwards.

**Figure:1**



What is most important to note is that the rate of increase in the number of MSMEs per annum has always been rising and it was found maximum during the period 2014-15 and 2015-16 i.e. 123.31 lakhs and minimum 15.40 lakhs in 2007-08.

Table-2 is showing the performance of employment of MSMEs Sector in India since 2006-07 to 2015-16.

As employment is concerned, the Figure-2 shows that 805.23 lakhs of people were employed by MSMEs in the year 2006-07 which has been continuously rising during the period under study and was found to the tune of 1109.89 lakhs in the year 2015-16.

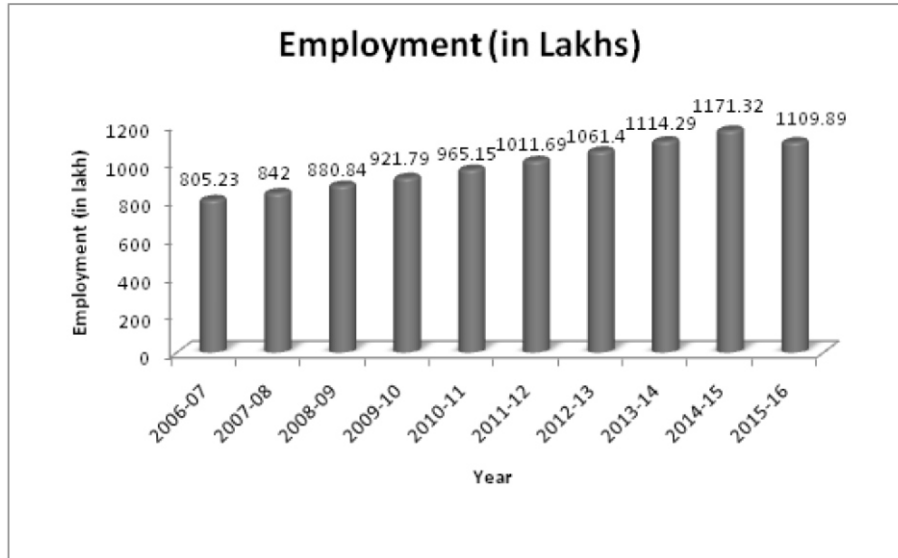
**Table -2: Performance of Employment of MSMEs Sector in India**

Year	Employment (in lakh)	Increase in Employment (in lakh) (Chain Base Index)
2006-07	805.23	-
2007-08	842.00	104.56
2008-09	880.84	104.61
2009-10	921.79	104.65
2010-11	965.15	104.70
2011-12	1011.69	104.82
2012-13	1061.40	104.91
2013-14	1114.29	104.98
2014-15	1171.32	105.11
2015-16	1109.89	94.76

**Source: Various MSME Annual Reports.**

*\*2006-07 is taken as base year.*

Figure-2



During the period of 2006-07 to 2015-16, the market value of fixed assets of MSME has shown a continuous rise although the rate of increase was lower in 2015-16 as compared to other years under study. (Table-3)

Table-3: Performance of Market Value of Fixed Assets of MSMEs in India

Year	Market Value of Fixed Assets (Rs. in Crore)	Increase in the Value of Fixed Assets (Chain Base Index)
2006-07	868543.79	-
2007-08	920459.84	105.97
2008-09	977114.72	106.15
2009-10	1038546.08	106.28
2010-11	1105934.09	106.48
2011-12	1182757.64	106.94
2012-13	1268763.67	107.27
2013-14	1363700.54	107.48
2014-15	1471912.94	107.93
2015-16	1543491.66	104.86

Source: Various MSME Annual Reports.

\*2006-07 is taken as base year.

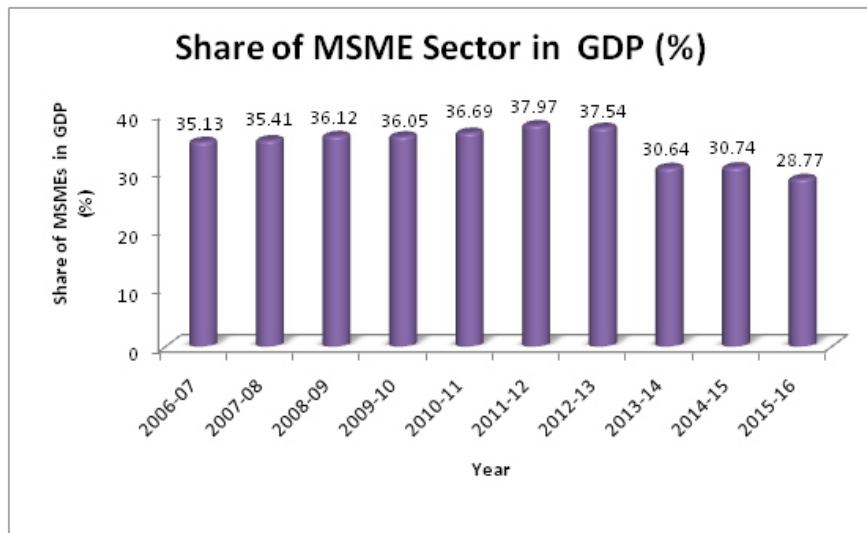
Table-4 shows the most important performance of share of MSMEs sector in GDP in India. This indicates the fact that the growth of GDP of MSMEs sector could not keep pace with the GDP of the country especially after 2013-14. (Figure-3)

**Table No. 4: Performance of Share of MSMEs Sector in GDP in India**

Year	Share of MSMEs Sector in Total GDP (%)
2006-07	35.13
2007-08	35.41
2008-09	36.12
2009-10	36.05
2010-11	36.69
2011-12	37.97
2012-13	37.54
2013-14	30.64
2014-15	30.74
2015-16	28.77

Source: Various MSME Annual Reports.

Figure-3



### MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE ANALYSIS

- The growth rate in the number of MSMEs over the period (2006-07 to 2015-16) has recorded as 175.22%. Annual rate of growth fluctuating normally from 16%(2007-08) to 22% (2014-15) except in the year 2015-16 when it was found more than 124%. This leads to average annual growth rate of around 19.5% p.a.

- As employment is concerned, it reflected a growth rate of around 137.84% over the period under study and the annual growth rate was around 15.32%.
- The market value of fixed assets of MSMEs has grown by around 178% over the period under study, leading to about 11.65% of annual growth rate.
- The share of MSMEs in the total GDP recorded a growth of around 82% over the period under study, the average annual growth rate being a little more than 9%.

#### **THE ANALYSIS LEADS TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS**

1. In the light of the facilities being provided by the government to encourage the growth of MSMEs in the country, the growth rate in the number of these units during the period (19.5%) per annum is discouraging.
2. In the light of about 9.5% per annum growth in the number of MSMEs, it is really discouraging to note that only about 15% growth in the employment during the period under study. It may also be taken as indication that most of the units would have not started working and therefore did not employ the people.
3. The market value of fixed assets of MSMEs has recorded a growth of about 78% over the period under the study leading to an annual growth of around 9% (8.66%), this is indication of fact that very low fixed assets investments were made by the MSMEs.
4. The share of MSMEs sector in GDP has fluctuated from 28.77% to 37.97% during the period. What is more surprising is the fact that after 2012-13 the share of MSMEs in the GDP has been declining (from 37.54% to 28.77%). The declining share of MSMEs in the GDP indicates that they have not been able to give more contribution to the national GDP especially after 2012-13.

#### **PROBLEMS FACED BY MSMEs**

1. Inadequate credit from banks: The MSMEs are faced more problem of credit from the banks. The loan process of the banks is very lengthy and much documentation required with high cost processing fee. The banks are not providing adequate amount of loan to the MSME's.
2. Competition from MNC's: The MSME's is facing the huge competition from the multinational companies. Since the multinational companies are providing goods quality products at low price.
3. Poor infrastructure: MSME's are developing so rapidly but there is lack of infrastructure facilities. Due to poor infrastructure, their production capacity is very low and production cost is very high.
4. Unavailability of resources: Due to non-availability of raw materials, work force and other inputs in the market, it is very difficult to produce the products at affordable prices.
5. Lack of advanced technology: In the MSME's sector, there is a lack of awareness of advanced technologies of production. They are using traditional methods for producing goods.
6. Lack of distribution of marketing channels: MSME's are not adopting innovative ideas for promotion of the products distribution and advertisements. Ineffective advertisement and poor marketing channels leads to a very poor selling.

#### **FUTURE PROSPECTS OF MSMEs**

1. Employment generation: There are large opportunities in the field of manufacturing and service rendering of MSME's. In the field of retail and manufacturing sector, MSMEs are able to generate different and ample amount of employment.

2. Focus on customer satisfaction: Primarily, MSMEs manufacturing goods focus on taste and preferences, liking and disliking of the consumer. But now a day they produce goods according to the needs or expectations of the customers. So the MSMEs can be more customer satisfaction oriented.
3. Minimization of regional imbalance: The MSMEs can utilize the manpower of rural areas so the rural area of the nation can be equally developed through the running of MSMEs units in these areas. This is helpful to minimize or remove the regional imbalance.
4. Development of Export: In the international market, there will be a large demand for Indian product like wooden items, other handmade articles etc. It shows that the MSMEs have the potential to improve the exports of India.
5. Attraction of Foreign Investment: The Indian MSMEs are the growing sector and their growth rate and return on investment is satisfactory. This sector can attract foreign investment in India.

## CONCLUSION

Government of India has taken various initiatives to make this sector more vibrant and significant player in development of the Indian economy. The definition and coverage of the MSMEs sector was broadened in MSMEs Development Act 2006 which recognized the concept of 'enterprise' to include both manufacturing and service sector besides defining medium enterprises setting up a Board for developing policy frameworks and indicating procurement policy. Indian MSMEs are definitely playing continue to contribute towards its role in development of overall economy of the country. MSMEs are focusing to major challenges of Indian economy like unemployment and poverty. Through providing employment opportunities in rural India, MSMEs sector has played a crucial role in both the above stated challenges in current era. It has provided scope for regional development and demolishing regional imbalances. Worldwide MSMEs are considered as an engine of development for economy. So policy makers should try to give due consideration for designing good policies for the sector and equally for policy implementation according to the need of the economy. So Financial Institutions have played a crucial role for the support and development of MSMEs. Focus should be given for more financial inclusion of MSMEs. Government should act on the recommendations of various committee reports appointed for the analysis of MSMEs sector. There are scanty challenges which are hindering the growth of this sector. By addressing these challenges government can achieve best of its expectation from MSMEs performance in industrial output, exports and most important GDP. MSMEs are best vehicle for inclusive growth to create local demand and consumption in the economy. The MSMEs of today will be large corporate of future and hence will be giving strength to economy. So, banks and other agencies should take honour while serving MSMEs as they are playing key role in the formation of such corporate and MNCs of Indian future of global industrial manufacturing hub.

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## **ONLINE TEACHING/LEARNING: A NEW NORMAL OR ANOTHER SOCIAL DIVIDE**

**Aruni Kumar\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Despite the criticism, by and large the desire to meet a social good was very much the driving force behind the growth of distance and open education throughout the last three decades. After pandemic COVID 19 owing to the forced closure of schools and colleges we are left no other option to shift to online platform to remain connected with our students. Here, I will discuss some points which are paramount which are also forcing us to online education:*

***Key Words :** online & caring, Social divide globalization*

### **INTRODUCTION**

It may sound that I am against the technology or online education, after reading the paper, let me assure you quite unequivocally that my passion for distance education as well as the new variants of it i.e. **Online education**, is still as high as it should be. Having said that, like many others of my generation, who benefited from and saw the value that education made to one's personal circumstances, Many of us, like me, know and recognise that learning has never been as freely available to the poor as to the rich. It is easier for those in urban areas than for those in rural communities; people marginalised whether by geography, race, religion, abilities, have always found it difficult to access learning than non-marginalised populations. Most importantly, in the context of this conference, those who had more prior learning have always found it easier to access more new learning than those without.

### **ONLINE LEARNING**

Despite the criticism, by and large the desire to meet a social good was very much the driving force behind the growth of distance and open education throughout the last three decades. After pandemic COVID 19 owing to the forced closure of schools and colleges we are left no other option to shift to online platform to remain connected with our students. Here, I will discuss some points which are paramount which are also forcing us to online education:

1. **The Market:** More than any other force the Market seems to be amongst the most compelling of reasons for many providers of education to get on line. This is not surprising. Depending on whose statistics you accept, the total global expenditure on education can range in trillions
2. **Globalisation and Competition:** The emergence of a global economy based on knowledge industries, free trade and open markets have all created opportunities for businesses to profit from standardised products and services internationally. There are many in higher education who believe that the same could be done with education. Standardised curriculum using English as the medium of instruction could be developed especially in fields such as science, technology, mathematics, languages and business studies at a few centres and distributed globally. On-line provision is the opportunity that they cherish. This is further reinforced by fears of competition from offshore brand

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named providers. Getting on-line has therefore become the buzz of the higher education sector concerned first with keeping out or up with the competition on the one hand and exploiting new opportunities on the other. Developing knowledge products at a few places to support the trade in education certainly has a few people worried.

**3. Technology:** Technology itself has become a central force in driving the on-line agenda. The belief that technology as an empowering tool is all that is required to develop on-line courses is fairly widespread. The potential of the technology to support the development and delivery of learning and training is truly amazing. Innovations in the WWW and structured information tools can assist in personalising content and improve customer relationship management systems. As David Porter (Porter, 2000) recently commented, there is now "the opportunity to implement learning systems based on knowledge management principles that will require us to design the 'units of learning' in a more granular fashion than we have done in the past." These trends are guided principally by standards created by industry.

**4. Cost:** Cost is cited as an important factor to go on-line. In times of diminishing resources and increased expectations, proponents of on-line education suggest that through partnerships, alliances, acquisitions and shared curriculum, costs of delivering education on-line can be reduced. The experience of the Open University UK is cited as an example. However, just like many of us in the past had grappled without much success in establishing the real cost of earlier generations of distance education ventures, so too, now, those attempting to estimate the real cost of on-line courses. The difficulties of working out comprehensive and real costs are compounded by many factors not the least of which "is little awareness of specific costing issues and little uniformity of costing approaches" (Bacsich, 1999). There is also a very strong view that the "very few people understand the technical issues of arriving at reliable costing, as it is often assumed by most academic staff that costing is a precise science rather than a qualitative art" (Anon, 2000). Notwithstanding these views, common sense should tell us that if the intention is to design, develop, establish and run an institution that fits Porter's (2000) model, it could not be inexpensive.

Many of you would consider these costs high, and that empirical evidence in your local area especially may indicate the contrary. You would be right if you discount one critical area. That area is QUALITY. If the purpose of on-line delivery is simply to represent on the computer screen what teachers would normally present on the black board in a class room, it is possible to run inexpensive courses on-line. But on the other hand, if one wishes seriously to exploit the full potential of the Web, then the figures mentioned above are very modest.

**5. Pedagogy (Teaching and Learning):** The quality of teaching in universities the world over has been a subject of intense criticism for well over the last three decades. Attempts to improve, in response to student agitation and protest and government frustration, have at best been lukewarm for a variety of reasons. Many see the ICT environment in which on-line courses exist, making a significant contribution to the improvement of pedagogy. There is sufficient evidence to support that ICT-mediated instruction is as good as conventional instruction when done well. Those who support "constructivist" learning, especially, will argue that where students have to work in rich information environments, ICT-mediated teaching offers a very rewarding learning experience. The teaching here is meant to help students as they actively engage in learning by using information and materials to construct their own understanding and knowledge. Students learn by doing and teachers become navigators rather than being the sole source of knowledge. Teachers do this by providing students with self-paced, self-directed and problem-based learning experience and then follow this up by testing student learning in new interactive and interesting ways to assess the depth of their understanding of content and processes (Blurton, 2000).

6. **Flexibility:** Full-time study within the time-tabled constraints of classrooms is only accessible to a few; for many who wish to study, learning will necessarily have to be at a time and place of their choice. Globally, about 900 institutions make provisions available to 3 to 4 million off-campus students; a sign of the growth and demand for flexible, non-full-time studies. The rapid changes taking place in the workplace will require training to be delivered quickly. Such training must be high speed, low cost and capable of reaching small and large groups. Traditional ways of delivering training are time consuming, labour intensive, socially disruptive and costly. On-line courses offer a solution.

7. **Access:** Access to learning for those living in remote areas and who are marginalized, isolated or challenged can all be served on-line. Either synchronously or asynchronously, barriers such as time and distance could be overcome and the best teachers in the land can be invited to teach the most deprived communities and individuals.

Now, let us examine the gap between hype, expectations and reality. While on the one hand, the use of ICT resources for purposes of education is welcomed as one of the greatest opportunities to enlarge the service to cover hitherto unreachable populations in times of diminishing resources and increased expectations, on the other there is also a growing recognition that our attempts to use the ICTs should not be leading us down the path of once again erecting barriers that have been gradually brought down over the last 50 years. Report after report have begun to emerge stating that we are on the brink of creating yet another barrier between those who have and those who have not, that ICTs are indeed increasing the gap between the rich and the poor, the knowledgeable and the knowledge deprived, the information rich and the information poor, the connected and unconnected. It is in this context that I would like to take four of the seven driving forces that I described earlier to consider their reality:

1. **Access:** You will notice that Access is the last item on the list. Perhaps it is a reflection of its priority. This does not mean that all those desirous of promoting on-line learning are devoid of any sensitivity to deprived, marginalized or underprivileged populations. Many are in fact very sensitive, but the desire or ambition to be part of the bandwagon is so strong that disenfranchising those without access to appliances, connections and skills to use the ICTs get ignored in this relentless pursuit for position and profit. Disenfranchisement, as a consequence of using new tools to deliver the educational service, is not unique to the poor countries of the developing world. It is fairly universal. A report published by the College Board in Princeton, New Jersey, warns that the Internet could become an engine of inequality. Poor kids, the report argues, are less likely to be familiar with the technology or have access to the equipment. Many amongst us who are perpetual optimists would like to believe that this situation is likely to change very quickly, but if experience with an older technology called the TELEPHONE is anything to go by, our optimism may seem a little misplaced.

2. **Cost:** While the concern regarding access must continue to preoccupy any discussion about OnLine Learning, equally important will be the cost of such provision to both the users or students and the providers, whether they are individuals, corporations, colleges and universities. Coopers and Lybrand, a consulting firm, in an analysis of the cost of producing an on-line course in 1998, came to the conclusion that software that captures the many facets of the learning process and can substitute campus-based learning is not yet (cheaply) on the market. This may not be the case today, but what certainly is the case is their finding on how much it could cost to produce a high quality on-line course. Their estimate was around US\$3 million for the software and another \$500,000 for annual maintenance cost without including marketing and distribution. This does not include the cost of faculty. From the potential students point of view, besides paying the basic tuition cost, they also have to meet the additional costs of appliance, appropriate soft ware, Internet connection and subscription costs, paper costs, cost of books, etc. Even after amortising all of these, the personal cost to the user

reaches the unaffordable level very quickly among low income users. The question for people like you and me, is very simple - in wishing to remove some barriers through on-line delivery, have we created bigger ones in its place? Many people, at least in the short-term, think we have.

3. **Pedagogy:** In a recent article by Sir John Daniel, Vice Chancellor of the OUUK, who also rightly claims that the university has the largest number of on-line students bemoaned that "Academics (who) have invented many of the technologies that define the 20th century . . . have been very slow to apply (that) technology to their teaching (Daniel, 1999)". Sir John is not the first person to draw our attention to the slow speed of technology diffusion into the teaching environment. Ten years earlier, Bill Renwick and colleagues, in an OECD report (1995), made similar observations in a series of studies published by the OECD. Getting the pedagogy right requires a whole host of considerations starting with staff skilled in using technologies to deliver learning, and in the absence of such skills to have in place staff development provisions, support staff and facilities, course development teams, time-off for staff for designing, creating, reviewing and reproducing learning materials. These are not new to academe (many dedicated open universities already have such environments), however they are absolutely critical to on-line learning. Typically, governments and institutions still invest big money into technology but do very little in developing staff.

4. **Technology:** There is, perhaps, one snag in achieving all of the great potentials of technology that I spoke of earlier. In a 1995 report by CERI of the OECD, authors examined a range of technologies from electronic publishing, narrow and broad casting by radio and television, audio and video conferencing as well as digital networks. The report concluded that while the older technologies were used for limited instructional purposes, the newer technologies, like the electronic and digital networks, were used mostly for the transmission of information through electronic mail, bulletin board systems, computer conferencing and electronic data base retrieval. The report concluded by stating that "the essence of the educational culture is not seen to be changing; at best instructors and institutions are using technology to replicate their practise, their content and their control . . . The influence of technology on schooling, learning, teaching and the educational organization has not been significant across the range of post secondary education."

Though there have been even greater changes in the technology environment since 1994, in as far as the educational environment is concerned, the situation does not seem to have changed significantly. In a more recent report coming out of Australia, authors Craig Cunningham et al, mention that "The use of new technology and new media is in many cases still in its experimental stages . . . This may well change in the future, as programs become more established and appropriate technological infrastructure becomes more widely available."

In the next section of this paper, It will be discussed that need to be confronted if the hype of technology is to be realised and make a difference to global education.

In the developed economies, the reluctance to apply learning technologies more enthusiastically may be rooted in serious fundamental educational processes and their values. In developing economies, this is further compounded by four other factors. These, are:

1. **Poor telecommunications infrastructure:** The level of "teledensity" has not reached the stage where the Internet can function efficiently. One telephone line per 1000 heads of population is not the greatest of assets when contemplating an educational service for large parts of the poor world. Coupled to this is a lack of access to "bandwidth".
2. **Cost of appliance:** It is said that problems of access to telecommunications pale into insignificance besides those of gaining access to a working computer capable of connecting to the Internet.
3. **Know how:** at least three specific kinds of skills are relevant, necessary and in short supply. These

are:

Participatory skills: from computer literacy to a working knowledge of English for involvement in networked learning.

Facilitating skills: for the design, implementation and maintenance of networks. These require technical knowledge in installation, user training and maintenance at the minimum.

Control skills: to manage the enterprise.

4. **Cost of services:** Poverty is not the only problem facing those wanting access to the Internet. In many countries, policy and regulatory restrictions make it almost impossible for a vast proportion of their population to have access to inexpensive telephone and Internet services, due to monopolies of one kind or another. All of these simply mean that far from being an asset technology or at least the lack of access to it can very well become the barrier to education for many. The market does not recognise deprivation; equity and equality must be addressed by the public sector vested with the task of providing the service.

Towards a Social Good One would be foolish to question the importance and relevance of the Internet and the WWW for education in this new decade. At its worst, it has the ability to connect communities of learners and teachers as well as other knowledge seekers and providers and at its best it could very well be the tool that education has been waiting for these past thousand years. Its promise is only limited by the imagination and capacity of the people who can apply and benefit from it. However, access to that promise should not be limited to only a few who are wealthy, live in information rich societies, having skills, knowledge and support to use the tools but also be provided to the many who lack all of these but who need education and training just as much as the 'haves' to escape from traps of deprivation. **To benefit the many, we must get some things right about on-line education. These must include:**

1. **Developing Policies:** Developing policies that preserve our concerns for equity and equality of access: At the governmental level these must, of necessity, touch on telecommunication policies and regulations, tariffs, telecommunication infrastructure, etc. At the institutional level there is also a need for those who are aggressively pushing for the delivery of education ON Line to remind themselves that the purpose of education is ill served if the methods we adopt deny that education to a great majority of our people. Policies on education of almost every democratic state in the modern world are unambiguous about this ideal. But between the ideal and practise a gap often emerges especially amongst our autonomous institutions. it is the responsibility of an educational establishment not to discriminate in relation to:

- The admission or the terms or conditions of admission of a person as a student to the establishment.
- The access of a student to any course, facility or benefit provided by the establishment, etc., etc.

It seems that there is a case to be made in relation to on-line courses, for creating policy guidelines that makes it necessary for providers of such services to make appropriate provisions (such as free supply of appliances, connections, etc.) to marginalised groups in order for them to benefit from on-line courses.

2. **Identifying the fitness of purpose of on-line courses:** Current levels of academic preparedness, administrative and ICT infrastructure make it necessary to define a clear purpose for engaging in on line courses. Training programmes rather than academic courses may better fit this new form of delivery. Under present circumstance there is a group that may have reasonable access to the necessary ICT infrastructure to participate in on-line education. These are people who are already in

the workforce and need reskilling, continuing professional development, post-graduate training, updating of knowledge, etc. There is a strategic advantage in focusing on this group of people first, and as communication infrastructure as well as other services related to supporting the ICTs become more commonplace, move on to academic programmes gradually.

**3. Investing in people even faster than investing in technology:** At the risk of stating the obvious - let me simply ask the question: what good is a digital environment if the skills and interests of the key players are not there, to use its potential effectively? Being Internet savvy does not necessarily make a teacher an effective on line educator. Very few institutions are investing sufficient resources to train staff to teach on line.

**4. Use of other ICTs rather than limiting ourselves to the Internet only:** while this paper is on Online courses, let me make a plea for the greater exploitation of other ICTs. The short-term benefit is the easy accessibility of such technologies as radio, video, print by large parts of our populations. The longterm benefits include carrying forward knowledge products so produced into the Internet environment.

**5. Planning for sustainability and success:** A good portion of the 50,000 or so courses that are currently available on the Internet today may not be available next year. In fact, a number of online course providers today may not be there next year. I do not think a large part of the world is quite ready for non-sustainable educational ventures or adventurers. We need planning and sustainability, we need to ensure customer protection and we need to keep "**diploma mills**" out. We cannot do any of these if public institutions themselves become the perpetrators, doing not much for education other than selling their brand name.

**6. Good practice:** we need to develop good practise. Practices that will help continue the traditional values of and respect for education, pastoral care of students, respect for academic freedom and dignity, quality of the content and tuition, excellence in exit standards and, above all, an education that is available for all and helps build good citizens. The market is important and it is seductive, **but its seduction should not be allowed to turn a social good into a social divide**. It took some 30 years by those who were engaged in the promotion of distance education to gain respect for it, recognition and acceptance - sentiments that were lost during an earlier era as a result of bad practice by many who engaged in correspondence education. We do not want on-line courses to suffer the same disrespect of earlier correspondence education.

As we work with some of the most educationally deprived populations in the country. We must adhere to the facts discussed above so that Online Education becomes a new normal and not another social divide in terms of digital divide.

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## **A FUTURISTIC OUTLOOK FOR SOCIAL MEDIA DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Anup Kumar Mishra\* Saurabh Kumar Srivastava\*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*The process of civilization always needed with a communicative platform for the individual/social/public/global communication and this need emerged since the civilization started. Now it had been converted through technology as social media and provided a common platform to all the humanity. The communication made in public in local level created a need of Social media. Now everyone is well connected to everything or we can say, to all information with one touch or one click.*

**Keywords :** *Social media, COVID-19, ICT*

The process of civilization always needed with a communicative platform for the individual/social/public/global communication and this need emerged since the civilization started. Now it had been converted through technology as social media and provided a common platform to all the humanity. The communication made in public in local level created a need of Social media. Now everyone is well connected to everything or we can say, to all information with one touch or one click.

### **DEFINING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media are computer-mediated tools that allow people to create, share or exchange information, ideas, and pictures/videos in virtual communities and networks. Social media is the collective of online communications channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction content-sharing and collaboration. With the advantage of technology and the creation of such thing as social media our lives became more simple faster and easier. We can talk to and see people from all around the world. We can get kind of famous on the web with likes shares, comments and followers. We can share our thoughts, opinions and tastes with the entire world and get feedback from people like us. Overall Social media is a virtual platform where everyone can share their views in any format without taking help of law, politics or media. It works as a common platform to provide information (simultaneously misinformation) to the common populace.

### **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Thinking of the use and misuse of social media, created a need of urgent attention for people to get regulated in their naturally governed life and feel free from the biased thoughts and prejudices for their fundamental duties, moral or social responsibilities towards society and nation. Recent Instances of public disagreement on various issues, Reservation etc, have made a democratic loss by misusing various dialogues and slogans etc. Putting forward a question that if social media were not exist in the current format, how far these issues can be handled by people or what could be the notion of populace about these matters. In recent days it can be easily seen

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that the social, economical and political stunts are trying to divide the population in communities, religion, region, caste and Social media became the biggest tool to conduct this.

Captivating paradigm of social ethos build by a long heritage preserved, it must be justifiable as per the scheduling procedure of constitution. It is needed to understand that any thought provoking the idea of separation from any group would be bifurcated as per their socio-economic status in the society. Root may be different if we look democratically but the most responsibility rests to the feudal system, which created many discrepancies in the people and made them excluded from the democratic system. The result of this system can be considered as neo-feudalism in the nation. They used people as puppet in the hands of politics. Now it is being expressed through social media to create a gap and politics for their benefit.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA IN CURRENT SCENARIO**

In today's scenario the demanding populace trying to conduct a viral to create misinterpretation of public and legal opinion. In positive term we reach to call it as E-democracy which has been encouraged, may be the best form of democracy, but one thing is worth mentioning that the democracy is a mob system and it never convert to a possible solution, no radical view may be put forwarded. Individually objecting and violating the speech right against any mode of thought by anyone in India at this crucial transition phase of pandemic like COVID-19 can harm the whole nation.

An affirmative action is important to everyone but not in the format of social media so that anyone can change the mind of others and create a mob system for wrong deeds. In other words, in pandemic of COVID-19 Over a thousand migrant workers gathered outside Bandra railway station on Tuesday afternoon, demanding that they be sent home at the earliest as they are unable to sustain themselves during the lockdown. Vinay dubey was the migrant workers leader and called them to be gathered everyone, know how badly this event affected the efforts of the government in this corona virus crisis in India. In another event Health Ministry reported that COVID-19 infections and cases have strong links to the Markaz event. Out Of the total reported 14,378 coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in the country, 4,291 cases travelled in 23 States and Union Territories directly mattered to the Markaz event happened in 'Delhis Nizamuddin in March. It was result of the misinformation spread by Maulanas and social media TikTok videos as reported in the news channels. In this connection many times govt. released its advisory to stop spreading rumors about COVID-19 pandemic. It is evident in these days, how strongly the social media and information channels have affected the mindset of mob belonging to different communities and groups.

### **THE SOCIAL MEDIA POLITICS**

The social media politics is just like a situation: As a doctor prescribes the medicine for cardiac problem without knowing that the problem is neurological. All the people being influenced by some leading political agents on social media and become a part of misinterpreted political stunt. It is like Consumption of Electronic heroine. And now everyone is addicted to it. Social media Likes and views are the real mental dose of confidence comes from virtual source. The crucial thing is that this virtuosity can be refuted instantly with one click.

Once it is needful to discuss the objective of social media. When we think of the Information and communication technologies (ICTs) which can be used as the most cost-effective and convenient means to promote openness and transparency and to reduce corruption. E- government, in particular, has been used in many prominent, comprehensive transparency efforts in a number of nations (Bertot, et al., 2010).

The ending question is how social media is responsible for Social change. 'The social change



approach is based on the idea of reform through social empowerment of citizens by allowing them to participate in institutional reform movements and by cultivating a civil, law-based society as a long-term deterrent to corruption' (Johnson, 1998). Further 'by changing cultural attitudes that have been accepting of corruption, citizens can ultimately protect themselves from corruption' (Fukiyama, 2001; Johnson, 1998).

Now the tongue twisting statement may be asserted here that “Any orientation made by any most efficient person who has creative ideas can't contribute in the system because of the system”. After discussing all these issues we find it very difficult to get any solution for the economic and political crisis which may occur in near future due to social media use or politics or anything which can be done by it. Or it can be said confidently that these crisis will occurred.

Now we all should ask some questions to ourselves. However, did our lives truly get richer and happier with social media? Do kids play outside as they used to? Do you continue to meet new people with names instead of usernames? When you go out with your friend, do you actually talk to them and know what's going on in their lives? When was the last time you checked on your family members' lives instead of the number of likes you got in the past hour? There are many things, which needs to be discussed about Social media so that we may able to find out how it can help us and how this use must be regulated to control the ideology of democracy and humanism.

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## **ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A PERSPECTIVE ANALYSIS**

**Suman Kumar Poddar\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*The integration of women into our labour force has meant less dependence on men, because that these women can take over jobs, there is less dependence. The integration of women has also widened the intellectual pool in social, political and economic debate. Not to mention that the appointment of women in administrative posts has shattered myths that the domain of politics and leadership in public sphere is purely for men.*

**Keywords :** *Pay equity, Poverty, Glass ceiling.*

### **1. ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:-CURRENT TRENDS**

It is evident from the historical facts that, women in our country were viewed as the weaker sex and this view placed women in the category of a lesser being. Even today women in most part of the country are less well nourished than men, less healthy, more vulnerable to physical violence and sexual abuse and less paid. They are much less likely than men to be literate, and still less likely to have pre-professional or technical education. Should they attempt to enter the workplace and political life they face greater obstacles from family members, discrimination in hiring, and sexual harassment. Often burdened with the full responsibility for housework and child care, they lack opportunities for entertainment and imagination. In all these ways, unequal social and political circumstances give women unequal human capabilities. But, now we have shattered myths about what is and is not permissible or achievable for women of our state. Today, we have high percentage of women, female industrialists, mentors, ministers and judges. We also have increasing number of university graduate females.

The integration of women into our labour force has meant less dependence on men, because that these women can take over jobs, there is less dependence. The integration of women has also widened the intellectual pool in social, political and economic debate. Not to mention that the appointment of women in administrative posts has shattered myths that the domain of politics and leadership in public sphere is purely for men.

### **2. THE ROAD AHEAD: A CONSTRUCTIVE PARADIGM**

We are in the midst of a complex and dynamic culture where an evolved and resurrected outlook wrapped in an indiscriminate and cohesive spirits towards professional domain of the economic forces is an inevitable requirement. In the light of rapidly changing socio economic equations and futuristic economic development chemistry, fuelled by the technological boom and advances in modern economic development methodologies, the opinion in respect of women's role in the economic development of the country needs to be rationalized and evaluated based on their professional cognizance and futuristic requirements of the society.

With the aim of strengthening, improvising and streamlining the organizational structure of our

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society, keeping in view our social requirements, men and material assets and envisioned economic development goals, call for an impartial approach and the holistic redressal of prime policy issues by the Government.

In a clear sign that the Government is willing to adopt a positive outlook towards expanding profile for women in the society, the Government has given 50 percentage reservations for women in the many walks of life. The scenario in the state has changed considerably with the political empowerment of women. The state may soon become developed one with the active co-operation of women. Government's endeavor to give women their rightful place in the society has been yielding positive results with increasing success of various development programmes. Though it is evident that the Government is committed towards bringing them in the mainstream to contribute towards economic development of the state even then if we are to work successfully with the problem of women and economic development, of preparing women to take their place in the employment market, there are a number of **patterns** to which we must attend i.e. *Pay equity*, the *"glass ceiling," work and family balance, the feminization of poverty* and *women in a learning society*.

### **(I) Pay Equity**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the developing world, women grow up to 80 per cent of all food produced, but rarely hold the title to the land they cultivate. Worldwide, they constitute one third of the wage-labour force. Much of their work, however, is unpaid, among a wide range of other activities. Women also dominate the informal sector of the economy - and this work is not usually reflected in economic statistics. If global calculations of the gross domestic product included household work, the amount would increase by 25 per cent and would be generally greater than that of men. It is also clear that women work much longer hours than men. Same is the situation in our country too.

In developing countries, women's work hours exceed men's by 30 per cent but within each occupation, male fulltime employees receive higher incomes than female fulltime employees. Why is it so difficult to overcome this wage gap? One of the reasons is our long habits of thinking of women and the work they do is of less importance. In addition up to 90 per cent of part-time workers are women. This has short-term benefits that it increases the number of jobs that can be handled along with household responsibilities, whereas, has long-term disadvantages, however, including reduced job security, retaining opportunities and benefits such as pensions and health insurance. Male unemployment and underemployment in the state have put even more pressure on women to take on the role of bread-winner. Men are increasingly unable to support their family single handedly.

Working mothers, who reconcile work out-side the home while retaining primary responsibilities for child care and other duties, shoulder a heavy burden, particularly as their families grow. Various factors contribute to this phenomenon, including increasing levels of migration and high levels of marital dissolution, as well as the growing number of children born to single mothers. Excessive drug and alcohol used by males, multiple unions and polygamous households add to the economic hardship faced by women, since men may not have sufficient resources to support multiple families. Because women are more likely to spend their earnings on their families' basic needs, their income tends to have more positive effects on family well-being. Despite their key economic roles, women in the state occupy a very small minority of decision-making positions in the economic arena. They are also under represented in the trade union movement.

### **(II) Glass Ceiling**

Existing economic structures are dominated by men and pose major obstacles to women's

advancement that prevent women from rising professionally regardless of their education and experience is, still impermeable today.

These structures include networks and achievement criteria based on perceptions and stereotypical expectations of men compared to women. Glass ceiling is an apt label for the phenomenon faced by women who aspire to positions of leadership. The proportion of women who have made it into high leadership positions is stunningly small (Swoboda, 1995).

A recent study of executives in one multi-national corporation showed that the women who had reached this level faced a second glass ceiling (Lyness & Thompson, 1997). These women made the same pay and received the same bonuses as their male counterparts. However, they managed fewer people, were given fewer stock options, and obtained fewer overseas assignments than the men did. Being in the same position does not necessarily imply having the same level of status in the organization. Clearly, they had got the message that they had moved up as far as they could in their company whereas the men were more likely to see new opportunities ahead.

### **(III) Work and family balance**

Studies show that, in most of the world, women spend more hours per week working than men do. However, for women, a larger proportion of time spent working is devoted to unpaid work i.e. housework, childcare, cooking, laundry, housecleaning, ironing, gardening, and carrying water and wood and other domestic activities that are not counted when economists try to quantify work. In most countries, women spend about twice the amount of time doing unpaid work as men do in Japan, that is, nine times. Even women who are employed full time do most of the domestic work in their households (United Nations, 1995).

Women's total work time per week is 53 hours in Bangladesh, 69 in India and 77 in Nepal as compared to men's work time in these countries of 46, 56, and 57 hours respectively. There is one remarkable similarity among countries, the role played by fathers in child care- they do it for, on average, less than one hour per day! Chinese fathers spent the most time in daily child care that is 0.9 hours per day (Owens, 1995).

For many women, the reality is a great lack of support and a continuous struggle to make and maintain arrangements for childcare. Moreover, a large chunk of their already smaller than men's income, often goes to pay for this childcare. And the responsibility for solving these problems falls disproportionately on women, even in couples where both have equally demanding professional careers.

### **(IV) Feminization of poverty**

According to some estimates, approximately 70% of the world's poor are women. This gendered distribution of poverty shows that there are more poor households that are headed by women than by men and there are more women than men in the poorest households.

In developed countries, studies reported by the United Nations (United Nations, 1995) suggest that there are three factors that are very relevant to the feminization of poverty- strong family ties, employment opportunities for women, and a strong system of social welfare.

### **(V) Women in a learning society**

Years ago, women who insisted on access to higher education, was considered unreasonable in many countries (Peiffer, 1991). American educator Edward Clarke argued in the second half of the 19th century that women's brains were relatively undeveloped and unsuited to the intellectual rigors of higher education and that if women used too much of their energy to think, it might rob energy from

their vital reproductive organs and render them infertile. In many countries, women make up no more than 20% to 30% of undergraduate students, and in still others their participation is extremely low.

### **(3) CONCLUSION**

The status of women in our country has been a kaleidoscope of eventful changes and varying societal facts affecting all strands of womanhood over past few millennia. Today she stands at a new threshold with greater triumphs and achievements along with their male counterparts. Fuelled by accessible globalization and pervasive self awareness, contemporary women of our country are all set to understand their priorities in public space and private domain. She is gradually getting liberated from being victim of cultural expectations and biological restrictions. She is not regressive but liberal, not confused but careful and happy to embrace the shining modernity yet willing to pay her dues. The inclusion of women in the economic development of the state has taken our states presumptuous national legacy and kudos a step further.

The issue of gender based roles in the economic development of our country calls for a spate of discussion in the light of emerging socio-economic trends and modern welfare requirements and their impact on the economic development of the country. Despite all, the present condition of women in the society demands rational analysis of the issue, a streamlined approach and fresh improvements in the existing mind setup of the male dominated society and the government policies to invite the participation of women at all level of decision making.

*"When old words die out on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart; and where the old tracks are lost, a new country is revealed with its wonders"*

**Rabindranath Tagore**

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## COVID -19 AND MIGRATION ISSUES IN INDIA

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### BACKGROUND

India is a large and diverse country and one of the serious problems of the country is the regional imbalances between the different states. Because of dualistic nature of economy there are huge dissimilarities even within the different regions of the same state. Therefore, it's a natural phenomenon that people move from their native states to other states and from the underdeveloped regions towards the developed regions of the same states of India in search of employment opportunities. At the present time, reverse migration is one of the most critical problems of India. 'COVID-19' pandemic acted as a forceful factor to push back the '**Migrant Workers**' towards their native land; especially the rural migrants who were earlier moved to the mega cities which are currently the epicenter of COVID-19. This reverse migration already created a huge problem of unemployment and in near future it's also going to create severe economic and social crisis.

According to the 'Situation Report-130' of WHO on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, the COVID-19 already affected 1,65,799 and killed 4,076 peoples in India. This inconspicuous enemy is affecting all the aspects of human life irrespective of its sex, age, race, colour and religion. But the most affected are the poor migrant workers who do not have any proper shelter in the metropolitan cities, where they were working from so long and even do not have food to survive in this critical situation. That is why they are returning to their homes on their foot by covering thousands of miles. These images of returning migrant workers to their native land are distracting and pathetic.

Thus, in this paper an attempt has been made to analyse the problems of migrant workers in India and the crisis of reverse migration amidst the time of COVID-19. This lockdown is already created a huge scarcity of labour in agriculture and in near future, after the end of the lockdown this calamity is also going to create an unexpected scarcity of labour in industrial sector which will affect the manufacturing units adversely. Well for handling this unprecedented situation after the announcement of 1.7 lakh crore '**Relief Economic Package**' on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, the Union Government announced 20 lakh crore economic stimulus package '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**' on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, under which numbers of announcement has been made especially for the migrant workers; for providing them immediate relief from this catastrophic calamity and for their long term welfares. That is why this paper also tries to analyse the impact of this newly announced economic stimulus package on the migrant workers and furthermore, this package is enough to settle down the problems of this vulnerable workers in India or the government needs an immediate '**National Migration Policy**' for long term stability in the economy in the post corona period

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*because now the 'External Reverse Migration' is also became a great headache for India. In the end suggestions have been made that can be taken to improve the situations of migrant workers and for providing them long term relief and social security.*

**Keywords-** COVID-19, Reverse Migration,

## INTRODUCTION

India is a large and diverse country and one of the serious problems of the country is the regional imbalances between the different states. The dualistic nature of economy creates huge dissimilarities even within the different regions of the same State. Therefore, it's natural that people move from their native State to other States and from the underdeveloped region towards the developed region of the same State of India in search of employment opportunities. According to the Economic Survey of India 2017, the magnitude of inter-state migration in India was close to 9 million annually between 2011 and 2016, while Census 2011 pegs the total number of internal migrants in the country (accounting for inter- and intra-state movement) at a staggering 139 million. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the biggest source states, followed closely by Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal; the major destination states are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. According to government statistics, every year more than nine million migrant labourers move from India's rural areas to large population centers to find work at construction sites or factories, sending money back to their home towns and villages (CNN, New Delhi, 2020).

According to the 'Situation Report-128' of WHO on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, the COVID-19 already affected 1,51,767 and killed 4,337 people in India. This inconspicuous enemy is affecting the all aspect of human life in the country and right now there is uncertainty about its length and severity. In this pathetic situation, the most vulnerable section of the workforce during the lockdown are those who are in the informal sector; mostly unskilled, low-paid, with no or at most fuzzy employment contracts, employed in precarious work environments, and lacking any form of social security or welfare safety net. Given regional differences and the precarious nature of their work, it is very difficult to assess exactly how many Indian labourers fit into this informal category. *India's nationwide lockdown amidst the corona virus pandemic has created a severe dislocation in the lives of its migrant population.* Thus, at the current stage, reverse migration is one of the most critical problems of India. 'COVID-19' pandemic acted as a forceful factor to push back the labourers towards their native land; especially the rural migrants who were earlier moved to the mega cities which are currently the epicenter of the COVID-19. This reverse migration already created a huge problem of unemployment and in near future it's also going to create severe economic crisis. According to the UN Report, it is estimated that About 400 million people working in the informal economy in India are at risk of falling deeper into poverty due to the corona virus crisis which is having 'catastrophic consequences' and is expected to wipe out 195 million full-time jobs or 6.7 per cent of working hours globally in the second quarter of this year.

To devise policies and provide services for seasonal migrant labourers and for their welfare, government needs to have a realistic statistical account of their number and an understanding of the nature of their mobility. But unfortunately, the Indian state fails on both accounts. Official agencies tend to underestimate short-term movements, and thus play down or miss seasonal migration altogether, which according to recent field studies account for the bulk of migratory movements for work. Further, census data is collected after a gap of 10 years and as it is "stock data", thus unable to



capture the sharp increase in mobility that has occurred in India. The cities were built on the hard labour and exploitation of migrant labourers, but they never entered the consciousness of the architects; instead, they are considered part of the problem in cities. The political class ignores them because they do not count as votes, especially in the case of inter-state migrants. Due to their mobile nature, they do not find any place in the manifestos of trade unions. They spend their whole day on worksites and silently sneak into perilous shelters at night, without the cities even noticing them. In the unorganised and chaotic labour market, migrant labourers regularly face conflicts and disputes at worksites. The common issues they face are non-payment of wages, physical abuse, accidents and even death. The existing legal machinery is not sensitive to the nature of legal disputes in the unorganised sector. Many informal sector disputes never make their way to labour courts or keep languishing in courts for lack of proof. Freedom of movement in any part of territory of India and freedom to pursue any avocation of one's choice is a fundamental right guaranteed by article 19 of the constitution of India. Every citizen of India has got constitutional fundamental right that he can live any part of India and can do any legal work for his livelihood that means any person can leave his native state to other state in India for searching of employment but the system of employment of Inter-state migrant labour was an exploitative system prevalence more or less in all India (K.K.Singh and Ankita Pathak, 2010).

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The leading aim of this paper is to study and analyse the following objectives;

1. The problems of the migrant labourers in India and the challenges that they are facing amidst the pandemic COVID-19.
2. To analyse the Union Government's '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**'- Economic stimulus package's provisions that has been made especially to provide immediate relief to the migrant labourers.
3. To analyse the importance and immediate need of a '**National Migration Policy**'.
4. To provide remedial measures that can be taken at Union as well as on State level for the welfare of the marginalised migrant labourers in India.

#### **Reaction of Different National and International Media on the Current Condition of Migrant Labourers in India**

Different national and international media counter this pathetic issue as their priority which hit the global political image of India adversely.

1. According to '**The Guardian**', 'The desperate millions hit by Modi's brutal lockdown', The consequences for India, where tens of millions live in poverty, work thousands of miles from home, often living where they work, have been cataclysmic. The Indian prime minister's handling of the pandemic has heaped more misery on the country's poorest citizens.
2. According to '**The Washington Post**', In India, the world's biggest lockdown has forced migrants to walk hundreds of miles home. The labourers set out on foot in the wee hours of the morning for villages hundreds of miles away, walking along the roads they helped build and past apartment towers they helped raise.
3. According to '**The Atlantic**', "The defining images of India's three-week lockdown may be of migrant labourers, with bags perched on their heads and children in their arms, walking down highways in a desperate attempt to return to their villages hundreds of miles away."
4. According to the '**China Labour Bulletin**', "The heart-wrenching images and stories of millions of migrant labourers leaving Indian cities following the declaration of a three-week-long nation-wide lockdown have starkly illustrated the need to pause such simplistic epidemic

control measures and wake up to the reality of labour relations in India. This massive workforce was not taken into account while making such a critical governmental announcement is reflective of their invisibility in the state's consciousness and policymaking. Amidst the closure of workplaces and avenues of employment, the lack of clear and positive assurances from the political leadership only exacerbated these labourers' anxieties, and compelled them to make the long walk home, from the cities to the hinterland.

5. According to the '**Aljazeera**', Modi apologises as 21-day lockdown stings millions, leaving the poor hungry and forcing migrant labourers to flee cities. This decision has stung millions of India's poor, leaving many hungry and forcing jobless migrant labourers to flee cities and walk hundreds of kilometres to their native villages.
6. According to the '**Business Today**', "Migrant labourers well caught unaware when the lockdown was announced, and not knowing what to do and in absence of a safety net made move towards reverse migration to their place of origin, mostly by foot as public transport got closed abruptly."
7. According to the '**CCN**', "Thousands of migrant labourers are attempting to leave India's major cities after a government lockdown designed to prevent a local epidemic of novel corona virus left them without jobs or pay. The potential mass migration may undermine attempts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to prevent the localized spread of the corona virus, with some labourers even attempting to make the journey on foot, due to widespread closures of public transport."
8. According to '**The Economics Times**', Thousands of migrant labourers thronging the streets amid the nationwide lockdown has put stains on the nascent political ceasefire at the time of the Covid-19 emergency.
9. **The Times** says, 'Modi's Hasty Corona virus Lockdown of India Leaves Many Fearful for What Comes Next'. This announcement of the unprecedented lockdown gave hundreds of millions of Indians less than four hours to prepare. This lockdown triggered a massive exodus of migrant laborers and wage labourers from cities back to the rural villages they are from; where many won't have to pay rent and food is cheaper. Many migrants were seen defying the curfew. Some have told news outlets that they are walking up to 500 miles to get back home.
10. According to the '**BBC India**', Streets around the Indian capital Delhi have been filled with people walking to reach their villages in neighbouring states. Most of them are daily-wage labourers who are now out of the work after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a complete lockdown of the country on 24 March to halt the spread of corona virus. In the absence of money and jobs, they are desperate to reach their villages. Some found government-run buses to reach home and others just continued to walk.

This above mentioned reports clearly shows the current situation of inter and intra state reverse migration in India, which is really creating a huge distraction about the system and the society where we are living.

#### **Vulnerabilities of the Indian Migrant Labourers**

The migrant labourers have very poor access to health services, which results in very poor occupational health. Since they cannot afford private hospitals, they often go back to their villages once they fall sick. This affects their employment opportunities, as well as the loss of wages and it further traps them into the vicious circle of poverty. A large number of migrants find work as unskilled labourers, since they enter the job market at a very early age, experience no upward mobility and

remain stuck in the most unskilled, poorly paid and hazardous jobs for their whole work-life span. This has severe inter-generational implications, transferring vulnerability, poor health and low level of skills from the parents to children. Occupational health issues are mostly neglected in India. An important reason for this is the demand of less powerful labourers and thus, mostly the informal sector suffers from the burden of occupational hazards where the labour is not united. A study shows that in India every year 36,000 fatalities, 1,83,00,000 injuries and 18,50,000 diseases are occurred due to occupational hazards and out of 500 million of labourers in India only less than 10 percent of are secured against any kind of health and safety measures (Jitendra Meena 2018). Another study shows that in India 1.83 million people are suffering from occupational diseases contributing 20 percent of the global burden (Kouser, 2014). In unorganised sector this situation is really very pathetic and heart breaking. According to the report of NSSO 55<sup>th</sup> round (1999-2000) 92 percent of the total workforce in India is engaged in unorganised or informal sector but still the labourers in unorganised sector do not have access to any proper social security or safety and health cover because of lack of proper government regulation for unorganised sector. That is why the occupational health hazard is a common problem of unorganised sector's labourers. the labourers in unorganised sector do not have access to any proper social security or safety and health cover because of lack of proper government regulation for unorganised sector. It is evident that unorganised labourers belong to the most disadvantage group whom are living in poverty. The housing and living condition of the migrant labourers in the mega cities is deplorable; they live in highly crowded and unhygienic conditions with very less availabilities of basic amenities i.e. safe drinking water, toilets and electricity. Most of them live together in either poor rented houses or work sites with one room shared by many, without proper provision of hygienic sanitation. This Overcrowded living conditions of the migrant labourers result in increased transmission of infectious diseases.

Thus, it's clear from the above extracts that the health and socio economic conditions of the poor migrant labourers is really very disruptive in India which gets negligible attention from the authorities. Some important reasons behind that are illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, no unionisation and rigid social and political structure.

#### **Need of New National Migration Policy**

According to the current situation it's a necessary to think about the post COVID-19 period where the economy is going to face huge crisis, thus Government should need to make such policies which can address the problems of the migrant labourers which in near future going to create a huge unemployment in the country. Provide employment opportunities at their native place is not possible in very near future but for long term stability government needs to think develop new employment opportunities near their native places so that migrant labourers can fearlessly work there and problem of industries can also be handled. According to the various studies reverse migration is going to create huge unemployment in near future. As it's also estimated that in short run these migrant labourers are not going to work very far from their home States because of the disasters experience during lockdown. Creating employment opportunities at their native places or near around their periphery is not a sudden task it will took lots of time and heavy structural investment with proper policy making and its regulation. Migration is a long traditional demographic evident which exists in the society from the ages and thus, there is no any substitute is available instead of migration. Thus, government needs to think immediately about a '**New National Migration Policy**' which should applicable on the whole country anonymously without any social and regional discrimination. This National Migration Policy can help the governments to fulfill the provisions of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package' which has been made especially for the migrant labourers. Otherwise also, a country with world's second

largest population and with largest working population always needs a migrant policy on national level which can address the problems of migrant labourers. Thus, it's the time when government needs to think about such policies.

### **20 Lakh Crore 'Economic Stimulus Package'**

On 12<sup>th</sup> May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 20 lakh crore 'Stimulus Economic Package' as a response to COVID-19 disaster. Later Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman announced the details of the plan over the five consecutive days. According to the speech package will focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws and would deal with each and every sectors of the economy i.e. industry; especially cottage industry and MSMEs, working class, middle class. Beside that the package will be mainly focus on empowering the poor, labourers and migrant labourers as well as on formal and informal sector. Prime Minister Modi on his speech of COVID-19 relief package stated to make India self-reliant so in future if other crisis may emerge could be tackled efficiently. FM<sup>5</sup> Nirmala Sitharaman on her second day's speech announced the measures for poor's and migrant labourers. The main provision of this announcement under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' package is mentioned below;

1. Government announced '**Free food for migrants**', even for those who do not have '**NFSA<sup>6</sup> Cards**' or '**State Ration Card**'. 5 Kgs of wheat or rice per person and one Kg gram per family will be given for next two months through the State governments. This will entail 3,500 crore and is likely to benefits around 8 crore migrant labourers.
2. Union Government announced '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' scheme under which '**National Portable Ration Cards**' can be used in any ration shops that will be applicable across the country. By August 2020, 67 crore beneficiaries in 23 states and approximately 83% of all PDS beneficiaries will be covered and the focus is on to cover 100% by March, 2021.
3. One of the most important announcement which has been made under this stimulus package is '**Rental Accommodation**' under '**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**'. This scheme will provide rental housing under which incentives will be offered to private manufacturing and industrialist units to develop affordable housing and for converting government funded houses into affordable renting accommodations for migrant labourers. This will be done on PPP on concessionaire basis. Furthermore, State government agencies will also be incentivised to develop affordable housing for migrant labourers.
4. For Tribal migrant people proposal of Rs. 6,000 crore has been made under the regulation of State which will come under the **CAMPA<sup>7</sup>** funds through which Tribal people will get employment in forest management, wildlife protection or management and other forest related activities.
5. One another important provision that has been made to provide and secure employment for the migrant labourers is additional increment of Rs. 40,000 crore over and above the budgetary estimate of the year 2020-21, under '**MGNREGA<sup>8</sup>**'.
6. A special scheme of Rs. 5,000 crore has been made for street vendors under which Rs. 10,000 loan will be given as working capital to them to start their business again.
7. Furthermore, Government announced that violation under most of the '**Companies Act**' is to be decriminalised which will ease the burden on courts and tribunals. Seven compundable offences

5. Finance Minister

6. National Food Security Act

7. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016

8. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

under Companies Act 1948, being dropped and five offences will be dealt under alternative frameworks like Code of Wages, 2019.

Beside the above mentioned provisions of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package', under the 1.7 lakh crore 'Economic Relief Package' which was announced on 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, many steps has been already taken for providing immediate relief to the poor and most affected peoples during the COVID-19, the FM already made provision for Rs. 1500 one-time cash transfer to the 204 million women having '**Jan Dhan**' bank accounts over three months through DBT<sup>9</sup>. Along with this the States has been asked to use the 'Building and Construction Labourers Welfare Fund' to provide relief to the construction labourers. Furthermore, '**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana**' includes higher wages under the MGNREGA. According to which MGNREGA wages are increased up to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 which is going to benefit approximately 136.2 million families. Under the package government is already providing additional 5 Kg of wheat or rice and 1 Kg of pulses free for next three months to the entire Ration Card holder families.

It is true that government is taken several steps to provide immediate relief to not only the poor people but also each and every sector of the economy. Now the focus should be on the implementation of those announced schemes.

#### **Remedial Measures**

1. There should be a registration centre in each and every District under municipality and in villages under Gram Panchayat, where the migrant workers can register themselves anytime during the year.
2. The Union and State Governments should make a separate department under 'Ministry of Labour and Employment' for accounting of external and internal migration. This can be beneficial for enrolling them in different governmental schemes.
3. Monitoring the movement of the migrant workers will be helpful for federal governments to make appropriate policy regarding them and also for securing them under different social security nets.
4. Government needs to impart skill developments programmes for increase the productivity of the migrant workers which will further increase their daily wages.
5. Government should need to make proper regularity bodies to stop the exploitation and discrimination of the domestic migrant workers.
6. On the ground of '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' there should be also '**One Nation, One Identity Card**' for all the migrant workers. It will further ease the monitoring of the movement of migrant labourers in the country.
7. There should be a grievance cell which can resolve the issues of the migrant workers i.e. exploitation by the employer, wage related issues like wage below the minimum level, no pay for extra hours, irregular wage pay and wage cuts.
8. For long term stability government needs to think about developing new employment opportunities near the native places or within each and every State so that migrant workers can fearlessly work. This can be only possible through heavy investment and infrastructure development.
9. Simplification of labour laws is a necessary process. Under which the 'Code on Wages, 2019' is one of the historic labour reforms in India. It is the first Code of the four labour codes which has now become an Act, and has replaced four labour regulations viz. the Payment of Wages Act,

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9. Direct Benefit Transfer

1936; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. Proper regulation of this Act will definitely benefits to the millions of migrant workers.

10. Now Government need to think to develop rural economy and make villages self-reliant so that rate of migration; especially the seasonal migration can be controlled.
11. Migrant workers should get free regular health checkups in their near PHC<sup>10</sup> and CHC<sup>11</sup> for better health assessment beside that they should also provide free medicine.
12. There is a need of awareness programmes among the migrant workers regarding their work, life and health. Thus, government as well as other institutions should organise regular awareness programme in rural and urban areas or in the working sites where they work.
13. The measure's that has been announced under Economic Stimulus Package is a great step towards solving the issues of vulnerable migrant labourers. If those measures implanted in well manner and proper guidance then it can definitely decrease the gap between the labourers and their employers.
14. Furthermore, as soon as possible government needs to implement all the three proposed Labour Codes, for formulising and streamlining the existing labour laws which are rigid and complicated.
15. State governments and local governmental bodies should take the responsibilities of the migrant labourers and need to assure that prevailing welfare schemes are reaching to them or not.

## CONCLUSION

All human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well – being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity of economic security and equal opportunity. The makers of the Indian Constitution gave sanctity to such movements by guaranteeing freedom of movement and freedom to settle in any part of the territory of India as a fundamental right of all citizens. This freedom helps to integrate the country and secure its unity by removing internal barriers against movement and settlement. But right now, the economy is facing severe economical and health crises and the most affected segregated section of the society from this catastrophic calamity is the poor migrant workers. Their current situation is seriously distracting and pathetic for any civic society. This last few months have laid bare the reality that, even before the pandemic hit the country, far too many people were living on the edge. Thus, this Corona crisis is a wakeup call for the government to think and act for the common and vulnerable peoples and for confronting the structural obstacles of the economy. The pandemic should be used to build an economy that offers more opportunities for dramatically more people; especially those who have been left behind for a long time. On this point government should make such a development model where the factor of migration becomes 'pull not push' because push migration always increases social distraction and discrimination.

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## **ATAL JI AND THE INDIAN ECONOMY**

**Manoj Kumar Agarwal\***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Indian economy has been passing through one phase to another with one experiment to another. This has been right since the 1950s when there was great urge for rapid economic growth and development given the stagnation inflicted by the British rule on the Indian economy besides damaging our age-old economic activities ruthlessly. This was required for enhancing the production sector with modernization and efficiency along with proper distribution of income and wealth to take the Indian economy forward. However, the policies being pursued initially in India could not sustain it either in taking the economy on rapid economic growth or in terms of making India move forward with rapid human development and inclusive measures. It is in this context that a political stalwart from the truly an opposition party Atal Bihari Vajpayee argued in a public meeting, attended by myself, after the formation of Bhartiya Janata Party that government should refrain from indulging in the economy as a businessman. Rather, he was in favour of the government playing a much bigger role of offering directions to the economy that must be taken care of by all others in the economy for better pursuits and results. He also advocated for a transparent and corruption free economic administration.

At a time when the party of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was growing in the Parliament, and he became the Leader of Opposition, he contributed enormously for economic policies and economic development. At this moment, the economic reforms were initiated in a big bang manner in 1991. The ruling coalition led by the Prime Minister of the time, PV Narasimha Rao, was heading a minority government. It is in this context, Vajpayee extended the support for unfolding the economic reforms by the then finance minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Dr Singh capitalized on the Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto at one of the global multilateral agencies meetings to convince it that there is larger unanimity in India for such major economic reforms.

These economic reforms were different from the earlier economic policies in that the economic reforms now emphasized upon liberalization, privatization and globalization. However, before the economic reforms could be consolidated, the government changed as Narsimha Rao could not come back to power again. For the next two years there were two prime ministers during 1996-1998. However, due to short and unpredictable spans, HD Devegowda and IK Gujaral could not take the reforms process further in a significant manner. The country went for mid-term polls at a very critical point due to fragile coalition experiments.

Still, we could derive one major inference that even these parties did not disagree with the economic reforms initiated in 1991. But it was a trying time for the Indian economy for several other reasons. The economic reforms needed for consolidation through taking these forwards in a much coordinated and big push manner to make proper linkages for desired goals. Otherwise, there were apprehensions for the mid-way collapse of the economic reforms process and it would have been disastrous. However, these efforts were getting weakened due poor foresight and instable political leaderships in

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the country reflected in instable governments. Given this, getting the country's leadership for Vajpayee was not only a relief for the Indian economy but also an unprecedented opportunity. Vajpayee is known for the 'Second Generation Economic Reforms' in India.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came as a big political relief and hope in a given atmosphere of political instability. He was almost 74 years old when he became Prime Minister of India in March 1998. He is known for clear vision. He formed the government with almost two dozen political parties making a cohesive coalition in the political history of India. This coalition was called National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and even under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership now also National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is a ruling coalition notwithstanding the fact that the composition of the coalition keeps on changing and presently Bhartiya Janata Party enjoys absolute majority on its own. Thereon, the country is maintaining the political stability in India and coalition politics has been an accepted norm whether a party is having majority or not.

Thus, Vajpayee may be credited for laying the strong foundation for coalition governments in India with success and stability. It was not very easy for Prime Minister Vajpayee to move ahead to take the country and the economy forward. Within few months of assuming the office, Vajpayee took a bold and historic decision to go for Pokhran nuclear test in May 1998 that stirred the entire world. In India it has been a long awaited exercise to join the nuclear capable group in the world. As a consequence, the nuclear club of countries and particularly the USA imposed economic sanctions against India. This made the country vulnerable particularly because already the economy has been unsteady due to preceding political instability and early stage of economic reforms in India. Vajpayee showed determination at this juncture.

Vajpayee was having only two choices. Either he succumbs to the pressure of global political trap and pressure or he asserts boldly and takes the country and economy forward. He opted for the latter. Indian government argued that it has a big market that might attract any investor globally. Hence, the USA must reconsider its sanction strategy. As a counter, Vajpayee went for raising US \$2 billion through bonds, Resurgent India Bonds (RIB), to be subscribed by the non-resident Indians (NRIs) only through the State Bank of India to continue and raise the momentum of momentum and morale of the economy and the nation. It was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1998. However, it was oversubscribed and the total mobilization through this scheme was US \$4.2 billion. It helped in pushing the foreign exchange reserves of India to the extent of US \$28 billion (Frontline, Vol. 15: No. 20: Sep. 26 - Oct. 09, 1998). This imbued a sense of confidence in the Indian economy and challenged the global pressure led by the USA. Along with this move by India to showcase its in-built economic strength, it highlighted the missed opportunities for the global players due to sanctions on India and some other measures. The other countries following in the footsteps of the USA and ultimately USA were compelled to lift the sanction imposed against India. This was a major achievement of India that has multiple positive implications for India, politically, global acceptance and of course economically and for defence morale, etc.

India was threatened by another major global indulgence. This time it was the Kargil war thrust upon India by the neighbouring Pakistan in June 1999. This has been a much revealed and open aggression against India although concealed threats in the garb of terrorism have been a continuous process since the early 1980s. Here, instable Pakistan stabbed in the back in response to the major peace initiative by the Prime Minister Vajpayee, who undertook bus diplomacy for normalizing India-Pakistan relationships in February, 1999. This jolted severely the India and Pakistan relationships. Despite largely planned war waged against India by Pakistan, India decisively won the Kargil war and once

again taught a tough lesson to this incorrigible neighbour unable to manage its own internal affairs. Nonetheless, it impacted the Indian economy adversely in a sequence as already American sanctions had hit us. It was only Vajpayee who knew the art of turning the challenges into opportunities.

### **GROWTH MOMENTUM**

It was in these circumstances that Vajpayee was to accept the challenge to take the economy forward. The economy was suffering from instability. These instabilities were reflected in terms of highly fluctuating growth rates of the economy. Growth rate of GDP (at 2004-05 prices) was just 4.3 percent in 1997-98. This is what Vajpayee inherited from the United Front Government (Based on data provided by Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy 2017). In the very first year despite repercussions of the Pokhran nuclear tests, the economy moved by 6.7 percent in 1998-99. In the following year, despite the Kargil war and election imposed in the country during the fiscal year 1999-2000, Vajpayee succeeded in taking the economy at a speed of 8.0 percent.

However, due to the sustained drought and other pressures, the economy in the successive three years grew only at very low rates by 4.1, 5.4 and 3.9 percent respectively. Still, in the year 2003-04, last year of the Vajpayee regime, the growth rate was at 7.9 percent. Not only this, the Vajpayee government left the power with strong economic fundamentals in terms of savings and investments rates, fiscal indicators, foreign trade indicators, etc. These were even acknowledged by the finance minister of the successor Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Mr P. Chidambaram. Vajpayee ji lost the poll in May 2004 and Dr Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister of India.

Now, we may discuss about other parameters of the Indian economy. Before that, it becomes important that Vajpayee is credited to lead a coalition government of almost two dozen parties for the first time. Besides, he successfully completed his tenure as prime minister of India from the non-congress political party in the political history of India. This definitely aroused a new hope in the masses and others for an alternative or different economic perspective for faster and inclusive economic growth and development in India. Although there could be scores of parameters that could be discussed here, we prefer to confine ourselves to only few major issues that are still relevant. Given this, we underline the success of the Vajpayee era in terms of growth of the economy despite several odds like the economic sanctions by the USA, Kargil war, long years of drought in the country and fallouts of the economic reforms in the early years.

### **DISINVESTMENTS OF CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES**

Vajpayee government's one major blend of economic reforms and efficiency in the economy can be gauged by the twin issues of disinvestments of the loss incurring public sector units and also bringing about economic efficiency in the public sector units (PSUs). It has been the firm opinion of the Vajpayee government in consonance with the economic philosophy of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the economic reforms initiated in 1991 that government should not get engaged in direct business activities unnecessarily. Once, I heard the same in a speech by Atal Bihari Vajpayee while he was addressing a party rally at GPO Park in Lucknow during the early 1980s after the formation of Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980, much before the economic reforms were initiated in India in 1991.

Disinvestment, selling the part of equities or total equities of the public sector enterprises to the private sector, was one of the major ingredients of the economic reforms. Government went in a big bang manner for disinvestment of a large number of loss-incurring Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) instead of making a sham of bailing these out by pumping in capital through fiscal measures and wasting huge sum of taxpayers' money on white elephants. Vajpayee formed a separate Disinvestment ministry for disinvestment of non-strategic CPSEs and on September 6, 2001, Arun

Shourie became the first Disinvestment Minister. However, the process of disinvestments had started much earlier from the time Vajpayee assumed office. CPSEs like Maruti Udyog, Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) and Hindustan Zinc, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Modern Food Industries, IPCL, oil companies like BPCL and HPCL, several hotels under ITDC, etc were disinvested.

It was a bold decision taken by the Vajpayee government given that the public sector units were considered as jewels of the economy and it was not easy to convince people about disinvestment of public sector units. The value unlocked helped in the further development of the economy. In all, an amount of Rs 37,000 crore was received through disinvestments during 1998-2004. Another major feature of this process was that disinvestments were resorted to as a strong policy measure instead of knee jerk reactions to mobilize resources under distress as was being done earlier. This was successfully attempted despite opposition from left parties, minister within his own cabinet particularly for oil companies, employees of disinvested CPSEs.

Another indicator of bringing about efficiency in the central public sector enterprises is the savings rate at the macro level. Gross savings rate of the public sector turned negative in 1998-99 (-0.2 percent). After 1999-2000, it again turned negative for three successive years. This has been due to various factors like competition from the fast emerging private sector companies and competition from the global players in several cases. Ultimately, in 2003-04, the gross savings rate of the public sector turned positive (1.3 percent) on sustained basis (Economic Survey 2017-18). Thus, this sector was also taken care of for its positive contribution in the economy in the long run.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is well known for his big push initiatives on infrastructure development. His government had put a very strong thrust on overall infrastructure sector development and that is why he is also known as a leader of infrastructure development in India in such a short span of time. More than this, he developed mechanism for its proper funding with transparency and least burden on the exchequer. Here, we would like to mention two major items – national highways and telecom sector. Vajpayee is well known for his massive plan for road sector development particularly the Golden Quadrilateral scheme (5846 Km). This particular historic scheme strategized to link the cities of Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. Besides, it was aimed to develop North-South and East-West (NS - EW) corridor (7300 Km) to link east (Silchar in Assam) and west (Porbandar in Gujarat); north (Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir) and south (Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu).

This revolutionized the road infrastructure in many ways. The length of total national highways was 34849 Kms in the country in 1996-97. This increased phenomenally during the Vajpayee regime to 58125 Kms in 2002-03. This included taking the existing roads under the national highways and developing it besides constructing new roads. This has a far reaching impact on the economy in terms of infrastructure development, social sector development and economic growth and development.

For development of the road sector, Government of India brought out the Central Road Fund Ordinance, 2000 that was promulgated on November 1, 2000 to give statutory effect to the creation of Central Road Fund. Later it was passed as a bill in the Parliament. For this assured cess was levied on the petrol and high speed diesel (Economic Survey 1999-2000). The funds generated through this cess were allocated suitably and with transparency for the road sector development in the country. The road sector consisted of national highways and other road networks under the central government schemes. Thus, enough care was taken for generation of funds and associating the private sector for rapid development of the roads in the country.

Another major sub-sector in the infrastructure development in India taken forward with enough zeal and pace was the telecom sector. Its impact could be seen in the National Telecom Policy 1999. Earlier National Telecom Policy 1994 was in place but that became redundant with the vision and initiative shown by Atal ji. He is also known as father of the telecom development in India. The New Telecom Policy 1999 laid thrust on increasing tele-density through fixed line, wireless lines like CDMA and GSM, and also expanding rapidly the reach of internet services to take the country forward to match with the rapidly increasing use of the telecom development for overall development. As a result of this by March 2004, the network of telecom increased to 356 lakhs (Economic Survey, 2006-07).

Another major reform under the New Telecom Policy was it that since October 1, 2000, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) came into existence as a public sector unit with an authorised capital base of Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 5000 crore as paid capital. The BSNL was given birth after the government divested the service provider role of Department of Telecom Services (DTS) and Department of Telecom Operations. This gave it level playing field to compete with the private players and competitive services to the consumers. Besides, government encouraged the private players to participate in the telecom sector with greater sincerity and commitments. Moreover, the new telecom policy abandoned the fixed licensing fee as upfront fee to be paid to the government. This was not good to the government in terms of revenue realization and to the private participants in terms of the huge upfront cost at the beginning of the project work that discouraged the private players to join the sector. Rather it shifted to revenue sharing regime considering rapid expansion of the telecom sector. This was a win-win situation to all.

### **RURAL ROADS**

Atal ji has been very much concerned about the poor and marginalized section of India. He made efforts for their upliftment. All these get reflected in his economic policies and actions. We can mention here few initiatives that are truly benchmarks. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in December, 2000 for providing road connectivity to about 1.6 lakh rural unconnected habitations with a population of 500 or more (250 persons in case of hilly, desert and tribal areas) by the end of Tenth Plan period, that is March 2007. The National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) provided Operations and management support. This has been a game changer for the rural India in many ways. It has been instrumental in linking roads to the urban areas helping the villagers for medical, educational and economic requirements. This has also been helpful in women empowerment as girls might go to schools with much ease and comfort.

### **SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

Education and health have been on the agenda of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He always believed that through social sector development, country's growth can be made sustainable in the long run while expanding the base of growth and development. Here, we can mention the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) by the Vajpayee government. It was launched in 2000-2001 for achieving the target of achieving universal primary education. Its original mission was to provide useful and relevant primary education to the children of the age group 6-14 years. Besides, SSA had a mission to bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010. This has been very useful and still relevant programme. Besides, National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) was launched in 2003-04 for providing additional components for education of girls at elementary level.

Moreover, the Vajpayee government came out with a major initiative in the health sector. These were many. Here we mention few to highlight foresightedness and commitments of Vajpayee's visionary



leadership. A community based universal health Insurance Scheme was launched in July 2003. However, this could not take off due to change of guard in New Delhi in May, 2004. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was designed with an objective to provide AIIMS like institutions in six backward states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal (Now Utrakhand). Moreover, under PMSSY, it was also planned to provide one time assistance to one institution in each of six other states of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Later, with the change of guard, some moderation was done. Vajpayee regime may also be credited to come out with a proper National Health Policy 2002. This could be revised only recently under Modi government to incorporate some new dimension and make it more relevant. He is also credited to come out with a first National Population Policy 2000 (NPP 2000). Among others, it was to address the unmet needs for basic reproduction and child health services, supplies and infrastructure. It also targeted to prevent and control communicable diseases and integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in the provision of reproduction and child health services (Economic Survey 2000-2001). This Indian System of Medicine (ISM) came to be known as AAYUSH under the UPA regime.

#### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Atal ji had special attention for rural development and women empowerment as we can see from the discussion here. Besides, we may offer more salient evidences. Vajpayee launched a battery of schemes for rural development and rural poor and unemployed. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched on April 1, 1999 as a result of amalgamation of certain erstwhile programmes like IRDP, DWCRA, TRYSEM, MWS into a single self-employment programme to make it more effective and compact. Its aim was to promote micro enterprises and helping the rural poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched from September, 2001. The SGRY was aimed to provide wage employment in rural areas as food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic assets. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was introduced in 2000-01 with the objective of focussing on village level development in five critical areas like health, primary education, drinking water, housing and rural roads. Its objective was to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana was launched in July, 2001 for giving social security benefits to farm labourers in the age group of 18-60 years. Many schemes were initiated for women development and empowerment. These were like Swayamsiddha (launched in November, 2001), Swadhar (launched in 2001-02), etc. Thus, we find that Vajpayee government was having special attention towards rural development and social sector development. As a result, ratio of central government's plan and non-plan expenditures increased from 1.5 percent of GDP (at market prices) in 1995-96 to 1.7 percent in 2001-02. This further increased to 2.0 percent in 2002-03.

#### **WTO AND FOREIGN TRADE**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been a reformer to the extent that it helped in disciplined government functioning, inclusive and sustainable development. It is for this reason that he went aggressively for negotiating World Trade Organisation's different rounds of talks and negotiations before it could become reality in 2000 without altering the continuity of the ongoing talks and was showing clear vision about the foreign trade that flourished under his leadership. Despite much domestic pressures in terms of terrorism attacks, Kargil war and Pokhran nuclear test, Vajpayee was able to raise the export and import growth rates at much higher levels. For the last three successive years, current account balance was turned favourable to India (0.7, 1.2 and 2.3 in the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and



2003-04 respectively). However, this momentum was lost immediately after Vajpayee was replaced as the Prime Minister. Always inflation has been a difficult issue in the Indian economy and it generally remains at higher level and sometimes in double digit. But if one looks at Vajpayee's inflation management skills, it is really cosy to find that inflation remained under control and on an average it remained much below 5 percent despite the international happenings around India and drought conditions in different years under his regime. This could be seen in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) or in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI) behaviour.

### **FISCAL DISCIPLINE**

There were many concerns in the economy before Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of India. These were in the forms of fiscal deficits and revenue deficits. These two important indicators of fiscal health were worsening for several reasons in the economy. As a result, a committee was constituted in 2000. Afterwards, Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (2000) Bill was introduced in parliament in December, 2000. After much debate, it was passed and got assent of the President in August, 2003 and came to be known as Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003. This Act provides an institutional framework binding the Union Government to pursue a prudent and responsible fiscal policy. The Act makes the central government responsible for discipline in fiscal behaviour like in terms of limits to borrowings, revenue deficit, fiscal deficit, delineating medium term fiscal policy statement with every budget, etc. Such FRBM legislations are being framed at the state levels also to make them responsible for their fiscal behaviours. Vajpayee government initiated pension reforms to avoid undue long term pressure on the exchequer.

### **EMPHASIS ON REAL SECTORS**

For the real sectors like the agriculture and industry and also the banking and insurance sectors several path breaking reforms and initiatives were unfolded to release their potentials to grow faster. Labour laws were being gradually reformed and this process was taken up by the progressive states as well to invite investments. Since the economy was now growing with liberal and open economy patterns, Competition Act, 2002 was enacted in December, 2002 to avoid unhealthy practices by the business sector due to growing competitions among them. It has been a landmark legislation that aims at promoting competition through prohibition of anti-competitive practices, abuse of dominance and through regulation of companies beyond a particular size. This Act replaced the MRTP Act (Economic Survey 2002-03).

Vajpayee ji has proposed in his last interim budget in February, 2004 Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Fund (Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund). The Fund was operationalised on February 17, 2004 but could not be continued due to change of government in New Delhi. Another major hallmark for the farm sector marketing was the Model Act for State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003. It aimed to provide freedom to establish farm market at liberty without binding to sell the farm produce at the regulated markets only. Besides, the Vajpayee government was conscious to give remunerative prices to the farm produce and sometimes he would go to offer more price than that recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP).

### **CONCLUSION**

Thus, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee has not only left his strong imprints on bringing a new political experiment in terms of coalition governments successfully but also left the legacy to others for political stability in the country. He is equally considered to leave his deep marks on the Indian economy by not only sustaining and strengthening the economic reforms in India initiated in 1991, but

also he made path breaking reforms for rapid growth and development with inclusiveness and taking the economy forward at the global level.

This has been well appreciated in Economic Survey 2003-04 by the new government of Dr Manmohan Singh. “The economy appears to be in a resilient mode in terms of growth, inflation, and balance of payments, a combination that offers large scope for consolidation of growth momentum with continued macroeconomic stability. Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) is estimated to have grown by 8.1 percent in 2003-04, buoyed by a strong agricultural recovery of 9.1 percent from the drought affected previous year ... Apart from agriculture, the industry and services sectors also maintained the momentum with the GDP growth from these two sectors accelerating from 6.4 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively, 2002-03, to 6.5 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively, in 2003-04” (Economic Survey 2003-04).

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## NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY – 2020 AND HIGHER EDUCATION

India's New Education Policy-2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet 29 July last as a new vista for India to become a global knowledge superpower in the years to come. This is a bold and indomitable policy initiative taken up by the present Government for overall national development, economic growth, equitable society and quality education. This policy national education policy in coming out after 34 years i.e. after NEP-1986.

Today, the world is emerging as a borderless society as the globalization process continues and employability and skill development in the education system have become important focal point for socio-economic transformation in many countries. In fact, the economic growth and development of a country is very much dependent on the quality and variety of education its people have.

In every sphere of life today, change becomes indispensable and the whole world is changing very fast specially in the domain of knowledge generation and skill development. India, to strengthen its position as a knowledge superpower and a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 is striving to have a vibrant and globally acclaimed education system in the knowledge based economy and society.

The NEP-2020 document comprises of four parts - School education, Higher education, Other key areas of focus and Making it happen, laying emphasis on various policy initiatives for massive transformation in education system in line with the changes and demand in the industry and society the world over. The present paper tries to discuss only three parts ie. School education, higher education and research area.

- Managing Editor

### INTRODUCTION

0.1. Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration and cultural preservation; and for India's continued ascent, progress, and leadership on the global stage. India will have the highest youth population in the world over the next decade, and our ability to provide high-quality educational opportunities to them will shape the future of our country.

0.2. The world is undergoing rapid changes in the knowledge landscape. With the rise of big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence, many unskilled jobs worldwide may be taken over by machines, while the need for skilled labour, particularly involving mathematics, computer science and data science, in conjunction with multi-disciplinary abilities across the sciences, social sciences and humanities, will be in rapidly increasing demand. With climate change and rapid depletion of natural resources, there will be a sizable shift in how we meet the world's energy, water, and sanitation needs, again resulting in the need for new skilled labour, particularly in biology, chemistry, physics, and climate science. There will be a growing demand for humanities and art, as India moves towards

becoming a developed country and among the three largest economies in the world.

0.3. Indeed, with the quickly changing employment and global ecosystem, it is becoming increasingly important that children not only learn but learn how to learn. Education must thus, move towards less content, and more towards learning about how to think critically and solve problems, how to be creative and multi-disciplinary, and how to innovate, adapt, and absorb new material in novel and changing fields. While learning by rote can be beneficial in specific contexts, pedagogy must evolve to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable. The curriculum must include basic arts, crafts, humanities, games, sports and fitness, languages, literature, culture, and values, in addition to science and mathematics, to develop all aspects of learners' brains and make education more well-rounded, useful, and fulfilling to the learner. Education must build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring, while at the same time prepare them for gainful, fulfilling employment.

0.4. The aim must be for India to have an education system that ensures equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners regardless of social and economic background. To achieve this, actions must be taken now and with urgency.

0.5. The gap between the current state of learning outcomes and what is desirable must be bridged through undertaking major reforms to bring the highest quality and integrity into the system, from early childhood education through higher education.

0.6. This National Education Policy is the first education policy of the 21st century, and aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of this country. This Policy proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance, to create a new system that is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century education, while remaining consistent with India's traditions and value systems. The National Education Policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual, in all its richness and complexity. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive skills - both 'foundational skills' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive skills such as critical thinking and problem solving - but also social and emotional skills - also referred to as 'soft skills' - including cultural awareness and empathy, perseverance and grit, teamwork, leadership, communication, among others.

0.7. The rich heritage of ancient Indian Knowledge has been a guiding light for this Policy. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge, as preparation for life in this world or life beyond schooling, but for complete realisation and liberation of the self. World-class institutions of ancient India, such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi set the highest standards of multidisciplinary teaching and research and hosted scholars and students from across backgrounds and countries. The Indian education system produced scholars like Charaka and Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Chanakya, Madhava, Patanjali, Panini and Thiruvalluvar, among numerous others. They made seminal contributions to world knowledge in diverse fields, such as mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, medical science and surgery, civil engineering and architecture, shipbuilding and navigation, yoga, fine arts, chess, and more. Indian culture and philosophy has had a strong influence on the world. These rich legacies to world heritage must not only be nurtured and preserved for posterity but also researched, enhanced and put to new uses through our education system. For instance, they can be integrated into a holistic education to help develop the creativity and originality of students and to encourage them to innovate.

0.8. The teacher and the teacher's condition must and will be at the centre of these changes. The new

education policy must help reinstate teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation of citizens. It must do everything to empower teachers, and help them to do their job as effectively as possible. The new education policy must help recruit the very best and brightest to enter the teaching profession at all levels, by ensuring teachers their livelihood, respect, dignity, and autonomy, while also installing in the system basic methods of quality control and accountability.

0.9. The new education policy must provide to all students, irrespective of their place of residence, a quality education system, with particular focus on historically marginalised, disadvantaged, and under-represented groups. Education is a great leveller and is the best tool for achieving economic and social mobility, inclusion and equality. Initiatives must be in place to ensure that all students from such groups, despite inherent obstacles, are presented with (and are made aware of) various targeted opportunities to enter and excel in the educational system.

0.10. These elements must, of course, be incorporated in an Indian manner and style, taking into account the local and global needs of the country, and with a respect for and deference to its rich diversity and culture. An instilling of knowledge of all of India and its varied social, cultural, and technological needs, its inimitable artistic, language, and knowledge traditions, and its strong ethics in India's young people is considered critical for purposes of national pride, self-confidence, self-knowledge, cooperation, and integration – and thus, consequently, its continued progress and ascent.

Previous policies

0.11. The implementation of previous policies on education has focused mainly on issues of access and equity, with a lesser emphasis on quality of education. The unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education 1986, Modified in 1992 (NPE 1986/92), is appropriately dealt with in this Policy. A major development since the last Policy of 1986/92 has been the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laid down the legal underpinnings for achieving universal elementary education. Principles of this Policy.

0.12. The foundational pillars of this Policy are access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability. It believes that the purpose of education is to develop good human beings - capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination, with sound ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution.

0.13. The principles on which this Policy is based are: flexibility, for learners to choose their learning trajectories and programmes, and thereby choose their paths in life according to their own talents interests; no hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic, etc., to ensure the integrity and unity of knowledge and eliminate harmful hierarchies among, and silos between, different areas of learning; multi-disciplinary and a holistic education (across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and sports) for a multidisciplinary world; emphasis on conceptual understanding (rather than rote learning and learning-for-exams), on creativity and critical thinking (to encourage logical decision-making and innovation), on ethics and human & Constitutional values (e.g., empathy, respect for others, cleanliness, etiquette, courtesy, democratic spirit, spirit of service, scientific temper, liberty, responsibility, pluralism, equality and justice), and on life skills (e.g., cooperation, teamwork, communication, resilience); regular formative assessment for learning rather than the summative assessment that encourages today's 'coaching culture'; a respect for diversity and respect for the local context in all curriculum, pedagogy, and policy, always keeping in mind that education is a concurrent

subject; full equity and inclusion as the cornerstone of all educational decisions, to ensure all students are able to thrive in the education system; resource efficiency without any compromise on equity and quality; teachers and faculty as the heart of the learning process – their rigorous recruitment and preparation, continuous professional development, positive working environments and service conditions must be assured; a 'light but tight' oversight and regulatory system to ensure integrity and transparency of the educational system (through audit and public disclosure) while simultaneously encouraging innovation and out-of-the-box ideas through autonomy, good governance and empowerment; outstanding research as a prerequisite for outstanding education and development; continuous policy-making based on regular assessment of realities on the ground by educational experts; a rootedness and pride in India and its rich, diverse, ancient and modern culture and knowledge systems and traditions, and its forwardlooking aspirations, to be incorporated where relevant in an accurate manner, and form an anchor and source of inspiration for all education; finally, education is a public service and not a commercial activity or a source of profit; access to quality education must be considered a fundamental right of every citizen; substantial investment in a strong, vibrant public education system - as well as the encouragement and facilitation of true philanthropic private participation. The vision of this Policy

0.14. This National Education Policy aims at building a global best education system rooted in Indian ethos, and aligned with the principles enunciated above, thereby transforming India into a global knowledge superpower.

## **1. HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Quality Universities and Colleges: A New and Forward looking Vision for India's Higher Education System**

1. As India moves towards becoming a knowledge society and economy - and keeping in view the requirements of the fourth industrial revolution, characterised by increasing proportion of employment opportunities for creative, multidisciplinary and highly skilled workforce - the higher education system must, at the earliest, be re-adjusted, re-vamped, and re-energised to meet these requirements.

2. Given these requirements of the 21st century, the aim of a quality university or college education must be to develop good, well-rounded, and creative individuals. It must enable an individual to study one or more specialised areas of interest at a deeper level, while at the same time build character, ethical and Constitutional values, intellectual curiosity, scientific temper, creativity, spirit of service, and 21st century capabilities across a range of disciplines including the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, languages, as well as professional, technical, and vocational crafts. A quality higher education must enable personal accomplishment and enlightenment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. It must prepare students for more meaningful and satisfying lives and work roles, and enable economic independence. Quality university and college education must, therefore, aim to be both a joy and an opportunity, to which all citizens must have access if they so desire.

3. At the level of society, the aim of higher education must be to enable the development of an enlightened, socially-conscious, knowledgeable, and skilled nation that can uplift its people and construct and implement robust solutions to its own problems. Higher education must thus form the basis for knowledge creation and innovation in the nation and thereby contribute deeply to a growing national economy. The purpose of quality higher education is, therefore, more than simply the creation of greater opportunities for individual employment; it represents the key to more vibrant,



socially-engaged, and cooperative communities and a happier, cohesive, cultured, productive, innovative, progressive, and prosperous nation.

4. Some of the major problems currently plaguing the higher education system in India include: i) a severely fragmented higher educational ecosystem, with more than 50,000 higher education institutions (HEIs), a large proportion of which offer only a single programme and have fewer than 100 students and a large percentage of which are commercial enterprises in which little or no education is taking place; ii) poor learning outcomes and development of cognitive skills of students; iii) rigid separation of disciplines, with too much early specialisation and streaming of students into narrow areas of study; iv) a lack of access to higher education, especially in socio-economically disadvantaged areas; v) a lack of teacher and institutional autonomy to innovate and excel; vi) inadequate mechanisms for merit-based career management and progression of faculty and institutional leaders; vii) a lack of research at most universities and colleges, and transparent and competitive peer-reviewed research funding across disciplines; viii) suboptimal governance and leadership of HEIs; ix) a regulatory system that is not empowered to close down fake colleges, while constraining excellent and innovative institutions; x) problems associated with large affiliating universities resulting in poor undergraduate education in colleges.

5. This policy envisions a complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system to overcome these challenges and thereby deliver high-quality higher education, with equity and inclusion, to all young people who aspire to it. The policy's vision includes the following key changes to the current system: (a) moving towards a higher educational system consisting of large, multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with at least one in or near every district; (b) moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education; (c) moving towards faculty and institutional autonomy; (d) re-vamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support for enhanced student experiences; (e) reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions through merit-appointments and career progression based on teaching, research, and service; (f) establishment of a National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer-reviewed research and to actively seed research in universities and colleges; (g) governance of HEIs by highly-qualified independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy; (h) "light but tight" regulation by a single regulator for all of higher education, including professional education; and (i) increased access, equity, and inclusion through a range of measures, including open schooling, online education and Open Distance Learning (ODL), keeping in view needs of learners with disabilities, and substantial increases in scholarships at private/philanthropic universities for disadvantaged and underprivileged students.

## **2. INSTITUTIONAL RESTRUCTURING AND CONSOLIDATION**

2.1. The main thrust of this policy in higher education is to end the fragmentation of higher education by transforming higher education institutions into large multidisciplinary universities, colleges, and HEI clusters, each of which will aim to have 3,000 or more students. This would help build vibrant communities of scholars and peers, break down harmful silos, enable students to become well-rounded across disciplines (including artistic, creative, and analytic subjects as well as sports), develop active research communities across disciplines (including cross-disciplinary research), and increase resource efficiency, both material and human, across higher education.

2.2. Moving to large multidisciplinary universities and HEI clusters is thus the highest recommendation of this policy regarding the structure of higher education. The ancient Indian universities Takshashila and Nalanda, which had thousands of students from India and the world



studying in vibrant multidisciplinary environments, and modern universities such as the Ivy League Universities/Stanford/MIT in the United States today, amply demonstrate the type of great success that such large multidisciplinary research universities can bring. It is time that India bring back this great Indian tradition which is needed more today than ever to create well-rounded and innovative individuals, and which is already transforming other countries educationally and economically.

2.3. The higher education system shall have multidisciplinary institutions of higher learning that offer undergraduate and graduate programmes, with high-quality teaching, research, and community engagement. All HEIs will move towards becoming large multidisciplinary institutions, with programmes across disciplines and fields - offered either in their institutions or through HEI clusters. It is envisioned that over a period of time all existing HEIs and new HEIs will evolve into research-intensive universities (RUs), teaching universities (TUs), and autonomous degree-granting colleges (ACs). This would require mapping existing HEIs in a rationalised manner to achieve the new institutional architecture for higher education. All universities may identify their domain strength and decide to evolve into RUs or TUs. Whereas RUs will largely focus on research, TUs while placing greater emphasis on teaching would also conduct significant research. All colleges shall eventually become ACs, which are large multidisciplinary institutions of higher learning primarily focused on undergraduate teaching. A college should therefore either be an autonomous degree-granting institution, or a constituent college of a university - in the latter case, it would be fully a part of the university.

2.4. These three broad categories of institutions are not in any natural way a sharp, exclusionary categorisation, but are along a continuum. HEIs will have the autonomy and freedom to move from one category to another, based on their plans, actions, and effectiveness. The Accreditation System will develop and use appropriately different and relevant norms for the three categories of HEIs. However, the expectations of high quality of education, and therefore of teaching-learning, across all categories and all HEIs will be the same.

2.5. In addition to teaching and research, HEIs will also have other crucial responsibilities, which they will discharge through appropriate resourcing and structures. These include supporting other HEIs in their development, community engagement and service, contribution to various fields of practice, faculty development for the higher education system, and support to school education.

2.6. By 2040, all higher education institutions (HEIs) shall become multidisciplinary institutions and shall have student enrolments in the thousands, for optimal use of infrastructure and resources. Since this process will take time, all HEIs will firstly plan to become multidisciplinary; and gradually increase student strength to the desired levels. The HEIs with large land areas will be supported to substantially increase the student intake, multidisciplinary capacity and residential facilities.

#### **INCREASING GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO TO 50 PERCENT BY 2030**

2.7. More HEIs shall be established and developed in underserved regions to ensure full access, equity, and inclusion. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education (including vocational education) shall increase from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2030. While a number of new institutions may be developed to attain these goals, a large part of the capacity creation will happen by consolidating, expanding, and improving existing HEIs.

2.8. Growth will be in both public and private institutions, with a strong emphasis on developing a large number of outstanding public institutions of each type. There will be a fair and transparent system for determining (increased) levels of public funding support for public HEIs. This system will give an equitable opportunity for all public institutions to grow and develop.

2.9. . All types of institutions will have the option to run Open Distance Learning (ODL) and online programmes, provided they are specifically accredited to do so, to enhance their offerings, improve access, increase GER, and provide increased opportunities for lifelong learning (SDG4). All ODL programmes (and their components) leading to any diploma or degree will be of standards and quality equivalent to the highest quality programmes run by the HEIs on their campuses.

2.10. Single-stream HEIs will move towards becoming vibrant multidisciplinary institutions and HEI clusters. All HEIs will gradually move towards full autonomy - academic and administrative - to enable this vibrant culture. The autonomy of public institutions will be backed by adequate public financial support and stability. Private institutions with a public-spirited commitment to high-quality equitable education will be encouraged and treated on par.

2.11. The new regulatory system envisioned by this Policy will foster this overall culture of empowerment and autonomy to innovate, including by gradually phasing out the system of 'affiliated colleges' over a period of fifteen years. The existing affiliating university will be responsible for mentoring its affiliated colleges so that they can develop their capabilities and achieve minimum benchmarks in academic, curricular, teaching and assessment; governance reforms; financial robustness; and administrative efficiency. By 2025, the maximum number of colleges that can be affiliated by a University shall not exceed 300; this can be achieved by creating new universities. By 2035, all colleges currently affiliated to a university shall secure accreditation and become autonomous degree-granting colleges, through a concerted national effort.

2.12. The overall higher education sector will be integrated into one higher education system - including professional and vocational education. This Policy and its approach will be equally applicable to all HEIs across all current streams, which would eventually merge into one coherent ecosystem of higher education.

2.13. A university has only one definition worldwide, namely, a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programmes, and engages in high-quality teaching and research. The present complex nomenclature of HEIs in the country as 'deemed to be university', 'affiliating university', 'affiliating technical university', 'unitary university' shall be replaced by 'university'.

### **3. TOWARDS A MORE HOLISTIC EDUCATION**

3.1 India has a long tradition of holistic and multidisciplinary learning in the 'liberal arts', from universities, such as Takshashila and Nalanda to the extensive literatures of India combining subjects across fields. Ancient Indian literary works like Banabhatta's *Kadambari* described a good education as knowledge of the 64 Kalas or arts; and among these 64 'arts' were included subjects such as singing and painting, but also more 'scientific' fields, such as chemistry and mathematics, more 'vocational' fields, such as carpentry and clothes-making, more 'professional' fields, such as medicine and engineering, as well as 'soft skills', such as communication, discussion, and debate. The very idea that all branches of creative human endeavour - including mathematics, science, vocational subjects, professional subjects, and soft skills - should be considered 'arts' indeed has distinctly Indian origins. This notion of 'knowledge of many arts' - what in modern times is called the 'liberal arts' (i.e., a liberal notion of the arts) - must be brought back to Indian education, as it is exactly the kind of education that will be required for the 21st century.

3.2. Assessments of educational approaches in undergraduate education that integrate the humanities and arts with STEM have consistently showed positive learning outcomes, including increased creativity and innovation, critical thinking and higher-order thinking capacities, problem-solving

abilities, teamwork, communication skills, more in-depth learning and mastery of curricula across fields, increases in social and moral awareness etc, besides general engagement and enjoyment of learning. Research is also improved and enhanced through a holistic education approach.

3.3. A comprehensive holistic arts education will develop all capacities of human beings - intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, and moral - in an integrated manner. A holistic arts education will help develop well-rounded individuals that possess: critical 21st century capacities in fields across the arts, humanities, languages, sciences, social sciences, and professional, technical, and vocational fields; an ethic of social engagement; soft skills, such as communication, discussion and debate; and rigorous specialisation in a chosen field or fields. Such a holistic education shall be, in the long term, the approach of all undergraduate programmes, including those in professional, technical, and vocational disciplines.

3.4. A holistic arts education, as described so beautifully in India's past, is indeed what is needed for the education of India to lead the country into the 21st century and the fourth industrial revolution. Even engineering schools, such as the IITs, will move towards more holistic education with more arts and humanities, while arts and humanities students will aim to learn more science -while all will make an effort to learn more vocational subjects. India's rich legacy in the arts as well as in the sciences and beyond will significantly help in making the move towards a holistic arts education an easy and natural transition.

3.5. Imaginative and flexible curricular structures will enable creative combinations of disciplines for study and would offer multiple entry and exit points, thus removing currently prevalent rigid boundaries and creating new possibilities for life-long learning. Graduate-level (master's and doctoral) education in large multidisciplinary universities, while providing rigorous research-based specialisation, would also provide opportunities for multidisciplinary work, including in academia, government and industry. ]

3.6. Large multidisciplinary universities and colleges will facilitate the move towards highquality arts education. Flexibility in curriculum and novel and engaging course options will be on offer to students, in addition to rigorous specialisation in a subject or subjects. This will be encouraged by increased faculty and institutional autonomy in setting curricula. Pedagogy for courses will strive for significantly less rote learning and an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking.

3.7. Departments in Languages, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Indology, Art, Dance, Theatre, Education, Mathematics, Statistics, Pure and Applied Sciences, Sociology, Economics, Sports, and other such subjects needed for a multidisciplinary, stimulating Indian education and environment will be established and strengthened at HEIs across the country. The flexible and innovative curriculum shall emphasise on offering credit-based courses and projects in the areas of community engagement and service, environmental education and value-based education. Value-based education should include developing humanistic, ethical, oral and universal human values of truth (satya), peace (shanti), non-violence (ahimsa), righteous conduct (dharma) and love (prem), citizenship values and also life-skills, in personality development, teaching, learning and governance. Lessons in seva/service and participation in community service programmes will also be considered an integral part of holistic arts education. Finally, as part of a holistic education, students will be provided with opportunities for internships with local industry, businesses, artists, crafts persons, villages and local communities, etc., as well as research internships with faculty and researchers at their own or other HEIs or research institutions, so that students may actively engage with the practical side of their

learning and, as a by-product, further improve their employability.

3.8. The undergraduate degree will be of either 3-or 4-year duration, with multiple exit options within this period, with appropriate certifications. The 4-year programme may also lead to a degree 'with research'. A student can obtain a diploma after completing 1 year, or an advanced diploma in a discipline or field (including vocational and professional areas) after completing 2 years of study or obtain a Bachelors degree after a 3-year programme. The 4- year Bachelor's programme with multidisciplinary education, however, shall be the preferred option since it allows the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education with focus on the chosen major and minors as per the choice of the student. For this purpose, there shall be an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) which could digitally store the academic credits earned from various recognised HEIs so that the degrees from an HEI can be awarded taking into account credits earned.

3.9. HEIs will have the flexibility to offer different designs of Masters programmes, (a) there may be a two-year programme with the second year devoted entirely to research for those who have completed the three-year Bachelors programme; (b) for students completing a fouryear Bachelors programme with Research there could be a one-year Masters programme and (c) there may be an integrated five-year Bachelor's/Masters programme. Undertaking a PhD shall require either a Master's degree or a 4-year Bachelor's degree with Research. The M.Phil. programme shall be discontinued.

3.10. Model public universities for holistic education, at par with IITs, IIMs, etc., called MERUs (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities) will be set up and will aim to reach the global status of, e.g., the Ivy League Universities in the U.S. They will help set the highest standards for holistic education across India.

3.11. This move towards large multidisciplinary HEIs will be carried out as swiftly as possible and in a systematic and thoughtful manner, by consolidating and restructuring existing institutions and building new ones - including establishing new world-class model institutions of this type (Model Multidisciplinary Colleges) across the country, and also establishing at least one large high quality multidisciplinary HEI in (or close to) every district.

3.12. The HEIs along with the research-teaching and university-college spectrum will be developed in accordance with the needs of the country. States will have the flexibility to decide on the medium of instruction and would be encouraged to conduct more academic programmes in Indian languages or mother-tongue.

3.13 HEIs as part of multidisciplinary education will focus on research & innovation by setting up start-up incubation centres, technology development centres, centres in frontier areas of research, greater industry-academic linkages, and inter-disciplinary research including humanities/social science research.

### **INTERNATIONALISATION**

3.14. India should be promoted as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs and restore its role as a Viswa Guru. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries, and similarly, select universities (e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world) will be permitted to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India. Further, research collaboration and student exchanges between the Indian institutions and global institutions will be promoted through special efforts. Further, the credits acquired in foreign universities will also be permitted to be counted for the award of a degree.

### III – Research

#### 4. PROMOTING HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH: NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

4.1. Knowledge creation and research are critical to growing and sustaining a large and vibrant economy, uplifting society, and continuously inspiring a nation to achieve even greater heights. Indeed, some of the most prosperous civilisations throughout history, from ancient times (such as India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Greece) to the modern era (such as the United States, Germany, Israel, South Korea, and Japan), were/are strong knowledge societies that attained their intellectual and material wealth in large part through celebrated and fundamental contributions to new knowledge - in the realm of science as well as art, language, and culture - that enhanced and uplifted not only their own civilisations but those around the globe.

4.2. A robust ecosystem of research is perhaps more important than ever with the rapid changes occurring in the world today, e.g., in the realm of climate change, population dynamics and management, biotechnology, and expanding the digital marketplace, and the rise of machine learning and artificial intelligence. If India is to become a leader in these varied areas, and truly achieve the potential of its vast talent pool to again become a leading knowledge society in the coming years and decades, the nation will require a significant expansion of its research capabilities and output across disciplines. The societal challenges that India needs to address today, such as access for all its citizens to clean drinking water and sanitation, quality education and healthcare, improved transportation, air quality, energy, and infrastructure, will require the implementation of approaches and solutions that are informed by top-notch science and technology and are also rooted in a deep understanding of the social sciences and humanities and the various socio-cultural dimensions of the nation. Facing and addressing these challenges will require high-quality interdisciplinary research across fields that must be done in India and cannot simply be imported; the ability to conduct one's own research also enables a country to much more easily import and adapt relevant research from abroad. Research in the arts and humanities, along with innovations in the sciences and social sciences, are therefore extremely important for the progress and enlightened nature of a nation. Research has never been more essential for the economic, intellectual, societal, environmental, and technological health and progress of a nation.

4.3. Research and innovation at institutions in India, particularly those that are engaged in higher education, is critical. Evidence from the world's best universities throughout history shows that the best teaching and learning processes at the higher education level occur in environments where there is also a strong culture of research and knowledge creation; conversely, much of the very best research in the world has occurred in multidisciplinary university settings.

4.4. Despite this importance, the Research and Innovation (R&I) investment in India has been only 0.69% of GDP. For the sake of comparison, the levels of R&I investment as a proportion of GDP in some other countries are: United States (2.8%), China (2.1%), Israel (4.3%), and South Korea (4.2%); i.e., all invest at least three times as much as a proportion of GDP. This Policy proposes to bring in to focus the need for greater investments in research and coordinated effort from all institutions to place India higher in global knowledge production.

4.5. Towards the above, there must be a comprehensive approach to transforming the quality and quantity of research in India. This work must begin in the schools through definitive shifts to a more play and discovery-based style of learning with a key emphasis on the scientific method and critical thinking. This must be supported by a systematic effort towards identifying student interests and talents, and a system of mentoring young innovators.



4.6. The higher education system must be restructured to promote: holistic education, research in universities, include research and internships in the undergraduate curriculum, create faculty career management systems with due weightage to research, and bring in governance and regulatory changes that encourage faculty and institutional autonomy and innovation. In order to focus on research and promote research culture in all HEIs in an interrelated and coordinated fashion, there shall be a National Research Foundation (NRF) which would bring a quantum jump in funding and support for research.

4.7. The overarching goal of the NRF will be to enable a culture of research to permeate through our universities. In particular, the NRF will provide a reliable base of merit-based peer-reviewed research funding, helping to develop a culture of research in the country through suitable incentives for and recognition of outstanding research, and by undertaking major initiatives to seed and grow research at State Universities and other public institutions where research capability is currently limited. The NRF will competitively fund research in all disciplines across the academic landscape: Science, Technology, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities. Successful research will be recognised, and where relevant, implemented through close linkages with governmental agencies as well as with industry and private/philanthropic organisations.

4.8. The primary activities of the NRF will be to (a) fund competitive peer-reviewed grant proposals of all types and across all disciplines; (b) seed, grow, and facilitate research at academic institutions, particularly at universities and colleges where research is currently in a nascent stage, through mentoring of such institutions (e.g., by hiring eminent and active research scholars that are retired or near retirement from high-quality research institutions), hiring excellent young research students and faculty, and strengthening and recognising existing high-quality programmes at such institutions; (c) act as a liaison between researchers and relevant branches of government as well as industry, so that research scholars are constantly made aware of the most urgent national research issues of the day, and so that policymakers are constantly made aware of the latest research breakthroughs; this would allow breakthroughs to be brought into policy and/or implementation in an optimal fashion; and (d) recognise outstanding research and progress achieved via NRF funding/mentoring across subjects, through prizes and special seminars recognising the work of the researchers.

4.9. Academics associated with the national science and engineering academies and learned societies in the humanities and social sciences can add considerable value to the efforts of the NRF. The NRF can commission the academies and learned societies to produce expert reports and provide valuable advice on various topics that will help direct government efforts on research and education. Academies can also contribute greatly to capacity building for teachers and for researchers: their members can be mentors to university departments and colleges as these institutions seek to improve the quality of their teaching and research. NRF will aim to facilitate such linkages, especially to State Universities.

## **CONCLUDE**

Today, facing competition is becoming an inevitable task as such Indian universities need to focus on quality in their management of affairs and also benchmark with the high ranking institutions of the world only then we may be able to come up to the global standards. At the same time more autonomy should be provided for fairer competition and flexibility in their working.

India is poised to have a vibrant economy driven by knowledge and the challenges in education are no longer confined to the country only but to be comparable with best in the global arena too. Academic reforms in terms of curriculum, pedagogy, evaluation, teaching-learning process, governance and

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management with innovative mindset is very much need of the hour.

If we are to transform our country into a true knowledge power, and realize a future of prosperity and growth, a radical change of the education system with quality the central is very much essential in the light of global trends happening.

It is believed that this NEP-2020, shall pave a new vista for transforming India into a true global knowledge superpower in the next few years to come provided a concerted effort is made by all the stakeholders with sincere commitment and conviction.

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## **A VISIONARY ANALYSIS OF EXPORT POTENTIAL IN NEPAL: A CASE STUDY OF PROVINCE ONE**

**M. P. Singh\* P. K. Jha\*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Nepal is one of the least developed countries of the world. It can be developed through foreign trade. There is tendency of exceeding imports over exports, causing persistent deficit in Nepal's balance of trade and payments. To overcome this situation in Nepal and Province one, Exports are to be increased. There is considerable export potential in this region. Leading export materials of province one and Nepal are tea, cardamom, ginger, lentil, rosary nut, thread, and trade in services. Large cardamom occupies the significance place in export potential of Nepal. To estimate export potential, t-test, f-test, ANOVA, null and alternative hypotheses are used, showing prospects. Lastly, valuable suggestions are given on the relevant issues.*

**Keywords :** *Foreign trade, Industrialisation, Nepal*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Nepal is one of the least developed countries of the world, and Pradesh Number One is the gateway of four countries of Asia- India, China, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Pradesh Number One is leader in Large Cardamom, Tea, Ginger, Lentil, Education, Health and Tourism. Apart from these potential exports, some other agro-based products like Areca Nut, Milk Products, Vegetable items, Fruit and Juice products are also contributory items of export in Nepal.

There is huge potential of sustainable industrial development in Pradesh One. The culture of industrialization was initiated in Nepal from Biratnagar due to the endeavor of the government and leadership of business community of this region. Due to long lasting political transition, slackness is observed in industrial growth. The mission of obtaining 6 percent rate of economic growth can only be supplemented by proper contribution of industrial sector in initiation of leadership in this Pradesh.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To identify the potential exports materials of Province one as per their comparative advantage.
- To formulate suitable strategy for the augmentation of potential export products of province one.

### **REALITIES OF FOREIGN TRADE IN NEPAL**

The volume of foreign trade i.e. exports and import trade is recognized as a leading indicator of economic development in global economy. In fact, the quality of sustainable economic development is reflected in the export and import trade in an economy. The income employment generation is enhanced through the “Stimulus Package” of export promoting and import substituting industries in

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an economy like Nepal. An encouragement to export trade through export promoting industries can perform the role of life breathing element in the economy. Import substituting industries open the door for the efficient utilization of available resources through potential pocket of the consumption in the domestic sector. In the developing countries like Nepal, the magnitude of Marginal Propensity to Consume remains high. It facilitates the sustainable development of import substituting enterprises within the country. Export trade of Nepal increases in arithmetic creeping progression while import trade increases in geometric progression. It creates huge deficit in foreign trade of Nepal year after year. The real diversification is observed in commodity trade of import sector in Nepal. Being the member of WTO, Nepal has trade relation with 159 countries of the world but India is still the largest trading partner of Nepal as 65.17 percent of foreign trade of Nepal is still with India. China is the second largest trading partner of Nepal.

**Table -1 - Volume of Foreign Trade in Nepal [In 10 Million Rupees**

Fiscal Year	Export (FOB)	Import (CIF)	Trade Balance
2009/10	6082.4	37433.5	-31351.1
2010/11	6433.9	39617.6	-33183.7
2011/12	7426.1	46166.8	-38740.7
2012/13	7691.7	55674.0	-47982.3
2013/14	9199.1	71436.6	-62237.5
2014/15	8531.9	77468.4	-68936.5
2015/16	7011.7	77359.9	-70348.2
2016/17	7304.9	99011.3	-91706.4
2017/18	8163.3	124282.7	-116119.4
2018/19	6122.4	94910.7	-88788.2
2019/20			
	X <sub>1</sub> = 7396.5	X <sub>2</sub> = 72336.15	

Source: Economic Survey, FY 2019/20, MOF, GON, Kathmandu

Variance Ratio Test (F) = 843.14

$F_{0.05(9,9)} = 3.1789$

$F_{0.01(9,9)} = 5.3511$

**H<sub>0</sub>(Null hypothesis)**: There is insignificant variation in export and import trade in Nepal.

**H<sub>1</sub>(Alternative hypothesis)**: There is significant variation in export and import trade in Nepal.

The calculated value of f-test is bigger than its tabulated value, which helps to conclude that there is significant variation in export and import trade in Nepal.

**Table -2 - Direction of Nepalese Foreign Trade (In Percent)**

Fiscal Year	Trade With India	Trade With China	Other Countries	Total
2009/10	59.1	-	40.9	100
2010/11	66.3	-	33.7	
2011/12	65.1	-	34.9	
2012/13	66.0	10.2	23.8	
2013/14	66.7	9.4	23.9	
2014/15	63.7	11.9	24.4	
2015/16	61.2	13.9	24.8	
2016/17	63.5	12.1	24.4	
2017/18	64.7	12.3	23.1	
2018/19	64.5	13.9	21.7	
	X <sub>1</sub> = 64.08	X <sub>2</sub> = 11.95	X <sub>3</sub> = 27.56	

Source: Economic Survey, FY 2018/19, MOE, GON, Kathmandu

Variance Ratio Test (F)= 1.618

$$F_{0.05(9,6)} = 3.373$$

$$F_{0.01(9,6)} = 5.802$$

**H<sub>0</sub>(Null hypothesis)**: There is manageable variation in direction of foreign trade of Nepal between China and India.

**H<sub>1</sub>(Alternative hypothesis)**: There is unmanageable variation in direction of foreign trade of Nepal between China and India.

Since the calculated value of variance ratio test (f-test) is smaller than its tabulated value at  $F_{0.05}$  and  $F_{0.01}$  and, therefore, null hypothesis is accepted.

### LEADING EXPORT MATERIALS OF PROVINCE ONE

#### TEA

Tea is one of the leading export materials of Province One in recent years. Among 77 districts, Tea is grown only in 14 districts of Nepal and 24,409 MT was grown in the country during FY 2073/74. In Nepal three types of tea is grown- **Camellia asamica**, **Camellia asamica spp lasiocalyx** species whereas **Camellia sinuses** which is used in producing orthodox tea in the country. Due to geographical surroundings, orthodox tea of Nepal is considered as one of the best and healthy friendly tea in the global economy.

Nepal claims 0.1 percent share in the global export of tea and has reached 56<sup>th</sup> place as leading exporter of tea in the world. A glance of Nepalese tea production and its export to different countries of the world is highlighted in table 3.

**Table -3 - A Glance on Tea Production in Nepal**

Fiscal Year	Area (In Hectare)	Production (MT)
2069/70	19,036	20,588
2070/71	20,120	21,076
2071/72	26,165	23,187
2072/73	27,688	24,264
2073/74	28,241	24,400
Test of Significance (t)	$X_1 = 24250$ $t = 0.7342$	$X_2 = 22705$

Source: National Tea and Coffee Development Board, 2075

$t_{0.05} = 1.860$

$t_{0.01} = 2.896$

$H_0$ (Null hypothesis): There is consistency in the production of tea in different years in Nepal.

$H_1$ (Alternative hypothesis): There is inconsistency in the production of tea in different years in Nepal.

Since the calculated value of tea is less than its tabulated value and, therefore, null hypothesis is accepted.

Table -4 - Export of Nepalese Tea in World (2018 A.D.)

Region	Value	Percentage	Price
USA	1000000	10%	100000000
UK	800000	8%	80000000
Canada	600000	6%	60000000
Japan	500000	5%	50000000
China	400000	4%	40000000
India	300000	3%	30000000
South Korea	200000	2%	20000000
Germany	150000	1.5%	15000000
France	100000	1%	10000000
Italy	80000	0.8%	8000000
Spain	60000	0.6%	6000000
Others	1000000	10%	100000000
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) - variance between samples			
Variance within samples	$\sigma_1^2 = 1425.8$	$\sigma_2^2 = 295607.9$	$\sigma_3^2 = 1153.5$
ANOVA (F) = 138.8			

$F_{(2,30)0.05} = 19.462$

$F_{(2,30)0.01} = 19.466$

$H_0$ (Null hypothesis): There is insignificant variation in export of Nepalese tea in terms of its monetary value and price.

$H_1$ (Alternative hypothesis): There is significant variation in export of Nepalese tea in terms of its monetary value and price.

Since the calculated value of ANOVA test is distinctly greater than its tabulated value and, therefore,

alternative hypothesis is accepted. It implies that there is significant variation in export of Nepalese tea in terms of value and price.

### CARDAMOM

Amomum Subulatum Roxb is a natural vegetation which is grown in the ecology of hilly region in Nepal. Black Cardamom is the spicy and herbal material which is grown at a large scale in the hills of Province one. Apart from Nepal, it is mostly grown in India, Bhutan, Srilanka, Malaysia, China and few other countries in the world. It is a costlier material and a leading export of Province one and Nepal.

**Table -5 - Export of Cardamom in Nepal**

Importers	Export Value 2018(In US\$)	Percent	Export Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Custom Duty
India	36,567	99.9	4,321	MT	8,463	0.00
S. Africa	14	0	1	MT	14,000	0.00
Germany	6	0	0	MT	0	0.00
France	3	0	0	MT		0.00
Newzealand	2	0	0	MT		0.00
Switzerland	1	0	0	MT		0.00
Ukraine	1	0	0	MT		0.00
Denmark	1	0	0	MT		0.00
Total	36,595	100	4,322	Ton	8,467	

Source: TEPC/ITC  
The numerical statistics apparently reveals that high value crop Cardamom can be productive source of income employment generation in Nepalese economy. The situation demands that Province one should focus on the potential pockets of Cardamom basket which would absolutely be helpful in uplifting the economic status and would help to drag down the extent of poverty in the country.

Major problems of Cardamom export are lack of qualitative grading, labeling, packaging, branding, diversification in marketing and others. The multiple problems can be minimized through following measures:

- Province Government should take the leadership in providing proper training regarding grading, labeling and packaging of Cardamom and necessary equipments should be made available to the farmers and exporters.
- Certificates of quality products especially for gulf countries should be made available through organized efforts of the government.
- Tax refunding provision should easily be developed through custom tax office.
- Marketing export to be organized for export to possible countries.
- Proper advertisement of Nepalese Cardamom should be made in different export potential countries.
- Diplomatic mission should be activated to open the door of export management of productive items.

### GINGER

Ginger is a spicy agricultural crop and is used in different life saving medicines as well. Its scientific name is Zigniber officinule. All six human health friendly elements are found in ginger- carbohydrate,

protein, vitamin, minerals, fat and others. The commercial farming of ginger is carried out in hills and it is mostly grown at an altitude of 1500 meters from sea level. The optimum atmosphere for ginger ranges in between 20 to 30 degree Celsius. There is huge scope of exportable commercial farming of ginger in 11 hilly districts of Province one. India is biggest importer of Nepalese ginger and Province one is well connected with Sikkim, West Bengal and Bihar state of India. Thus, ginger has created a good hope for income employment generation to Nepalese farmers in this province. According to NTIS export list, ginger, tea, cardamom and lentils are leading potential exports of Province one.

**Table -6 - Ginger Export of Nepal**

Country	Export Value 2018 (In US\$)	Percent	Quantity (MT)	Unit Price (\$)	Custom Duty (%)
India	3,034	92.9	6,711	452	0.00
Germany	227	07	55	4,172	0.00
France	02	0.1		4,172	0.00
Switzerland	02	0.1		4,172	0.00
Total	3,265	100	6,766		0.00

$$F_{(3,3)0.05} = 9.276$$

$$F_{(3,3)0.01} = 29.456$$

$H_0$ (Null hypothesis): There is insignificant variation in the export value and quantity of ginger in Nepal.

$H_1$ (Alternative hypothesis): There is significant variation in the export value and quantity of ginger in Nepal.

Since the calculated value of f-test is smaller than that of its tabulated value and therefore null hypothesis is accepted.

### LENTIL

Lentil is mostly grown in terai region of Nepal. Province one is fertile land for the commercial production of Lentil which is mostly exported to India, Bangladesh, Srilanka and some of the gulf countries. It has been able to occupy significant place in export management of Nepal.

### ROSARY NUT

Rosary Nut is grown as fruit and vegetation in hilly regions of Nepal. Its scientific name is *Ultrasmum bead* and is grown as fruit in *Ultrasmum bead* tree. Rosary Nut is grown from one to twenty seven mouth points out of which one to fourteen mouth points are easily available. One, nine and fourteen mouth points rosary nuts are rare and precious. 123 species of rosary nuts are available in the world. It helps to protect human physiology and mental health of the people. It is also used as spiritual ornament. The hilly region of Province one is fertile to provide rosary nut commercially.

**Table -7 - Export of Rosary Nut in Nepal**

Fiscal Year	Export (In Crore)
2070/71	5.78
2071/72	9.39
2072/73	8.424
2073/74	10.7956
2074/75	8.17

Source: TEPC/ITC

$t_{0.05} = 2.132$   
 $t_{0.01} = 3.747$

Degrees of freedom =  $n - 1 = 5 - 1 = 4$

$H_0$ (Null hypothesis): There is insignificant difference in the export of rosary nut in Nepal.

$H_1$ (Alternative hypothesis): There is significant difference in the export of rosary nut in Nepal.

Since the calculated value of t-test is less than its tabulated value and, therefore, null hypothesis is accepted.

### THREAD

Thread is also one of the leading exportable item of province one. There are two large scale thread industries available in province one. As a raw material of cloth industries Nepalese thread is commercially exported mostly to India and Turkey. Nepal claims 0.5 percent of its share in the thread export and occupied 18<sup>th</sup> thread exporting country in the global economy. Nepal is privileged with zero custom tax benefit from all GSP providing European Union (EU) member countries. However, thread industries survive in Nepal on the basis of imported raw materials from abroad. If appropriate transit agreement is signed with India, thread can be a leading exportable item to Bangladesh as well.

Table -8 - Export of Thread in Nepal

Country	Value (1000 \$)	Percentage (%)	Value (In Ton)	Value (\$)
India	1000	3.07	1000	1000
Turkey	1000	3.07	1000	1000
Other Countries	1000	3.07	1000	1000

Source: TEPC/ITC

$\chi_{(1,1)0.05} = 3.84$

$\chi_{(1,1)0.01} = 6.63$

$H_0$ (Null hypothesis): There is insignificant difference in the export quality of Nepalese thread between Turkey and India.

$H_1$ (Alternative hypothesis): There is significant difference in the export quality of Nepalese thread between Turkey and India.

Since the calculated value of chi-square test is less than its tabulated value and, therefore, null hypothesis is accepted.

### SERVICE TRADE

#### HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Province one is academically fertile soil for health and education services. The leading and well equipped hospitals and teaching centres are providing Asian quality of health and services to the



people of India and Bhutan as well. Koshi hospital is developed as a teaching hospital and medical college of Purbanchal University. There are three medical colleges in Province one, Purbanchal University is promoting professional and technical education to fulfill aspiration of the people. Biratnagar hospital, Nobel hospital, Neuro, Green Cross, Lifeguard, Biratnagar Eye hospital, Golden hospital, Aims and such other leading hospitals are currently providing qualitative health services to the people of Nepal and abroad as well. To sum up, Province one is likely to develop its image as the hub for health and education services and religious tourism.

## **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **MAJOR FINDINGS**

Nepal is a country of huge potential of export through agricultural baskets of food and cash crops, products of horticulture, spices, life saving herbal materials and above all hydroelectricity as well.

Orthodox tea of Nepal is considered as one of the best and healthy friendly tea in the global economy. Nepal claims 0.1 percent share in the global export of tea and has reached 56<sup>th</sup> place as leading exporter of tea in the world. In fact, Nepal can be a global player in Tea export in Asian and European Countries. The export of Caffeine free Tea would be a new strength of Tea export of Nepal in global economy.

High value crop Cardamom can be productive source of income employment generation in Nepalese economy. The situation demands that Province one should focus on the potential pockets of Cardamom basket which would absolutely be helpful in uplifting the economic status and would help to drag down the extent of poverty in the country.

There is huge scope of exportable commercial farming of ginger in 11 hilly districts of Province one. India is biggest importer of Nepalese ginger. It has created a good hope for income employment generation to Nepalese farmers in this province. Ginger, tea, cardamom and lentils are leading potential exports of Province one.

Lentil is mostly grown in terai region of Nepal. Province one is fertile land for the commercial production of Lentil which is mostly exported to India, Bangladesh, Srilanka and some of the gulf countries.

Rosary nut is largely grown at Kaski, Syangja, Palpa, Gulmi, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha and Dhankuta. 123 species of rosary nuts are available in the world. It helps to protect human physiology and mental health of the people. It is also used as spiritual ornament. It has also created the huge prospects of export and income employment generation in Nepal.

Thread industries survive in Nepal on the basis of imported raw materials from abroad. If appropriate transit agreement is signed with India, thread can be a leading exportable item to Bangladesh as well. Province one of Nepal is likely to develop its image as the hub for health and education services in this part of Nepalese Economy. In Nepal, Province one is supposed to be the destination of Asia in natural beauty and religious tourism. These have also contributed enough to the export basket of Nepal.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

The growing trade deficit is a serious concern and it continues to promote resource drain in business and economic sector of the Nepalese economy. The situation, therefore, demands that Nepal should gear up the strategy to boost up the export trade of the country. Nepal should focus on SEZ (Special Economic Zone) for development of export promoting industries in the specified places of the country. It will help to capitalize potentials of export management in Nepal.

The quality management and processing of Nepalese Tea still demands quality improvements so that foreign consumers prefer Nepalese Tea in comparison to others.

Ginger is also an agro-based exportable item of Province one. Ginger is recommended as an effective

medicine even by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the huge quantity of ginger is demanded in American and European markets. Thus, situation demands that Nepal should export “processed ginger” which remains fresh for long period of time. The government of Nepal should motivate ginger producer to establish “ginger processed industries” to reap attractive benefits.

Large Cardamom of high quality is produced in hilly regions of the country due to conducive physical atmosphere. It can be connected with export network of the globe. Nepal should connect the export of this high value crop in ASEAN and European Union countries.

Rosary Nut is related with religious belief of the people across the globe. In Nepal, it is grown in hilly and inner terai regions of the country. Nepal should advertise about the religious symbol of this product all over the world.

Lentil is a traditional agro-based product of Nepal. The volume of Lentil must be increased by Nepal in other countries of South Asia. The farmers of Province one should be encouraged by the state government as well through subsidy management.

Province one has been able to develop its image as “**Education Hub**” and “**Health, Tourism Destination**” in recent years. In fact, Biratnagar is recognized as an “**Intellectual City**”. The medical students across SAARC countries are receiving qualitative education and qualitative medical diagnosis and eye treatment have really promoted the potential of service export trade in this part of Nepalese Soil.

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**Special Report**

**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE WEBINAR AMID COVID -19**

**Anup Kumar Mishra\***

Jointly Organised by

Department of Economics, DAV PG College, BHU, Varanasi  
Global Challenges Research Fund Small-Scale Project

And  
University of Manchester, UK

**Coordinator and Moderator**

**Anup Kumar Mishra**

**SOCIAL-ACTION MESSAGES TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 IN NORTH INDIA**

Based on a Global Challenges Research project 2020. Project team includes Prof Wendy Olsen presented as PI (gender expert, University of Manchester, UK ), Dr Arek Wisniowski Co-PI (Data Combining), Prof Amaresh Dubey Co-PI (JNU, NCAER, IIDS), Dr. Purva Yadav (JNU, Delhi), Zoe Williams (University of Manchester, UK ), Jihye Kim (University of Manchester, UK), and Dr. Clelia Cascella (University of Manchester, UK) and Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra ( DAV – BHU and Adjunct Professor, IIDS, New Delhi ) as researcher.

Prof Wendy Olsen is a socio-economist. Dr. Olsen has specialised in gender and social change, including changes in patriarchy, housework, time-use and gender divisions of labour. She also works as Lecturer in social statistics.

**METHODOLOGY**

Phone Survey of village leaders and secondary NDIC data@).

**Summary:** In India, rapid transmission of the SARS-CoV2 virus could mean a sudden health shock involving great expense to some families during 2020-2022. This project in 2020 aims to improve understandings around health messaging and the transmission of viral disease through a series of three activities – secondary data combining, issuing leaflets, and grassroots narratives.

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\* Associate Professor, Department of Economic, DAV PG College

**Themes and Schedule**

Action Messaging and Leadership Themes			
June 20	June 20	June 20	June 20
ÉËF	GĜĜ	ĜĜH	ĤĤI
Occupations, and Informal Work in the COVID 19 Era	Science in the COVID19 Era	and Rural Gram Panchayat	Movement and Mobility Amidst COVID-19 in UP

Fifth Webinar was organised as special Conclusive Lecture on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 **Acquisitive Bridge of COVID Discussions (ABCD)** ,By Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra ,Associate Professor ,Department of Economics, DAV PG College

The collaborative international webinar was held in the month of June 2020 amid COVID- 19 , in which there was huge participation of many scholars, teachers, researchers and students around the globe. The webinar was conducted by Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra from his residence at Nagawa , Varanasi , Uttar Pradesh , India. All the faculty members, research scholars and the students of the department of Economics, DAV PG College, BHU, Varanasi, actively participated in all the webinars. Many faculty members, research scholars and students from the department of Commerce, Sociology, Political Sciences, History, Psychology, English and Sports of the DAV PG College, BHU, AMPG, VCW, VKM and MGKV also participated. The positive and supportive role of the Principal of DAV PG College Dr. S.D. Singh , Secretary Shri Ajit Singh , Co-ordinator of IQAC Dr. P.K. Sen ,HOD of Economics Dr. V.S. Singh, faculty members , Dr. Madhu Sisodia , Dr.Parul Jain , Dr. Mayank Kumar Singh , Dr. Siddharth Singh , Dr. Ahuti Singh, Dr. Swati S. Nanda is appreciable.

**First Webinar**

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Women, Occupations, and Informal Work in the COVID 19 Era: Bottlenecks and Leadership Strategies in Uttar Pradesh****Introduction by Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra**

Patriarchy is Undesirable, so Autonomy is Desirable. The patriarchal outcomes include low pay for women compared with men, poor support for women working. No toilet facilities for working-women outside home and no bus facilities in Uttar Pradesh in particular.

Discouraging. Yet people want women to work – under decent conditions

Due to great informality and mixed, clashing norms about women working for others, women have increasingly stated that their key role is 'household work' not other paid work, nor farming.

But in the COVID-19 era, the need to support and encourage women to work in the farming, sewing, and cottage industries at home, and other informal sector work. Men also must work in the household, carrying out routine chores which must gain respect.

In this topic Wendy explored Uttar Pradesh's COVID19 period: one main question is how the migrant returnee wave affects the village women's work.

Human wellbeing is a direct outcome of living well. It is helpful to earn money but it is also important

to conduct subsistence and micro activities.

- The commercial economy is enabling, but a huge recession is starting.
- Meanwhile the third sector, NGOs, and agency of small scale corporate actors can help.
- Social class is a key factor that reduces access to means of production for some households.
- In turn, this results in huge differentiation of the experience of being gendered female or male.
- A wave of female illness is not inevitable.
- It could result from male migrant returnees coming to villages in India in 2020, but 'shielding', social distancing, sanitation and social support can reduce the actual infections.
- An 'Attack' by the virus does not imply an 'infection' because it need not enter the mouth/eyes/nose! It can be washed away.

### ABSTRACT

**Webinar for DAV- BHU, June 4, 2020**

**By Prof. Wendy Olsen**

**Women, Occupations, and Informal Work in the COVID 19Era:**

**Bottlenecks and Leadership Strategies in Uttar Pradesh**

Due to great informality and mixed, clashing norms about women working for others, women have increasingly stated that their key role is 'household work' not other paid work, nor farming. But in the COVID-19 era, we need to support and encourage women to work in the farming, sewing, and cottage industries at home, and other informal sector work. Men also must work in the household, carrying out routine chores which must gain respect.

In our new Global Challenges Research Fund project, we explore Uttar Pradesh's COVID19 period: one main question is how the migrant returnee wave affects the village women's work.

Human wellbeing is a direct outcome of living well. It is helpful to earn money but it is also important to conduct subsistence and microactivities. The commercial economy is enabling, but a huge recession is starting. Meanwhile the third sector, NGOs, and agency of smallscale corporate actors can help. Social class is a key factor that reduces access to means of production for some households. In turn, this results in huge differentiation of the experience of being gendered female or male.

A wave of female illness is not inevitable. It could result from male migrant returnees coming to villages in India in 2020, but 'shielding', social distancing, sanitation and social support can reduce the actual infections. An 'Attack' by the virus does not imply an 'infection' because it need not enter the mouth/eyes/nose! It can be washed away.

In this Webinar we give an update on the ABCs of reducing COVID-19 infection, focusing on Knowledge Champions so all are welcome. We also provide examples of bottlenecks in the occupations that women carry out in villages. This leads to key 'social-action messages'.

**Social-Action Messaging**

**We should know and aware about:**

1. Sanitation practices needed to reduce transmission.
2. How the body could get immune to SARS-COV2 virus particles.
3. How the virus is killed by soapy water within 20 seconds.
4. How the quarantine of 2 weeks is a guarantee of no-COVID19 from returning migrant workers.
5. Each is specifically refined for local use in Uttar Pradesh central, east and north/south (e.g. by the

Ganges river, and in Gorakhpur and toward Bihar)

**So, A B C approach may be Autonomy, Basic Income, Caring ACTION BE CAREFUL CHAMPIONS.**

## **Second Webinar**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Sanitation and Science in the COVID19 Era Moderators Comments**

**Introduction by Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra**

**Those who have diabetes, asthma, or other health problems especially pertaining to the lungs and heart will have a much harder time fighting off the disease so it is vital that they self-isolate to reduce the risk of catching the disease.**

Not only should the at-risk persons not go outside, but they should not touch anything that has been handled by someone else unless it has been disinfected with soapy water.

**The disease can be caught by touching an infected surface and then touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**

**Many people have had the disease and been infectious but have not had symptoms.**

This means they have been unknowingly spreading the virus. As well as this, often infected persons are infectious before they experience symptoms.

This is why it is not enough to only self-isolate if you have symptoms.

People need to self-isolate anyway if they have been in contact with an infected person, even if they do not have symptoms.

## **ABSTRACT**

**June 11, 2020**

**By Dr Wendy Olsen and Ms Zoe Williams**

**Sanitation and Science in the COVID19 Era**

In these unprecedented times, an understanding of how the COVID19 virus spreads in rural communities is vital for preventing people from getting sick. This will be especially important as the wave of male migrants returning to villages may cause the virus to spread into rural areas.

In exploring Uttar Pradesh's COVID19 period in our new Global Challenges Research Fund project, it is important to understand how the disease works and why the preventative measures are so important.

There are those who are particularly at high-risk of COVID19 being fatal if contracted. Those who have diabetes, asthma, or other health problems especially pertaining to the lungs and heart will have a much harder time fighting off the disease so it is vital that they self-isolate to reduce the risk of catching the disease. Not only should the at-risk persons not go outside, but they should not touch anything that has been handled by someone else unless it has been disinfected with soapy water. The disease can be caught by touching an infected surface and then touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

One of the reasons COVID19 is so dangerous is the number of asymptomatic patients. Many people have had the disease and been infectious but have not had symptoms. This means they have been unknowingly spreading the virus. As well as this, often infected persons are infectious before they experience symptoms. This is why it is not enough to only self-isolate if you have symptoms. People need to self-isolate anyway if they have been in contact with an infected person, even if they do not



have symptoms.

In this Webinar, we show what risks of exposure to the Virus occur in women's and men's rural occupations as well as the solutions to these risks. We will also highlight what

D	E	F
Discourage infection after exposure	Energetically clean surfaces	Family must be warned and controlled
DISINFECT!	EVERY HOUR!	FOREWARN!

community organisations can do to reduce the spread of the virus.

#### Conclude

- WHO/UNICEF shows how to manage water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) to avoid any hazard related to COVID-19 transmission and other diseases.
- Main way COVID-19 spreads is through DROPLET INFECTION and CLOSE CONTACT.
- HOWEVER, coronaviruses can stay in unchlorinated water for 2 days.
- COVID-19 can stay on a surface from between 2 hours and 9 days.
- COVID-19 is weak to chlorination, ultraviolet (UV) light and high temperature.
- Disinfectants such as 70% ethanol and 0.1% sodium hypochlorite for surfaces.
- Hand washing with soap is a priority.

DATA SOURCES:

<https://www.howindialives.com/gram/coronadistricts/>

District sum of deaths and cases reported there.

Accessed 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

#### Third Webinar

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### Leadership Strategies for COVID19 in Uttar Pradesh Moderators Comment

##### Introduction by Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra

In India, rapid transmission of the SARS-CoV2 virus could mean a sudden health shock involving great expense to some families during 2020-2022. This project in 2020 aims to improve understandings around health messaging and the transmission of viral disease through a series of three activities – secondary data combining, issuing leaflets, and grassroots narratives.

In this fluid COVID-19 era, we need to support and encourage women more. We compare India with other countries around the world. In an international ranking, India ranks 112<sup>th</sup> out of 153 countries. India has begun to close its global gender gap. Its economic gender gap is larger than the political gender gap.

Female political empowerment is mainly due to an intense, massive political and cultural campaign, started in the 1920s and articulated over many decades.

##### Focus on Uttar Pradesh

Focusing on female leadership in Uttar Pradesh, one of the most populous area in northern India, Wendy and Zoe explored Uttar Pradesh and contrast it with Punjab and Jharkhand during the COVID19 period.

one main question is whether the body condition of people is related to their risk of severe illness.

To be well, regular exercise is needed, and plenty of nutritious food.

They found UP was middle-ranking overall with Jharkhand having worse general health and Punjab better health (but more obesity) in the latest data.

**Therefore they expect problems to be moderate for Uttar Pradesh.**

#### ABSTRACT

**Webinar for DAV- BHU June 18, 2020**

**By Prof. Wendy Olsen and Dr. Clelia Cascella**

**Gender, Leadership and Rural Gram Panchayat: Leadership Strategies for COVID19 in Uttar Pradesh**

In this fluid COVID-19 era, we need to support and encourage women more. We compare India with other countries around the world. In an international ranking, India ranks 112<sup>th</sup> out of 153 countries. India has begun to close its global gender gap. Its economic gender gap is larger than the political gender gap. Female political empowerment is mainly due to an intense, massive political and cultural campaign, started in the 1920s and articulated over many decades. In this webinar, we are going to glance at these phases before focusing on female leadership in Uttar Pradesh, one of the most populous area in northern India.

The key aspects of leadership are transformational leadership, participatory leadership and effective leadership. We explain each.

Finally, we provide some recent data as well. Based upon project aiming for “Social-Action Messaging to Reduce COVID19”, we explore Uttar Pradesh and contrast it with Punjab and Jharkhand during the COVID19 period: one main question is whether the body condition of people is related to their risk of severe illness. To be well, regular exercise is needed, and plenty of nutritious food. We found UP was middle-ranking overall with Jharkhand having worse general health and Punjab better health (but more obesity) in the latest data. Therefore we expect problems to be moderate for Uttar Pradesh.

However, if the local leaders are unable to lead well, a failure can occur. In a ten-minute participatory section we explore opportunities and threats to well-being. Human wellbeing is a direct outcome of living well but it does require community leadership. We explain how team-building is done by good leaders. We make notes about how gender and leadership interact so as to avoid common problems.

Finally we continue our ABCs of reducing COVID-19 infection with G H I for Knowledge Champions.

**Fourth Webinar**

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Transport, Buses, Movements and Mobility under COVID-19 in Rural Uttar Pradesh**

**Introduction By Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra**

Purva and Wendy believe that the vulnerability of social groups to the COVID-19 disease depends on their lifestyle, obesity and previous illnesses being potentially relevant. They released their new findings from an 11-state study of District wise health and COVID19 deaths. The geographic spread is also socially mediated.

They projected the impact of COVID-19 on mobility in India and explained that why transport;

particularly public transport has been seen as potential risk environment and what has been done to ensure safe travel, examples from Delhi and UP.

### ABSTRACT

June 25, 2020

By Prof. Wendy Olsen and Dr Purva Yadav

Transport, Buses, Movements and Mobility under COVID-19 in Rural Uttar Pradesh

This webinar reflects on the following:

- What is the impact of COVID-19 on mobility in India?
- Why transport, particularly public transport has been seen as potential risk environment and what has been done to ensure safe travel, examples from Delhi and UP.
- Followed by do's and don'ts for both commuters and transport operators
- Information about COVID-19 in UP; causes of COVID-19

The vulnerability of social groups to the COVID-19 disease depends on their lifestyle, obesity and previous illnesses being potentially relevant. We release new findings from an 11-state study of District wise health and COVID19 deaths. The geographic spread is also socially mediated, we found. These important findings include: Obese adults are more likely to suffer extremely from the disease. Smoking is less important in India than in other countries, after allowing for male gender, living in an area with a lot of immigrants, and being in an urban area which are strongly positively associated with severe outcomes of COVID19. Next we also tested whether underweight persons or those with Diabetes are more likely to die, but so far the evidence is weaker on this point. We also give maps of the Uttar Pradesh breakdown in detail. Whilst the disease arrived in cities of UP first, we already are finding its spread has reached rural areas, too.

High-risk environment	Findings	Recommendations
<p>Confined physical space with limited ventilation</p> <p>Sick persons Multiple common surfaces to touch</p>	<p>Assure passengers of safe trips</p> <p>Workers</p> <p>to-human transmission at their destinations</p>	<p>motorised transport</p> <p>ending public transport with greater confidence of commuters</p> <p>curb the spread of virus</p>

### Risk, Challenges and Prospects of Public Transport system

#### Conclusions and Suggestions

1. Travel to rural areas is bringing this virus in QUARANTINE is needed for all new visitors or new arrivals to rural areas.
2. Disease is brought but 95% of cases are not life-threatening, WITH GOOD CARE.
3. Worry that the rural areas are the least-protected.
4. More people are under weight norms.
5. These have anemia, Vitamin D deficiency, and are at risk from COVID19.
6. It is not only low income workers who are threatened. (Obesity in many types)
7. It is also not only men who are threatened.

8. When travelling, be very cautious.

**The J K L approach was,** Joint Effort at this juncture Knowledge of keeping distance Liberate for leadership.

### Conclusive Lecture

#### Fifth Webinar

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

By Dr. Anup Kumar Mishra

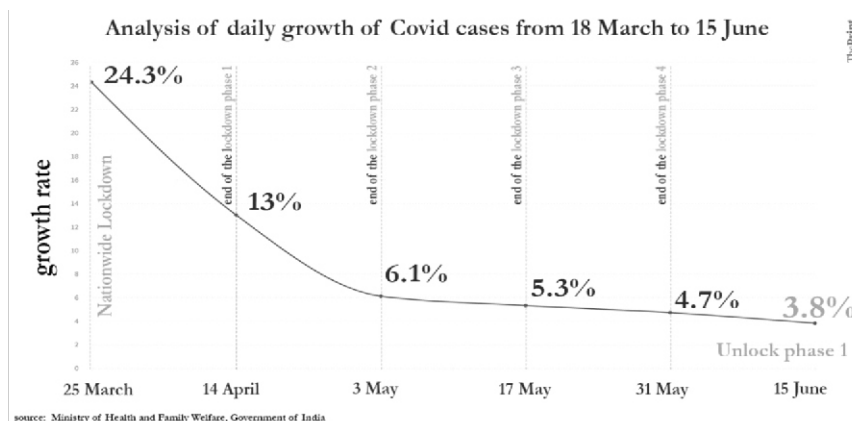
Associate Professor

Department of Economics, DAV PG College

### Acquisitive Bridge of COVID Discussions (ABCD)

The last collaborative international webinar was focused on the social - action messaging and elaborated from A to L, I.e. from AWARENESS to LEADERSHIP At the time of COVID -19. The presentation was elaborated from A B C D i.e., Acquisitive Bridge of COVID Discussions to A B C D i.e. , Asset-based community development

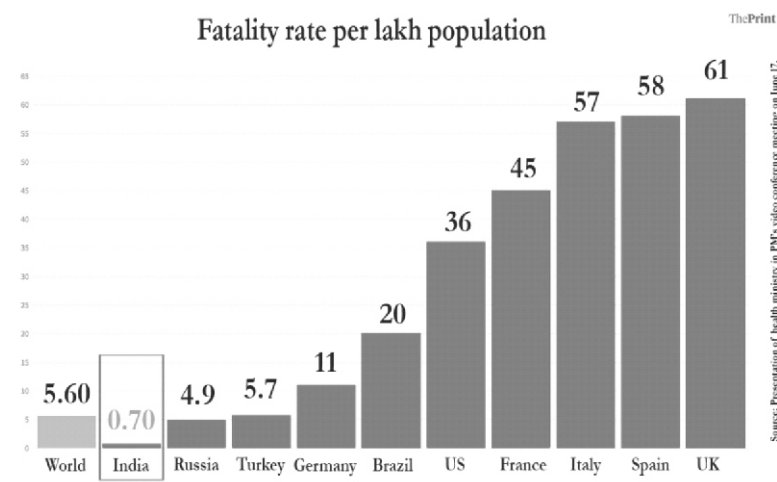
### Analysing the Lockdown and Unlock Phase



### Estimation of Cases and Deaths Averted

- As per Boston Consulting Group's model, the lockdown saved between 1.2-2.1 lakh lives and number of Covid-19 cases averted is between 36-70 lakh.
- According to Public Health Foundation of India, nearly 78,000 lives have been saved due to lockdown.
- As per a joint study by Ministry of Statistics and Indian Statistical Institute, we find that around 20 lakh cases and 54,000 deaths have been averted due to lockdown.
- lockdown has been gainfully utilized to "ramp up the health infrastructure", with around 3,027 dedicated COVID-19 hospitals and 7,013 care centers being readied across the country to fight the disease.
- (till 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020)

### Comparing the Fatality Rate



A newer approach to Corona virus analysis based on the affected Population Density

### Maharashtra

Population	Percentage	Pop. Density	COVID Density
112,374,333	9.28%	365/km <sup>2</sup>	0.51

#### Maharashtra

Confirmed

**1,59,133**

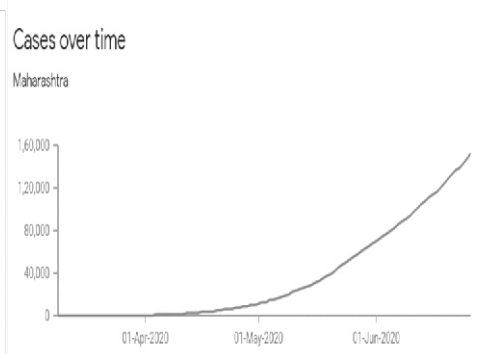
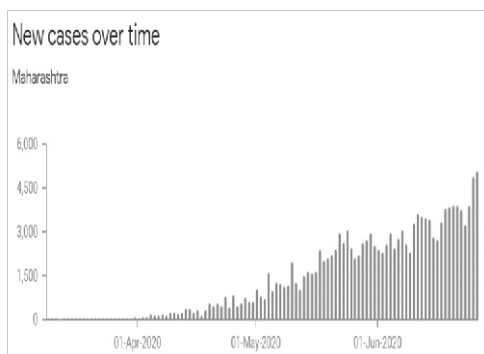
Recovered

**84,245**

Deaths

**7,273**

Updated less than 30 minutes ago • Source: [Wikipedia](#)



COVID Density is calculated by

Total Area of state in sqKm/Total Covid10 cases

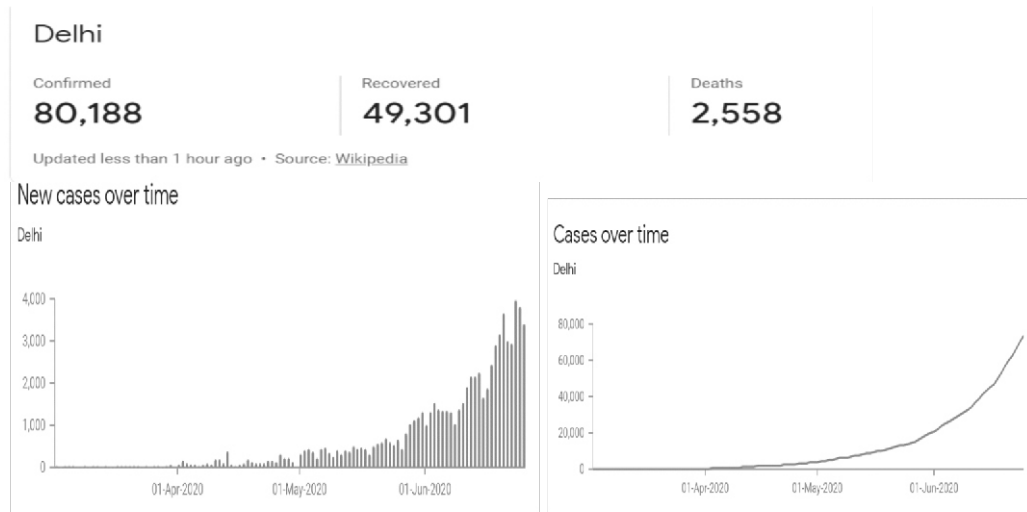
0.51 cases of coronavirus have been found in every kilometre in Maharashtra.

Total Active cases ratio per sqKm=

$$0.51/365 = 0.001$$

**New Delhi**

Population	Percentage	Pop. Density	COVID Density
16,787,941	1.39%	11,297/km <sup>2</sup>	53.90



COVID Density is calculated by

Total Area of state in sqKm/Total Covid10 cases

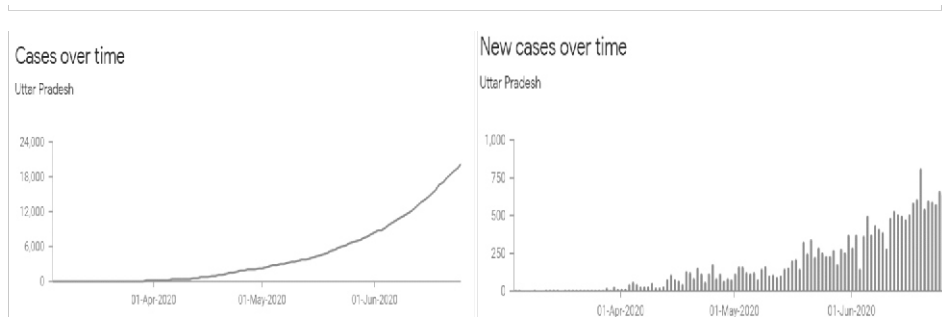
53.90 cases of coronavirus have been found in every kilometre in Maharashtra.

Total Active cases ratio per sqKm= 53.9/11297 = 0.004

**Uttar Pradesh**

Population	Percentage	Pop. Density	COVID Density
199,812,341	16.51%	828/km <sup>2</sup> /km <sup>2</sup>	0.089





COVID Density is calculated by

Total Area of state in sqKm/Total Covid10 cases

0.089 cases of coronavirus have been found in every kilometre in Maharashtra.

Total Active cases ratio per sqKm=

$0.089/828 = 0.0001$

## CONCLUSION

- The order of Risk is Delhi>Maharashtra>UP depending on the COVID Density with Exposures rate of  $53.0 > 0.51 > 0.089$  persons affected per sqKm.
- The rate of transfer of cases computed by the COVID Ratio is least in UP at 0.0001, Maharashtra at 0.001 and Delhi at 0.004.
- Transfer rate of COVID 19 is least in UP, Maharashtra 10 Times of UP and Delhi 40 times Respectively

## Ahead of Unlocking

- On the last day of Lockdown 4.0, as both Central and state governments prepared for a phased unlocking of curbs to get the economy up and running again, India saw its highest ever jump in Covid -19 infections with 8,237 cases being reported during the day. With a total of 1, 85,061 cases reported till late on Sunday, India zoomed past Germany (1,83,426 cases) in total coronavirus caseload to climb to the eighth spot among countries worst-hit by the virus. If present trends continue, India will displace France (1.88 lakh cases) to occupy seventh position in the next 24 hours.
- Deaths from the virus were steadily rising as well. States reported 224 Covid-19-related fatalities on Sunday, the second highest single-day number so far after 270 deaths on Friday. The total toll rose to 5,404, of which over 2,000 have come in the past 12 days alone. But the country can take solace from the fact that the mortality rate, at 2.9%, was still much lower than most of the worst-hit countries.

### Asset-based community development (ABCD)

**Asset-based community development (ABCD)** is a methodology for the sustainable development of communities based on their strengths and potentials.

It involves assessing the resources, skills, and experience available in a community; organizing the community around issues that move its members into action; and then determining and taking appropriate action.

This method uses the community's own assets and resources as the basis for development; it empowers the people of the community by encouraging them to utilize what they already possess.



The ABCD approach was developed by John L. McKnight and John P. Kretzmann at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

**Principles that guide ABCD**

Asset-based community development focuses on honing and leveraging existing strengths within the community. Related to tenets of empowerment, it postulates that solutions to community problems already exist within a community's assets.

**Principles that guide ABCD include:**

1. *Everyone has gifts:* Each person in a community has something to contribute.
2. *Relationships build a community:* People must be connected in order for sustainable community development to take place.
3. *Citizens at the center:* Citizens should be viewed as actors—not recipients—in development.
4. *Leaders involve others:* Community development is strongest when it involves a broad base of community action.
5. *People care:* Challenge notions of "apathy" by listening to people's interests.
6. *Listen:* Decisions should come from conversations where people are heard.
7. *Ask:* Asking for ideas is more sustainable than giving solutions.
8. *Inside-out organization:* Local community members are in control.
9. *Institutions serve the community:* Institutional leaders should create opportunities for community-member involvement, then "step back."

**Need of Gram Panchayat system as per Mahatma Gandhi Dream**

Gram swaraj, or village self-rule, was a pivotal concept in Gandhi's thinking. It was the centerpiece of his vision of economic development in India. Self-sufficiency in basic needs was one of the fundamental conditions of Gandhian village reconstruction.

Food, clothing and other basic necessities should be produced at the village itself, which would lead to full employment of almost each able-bodied person and would prevent the rural-urban migration in search of employment and better opportunities.

Gandhi's dream was not of personal self-sufficiency, not even family self-sufficiency, but the self-sufficiency of the village community.

**At the village level**

Clean roads, better sanitation, good transport, better drainage, vegetation, school, dispensary, clean water and a dharmashala.

The village community should embody the spirit of the home — an extension of the family rather than a collection of competing individuals.

**At individual level**

Everyone must have access to balanced diet, a decent house, facilities for children's education and adequate medical relief.

**Finally I Proposed E F G H Model i.e. Efficient Functional Gandhian Home rule for India i.e “ Atmnirbhar Bharat”.**