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### EDITORIAL NOTES

We are feeling great satisfaction that the Journal of Economic & Commerce (*JEC*) is successfully completing fourteenth years. Earlier we successfully indexed our journal in QLI Database of INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT as well as in the UGC list (2018). We are also 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 nine articles which includes some special articles case studies on burning issues of economics, commerce and instutional area. In addition to this we have also kept our commitment towards promotion of new contributors and young researchers in the present issue.

The Editors welcome submissions of the research papers on vital issues concerning our economy and commerce, **with a token of note that these will strictly be referred before acceptance.**

DAV PG College  
Varansi  
30th, July, 2023

**Anup Kumar Mishra**  
Managing Editor

## **AN ASSESSMENT OF MUKHYAMANTRIABHYUDAYAYOJANA IN UTTAR PRADESH: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LUCKNOW**

**Dr. Alpana Lal\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi has termed the 21<sup>st</sup> century 'An Era of Knowledge', where education is the most critical input to determine the comparative and absolute advantages of a nation over the rest of the world. Fortunately, India enjoys a huge demographic dividend in the form of a large proportion of youth in our population (where 65 percent of the total population is under 35), but unfortunately, we still have a long way to go to optimally utilise this dividend towards development, basically due to lack of investment towards technical and vocational institutions, which in turn, results in a low output of highly qualified, trained and relevantly skilled workforce. It limits the vast potential of India to emerge as the global knowledge superpower in the post-information age. Though, to make India a knowledge superpower, many efforts have been made on learning, research, and innovation, but still, there are so many factors that create hindrances in harnessing this demographic dividend. One of them is the lack of resources in training infrastructure for competitive examinations in the public sector, and high cost in the private sector; due to which, children from rural areas and families with low income are not able to make quality preparations despite being talented and hardworking. Due to this, their talents are not groomed properly and the society is also deprived of their services. This situation creates a demand and supply mismatch in the labour market and this shortage of skilled workers prevents us to reap our demographic dividend. In this direction, Uttar Pradesh Government decided to assist the aspirants of the state who are preparing for various competitive examinations by rolling out a new scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana' (MAY). With the scheme, the government is aimed to provide free coaching and expert guides to the meritorious and hardworking aspirants who do not get proper resources for preparation as they come from deprived backgrounds. In this regard, the present study seeks to analyse this scheme with special reference to Lucknow city and try to understand that in what extent the students of economically poor family backgrounds benefited from this scheme. The study is basically based on primary data collected from the aspirants of various competitive exams enrolled in MAY.*

**Keywords:** *Abhyudaya Yojana, Lucknow, MAY, Students.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

India is one of the largest developing economies and along with other variables, education is the key to development. It is a key indicator of human resource development (HRD) and is also included in the commonly used Human Development Index (HDI). Education not only provides knowledge and skill

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but also plays an important role in developing social, cultural and moral values in an individual. Educated people act as responsible citizens and have better earning capacity in comparison to uneducated people. For this, 'Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana' (MAY) is a progressive initiative by CM Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh to make education affordable to all. This scheme holds the potential to bring revolutionary changes in the lives of financially backward students who cannot afford the fees of private coaching institutes for preparation of competitive government exams (TOI, 2021). Under this scheme, free-of-cost Abhyudaya Coaching Centres have been established for aspiring candidates preparing to qualify NEET, JEE (Mains and Advanced), CDS, NDA, UPSC and all other competitive exams. These centres provide assistance, question banks and other requisite things that would help such students in cracking the competitive examinations (Rai, 2021).

Earlier, due to poor educational facilities and infrastructure in the state, students from rural backgrounds have to go to other districts and states to get coaching for competitive exams. Many students cannot afford the cost of getting coaching by staying out of their homes in other districts or states. For all such students, the Abhyudaya Yojana is a path pradarshak for their holistic development. Under this, they will not need to go to any other state as they can get coaching within their state and district. During Corona pandemic, when about 30,000 competitive exam prospects of Uttar Pradesh were stuck in Kota and Prayagraj due to Covid induced lockdown, the government decided to have similar coaching facilities in the state so that a suitable atmosphere can be provided to the aspirants (Tiwari, 2021). Through this scheme, they will be able to sit in the examination after getting the best coaching.

#### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of this study are to find out how effective this scheme is for providing free coaching and guidance to the students of poor and deprived sections of our society; to analyse the trend and interest of students towards various competitive examinations; to evaluate the performance of this scheme and to find out the success rate in different fields.

#### **AREA OF THE STUDY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The area of research is Lucknow city of Uttar Pradesh which is the capital city of the state. The Research design applied here is exploratory research. Both primary and secondary data have been collected to evaluate the assessment of Abhyudaya Yojana in the city of Lucknow. For this purpose, a survey had been conducted to collect the first and primary data through interaction with the students with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sample size for data collection was 100, i.e. 100 students of Lucknow city were selected for logical and non-biased responses. Since the University of Lucknow was the only centre for free coaching under this scheme at the initial stage from January 2021, the survey has been conducted only in the campus of Lucknow University from January 01, 2023 to March 31, 2023 to study the role of Abhyudaya Yojana in providing free coaching and guidance to the students of deprived sections of our society and trying to find out how many students are getting benefits of this Yojana. Secondary data has been collected from different sources such as newspapers, articles, journals, publications, various websites, etc.

#### **MUKHYAMANTRI ABHYUDAYA YOJANA (MAY)**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Yogi Adityanath announced Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana on 24 January 2021 on the day of "UP Day" and it was implemented in the state on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. Earlier the programme had been running at Divisional Head Quarters (Mandal level) but now the programme is being implemented in every district of Uttar

Pradesh. More than 10 lakh hits were recorded on the website within 24 hours of its launch, and the number of registrations clocked one lakh figure. About half of the registrations were done for civil services exam, followed by NEET and JEE. This shows the popularity of this scheme. The interest is understandable as the faculty for the direct counselling includes many famous officers such as Chief Secretary R.K. Tiwari, Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) Alok Sinha, Additional chief secretary, MSME and information Navneet Sehgal, along with several IAS, IPS and PCS officers (The Pioneer, 2021). Under this scheme, aspirants should only be the resident of Uttar Pradesh. There is no provision for reservation on the basis of caste, category, religion, or Community. Students must belong to below poverty line (BPL) families. The age of the aspirants must be at least 21 years old. There is no maximum age limit has been set for this Scheme. There are no charges for any category to apply online. The aspirants first have to apply online for the scheme. The selection of the candidates is to be done on the basis of an entrance test conducted by the Abhyudaya authority. The scheme is operated in online and offline (hybrid) mode to provide equal opportunities to the youth of Uttar Pradesh and increase the representation of the state in the selection of various services. Two types of classes are running under this scheme. One is for the students who have been selected through the test and they have the opportunity to attend classes physically and secondly, there are the students who can take advantage of this scheme by accessing free premium content online. They can avail free digital coaching content in the form of live sessions, panel discussions, webinars, virtual classes, career counselling & guidance, etc. Along with this, selected candidates have also been provided benefits such as a fixed stipend of Rs. 2000 per month for 5 months, tablets, etc. (Anjali, 2022).

The responsibility of providing study material has been entrusted to the 'Uttar Pradesh Academy Of Administration and Management' (UPAAM), which will also oversee it. The study material of other high-level coaching institutes is also available to students through MAY, who cannot afford it from there. Free guidance and training is offered by the officers working in various departments of the state government like IAS, IPS, IFS, PCS cadre and other cadre officers, retired officers and subject matter experts (The Lucknow Tribune, 2022). The guest lectures are also conducted by subject experts for different subjects. For the implementation of this ambitious scheme, a 6-member state-level committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary of Social Welfare. Apart from this, a 12-member Divisional Committee has also been formed under the chairmanship of various Mandalayuktas. The responsibility of the state-level committee is to call the coaching experts according to the need for content and reading material. At the same time, the committee has also worked to prepare a teaching calendar and prepare material related to various competitive examinations. Online Career Counselling Sessions are also organised for youth in every district through a web portal and interviews. Along with this, a blueprint of the exam is also provided to students. A YouTube channel has also been started so that students who are unable to attend offline lectures due to some reasons can take live classes through an online facility by sitting at their homes. In brief, the most notable objectives of this scheme are to provide free coaching to all students of Uttar Pradesh, who are not financially uplifted and enhanced enough to afford coaching classes conducted mostly by private coaching centres known for their soaring fees; to usher the students of the state on the route of self-reliance; and to lend assistance to talented children so that they can upgrade their knowledge and utilize their capabilities in the right direction as well (Rai, 2021).

#### **MUKHYAMANTRI ABHYUDAYA YOJANA (MAY) IN LUCKNOW**

In its initial phase, i.e. in 2021, this scheme was started only at the Lucknow University centre, but from January 2023, free coaching centres have been started in four other degree colleges of the capital.

Coaching has been started at National PG College, Kalicharan PG College, Netaji Subhash Chandra PG College and AP Sen Memorial PG College under MAY. Free coaching will be provided to 100-100 students in all these coaching centres (ETV Bharat, 2023). The programme is being implemented by the Social Welfare Department of the Uttar Pradesh Government. U.P Academy of Administration and Management (UPAAM), Aliganj, Lucknow conducts an online entrance examination bi-annually for the admission of students under MAY. A free tablet is also provided to the selected aspirants under the scheme. In Lucknow University, the MAY is being run by the 'Counselling and Guidance Cell' of the University of Lucknow on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies. The Coaching classes are taken by the faculty of the University of Lucknow and other esteemed colleges like National P.G College, K.K.C Postgraduate College, K.K.V Postgraduate College, I.T. College, Shia P.G College, etc. At present 55 teachers are taking classes under MAY. Classes run in two shifts from 10 am to 11:30 am and then from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Divisional Commissioner (Lucknow Division) is the head of the Abhyudaya Project. Prof. R.P. Singh from the Department of English is the Coordinator of Abhyudaya, Lucknow University. Mr. Neetesh Srivastava is the Abhyudaya Course Coordinator of UPSC/UPPSC and Ms. Pragya Srivastava is the Abhyudaya Course Coordinator of NEET/JEE/NDA/CDS for Lucknow Division.

In 2022, a total of 1567 students have been selected for MAY at the University of Lucknow, in which 1051 students have enrolled for Civil Service and more than 500 students have been enrolled for other exams. There were 155 students in NDC and CDS, 272 in NEET, and 89 in JEE. In 2023, a total of 1530 students are enrolled, of which 1170 students are pursuing UPSC (582 are female and the rest are male aspirants), 189 students are pursuing NEET, 60 students are pursuing JEE, and 111 students are preparing for NDS/CDS exams. Both online and offline courses are offered at Lucknow University. The total number of students who attend online classes for UPSC is 315. 11 students who attend online classes have qualified Prelims of UPPSC. To date, there are a total of five batches enrolled for free coaching under MAY in the University of Lucknow as -

**First Batch (Feb 2021)** – 1944 Students benefited from Abhyudaya Coaching Classes.

**Second Batch (March 2021)** – 1417 Students benefited from Abhyudaya Coaching Classes.

**Third Batch (October 2021)** – 1400 Students benefited from Abhyudaya Coaching Classes.

**Fourth Batch (May 2022)** – 1567 Students benefited from Abhyudaya Coaching Classes.

**Fifth Batch (2023)** - 1530 students enrolled for Abhyudaya Coaching Classes.

**Table – 1: Total No. of Students Enrolled in All Batches**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NO. OF STUDENTS</b>
Feb 2021	1944
March 2021	1417
October 2021	1400
May 2022	1567
2023	1530
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7858</b>

Source: Official Website of Lucknow University



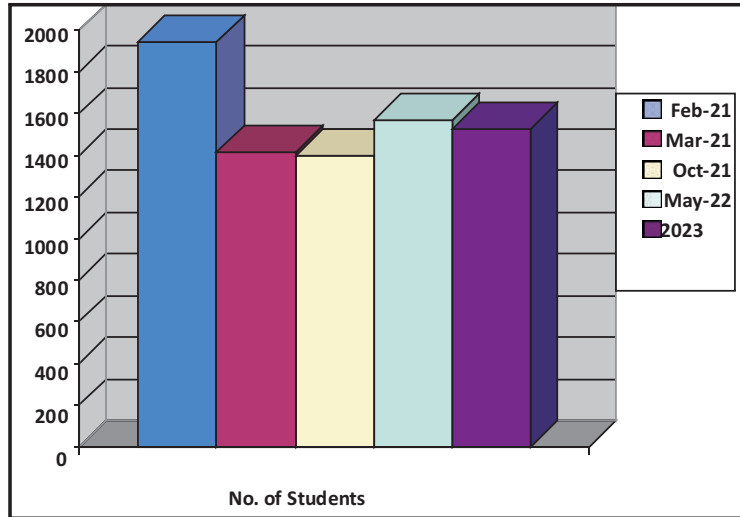


Figure No. : 1

Table – 2: No. of Students Appearing for Different Competitive Examinations in 2023

<u>COMPETITIVE EXAMS</u>	<u>NO.OFSTUDENTS</u>
UPSC	1170
NEET	189
JEE	60
NDS/CDS	111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1530</b>

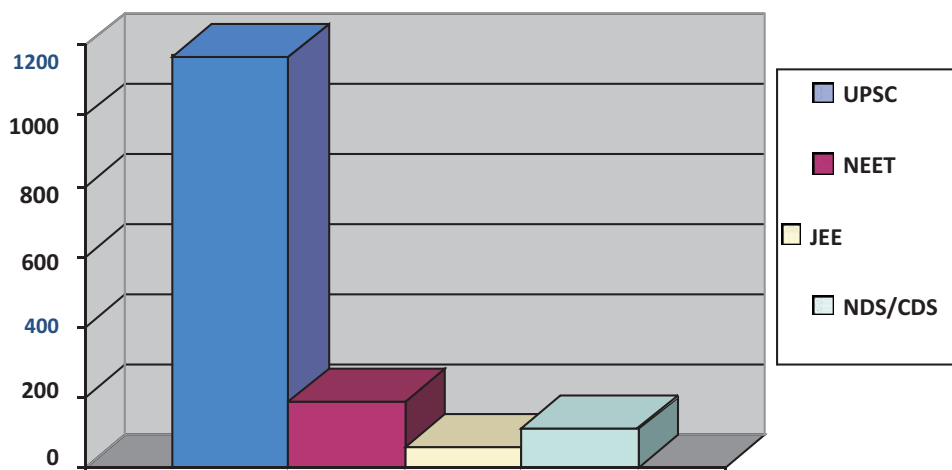


Figure No. : 2

### Discussion and Interpretation of Data

- The data regarding the marital status of aspirants for various competitive exams in Lucknow University Abhyudaya Coaching Centreshows that90%of respondent saresingle,4%are married and6%of respondents belong to other categories.
- An annualincomeof92%ofstudents is belowRs.1,00,000 and 8% of students have an annual family income between Rs.1,00,000to5,00,000.
- In the response to how theygot to know about the scheme,50% of respondents replied that they get information through the newspaper,35% replied through T.V. channel,10% replied through social groups and 5% replied through other sources.
- Regarding the medium of exam, 78% of respondents opt for Hindi as their medium while 22% opt for English medium.
- Out of 100 students, 77%of students are taking online classes and 23% of students are attending offline classes.
- 56%of respondents are preparing for UPSC/UPPSC, 22% for NEET/JEE, 12% for NDS/CDS, and10%are preparing for other exams.
- 76% of respondents are extremely satisfied with the facilities provided underAbhyudayaYojana and 24% are just satisfied.
- 11% of respondents are extremely satisfied with the staff and teaching methods while 82% are satisfied and 7% of respondents given eutral responses towards staff and teaching methods.
- 22% of respondents find faculty members to be extremely supportive, 74% find supportive and 4% are neutral towards the supportiveness of faculty members.
- 18% of respondents find course objectives very clear while 65%find them clear and17% find the mso-so.
- Accordingto21%of respondents, learning out comes are extremely conductive, for 65%, it is conductive and14%of respondents think that learning out comes are neutral.
- 22% of respondents find course assessment methods tobe extremely fair, 54% find it just fair and for 24% of respral, it is neutral.
- 8% of respondents live1-5 km away from the centre, 38% live 5-10km away,19% live more than10km and 35%of respondents are from other cities.
- 49% of respondents give 1<sup>st</sup> rank to facilities of Abhyudaya Yojana, 50% give 2<sup>nd</sup> rank and only 1% give 3<sup>rd</sup> rank.
- None of there spondents has to pay any fees fo ravailing services of Abhyudaya Yojana.
- None of the respondents are getting a stipend while studying.
- 83% of respondents find the sessions very beneficial and17% find it simply beneficial.
- 100% of respondents said that the syllabus was completed within a given time.
- 94%of respondents are able to understand the syllabus clearly while 6% find some difficulties in understanding the syllabus.
- None of the respondents gota free laptop for their study in the selected study area.

### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Though, best efforts have been made to make the study fair, transparent and error-free but there might be some inevitable and inherent limitations. Though outright measuresare undertakentomake

thereportmostaccurate,some difficulties had faced in collecting, recording and analyzing the data due to some limitationssuchas:

- ❖ Thesurveyis validforLucknowcityonly.
- ❖ Theremaybesomerespondentswhogavebiaseddata.
- ❖ Somerespondentsdidnotprovidefullandhonestdatawillingly.
- ❖ Somerespondentswereunwillingto answer.
- ❖ Some respondents may not be fully aware of their reasons for any given answers due to some reasons.

## CONCLUSION

This Abhyudaya Yojana is dedicated to the youth energy of Uttar Pradesh. By taking advantage of this, the youth of the state will be able to prove their talent inside the country and abroad, and eventually, they will be able to bring the benefit of their talent to their country as well. In the inauguration of this scheme, the CM of Uttar Pradesh also said that Abhyudaya Yojana is not just a training centre but a new beginning for building the life of the youths. He also said that the state government is committed to make popularize this scheme on the lines of 'One District One Product' (ODOP), another ambitious scheme of the Uttar Pradesh Government, started in 2018 (TOI, 2021). To conclude, we can say that the hardships of the children coming from remote areas forced them to leave their dreams, but in the coming days, this coaching opportunity will definitely take care of every issue that they face.

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## RETENTION OF SKILLED WORKFORCE- A CASE STUDY OF CHANPATIA BLOCK OF WEST CHAMPARAN DISTRICT

Dr. Suman Kumar\* Resham Vijay Ratne\*\* Ravi Shankar Kumar\*\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Creating opportunity in adversity is the main motto of “Navparavartan” startup zone “Chanpatia”, also known as “Chanpatia Model”. It has created opportunities especially for the returnees who came back to their native place Chanpatia with no jobs, no money, no future and no employment opportunities in their hands, due to unavoidable lock down introduced during covid-19 pandemic in 2020. All that was with Chanpatia, a huge crowd of skilled migrant workers in quarantine houses in the block, but District Magistrate, Mr Kundan Kumar had different idea of accommodating these unemployed skilled work force into working workforce by providing opportunities under this model.*

*This research paper aims to explore the retention of skilled workforce in the context of Chanpatia Block, West Champaran. The study focuses on identifying the factors that influence the retention of skilled workers in the area, as well as the challenges faced by employers in retaining them. The research methodology includes a case study approach, using both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The findings of this study are expected to provide insights into the strategies that employers can adopt to retain skilled workers in the region.*

**Keywords:** : Chanpatia, Skilled worker, Migrants, Returnees, Navparavartan, Startup, Innovation, Covid-19, Quarantine.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The retention of skilled workforce is a crucial issue in today's competitive job market. Employers are constantly striving to attract and retain skilled workers to maintain their competitive edge. In this context, the present study focuses on the retention of skilled workforce in the Chanpatia Block of West Champaran district, Bihar, India. The study is important as Chanpatia Block is an agricultural region that has witnessed a significant influx of skilled workers in recent years. However, there is a lack of research on the factors that influence the retention of skilled workers in the area, as well as the challenges faced by employers in retaining them.

The purpose of this research paper is to fill this research gap by investigating the retention of skilled workforce in the Chanpatia Block. The study employs a case study approach to collect both qualitative and quantitative data from a sample of skilled workers and employers in the area. The data collected is analyzed to identify the factors that influence the retention of skilled workers in the area, as well as the challenges faced by employers in retaining them.

The findings of this study are expected to provide insights into the strategies that employers can adopt

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to retain skilled workers in the region. The study is significant as it contributes to the existing literature on the retention of skilled workforce in rural areas, which is a neglected area of research. Overall, this study is important as it addresses a crucial issue in the current job market and contributes to the knowledge of the factors that influence the retention of skilled workers in rural areas.

This model has brought back confident smile on the faces of the migrants. Huge production houses with new technology were introduced in the system. District administration provided 20 acres of land, loans, machines and computers and market to sell final product. This initiative created lots of profit and migrants became self reliant with lots of opportunities in their hands. Skill mapping was done to find out the different inherited schemes of the migrants and according to their skills. They were provided employment opportunities for their bright future at their native place only.

Chanpatia is the administrative headquarter of chanpatia block in West Champaran district of Bihar. It is a Nagar Panchayat situated on the bank of Budhi gandak river. It is 18 km away from the district headquarter Betiya and very near to Nepal border. It is situated on the North-west of capital city Patna of about 242 km away from it. It is famous for its marcha ka chura (flattened rice), basmati rice and the famous handi kabab.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Abdullah and Loh (2022)** conducted a comprehensive review of literature to examine employee retention strategies in the construction industry. They identified six key themes that emerged from the literature, including leadership and management practices, compensation and benefits, work-life balance, training and development, job satisfaction, and organizational culture. The authors concluded that the implementation of effective employee retention strategies in the construction industry can lead to increased productivity and organizational performance.

**Adeyemi, Adeyemo, and Oluwole (2021)** conducted a literature review to explore the factors that influence employee retention in the hospitality industry. The authors identified several factors that impact employee retention, such as organizational culture, compensation and benefits, job satisfaction, work-life balance, and career development opportunities. The review also highlighted the importance of effective communication, leadership, and management practices in promoting employee retention in the hospitality industry.

**Garcia and Espino (2021)** conducted a literature review to investigate the role of human resource management in employee retention. The authors identified five key factors that impact employee retention, including recruitment and selection, compensation and benefits, training and development, work-life balance, and organizational culture. The review highlighted the importance of developing effective human resource management strategies to attract and retain talented employees.

**Thakur and Mehta (2021)** conducted a literature review to examine employee retention in the context of Indian organizations. The authors identified several factors that influence employee retention, including compensation and benefits, job satisfaction, work-life balance, organizational culture, and leadership and management practices. The review also highlighted the importance of developing employee retention strategies that are aligned with the organizational goals and objectives.

**Yildirim and Yildirim (2021)** conducted a literature review to explore employee retention in the public sector. The authors identified several factors that impact employee retention in the public sector, such as compensation and benefits, job security, work-life balance, organizational culture, and leadership and management practices. The review highlighted the importance of developing effective employee retention strategies to overcome the challenges faced by public sector organizations in

attracting and retaining talented employees.

#### ABRIEF DETAIL OF CHANPATIA BLOCK

In Chanpatia the majority of population depend on agriculture. There are some small scale industries present here in Chanpatia is a block of Paschim Champaran has transformed fate during lock down due to covid-19. Covid-19 the state of damaging economy of Chanpatia became blessings for the migrants of local population because of a very noble start-up called “Chanpatia model” “Navparavartan” startup zone in the field of textile and other businesses. It has provided employment to the skilled reverse migrant workers and it has given boost to the business of readymade clothes prepared through this start-up zones and now the demand of the clothes made out here are growing at very high speed and scale within the country and worldwide.

Coordinates : 26.94543<sup>o</sup>N 84.55238<sup>o</sup>E

Country	India
State	Bihar
District	Paschim Champaran
Government Type	Nagar Panchayat
Population (2020)	2,20,290 lakh
Official language	Hindi, Bhojpuri.
Time zone	UTC+5:30 (IST)
Pin	845449
ISO 3166 code	IN-BR
Lok Sabha constituency	Paschim Champaran
Vidhan Sabha constituency	Chanpatia

#### JOURNEY OF STARTUP CHANPATIA MODEL NAVPARAVARTAN STARTUP ZONE-

Due to the uncertainty caused by Covid-19 as per the reports of WHO, Covid-19 crashed the entire system of many developed, developing and under developed countries on the scale of economic depression, poverty, unemployment and most importantly lives of the people which was at stake. Due to the unavoidable travel ban and lockdown globally and within the country to curb the spread of Corona virus disturbed the common lifestyle of everyone. Among them the most vulnerable people were migrants of Bihar who in search of employment and livelihood went to different states in the country, and due to sudden lockdown imposed they came in big trouble. No doubt that Covid-19 has generated lots of hurdles to damage the entire system of economy. This kind of pandemic was rarely seen by the current population of the whole world. This pandemic has created a new situation called “**reverse migration**”, when people were forced to return back to their native place just for their survival. The migrants were in lots of trouble having anxiety in their mind about their survival and future. Hence with the same mind set migrants of Chanpatia were also returning back to their native place with no hope in their mind and hands. The migrants were coming from various parts of India i.e Ludhiana, Amritsar, Surat, Delhi, Mumbai, Kerala, Chandigarh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka e.t.c, and from abroad like Qatar, Dubai e.t.c as well, totally in jobless condition and they were also afraid of going back to their work place for their livelihood.



But Chanpatia had a different plan to tackle this adverse situation created by the pandemic due to covid-19. In 2020 the District Magistrate of West Champaran, Mr Kundan Kumar, who is known for his innovation and commitment, has played a vital role in tackling the threats created by covid-19. He was prepared to convert the pandemic into opportunity. As it is said that “unprecedented time requires unprecedented measures”. “Navparavartan” start-up zone Chanpatia came into play to change the fate of migrants. It was an innovation of Mr Kundan Kumar who has provided a remedial solution to the migrants, who were in financial and psychological crisis. The migrants had lost their livelihood due to the calamity of covid-19.

The innovation “Navparavartan” startup zone Chanpatia was a transformational and innovative step taken by District Magistrate, Mr Kundan Kumar, realising the need of this model for changing the lives of poor migrants. The basic idea of this model is to classify the migrants according to their inherited skill gained by them in the past. A man to man marking was done in order to have the knowledge of their skills, which is better known as Skill Mapping. So, every skilled workers have been identified by the district administration team as per the skills of returnees. Now the next step was to create opportunities for them according to their skills within the Chanpatia block itself. This required a production model using latest technology for generating employment within the present ecosystem to achieve the goal of “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.



Now they found that maximum migrants were highly skilled in the field of textile business. So the District dministration had decided to set up the whole system of textile industry within the Chanpatia block with the name “Navparavartan” startup zone Chanpatia. This model helped the



migrants a lot and created immense job opportunities for them within their native place itself. Everything from providing raw materials to production, process and selling final products to the different market places within the state of country and abroad was monitored from here only. The initiative was highly inspired by the words of our respected **Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, “Jaan bhi Jahan bhi”**. A very important step within this model was to form “**Udyami Mitra Mandals**” was a great enabler of this model. This group was formed when migrants were in quarantine period. Udaymi Mitra Mandals were called to come up with the detailed plans of setting up of production units.

**DRCC**(District Registration and Counselling Centre), **West Champaran** has been designated as a one point facility for counselling, grievance redressal and feedback mechanism. In support the social media handles of district administration was also there to help and monitor the entire system. The centre of this model was **Udaymi Mitra Mandals** who were engaged in conceptualizing the entire initiative and to find best possible solutions of the problems coming in front of them during the process. An officer assigned as **SPOC** (Single Point of Contact) to each Udyami to help them and taking feedback and grievance redresses. The entire system was holistically integrated and channelized through the industry department of state and **BIADA** for sustainability. The main focus of integrated department was to adopt this model in its district innovation scheme for its replication in other districts of the state. Important aspect of raw materials, logistics, market linkages, latest trends of products, regular loan repayment and availability of machines through import, for enabling bulk production at cheaper rate were continuously arranged and monitored by the district administration .

#### **THE MAIN FEATURES OF STEP TAKEN UNDER THIS PROJECT ARE AS FOLLOWS**

- Udyami Mitra Mandal.
- SPOC Single point of contact.
- Provision of instant space of 20 equal s for setting up the ware houses and start-up zone by following plug and play model.
- Allocation of production unit.
- Creating design studio, QA facility, brand design.
- Importing latest machines and tweaking the existing schemes.

The basic idea was here to provide employment opportunities to the reverse migrants by tapping their skills and potentials, creating employment opportunities for them closer at their home, is the main highlight of this project.

Initially banks were not taking interest and were reluctant to provide loans for this great cause, but weekly rigorous meeting was done by district administration with the bank officials and ultimately convinced them to provide loans to the migrants under **PMEGP**- (Prime Minister Employment Generation Program) and within fortnight loans were sanctioned. Latest machines like 40 ft long computer added embroidery machines, laser operated beading machine, CAD operated knitting machine etc, were imported to create it as a bulk production hub.

#### **OUTCOME**

This project has created immense opportunities for the migrants who were skilled in their respective fields. Now they are working in their native place, outsourcing of skilled workers has almost come to an end. They have become self confident and self reliant and enjoying their new life with their families in their native place.

### **THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE OUTCOMES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS**

- This start-up zone houses has created 57 returnees production unit.
- About 400 machines running daily for the production.
- Items worth rs 15 crore have been sold in various part of India including Surat, Ludhiana and even exported to abroad,leading to achieve the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Created thousands of direct and indirect employment in home district.
- Hundreds of migrant have started up their units outside the start-up zone.
- About 141 udyamis have applied for a space allocation for starting their own production unit.
- The start-up zone has become host of different offerings. From shirts, lowers, tracksuits, jackets, suits, lehenga, sarees, footwears, sanitary pads, steel utensils and cricket bats etc.
- Sold about 1,35,000 trousers 1,0,1000 leggings 63000 tracksuits 8 lakh sanitary pads and 13 lakh masks etc.
- Returnees have now become entrepreneurs from labourers.
- Exported 70,000 embroidered Kashmiri shawls to Jammu and Kashmir, Banarasi sarees to Varanasi, tracksuits to Ladakh and jackets to Ludhiana, Nepal and Spain.

### **AWARDS**

The **West Champaran district** has been awarded **Prime Minister award for excellence in public administration 2021**, under the category of **innovatedistricts** for its initiative “**Navparavartan**” startup zone “**Chanpatia**”. **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has awarded **District Magistrate West Champaran, Mr Kundan Kumar** in this category.



## CONCLUSIONS

The Navparavartan startup zone in Chanpatia was a transformational and innovative step taken by District Magistrate, Mr Kundan Kumar, to change the lives of poor migrants who had lost their livelihood due to the calamity of Covid-19. The basic idea of this model was to classify the migrants according to their inherited skill gained by them in the past, known as Skill Mapping. Every skilled worker was identified by the district administration team as per their skills, and opportunities were created for them within the Chanpatia block itself. The maximum number of migrants were highly skilled in the field of textile business, so the district administration decided to set up the whole system of textile industry within the Chanpatia block with the name Navparavartan startup zone Chanpatia. This model created immense job opportunities for the migrants within their native place itself, and everything from providing raw materials to production, process and selling final products to the different market places within the state of the country and abroad was monitored from here only. The initiative was highly inspired by the words of our respected Prime Minister of India, Sri Narendra Modi, “**Jaan bhi Jahan bhi**”. The Navparavartan startup zone in Chanpatia is a great example of how a crisis can be turned into an opportunity with innovation and commitment.

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## **A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TAX LIABILITY IN OLD AND NEW TAX REGIMES FOR THE F.Y 2023-2024**

**Surya Prakash Agrawal\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Direct taxes are the major source of tax revenues to the Central Government. The 2020 budget introduced a fresh personal income tax system for individual taxpayers in India. Starting from FY 2020-2021, taxpayers have the option to choose between the existing tax regime and the newly introduced one. For the fiscal year 2023-2024, in order to make the new regime more appealing to the taxpayers, some significant amendments in the new personal tax regime u/s 115BAC, have been proposed in the Finance Bill 2023 thereby simplifying the calculation of tax liability, widening tax base, bringing transparency, and minimizing litigation. This research paper aims to analyze the comparative study of Old Tax Regime and New Tax Regime systems, considering the adjustments introduced in the new tax regime under the budget 2023-2024. The analysis presented in this research paper is based entirely on secondary data obtained from various government official websites, articles, books and journals. This analysis also focuses on highlighting the specific changes implemented in the New Tax Regime as per the union budget 2023-2024.*

**Key Words:** *New Tax Regime, Old Tax Regime.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the 2020 budget, the Indian government introduced a fresh personal income tax regime. This new regime incorporates additional tax slabs and reduced tax rates; however, it eliminates all existing deductions and exemptions. Taxpayers have the flexibility to select either the new regime or the old regime as per their preference. This was done to simplify the complex tax system for individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs). Effective from the financial year 2020-2021, thus government introduced a new personal tax regime with reduced tax rates under Section 115BAC, effective from the financial year 2020-2021.

The mandatory requirement for individuals and HUFs to forego the majority of specified deductions under the new personal tax regime resulted in its unpopularity and limited adoption with a very few takers. The government aimed to incentivize more taxpayers to transition to the new regime in order to simplify the process of filing returns and conducting assessments, which were complicated due to the abundance of deduction claims under the old regime. To enhance the attractiveness of the new regime to taxpayers, the Finance Bill 2023 proposes significant amendments to Section 115BAC, the provision governing the new personal tax regime.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- a) To undertake a comparative study between old and new tax regime.
- b) To study the amendments in new personal tax regime u/s 115BAC under the union budget 2023-2024.

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- c) To analyze the break-even point between the old and new tax regimes to determine which regime is more beneficial for an individual taxpayer.

#### ASSUMPTIONS OF THE STUDY

- a) Here, the basic exemption for the assesses whose age is less than 60 years only taken, but this limit is different in the case of senior citizen (age is 60 years or more) and super senior citizen (age is 80 years or more) respectively.
- b) Amount of exemptions/ deduction may vary among various assessees.
- c) Taxes in each year will depend on the tax rate.

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design used for this research paper is a descriptive. Furthermore, the entire research paper completely relies on secondary data. Secondary data is extracted from the government of India websites, the finance bills, various other research papers, newspapers, articles and journals.

#### Comparison between New Tax Slab Rates (F.Y. 2023-2024) and Old Tax Slab Rates (F.Y 2020-2021)

Total Income (Rs)	New Regime (Sec. 115BAC) Proposed Tax Rate in Finance Bill 2023 (F.Y.2023-2024) (%)	Old Tax Regime ( With Deductions) Tax Rate % (Budget 2020)	New Tax Regime ( Without Deductions) Tax Rate % (Budget 2020)
Up to 2,50,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
From 2,50,001 to 3,00,000	Nil	5	5
From 3,00,001 to 5,00,000	5	5	5
From 5,00,001 to 6,00,000	5	20	10
From 6,00,001 to 7,50,000	10	20	10
From 7,50,001 to 9,00,000	10	20	15
From 9,00,001 to 10,00,000	15	20	15
From 10,00,001 to 12,00,000	15	30	20
From 12,00,001 to 12,50,000	20	30	20
From 12,50,001 to 15,00,000	20	30	25
Above 15,00,000	30	30	30

Table:1 [Comparison between New Tax Slab Rates and Old Tax Slab Rates]

The above table presents a convenient comparison of tax slab rates between the two personal tax regimes for easy reference.

#### AMENDMENTS IN NEW PERSONAL TAX REGIME U/S 115BAC UNDER THE UNION BUDGET 2023.

- a) New personal tax regime can be opted by AOP, BOI & artificial juridical person, as well.

- b) New personal tax regime u/s 115BAC(1A) to be the default regime. Till F.Y 2022-23 (A.Y 2023-24), the old personal tax regime is the default regime and the taxpayers opting for the new regime and having their income under the head 'profits from business or profession' are required to file an electronic declaration in prescribed form 10IE, before the due date of filing their ITRs. W.e.f. F.Y 2023-24 (A.Y 2024-25), the new personal tax regime u/s 115BAC(1A), will become the default regime.
- c) Tax slabs in new personal tax regime revamped and has been reduced to 5 from 6. Also, new limit increased from Rs. 2.5 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs in new regime.
- d) Deduction in respect of family pension u/s 57(ia), upto Rs.15,000, allowable in new personal tax regime.
- e) Standard deduction u/s 16(ia) of rs. 50,000, now allowable in new personal tax regime as well unlike disallowed under existing new tax regime.
- f) Threshold income limit for rebate u/s 87a increased from rs. 5 lakhs to rs. 7 lakhs. At the above newly prescribed slab rates, the new rebate limit u/s 87a comes out Rs. 25,000 on the exempt income of Rs.7 lakhs, as compared to existing rebate limit of Rs.12,500 on the exempt income of Rs.5 lakhs.
- g) Surcharge rate for HNI's, having annual incomes exceeding Rs.5 crores, reduced from 37% to 25%, so their effective tax rate will reduce from 42.74% to 39%.

All the above amendments will become effective from FY 2023-24 (AY 2024-25) and onwards.

**Comparative Study between the Advantages and Disadvantages of New Tax Regime(F.Y. 2023-2024) and Old Tax Regime (F.Y 2020-2021)**

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>New Tax Regime for AY 2021-22 To AY 2023-24</u>	<u>New Tax Regime for AY 2024 - 25and onwards</u>
<u>No. of Tax Slabs Rates.</u>	Six	Five
<u>Basic Tax Exemption</u>	Upto Rs. 2,50,000	Upto Rs. 3,00,000
<u>Applicabilty</u>	Individuals , HUF	Individuals,HUF,AOP- Other than co-operative society ,BOI,AJP
<u>Default Regime</u>	Old Regime	New Regime
<u>Standard Deduction of Rs.50,000</u>	Not available	Available
<u>Rebate u/s 87 A</u>	Upto Rs.5,00,000	Upto Rs. 7,00,000
<u>Maximum Rebate u/s87A</u>	Rs.12,500	Rs. 25,000
<u>Highest Surcharge Rate</u>	37 percent	25 percent
<u>Deduction upto 15,000 u/s.57 (ia) for family pension.</u>	Not available	Available

Table:2 [Comparative Study between the Advantages and Disadvantages of New Tax Regime]

**COMPARISON BETWEEN OLD REGIME AND NEW REGIME IN THE CASE OF AN INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER**

To analyze which tax regime is beneficial to an individual taxpayers, an old tax regime or new tax regime, let us try to understand this with the help of a case study that is drawing a comparison between the same at the income level of Rs.10,00,000 keeping in mind the assumptions of the study.

	Old Regime	New Regime
GROSS SALARY	10,00,000	10,00,000
Less: Deductions Claimed		
<b>Standard Deduction u/s 16(ia)</b>	50,000	50,000
<b>Deductions u/s 80-C</b>		
<b>Investment in NSC</b>	1,00,000	Not available
<b>Home Loan Principle Repayment</b>	25,000	Not available
<b>Investment in Equity lined Saving Scheme</b>	25,000	1,50,000
<b>Interest on Home Loan u/s 24(b)</b>	75,000	Not available
<b>Helper Allowance u/s 10(14)</b>	25,000	Not available
<u>SCENARIO 1</u>		
<b>Total Available Deductions</b>	3,00,000	50,000
<b>Gross Total Income</b>	7,00,000	9,50,000
<b>Total Tax Liability</b>	<b>54,600</b>	<b>54,600</b>
<u>SCENARIO 2</u>		
<b>If investments in Equity lined Saving Scheme is not done</b>		
<b>Total Available Deductions</b>	2,50,000	50,000
<b>Total Tax Liability</b>	65,000	54,600
<u>SCENARIO 3</u>		
<b>If Mediclaim Premium u/s 80D of Rs.25,000 has also been paid.</b>		
<b>Total Available Deductions</b>	3,25,000	50,000
<b>Total Tax Liability</b>	49,400	54,600

Table:3 [ Comparison between Old Regime and New Regime in the case of an Individual Taxpayer]

**FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

Considering the various scenarios as highlighted in the Table1,2 and 3 of this research paper, the following are the findings of the study.

- For an individual with an income of Rs.10,00,000, the tax liability under the new tax regime is Rs.54,600. If the individual claims a deduction of at least Rs.3,00,000, their tax liability will be the same under both the new and old tax regimes. This is the point where the individual is indifferent between choosing the new or old tax regime.(Table 3: Scenario 1)
- If an individual with an income of Rs.10,00,000 is not able to claim a deduction of Rs.3,00,000, their tax liability will be higher under the old tax regime than under the new tax regime. Therefore, the individual would be better off choosing the new tax regime. (Table 3:Scenario 2)

- c) If an individual with an income of Rs.10,00,000 is able to claim a deduction of more than Rs.3,00,000, their tax liability will be lower under the old tax regime than under the new tax regime. Therefore, the individual would be better off choosing the old tax regime. (Table 3: Scenario 3)

Characteristic	Old tax regime	New tax regime
<b>Tax liability</b>	Lower if deduction is more than Rs.3,00,000	Higher if deduction is more than Rs.3,00,000
<b>Break-even point</b>	Deduction of Rs.3,00,000	No break-even point
<b>Indifference point</b>	No indifference point	Income of Rs.10,00,000

Table:4 [ An Break-Even Analysis of Old and New Tax Regime based on Table:3]

- a) Under the new tax regime, taxpayers can claim a standard deduction of up to Rs.50,000. This means that they can deduct this amount from their gross income before calculating their taxable income.
- b) The old tax regime is beneficial for taxpayers who are able to claim a large number of deductions. This is because the old tax regime allows for a wider range of deductions than the new tax regime.
- c) The new tax regime does not allow for tax deductions or exemptions for investment and savings. This means that taxpayers who make these types of investments will not be able to reduce their taxable income.

### CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

“It was only for the good of his subjects that he collected taxes from them, just as the Sun draws moisture from the Earth to give it back a thousand fold”(Kalidas in Raghuvansh eulogizing KING DALIP).The said quote also holds true when it comes to comparing old and new tax rate regime. New tax rates and slab rates are being implemented with the view of giving taxpayers advantages and benefits. The decrease and restructuring of tax rates are meant to overhaul the tax system, broaden the tax base, promote transparency much to how the Sun's action of pulling moisture from the Earth ultimately results in fruitful return. The government wants to ensure that, like how the Earth gains from the Sun's actions, taxpayers would finally enjoy much advantages and benefits by their implementation .

There is a little scope of tax planning under the new tax regime as no deductions or exemptions form the part of it.Thus on the basis of aforesaid analysis it can be concluded that old tax rate is more beneficial for them who are interested in making investments in tax saving schemes and wants to bring flexibility in his investment but, if there is no desire to make various exemptions/deductions available as per Income Tax Act, 1961 then the taxpayer can opt for new tax regime.

It is recommended to conduct a comparative analysis before deciding whether to go for existing rate of tax or the new tax rate, as this choice is optional for individuals without income from business or profession and can be made on a yearly basis.



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## IMPACT OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Anup Kumar Mishra\*, Shashank Dwivedi\*, Rishabh Pandey\*\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*It is the time of 1835 when the Britishers were present in India and they want to enact a common set of laws in the area of Contract law, Evidence Law and all the other criminal laws i.e but they personally don't want to intervene in the personal laws. They have decided that codification of personal laws should not be done i.e the time from where the origin of U.C.C has taken place. India is a country with vast diversity which is beauty of our country, we have many tribal communities and approximately 8 religions which shows that we have huge diversity, which was governed by their laws and many customary laws enactment of the Uniform civil code may bring equality among every person and community. But enactment of the U.C.C. might give a negative impact also in the diversity of this country. The paper discusses all the positive and negative aspects of the enactment of the Uniform civil code with its history. The latter part of this paper provides some suggestions for better enactment of code.*

**Keywords:** Constitution, Uniform civil code, Directive principles of state policy, One Nation One Law, Britishers, Bigamy, Sacrament.

### INTRODUCTION

A uniform civil code is a proposal in India to codify and apply personal laws of citizens which apply to all citizens equally regardless of their religion, caste, sex, race, sexual orientation. It is a very debatable topic that has been discussed a lot. Presently the personal laws of various communities are governed by their holy religious scripture uniform form of civil code is initially dealt in the constituent assembly and it left a divided constituent assembly at that particular time. UCC is a part of our constitution as it is contained under article 44 in part IV of the constitution i.e Directive Principle Of State policy. None of the articles other than UCC says, in particular, strive to shall, in particular, directs its policy, shall be an obligation of a state or as article 43 by suitable legislation.

These are things not in article 44 so whether the state can intervene in personal and can rob the diversity of state can intervene in personal and can rob the diversity of state or in other words we can say that state can enforce UCC and all the discrimination of all the religions is an interest of law.

### OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this paper is to determine the impact of the enactment of a code to govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, infants and minors including their custody, welfare and adoption, inheritance and succession, and matters related thereto. In simple words, this paper will examine the impact of the enactment of a uniform civil code.

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### **CONSTITUTIONAL VIEW**

There are different government laws governing rights relating to property, and personal matters like marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption and inheritance. The term “Uniform civil code” means unifying all the personal laws of Hindus, Christians, Jains, Buddhism and Sikhs to have one set of secular laws that will implement in every individual of India irrespective of their caste, sex, religion and community. Enactment of uniform laws in one for whole India may be counterproductive to unity and integrity of nation.

Our country INDIA got independent in year 1947, from 1947 to till date constitution made by constituent assembly being followed, it has been amended and added with new provisions according to need and demand of time. When we examine Preamble then we will find that it, states **WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION** (which makes our one identity as Indian include all the lower caste, upper caste, irrespective of sex include all men, women and others), **to secure JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY AMONGST ALL** so we can say that preamble itself says to apply this constitution equally among ourselves, but it also consists of some restriction under Art.14 that state may make laws for women and children and other restrictions also in another provision.

### **ROLE OF DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY**

As we know that our constitution has been enshrined with some of the principles under articles 36 to 51 which were called DPSP. DPSP provides that states should apply all the principles contained in articles 36 to 51 to make laws. However article 37 provides that the DPSPs were not justiciable in court, but it has created a legal obligation on governments as it is written with the word 'SHALL' ("it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws). The word shall connote that the states must carry on the law-making procedure.

### **INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 44**

Article 44 states to provide a uniform civil code for citizens “the state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India”. The word “shall” makes it a mandatory provision but the use of the word “endeavour” has diluted this mandatory provision, which made it that it is now on State will that this principle for the enactment of a uniform civil code. It has made the provision flexible, instead of making provision more strict. So now as it is in DPSP it has to become optional for governments.

### **INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 37:- application of the principles contained in this part**

Article 37 states that "The provisions contained in this part shall not be enforceable by any court, but principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the state to use these principles in creating laws".

At the time of framing the constitution, It has been asked Dr. B.R AMBEDKAR that what will be the role of judiciary in implementation of UCC? What will be the role of Government in implementation of DPSP? He answered “these policies although not justiciable it does not mean that it will be not enforceable ,it can be enforceable by the people of this country of the forthcoming election on the expiration of 5 years, electoral will ask the government of the day how you are going to apply DPSP, so on the action and demand of citizens of India Directive Principle of State policy will be enforceable”. Actually, at that time he thought that after 5 years of the general election people of India will ask voluntarily to the government the enactment of a uniform civil code and the government needed to work with ensuring the principles of DPSPs.

### **UNIFORM CIVIL CODE AS ONE NATION ONE SIGN (*EK VIDHAN EK NISHAAN*)**

The Uniform Civil Code several times get denoted as *one nation, one sign* or *one nation, one law* i.e. for a single country there will be one law as it is criminal in the same manner in personal law also. But this point has been criticized several times because it will give all the powers to the central government regarding making laws for personal laws. Our country has not only different religions but we are having different states along with different customs which creates very much diversity among citizens.

According to Prof. PRAMOD TIWARI of Delhi, University U.C.C. talks about *ek vidhan* i.e. throughout the nation there will be only one law and *ek nishaan* i.e. one flag throughout India from Kashmir to kanyakumari. In India we are having egalitarian society UCC is the only way through which we can establish a complete and absolute egalitarian society throughout the nation “one law for all”.

The concept of an egalitarian society in India is existing since a very ancient period i.e from *treta yuga* when we examine our Indian Culture then we will find the concept of **RAM RAJYA** which talks about equal laws for everyone whether it is king, queen, or normal public it does not discriminate between lower and upper caste as Ram ji has ate **SABRIKE BER**.

When we examine the modern history of India then we will find that Mahatma Gandhi ji a propounder of the concept of **socialism**, was very in contrast to markist communalism. He has also given the theory of the **last man** when resource of country is distributed in such a way that from the first man to last man it is found equally then only we can say that ,we don't have concept of egalitarian society .

Article 44 is based on the conception that religion should be separated from the law as we can say that science and faith in god both are different things. Article 44 assumes that there should not be any necessary connection between religion and personal law. Article 25 states that “with subject to another provision of this part we have the fundamental right of conscience, profess, practice, and propagate religion”. The sentence 'subject to other provision' connotes that another fundamental right has been made by constitution makers as one of the subordinate fundamental rights as compared to all.

### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

#### **Vedic period**

As we know Indian history is a very older one, and in ancient times it is found that both men and women were regarded as equal later on it gets changed into a patriarchal society. Approximately 2000 years ago in the Vedic period persons are governed by DHARMASHASHTRA in ancient days later on foreign invaders like SHAK, HOOR has invaded but they get into Indian culture, and they have not changed our dharmashastra.

#### **Mughals**

After 1200AD when the Mughals invaded India and robbed, and exploited Indian temples, they also destroyed many of our temples, and they destroyed the Indian culture . Mainly if we see they have broken India's spinal cord by targeting Indian women and temples. So at that time, their law is **SWORD**, whatever the king's sword decides it is considered the final one for every citizen, it is a kind of legal obligation, so the personal laws mainly were get governed by the holy scripts and customs among Hindus.

During **Aurangzeb's** reign India (1658-1707), he gathered approximately 500 Islamic scholars mostly they were islamic economics , to research and study and prepare law in order to govern Indians on basis the of *shariya*. In the end, when research has been completed, the law which was made for Indians are Personal laws, societal laws, economic law, taxation and banking law. These Islamic

scholars after researching Islamic tenets and books prepared **30 volumes** of books which are known as **FATWA ALAM -E-GIRI**. Based on this Fatwa Alam-e-Giri in South Asia law has been implemented. When Fatwa Alam-e-Giri has been prepared it is available in the Arabic language which is later get interpreted and translated by *Qazi's* for the citizens to implement it.

At present, the Fatwa Alam-e-Giri is available in 6 volumes, which consist of four pillars of law

- **HOLY QURANAAYATS**
- **Hadid- the life of prophet Mohammad.**
- **ISMA- the consensus of Islamic Scholars**
- **ISTEHAAD-** if there is no provision provided in Quran and Hadid then in There light the scholar talks interpretation is led down.

Based on sharia to govern people, they prepared civil law and at that time they don't have any criminal law it is decided based on the king's sword. When we examine the nature of Indian society as different from Arab countries, then we will find that, we have a great diversity in our culture which is the beauty of our country, somewhere it has put a negative impact on where this Islamic Scholar has come because they have a law which is some kind of inhuman i.e. an eye for eye and hand for hand. In other words, we can say that once the person has committed a crime then he has to suffer from the same thing in the same way.

We can understand these inhuman laws from an example: If a woman has been raped then the 4 men were needed to witness and if they said rape has been committed by the accused then only it is admissible by the king court that rape has been committed. But if the woman in the case failed to prove the rape charges then she is left for the mob and the mob kills that woman by beating and throwing stones at the woman

#### **Britishers**

As it is get traced back, initially Britishers stated that they want to rule only, as they want to generate revenue they don't want to interfere in our Shastric laws. In 1835 Britishers tried to provide and codify the common set of law's in the area of criminal laws, evidentiary law, and contract law, but at that time they specifically recommended that personal laws of a religious community should be kept out of these codifications. They have denied interfering in personal laws, they might don't want to get in any kind of controversy. This is the time of eighteenth century, from where in India the concept of common set of laws has been originated.

But in 1857 revolt when sepoy mutiny has taken place then British officers has raised there hand and approached to queen. Then queen has realised that they need laws and army in order to govern Indian citizens and control them. Parallel to this the **HINDU SOCIETIES SOCIAL WORKERS** has started movements against social evils, to provide equality among all the citizens.

#### **For example;**

**1.** One of the social activist **RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY** has been succeeded to convince the **LORD WILLIAM BENTICK** to prevent the Sati pratha, which has been stopped by enactig the law i.e. **SATIABOLITION ACT IN 1829.**

**2.** Another social activist **ISHWARCHAND VIDYASAAGAR** has started movement against widow remarriage for young widows , who has been restricted to get married again once there husband dies, these women's has to live alone for there life long so by realising there pain Ishwarchand vidyasagar has approached britishers to enact any law in order to getting married again. He became successful in 1856 by passing the Widow remarriage act .

On the other hand parallel with this mohammedans has convinced britishers to pass an act and not to intervene in there personal laws they have succeeded in there aim, as a result of this the **MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW SHARIAT APPLICATION ACT 1937** has been passed which consist of not more than 3pages and 6sections.

Under the act section 2. provides that application of personal laws to muslims- "Notwithstanding any customs or usage to the contrary, in all questions related with intestate, succession, special property of females, including personal property inherited or obtained under contract, gifts, trusts and trust properties, and wakfs( other than charitable and charities institutions and charitable and religious endowments) the rule of decision in cases where the parties are Muslims shall be the Muslim personal law(shariat)". In simple words the "all Muslim shall be governed by Shariat only". In this law, there has not been mentioned anything regarding offences type, cognizable, bailable etc. Nothing is codified in Shariat as in other acts the things were getting codified. (*indiankanoon.org*)

On the other hand, Hindu reformers convinced the governor to pass the **Sharda act 1929** also known as the **child marriage restrain act** it has been passed to frame the age of men and women. Men were eligible to marry at 18 and women at 14 of age according to the act. Later on it has been framed age at 18 for females 21 for males under the section 5 of Hindu Marriage Act and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006(*vidhikarya.com*).

In present situation, it is still transforming as a new bill has been drafted under the chairmanship of Jaya Jaitely and being introduced in parliament regarding increase in age of marriage of girls from 18 to 21. So it shows that how Hindu Code Bill getting transformed in comparison to other personal laws. On the other hand Mohhamedan laws prescribes when the girl and boy reach the age of puberty( approx. at age of 15), they properties-related own choices. But as of now on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 honourable Supreme Court has also issued a notice in a petition to the central government, which has been filed National Commission for Women to make the minimum age of Mohhamedan marriage as same other religions, the answer has still to come, but it may be get solved sooner, when the bill which has been proposed in parliament get passed, because it is religion neutral (<https://legal.economictimes.indiatimes.com>).

In the properties-related matter in 1937 **HINDU WOMEN RIGHT TO PROPERTIES ACT 1937** has been passed which is also called as **DESHMUKH ACT** which made provision to provide a share of the son to his widow. On the other hand, Muslims have only Shariat act.

For **CHRISTIANS** also Britishers have made laws when they have raised their voice to reform and codify laws:-

- **INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ACT 1872.**
- **INDIAN CHRISTIAN DIVORCE ACT 1869.**
- **GUARDIANSHIP AND BOARD ACT 1890.**
- **INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT 1865.**

#### **After Independence**

In 1947 INDIA get Independence from the constituent assembly also the voice for one nation one law has been raised, Dr B. R Ambedkar also favoured the enactment of the U.C.C but the country's condition is not of such type, we can say that at that time country has been divided into two parts, people were fighting in the name of religion.

At that time while favouring the U.C.C he said that "U.C.C is desirable but however further movement it should remain voluntary. So if we interpret his words, we can say that when U.C.C. get implemented it should be kept voluntary, it should not get implemented suddenly and mandatorily.

Further, Dr Ambedkar in the constituent assembly said that "I do not understand, why religion should be given this vast expansive jurisdiction so as to cover the whole of life, and to prevent the legislature from encroaching upon the field after all why do we have this liberty, we have this liberty to reform our social system, which is full of discrimination, inequities, and other things which conflict with our fundamental rights" (*Byju's IAS.COM*). He wanted to remove all kinds of discrimination from society whether it is religion-based or caste-based that's why he favoured the enactment of U.C.C but due to unsettled things, they were not able to implement this. Because at that time the main aim was to provide bread and butter to the public. They have opined to keep this in DPSP and implement it in the upcoming days.

But at that time immediate president of India and president of the constituent assembly Dr Rajendra Prasad did not agree with the implementation of U.C.C as it may conflict with the customs of Hindus, in the Hindu religion marriage is considered a sacrament and enactment of U.C.C may take away this beautiful thing. He thought that it may break the Hindu families, but he has said that "new concepts, new ideas which are foreign to the Hindu laws they are susceptible of dividing every family in this country".

In 1955 a new **HINDU CODE BILL** has been introduced which proved as turn in whole personal law. Followed to Hindu code bill in 1956 **Hindu succession act has been passed**. In 1956 **Hindu adoption Act** has been passed. The Hindu Marriage act has introduced concept of divorce in **section 13** as in Hindu marriage is taken as sacred thing earlier it has only entry not exit. Bigamy is also made to penalise. From 1956 to 2005 reform has taken place in Hindu succession act to provide equal rights in property for **daughters**.

For Christian laws bench of honorable **J. VIKRAMJEET SINGH in 2015** in a PIL has quashed 146 year old law for **Christian community** to grant divorce for Christian women's on the basis of equality that Hindus were having 1 year of time for mutual consent of divorce, and Christian are prescribed for two year period of time for mutual consent of divorce. He has also said that Government now should go for UCC implementation.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION OF LAWS**

In present situation there are many laws are present relating to marriage and divorce, infants and minors including their custody, welfare and adoption, inheritance and succession, and matters related thereto such as; **FOR HINDUS**: there are four act which were regarded as the Hindu code bill, Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Hindu Succession Act 1956, Hindu Majority and Guardianship Act 1956, and Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956. **For Mohammedans**, there are two governing laws Muslim Personal law (shariat) Application Act 1937 Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939 and eight more. For **Christians** Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872. For **Sikhs** Anand Marriage Act 1909 and there is one **Neutral marriage Act** also present under which now one of our community of same-sex were demanding to be included in that i.e. Special Marriage Act 1954. So with this, we can see that there are many personal laws which were governing things and to ensure equality among persons there is a need for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code.

#### **EVOLUTION FROM CASE LAWS**

**1. State of Bombay v. Nalrsuappa mali AIR 1952 Bom 84:-** This case is proved to be the turning point for UCC implementation in this case, it has been held that any law implemented before Indian Constitution has come into enforcement if it violates any law it will be declared as void or illegal. But personal law will be not declared as law under Article 13 for considering it as void and illegal.

## **2. MOHAMMAD AHMED KHAN v. SHAH BANO BEGUM (1985)2 SCC 635**

The fact of the case is there was women of age 65 yr old Shah Bano Begum who has been divorced by Mohammad Ahmed khan by following the procedure of Talaq-e-biddat. The husband refuses to pay maintenance for that woman. The Constitution Bench of the honourable Supreme Court of 5 judges bench has held that the husband has to pay maintenance as the case has been filed u/s125 of CrPC which is equal for everyone.

The all Indian Muslim personal law has made this a national issue many protests have been started all over India, interim government of Rajiv Gandhi passed **WOMEN PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON DIVORCE ACT 1986** which made provision that Muslims, the husband will provide **maintenance during the iddat period only.**

## **3. SARLA MUDGAL V. UOI (1995) 3 SCC 635**

This is a historic and landmark judgement for a uniform civil code, in this judgement court concerned uniform civil code, the division bench of Honourable justice Kuldeep Singh and hon'ble Justice R.M Shah said that several governments came and gone from the time of enforcement of the constitution, but no one has tried successfully to implement the constitution mandate provided under article 44. Because of some loopholes in laws, people were at taking disadvantage as there is no bigamy allowed in Hindus they were getting converted into Muslims for having more than one marriage, just because of having two wives for themselves. Further Court held that when a person married in one religion following one custom then the divorce will be done on that custom basis only, a person cannot marry in another religion with another custom if in his religion bigamy is an offence. (*article shah Umang at indiastudychannel.com*)

## **4. DANIEL LATIFI AND ANR V. UNION OF INDIA 2001**

This case has been filed by an advocate of Shah Bano Begum and challenged because it is violating the art.14,15 and 21 the law which has been passed by the Rajiv Gandhi government Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the with S.125 of CrPC harmonising it with holy *Quran Aayat* states that "the reasonable and fair maintenance has to be done" which means that maintenance should be Given in such amount that is sufficient for women whole life. The amount of maintenance should be given within 3 months or otherwise in installment for whole life so this is an approach to uniformity toward maintenance. (<https://lawplanet.in>)

## **5. SHAYARA BANO V. UOI writ petition ( C) No. 11p.2016**

This case belongs to triple talaq ,In this case it has been held that triple talaq is not part of a Islam and it is unconstitutional. Hon'ble Supreme court in it's historic judgement with 3:2 ratio had struck down this instant talaq. Now the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on marriage) bill has been passed by Parliament which has made it an offence,

### **JUDICIAL ATTITUDE**

The last law commission formed in 2018 at that time recommended not to implement the U.C.C. It has been said in the last law commission report that, 'U.C.C neither it is necessary nor desirable. It has been said by the law commission, to remove the discriminatory practices in marriage and divorce. As many things in U.C.C were related to marriages, divorce, and property-related matters some uniformity should be get introduced in U.C.C. (<https://studyiqjudiciary.com>)

In the present situation, the supreme court in several cases has recommended the government enact a single code. When we examine this paper also hon'ble Supreme Court always in many cases has favoured many cases.



## CONCLUSION

We find that from the ancient period to the early medieval period we are having uniformity in law but when Mughal invaders invaded they implemented their personal law. At the time of the Britishers when social workers raise their voices for reformation, many reforms have been done in various religions of India during that period only many others also have been passed which created inequality among religions.

India gets independent in 1947 from 1947 to 1950 constituent assembly has been formed and written Indian constitution. Under the Indian constitution, article 44 prescribes the provisions of the Uniform Civil Code which means single legislation for every individual. If we see we will find that we have a uniform Civil Code in case of criminal matters, in case of civil matters also only we don't have the law of uniformity in the field of personal law or family courts. Article 25 states that subject to public order morality and health and subject to all other fundamental rights all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and write freely to profess, propagate, and practice their religion. So we can say that religion is an inferior right to other fundamental rights it consists of some restrictions on its freedom.

Article 25 clause 2 has provision that state may make law in public interest to reform religion . So whatever conflict has between the religions regarding personal law for equal rights it can be resolved by passing the uniform Civil Code. At present Goa is the only state having uniform Civil Code because it got independent in 1961 from Portuguese they already have their uniform Civil code. But there is one thing regarding Goa UCC which many people don't have knowledge about that is, there is one exception among them which allows them for having bigamy, if from the the first wife they don't have a male child. As of now many particular state assemblies were, trying to enact the U.C.C., but it will NOT complete the aim of the U.C.C. as it has the objective to bring uniformity among everyone. If different states will enact their own U.C.C. then there will be 29 U.C.C. formations taking place. So enacting the UCC by Parliament, while keeping in mind the diversity of Indian culture will also remove the exceptions as well as enhance the equality among citizens of India concerning art. 14 and 15. It will also ensure gender equality.

## SUGGESTIONS

- 1. VOLUNTARY TO BE IMPLEMENTED:** The public must get aware of this with the help of institutions, leaders, and especially para-legal volunteers.
- 2. Proper Time Should Be Given:** Citizens should be provided with some time for adjusting themselves to the new code. In other words, we can say that people should be given approximately two years after the date of getting consent from the president of India to adopt them easily.
3. Customs should get preserved.
4. Tribal culture should be get preserved or they should be kept out of this U.C.C.
5. U.C.C should be implemented in parts as Hindu code bill has been implanted.

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## **THE CAUSAL NEXUS BETWEEN EXPORT, IMPORT, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN INDIA: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION**

**Srijan Srivastava\*, Umang Parti\*\* and Dr. Gajendra Kumar Sahu\*\*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*This present study seeks to analyze the impact of exports and imports on the GDP of India by taking time series data from the period 1950 - 2021. It applies ADF (Augmented Dickey-Fuller) Test to test for stationarity, Granger causality for checking the direction of the relationship between the variables, the ARDL (Auto Regressive Distributed Lag) Test along with the Bounds Test to analyze the long-run relationship, and the OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) Method to further investigate the relationship. The study findings confirmed that there exists a Bi-Directional relationship between Export and GDP and a Uni-Directional relationship between Imports and GDP, GDP causes Imports but Imports do not cause GDP. It also shows that there exists a long-run relationship between the Dependent variable GDP Growth Rate and Independent variables which are Export as a percentage of GDP and Import as a Percentage of GDP.*

**Key Words:** *Export, Import, GDP Growth Rate, Causal Relationship, ADF, OLF, ARDL, Granger Causality Test*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In today's global economy, consumers are used to seeing goods and services from every corner of the world in their local grocery or retail shops or with the touch of a finger. These overseas products give consumers more choices and options to select from and differ from domestically produced goods in terms of price and quality. In this era of an open economy, where the target of all countries is to improve the quality of life of their citizens, international trade and GDP play a very important role. There is a lot of scope in determining the relationship between international trade and its related sector.

International trade includes both exports and imports of goods and services across the border. Countries that have sufficient natural resources export goods and services to foreign countries and get foreign remittances which help them to increase the per capita income of the people. While some countries have insufficient natural resources, they import raw materials, technology, or resources, which will improve the per-capita income of the importing country. International trade also helps to create job opportunities, improve infrastructure and increase economies of scale. Trade helps a country to grow by creating a multiplier effect.

India has a rich history of international trade and is gradually working to reap the benefits in the best possible manner. The second world war adversely affected many countries, however, India continued to manage the growth rate at 3.5 percent per annum and per capita growth averaged 1.3 percent per

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annum. After independence, India started developing its domestic industries and was described as “Import substituting par excellence” World bank included India in the list of “Strongly inward-oriented countries”

In 1980' India adopted an expansionary fiscal and monetary policy to give a push to domestic demand which was financed by borrowing abroad and at home. The fragile but faster growth during the 1980s took place in the context of significant reforms throughout the decade but especially starting in 1985. India faced the problem of a large current account deficit, along with high inflation and the gulf war. This led to the balance of payment crisis of 1991. The government of India introduced new economic reforms in July 1991, mainly for the economic progress of the country. The reforms highly influenced the exchange rate system, improving the efficiency of the state

In 2001-02, the terrorist attack on the world trade center caused a net loss of 0.25 percent of the US GDP which also has an impact on the Indian GDP. it led to a 0.5% decrease in real GDP growth and an unemployment rate increase of 0.11%. The major setback was the global recession of 2008, India's growth of GDP fell to 6.8% against over 9% in the preceding three years. Approximately \$12 billion worth of investors withdrew from the stock markets, and they're a huge fall was witnessed. Also, the trade and fiscal deficit were hurt badly. In 2009-10 and 2011-11, the Indian economy recovered and its growth of GDP was 8% and 8.6% respectively.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The impact of international trade on the economy has captured the minds of economists and researchers for ages. In the literature, there are many studies that show the relationship between International trade and economic growth.

Many studies have reported that international trade has a positive impact on economic growth, **Titus O Awokuse (2007)**, studied the impact of export and import on growth expansion in three transition economies (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Poland). He concluded that there has been a causal relationship between trade and economic growth for central and eastern European countries. While **Hakan Cetintas and Salih Baris (2008)** analyze the relationship in 13 transition economies including Russia, Hungary, Slovenia, Armenia, and Kazakhstan to name a few, they concluded that there is unidirectional causality and growth-led export hypothesis is applicable. **Vohra (2001)** in her empirical findings of several countries like India, Pakistan, Philippines, Malaysia, and Thailand on the basis of time series data from 1973 to 1993 indicates that exports have a positive and significant impact on economic growth when a country achieves a certain level of economic development. **G Rod Erfani (1999)** studied the relationship between several developing countries in Asia and Latin America from 1965 to 1995. The result shows a positive relationship and supports the hypothesis that exports lead to higher output growth, providing evidence in favor of export promotion.

A few studies have also shown that international trade has a negative impact on economic growth, **Maureen Were (2015)** shows that based on different categories trade has a positive impact on economic growth in developing and developed nations and its impact is insignificant in the least developed nations including some African countries. **Shameek Mukherjee and Shahana Mukherjee (2012)** summarise the export performance of three unique industries which comprises India's manufacturing sector. It highlights that India's export pattern depends on a number of factors, including global and partner country economic conditions, costs, market structure, domestic regulations, and policy incentives. **Attahir Babaji Abubakar (2015)** shows a positive and significant relationship between exports and domestic investment with the GDP. The result also showed that there is a negative and statistically significant relationship between imports and GDP in long run,

while in the short run it shows a negative and insignificant relation.

Some studies have also shown that international trade has bidirectional causality between international trade and economic growth, **Awokuse (2008)** shows that for several Latin American countries both exports and imports play a very important role in stimulating economic growth. **Abdulnasser Hatemi-J (2002)** shows a bi-directional relationship between export growth and economic growth from the period 1960 -1999 and suggested expansion of exports is an integral part of the economic growth process in the country. **Awokuse (2011)** studied the effect and relationship in Argentina, Colombia, and Peru. The result suggested that the focus of past studies on exports may be misleading. It concluded that empirical evidence supporting import-led growth is stronger than evidence for export-led growth, also in some cases, there is evidence of reverse causality from gross domestic product to imports and exports.

While some studies have shown unidirectional causality between the variables, **Kibria and Hossain (2020)** investigated the relationship between exports and economic growth in Bangladesh covering the period from 1980-2018. They find a unidirectional causality between exports to economic growth and a bidirectional causality relationship between exports to economic growth. **Sachin N Mehta (2015)** analyzed Indian data from 1976 to 2014 and concluded that there exists unidirectional causality from GDP to exports in long run ie GDP lead to export but export do not lead to GDP. He also found that there is no causality between GDP and imports ie GDP does not lead to imports and imports do not lead to GDP.

While some studies do not establish any long-run or short-run relationship between international trade and economic growth like **Salih Turan Katircioglu, Neslihan Kahyalar, and Hasret Benar (2007)** show that there exists a long-run equilibrium relationship between trade and real income growth and a unidirectional relationship from real income to exports and imports. **Sultan and Haque (2010)**, show the relationship between growth, domestic investment, and exports specifically in the Indian economy. They showed that export has a positive effect on growth in both the short run and long run but their contribution is not that significant. They also suggested that the reason for the insignificant relation between GDP and exports might be that the specific sector remained a tiny sector constituting less than 5% of GDP till 1991.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

This research paper examines the causal relationship between exports, imports, and GDP in India from 1950 to 2021.

### 4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Data Source

This research is based on secondary data obtained from the World Bank for the Indian economy in annual figures and Economic surveys of 2021-2022 pertaining to the period 1950 -2021.

#### 4.2 Research Tools

To find the proper causal relationship between our three variables, statistical tools like the ADF Test to check the Unit Root (to check the stationarity of economic variables), the pairwise Granger Causality Test (to check the unidirectional or bi-directional relationship between the variables), ARDL Test (Auto Regressive Distributed Lag), and Regression Analysis have been used.

### 5. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

#### 5.1 Non- Stationary Test (ADF)

The ADF (Augmented Dickey-Fuller) test is a unit root test for stationarity. Before applying the

regression analysis to time series or panel data, a stationary test had been conducted to assess the order of integration for each time series. In order to determine the co-integration, the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) and Philips-Perron (PP) unit root tests had been employed to check the integration level and the likely co-integration concerning the variables. This test is conducted by “augmenting” the equation by adding the lagged values of the dependent variable ( $\Delta Y$ ) to correct any serial correlation in the disturbance term.

$$\Delta Y = \beta_1 + \beta_2 t + \delta Y_{-1} + \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha \Delta Y_{-k} + \varepsilon \quad (5.1.1)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is an error term characterized as a pure white noise error term,

$$\text{where } \Delta Y_{-1} = (Y_{-1} - Y_{-2}), \Delta Y_{-2} = (Y_{-2} - Y_{-3}), \text{ etc.}$$

We need to check our time series for stationary or non-stationary, because a non-stationary time series may lead to the phenomenon of nonsense regression. The ADF (Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test) is applied to check the stationary of economic variables.

Null Hypothesis: The series is non-stationary means it has a unit root.

Alternate Hypothesis: Variables are stationary means it doesn't have unit root.

**Table 5.1: ADF Unit Root Test Result**

<b>ADF Unit Root Test</b>								
<b>Variables</b>	<b>Level</b>				<b>First Difference</b>			
	<b>T- Stats</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>Hypothesis</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>T- Stats</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>Hypothesis</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Export Growth Rate</b>	-7.416402	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary	-9.926557	0	reject @ 5%	
<b>Export as a % of GDP</b>	0.354662	0.9796	accept @ 1%		-7.479077	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary
<b>ln (export)</b>	1.728634	0.9996	accept @ 1%		-7.395353	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary
<b>Import Growth Rate</b>	-8.562553	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary	-8.113965	0	reject @ 5%	
<b>Import as a % of GDP</b>	-0.066659	0.9484	accept @ 1%		-7.239672	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary
<b>ln (import)</b>	0.955446	0.9957	accept @ 1%		-8.402766	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary
<b>GDP Growth Rate</b>	-8.527207	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary	-6.451619	0	reject @ 5%	
<b>ln (GDP)</b>	2.129279	0.9999	accept @ 1%		-8.542994	0	reject @ 5%	series stationary

Note: We tested based on Intercept.

The table above shows that the null hypothesis of unit root is rejected for the first difference and level at 5% and 1% statistically significantly. If the null hypothesis is rejected that indicates the variables are in stationary form. Table (5.1) shows that our variables like Export Growth Rate, Import Growth Rate, and GDP Growth Rate reject the null hypothesis at 5% significance at Level showing that the series is stationary at Level and doesn't have a unit root. While variables like Export as a percentage of GDP, Import as a percentage of GDP, Ln (Export), Ln (Import), and Ln (GDP) reject the null hypothesis at 5% significance at first difference showing that the series is stationary at the first difference and doesn't have a unit root.

### 5.2 Granger Causality Test

Granger Causality Test is used to examine the structure of causal relationships between the variables. This statistical hypothesis test determines whether one time series is useful for forecasting another. If the probability value is less than 0.005 level of significance, then the hypothesis will be rejected and there arises either bi-directional or unidirectional causality. As we can see above the ADF test results, we have selected only 3 variables (Ln (Exports), Ln (Imports), and Ln (GDP)) as these show significance at first difference.

$$GDP = a_1 + \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha EX_{-k} + \sum_{j=1}^n \beta IM_{-j} + \sum_{p=1}^n \gamma GDP_{-p} + \varepsilon_1 \quad (5.2.1)$$

$$EX = a_2 + \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda EX_{-k} + \sum_{j=1}^n \delta GDP_{-j} + \varepsilon_2 \quad (5.2.2)$$

$$IM = a_3 + \sum_{k=1}^n \theta IM_{-k} + \sum_{j=1}^n \rho GDP_{-j} + \varepsilon_3 \quad (5.2.3)$$

where  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_2$  are uncorrelated white noise error terms.

Equation (5.2.1) implies that GDP at time t depends on past values of itself and that of EX(export) and IM(import). Equation (5.2.2) implies that EX at time t depends on past values of itself and that of GDP. Equation (5.2.3) implies that IM at time t depends on past values of itself and that of GDP.

**Table 5.2: Granger Causality Test Result**

<b>Granger Causality Test</b>				
<b>Null Hypothesis</b>	<b>F-statistic</b>	<b>Prob.</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<b><u>Ln(Export) does not granger cause Ln (GDP)</u></b>	3.358	0.0409	Reject	Ln (Export) affects Ln (GDP)
<b><u>Ln (GDP) does not granger cause Ln (Export)</u></b>	4.49613	0.0148	Reject	Ln (GDP) affects Ln (Exports)
<b><u>Ln (Import) does not granger cause Ln (GDP)</u></b>	0.78688	0.4596	Accept	Ln (Import) does not affect Ln (GDP)
<b><u>Ln (GDP) does not granger cause Ln (Import)</u></b>	4.14683	0.0202	Reject	Ln (GDP) affects Ln (Imports)

Table (5.2) shows that there exists a Bi-Directional relationship between Exports and GDP. It means that exports cause GDP and GDP also causes Exports. There exists a Unidirectional relationship between Imports and GDP which means GDP causes Imports. But, Imports do not cause GDP.

### 5.3 ARDL (Auto Regressive Distributed Lag) Test

ARDL Test or Auto Regressive Distributed Lag Test. It also tells us the direction of the relationship. It is an OLS-based model which is applicable for both non-stationary time series as well as for time series with mixed order of integration. It takes a sufficient number of lags to figure out the data-generating process in a general-to-specific modeling framework. The condition to run an ARDL test is that some variables should be stationary at the level and some should be stationary at the first difference. So we are taking the GDP growth rate which is stationary at the level, and Export as a percentage of GDP and Import as a percentage of GDP as they are stationary at first difference.

Null Hypothesis: No Long-run relationship exists.

**Table 5.3: Lag Selection Model**

<u>Lag</u>	<u>Export as a percentage of GDP</u>		<u>Import as a percentage of GDP</u>	
	<u>AIC</u>	<u>SIC</u>	<u>AIC</u>	<u>SIC</u>
<u>0</u>	-6.41375	-6.346845	-6.165803	-6.098899
<u>1</u>	-10.21246*	-10.01175*	-9.395174*	-9.194461*
<u>2</u>	-10.17787	-9.843349	-9.343229	-9.008708
<u>3</u>	-10.102	-9.633671	-9.229682	-8.761352
<u>4</u>	-10.06779	-9.465655	-9.214404	-8.612266
<u>5</u>	-9.977	-9.241053	-9.137319	-8.401372
<u>6</u>	-10.04729	-9.177534	-9.091418	-8.221663

**Table 5.3: ARDL Test Result**

<u>ARDL (Auto Regressive Distributed Lag) Test</u>								
<u>GDP Growth Rate (Dependent Variable)</u>								
<u>Variable</u>	<u>Coefficient</u>	<u>S.E.</u>	<u>T-Stats</u>	<u>Prob.</u>	<u>Ad. R square</u>	<u>F-stats</u>	<u>Prob (F)</u>	<u>DW test</u>
<u>C</u>	0.041617	0.008278	5.02764	0	0.039235	1.939251	0.131797	2.021326
<u>Export as % of GDP</u>	0.007174	0.311767	0.02301	0.9817				
<u>Import as % of GDP</u>	0.109342	0.273682	0.39952	0.6908				



**Table 5.4: Bounds Test for Co-Integration Analysis**

<u>Computed F-Statistic</u>	<u>HHS</u>	
	20.598292	
<u>Critical Values (%)</u>	<u>Lower Bound</u>	<u>Upper Bound</u>
	<u>I(0)</u>	<u>I(1)</u>
<u>1%</u>	4.13	5
<u>2.50%</u>	3.55	4.38
<u>5%</u>	3.1	3.87
<u>10%</u>	2.63	3.35

Table (5.3) and Table (5.4) together show us that there exists a long-run relationship between the Dependent variable GDP Growth Rate and Independent variables which are Export as a percentage of GDP and Import as a Percentage of GDP. Also, the F statistic value is 20.59829 which is more than the upper bound value of 3.87 at a 5% significance level which indicates that there is a co-integration between the dependent and independent variables.

**5.4 OLS Method**

Regression Analysis helps us to determine the strength, character, and also statistical significance of the association between the variables. It is concerned with the study of the dependence of one variable, the dependent variable, on one or more other variables, the explanatory variables, with a view to estimating and/or predicting the (population) mean or average value of the former in terms of the known or fixed (in repeated sampling) values of the latter (Gujarati, Damodar N., Basic Econometrics, 5d ed., McGraw-Hill, New York, 2009, p.15).

$$GDP = \alpha + \beta_1 EX_1 + \beta_2 IM_2 + \varepsilon(5.4.1)$$

We take GDP Growth Rate as the dependent variable and Import Growth Rate and Export Growth Rate as independent variables.

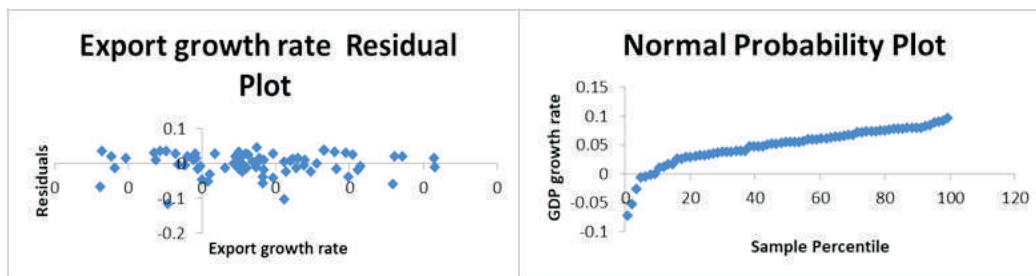
**Table 5.5: Regression Analysis**

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Coefficient</u>	<u>S.E.</u>	<u>T-Stat</u>	<u>Prob.</u>	<u>R square</u>	<u>Ad. R square</u>	<u>F-Stat</u>	<u>Prob.(F)</u>	<u>DW-Stat</u>
<u>Intercept</u>	0.045166	0.004677	9.656187	0	0.043284	0.015145	1.538226	0.222141	2.092486
<u>Export Growth Rate</u>	0.015163	0.042689	0.355209	0.7235					
<u>Import Growth Rate</u>	0.040715	0.031718	1.283655	0.2036					

As we see in Table (5.5), a one-point increase in the value of the Export Growth Rate would increase GDP Growth Rate by nearly 0.015 points. It is also clear that between the two factors considered, the marginal effect of the Import Growth Rate is the highest. The value of R square is 0.043 which implies that the two factors(explanatory variables) together explained nearly 4.3% of the total variation in GDP Growth Rate. The computed value of R square is not much significant, which is also revealed by the statistical significance of the computed F-value.

However, it is possible to improve the fit of the estimated model (as revealed by adj.R square) by dropping the Export Growth Rate variable as the absolute value of the computed t-statistic of this variable is less than the other two variables. The conclusion that follows from this model is that, among all factors, Import Growth Rate is significantly important in increasing GDP Growth Rate. Although Improvement in Export Growth Rate is also likely to increase the GDP Growth Rate.

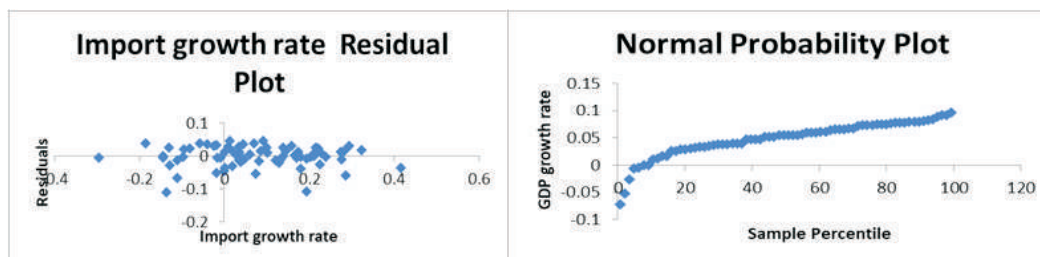
**Figure 5.1: GDP Growth rate as a function of Export Growth Rate**



**Figure 4.1 (A)**

**Figure 4.1 (B)**

**Figure 5.2: GDP Growth Rate as a function of Import Growth Rate**



**Figure 4.2 (A)**

**Figure 4.2 (B)**

## 6. CONCLUSION

The main conclusions emerging from the study shows us that in the analysis of impact on India's GDP during the period of study exports and imports have significant input. From the result of Granger Causality test, it is found that there exists a Bi-Directional relationship between Exports and GDP and Uni-Directional relationship between Imports and GDP means that GDP causes Imports, but Imports do not cause GDP. From the result of regression analysis, it is reflected that GDP growth rate is more influenced by Import Growth Rate rather than Export Growth Rate. It is due to composition of Imports which are used to increase production as well as productivity and help to increase the export capacity of Indian Economy. There also exists a long-run relationship between the Dependent variable (GDP Growth Rate) and Independent variables (Export as a percentage of GDP and Import as a Percentage of GDP) and explanatory variables (Import Growth Rate and Export Growth Rate) is not much relevant to explain the variation in the dependent variable (GDP Growth Rate).

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## STATE LEVEL ANALYSIS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES : EVIDENCE FROM NFHS-4, 2015-16

Swastika Satyam\*

### ABSTRACT

*ICDS is well design government programme. It aims to tackle the issue of child malnutrition through providing various health and nutrition services among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The study look into children those who participate in ICDS among the states where is highest and lowest stunting prevalence in India. Th study observe that higher particiaption among the lowest prevalence states and vice-versa.*

**Keywords:** *stunting, ICDS, coverage*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

An establishment of strategic intervention to combat malnutrition, to break poverty cycle and to induce educational process by increasing the participation of children from young ages is a long-standing commitment on the part of developmental agenda. ICDS is one of the oldest and comprehensive coverage in this area which started in 1975 as a nutrition intervention for vulnerable population as Food-For-Work program, Public Distribution System (PDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme. However, these interventions to tackle the problem of poverty have an endeavouring objective to enhance the access to food grain adequacy of the supply side. ICDS is mainly focused on three primary targeted beneficiaries i.e. children below six years and adolescent girls (later extended), pregnant women and nursing mother. The program provides comprehensive coverage to vulnerable population besides PDS and MDM. ICDS aims to promote children's inclusive development through assistance in providing cooked meal, health check-ups, immunization and pre-schooling. ICDS further provides Take Home Rations (THR), health and nutrition education for pregnant women and lactating mother and referral services. Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) deliver these services at rural and urban settings in India. In November 2001, Supreme Court has ordered to universalize the coverage of ICDS but such universalization came into effect in 2004. For better functioning and implementation of the services, AWC covers and includes at least eighty children, twenty pregnant and nursing mothers and two adolescent girls. There are six functions that ICDS undertake for direct intervention in nutrition and health because there is a close linkage between dietary intake and nutrition. These are as follows:

#### a) *Supplementary Nutrition*

It is an important component in ICDS which provides supplementary nutrition as cooked meal to children of 3-6 years at the nearby AWC. Other provision of supplementary nutrition is THR provided for a lactating and pregnant mother at regular intervals (monthly basis) for children below three years of age. Through supplementary

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nutrition, AWW attempts to bridge protein energy gap between recommended dietary allowances and average dietary intake of children and women. The type of food under supplementary nutrition varies from state to state addressing local needs and taking into account local food. It usually includes cereals, pulses and green vegetables. MoWCD, (2001) provides the nutritional norms for supplementary nutrition which are: 300 Kilocalories and 8-10 grams of protein to children in the age group of 0-6 years, 600 Kilocalories and 16-20 grams of protein to severely malnourished children under 6 years of age and 500 Kilocalories and 20-25 grams of protein to adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers. Central government has revised these norms as per Supreme Court order dated April 22, 2009. It has been raised to 500 calories and 12-15 grams of protein to children aged 0-6 years, 800 calories and 20-25 grams of protein to severely malnourished, 600 calories and 18-20 grams of protein to adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women (MoWCD, 2009).

**b) *Pre-schooling***

Children of 3-6 years age usually attain socialization when they are offered an opportunity to mingle with other children. This is part of socialization process in a child's life. Such involvement essentially helps in developing physical and cognitive skills from early childhood. The process facilitates the primary schooling by preparing a child to participate in educative processes which would be rather difficult otherwise. Activities under pre-schooling include story-telling, counting numbers, conversation skills, drawing, matching colours, writing alphabets and recognizing pictures.

**c) *Nutrition and Health Education (NHE)***

NHE functions with the help of ASHA and AWW. They provide information related to health and safe practices to be practised by mothers and lactating women of 15-49 age group, care practices for children, breast feeding, counselling for institutional delivery, family planning, utilization of health services, sanitation, and maintenance of proper hygiene. This programme helps an individual to imbibe better food habits and practices that are consistent with the nutritional needs according to body. In short, NHE facilitates a long-term capacity building of women in the 15-49 age cohorts so that they can take care of themselves and their families. The effect of which is in the increased proportion of institutional births in general.

**d) *Immunization***

Children under six years are provided with several vaccinations against diseases through this programme. Under immunization service vaccines are provided to child like BCG, Polio, DPT (Diphtheria- Pertussis -Tetanus). Pregnant women also get immunized against tetanus. AWW generally organizes immunization activity at AWC or sometimes through door to door visits for the coverage. ANM who works with Primary Health Centre (PHC) is a part of this programme. AWW maintains the records and organizes immunization slot/ timings for a particular area.

**e) *Health Check-Ups***

ASHA maintains the records of pregnant women in her respective area. She undertakes health check-ups for children, antenatal check-ups for pregnant women and promotes institutional delivery and postnatal check-up of nursing mothers. AWW keeps records

of all 0-6 aged children in her respective areas. She maintains and monitors the records of weight and height of a child. For growth monitoring, children under three years of age are weighed once a month and children aged between 3-6 years of age who attend AWC are measured in terms of their height and weight quarterly. AWC maintains the Weight-for-age and Height-for age charts. This helps in access the nutritional need of a child on the basis of which AWW can advise mother on food and other health care requirements of a child. It also provides required treatment of minor illness of child (**ORS powder for diarrhoea and dehydration**). If child is detected to be undernourished, additional calories are provided through cooked meal at AWC. AWC also undertakes regular counselling of child's mother for providing adequate food and care.

**g) Referral Services**

During health check-ups and growth monitoring, it is easy to find out malnourished children who need prompt medical attention. Under referral services such children or women are referred to PHC and **associated** sub-centres by ASHA or AWW where they get required medical services in the form of check-ups and medicines.

Significantly, the role of the ICDS is vital in reducing child malnourishment. The coverage and service uptake of ICDS are interrelated. The observations and inferences of ICDS uptake on malnutrition are mixed. There are studies which show ICDS has very little impact on reduction of child under-nutrition (Thakur et al., 2000, Kandpal, 2011; Jain, 2015; Chudasama et al., 2015; Dixit et al., 2018). Some studies show ICDS helps in reducing the incidence of malnourishment. For example, White and Masset (2007), Ruel et al. (2013) identify that the participation in ICDS lead to improvement in WAZ and HAZ scores of respective children. Kandpal (2011) finds the evidence of positive and significant effect of ICDS in the reduction of stunting less than five years among boys. However, the role of ICDS can't be underplayed in overall nutritional support activity for children and women in the country. Evaluative reports and studies on ICDS find that it is well-designed programme but its actual coverage is limited due to some implementation issues (Saiyed and Seshadri, 2000; Gragnolati et al., 2006; Word Bank, 2007; Rajpal et al., 2020).

The objective of the study is to look in to the participation of children among the age six who receives any benefits from ICDS across the highest and lowest stunted states in India.

**1.1 ICDS: Background and Monitoring**

ICDS is a centrally sponsored programme that has food and non-food components, as briefly discussed above. Central government provides 90 percent whereas state government provides 10 percent of funds on non-food component. Also, there are 50:50 contributions on food component by the State and Central government respectively. The selection norms of a beneficiary are those who are suffering the highest risk of malnutrition and require supplementary nutrition. The beneficiary may be from households who are marginal farmer or landless labour and SCs and STs. **In** other words, ICDS targets the foundations of physical and psychological development of the child in the most vulnerable sections of the population, including children under six years age, pregnant and nursing women. Furthermore, India launched National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan or Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) in 2017 which strategies to enhance decentralization for better execution of several programmes including health with inter-departmental coordination. ICDS works through village and Panchayat levels with aim to accelerate service uptake.

The program is functioning with a multilevel administrative channel designed by the Central

government and implemented by State governments. Funds are managed by Centre and States together. MWCD is mentoring the program centrally. In contrast, at the state level the program is administered by the Department of Social Welfare / Justice and within districts managed by a District Program Officers (DPO) and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), AWCs is operated by AWWs with moderate payment with the help of Anganwadi Helper (AWH) or Sahayika at local level which is a cornerstone of the ICDS program. World's developmental agencies like World Bank, UNICEF support ICDS to strengthen the system and nutrition development strategy (MWCD, 2019). For the identification of beneficiaries, firstly, community level survey is conducted. It is multifaceted programme. Further, it aims at reducing the incidence of female infanticide and foeticide through counselling and educative processes and to disseminate information on the benefits of having a female child in an attempt to reduce excess female mortality. District and village level ICDS centres provide vitamin A supplements, immunizations, health examinations, referral services, early childhood care, day care and preschool education and information on nutrition and health (MWCD, 2019).

### **1.3 ICDS: Participation in India**

In this section we will elaborate the participation in the services which have been provided by ICDS. We will also present background characteristics of its participants.

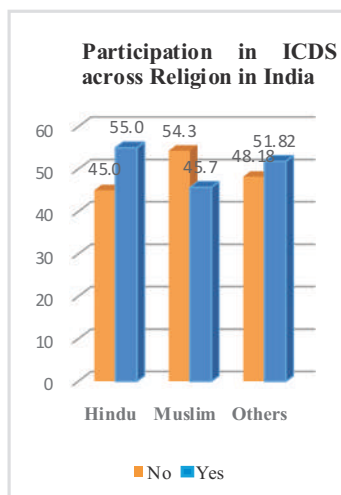
Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 show children's participation in ICDS according to socio-economic group and religion-wise at All India level. It indicates about 55 percent Hindu household's children participated in ICDS whereas 46 percent of Muslims household's children participated in it. Households which belong to the Other religion (Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists) shows 52 percent participation among them. It is clear that non-participation of children is high among Muslims (54.3 percent).

Turning towards social group wise participation in ICDS in India we find SC children (59 percent) show highest participation of ICDS followed by STs (63.8 percent), OBCs (52 percent), and Others (47 percent). The highest non-participation of Others suggests the socio-economic betterment of that group in the society, which incidentally lowers their count in the overall participation. It can be argued that people from Others category may hold the opinion that schemes such as ICDS is for the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society which itself explain their low participation.

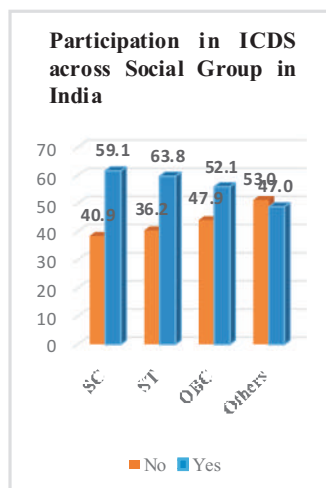
Figures 3 shows ICDS participation across wealth quintiles which has been categorized in five groups: poorest, poorer, middle, richer and richest. The poorer households (60.6 percent) shows highest participation in ICDS which is followed by households from middle wealth status (59.5 percent), poorest (55.1 percent). Richest and Richer groups have lowest participation in ICDS with 51.8 percent and 35 percent respectively. The lowest participation on the part of richest households is not against expectations due to their economic background. However, non-participation by poorest households even higher than poorer and middle wealth households. Overall about 40 percent poorer, poorest and middle wealth households are found to have not utilized ICDS which is alarming for policy and developmental concerns.



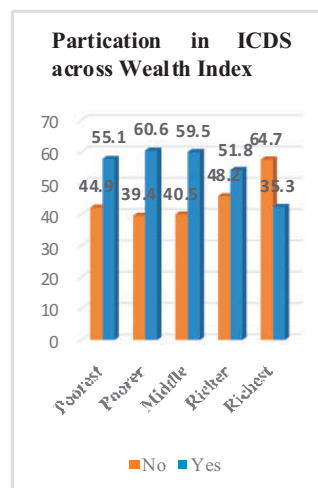
**Figure 1.1: Participation in ICDS across Religion in India, NFHS-4**



**Figure 1.2: Participation in ICDS across Social Group in India, NFHS-4**



**Figure 1.3: Participation in ICDS across Wealth Quintile in India, NFHS-4**



Source: NFHS-4, 2015-16 Report

## 2.1 ICDS Participants across Socio-economic Characteristics among Highest and Lowest Stunted States in India

In this section we consider socio-economic characteristics of ICDS participants in highest and lowest stunted region in India. For the purpose, states have been divided into six regions: east, west, central, north, south, and north-east. We consider only five major states in all region where highest and lowest stunting prevalence is observed and analysed child participation in ICDS at state level. ICDS participation here means that a child under 5 years age who availed any services offered by ICDS (through Anganwadi). The highest stunted states are Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. The lowest stunted states are Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.

**Table 2.1: Socio- economic Characteristics and ICDS Participation among Children in Highest Stunted States, NFHS-4 (in Percent)**

Socio-economic dimensions	Madhya Pradesh	Meghalaya	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh	Jharkhand	Average
<b>Religion</b>						
Hindu	64.0	45.9	50.5	41.1	55.8	51.4
Muslims	62.8	65.4	45.1	33.5	53.1	52.0
Others	45.0	56.5	46.2	36.1	56.7	48.1
<b>Social-group</b>						
SC	65.1	41.0	55.2	46.0	56.6	52.8
ST	67.3	56.5	44.4	33.1	59.7	52.2
OBC	63.7	47.4	49.6	39.0	55.1	51.0
Others	56.7	68.2	43.2	32.5	43.1	48.7
<b>Gender of the child</b>						
Male	63.2	56.5	49.5	39.2	55.4	52.7
Female	64.4	56.5	48.0	39.8	55.5	52.8
<b>Wealth index</b>						
Poorest	66.0	56.1	49.7	39.0	55.7	53.3
Poorer	68.3	60.6	53.4	43.4	62.9	57.7
Middle	68.3	59.7	53.2	44.1	60.1	57.1
Richer	69.1	58.9	50.4	39.7	58.2	55.3
Richest	52.2	39.9	36.6	28.5	34.0	31.4
Average	62.6	54.9	48.2	38.2	54.4	

*Source: Author's Computation from Unit level NHFS-4, 2015-16*

Table 2.1 presents **socio-economic** characteristics wise ICDS participants under 6years children in the highest stunted states. Overall participation in ICDS for these states are: Madhya Pradesh 62.6 percent, Meghalaya 54.9 percent, Bihar 48.2 percent, Uttar Pradesh 38.2 percent, and Jharkhand 54.4 percent. Turning to religion specific participation, Muslims show relatively higher participation rate (52.0 percent) in ICDS compared to Hindus (51.4 percent), and Others (General category) (48.1 percent). However, religion-wise ICDS participation varies across the states considered. For example, Hindu children have highest ICDS participation in Madhya Pradesh whereas children in Uttar Pradesh show the lowest participation. It appears that Uttar Pradesh had lowest religion-specific participation in ICDS compared to other states. Muslims have highest participation in ICDS in Meghalaya (65.4 percent) followed by Madhya Pradesh (62.8 percent) and lowest participation in Uttar Pradesh (33.5 percent). Others show highest participation in Jharkhand (56.7 percent) and lowest participation in Uttar Pradesh (36.1 percent). Muslims show lowest participation in Uttar Pradesh (33.5 percent), Bihar (45.1 percent) and in Jharkhand (53.1 percent).

Turning to social group specific participation of children in ICDS, on an average SCs (52.8 percent) show relatively higher participation than STs (52 percent), OBCs (51 percent), and Others (48.7 percent). SCs have highest participation in Madhya Pradesh (65.1 percent), followed by Jharkhand (56.6 percent), Bihar (55.2 percent), Uttar Pradesh (46.0 percent) and Meghalaya (41.0 percent). Participation in ICDS of STs is highest in Madhya Pradesh (67.3 percent), Jharkhand (59.7 percent),

Meghalaya (56.5 percent), Bihar (44.4 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (33.1 percent). OBCs utilize ICDS more in Madhya Pradesh (63.7 percent) followed by Jharkhand (55.1 percent), Bihar (49.6 percent), Meghalaya (47.4 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (39.0 percent). Others have highest participation in Meghalaya (68.2 percent), Madhya Pradesh (56.7 percent), Bihar (43.2 percent), Jharkhand (43.1 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (32.5 percent).

On an average there is minimal difference of 0.1 percentage point between female and male child service utilization. However, slight variation by gender is found across the states. Male child participation in ICDS is slightly higher than female child participation in Bihar. Female child ICDS participation is slightly higher in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand than their counterparts.

Wealth-wise participation in ICDS suggests that proportions of utilization of ICDS is starting to decline from poorer (57.7 percent) to richest (31.4 percent) household's children. The richest households have least participation in ICDS in all five states in question. The participation of poorest household's children in attaining ICDS is less than poorer household's children in all five states which is a matter of serious concern. The highest participation of poorer households is in Madhya Pradesh (68.3 percent) followed by Jharkhand (62.9 percent), Meghalaya (60.6 percent), Bihar (53.4 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (43.4 percent). The richest household's children show lowest participation in Uttar Pradesh (28.5 percent) followed by Jharkhand (34 percent), Bihar (36.6 percent), Meghalaya (39.9 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (52.2 percent). Richer household's children in Madhya Pradesh (69.1 percent) show the highest participation in ICDS.

**Table 2.2: Socio-economic Characteristics and Child ICDS Participation in Lowest Stunted States, NFHS-4 (in Percent)**

Socio-economic Characteristics	Himachal Pradesh	Kerala	Punjab	Tamil Nadu	Tripura	Average
<b>Religion</b>						
Hindu	70.84	54.27	52.31	63.01	58.95	59.88
Muslims	58.07	44.79	65.59	46.94	72.30	57.54
Others	50.93	40.47	64.06	55.00	64.90	55.07
<b>Social group</b>						
SC	74.46	62.35	69.80	69.08	68.63	68.86
ST	72.25	74.35	76.27	60.55	60.53	68.79
OBC	67.71	49.57	59.10	59.04	59.04	58.89
Others	68.88	40.05	48.48	42.04	48.41	49.57
<b>Gender of the child</b>						
Male	70.60	48.64	59.23	61.23	60.45	60.03
Female	69.73	49.39	60.40	62.46	61.62	60.72
<b>Wealth Index</b>						
Poorest	74.01	59.86	68.48	72.04	68.32	68.54
Poorer	73.07	56.20	64.76	70.83	78.18	68.61
Middle	74.10	46.10	64.36	63.35	65.56	62.69
Richer	71.48	44.89	52.74	56.03	54.90	56.01
Richest	55.98	35.77	42.67	43.52	30.75	41.74
<b>Average</b>	<b>68.01</b>	<b>50.48</b>	<b>60.59</b>	<b>58.94</b>	<b>60.90</b>	

Source: Author's computation from Unit level NFHS-4, 2015-16

Similarly, table 5.2 shows the ICDS participation of children under 6 years in five lowest stunted states. Himachal Pradesh (68.0 percent) indicated highest ICDS participation followed by Tripura (60.9 percent), Punjab (60.6 percent), Tamil Nadu (58.9 percent) and Kerala (50.5 percent). Hindus show highest participation (59.8 percent) in ICDS compared to Muslims (57.5 percent) and Others (55.1 percent). There is some variation in ICDS participation across the states according to religion. For example, Hindu children have highest ICDS participation in Himachal Pradesh (70.8 percent) whereas Punjab has lowest Hindu Participation (52.3 percent). Muslims have highest participation in ICDS in Tripura (72 percent) followed by Punjab (65.5 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (58 percent). Muslim children show lowest participation in Kerala (44.7 percent) followed by Tamil Nadu (46.9 percent). Others show highest participation in Tripura (64.9 percent) followed by Punjab (64.1 percent), Tamil Nadu (55.1 percent), Himachal Pradesh (50.9 percent).

Turning to social groups wise participation in ICDS, on an average SCs (68.9 percent) showed highest participation than STs (68.8 percent), OBCs (58.9 percent) and Others (49.6 percent). SCs and STs show relatively higher participation than OBCs and Others in all five lowest stunted states. Participation of SCs are distributed as Himachal Pradesh 74.5 percent, Punjab (69.8 percent), Tripura (68.6 percent) and Kerala (62.3 percent). STs are distributed as Punjab (76.3 percent), Kerala (74.4 percent), Himachal Pradesh (72.3 percent), Tamil Nadu (60.6 percent) and Tripura (60.5 percent).

OBCs have highest participation in Himachal Pradesh (67.7 percent) followed by Punjab (59.1 percent), Tamil Nadu (59.0 percent), Tripura (59.0 percent) and Kerala (49.6 percent). Similarly, Others show highest participation in Himachal Pradesh (68.9 percent) and lowest participation in Tamil Nadu (42.0 percent).

On an average female child participation (60.7 percent) in ICDS is relatively higher than in male child (60.1 percent). Female child participation in ICDS is relatively higher in all lowest stunted states except for Himachal Pradesh.

Wealth-wise participation in ICDS suggests that a proportion of utilization of ICDS is starting to decline from the poorer quintile (68.6 percent) to the richest quintile (41.7 percent) households. Nearly 68.5 percent of the poorest households participates in ICDS. The richest households have least participation in ICDS which is distributed as Himachal Pradesh (56 percent), Tamil Nadu (43.5 percent), Punjab (42.7 percent), Kerala (35.8 percent) and Tripura (30.7 percent). Himachal Pradesh has higher participation in ICDS than any other states. The poorest households in lowest stunted states in terms of ICDS participation are distributed as Himachal Pradesh (74.0 percent), Tamil Nadu (72.0 percent), Punjab (68.5 percent), Tripura (68.3 percent) and Kerala (59.9 percent). The participation in ICDS clearly shows pro-poor utilization of ICDS in lowest stunted states compared to highest stunted states.

### 3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Countries across the world devise various strategies to secure and improve **children's** health and well-being. The social benefits of the nutritional interventions are larger than the cost and continuous evaluation of its benefit need government intervention. Furthermore, the fight against malnutrition and hunger in progress are invariably related to access to health and adequate food which are claimed as basic human rights. Such aspiration is part of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-2 and SDG-3) and can only be achieved with removal of hunger and malnutrition among mothers and children. BIMARU states of India are still carrying the highest burden of malnourished children. According to NFHS-4 (2015-16), in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar together, nearly one in every two children is malnourished. Malnourishment is a multifaceted concept as it severely affects the physical,

psychological and cognitive capacities of a child in future and it puts him/her at utmost risk of vulnerability of all kinds. Therefore, the aim of ICDS is to broad coverage of the population as well as providing several services. In table 2.1 and 2.2 gives a crystal clear picture of the differences in participation of children among the age of six in highest and lowest stunted states in India. In addition to that, lowest stunted states show the average participation of ICDS among the poorest quintile group of the children is high compare to poorer and middle income group. Moreover, in highest stunted states does not appear the same such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand.

States like Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar adopted different strategic models of ICDS to combat the incidence of child malnutrition also. Even though the spirit of the programme is same, the implementation and diverse methods and practices adopted to increase the participation vary across states. For instance, children in Tamil Nadu, assemble at the AWCs at 10 AM and go for prayer. They stay for five hours doing various activities, AWCs personnel try to make sure if children are actively participating in such activities. After taking meals and noon nap children return homes. Bihar has started the Mission “ManavVikas in Bihar” for the reduction of child and maternal undernutrition, the prevalence of anaemia and improving the health of adolescent girls. Bihar is working with a slogan of “KuposhanMukt Bihar”. However, despite of realization of the importance of ICDS and universalization of the programme, low participation of ICDS among targeted beneficiaries in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand is found. The service uptake of ICDS is low as national average which is a grave concern for highest stunted as highest burden of stunting among children is found in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, there is need to more attention towards the increase in participation among children in highest stunted states. It may help in reduction of incidence of malnourishment.

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## **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

**Dr Suman Kumar Poddar\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*Agricultural education plays a significant role in boosting economy and speeding up the development process. It can create a landmark in achieving food security and sustainability. Human resources need to be developed properly and untapped agricultural potential can be tapped by educating people about this green jewel called agriculture. Sensitization of people with awareness programs, training sessions and camps can help in improving the statistics of education required for exclusive growth of this sector. The biggest challenge faced by this sector at present is lack of education and guidance. Education does not mean just teaching, it is a way of sustainability. People who are involved in agriculture should be equipped with all the requisite skill sets to ensure maximum productivity from this sector. Agricultural Education is very important for our country. Agricultural Education involves more than just teaching students the basics of farming and rearing livestock. Agricultural Sciences and Technology are evolving and advancing to face a variety of challenges and problems. Hence, there is a need to provide an opportunity for people to understand that agriculture is not limited to farming alone; it's a sustainable way of life. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy and well-being of a society. Agriculture not only provides food and raw material but also offers employment opportunities to a considerable proportion of the population. Hence, the agricultural education system embodied with the latest advances in technologies and management strategies is important.*

*This paper tries to examine the effects of agricultural education and how it can affect the economy as a whole.*

**KEYWORDS :** *Food security and sustainability, Agricultural education, Agriculture society, Economic development.*

JEL Classification: Q0, Q1, I2, I3

### **INTRODUCTION**

It becomes imperative in the field of Agriculture particularly in a country where agriculture society exists. Agriculture society is a community whose economy is created on the basis of the production and maintenance of crops and farmland. Another way to define an agriculture society would be by seeing how much of a country's total production is in the agriculture sector. Like India where our economy is dependent on Agriculture sector and it is said that our soul resides in the village.

The biggest example of an agrarian society is the country of India. India depends heavily on its agricultural produce and the revenue it brings to run its economy, and for that reason, education in this field is vital to the country's progress.

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## **IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE IN INDIA**

India is witnessing population explosion each year and this has led to pressure on our mother earth. Thus, agriculture sector needs an overhaul with the inclusion of fresh and new educated youths in the system who can keep themselves abreast with technological changes and know-how of latest technology.

Agricultural education plays a significant role in boosting economy and speeding up the development process. It can create a landmark in achieving food security and sustainability. Human resources need to be developed properly and untapped agricultural potential can be tapped by educating people about this green jewel called agriculture. Sensitization of people with awareness programs, training sessions and camps can help in improving the statistics of education required for exclusive growth of this sector. The biggest challenge faced by this sector at present is lack of education and guidance. Education does not mean just teaching, it is a way of sustainability. People who are involved in agriculture should be equipped with all the requisite skill sets to ensure maximum productivity from this sector.

The relevance of the education of farmers in particular and the agriculture society in India in general need to be stressed enough. One of the primary reasons why India is still a third-world country is because it is a pre-industrial society. What this essentially means is that modern agricultural techniques and practices need to be implemented to make sure that India as a country itself grows as a result of its effort. Here is a deep dive into the role of agriculture in the Indian.

### **IMPROVES SKILLS**

The immediate effect of education among farmers is skill development. An educated farmer will have a much more focused approach to farming than an uneducated farmer. The former will have a better understanding of the skills required for a scientific approach to agriculture than the latter, which will influence their decision-making skills as well in regard to their field of work.

### **KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF MODERN TOOLS**

Education is directly responsible for farmers making use of mechanized tools, that will make their lives much easier. Several farmers are beginning to leave subsistent farming for mechanized and commercialized farming because of the various advantages of the latter.

### **RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

It helps farmers allocate their available resources in a way that is more calculated and effective in improving their skin in the game. This includes financial resources, managerial resources, time, machines, pesticides, and so on.

### **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE**

We shall proceed with the thesis that the adoption of improved practices in agriculture is by the educated persons which has been proved by many researches. The Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928) also made the same recommendation to the government and as a result the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was founded in Pusa (Bihar) in 1929 which was later transferred to New Delhi.

Those having more education read more, travel more, keep in closer touch with research at the research stations, take greater risks in the farm operations and have higher income. They adopt new innovations earlier than others and are sometimes themselves as innovators.

Therefore, better education of farmers is the key to success. Education increases one's store of knowledge or information and even more important it increases one's capacity to learn. As the farmer becomes better educated, as the result of more schooling or more experiences, new ideas from outside

hit them more often and they are more likely to understand, appreciate and adopt them.

Education enables the farmer to read simple instructions given to him in the form of an extension bulletin, they will subscribe, read and study the farm magazines, they will imbibe ideas better from the radio talks given for the benefit of the farmers, they can read important information in time and will attend the local extension meetings and as the occasion arises can invite the extension agents.

As their level of education increases, they will become more and more self-reliant, and will depend more on their self-studies of the literatures dealing with farming and less on personal help from the extension personnel's.

They also experiment on their farms and become active promoters of agricultural improvements. They keep a good rapport with research stations and will appraise the researchers with their farming problems.

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The adult farmers should be informally educated and the rural youths by conventional techniques. By increasing the capacity of the rural youths to learn and assimilate new ideas the magnitude of the extension efforts required in the next generation can be greatly reduced.

The general education of rural youth in general education enables the surplus population from rural area to migrate to town and find jobs according to their qualification and skill.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of both the government and private organizations and individuals to open schools in rural area for educating rural youth in subjects like humanity, arts, science, commerce and agriculture with moral education for making better citizens. The panchayat should initiate such efforts and seek the cooperation of government and non-government organizations.

Most underdeveloped countries are short of the required trained personnel's in agriculture. The influence of already trained persons in agricultural service depends on the efficiency with which their new skills are used.

It has been observed that youth educated in agricultural sciences do not return to farming at home. In some agricultural institutions priority for admission was given to the ward of agriculturists but they did not return to their home farm except some exceptions.

The reason is that after graduation they seek white collar job discarding the dirty hand occupation which farming is. Another obvious reason is that in Indian agriculture there is disguised unemployment and the farms are small which will not be able to absorb the graduate farmer. Another very valid reason is that after the first degree in agriculture there is no internship training for the graduation youth.

There is very little on farm training given to the students. Their theoretical knowledge of the subject keeps them ignorant of the first hand approach in farming—this is a lacuna in our educational system; therefore, internship training is important.

There are four-year degree courses as per recommendations of the Dean's Committee of ICAR. My model for the internship training is: During the third-year course students should be sent to other institutions, agro-industries, agriculture/livestock/plantation/commercial farms or factories such as



dairy, meat processing or horticultural product factories.

The government should encourage the education of girls in this field by giving financial assistance from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, by opening home management centres at the block level.

There is great need for increasing the milk supply in the country. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has introduced this course in the country to teach young men on the scientific milk production and its processing. The course has been bifurcated into dairy husbandry and dairy technology, the former deals with the milk production and the later with the processing of milk.

The IDD (Indian Dairy Diploma) prepares young men in a most practical way to serve the dairy industry through milk production units (dairy farms) and joining the dairy industry. This training has proved very useful and most of the diploma holders were absorbed in the dairy industry.

Besides, these degrees diploma courses there are courses known as special courses. The Allahabad Agricultural Institute, at Naini, Allahabad has been a pioneer institution in running these short courses by enrolling those who were desirous to take a short course in agriculture, in any branch, were admitted as 'Special Students' and they were attached to different department as per their choice to get a very practical oriented training and were awarded with a certificate. Mostly, such students went 10 the farms to do their own farming.

The Guidance and Counselling in Education plays a very important role in directing and advising the students to join these courses for which they have an aptitude not on the choice of their parents.

The Bureau of Psychology has been active in giving such tests in the schools and colleges to advise the students in the pursuit of their higher studies in the subject for which they have the potential interest. The Institution for Psychology and Educational Management (I.P.E.M.) has been active in conducting the aptitude test to guide students to get into the right slot.

#### **CHALLENGES AND ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN INDIA**

The biggest challenges for agricultural education in India at present are to find suitable human resource that can help to achieve sustainable goals. The institutions and universities imparting agricultural education are manufacturing students with limited or no exposure of field work. They lack scientific knowledge or technological advancements. The curricula have to be revamped that can help in solving practical problems. There has to be a fine balance between teaching and research to help solve the problems of poor research and teaching process. With the introduction of economic liberalization and WTO reforms agricultural education demands makeshift policies and re orientation programs. Special focus has to be given on agriculture and its allied sectors to nurture positive growth in the economy, using obsolete techniques can be a barrier to achieve sustainable goals. Another challenge in agricultural education is absence of national policies that regulate trainings and education. The funds kept aside for imparting agricultural trainings and education is seeing a sharp decline which makes it difficult to make high quality research and training. The inadequate funding provided by government for agriculture can be reflected in the pace of development seen in the wake of modernization. This sector is dynamic and new up datations keep on coming, in this scenario, lack of innovation and creativity poses to be a big threat for this sector. The training programs are often defective and do not help people to self-sufficient. There is a gap what recruiters want and what students possess. This skill gap is also posing a great threat as to what agriculturists want from skill deficient students. There has to be an increase in the learning standards of people. Agricultural curricula, strategies of teaching have to be modified to make youth hone their entrepreneurial skills.

## CONCLUSION

It is very important to revamp the agricultural education system in India. Amending the course curricula that suits the demands of market should be introduced. The mismatch in demand and supply of competent labour should be fulfilled. The curriculum should be given a global flavour and changes should be made accordingly. Skill learning and current trends of marketing in developed countries should be adopted. Teaching has to be balanced with research and funding should be appropriate to ensure quality research in institutions. People who are directly or indirectly involved in agriculture need to make out the best from the emerging technologies to suit their market needs. Trainings should be provided on comprehensive topics like seed management, post harvesting, management of pesticides, using fertilizers and proper irrigation. The government needs to intervene to make the necessary changes demanded by the labour market and ensure better farm practices. All the central and state universities have a major role to play.

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## **ROLE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

**Surya Prakash Agrawal\* Chandra Prakash Agrawal\*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

*There is no doubting that "Digital India" is nothing more than the beginning of India's digital revolution. The government views it as a way to make the services available to Indian citizens electronically. Without a doubt, with the advent of digitalization, those living in remote locations may now make use of these services as well with the aid of online infrastructure and internet capabilities. India is becoming more digitalized, and the government's objective is to bring India up to date both economically and technologically. The action done by the Indian government will surely make it easier for Indians to participate in the innovative process, which is essential for the growth of any nation. There is absolutely no doubt about that is quite difficult because there are several obstacles that prevent the effective completion of this ambitious undertaking. The issues entailed with in-depth consideration should be given to the program, slow internet, lack of cooperation between multiple ministries, bad infrastructure, and, last but not least, digital illiteracy. Making people aware of these difficulties is the first and most important step in ensuring that digitalization is effective since, if done well, it would open up new opportunities for Indian citizens. This paper is an attempt to understand and analyze various opportunities and challenges that lies ahead in making an economy "Digital".*

**Keywords:** *Opportunities, Challenges, Digital Economy, Digital India*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this age of digital economy, it has become necessary for every country in the world to adopt it seriously as it has become the need of the hour. But, at the same time, it is also a challenge. In the society surrounding us, people, communities, government and even business organizations are following the digital technology to take decisions, to make goods and to deliver services more digital economy refers to both the digital access of goods and services, and the use of digital technology to help businesses. Digital economy is a term that is often used to cover this activity, but is hard to define. Going forward, a country's ability to properly combat challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic may depend critically on how resilient its digital infrastructure is. Being one of the most populous nations in the world, India is ideally situated in the global landscape and has the potential to play a significant role in the emergence of the new world order.

With nearly half a billion internet users in India, a host of indigenous digital services, platforms, applications, content, and solutions, are expected to transform the digital ecosystem. India could potentially see a fivefold increase in economic value from digital transformation by 2025,

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representing an attractive opportunity for global and local businesses, startups, and innovators to invest in emerging technologies (like AI, Blockchain, or drones) in ways that are customized to India's needs.

It is a known fact that the term "digital economy" is frequently used to describe this activity. However, the Indian digital economy is not one that is typically marketed, and GDP figures do not account for the economic advantages of the digital economy, such as time saved, more options, and lower product costs. Business will undergo a revolution due to technology, which is already changing practically every sector of the economy and society.

With increasing smartphone penetration, surging online activity and gigantic amount of data being generated, Data Centers could be of high importance for the world. Thus, it is the need of the hour to promote and create a framework for the development of robust digital infrastructure which could facilitate adoption of emerging technology areas such as 5G, IoT, artificial intelligence, machine learning, drones, robotics, additive manufacturing, photonics, nano-based devices, etc., and their applications in areas such as defense, agriculture, health, cyber security, smart cities, and automation, with special focus on solving real-life problems.

Digital infrastructure has emerged as an equally or arguably a more significant infrastructure necessity, as compared to the traditional infrastructure necessities such as power, water, and roads. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only shuffled the global order, but it has also provided an impetus to the ever-expanding digital infrastructure. Economies across the globe are charting ways to make their digital infrastructure – which comprises the physical resources necessary for the use of data, computerized devices, methods, systems, and processes – more resilient, agile, and futuristic. The digital infrastructure has become indispensable to the functioning of a society and the quality of life of its citizens. All over the globe, countries have leveraged their digital infrastructure to proactively respond to the ongoing pandemic.

At present time when throughout the whole world, information and communication technologies continue to advance at incredible speed, Digitalization in every walk of life is one of the most fundamental periods of transformation we have ever witnessed. Digital India was a flagship program launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 – with keeping in view an objective of connecting rural areas with high-speed internet networks and improving digital literacy. The vision of this program is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is one of the biggest steps by government of India to motivate the citizen of the country and connect Indian economy to knowledge savvy world.

Thus, converting an Economy into Digital based Economy is the need of the time which can help in increasing the pace of economic development in the country.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

A number of research papers and articles provide a detailed insight about the role of digital India and the implications of this project in India.

**Rani (2016)** concluded that the digital India project provides a huge opportunity to use the latest technology to redefine India the paradigms of service industry. It also pointed out that many projects may require some transformational process, reengineering, refinements to achieve the desired service level objectives.

**Midha(2016)** concluded that digital India is a great plan to develop India for knowledge future but its improper implementation due to inaccessibility and inflexibility to requisite can lead to its failure. Though digital India program is facing number of challenges yet if properly implemented it can make

the best future of every citizen. So, we Indians should work together to shape the knowledge economy.

**Gupta and Arora (2015)** studied the impact of digital India project on India's rural sector. The study found that many schemes have been launched in digital India to boost agriculture sector and entrepreneurship development in rural areas.

**Renita D'souza (2018)** - He publish his paper on “digital India Getting Incentives Rights” He publish a key chapter in fourth industrial revolution (4IR) such as production and management, which is an outcome of leveraging technology and digital innovation in consider the case of virtual or digital markets.

**Mrs. Pranjali AND Etal (2017):** The author describes the importance of digital economy in his paper 'Impact and Importance of Digital Transactions in India'. The Government of India estimated that the digital policy will increase employment, reduce cash related robbery and cash related corruption and also attract more foreign investors to the country. It is expected modernization of payment systems will reduce the cost of banking services. Accordingly, cash economy is not the complete absence of cash but a setting in which goods and services are bought and paid through electronic media. Importance of digital transaction it reduces red tapes and bureaucracy reduce the black money and corruption helps in accurate taxation reduce the tax corruption. Stop the cash related illegal activities make easier transactions.

Above Literature Review are enough to highlight the importance of Digital Economy. The Reviews also emphasizes on the various opportunities and the challenges associated with the Digital Economy.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER**

- To know the role of Digital Infrastructure in Socio-economic Development.
- To analyze and interpret the concept of digital India program
- To find out the problems and challenges faced in implementation of this program
- To find out various remedies as well as innovative ideas to accomplish the vision of a digital India-a reality.

#### **DIGITAL INDIA**

The Digital India mission scheme has been launched by the Government of India for offering high-speed internet connections in rural areas. The Digital India Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in JULY 01,2015. It is beneficiary schemes for already existing schemes like Make in India, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Start-up India, and Stand-up India.

- Focused areas Digital India Mission Scheme
- Providing digital infrastructure facilities as a source of utility for each of the citizen
- Governance and services on demand.
- Looking after digital improvement for each of the citizens of India

Digital India was created with a vision of making inclusive growth in areas of products, manufacturing, electronic services, and job opportunities.

#### **THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DIGITAL INDIA MISSION**

The main objective of the Digital India Mission is 'Power to Empower. The three core components of Digital India Initiatives are digital delivery of services, digital infrastructure creation, and digital literacy. Read here about the objectives in detail:

- Offering high-speed internet in all gram panchayats
- Easy accessing to Common Service Centre in all the locality

- The digital India initiative is the combination of ideas and thoughts into a single, comprehensive vision so that each of them is seen as part of a larger goal.

The Digital India Program also focuses on restructuring many existing schemes that can be implemented in a synchronized manner.

There is major nine pillars of Digital India that are mentioned in the table below :

Broadband highways	Universal access to mobile connectivity	Public internet access program
e-governance	e-Kranti	Information for all
Electronic manufacturing	IT for jobs	Early harvest program

The main idea behind digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen is to facilitate the Indian economy with high internet speed as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens. Providing mobile phone and bank account enabling citizen participation in digital and financial space is the focus of attention. Shareable private space on a public cloud for every citizen is also one of the chief concerns of this program.

#### **KEY POINTS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME**

- Internet provides a platform for sharing information and collaborating.
- Use Internet and information technology for “digital matching”
- Use IT systems on web/mobile apps to facilitate peer transactions.
- Offer workers flexibility in deciding working hours.
- Rely on workers to use their own tools/assets.
- Considerable interest in whether/how activities are measured.

**Under Digital India Programme in India, the following aspects are to be taken in to consideration: -**

#### **1. Broadband Highways**

Under this heading, the aim is to cover 250000 village Panchayats under National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) by December 2016. Nationwide internet infrastructure (NII) would integrate the network and cloud infrastructure in the country to provide high speed connectivity and cloud platform to various government departments up to the panchayat level.

#### **2. Public Internet Access Program**

One Common Service Centre (CSC) would be provided to each gram panchayat and 150,000 Post Offices are proposed to be converted into multi service centers.

#### **3. Governance**

IT would be used to make the delivery of government services more effectively. There would be integration of services and platform-UIDAI, Payment Gateway, Mobile Seva platform, public redressal etc., through IT. All information would be available in electronic form.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME**

Digital India program is a step in ushering digital revolution. It is a big step in the direction of empowering people of the country

. Main advantages of this program are: -

1. Due to this digital India mission, all the government services available to people of country through common service delivery outlets. This would be a leading step in the direction of inclusive growth by enabling access to education, healthcare and government services to all the citizens of the country. People can get better advice on health services. Those who can't afford school/ colleges can get chance to online education.
2. This program will focus on more and more transparency as all the data would be available online.
3. E-Governance will help in eradicating corruption and getting things done smoothly and quickly.
4. Digital locker facility will enable the citizen to digitally store their important documents like Pan card, passport, mark sheets etc.
5. It will help in getting things done easily. For example, when we need to open an account, we will give official details of our digital locker, where they can verify our documents. By this we can save time and the pain of standing in long queues for getting our documents would be reduced.
6. It will surely help in decreasing documentation and reducing paper work.
7. Digital India mission is away for cashless transactions.
8. It can help small businesses. People can use online tools to expand their business.
9. The program would generate huge number of jobs in IT, electronics and telecommunication

#### **CHALLENGES**

It is a time of more than seven year since Digital India mission has been inaugurated, but there are multiple challenges being faced in successful implementation.

##### **Some of the challenges are as follow: -**

1. High level of digital illiteracy is the biggest challenge and hindrance in the success of digital India program in adaptation of technologies. According to ASSOCHAM-Deloitte report on Digital India, November, 2016, around 950 million Indians are still not on internet.
2. There is lack of awareness as well as guidance in this program as the masses are not familiar with its benefits.
3. It is a big and huge task to connect each and every village, town and city. To Connect 250000 Gram Panchayats through National Optical Fiber is not an easy task.
4. A key component under this vision is high speed of internet as a core utility to facilitate online delivery of various services. India has low internet speed. According to third quarter 2016 Akamai report on internet speed, India is lagging behind as it is at the 105th position in the world in average internet speed.
5. The slow and delayed infrastructure development in India is the biggest challenge faced by Digital India. India's digital infrastructure is comprehensively inadequate to tackle growing increase in digital transactions
6. The private participation in government projects in India is poor because of long and complex regulatory processes.
7. The competent private sector organizations are not able to pick up many request proposals by government since they are not commercially viable. Currently over 55000 villages remain deprived of mobile connectivity because providing mobile connectivity in such locations is not commercially viable.
8. Between urban and rural India, there is a wide digital division, the problem of funding is still not able to meet the cost of infrastructure creation in rural areas.
9. Because of a number of languages in India (1600 languages and dialects), there is non-availability

of digital services in local languages is a great barrier in digital literacy.

### **ROLE OF DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

India has made many efforts to become more digitalised and Digital India Mission is envisioned to be created on digital security and trust. Building digital trust is a major effort for the whole society, trade, and also for people using digital services.

Urbanization and emergence of smart cities is a major trend, which heavily relies on the global economy driven by megacities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. A recent McKinsey study indicates that over 60% of the world's GDP is being created in 600 cities around the world.

This will have a huge impact on the global economy, and building a smarter society is vital for success and growth. Amsterdam is a very good example of a smart European city, with extensive digital infrastructure and fiber connectivity, several Internet exchange points creating good connectivity between companies and people, and an impressive number of digital companies, startups and data centers forming a strong cluster for a smart city concept.

#### **The initiatives of the Indian Government so far include: -**

(GeM), Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), Digital Locker (Digi Locker), Unified Mobile App for New-Age Governance (UMANG), Jeevan Pramaan, e-Hospital, MyGov, e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) and National Scholarship Portal (NSP). These solutions are indigenously developed and based on low-cost technology.

#### **Opportunities and way forward: -**

India's digital divide is narrowing fast, as less affluent states leapfrog to catch up with more affluent states. India can create up to \$1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy by 2025, with half of the opportunity originating in new digital ecosystems that can spring up in diverse sectors of the economy.

E-commerce platforms are expected to drive recovery of consumer electronic products – mobile devices, smart TVs, LED lighting, etc. – faster and having a robust manufacturing ecosystem is essential to adequately address the indigenous demand. An immediate need to develop local supply chain networks has been recognized and efforts in this direction could adequately support the indigenous electronics manufacturing.

Industry should develop short term strategies on quarterly basis and calibrated decision-making, to address disruptions caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' policy could give the much-needed fillip to the country's disrupted business operations by promoting indigenous manufacturing, encouraging substitution of imports of low-technology goods, and encouraging local produce at lower prices.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Digital India campaign can't be successful on its own. Policy changes are needed to make digital India a reality.

#### **Few of the suggestions are**

– 1. Digital literacy is first step in empowering citizens. People should know how to secure their online data.

2. To make this program successful, a massive awareness program has to be conducted. There is pressing need to educate and inform the citizens, especially in rural and remote areas, about the



benefits of internet services to increase the growth of internet usage.

3. Digital divide needs to be addressed.

4. Manufacturing content is not government's strength. This mission needs content and service partnerships with telecom companies and other firms.

5. PPP models must be explored for sustainable development of digital infrastructure.

6. Private sector should be encouraged for development of last mile infrastructure in rural and remote areas. To encourage private sector, there must be favorable taxation policies, quicker clearance of projects.

7. The success of digital India project depends upon maximum connectivity with minimum cyber security risks. For this we need a strong anti-cybercrime team which maintains the database and protects it round the clock.

8. To improve skill in cyber security, we need to introduce cyber security course at graduate level and encourage international certification bodies to introduce various skill based cyber security courses.

9. There is need for effective participation of various departments and demanding commitment and efforts. Various policies in different areas should support this goal.

10. For successful implementation, there must be amendments in various legislations that have for long hindered the growth of technology in India.

## CONCLUSION

The vision of digital India is spectacular. It is a concrete step in the direction of building a truly empowered nation. If it succeeds, it is supposed to transform citizen access to multimedia information, content and services. However, the motto is still far away since most of the nine pillars of digital India mission are facing serious challenges in implementation. It is imperative that focused persistent attention must be given to each and every pillar so that this program does not end up in failure. In fact, what is required here is a mindset for accepting the changes that are likely to occur when this program will be a successful one, and then and only then, the vision seen by prime-minister Modi will come true in real sense of words.

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## REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY

Anup Kumar Mishra\*

### ABSTRACT

*The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on economies around the world, and India is no exception. The disease has inflicted two kinds of shocks on the country: a health shock and an economic shock. The health shock has been caused by the high contagiousness of the virus, which has made it difficult to contain. The government has responded by imposing a nationwide lockdown, which shut down businesses and schools and restricted movement. These measures have been effective in slowing the spread of the virus, but they have also had a significant impact on the economy. The economic shock was caused by the lockdown and other measures taken to contain the virus. These measures have led to a sharp decline in economic activity, as businesses have been forced to close and consumers have been reluctant to spend. As a result, GDP growth has plummeted, and unemployment has surged.*

*The impact of COVID-19 on the Indian economy is likely to be long-lasting. The lockdown had disrupted supply chains and caused businesses to lose market share. This made difficult for the economy to recover even after the pandemic was over. In addition, the lockdown has had a disproportionate impact on the poor and vulnerable. These groups are more likely to be employed in informal sectors, which have been hit hard by the pandemic. They were also less likely to have access to social safety nets, which means that they had been more exposed to the economic shock. The present paper is merely to review the situation of Indian economy amidst Covid 19 and to suggest prospective measures.*

**Keywords :** COVID -19 , health shock, MSME's

### INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on economies around the world, and India is no exception. The disease has inflicted two kinds of shocks on the country: a health shock and an economic shock.

- The health shock: The health shock has been caused by the high contagiousness of the virus, which has made it difficult to contain. The government has responded by imposing a nationwide lockdown, which shut down businesses and schools and restricted movement. These measures have been effective in slowing the spread of the virus, but they have also had a significant impact on the economy.
- The economic shock: The economic shock has been caused by the lockdown and other measures taken to contain the virus. These measures have led to a sharp decline in economic activity, as businesses have been forced to close and consumers have been reluctant to spend. As a result, GDP growth has plummeted, and unemployment has surged.

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### STEPS TAKEN

The government has taken some steps to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy, but these measures have been limited. More needs to be done to support businesses and workers, and to ensure that the poor and vulnerable are not left behind.

The government has announced a number of fiscal measures, including a stimulus package worth ₹20 trillion (US\$260 billion). The package includes tax breaks for businesses, direct cash transfers to the poor, and loans to small businesses. The government has also announced a number of monetary measures, including a reduction in interest rates and a liquidity injection into the banking system.

These measures have helped to stabilize the economy in the short term, but they are not enough to ensure a strong recovery. More needs to be done to address the long-term challenges facing the economy, such as the need for investment in infrastructure and education.

### THE INDIAN ECONOMY IN THE PRE-COVID-19 PERIOD

The Indian economy was in a state of flux in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic. GDP growth had been declining since 2015-16, and unemployment had reached a 45-year high.

One of the main drivers of growth in any economy is investment by the private corporate sector. However, in the pre-COVID-19 period, nominal values of private sector investment had been declining. The total outstanding investment projects between 2015-16 and 2019-20 declined by 2.4%, whereas new projects announced fell by 4%, as per data from the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy).

Consumption expenditure had also been falling, for the first time in several decades. High frequency indicators of urban consumption demand show that sales of passenger vehicles as well as consumer durables growth contracted in February 2020. Overall, urban consumption appears to have lost steam in Q4. Among the indicators of rural consumption, motorcycle sales and the consumer non-durable segment remained in contraction in February 2020, reflecting weak rural demand.

The following are some of the key factors that contributed to the slowdown of the Indian economy in the pre-COVID-19 period:

- **Decline in investment:** The decline in investment was due to a number of factors, including rising interest rates, uncertainty about the economic outlook, and the lack of a clear policy agenda from the government.
- **Weak consumption:** Consumption growth was also weak due to a number of factors, including rising inflation, falling real wages, and the rural distress.
- **Global headwinds:** The Indian economy was also facing headwinds from the global economy, which was slowing down. This led to a decline in exports and a slowdown in investment from abroad.

### THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY

#### INFORMAL SECTOR

The informal sector is the largest in the world, employing close to 90% of India's working population and contributing more than 45% to its overall GDP. The sector was hit by two consecutive shocks in a short span of time, from 2016 to 2019: demonetisation and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax. These shocks had a devastating impact on the informal sector, leading to job losses, a decline in income, and an increase in poverty.

The informal sector was particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic because it is often characterized by low levels of productivity, weak access to credit, and limited social safety nets. The lockdown led to a sharp decline in demand for goods and services produced by the informal sector, and many businesses in the sector were forced to close. As a result, millions of informal workers lost their jobs and incomes. The informal sector is also a major contributor to the Indian economy, and it had been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The informal sector is characterized by low wages, lack of social security, and high levels of uncertainty. As a result, informal workers were more vulnerable to economic shocks than formal workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic had led to a sharp decline in demand for goods and services in the informal sector. This had led to job losses, wage cuts, and a decline in income for informal workers. The government had taken some steps to support the informal sector, such as providing financial assistance and waiving off taxes. However, more needed to be done to help informal workers cope with the economic crisis.

The government took some steps to support the informal sector, such as providing direct cash transfers to workers and waiving loan repayments for small businesses. However, more needed to be done to help the informal sector recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The government provided additional financial assistance to informal workers, and it also worked to strengthen the social safety nets that protect them from shocks.

#### **BANKING AND CORPORATE SECTORS**

The banking and corporate sectors were also facing significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The banking sector was under pressure due to the high levels of non-performing assets (NPAs). The corporate sector was facing difficulties due to the decline in demand and the disruption of supply chains. The banking sector was particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic because it is highly dependent on lending to the corporate sector. The decline in demand and the disruption of supply chains led to a sharp increase in corporate defaults, which put a strain on the banking sector's balance sheets.

The corporate sector was also facing a number of challenges, including the decline in demand, the disruption of supply chains, and the rise in input costs. These challenges led to a sharp decline in corporate profits, and many companies were facing financial difficulties. The government took some steps to support the banking and corporate sectors, such as providing liquidity to banks and waiving loan repayments for businesses. However, more needed to be done to prevent a systemic crisis. The government provided additional financial assistance to banks and businesses, and it also worked to stabilize the financial markets.

#### **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ACTIVITIES**

The agriculture sector is critical to the Indian economy, as it provided employment to a large number of people and accounted for a significant share of GDP. In the pre-COVID-19 period, the agriculture sector grew at an average rate of 3.3% per year. However, the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the agriculture sector, as it disrupted supply chains and reduced demand for agricultural products.

The initial lockdown had a significant impact on agricultural activities, as it led to the closure of markets and transportation disruptions. This disrupted the supply of inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, and made it difficult to transport agricultural products to markets. As a result, prices of agricultural products fell.

However, the agriculture sector had started to recover in recent months, as markets had reopened and transportation disruptions had eased. The government had also taken steps to support the agriculture sector, such as providing financial assistance to farmers and waiving off agricultural loans.

### **MSMEs**

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) played an important role in the Indian economy, contributing around 30% of GDP and employing around 50% of industrial workers. However, these enterprises often faced challenges in accessing credit, and the COVID-19 pandemic made these challenges even more difficult. A recent survey of MSMEs in China found that around 14% of firms were unable to last beyond a month on a cash flow basis, and 50% beyond three months. In India, the situation was likely to be similar, as the lockdown had disrupted supply chains and led to a decline in demand for goods and services.

The government had taken some steps to support MSMEs, such as providing loans and waiving off taxes. However, more needed to be done to help these enterprises survive the crisis. The government could have provided additional financial assistance to MSMEs, such as interest-free loans or loan guarantees. The government could have also waived off taxes for MSMEs for a period of time. In addition, the government could have helped to revive supply chains by providing grants to businesses to help them restart production. The government did not take all of these steps, and many MSMEs were forced to close their doors. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on MSMEs was significant, and it will take time for the sector to recover.

### **COMMENT**

The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the Indian economy, and the informal sector and the banking and corporate sectors were particularly vulnerable. The government took urgent action to support these sectors and prevent a systemic crisis.

- The impact of COVID-19 on the informal sector is likely to be long-lasting. The sector was already struggling to cope with the economic shocks of demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax, and the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to make things even worse.
- The banking sector is also facing long-term challenges. The high levels of NPAs are a legacy of the past, and they will take time to resolve. The government needs to take steps to strengthen the banking sector and prevent a systemic crisis.
- The corporate sector is facing a number of challenges, including the decline in demand, the disruption of supply chains, and the rise in input costs. The government needs to provide support to the corporate sector to help it weather the storm.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector was likely to be long-lasting. The sector was already facing challenges due to climate change and other factors, and the COVID-19 pandemic was likely to make things even worse.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the informal sector was also likely to be long-lasting. The sector was already vulnerable to economic shocks, and the COVID-19 pandemic had only made things worse.
- The government needed to take a comprehensive approach to supporting the agriculture sector and the informal sector. This included providing financial assistance, waiving off taxes, and creating jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Indian economy, and the agriculture sector and the informal sector have been particularly hard hit. The government needs to take steps to

support these sectors and help them recover from the economic crisis.

- The impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector is likely to be long-lasting. The sector is already facing challenges due to climate change and other factors, and the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to make things even worse.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the informal sector is also likely to be long-lasting. The sector is already vulnerable to economic shocks, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only made things worse.
- The government needs to take a comprehensive approach to supporting the agriculture sector and the informal sector. This includes providing financial assistance, waiving off taxes, and creating jobs.

### **CONCLUSION**

The COVID-19 pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge for India. The economy faced a number of serious challenges, including a sharp decline in economic activity, a rise in unemployment, and a surge in non-performing assets (NPAs). The government had taken some steps to address these challenges, but more needed to be done. In the short term, the government had focused on providing financial assistance to those who had been affected by the pandemic. This included providing direct cash transfers to the poor, extending the moratorium on loan repayments, and providing liquidity to businesses. The government also had taken steps to revive economic activity, such as investing in infrastructure projects and providing tax breaks to businesses.

In the medium term, the government had focused on reforming the economy. This included reforming the labor market, improving the financial sector, and reducing corruption. The government also had focused on improving the quality of education and healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic had created a difficult situation for India. However, the government had the opportunity to use this crisis as an opportunity to reform the economy and make it more resilient in the future. The government needed to be transparent about the economic situation and the challenges that lay ahead and also needed to work with the private sector to develop a plan for economic recovery. The government also needed to build public trust and confidence in its ability to manage the crisis.

### **MEASURES FOR FUTURE PERSPECTIVE**

In the future, the government could consider the following measures to further support the economy and help it recover from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Invest in digital infrastructure to support remote work and learning.
- Promote the development of new industries, such as the green economy and the digital economy.
- Reform the education system to make it more relevant to the needs of the 21st century economy.
- Improve the healthcare system to make it more affordable and accessible to all.

These measures would help to create a more resilient economy that is better prepared to withstand future shocks.

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