

ISSN 0970-7247

THIRD CONCEPT

English Monthly

Annual Subscription Rs. 200

Vol. 32

No. 380

OCTOBER 2018

Rs. 20.00

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An International Journal of Ideas

Vol. 32 No. 380 OCTOBER 2018 Rs. 20. 00

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Published, Printed and Owned by

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7, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
Ph : 23711092, 23712249, Fax No: 23711092.
E-mail : third.concept@rediffmail.com
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THIRD CONCEPT NOW UGC APPROVED JOURNAL

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Rupee's Free Fall

Continuous free fall of the rupee in recent days does not bode well with the growing economy, both in short-term and long-term, especially at a time when the pace of growth is gathering momentum. Rupee's declining value vis-à-vis US dollar is undoubtedly not a new phenomenon, but the steep fall being recorded by it in recent days should be a cause of serious concern. Government's plea that depreciation of the rupee vis-à-vis US dollar is less as compared to other currencies is no solace because fall in rupee has been worse among the Asian currencies. Some experts opine that at the time India attained independence, the value of one rupee was said to be equivalent to one dollar and over the decades, the rupee has been on a roller coaster ride and by September this year it has plunged to an all-time low of around 72 against one US dollar. Devaluation of rupee in 1966 recorded a depreciation of about 57 per cent, and again in 1991, rupee was devalued to 25.95 against a dollar in the wake of foreign exchange crisis. Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s further contributed to rupee depreciation when it reached a low of about 43 per US dollar.

Further sharp depreciation in rupee from 40 in end-March to 51 at end-March 2009 occurred in the wake of global financial slowdown. August-December 2011 again witnessed currency depreciation by about 17 per cent in the wake of the deepening Eurozone crisis. Factors like reversal in capital inflows, high CAD, deceleration in GDP rate coupled with high WPI inflation and large-scale deficit in 2013 pushed rupee to a historic low of 68.85 against the dollar. The then ruling dispensation was UPA at the fag end of its second term in power and it was bitterly criticized by BJP, then the main opposition party. A senior BJP leader had then tweeted: "The rupee has lost its value. The Prime Minister has lost his grace." The history of 2013 has been repeated in 2018 as far as free fall of the rupee is concerned and those who decried the UPA then are now in power and are engaged in straining every nerve to put up defence against depreciating rupee. Some analysts have attributed such a steep fall in rupee to external developments like rising crude oil prices, US-China trade spar, strengthening of the US dollar as a sequel to a robust economic recovery in the US followed by hike in interest rates in the US thereby making investments in the US more attractive thus resulting in outflow of funds from emerging markets, including India.

Some critics opine that a fall in the currency affects the common man in terms of hike in fuel prices, imported goods, and goods produced within the country with imported raw materials. Concurrently, a weak currency can also be catalyst for boosting exports, but export earnings cannot fill the gap created by imports in India's case. Current slide in the rupee may be good news for exporters because their products may become more competitive. Besides, individuals receiving funds from abroad stand to benefit. Also, the Indian software companies, which bill their clients in foreign currency, tend to gain too. Some experts disagree with the proposition that a falling rupee is an opportunity for boosting exports and point out that a weaker rupee vis-à-vis the US dollar is an effete and inadequate driver to boost exports because India's exports are more in sync with global imports or international demand trends rather than a weak currency.

While arguing that some degree of depreciation in line with other international currencies is called for to keep India's exports strong, these experts also draw attention to declining trends in India's exports, especially in the ready-made garment sector and Washington's move of challenging India's export subsidy regime at the WTO, thereby making it cumbersome for the government to dole out more sops for exports and the net outcome is bleak prospects. Besides, GST-led interruptions, coupled with a weakening of major currencies across emerging economies, have constrained exporters' ability to benefit on a weaker rupee. Any further increase in crude prices and deterioration in US-China trade talks can further lead to fall in the rupee.

— BK

China and the SEA in Asia's Troubled Waters

Dhiana Puspitawati*

[The never-ending disputes over a semi-enclosed sea, the South-China Sea (SCS) culminated in the consensus between the Philippines and China in bringing the case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). While the PCA under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982) ruled in favor of the Philippines and declared that China's nine-dash line claims are illegal, China has asserted that they will not obey the final award of the PCA. This paper seeks to analyze legal implications upon China's refusal on PCA's award to Indonesia's border security over the waters around Natuna Islands. It further proposes as to what should be done by Indonesia in anticipating both legal as well as political consequences of such assertive reaction taken by China.]

Prior to the PCA's award, Indonesian President, Joko Widodo, commented on the matter of the SCS disputes saying that while Indonesia is located considerably near to the SCS, yet Indonesia does not have a direct interest in the SCS. However, recent development shows different position. During President Jokowi's visit to Natuna Islands recently, it was reminded that in 1996 China had recognized Natuna's waters as Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This paper has argued that while the SCS disputes so far does not have direct impact on Indonesia, yet, some areas of Indonesia's EEZ in Natuna Islands overlap with the China's nine-dash line. Since China has declared to refuse the award of PCA, Indonesia should make further legal and policy framework in implementing its sovereign rights over its EEZ in Natuna Islands. In addition to this, strong political assertion should also be taken in anticipating China's movement in the SCS through its nine-dash line claim.

Coastal State's claim over the ocean has been accommodated by the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) though a quid pro quo arrangement, that is something for something. While Coastal States are given certain degree of sovereignty over their surrounding oceans, yet

other states' interests should also be respected, which include rights of navigation as well as ocean resources usage rights. While such arrangement can be seen as a 'package-deals' offered by the LOSC, however, in practice things would never be as easy as it could be.

Complication arising from LOSC's arrangement varies from geographical condition of both the coastal state and the ocean itself, to broader interests of other states, in this case user maritime states. In addition to this, the problem of maritime delimitation between adjacent states poses another problem.

A never-ending problem related to maritime delimitation as well as access to ocean resources, has been the issue of South-China Sea (SCS). The SCS is a semi-enclosed sea which is surrounded by at least eight States; China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan. Such geographic location has made SCS surrounded by the land territory of many states and thus the sovereignty as well as sovereign rights of the surrounding states upon the SCS became complicated. In addition to this, the SCS area consists of four islands, which include Pratas, Macclesfield Bank, Paracels and Spratlys.

Upon such geographical complexion, China declared its claim upon the SCS based on its

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map known as the nine-dashed lines which encircle almost the entire SCS and within which China claims are China's historical waters over which it has sovereignty. On the other hand, other littoral states are also claiming sovereignty over small islands in the SCS, namely, Vietnam claims the Spatly Island, while the Philippines and Brunei claims the Kalayan Island Group (KIG).

While the overlapping claims remain, in May 2009 China submitted a claim before the United Nations, claiming several islands, which include Spatly, Scarborough Soal, Paracel and others to be included within its territory based on the nine-dashed lines map, combined with occasional references to "historic waters." In April 2012, the Philippines Navy caught eight China's fishing vessels in Scarborough Soal waters, that is 220 km off-shore Philippines. It should be borne in mind that the Scarborough Soal is claimed by several states, namely China, the Philippines and Taiwan.

In January 2013, the Philippines submitted its objection to the China's nine-dashed lines to the Permanent Court of Arbitration demanding the cancelation of the nine-dashed line map proposed by China. The PCA ruled on the illegitimacy of China's claim, China has asserted that it would not participate in the proceeding and neither obey the final award of the PCA.

This paper seeks to analyze legal implications upon China's refusal on PCA's award to Indonesia's border security over the waters around Natuna Islands. It further proposes as to what should be done by Indonesia in anticipating both legal as well as political consequences of such assertive reaction taken by China.

The Philippines vs. China before the PCIA

While conflict between affected littoral states over the South-China Sea remains, in 2013 the Philippines brought the case before the Permanent Court of International Arbitration (PCIA). The dispute concerned was on the legal basis of maritime rights and entitlements in the South-China Sea, the status of certain geographic features in the South-China Sea and the

lawfulness of certain actions taken by China in the South-China Sea.¹ In brief, basically there are four claims submitted by the Philippines before the PCA.²

Firstly, the Philippines seek advice from the PCA to solve existing disputes over the SCS regarding the rights to occupy the SCS, more specifically, asking PCA to declare that the rights to occupy the SCS should be based on the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) rather than based on 'historic rights. Secondly, the Philippines seek advice from PCA to solve maritime delimitation disputes over the Scarborough Shoal and certain resources in Spratly Islands, which has been claimed by both Philippines and China. Thirdly, the Philippines is asking the PCA to solve matter related to the validity of China's claim over the SCS.

The Philippines required PCA to deliver award that China has conducted wrong doing upon their actions, as follows:

- a. Intervening Philippines' rights in accordance with the LOSC with regard to fishing, navigation and other natural resources exploration and exploitation as well as the establishment of artificial islands;
- b. Has failed to save ocean environment by giving support to China's fishermen, who have caught the endangered species as well as the use of non-environmentally friendly fishing methods which lead to the destruction of coral reef ecosystem in the SCS; and
- c. Causing the damage on marine environment by the establishment of artificial islands as well as reclamation in the area of seven coral reef areas in Spratly Islands.

Fourth, that China has worsened the dispute by limiting Philippines' access to Marine Detachment in Second Thomas Shoal.

The SCS case between the Philippines and China, in fact involves various legal aspect. However, crucial aspect that is worthy to be discussed is the concept of 'historical rights' which has been used as legal basis by China in claiming its sovereignty over the SCS.

As this turns out, PCA only used the LOSC as valid legal basis in deciding the case. PCA further stated that: “This arbitration concerned the role of historic rights and the number of maritime entitlements in the South China Sea, the status of certain maritime features and the maritime entitlements they are capable of generating, and the lawfulness of certain actions by China that were alleged by the Philippines to violate the Convention. In light of limitations on compulsory dispute settlement under the Convention, the Tribunal has emphasized that it does not rule on any question of sovereignty over land territory and does not delimit any boundary between the Parties”³.

In its decision, PCA was unanimously giving award to the Philippines and declared that “the Tribunal concluded that, to the extent China had historic rights to the waters of the South China Sea, such rights were extinguished to the extent they were incompatible with the exclusive economic zones provided for in the Convention⁴. While the award clearly stated that ‘historical rights’ were incompatible with LOSC, it is interesting to find out the origin of ‘historic claim’ as well as analyzing whether the term ‘historic rights’ and ‘historic waters’ ever exist within both LOSC and other customary international law of the sea.



Figure 1: China’s nine-dashed lines covering vast majority of the SCS areas

Legal Implication on China’s refusal upon PCA Award

Upon PCA award, Chinese Government insists on the position that it will not obey PCA Award due to its absence during the trial. This position was stated clearly by China through diplomatic notes titled “Position Paper of the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Matter of Jurisdiction in the South China Sea Arbitration Initiated by the Republic of Philippines” dated 7th December submitted before the court and Netherlands Government. In sum, the diplomatic notes declared as follows:

“It is the view of China that the Arbitral Tribunal manifestly has no jurisdiction over this arbitration, unilaterally initiated by the Philippines, with regard to disputes between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.”

Firstly, the essence of the subject-matter of the arbitration is the territorial sovereignty over the relevant maritime features in the South China Sea, which is beyond the scope of the Convention and is consequently not concerned with the interpretation or application of the Convention.

Secondly, there is an agreement between China and the Philippines to settle their disputes in the South China Sea by negotiations, as embodied in bilateral instruments and the DOC. Thus the unilateral initiation of the present arbitration by the Philippines has clearly violated international law.

Thirdly, even assuming that the subject-matter of the arbitration did concern the interpretation or application of the Convention, it has been excluded by the 2006 declaration filed by China under Article 298 of the Convention, due to its being an integral part of the dispute of maritime delimitation between the two States.

Fourthly, China has never accepted any compulsory procedures of the Convention with regard to the Philippines’ claims for arbitration. The Arbitral Tribunal shall fully respect the right of the States Parties to the Convention to choose

the means of dispute settlement of their own accord, and exercise its competence to decide on its jurisdiction within the confines of the Convention. The initiation of the present arbitration by the Philippines is an abuse of the compulsory dispute settlement procedures under the Convention. There is a solid basis in international law for China's rejection of and non-participation in the present arbitration.

Furthermore, China added more statement, "[t]his shall by no means be interpreted as China's participation in the arbitral proceeding in any form." Upon such situation, Article 288 of the LOSC and Article 9 of LOSC's Annex VII provide:

- a. Article 288 of the Convention provides that "In the event of a dispute as to whether a court or tribunal has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by decision of that court or tribunal.
- b. Article 9 of Annex VII to the Convention provides that "If one of the parties to the dispute does not appear before the arbitral tribunal or fails to defend its case, the other party may request the tribunal to continue the proceedings and to make its award. Absence of a party or failure of a party to defend its case shall not constitute a bar to the proceedings. Before making its award, the arbitral tribunal must satisfy itself not only that it has jurisdiction over the dispute but also that the claim is well founded in fact and law."

It is clearly stated that in the situation whether the arbitral have competence in deciding certain case, the authority to decide is the arbitral itself and not the parties. In addition to this, in the absence of one party in the dispute, another party have the right to ask the arbitral to continue the proceeding. Thus, it is submitted that the absence of one party cannot prevent the proceeding to be continued. On the awards on jurisdiction, PCA considered the application of Article 281 and 282 of the LOSC, which allow a state to apply other dispute resolution method outside the LOSC, if the parties agreed to. Article 281 and 282 of the LOSC read:

"If the States Parties which are parties to a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention have agreed to seek settlement of the dispute by a peaceful means of their own choice, the procedures provided for in this Part apply only where no settlement has been reached by recourse to such means and the agreement between the parties does not exclude any further procedure.

If the States Parties which are parties to a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention have agreed, through a general, regional or bilateral agreement or otherwise, that such dispute shall, at the request of any party to the dispute, be submitted to a procedure that entails a binding decision, that procedure shall apply in lieu of the procedures provided for in this Part, unless the parties to the dispute otherwise agree."

PCA considered the application of Article 281 and 282 upon the following documents to find out whether both parties have agreed on other dispute resolution method; (a) the 2002 China-ASEAN Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (the "DOC"), (b) a series of joint statements issued by the Philippines and China referring to the resolution of disputes through negotiations, (c) the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and (d) the Convention on Biological Diversity (the "CBD").

Nevertheless, PCA refused China's argument which stated that the Document of Conduct (DOC) agreed between ASEAN and China was a political agreement and did not intend to be a binding agreement which is applicable in disputes resolution method. Since the DOC is silent on the binding settlement mechanism, and does not exclude any other dispute resolution method, it is argued that PCA can decide the basis of Article 281 and 282 of the LOSC. PCA also finds out the same conclusion relating to Joint Statement mentioned in China Diplomatic Notes.

In relation to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the CBD, PCA declared that while both agreements bind parties in the

dispute's resolution chosen by the parties, there is no binding mechanism within the agreement whatsoever. To conclude, there is nothing in those agreements that prevents the Philippines to bring the case before the PCA.

As this turned out, PCA rewarded the Philippines and declared that China's claim over the SCS with its nine-dashed lines as illegal and found China to be guilty of conducting illegal maritime activities inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. Upon such award, as stated, China refused to apply the award in any case. Furthermore, instead of moving away from the disputed area, Chinese military and non-military vessels have regularly undertaken activities to strengthen their de facto control of the area. China seems to undertake the passive assertiveness over the area and avoiding assertive action which could lead to incident, while also expanding its movement in the SCS.

This condition brings several legal implications to the neighboring adjacent states surrounding the SCS, especially to ASEAN's member states. This includes an increase of China's maritime power within the South Asia region, which also affect the South-East Region. In addition to this, it is assumed that China will strengthen its domestic law in claiming several areas in the SCS. This way, a potent dispute may arise between China and other claimant states, in particular ASEAN's member states.

China's aggressive response to the PCA's award might also bring further legal implication for less-affected state like Indonesia. While the SCS dispute does not directly affect Indonesia at the moment, however, it might affect in the near future. As an archipelagic state, Indonesia is entitled to draw archipelagic baselines connecting the outermost point of its outermost islands. Despite the fact that Indonesia does not claim any of the disputed islands located in the SCS, Indonesian has an outer island group, the Natuna Islands, which are adjacent to the SCS. These Islands are used as Indonesian basepoints. Due to Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natuna Islands, consequently Indonesia has the rights

over certain areas of waters measuring from Natuna's baselines in accordance with international law. From this baseline, Indonesia is also entitled to various maritime zones established by the LOSC. This results in the fact that Indonesia has to share such ocean with neighboring states which are also claimant states in the SCS dispute, namely Malaysia and Vietnam. While agreement has been reached over delineating the continental shelf between states, Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) delimitation remains unsolved. If China strengthen its nine-dashed line claim and keeps asserting its military power within the area, it is possible that China and Indonesia involve in a disagreement on maritime delimitation around Natuna Islands.

Conclusion

Prior to the PCA's award, Indonesian President, Joko Widodo, commented on the matter of the SCS disputes saying that while Indonesia is located considerably near to the SCS, yet Indonesia does not have a direct interest in the SCS. However, recent development shows different position. During President Jokowi's visit to Natuna Islands recently, it was reminded that in 1996 China had recognized Natuna's waters as Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

This paper argued that while the SCS disputes so far do not have direct impact on Indonesia, yet, some areas of Indonesia's EEZ in Natuna Islands overlap with the China's nine-dash line. Since China has declared to refuse the award of PCA, Indonesia should make further legal and policy framework in implementing its sovereign rights over its EEZ in Natuna Islands. In addition to this strong, political assertion should also be taken in anticipating China's movement in the SCS through its nine-dash line claim.

Notes

1. See further PCA Case Number 2013-19 in the Matter of the South-China Sea Arbitration before the Arbitral Tribunal Constituted Under Annex VII to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea between

the Philippines and the People Republic of China, available on-line at <https://pca-cpa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/175/2016/07/PH-CN-20160712-Award.pdf>, accessed on 4 May 2017 at 9:56 am.

2. Read further Kristiyanto, Kristiyanto, Puspitawati, Dhiana dan Ardhiansyah, Agis, *Konsep Historical Rights dalam Sengketa Laut Tiongkok Selatan berdasarkan Putusan PCA Case Number 2013-19 in the Matter of the South China Sea Arbitration between the Philippines and China*, Final Essay, Law Faculty, Brawijaya University, 2017.
3. Press Release Permanent Court of Arbitration tertanggal 12 July 2016 which giving unanimous award to the Philippines over the SCS disputes.
4. References to the LOSC, see further <http://thediplomat.com/2016/07/international-court-issues-unanimous-award-in-philippines-v-china-case-on-south-china-sea/>, accessed on 30 November 2016



Regional Trade Agreements: Basic Issues

Sadhna*

[In this article, an attempt has been made to highlight the reasons behind proliferation of regional trade agreements (RTAs) and provisions made by World Trade Organization (WTO) to control diversion of trade through this route. It also defines RTAs and its levels of integration. One of the most striking developments in the world trading system since 1990s is a surge in RTAs due to dissatisfaction and uncertain outcomes of WTO rounds. At the early stage, these blocs are considered as complement to WTO but later on substitute of it. Diversion of trade through route diversion and violate Most Favoured Nation (MFN) of WTO clause has become a big problem for WTO. In order to overcome this problem, WTO formed three provisions i.e. GATT Article-XXIV, GATS Article-V and Enabling Clause. Today, RTAs are considered as engine of economic growth and welfare, help to integrate countries and promote intra-extra regional trade.]

Since the 1990s, the world has witnessed with rise in the numbers of regional trade agreements (RTAs). There has not only been steady increase in the number of RTAs, but also the trend has been consistent.¹ By 2018, around 669 regional trade agreements are notified to GATT/WTO; and of these about 455 are in force.² Diversion of trade through this route has also become a cause of concern for WTO. It is in this contest, the present paper attempts to highlight the reasons behind this spurt in RTAs and provisions made by WTO to stop this diversion of trade through RTAs. It also broadly defines RTAs and its level of integration.

Economic cooperation at regional level began to appear in different parts of the world and

changed the world trade landscape since the 1990s.³ There has been consistent surge in the number of RTAs. The surge in RTAs is because of many socio-economic, geo-political, strategic and security considerations. Regionalism is an easier alternative because large number of participants in multilateral trade negotiations reduces cost of non-cooperation and creates rigidity in the system (Krugman, 1993). The slow progress of WTO trade negotiations has forced developing countries to interact at regional level (Bhagwati, 1993).

Issues such as trade in goods, services, investment, environment and labour standards, intellectual property rights, removal of trade barriers etc. that have become complicated to solve at multilateral level can be effectively negotiated and solved at regional level

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(Krugman, 1993). Most of the promises of Uruguay Round (1986-94) to expand global trade have not materialized in practice. Developing countries have not gained any meaningful increase in market access in the key areas in which they have comparative advantage such as textile, agriculture and services.

Declining industrial tariff, trickier implementation of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and removal of all Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) harmed the industrial sectors of these economies and also dominance of developed countries in decision making process forced them to move towards regionalism (Baldwin, 1997). Protectionism and lack of willingness among developed countries to provide market access on multilateral basis has prompted developing countries to look for regional alternatives.

Bhagwati (1993), Panagariya (1996) and Bergsten (1996) believed that USA's transformation from a supporter of multilateralism to a follower of regionalism is another major reason behind this growth of regionalism since 1990.⁴ Because of frustration, dissatisfaction, uncertain outcomes of the GATT/Uruguay Round negotiations and other factors, regional trade agreements mushroomed in different parts of the world.

WTO Provisions for RTAs

This growing trend of RTAs has become a prominent feature of international trade. Almost all countries are members of at least one RTA. Commenting on this trend, WTO Annual Report (2003) notes that: "The rapid growth in regional trade initiatives began a decade or so ago and seems to have developed into a headlong race; virtually every WTO member is today further on the RTA track as part of its trade strategy, increasingly for defensive sense, to protect market access.... The proliferation of RTAs, especially as their scope broadens to include policy areas not regulated multilaterally, increase the risks of inconsistency in the rules and procedures among RTAs themselves, and

between RTAs and multilateral framework. This is likely to give rise to regulatory confusion, distortion of regional markets, and severe implementation problems, especially where there are overlapping RTA".⁵

When a country becomes a member of any regional bloc, it strengthens its ties among the members by granting tariff concessions for and elimination of protectionist barriers that lead to increase movements of goods and services among members at the cost of non-members. In other words, it is diversion from Most Favoured Nation (MFN)⁶ clause the soul of the whole philosophy of WTO. However, initially WTO encouraged the growth of RTA as a complement to it. But, the high proliferation of RTAs in global environment and diversion of trade through this route is increasingly become a cause of concern for WTO. The WTO annual report 2003 expressed a deep concern about this latest development and comments:

"RTAs can complement the multilateral trading system, help to build and strengthen it. But by their very nature RTAs are discriminatory; they are a departure from the MFN principle, a cornerstone of the multilateral trading system. Their effects on general trade liberalisation and economic growth are not clear given that the regional economic impact of RTAs is ex-ante inherently ambiguous".⁷ In order to put check on potential trade diversion (i.e. to foster higher economic ties among some members, without hurting others), WTO mentioned three provisions i.e. GATT Article XXIV, GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Service) Article V and Enabling Clause under which regional trade agreements can be set up.

General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) Article XXIV: It imposes two conditions on trading bloc. First, it allows the creation of custom union and free trade agreement on the precondition that it will facilitate trade; duties and other trade barriers must be eliminated over a period, normally not exceeding 10 years. The purpose of this condition is to ensure that a trading bloc is not used to merely circumvent the

MFN clause. The second requirement is that the common external tariffs levied after forming bloc must not be higher than the average level of tariffs that existed in the member countries before the bloc was formed. These cannot be re-imposed (Gupta, 2002). Non-member should not find trade with group more restrictive than before the group was formed.

General Agreement on Trade in Service (GATS) Article V: It covers the formation of economic integration in the area of trade in services. It requires that services exporters from non-member countries, who were engaged in substantive business in an RTA territory in the pre-bloc formation period, must receive a treatment equivalent to bloc-members.

Enabling Clause: (November 28, 1979 decision on differential and more favourable treatment, reciprocity and fuller participation of developing countries) it permits the formation of preferential trade arrangement (PTA) among the developing countries. Contracting parties (developed countries) may give differential and more favourable treatment to developing countries, without giving such treatment to other contracting parties. This clause is basically designed to facilitate and promote trade of developing countries and not to raise trade barriers to or create undue difficulties for the trade of any other contracting parties. A notification of the formation of regional trade agreement has to be given to world trade organisation (James, 2006).

With a view to ensure that regional trade agreements (RTAs) which are notified to WTO, consistent with WTO rules i.e. GATT Article XXIV, GATS Article V, and Enabling Clause, the WTO set up the Committee on Regional Trade Agreement (CRTA) in February 1996. The CRTA is charged to make recommendations on the reporting requirements for each type of agreement to develop procedure to facilitate and improve the examination process and to consider the systematic implication of regional agreements (Gupta, 2002).

Regional Trade Agreements: A Detailed Overview

A regional trade agreement is an economic agreement between two or more nations to facilitate trade among member countries by reducing tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on selected products. These agreements could be mutually beneficial to both countries, liberalise trade and set higher benchmarks for the multilateralism. The main objectives of such blocs are:

1. To facilitate trade among member countries by reducing tariff and NTBs on selected products,
2. To promote economic cooperation among countries,
3. To enable the countries concerned to achieve international competition in the current era of globalisation and
4. To build a sense of security in order to develop political harmony within a region.

At the San Francisco Conference in 1945, the Egyptian delegation introduced an amendment to the draft text of the United Nations Charter to limit the term “regional arrangements” by definition to “organisation of a permanent nature grouping in a given geographical area several countries, which by reason of their proximity, community of interests or cultural, linguistic, historical, or spiritual affinities, make themselves jointly responsible for the peaceful settlement of any disputes, which may arise between them and for the maintenance of peace and security in their region, as well as for safeguarding of their interests and the development of their economic and cultural relations”.⁸

E.N.van. Kleffens (1949), former Dutch Ambassador to the United States formulated this definition of regional trade agreement: “.....a regional arrangement or pact is a voluntary association of sovereign states within a certain area or having common interests in that area for a joint purpose, which should not be of an offensive nature, in relation to that areas”. Alan Winter defined that “RTAs are like street gangs: you may not like them, but if they are in your neighbourhood, it is safer to be in one”.⁹

According to World Trade Organisation (WTO), “regional trade agreements (RTAs) have both a more general and a more specific meaning: more general, because RTAs may be arrangements concluded between countries not necessary belonging to the same geographical region; more specific, because of the WTO provisions, which relate specifically to conditions of preferential trade liberalisation with RTAs”.¹⁰ Bhagwati (1992) defined “regionalism is as the preferential trade agreement among a subset of nations”. According to Venables (2001), “Regional integration is grouping of countries formed with the objectives of reducing trade barriers between the members”.

According to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (1994) and Reynolds *et al.* (1994), “Regional economic agreements are as intermediate steps in the process of integration into the world economy. That is, in order to gain the strength, necessary to compete at the global level, neighbouring countries must first build trade with each other. The reduction of both policy and natural barriers to intra-regional trade decreases transaction costs, increasing levels of investment”. Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) are virtual agreements between states which aim to increase economic integration and reduce barriers to trade. Almost all states are part of at least one RTA. These states will ‘huddle together’ into an international community on the basis of these agreements, resulting in the increased movement of goods, services, people and capital between them.¹¹

“Regional integration has been defined as the process through which national states voluntarily mingle, merge and mix with their neighbours so as to lose the factual attributes of sovereignty while acquiring new techniques for resolving conflicts among themselves” (Haas, 1971). De Lombaerde and Langenhove (2007) describe “regional integration as a worldwide phenomenon of territorial systems that increases the interactions between their components and creates new forms of organisation, co-existing with traditional forms of state-led organisation

at the national level”. Regional integration/RTAs are of different forms as depend on the degree of integration. They are classified as:

1. Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA): PTA forms the first tier of arrangement, in which member countries lower trade barriers on goods for each other in comparison to non-members e.g. South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA), India-Common Market of Southern America (Mercosur) Preferential Trade Agreement, etc.
2. Free Trade Agreement (FTA): FTA that allows free trade among member countries by removing all trade barriers and has given full authority to maintain and regulate their own trade policy with non-member countries e.g. ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), Central European Free Trade Agreement, etc.
3. Custom Union (CU): CU provides deeper integration than free trade agreement because in it member countries have to follow a Common External Trade (CET) policy on goods imported from non-member countries e.g. South African Custom Union (SACU), Central American Custom Union (CACU), Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) Custom Union, etc.
4. Common Market: Common market is like custom union but has additional feature that makes its deeper integration than custom union i.e. free movement of factors of production (labour and capital) among member countries e.g. Central American Common Market (CACM), Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) etc.
5. Economic Union: Apart from satisfying the conditions of the common market, the economic union achieves some degree of harmonisation of the economic policies of the member countries that include commercial policy, monetary policy, fiscal policy, exchange rate policy, taxation policy, etc. It attempts to adopt a single currency e.g. European Union (EU), etc. (Salvatore, 2003).

Conclusion

RTAs are formed to boost trade, enhance the level of economic cooperation and welfare of the people. In recent past, RTAs have spread rapidly throughout the world since early 1990s. This trend has become most popular form of reciprocal of liberalisation. RTAs continue to increase at increasing rate. Countries want to become a member of at least one bloc because of WTO's discriminative behaviour. After increase in the number of RTA, trade is diverted through this route. In order to stop this diversion, three provisions are made by WTO that are in favour and beneficial for underdeveloped countries. Now, these blocs are considered as pump priming for economic growth and development, help to raise the standard of living by availability of goods at cheaper rate, boost trade and enhance the level of integration among members. Overall, RTAs are beneficial for all countries.

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India's Viable Strategic Options

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[After fading of an 'estrangement' in the bilateral engagements, India and the United States are developing global partnership. The two countries have never been toeing so close as they do this time. But, this time around, the US influence in the global politics is shrinking. There are other centers of power emerging in the shape of China, picking in Russian influence etc. India cannot afford not to circumvent these new emerging developments in the global politics. This paper examines as to what would be a prudent policy for the New Delhi under the given circumstances. Will India ignore these new developments? Can India afford to toe the US line in the emerging global scenario? What are the other options available for India? This paper attempts to examine all these questions. The paper will follow both historical as well as analytical approaches.]

The global politics is in great flux. Populist leaders and governments that disavow liberal order are emerging from the US under Donald Trump to Putin's Russia, Erdogan's Turkey and Modi's India. This has made the world more fluctuating. This new kind of world is full of uncertainties. The space for liberal global order is shrinking. The globalization is under stress. Within these all developments, annexation of Crimea by Russia and the China's Belt Road Initiative have raised new questions

in the global politics. Some are suggesting that these new developments are signaling towards declining of US influence in world politics. Some are suggesting that a new kind of Cold War is emerging around. In between of all this, India's role and its relationships particularly with the United States and its growing friction with China need to be contextualized and comprehended in true sense.

In the prelude of its independence, India has been seen as a moral force against all kinds of exploitations. It sought end of colonial raj in all parts of the world. India with other allies initiated

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Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for an independent foreign policy for newly independent countries. The sense was to avoid indulgence in the then super power politics between the USA and the Soviet Union. NAM was believed as a secure way of 'safeguarding sovereignty' and 'avoiding compromises'.¹

There were very less contacts between US and the India prior to the latter's independence from European colonialism. Albeit, the US missionaries through schools and hospitals provided an early link between the two countries. In addition to it, the early Indian Diaspora mainly the Sikh community who settled in the US provided a line of communication between the two countries. The US and India had some accentuated roots for cultural and intellectual exchanges. Swami Vivekananda delivered his famous speech at the World's Parliament of Religion at Chicago in 1893, wherein he introduced Yoga and Vedanta to American brethren. The American writers Emerson and Thoreau have a good imprint of Indian cultural legacy and influenced Nehru and Gandhi, two leading Indian faces of the Indian freedom movement.²

Some accentuated shifts have been seen in the Indo-US relations in the India's post-independence period. The two countries had developed differences over various issues. The influence of Mother India, a text written by an influential historian Mayo Katherine, nurtured a negative image of India in Washington. On appointing US ambassador for India, the then US President Harry Truman said, "I thought India was pretty jammed with poor people and cows round streets, witch doctors and people sitting on hot coals and bathing in the Ganges...but I did not realize anybody thought it was important". Pandit Nehru has written, "it is the United States which offers the best field for the study of economic imperialism. Therefore, earlier the Indo-US relations have not been as good as they are today."³

Since the downfall of the former Soviet Union and particularly after 9/11 episode, the New

Delhi-Washington engagements took a dramatic shift. After the India's nuclear tests in 1998, US imposed sanctions and there were great crises around between the two countries. The dialogue between the Strobe Talbot, former US Assistant Secretary of State and Jaswant Singh, former Indian Foreign Minister in the post Indian Nuclear tests in 1998, finally reached to the conclusion that 'rolling back' India's nuclear weapons was not a viable strategy rather alternative ways are needed to get engaged. The US then asked India to sign the NPT and the CTBT in order to address the US non-proliferation lobby's concerns, but India refused to accept on the ground that the treaties per se are discriminatory in nature.⁴

The year 2000 became a landmark year in the Indo-US bilateral relations when US president Bill Clinton visited India. President Clinton visited India on March 20, 2000 and signed the five- page "Vision for the 21st century" which per se proclaimed to resolve to "create a closer and qualitatively new relationship." dialogue' with India in South Asia. In November 2002, the two sides announced to frame the India-US high technology cooperation group which eventually leads to sign Next Step in Strategic Partnership (NSSP).

The NSSP was an inclusive cooperation in the field of high technology, trade, missile defense, civilian nuclear field and the space technology. On July 18, 2005 the two countries unveiled a famous Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, which culminated in ending long 'nuclear apartheid' against India. The agreement announced cooperation on wide-ranging issues including the high technology, space cooperation, energy security, defense cooperation etc.⁵

After NSSP, the two countries signed Defense Framework Agreement in 2005, Defense Technology and Trade Initiative in 2012. In the year 2016 New Delhi was granted status of Major Defense Partner by the US Congress. US offered India great power status. It declared India not only a regional power but also global. Recently, the two countries have unveiled "2+2 dialogue" which will simultaneously involve

defense and foreign ministries of the two countries. However, this bonhomie is not free of riders with it.⁶

India has been seeking a balance between retaining its strategic autonomy and cementing strategic partnership. In recent years, it has come to face certain issues with regard to assertive China. Beijing is posing a threat to India as it has made a sort of encirclement around the Indian Ocean. China is openly supporting Pakistan with regard to the New Delhi's core concerns. China hampered India's push to declare Hafez Said, leader of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist outfit and one of the accused persons who carried out attacks on Indian soil, and an international terrorist. Beijing has also delivered support to the Pakistan's military establishment through both military as well as hardware means. It assists Pakistani nuclear programme.⁷

Beijing is also building a close circle around India in terms of supporting Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Iran. This has made New Delhi nervous and it has sought counter to this emerging threat. China this time around is posing a great challenge on account of its growing military strength, nine-trillion-dollar economy and its growing political footprints in the South and South East Asia. In the recent times, Chinese assertiveness emerged over Bhutan-China-India tri border region which lead to Doklam plateau crisis in summer 2017.⁸

What is more worrying for New Delhi is growing axis between Beijing, Moscow and Islamabad. Over some recent past, Russia is coming close to the Pakistan. The Moscow and Islamabad share common understanding in South Asia. Pakistan is also very tactical as increasing US pressure for addressing terror issue in the Af-Pak region, it uses Russian card in the region. Russia too has same sense in getting close to Pakistan. Albeit, traditionally the two countries do not align with each other, Russia has been always an all-weather friend of New Delhi. It supported India on several occasions, particularly in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). But due to India's growing proximity with Washington,

Moscow too stretched its arms for India's major rival in the South Asian region. Pakistan is likely to buy Russian Su-35 fighter jets and T-90 tanks from Russia. Thus, there is growing defense cooperation between the two countries as well.⁹

It would be a naïve expectation to think that the United States will make a congruent policy vis-à-vis New Delhi's core concerns with regard to the Af-Pak region. Washington will always hit Pakistan to a limit, which would not allow it to get slipped out of its influence. Notwithstanding, India's contribution to the development of Afghanistan as it is fifth largest donor in its infrastructure building, Washington will not mend Islamabad on the lines New Delhi aimed for. Albeit, the US President Donald Trump's New South Asian strategy, unveiled last year, in which it has sought to pressurize Pakistan to fix its irredentist behavior in the region, nothing actually has happened in that way on the ground.¹⁰

India is critical in Washington's geostrategic calculations. It considers India as "Pivot" in its Indo-Pacific policy. India is important for two reasons viz. it is a best viable option to counter China in Asia and reliable partner to protect important areas in the Indo-Pacific region particularly Malacca Strait and Gulf of Aden.¹¹

The appointment of John Bolton as a new US National Security Advisor is considered not good development for Indo-US relations. Bolton is considered hawkish over the Iranian nuclear issue. He wrote in the *New York Times* that stopping Iran from making its nuclear bomb, it is better to bomb it. After becoming NSA, Washington has withdrawn from JCPOA. It is being seen that US may strike Iran. Over the issue of Pakistan, the new NSA is not so hard on Islamabad. He argued that it would not be in the interest of US to push hard over Pakistan. Over both the issues New Delhi will not welcome the New NSA.

He has also not a good opinion about India's seat in UNSC and nuclear deal. Bombing Iran is bad for India. Iran is essential for New Delhi from energy point of view. The Chabahar port is

important for India to counter China's Gwadar port. The reaching of first loaded ship from India to Afghanistan through Iranian Chabahar port is a good development from Indian perspective. It shows that there are numerous ways for New Delhi to address its growing global power dreams.¹²

The US policy about the role of India in the emerging geopolitical scenario is unambiguous. The last year released National Security Strategy (NSS) indicates the understanding of incumbent Trump administration's priorities vis-à-vis Indo-Pacific region. The NSS introduces India as "leading global, strategic and defense partner" for the United States. At the same time the strategy note criticizes the Chinese policies in the region of Asia-Pacific. It notes about the Chinese BRI project as something of a threat to the fair-trade practices. It considers China's emergence as "hegemonic, authoritative, autocratic, exploitative, and therefore, a threat to the democratic, rule-based world order". Praising New Delhi's role and at the same time criticizing Beijing indicates that US want to push India against the Chinese rise.¹³

The Dragon's Emergence:

The Dragon China is emerging vociferously not only at the global level, but also posing a great challenge in the India's neighborhood. China is now the second-largest funder of UN peacekeeping forces and has participated in UN programs related to Ebola and climate change. The Deng's policy of hiding capabilities is no more a consideration in Beijing. China has started to flex its muscles in the global politics. Its assertive policies in the South and East China Sea, Belt Road Initiative and managing North Korean Crisis are all signals towards its indispensability in world politics.

China is getting highly involved into the countries surrounding India. China is using its financial loans and developmental projects as a tool to develop its trade, maritime power and influence in the countries around Indo-Pacific region. India has not been able to challenge Chinese naval

vessels entering into East Indian Ocean. It is pertinent to mention that in the wake of recent emerging crisis in Maldives, China sent its squadron and flotilla to support Maldives government. Male has agreed to participate in Beijing's BRI and has signed free trade agreement. These developments have put India at its back foot.¹⁴

China is investing in constructing ports all over the Indian Ocean. The China's "string of pearls" has enveloped all the strategic locations in the Indo-Pacific region. Helping Maldives, development of commercial ports in Pakistan's Gwadar port, sea port Pyra in Bangladesh, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, investment in Sri Lanka, financial aid to Nepal etc., are all being done to substantiate its strategic space in the global politics. China does not stop here. It is also developing its military bases in the world. It has started to build military logistics base in Djibouti as its first overseas military base.

It is pertinent to mention that this base will be used fully in giving access to Red Sea and Suez Canal. Furthermore, China is a leading driving force for the creation of New Development Bank, project as alternative to the World Bank. China is thinking to invest \$ 1 trillion over its Belt and Road Initiative to augment its land and maritime links in Eurasia.¹⁵

To counter this and other threats from the rising Beijing, India is currently participating in Quad, a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue which other than New Delhi involves USA, Japan and Australia. Earlier India has been reluctant to participate in such kind of alliances. There is a general perception that New Delhi is doing this to counter Chinese rising influence in Indo-Pacific region. It is pertinent to mention that India withdrew from Quad in 2007. The Quad is looked upon as an alternative to BRI project.¹⁶

Raising the concept of "Indo-Pacific region" Washington is calculating the response to the Chinese growing influence in the region. The "Quad" formula is a sort of arrangement to counter Beijing's geopolitical aspirations.

Chinese *Global Times* published an article which talked about the hidden agenda of the Quad formula. It said that the main motive of the formula is “the U.S. cannot only reduce the risk of confronting China but also reach the goal of checking China”.

For New Delhi this formula may prove counterproductive. It is important to understand that Chinese response to this would hit more India than any other country of Quad. Beijing may accelerate its presence in India’s neighboring countries. It may show greater irredentist behaviour along the Sino-India border. It is already a great supporter of Pakistan, and growing military cooperation between the two would be a great challenge for the New Delhi.¹⁷

New Fixation in Sino-Russia relationship

There is a revival in the Sino-Russian honeymoon. Since 2014, the two countries are forging strategic partnership. The old view of “axis of convenience” in the Sino-Russian relationship stands no longer around now. There are stronger forces to push Sino-Russian engagements deeper than putting brakes, therefore, US policy of minimizing closeness between these two countries seems irrelevant this time. The relationship is now “best in history”. The relationship has seen many ups and downs in the past. There was honeymoon period the 1950s and divorce in the 1970s.¹⁸

Broader contours are emerging in the new power relationship between Beijing and Moscow. From geopolitics to security and energy, the two countries are more converged to challenge Western global world. Both the countries are critical of US policies in Syria, Eastern Europe, Afghanistan, Libya etc. The cooperation on energy is emerging as a strong bond between Russia and China. The 2014 agreement between Russia’s Gazprom and the China National Petroleum Corporation on a 30-year deal to utilize the power of Siberia pipeline to export Russian gas to China is an important landmark.

The Chinese president has described the relationship as “mature, solid and unaffected by

outside environment”. China and Russia share common interest as both are challenging the Western domination and hegemony. China and the Russia are on the same page. On the Ukraine issue, China supported Russian view and abstained in the United Nations General Assembly vote which sought to condemn Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. The two countries are supporting both the Syrian as well as North Korean regimes. The two countries are more desirous to challenge Western-dominated global system. Both believe to make multi-polar world more visible. There is a growing military coordination between the two countries.¹⁸ Russia has sold Su-35 fighter jets to China in December 2017. The two countries have resolved border issue in 2008.

Russia is on the path of reviving its old glory. The incumbent president Vladimir Putin has recalibrated a new policy for expanding Russian influence in the Western-dominated global order. Moscow has pursued a host of objectives, such as tarnishing democracy and undermining the U.S.-led liberal international order, especially in places of traditional U.S. dividing Western political and security institutions; demonstrating Russia’s return as a global superpower; bolstering Vladimir Putin’s domestic legitimacy etc.

Conclusion

The United States, which dominated the world particularly from the latter part of the twentieth century, is now seemingly getting down. Its dominance was based precisely on its economic achievements, military might, and cultural prestige. These achievements are relatively, if not in absolute terms, becoming less attractive to outsiders as they used to be in the past. This trend is not limited to the US, in-fact all over the world, so far being called non-open countries such as China are striving for greater economic opportunities as compared to the traditional Western liberal democracies such as the US. As per the report of McKinsey Global Institute, the developing world will hold 25% of world’s largest trading companies by 2025, in

comparison to just 5% in the beginning of this century. China would share major chunk of this. Therefore, would it be a prudent policy for New Delhi to ignore such reality *vis-à-vis* forging a sort of de facto alliance with Washington.

It is a given fact that it would be a hard choice for any country to expect that Washington will remain consistent over certain foreign policy narratives. This becomes more relevant under the incumbent administration of Donald Trump. Since his arrival in the Oval Office, president Trump has reversed 360 degree of US policy under his previous Obama administration. He has not honoured agreements such as Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Paris agreement on climate issue, North America Free Trade Agreement and recently he unilaterally withdrew from Iran nuclear agreement also known as JCPOA (a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed between P5, European Union and Germany over the Iran's nuclear issue) and his unprecedented behavior in the recent G7 meeting.

After becoming US president Donald Trump threatened to strike North Korea over its nuclear programme. Here too he changed his original position. From "fire and fury" he has met Kim Jong Un. Therefore, can the Washington be trusted?

If China succeeded in bring Russia, Iran and Pakistan together as it seems, New Delhi may find itself in a great dilemma whether to forge a deeper alliance with Washington. But, it will be definitely a hard choice given the fact that Washington can never be a trustworthy ally. The recent 2+2 dialogue has been canceled twice. The recent behaviour of US with regard to North Korean issue and Iran nuclear deal, leads to substantiate such skepticism. For any offensive alignment against China, New Delhi must consider that no other country is so much close to the Beijing as it is. Therefore, responding to Beijing's rise with the alliances such as 'Quad' formula, could turn a counterproductive. In case there is a war it would be India who will suffer more than any other country. India is only

member of the Quad that has a boundary dispute with China.

India needs to recalibrate its policy towards getting close to Washington. The recent reach out at informal level to both Beijing and Moscow is in right direction. New Delhi must balance its engagements *vis-à-vis* Washington and Beijing-Russia axis. New Delhi also should relook its policy orientations in South Asia and need to concede unilateral concessions so that its "big brother" image gets clean. It needs to reach out to Islamabad as well, as it will be in its larger interest.

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Reformative Potential of Social Movements in India

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[Social movements are clearly different from historical move-ments, tendencies or trends. It is important to note, however, that such tendencies and trends, and the influence of the unconscious or irrational factors on human behaviour, may be of crucial importance in illuminating the problems of interpreting and ex-plain-ing social movement. A social movement must evince a minimal degree of organization, though this may range from a loose, informal or partial level of orga-nization to the highly institutionalized and bureaucratized movement and the corporate group.]

Indeed, much of the literature of social movements has been concerned with natural histories, models or theories of movement development. Such mod-els have attempted to simulate changes in movement structure and organization ranging from states of initial social unrest and excite-ment and the emergence of a charismatic leadership, to a revolu-tionary movement's seizure of power.

Social Movements: Commitment to Change

A social movement's commitment to change and the raison d'être of its organization are founded upon the conscious volition, nonna-tive commitment to the movement's aims or beliefs, and active partic-ipation on the part of the

followers or members. This particular characterization of social movement in terms of volition and nor-mative commitment is endorsed by something approaching a con-sensus among leading scholars in this field. Heberle, for example, conceives of these belief-systems as an expression of the collective will of the people among whom they are accepted. He is emphatic that it is the element of volition that makes the beliefs socially effective. It is the conscious volition of individuals acting collec-tively that brings about the embodiment of ideologies in social movements.

This working concept does not claim to offer a precise definition. It is too broad and includes collective action through legal means within the boundaries of political institutions (such as voting in elec-tions or presenting memoranda), as well

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as violent extra-institutional collective action. The 'minimum degree of organisation' is problem-atic. It is difficult to say precisely what the 'minimum degree' is. One also wonders whether the social movement begins with setting up an organization having committed members, or does the organization evolve in the course of time as the movement develops.

Such a definition may exclude protests and agitations which may not have organization to begin with. Notwithstanding the difficulties with Wilkinson's working concept, it has a heuristic value. Needless to say, that like many other concepts, the meaning given to the term social movement by the participants, has temporal and cultural contexts.

Meaning of Social Movement

Each social movement aims at reforming society and bringing about a change in it. At times it also aims at resisting change which some feel is not in the interest of society. Whereas some social movements aim at bring total revolution, the aim of others is to eradicate some evils, thus modify the existing order only partially. In the words of Anderson and Parker, "a social movement is a form of dynamic pluralistic behaviour which progressively develops structure through time and aims at partial or complete modification of social order." A social movement is of voluntary nature and wishes to change attitude and behaviour of members of society vis-a-vis their social relation.

Genesis of a Social Movement

Social Movements may be seen as shaped by different ideas.

- The first is structural conduciveness, that is, whether or not existing structure allows movements to occur.
- Next is the structural strain, people must experience some tension before they can be motivated to participate in a movement.
- This is followed by the creation of a generalised belief, the ideas regarding the

source of the strains experienced and what should be done to remedy them.

- If structural conduciveness, strain, and generalised beliefs regarding the need for changes in value or norms exist, then the circumstances are ripe for a social movement. What is still needed is a spark or precipitating factor, to bring things ahead.
- The fifth determinant is the actual social movement activity that finally occurs, the mobilisation of the participants.
- The last determinant of a social movement is the application of social controls i.e. control by persons in positions of authority for example, efforts of the British empire to suppress Indian national movement.

Indicators of Success of Social Movements

The following factors are considered as important indicators of success of social movements:

1. Leadership,
2. Organization,
3. Objectives,
4. Ideology,
5. Programmes,

For a clearer view of ideology in context of social movement, we can refer to Geertz's conception of ideology. He viewed it as a system of interacting symbols. It acts as a bridge between source analysis and consequence analysis. According to Geertz, ideology helps to make sense of the environment. For example, Marxist ideology explains the capitalist environment to workers in the workers movement that. the system is for all, but their exploitation of ideology also projects self--image. That is, it helps the participant of the movement to project to other sections what they are in their view and how they should be taken by others. Ideology also codifies and organises beliefs, values and myths. It defines aspirations and interests and directs responses to specific social goal.

Thus, without ideology, people would not be aware and would not rise. The sufferers would not be able to understand the basis of their' exploitation, Secondly, without ideology people cannot share the same feeling with equal intensity. It is ideology, which makes them think similarly. Moreover, the way they should fight the challenge or the goal for which they should fight is also provided by ideology. And we know, without a well-defined goal and a clearly charted strategy, a movement cannot move one step forward. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, Gandhi declared non-violence and Satyagraha as strategy. When the given strategy was discarded and violence was resorted to at Chauri-Chuara, Gandhi put a break on the movement.

Ideology also codifies and organises beliefs, values and myths. It defines aspirations and interests and directs responses to a specific goal. Thus, without ideology, people would not be aware and arise. The sufferers would not be able to understand the basis of their exploitation. Further, without ideology people cannot share the same feeling with equal intensity. It is ideology, which make them think similarly. Moreover, the way they should fight the challenge or the goal for which they should fight is also provided by ideology.

We can illustrate the role of ideology in social movement with the help of some contemporary movements. Naxalbari movement, which arose in Darjeeling district of West Bengal during 1967-1971, had its genesis in the exploitative agrarian class structure. The CPI (M) under the leadership of Charu Majumdar & Kanu Sanyal etc., explained the exploitation in class structure. This ideology of class explanation provided the strategy to fight landlords. The goal under this ideology was transfer to land to the tillers and end of exploitation. Thus, ideology worked as central and organising component of the movement.

It saw the then Congress party government in the state as representative of the feudal landlords. The strategy to fight the landlords was evolved. It was an armed struggle. The participants

believed that there was no alternative to armed struggle. The conditions for waging armed struggle were excellent as masses were dissatisfied with the government. The goal under this ideology was transfer of land to the tillers and the end of exploitation. The movement continued from 1967 to 1971 in several phases. The peasants resorted to arms and indulged in violence. They killed the landlords and confiscated land. Thus, ideology worked as the central and organising component of the movement.

We can cite an example of another movement- Women movement. The 70s in India saw emergence of women movement. The genesis of this movement was growing awareness among women, of the gender bias and ineffectiveness of a limited perspective of legislation and education for improving women's position. The ideology of the movement consisted of the idea that welfarist approach to women cannot deliver anything. Rather women should fight issue wise. In pursuance of this ideology, they launched agitation against dowry demands and deaths, against commission of sati and against rape. Women movement in 70s and 80s led to sensitisation. of the conscience of the whole nation. Many bills in support of their demands were passed and the environment was made humane to them.

Thus, ideology is the key component in social movement. Formulation of ideology is indispensable for the rise, sustenance and success of social movements.

The objectives of the movement change from narrow particular local issues to broad aims for social transfor-mation. Sometimes a movement which begins with broad objectives may in the process get bogged down to one or two particular issues. Ideology also undergoes change. It provides direction for evolving strategies and programmes; and also keeps the participants together by developing feelings of 'we-ness'. Various strategies and program-mes are evolved to mobilize the people. They sustain the movement for a long period.

Leadership which initiates or emerges in the course of *the growth* of the movement plays a crucial role in articulating ide-ology and objectives, evolving strategies *and programmes* and main-taining the spirit of the participants.

Neither of these components are a priori and static. They evolve. They get changed in the course of the movement. They are in a rudi-mentary form in some movements and fairly well developed in oth-ers. Ranajit Guha rightly points out that though these components are found in all types of movements or insurgencies, including the so--called 'spontaneous' rebellions, their forms vary-from very unstruc-tured to well organized. He challenges the contention of some histo-rians who opine that the peasant insurgencies were spontaneous and lacked political consciousness and organization. Such insurgencies lacked, 'neither in leadership nor in aim nor even in some rudiments of a programme, although none of these attributes could compare in maturity or sophistication with those of the historically more advan-ced movements of the twentieth century'.

Collective actions, which fol-low the path of acquiescence for social mobility and change in status, are not treated as 'social movement'. The action which is legally per-mitted and 'widely accepted as binding in society or part of society', at a given point of time, is institutionalized action. Such actions include petitioning, voting in elections, fighting legal battles in courts of law, etc. However, sometimes these methods are accompanied by other collective actions and used as tactics. Such mobilization though can be treated as a social movement, the analogy is largely confined to the direct actions of a group of people.

In David Bayley's words, it is 'illegal public protest'. The term 'il-legal' raises many questions and it is a matter of interpretation of law and constitution. A particular action can be interpreted as illegal by those who are in authority or support the status quo; but the same action may be interpreted as legal by those who strive for social change.

According to Rajni Kothari, 'direct action can be defined as an extra-constitutional political technique that takes the form of a group action, is aimed at some political change and is directed against the government in power'. The term 'extra-constitutional' can be a matter of interpretation. In the 1960s, Kothari's concept of 'political change' was narrow, confined to change in the government.

We believe that political power is not solely confined to the govern-ment, it is also located at various levels in society. All those who strive for 'political change' do not always struggle against the govern-ment alone. After all, change in government does not necessarily bring significant changes in the nature of politics: relationship between the ruling class and the ruled, power relationship among various segments of society, the institutional mechanism for resolv-ing conflict in society. Such transformation calls for the collective action of people at various levels against dominant caste, class and ideology.

Non-institutionalized collective action takes several forms such as protest, agitation, strike, *satyagraha*, *hartal*, *gherao*, riot, etc. Agita-tions or protests are not strictly social movements if we follow the working definition quoted earlier. But, more often than not, a social movement develops in the course of time, and it begins with protest or agitation which may not have an 'organization' or an 'ideology' for change. For instance, when students of the engineering college in Gujarat protested against the mess bill, it was a relatively spontane-ous act. But that protest led to the Nav Nirman Andolan of 1974 in Gujarat.

Moreover, a particular collective action may only be an agitation for some scholars, and a movement for others, depending upon the level of analysis and perspective. For example, the collective action of a section of society demanding the formation of linguistic states in the 1950s was viewed as an 'agitation' by some, and a movement by others; or the same scholars, at a later stage, saw 'agitations' transforming into 'movements.' Agitations, protests, strikes and

even riots are often but not always part of a social movement of a particular stratum of society. Some collective actions are often labeled by the authorities as 'riots', but they are more often than not a part of movements. A striking example is that of the so-called Deccan riots of the late nineteenth century against the government's policy.

The studies providing conceptual framework have largely dealt with typologies of social movements. One of the classifying movements is their objectives or the quality of change they try to attain. Ghanshyam Shah classifies movements into four categories. These are

revolt, rebellion, reform and revolution

to bring about changes in the political system.

Reform does not challenge the political system per se. It attempts to bring about changes in relation between the parts of the system to make it more efficient, responsive and workable. A revolt is a challenge to political authority, aiming at overthrowing the government. A rebellion is an attack on existing authority without any intention to seize state power. In a revolution, a section or sections of society launch an organized struggle to overthrow not only the established government and regime but also the socio-economic structure which sustains it, and replace the structure by an alternative social order.

For Partha Mukherji the social movements are

1. accumulative, 2. alternative and 3. transformatory.

Accumulative changes are changes within the given structure and system.

M.S.A. Rao also offers more or less similar typologies:

1. reformist,
2. transformatory and
3. revolutionary.

However, T.K. Oommen believes that 'the movements will neither have the potentialities to root out the existing system completely nor

will they succumb to the traditional structures entirely. Essentially then, social movements provide the stage for confluence between the old and new values and structures. His typologies are related to the process of movement crystallization, the life-style and the phases of social movements. For him, movements are charismatic, ideological and organizational.

All these typologies, though useful, do not explain the dynamics of the movements which undergo change in the course of time. They do not take into consideration those movements whose objectives change during the development of the movement. Some movements do not have clear objectives in terms of the 'maintenance' or the 'transformation' of the system. Often the unfolding of the objective forces shapes the cause of the movements including its immediate and long-term objectives. David Bayley divides 'coercive public protest' into legal and illegal protests. Each category is further sub-divided into violent and non-violent protests. Some others classify movements into grassroots and macro movements.

Social movements are also classified on the basis of issues around which participants get mobilized. Some of the movements are known as

1. Forest movement,
2. civil rights movement,
3. anti-untouchability movement,
4. linguistic movement,
5. nationalist movement and such others.

Some others classify movements on the basis of the participants such as

1. Peasants movement,
2. Tribals movement,
3. Students movement,
4. Women movement,
5. Dalits movement, etc.

Social movements can also be studied from the following three spectrums -

1. -general social movements,

2. specific-social movements, and
3. expressive social movements

There is a good deal of debate among Marxist scholars on theoretical and methodological issues. Recently a group of Marxist historians, known as subaltern scholars, have begun to study 'history from below'. They criticize *the 'traditional' Marxist historians* for ignoring the history of the masses, as if subaltern classes do not make *history* of their own, depending solely on the advanced classes or the elite for organization and guidance. It is argued that traditional Marxist scholars have undermined cultural factors and viewed a linear development of class consciousness. On the other hand, the subaltern studies are strongly criticized by other Marxist scholars for ignoring structural factors and viewing 'consciousness' as independent of structural contradictions. They are accused of being Hegelian 'idealists'.

Other issues of debate are: are the parties and trade unions equipped to lead revolutionary social movements? Can the peasantry be divided into classes? Which class of the peasantry has more potential to deal with the revolutionary movement? Which class in capitalist society has the potential to be a vanguard to lead revolutionary movement? Non-Marxist scholars accuse Marxist studies of being 'reductionist', 'mechanical' and 'over determining' economic factors.

There is a great deal of variation amongst the non-Marxist scholars also, in their approach to analysing social movements. The ideological positions regarding a need for social and/or political change, and the role of movements therein differ. It is argued by William Kornhauser, Robert Nisbet, Edward Shils and others that mass movements are the product of mass societies which are extremist and anti-democratic. These scholars are in favour of excluding the masses from day-to-day participation in politics, which hampers the efficient functioning of the government.

The Indian scholars who approved of the agitations against foreign rule for independence, did not approve of them in the post-Independence period, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s. They condemned them outright as 'dangerous' and 'dysfunctional' for 'civilized society'. Though some others do not favour revolutionary change in the political and economic structure, they advocate 'political change' which is confined to change in government and political institutions. A few are for revolutionary change but they differ from Marxist scholars in class analysis. They lay emphasis on political institutions and culture. In their analysis of the movements, some do not inquire into causes.

Others differ in their emphasis on the causes responsible for the movements. Some emphasize individual psychological traits, some focus on elite power struggle and their manipulation; and some others emphasize the importance of cultural rather than economic factors.

Social movements spread due to various causes but their main cause is social unrest. Another such cause can be when due to spread of education, contacts with advanced societies etc. the people of a backward society develop new ideas and wish to reform social systems and end some existing wrong practices e.g. untouchability, ban on widow remarriage, female infanticide, sati system in India. Social movements also spread when society gets disorganised and one part of the society goes much faster than others. This can happen due to urbanisation, mechanisation and industrialisation. In such a situation there is social confusion and some sections of society even begin to feel insecure. For bringing order in society and avoiding confusion people organise themselves and start a movement.

One more reason can be to end social injustices which some powerful sections of society may be inflicting on other sections and these may reach a point beyond which sufferers may not be ready to tolerate present stage in social movements. Social movements have always been spreading in all dynamic societies but these were in the past forcefully resisted by orthodox sections

of society, who favoured status quo because that suited their interests, but now the situation has altogether changed and social movements receive quite good support.

This change has come because these receive support from all those who are oppressed and suppressed, victims of exploitation, maladjusted, free from family responsibilities, are faced with insecurities, particularly economic insecurity, have been isolated and disowned by society or do not feel integrated in society or in their own group. But a very important cause also is that each society has become very dynamic. These movements also receive support from those, who though keen to achieve their objectives, also wish to come to limelight by occupying some responsible position because of being elite of society etc. But no social movement can be a success unless people are discontented and dissatisfied with the system, which a social movement wishes to change.

Perceptions of Social Movements in the Indian Society

In the mid-1960s, a group of political scientists addressed themselves to the question: why has India witnessed an explosion of violence on such an unprecedented scale? They disapproved of agitations. One of them argued, 'One can understand, if not justify the reasons which led the people in a dependent country to attack and destroy everything which was a symbol or an expression of foreign rule. But it is very strange that people should even now behave as if they continue to live in a dependent country ruled by foreigners.' They blamed opposition parties, leaders and trade unions for instigating the masses to direct action. Many of them have changed their position after the Emergency.

Some scholars, including a few Marxists, assert that mass movements or protests are redundant in Indian culture and civilization due to its 'multilinear character' and 'all-pervasive hierarchy'. Because of the Brahmanical ideology and hierarchical social structure, the oppressed classes have become docile, obedient and

fatalist. Such assertions are refuted by other scholars who point to a number of struggles by the oppressed classes in pre- and post-Independence India.

Some explain that the protests and agitations in post-independent India are the result of the conflict between 'tradition' and 'modernity'. According to them, parliamentary democracy has been transplanted in India, where there is no tradition of voluntary effort. People have developed an ambivalent attitude towards authority, they take the advantages offered by the political authority but at the same time do not legitimize it. Morris-Jones argues that, 'Even after independence the government is relied upon, and at the same time spat upon and abused. The same man who is "looking to government" one moment may in the next take part in demonstrations involving violence and on a scale that threatens to make any government impossible'. This was the result of the conflict between traditional values and attitudes on the one hand, and modern institutions, on the other.

The scholars who adhere to the theory of political development consider that the rising aspirations of the people are not adequately met by existing political institutions which are rigid or incompetent. As the gap widens between the two, 'political instability and disorder' leading to mass upsurge increase. Rajni Kothari argues that 'direct action' is inevitable in the context of India's present-day 'parliamentary democracy'. 'The general climate of frustration, the ineffectiveness of known channels of communication, the alienation and atomisation of the individual, the tendency towards regimentation and the continuous state of conflict, which may remain latent and suppressed for a time, between the rulers and the ruled-all these make the ideal of self-government more and more remote and render parliamentary government an unstable form of political organisation'.

David Bayley argues that public protests have a certain 'functional utility' in a parliamentary form of government. He observes that before and after Independence, a large number of the people felt

that the institutional means of redress for grievances, frustrations and wrongs-actual or fancied-were inadequate. In 1960, Kothari did not justify all types of 'direct actions'. The action is desirable 'only if the political change desired by the group involved in direct action offers a greater scope of political freedom than is offered by the exist-ing political arrangements'. Kothari and Bayley confine their discussion to the direct actions which are against the government. They do not consider the direct actions or protests against socio-economic dominance and power structure in society.

A.R. Desai joins issue with Kothari and Bayley, and argues that their dis-cussion on direct action is confined to a 'formal level and offers no basic clues to the understanding of the problem'. Desai asserts that, "The parliamentary form of government, as a political institutional device, has proved to be inadequate to continue or expand concrete democratic rights of the people."

This form, either operates as a shell within which the authority of capital perpetuates itself, obstructing or reducing the opportunities for people to consciously participate in the process of society, or is increasingly transforming itself into a dic-tatorship, where capital sheds some of its democratic pretensions and rules by open, ruthless dictatorial means. Public protests will continue till people have ended the rule of capital in those countries where it still persists. They will also continue against those bureau-cratie totalitarian political regimes where the rule of capital has ended, but where due to certain peculiar historical circumstances Stalinist bureaucratic, terroristic political regimes have emerged.

Conclusion

The movements and protests of people will continue till adequate political institutional forms for the realization and exercise of con-crete democratic rights are found. Desai reiter-ated his position that the civil and democratic rights of the people are not protected by the Constitution. Consequently, the movements for their protection have increased. In his recent writings, Rajni Kothari argues that 'de-mocracy'

in India has become a playground for growing corruption, criminalization, repression and intimidation of large masses of the people. The role of the state in 'social transformation' has been undermined. People have started asserting their rights through vari-ous struggles. 'There is discontent and despair in the air-still highly diffused, fragmented and unorganised.

But there is a growing aware-ness of rights, felt politically and expressed politically, and by and large still aimed at the State. Whenever a mechanism of mobilisation has become available, this consciousness has found expression, often against very heavy odds, against a constellation of interests that are too powerful and complacent to shed (even share) the privileges.

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Gandhi's Religious and Political Thoughts

Dr. Kamna Jain*

[Every day people are born and die without any recognition in this mundane world. But some people are born ordinarily and make their life an immortal part of history. Hegel once suggested that the trouble with famous people is that scholar never ceases studying them. Such is also the case with Gandhi. The unending fascination with Gandhi testifies to his unique fusion of ethical principles and political tactics and his unusual ability to influence large numbers of followers.¹]

There are millions of people in India and abroad who are, if not much but somewhat, influenced by Gandhi's thoughts. He was an enigmatic figure, while the Britishers believed him a powerful man. Being attached to Gandhi, on the other hand, were the common masses of India who regarded him as their Godfather. When we hear about Gandhi, an irresistible desire sprouts within us to know everything about him.

Gandhi's Childhood and Education

Gandhi was born on 2 October, 1869 in the town of Porbandar, in Gujarat (India). His full name was Mohandas Karam Chand Gandhi. We in India know him as the Father of Nation. From his biographies we can conclude that his family was very religious. When Gandhi was young he got indulged in bad habits like smoking, eating non-vegetarian etc., which was totally prohibited in his Vaishnav family. Once he also stole some money from his father's pocket as well but soon realized his wrong doings and confessed everything before his father. Seeing him guilty his father cried for a while and forgave him. It was an incident that taught him a lesson of truth and nonviolence. It demonstrates as to how a true faith and devotion can arouse compassion and how such calm compassion can change one's

heart from such examples that are tangible and explicit proof.²

Gandhi learnt the pious mantras of "Satyamev Jayte" (Truth always triumphs) and "Ahimsa Parmo Dharma" (Nonviolence is the greatest virtue) from his mother and later he followed, admired and practiced them throughout his life. People of different communities like Jains, Muslims, and Zoroastrians lived in his neighborhood which helped Gandhi to understand different cultures and religions and the most important valuable thought that he learnt was that all religions ultimately have the same goal for the life.

After completing his schooling from his own town, he sailed for London for pursuing his legal training. He completed his studies and returned to his motherland and started his legal practice but his first case was disastrous. He himself wrote: "I stood up but my heart sank in my boots. My head was doing likewise. I couldn't conduct the case. I hastened from the court.... ashamed of myself and decided not to take up anymore case until I had courage enough to conduct them."³

In 1893, he accepted an invitation to serve in South Africa as a legal aid for the Dada Abdulla Company of Bombay. In his first legal case in South Africa, he tried to reach a settlement through compromise for the contending parties. Gandhi wrote, "I realized that the true function

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of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder.”⁴ This is one of the best parts of Indian culture’s unity in diversity. Indian culture forgets all differences and enmity in different religions and welcomes respect for every culture and religion. Indian culture has always thought of uniting human to human, then how could Gandhi be left behind when he was the part of such a flourishing culture, He did many efforts of bringing together the religions i.e. Hindus and Muslims. It showed his interest in joining the culture.

His inspirations

Gandhi was fond of reading books and especially religious books. He read the entire Bible and was especially impressed by Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount. He met Madam Blavatsky, a founder of the Theosophical Movement, who introduced him to Bhagwat Geeta.⁵ Without any prejudices he read books on Yoga, Vedas, Upanishads, Quran and about Jainism. In 1904, while travelling in the train from Johannesburg to Durban, Gandhi was engrossed in Ruskin’s book “Unto this last”. Ruskin believed that the true basis of society was not wealth, as the classical economists had it, but the “invisible gold” of human companionship.⁶ Gandhi was so much inspired by “Unto this last” (Antodya) that he translated it into Hindi and Gujrati with the name “Sarvodya”.

With full devotion he read America’s social reformer and writer David Thoreau’s book “Civil Disobedience.” He learnt from the book that it was every man’s right-indeed his duty- to resist a tyrannical government; and that a minority of one could bring about a change in government⁷. Taking elements from Jesus, Ruskin, Thoreau, Tolstoy and his own Upanishadic heritage, Gandhi developed the technique of Satyagraha (Truth-force). Incorporating the three essential ingredients of truth, non-violence and self-suffering, such a strategy sought to convert

opponent through moral suasion rather than by violent force. Gandhi consistently emphasized the necessity of absolute self-discipline and belief in the redemptive power of personal sacrifice for a great cause. This characterized his own life as a search for self-purification.

Different nature of Gandhian politics

The political career of Gandhi sprouted from South Africa only. He himself never realized that his tour of South Africa would change his life completely. The fortune entrusted Gandhi to create a history⁸. In South Africa, Indians were in miserable conditions and were treated very rudely. White politicians called them (Indians) wild and savage. They scorned the Indians. They wanted to throw out Indians (Asian) from Africa. Despite Gandhi’s Western education and Western attires, he had to face misconduct of the Whites. Gradually Gandhi understood the racism’s behaviour and policies of the Britishers.

Gandhi delivered his first public speech in Africa to condemn racism.⁹ Gandhi wrote about himself, “the staying of my Pretoria (the days spent at Pretoria) gave me an opportunity to understand deeply the social, economic and political condition of Transvaal & Orange free state Indian residents. I did not guess that time that this study will be so much remarkable for the future.”¹⁰ The most important fact about Gandhi was that his way of revolution was different from the other revolutionaries. At the end, the idea of humanity was even successful.¹¹

Gandhi got strength for his Satyagraha and other policies from his traditional moral values and practical political objectives. In 1915, when he returned to India after getting success in South Africa, he was widely acclaimed as a national hero. He joined all India Congress party supporting its efforts to achieve independence through constitutional means¹² Between 1924 to 1940, Gandhi had devoted himself mostly to the

social, economic and spiritual regeneration of the country which he came to believe would be achieved not by constitutional concession and reforms but by the efforts of the people themselves.

He had originally conceived of “spiritual socialism”, the positive counterpart of non-cooperation and civil disobedience, and eventually called the constructive programme. The constructive programme was intended to ameliorate conditions in bleak, disease-ridden villages in which most Indians lived.¹³

Basically, Gandhi was a spiritual and religious man who wanted to bring revolution in the society. He wanted to omit all evils from the society. Therefore, he did not try to escape from politics nor politics could ever contaminate him. He did not find any dichotomy between spirituality and social life, between religion and politics. To him life is unity.¹⁴ It cannot be “divided into watertight compartments called social, political and religious”.¹⁵ At one place he said, “If I seem to take part in politics it is only because politics encircles us today like the coil of a snake from which one cannot get out, no matter how much one tries. I wish, therefore, to wrestle with the snake.”¹⁶

He realized that “social work would be impossible without the help of political work”¹⁷ He plainly told a group of missionaries in 1938, “I would not be leading a religious life unless I identified myself with the whole of mankind and I could not unless I took part in politics... I do not know of any religion apart from activity. It provides a moral basis to all other activities without which life would be maze of sound and fury signifying nothing.”¹⁸

Humanity is the religion of Gandhi

Gandhi believed in the oneness of God. The essence of Gandhi’s political methodology

sprang from the deep spiritual nature of the man himself. As Brown put it “Gandhi was first of all a religious genius and whose basic objectives were morally oriented.”¹⁹ Gandhi’s motive in eulogizing man was not to challenge God because he believed in absolute oneness of God and therefore also of humanity. Gandhi is not a dualist, but a monist who believes in all pervasive reality.²⁰ Gandhi treats every man as the incarnation of God. Man is not God but neither is he different from the light of God.

To Gandhi man’s ultimate aim is the realization of God and the only way to find God is to see him in his creation. “This can be done by service of all.” He further emphasizes this point, “If I could persuade myself that I should find him in Himalayan Cave, I ever would proceed there immediately. But I know that I can’t find him apart from humanity.”²¹ He said, “my creed is service of God and therefore on humanity.”²² Gandhi says, “Since God is more often found in the lowliest of his creatures than in the high and mighty. I’m trying to reach the status of these. Hence my passion for the service of the suppressed classes.”²³

His famous dictum is *Adam Khuda nahi lekin Kudha ke noor se Adam juda nahi*. (i.e. Man is not God, but neither is he different from the light of God) and for him man is the reflection of God. Gandhi dedicated his life and soul to the service of the suffering, sinful humanity on this earth. But he had rocklike faith in God.²⁴

For Gandhi religion means humanity. He understood religion in a very wide sense. He believed in the concept of *Sarva Dharma Sambhav*. Gandhi claimed, “I do not believe in the exclusive divinity of the Vedas. I believe the Bible, the Quran and Zend Avesta to be as much divinely inspired as the Vedas.”²⁵ He continued, “Hinduism is not a religion which has to be spread. It allows one to worship his god

according to his own belief or dharma and so it lives in peace with all religions. The religions are various paths which lead to one and same Goal.”²⁶ Gandhi admits the greatness of all religions and tried to explain it. As the cows are of different colours but the milk has only one colour-white, likewise men admire religions in different ways but ultimately all religions have the same goal.

Deep desire to unite Hindu and Muslims

Though there is nothing that has brought to man more blessings than religion, yet at the same time there is nothing that has brought more horror than the religions.²⁷ Instead of solving our problems, religion has itself become a problem. Instead of “binding together” it has become an instrument of divide and disintegration. The Indian Subcontinent faced partition in the name of religion. In Spain alone between 1421 to 1781 as many as 10,659 people were burnt alive and 29,140 imprisoned for defying the injunctions and prohibitions.²⁸ Hitler brutally killed the Jews in the name of religion. Godhrakand and Taliban dictatorship are some of the several examples which happened due to religious dualism.

Gandhi was a firm believer in the essential unity of all religions which he knew from a careful and close study of the main religious scriptures of the world. According to him though religions are many but Religion is one.²⁹ He was very much frustrated by Britain’s stern colonial policies. Gandhi decided that non-violent civil disobedience could best solve India’s political and social ills. Much of his strength resulted from his skillful uniting of both Hindus and Muslims within the movement. He gave his strong support to the Khilafat movement.

In 1924, after the Khilafat issue had withered and Hindu-Muslim riots erupted, Gandhi undertook a three-week fast for communal unity.³⁰ Gandhi said, “Is the God of the Mohammedans

different from the God of Hindu? Religions are different roads converging to the same point. What does it matter that we take different roads so long as we reached the same goal? Where is the cause of quarrelling?”³¹

Despite his fasting, speeches, essays, letters and his discussions, he could not stop the partition of India, He was very much depressed with partition. Gandhi remained distraught over partition and even refused to attend Independence celebrations, saying, “Why all this rejoicing? I see only rivers of blood.”³² After partition he felt that his 32 years of work for independence had come to “an inglorious end.”³³

Conclusion

Some people are born great, while some others reach to greatness by their work, efforts and service of the society, Gandhi is one of those people, who took birth in a simple family and became a world-renowned personality due to his love and service of the downtrodden people, with deep devotion. He believed service of human being is the real service of the God. He gave up everything and lived his life like a saint. The conversion of this life from Mohan to Mahatma and the father of nation is really remarkable, inspiring and should be followed by all.

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Factors Affecting Carpentry Workers in Theni District

Dr. A. Kumar*

[The present study is undertaken to explore the level of attitude on Carpentry Workers in the study area. The main objective of the study is to know the perception and option of respondent carpentry workers and their level of attitude on factors affecting carpentry workers in the study area. Random sampling has been adopted for the study. Three hundred samples have been selected from the universe by following the Lottery Method. The study covers the period of seven months from October 2016 to April 2017. Factors affecting analysis has been applied to the carpentry workers. Finally, conclusions were drawn and suggestions were offered.]

Carpentry is the art and trade of cutting, working and joining timber. This term includes both structural temper work in framing and items such as doors, window and stair cases. The working of wood in building is an ancient craft and still comprises one of the most important activities in construction work. In the past, when building was often wholly constructed of timber framing, the carpenter played a considerable part in building construction; along with the mason he has been the principal building worker. The scope of carpenter's work has altered, however, with the passage of time. Increasing use of concrete and steel construction, especially for floors and roofs, the framework of building except for houses and small structure. This study focuses on the factors affecting Carpentry workers in Theni District.

Statement of the Problem

Mahatma Gandhi rightly pointed out that India is a country of villages. The Indian economy depends on the economic conditions of rural villages. Economic conditions depend on the employment that the village provides. Most of the employment in rural area is agriculture-orientated. Moreover, all development is possible only when each and every village is self-reliant in order to achieve this goal. The

locally available resources should be utilized to satisfy the ultimate needs of public. Besides, the skill of local people of the village shall be utilized and developed to the requirement of modern world.

They are less educated, economically poor, homeless, lack awareness about banking facilities, unemployment and underemployment. Hence, an attempt has been made to study the factors affecting analysis of the carpentry workers in Theni District.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to examine the overall view about the factors affecting the carpentry workers during the study period.

Review of Literature

John (1975) in their study "Employment policies in the Informal Urban Sector of Developing Economics", found that the position of enterprise *vis-à-vis* the state emerges as the main distinguishing feature between two sectors. The private units are recognized, supported by rules and regulation of the government like licensing, wages, tariffs, quotas, tax rates and holidays preference to use foreign technology. But according to the study, these units under informal sector do not carry the benefits.

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Elsbeth S. Woody (1975) in his article “Pottery on the wheel can help Beginning Throwers”, emphasized that it could easily be used as a text book on throwing techniques. The writing is clear and to the point, with the photographs illustrating the text quite well as a visual content. This is the book that can really be given a beginning potter a step up in developing their throwing silks. Unfortunately, in many cases the black and white photographs are rather dark and at times the depth of field is too narrow resulting in some business.

S. Woody (1978) in his study on “Hand Building Ceramic Forms “, inferred that it would be quite at home as a text book for a beginning a ceramics course. It is clear, understandable and very explanatory in its coverage of hand building techniques. The darkness of the photographs is somewhat disturbing, and can interface with the visual information given. The black and white format is also problematic when showing the art work of the ten featured artists. I believe the book would have benefit as a whole.

Methodology

The study is intended to cover factors affecting about carpentry workers in Theni District. Data for investigation were collected from primary sources. The primary sources were analyzed with the help of various statistical measures used for Garrett Ranking Techniques.

Factors Affecting Analysis

Many factors are responsible for selecting carpentry vocation of the respondents. The factors

are economic, competency, technical, employment and psychological. Each variable is expressed as a liner combination of the underlying factors. The amount of variance a variable shares with all variables included in reanalysis is referred to communality. The covariance among the variables is described in terms of a small number of common factors plus a unique factor for each variable. These factors are not over observed. If the variables are standardized, the factor model may be represented as.

$$X_i = A_{ij} F_j + A_{i2} F_2 + A_{i3} F_3 + \dots + A_{im} F_m - V_i - U_i$$

Where

X_i = i^{th} Standardized Variables

A_{ij} = Standardized multiple regression coefficient of variables i on Common factor

F_j = Common Factor j

V_i = Standardized regression coefficient of variables i on Unique factor j

U_i = the unique factor for variables i

m = Number of common factors

The unique factors are uncorrelated with each other and with the common factors. The common factors themselves can be expressed as linear combinations of the observed variables.

$$F_i = W_{i1} X_1 + W_{i2} X_2 + W_{i3} X_3 + \dots + W_{ik} X_K$$

Where.

F_i = Estimate of i^{th} Factor

W_i = Weight or factor score coefficient

K = Number of Variables

Table-1

Factors Affecting the Carpentry Works

S.NO	Factors	Eigen Value	Percentage of Variance	Cum. Percentage of Variance
1	Economic factor	3.536	23.570	23.570
2	Competency factor	1.652	11.014	34.59
3	Technical factor	1.558	10.389	44.97
4	Employment factor	1.514	10.094	55.07
5	Psychological factor	1.207	8.047	63.11

Source: Computed data

* Kaiser- Meyer – Olkin measure of sampling Adequacy = 0.685

* Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity Chi-Square =1132.609

Degree of freedom = 105

Significance = 0.000

It is observed from the Table 1 that five factors such as Economic, Competency, Technical, Employment and Psychological were extracted out of fifteen attributes. These factors account for about 63.11 per cent of the variance in the factor.

Eigen Value for the first factor namely: “Economic factor” 3.536, indicates that the factor contains very high information than other factors. The first factor, “Economic factor” provides the maximum insights for motivating the factors, because the respondents feel that infrastructure facilities are the basic for scope creativity work to improve the attributes concerning “Economic factor” in the study area.

The second important factor called “Competency factor” accounts for 11.014 per cent variance. The Eigen value of this factor is 1.652 of the competency factor. It is easy to train this work, compulsion of family situation should be well organized just to motivate the carpentry workers.

The third important factor called “Technical factor” accounts for 10.389 per cent of variance. The Eigen value of this factor is 1.558.

The fourth important factor called “Employment factor” accounts for 10.094 per cent of variance. The Eigen value of this factor is 1.514.

The five important factors called “Psychological factor” account for 08.047 per cent of variance. The Eigen value of this factor is 1.207.

These factors are important for carpentry workers. High Value of Kaiser-Meyer-Olking (KMO) test of sampling adequacy 0.685 indicates the correlation between the pairs of

variables explained by other variable and thus factor analysis is considered to be appropriate in this model.

Garrett Ranking Technique

In the section an attempt has been made to identify various problems encountered by Carpentry Workers. Garrett’s Ranking Technique was used to analyse the problems with respect to carpenters in the study area. Finally, the mean scores are given. The mean scores for all the factors are arranged in a descending order and the important reasons are identified.

The respondents were asked to rank the given problems. The order of problems given by the respondents was converted into rank by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percent Position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where

1. R_{ij} = Rank given to i th factor by j^{th} Carpenters
2. N_j = Number of factors ranked by j_{th} Carpenters

TABLE 2

Problem Faced by the Carpentry Workers

S. No.	Problems	Mean Score	Rank
1	Introduction of advance technology	56.98	I
2	Occupational diseases	56.16	II
3	Plastic as substitute for wooden things	50.16	III
4	No direct employment	48.82	IV
5	Absence of training facility	45.88	V
6	Illiteracy	41.00	VI

Source: Computed Data

It is analyzed from Table 2 that 'Introduction of advance technology' is a major problem of the carpenters in the study area. 'Occupational diseases' is the next major problem among the sample respondents. Plastic as substitute for wooden things', 'No direct employment', 'Absence of training facility' and 'Illiteracy' stand fourth, fifth and sixth in ranking respectively. It is found that introduction of advanced technology, occupational diseases are major problem identified among the sample respondents.

Suggestions

Following suggestions are useful for the policy makers to enhance the socio-economic conditions of carpenters in Theni District.

1. Minimum wage should be fixed for the carpenters in general and Theni District in particular.
2. Necessary training centers may be opened in Theni district so as to attract the new carpenters to undertake the job.
3. Private contract of carpentry work should be regulated by imposing regulatory measures.
4. New and existing carpenters should be given training for making new types and designs of furniture in order to compete with machine made furniture.
5. Regular employment can be provided by establishing number of societies in the study area.
6. Healthcare and employees' welfare should be given due significance in their work.

Conclusion

To sum up, factor affecting the carpentry workers in Theni District is not up to the mark. They are very poor and they lead hand-to-mouth living. Their improvement will go a long way to improve the standard of living, enhancement of per capita of income and to live with good health conditions. Both state and Central governments have to take necessary steps to improve the socio-economic conditions. The future research work may be carried on the economic condition in

Theni District, efficiency of carpenters in this place, study of contract labor in carpentry industry and so on.

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Fiscal Health of Cooperative Sugar Industries in Tamil Nadu

S.P. Karthik* & Dr. A. Ramesh**

[The present study attempts at evaluating the sugar industries of Tamil Nadu, especially in financial viability, profitability ratio, long term solvency ratio, current asset, liquidity ratio and efficiency in asset utilization of the sugar companies operating in the state of Tamil Nadu during the financial years between 2008-2009 and 2013-2014. The Sugar industries are basically depending upon the agricultural production, geographical and climate conditions of a State. Knowingly, the researcher made attempt to assess the sugar industries to ascertain whether in terms of financial performance and the productivity level based on the season, climate conditions, and geographical area-wise were strong or not in Tamil Nadu.]

Productivity and financial analyses are playing a vital role in determining the financial viability of any company. The analysis of financial statements is a process of evaluating relationship between components of financial statements consisting of profit and loss account and the balance sheet to obtain a better understanding of the level of firm's financial position. It helps to take important decisions on the concerned issues, especially in the long-term debt commitment or financial distress. A sugar industry uses its physical assets effectively, utilization of available fund in an effective manner and the optimal financial mix maintained by the concern. These are enlightening to earn higher profit with lower level of risk.

Sugar Industries in Tamil Nadu

Sugar industry has great significance for the economy of India. It plays an eminent role in the Indian economy due to its multiple contributions in the shape of employment and provision of raw materials to other industries. The growth and performance of sugar industries in Tamil Nadu are impressive and they are significantly related to the government policy as well. The national and international scenario in terms of production

and improvement in technology also stimulated the growth factors in Tamil Nadu.

Since most of the sugar industries are located in and around rural areas, improved facilities of transport and communication provided for the factories benefit surrounding rural communities too. Therefore, sugar industry is best suited for promotion of rural transformation in Tamil Nadu.

In recent times, sugar industry has begun the export business with other countries and earns more foreign exchange. Tamil Nadu is the major sugarcane growing state contributing more production in India. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Sugar Industries has been registered as a State level cooperative society under the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Society Act on November 11, 1961. All the cooperative and Public Sector sugar mills in Tamil Nadu are its members.

Statement of the Problem

Sugar is a consumer product; it comes under essential commodity act and every person, whether rich or poor, is paying attention to its accessibility with adequate quantity and at a realistic cost.

The cooperative sugar industries actively contribute to the development of the state as well as Indian economy. It covers 4.4 lakh acres of cultivated area and crushing 256.38 million tons of sugarcane, further it provides employment

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opportunities to 2.8 lakh people of Tamil Nadu. Its production, fixation of price and overall managerial affairs are controlled by the Government of Tamil Nadu. In a particular situation, the price is fixed on the basis of last year trends in production, its cost and other economies of previous years. Hence the sugar industry, particularly cooperative sugar industries in Tamil Nadu have incurred heavy losses.

Study of the performance of these cooperative sugar industries will offer valuable feedback for strengthening them and will provide guidance in shaping the approach and policies for rural development, in general and agro - industries in particular.

Scope of the Study

This study tries to examine various fiscal aspects of sugar industries. It examines a variety of aspects such as liquidity, solvency, turn-over, efficiency, long-term debt etc., during the study period. It is an explicit study which is restricted to financial aspects only and it's purely based on the secondary data which also limits the scope of the study. The present study expresses the fiscal position of the sugar industries in Tamil Nadu for the study period and offers a valuable feedback for strengthening the sugar industries.

Objectives of the Study

The present study aims at diagnosing the financial conditions of the Tamil Nadu co-operative sugar industries in order to develop remedial measures, if required, for strengthening the finances of these mills. Specific objectives of the present exercise are:

- To measure the production and sales performance of the sugar industry.
- To evaluate the profitability of the selected sugar industry.
- To measure the financial health of the sugar industry.
- To identify the factors influencing financial health conditions.

- To suggest suitable measures for the development of Sugar industries.

Methodology

The present study is fully based on the secondary data. They are collected from the Annual reports of Tamil Nadu cooperative sugar industries, audited reports of concerned sugar mills, journals, books and websites. The purpose of this study is to examine and evaluate the profitability, liquidity, long term solvency position and efficiency in asset consumption of sugar companies under study and to offer findings and suggestions to improve the financial position of sugar companies.

The tools used for the study include: Motaal's Comprehensive Test Z – Score Ratio, Ratio Analysis, Trend Analysis, comparative financial statements, common size statements, and correlation and to understand the actual financial position, trend projection made to project for the following forthcoming years based on the actual position.

Review of Literature

The researcher undertook a study of literature pertaining to sugar industry in order to find out what had already been done in this field and to identify those aspects, which expected inspection. The following are the reports, books and articles consulted by the researcher;

Narayana Swamy (1989) studied the determinants of the capital structure of the cooperative sugar mills and cooperative textile mills. The author has demonstrated positive correlation between the cost of capital and leverage. Excessive dependence of the sugar cooperatives on loans resulted in high level of leverage and consequent high cost of capital leading to poor profitability. He has recommended that the cooperative sugar mills should reduce dependence on loan finance through liquidity management and plough-back.

Sharma (1990) carried out a study, "Dynamics of Sugarcane Production in Vindhya Plateau of Madhya Pradesh". The study shows that

sugarcane area and productivity decreased. It also stressed the need for improved technology, better extension techniques, introduction of low-cost technology and over and above there must be increased irrigation facilities.

Durai (1990) in his experimental study, “Studies on Weed Control in Sugarcane” investigated the loss of cane yield due to weed infestation. It reveals the efficacy of herbicides in controlling weeds in cane fields.

Nandhagobal (1990) carried out a field study entitled, “Performance of Promising Sugarcane clones for Early and Mid-Late Seasons” that points out that cane yield differs in early seasons and mid-late seasons.

Rejeswar Rao (1990) in article entitled “Sugar Industries: An Investigation” has analyzed the sugar policy and its impact on sugar industry. He has examined control, decontrol and partial controls, imposed by the Government on sugar industry over the past 40 years and the impact thereof on various groups involved viz., the farmers, manufactures and consumers.

Mohan Rao (1991) in his study, “Energy conservation leading to Successful By-Product Industries”, suggests the ways and means of utilizing some of the byproducts of the sugar industry and shows the scope for the further development of by product industries in India.

Ashok Kumar (1991) in his study, “Effect of late Application of Growth Regulators on Sugars”, reveals that application of growth regulators in January altered the physiological status of stubble buds, gave better sprouting and yielded a good Raton crop with more sucrose in cane juice.

Rane (1998) in his article, “Opportunities and Challenges for Indian Sugar Industry in the 21st Century” highlights the achievements of sugar industry to the Indian economy and target of sugar production in future. The article also underlines the potentialities and the application of established technologies through extension methodology to increase cane yields.

Thirumurugan (2001) conducted a field experiment on, “Effect of time of Planting on Incidence of Yield and Quality” and found out that effect of time of planting gives different yield. It revealed that the crop planted in January recorded the highest cane yield, whereas July planted crops recorded lowest cane yield.

Senthil (2001) carried out a study entitled, “Evaluation of Distillery Effluents in the Management of Red Rot of Sugarcane”. It revealed that Red-Rot disease of sugarcane caused serious concern to the farmers and mills in Tamil Nadu. The suitability of distillery effluents for irrigating the crop to manage the disease and their impact were investigated.

Joshi et al. (2001) in their article, “Impact of Agriculture Research-Some Evidences”, gave a picture about the Sugarcane Breeding Institute Coimbatore which developed several varieties of sugarcane giving 50 percent improvement in sugarcane yield and 0.9 percentage improvements in sucrose.

Desai (2001) in his article, “Sugar Industry in India” gives a comparative statement of sugar production and price of sugar in India and the whole world. He also suggests the utilization of co-products of sugar.

Kannadhasan (2007) in his article entitled “Measuring Financial Health of a Public Limited Company Using Z Score Model-A Case Study” ascertained the financial health of Wendt (India) Limited company and its consistency in financial performance for five financial years from 2001-02 to 2004-05. The research findings are that the company was maintaining good financial performance throughout the study period.

Sam Luther (2009) has undertaken a study entitled “Liquidity Risk and Profitability Analysis: A case study of Madras Sugars Ltd” and has highlighted how the company had achieved adequate liquidity, risk minimization and profit maximization. The objectives of the study are to measure and evaluate the liquidity position of MCL, to assess the correlation between liquidity and profitability and to assess

the trade-off between profitability and risk for a period from 1994-98 to 2004-05. The relationship between liquidity and profitability are measured by computing Spearman 's rank correlation co-efficient. The author, by using t-test, has concluded that there is a liner relationship between liquidity and profitability. It is also concluded that the high degree of aggressive policy adopted by MCL has made a negative impact on its profitability.

Somannavar (2011) in his article, states that "Indian Sugar Industry is Competitive". He concluded that the strong infrastructure builds up, co-ordination between the Centre and state governments, dialogue between the firm and the farm sector, future based R&D, government co-operative sector, proper utilization of the by-products and able trade policy have been the essentials to make the Indian sugar industry globally competitive.

Findings

Liquidity ratio

It was revealed that the overall performance of the Bannari Amman Sugars shows with 1.65 as average current ratio, whereas Rajsree Sugars shows the low with 0.89 during the research study period. And also, it was found that the overall performance of EID Parry gets 1.32 liquidity ratio

whereas Ponni sugars got low at 0.39 against the standard uplifting norms.

Productivity ratio

It is an average measure of the efficiency of production. It can be expressed as the ratio of output to inputs used in the production process, i.e. output per unit of input. Outputs and inputs are defined in the total productivity measure as their economic values. The value of outputs minus the value of inputs is a measure of the income generated in a production process.

The overall performance of the sugar mills both by the State and national level was far from being satisfactory during 2011-12 and 2012-13. During 2012-13, sugarcane crushing season (October to September), there were 46 sugar mills in the State of which 16 in co-operative, 3 in public and 27 in private sector.

Totally, 43 sugar mills (16 mill co-operatives, 2 in public sector and 25 in private sector) were functioning. Registered sugarcane area increased from 2.62-lakh hectare in 2011-12 to 2.93 lakh hectare during 2012-13 crushing season registering a moderate growth of 1.18 per cent. However, the cane crushed by the sugar mills declined from 25.55 lakh tonnes in 2011-12 to 14.57 lakh tonnes in 2012-13 recording negative growth of 15.71 per cent.

Table – 1: No. of Sugar Industries in Tamil Nadu

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total number of mills	46	46	46

Source: South India Sugar Mills Association, Chennai-35

Table – 2: No. Installed Crushing Capacity in Tamil Nadu

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Installed Crushing Capacity (Tonnes Crushed Per Day)	139900	139900	139900

Source: South India Sugar Mills Association, Chennai-35

Figure – 1 : No. of Sugar Industries in Tamilnadu

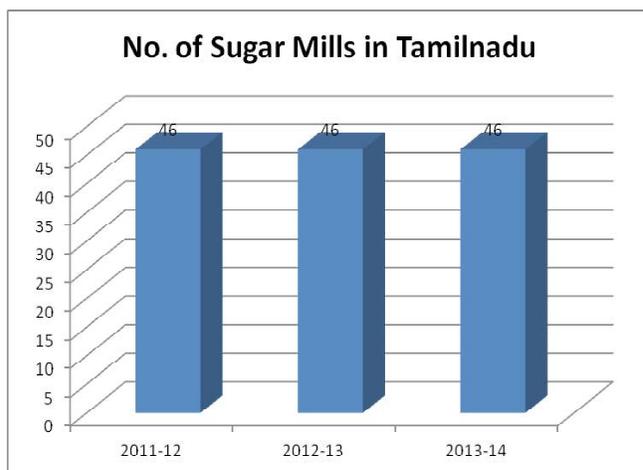


Figure – 2: No. Installed Crushing Capacity in Tamilnadu

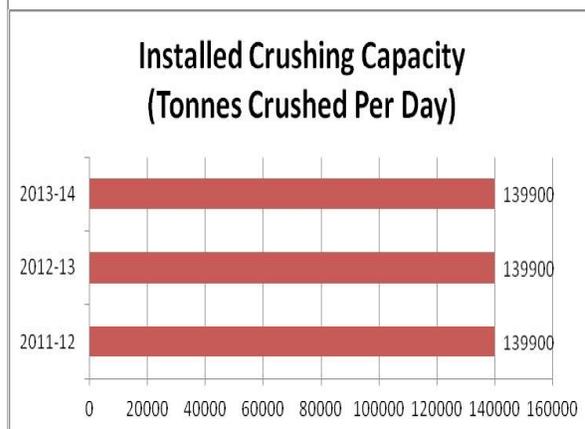


Table – 3: No. Sugar Cane Utilization

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Sugar Cane Utilization (lakh tonnes)	254.55	214.57	171.00

Source: South India Sugar Mills Association, Chennai-35

Figure – 3: No. Sugar Cane Utilization

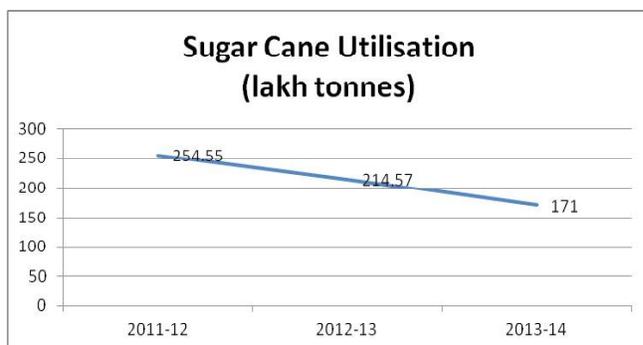


Figure – 4 : No. Sugar Cane Production

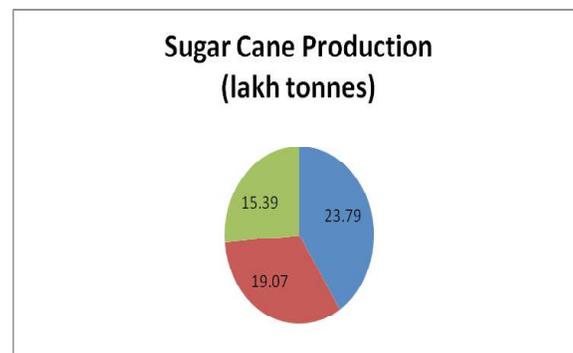
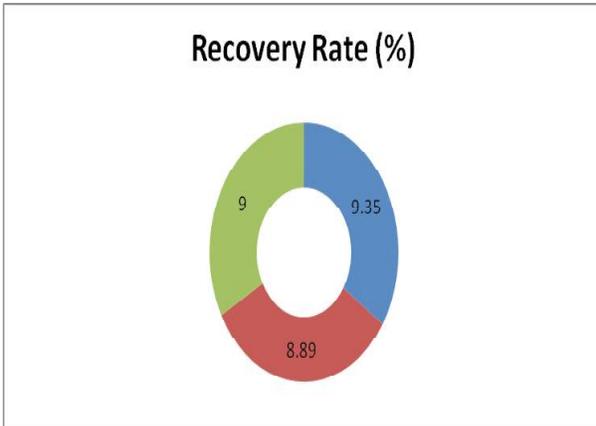


Table – 5: Recovery Rate Percentage

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Recovery Rate (%)	9.35	8.89	9.00

Source: South India Sugar Mills Association, Chennai-35

Figure – 5: Recovery Rate Percentage



and the EID Parry got the low value of 31.29 during the research studied periods.

And also found was the fact that the Bannari Amman Sugars showed the value of 15.07 in the Gross Profit Ratio as good and whereas EID Parry got a low gross profit ratio of 2.24 during the study period.

Profitability Ratio in relation to investment

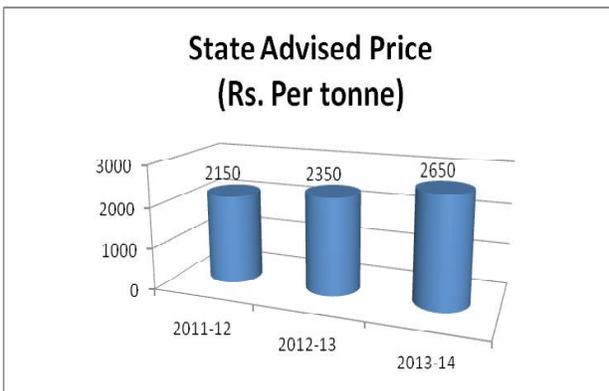
It was found that the earnings per share ratio is high with Bannarii Amman sugars at Rs.77.85 and

Table – 6: Tamilnadu State Advised Price

Particulars	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Tamilnadu State Advised Price	2150	2350	2650

Source: South India Sugar Mills Association, Chennai-35

Figure – 6 : Tamilnadu State Advised Price



the Kothari Sugars got the low earning per share of Rs.1.14 during the study period.

Z-Score

During the study period of the research, according to the Altman's Z- Score, it is revealed that Ponni Sugars, Bannarii Amman Sugars, EID Parry and Kothari Sugars are healthier except Rajshree sugars.

Especially Ponni Sugars shows healthy zone during the financial year of 2009 -10 with a score of 4.29 and Rajshree Sugars shows an insolvency signal during the year financial year 2007-08 whose score is 0.99.

Long Term Solvency ratio

It was founded that the overall performance of Rajasree Sugars good with regard to Debt equity ratio (14) and Long term debt equity ratio (2.46) and the low in the case of interest coverage ratio (1.96). And also, Bannari Amman sugars get a low degree (0.55) in the debt equity ratio and also founded that high interest coverage ratio (18.32).

Profitability Ratio in relation to sale

It was revealed that the Bannari Amman Sugars got a high value of 98.74 in the operating ratio

Motaal's Comprehensive Test

During the financial year 2007 - 08, the second rank was achieved by EID Parry, Kothari Sugars and Rajshree Sugars. And the following year 2008 – 09 Bannarii Amman Sugars, Kothari Sugars and Rajshree Sugars achieved fourth rank. Furthermore of the year 2009 – 10, the first rank was achieved by Kothari Sugars. EID Parry and Rajshree Sugars achieved fifth rank in the year 2010 – 11. It was revealed that the sugar companies considered for the study are equally doing good.

Suggestion

Liquidity position of all the sugar industries is poor in performance, they should take necessary action to improve their liquidity position by way of maintaining sufficient current asset and as well the liquidity assets. The following are suggestions offered to sugar industries for their better improvements:

- To support, encourage and safeguard the interests of its members
- To provide technical, financial and marketing support and service to its members to improve the wealth of the stakeholders.
- To assist in the selection of managerial, supervisory and technical personnel to its member mills.
- To assist in standardizing the accounting methods and practices.
- To assist in securing the necessary financial help from State and Central Government.
- Marketing of sugar and its by-products to ensure better prices.
- To promote Research and Development activities on cane development.

Conclusion

In order to motivate and make the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Sugar Industries achieve their best, a scheme of Awards was introduced and this award was to be given to the best performing mills in production, marketing, selling, exports and profitability. The State and Central government must arrange various training programmes and seminars for sharing of technical views among the sugar industries. And also, the sugar department ought to undertake the review of financial and technical performance of the mills every month. It will help the mills to get the working capital requirement from the Tamil Nadu State Apex Coop Banks, District Central Coop Bank and NCDC. It will also help

financially-sick mills by providing them short-term loans to meet the salaries and other statutory payments at a lower rate of interest.

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Appraising CRM Practices in Private Sector Banks (Madurai)

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[In the early '90s the concept of relationship marketing was formally introduced into the field of service marketing. Banks found it more profitable to retain and reward the existing customers rather than running after new customers. The essence of CRM is to create customers and retain them. Therefore, now banks emphasize on total customer satisfaction which indicates that the customer is satisfied and delighted with respect to using a service. Hence an attempt was made by the researcher in this study to examine the level of satisfaction on customer relationship management practices in private sector banks. For the purpose of study, a sampling survey was conducted among 228 customers of private sector banks with the help of a structured questionnaire. The tools used for this study are Mean, Correlation and Chi – Square test. The study reveals that the proper CRM practices will increase the customer satisfaction and build relationship with present and prospective customers by managing information and improve performance of delivering products and services at a great speed that facilitates customer's creation and retention. Hence the concept of CRM may be emphasized so that the customers are treated royally in relation to banking services. Thus, the banks need to improve the customer satisfaction in the utilization of various modern banking services and should provide more customer-friendly services to make the modern banking activity a delight for the customer to use.]

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) is an intelligent blend of marketing and information technology for serving the customers with greater care and value. CRM is a process of identifying, attracting, differentiating and retaining customers. It is a comprehensive approach for creating, maintaining and expanding customer relationship. CRM is the outcome of the continuing evolution and integration of marketing ideas and newly available data, technologies and organizational approaches. Bank as a service organization have excellent reasons to adopt a comprehensive CRM strategy. Customer needs, wants, desires keep changing day by day. Therefore, it is necessary for the banks to adopt the changes in the market through tracking the customer wants and the needs.

This is possible only when the organization has a close contact with its customers. Since

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customer is the life blood of any business organization and customer creation cost is costlier than customer retention cost, thus bank adopt CRM techniques for maintaining life relationship and by which they ensure customer loyalty and retention. Thus the banking sector moves from a transaction centric to a relationship centric business approach by focusing through "build good relationship" and the profitable transaction will follow automatically.

CRM Practices

The banking sector is entering a new world and exciting developments are changing the face of banking. The globalization of banking operations along with high competition, continuing deregulation and technological advancements has significantly altered the face and scope of banking. The process of economic liberalization and financial sector reforms has brought the issue of customer focus to the forefront. Therefore, there exists a strong need for maintaining CRM in the banks to understand the customers and to

meet their expectations. The scope of CRM is very wide including different aspects like customer satisfaction, service quality, relationship quality, market orientation, trust, loyalty, commitment, customer retention etc.

To survive, banks have to redesign their strategy in delivering quality services to attract and maintain customers. The only strategy that is perceived to make sense in this emerging marketing environment requires marketers to learn and practice CRM. This study aims to identify the areas of research in CRM with special reference to banking industry [Anamica Chopra & Usha Arora, 2013].

Review of Literature

Knox et al., (2003) assert that CRM is a strategic approach designed to improve stakeholder value (the value the customer receives, the value the organization receives, and the customer retention and its economics) through developing appropriate relationships with key customers and customer segments and through channel and media integration (channel and media suitability, channel and media structure, and multichannel and multimedia integration). CRM unites the potential of IT and relationship marketing to deliver profitable, long-term relationships.

It has been observed by Hedley Kimberley et al., (2006) tremendous challenges exist for the retail banking industry. Customers will become increasingly individualistic and, at the same time, more controlled in their relationships with banks. For banks, traditional segmentation approaches and go-to market techniques will become obsolete. How retail banks compete in the marketplace will also change dramatically.

To this, Bargal Hitendra & Sharma Ashish (2008) added that banks will have to adopt diversified services, open their branches at the shopping centers, install their web system, implement proper training system, and define high performance system to improve the behavior of the employees, offer proper customer complaint system and performance-based appraisal system to improve the overall services of the banks.

Customers play an important role in the selection of a particular bank. Today, proper customer care, number of years in business and easy accessibility are considered as the important factors that influence a customer's choice of a bank (A. Dhade & M. Mittal, 2008).

Das Kallol et al., (2009) explore the association between deployment of CRM best practices and loyalty of profitable customers in Indian retail banking. They developed the best CRM practices which may be helpful to the organizations toward achieving comprehensive CRM deployment. The study reveals that State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda are lagging behind their counterparts from other sectors regarding deployment of the best practices.

Dr. K. Ganesamurthy et al., (2011) have described that Customer Retention Management (CRM) is perceived as a technique of banking companies in order to explore, retain and also increase the loyal customers in the competitive business era.

This research paper attempts to study the customers' perspectives on CRM practices of commercial banks in India, the sample size include 421 respondents from both public and private sector banks in Tamil Nadu, and the study reveals that customers' perception of CRM in banks does not vary irrespective of different classifications of customers such as age, sex, education, occupation, income level, the bank in which customers have an account, type of account, type of account maintained by the customers and the period of customers' association with banks.

Statement of Problem

CRM aims at focusing all the organizational activities towards developing long term collaborative relationship with customers to develop them as lifetime customers. CRM in banking is a key element that allows a bank to develop its customer base and sales capacity. The goal of CRM is to manage all aspects of customer interactions in a manner that enables banks to maximize profitability from every customer. Retaining customers is a major concern

for banking institution which shows the importance of CRM.

Banks have to come out with innovative measures to satisfy the needs of both the present and potential customers and at the same time they must adopt procedures to bring back the lost customers through establishing an excellence in customer relationship. Hence, the present study has been carried out to examine the CRM techniques adopted in the selected private sector banks in Coimbatore district [V. Kumar & W. Reinartz, 2003].

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of bank customers and its influence on CRM in private banks in Madurai district.
2. To study the relationship between the CRM practices and the attitude of the customers towards factors contributing to services' quality.

Research Methodology

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the CRM practices of private sector banks in Madurai district. It is descriptive in nature. The study is based on primary data. For the purpose of the study, the researcher applied convenient sampling in the private sector banks in Madurai district and thus primary data is collected through structured questionnaire from the sample of 228 customers of private sector banks and discussion with the bank employees helps to know the CRM practices adopted in their banks. The secondary data for the study was compiled from the annual reports of banks, bulletins and policy guidelines of RBI and other related websites, journals, magazines and books. The primary data thus collected were analyzed using mean scores, correlation analysis, and chi-square method.

Hypothesis Formulated for the Study

- H01: There is no significant association between gender and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks

- H02: There is no significant association between age and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks
- H03: There is no significant association between marital status and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks
- H04: There is no significant association between education and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks
- H05: There is no significant association between occupation and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks
- H06: There is no significant association between monthly income and overall attitude of its customers towards the CRM practices of private sector banks.

Limitations of the Study

- This study is very much limited to customers of private sector banks in Madurai district which may fail to give a correct picture of the study.
- This study is limited to 228 respondents, a small sample in size which represents the whole universe of users of CRM techniques.
- The time period for the study is also a limited factor and the results of the study may tend to change in future course of time, where the time period changes.
- The researcher faces some difficulty due to the lack of co-operation from some respondents and the bias of respondents cannot be completely ruled out.
- It is very difficult to fetch sufficient customer information from the bank since they maintain privacy and security in providing customer profile.

Analysis and Interpretation of the Study

Profile of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics taken up for the study are Gender, Age, Marital Status, Education,

Occupation and Monthly Income of the respondents. The frequency classification respondent is given in the following table.

Table-1
Demographic Profile of the Respondents

GENDER	Male	146	64.00
	Female	82	36.00
	Total	228	100.00
AGE	Below 18 years	34	14.90
	18-40 years	70	30.70
	41-60 years	87	38.20
	Above 60 years	37	16.20
	Total	228	100.00
MARITAL STATUS	Married	204	89.50
	Unmarried	24	10.50
	Total	228	100.00
EDUCATION	School Level	45	19.70
	UG	68	29.80
	PG	85	37.30
	Illiterate	30	13.20
	Total	228	100.00
OCCUPATION	Private Employee	35	15.40
	Government Employee	42	18.40
	Business	44	19.30
	Agriculture	39	17.10
	Student	34	14.90
	Housewife	34	14.90
	Total	228	100.00
MONTHLY INCOME	Less than Rs.1000	68	29.80
	Up to Rs.5000	8	3.50
	5000-10000	41	18.00
	10000-15000	67	29.40
	Above 15000	44	19.30
	Total	228	100.00

Source: Primary Data

From the table-1, it is clear that majority of the respondents are Male (64%), aged between 41-60 years old (38.20%), 89.50% of the respondents are married. 37.30% of the respondents had PG qualifications. The result

on the employment shows that 19.30% were from the Business and 29.80% of the respondents earn less than Rs.1000 in income.

Influence on Socio-Economic Factors and CRM

Table 2: Chi - Square Test

H01: There is no significant association between gender and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks

Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	66.841	58	.199
Likelihood Ratio	81.300	58	.023
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.947	1	.047
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed From the above table-2, it is clear that Chi-Square P value is 0.199 which is greater than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant association between

gender and overall attitudes of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks. Table 3: Chi-Square Test H02: There is no significant association between age and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	223.827	174	.006
Likelihood Ratio	245.905	174	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.517	1	.472
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed

From the above table-3, it is clear that Chi-Square P value is 0.006 which is less than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null

hypothesis is rejected. Therefore there is significant association between age and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Table-4: Chi-Square Test

H03: There is no significant association between marital status and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks

Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	74.086	58	.076
Likelihood Ratio	65.238	58	.240
Linear-by-Linear Association	.659	1	.417
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed

From the above table-4, it is clear that chi-square p value is 0.076 which is greater than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore there is no

significant association between marital status and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Table-5: Chi-Square Test

H04: There is no significant association between education level and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Chi-Square Test	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	233.164	174	.002
Likelihood Ratio	255.754	174	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	17.789	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed

From the above table-5, it is clear that chi-square p value is 0.002 which is less than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null hypothesis

is rejected. Therefore there is significant association between education level and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Table-6: Chi-Square Test

H05: There is no significant association between occupation and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector bank

Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	391.575	290	.000
Likelihood Ratio	383.825	290	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.735	1	.005
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed

From the above table-6, it is clear that chi-square p value is 0.000 which is less than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null hypothesis

is rejected. Therefore there is significant association between occupation and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector bank

Table-7: Chi-Square Test

H06: There is no significant association between monthly income and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P Value
Pearson Chi-Square	253.546	232	.158
Likelihood Ratio	258.983	232	.108
Linear-by-Linear Association	6.291	1	.012
N of Valid Cases	228		

Source: Computed

From the above table-7, it is clear that chi-square p value is 0.158 which is greater than that 0.05 at 5% level of significance, thus the null

hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant association between monthly income and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

Relationship between CRM practices and customer attitude on factors contributing service quality

Table-8

Correlation on CRM practices and customer attitude on factors contributing service quality

Variable factors	Service Innovation	Customer Retention	Assurance	Tangibility	Empathy	Reliability	Responsiveness
Service Innovation	1						
Customer Retention	.041	1					
Assurance	.107	.416	1				
Tangibility	.139	.029	.022	1			
Empathy	-.123	-.056	.052	.241	1		
Reliability	.076	-.008	-.090	-.035	.065	1	
Responsiveness	.027	.235	-.008	.148	.145	.667	1

Source: Computed]

The above table-8 shows that all the variable factor such as service innovation, customer retention, assurance, tangibility, empathy, reliability and responsiveness are positively correlated except customer contact programs.

The variables which are positively correlated indicate that they are significant and show that customers are very much satisfied with CRM practices and the factors contributing to the service quality.

Table-9

Mean Ratings of CRM Practices in Private Sector Banks

Customer Relationship Management Items	Mean
Employees provide information and explanation regarding all new products and services offered	3.89
Service charges are collected by the banks are reasonable	3.64
Bank's advertisements regarding services are effective	4.02
Bank's promotional measures are effective	3.97
Response of the employees during personal contact is pleasing and courteous	4.00
Response of the employees at the time of contact by post, by phone or by e-mail is pleasing and courteous	4.05
The bank employees have thorough knowledge about services	4.07
Bank maintains privacy of data about the customer	3.96
The cordial relationship among the bank employees contribute towards	

providing better service to the customers	3.96
Voluntary financial advice from employees are adequate	3.92
Bank resolves customer grievances as early as possible	4.01
Bank offers fast and efficient customer services	3.99
The time taken to process the transaction is reasonable	4.09
Adequate space and waiting hall is available in the branch	4.17
The complaint redressal measures are adequate	4.03
Innovative services of the banks are satisfactory	3.99
Branches are located in convenient locations	4.04
Bank layout has been designed to give more space to customers to transact business	3.93
Adequate infrastructural facilities are available	3.98
Bank has convenient opening banking hours	3.98
Parking facility available in the bank premises is comfortable	4.00
The branch maintain queuing system at the counter properly	3.99
Adequate stationery are available in the bank	4.04
Employees of the bank are neatly dressed	4.10
Bank maintains error free records	4.07
The bank employees provide services at the promised time	4.06
Employees of bank are always willing to help the customers	4.05
Employees of the bank understand the specific needs of the customers	4.10
Availability of mobile banking services	4.07
Employees are well trained and can provide detailed knowledge of services	4.10
Availability of credit on favorable terms	3.99
The bank employees are knowledgeable and give precise answer to inquiries	4.00
Bank keeps confidentiality of accounts and transactions	4.01
I feel safe in transactions with my banks	4.03
Employees instill confidence in customers by proper behavior	4.05
Operating hours are convenient to all customers	4.06
Employees are consistently courteous	4.10
Employees give customers personal attention	4.08
This bank gives freedom from danger and risk	4.13
Employees are never too busy to respond to request	4.10
Showing sincere interest in solving customer problems	4.11

Source: Computed

The mean scores for different factors influencing the customer relationship management vary

between 4.17 and 3.64. The lowest mean score was found for the factor low charges (3.64) and the highest mean score is found for the factor

safety (4.17). The mean scores indicate that, the level of agreeability on various factors that affects customer relationship management practices in private sector bank is higher for the reason of safety when compared to other factors influenced in maintaining customer relationship management.

Findings of the Study

In the demographic variables it is clear that male respondents are majority (64.00%), Mostly respondents are between 41-60 years old (38.20%), Majority of the respondents are married (89.50%), Mostly respondents are Post-Graduates (37.30%), Majority of the respondents are business people (19.30%) and customer income group major in No Income group (29.80%). It is identified that the most of the male respondents are satisfied with CRM practices whereas female respondents are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with CRM practices of private sector banks in Madurai district. Hence there is no significant association between gender, marital status, monthly income and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks.

But there is significant association between age, education, occupation and overall attitude of customers towards CRM practices of private sector banks. The study also implies that there is positive correlation between the service innovation, customer retention, assurance, tangibility, empathy, reliability and responsiveness. The most important factor which influenced the attitude of customers towards CRM practices is high safety on the banking transactions. Thus, this study helps the bankers to identify the extent to which they are able to maintain customer relations and the measures they can take to improve their relationship.

Suggestions of the Study

- Bankers should educate and inform customers about various services offered to the customer through customer meets.

- Awareness programs should be provided and must take effective steps to attract people of all ages.
- Banks must introduce new ways and means that make its customer highly delighted with its quality of services.
- Banks have to identify, analyze and solve the problems faced by the customers while availing the services within a short span of time to win over the confidence of customers.
- Banks should interact or communicate with the customers consistently and take their feedback with regard to their problems and complaints.

Conclusion

The service sector in India is fast growing and their contribution to economic development is really impressive due to advancement in information technology. Among various services in service sector, banking services occupy a key role both in the development of individual customer in their business and in social life. Managing relations with customers has become an unquestionable issue in the wake of liberalization and globalization. The basic objective of this study is to improve quality of relationship between the bank and the customer and enriches with the long term relationship benefits. To convert a prospective customer into a loyal customer, one of the important aspects is the quality of services offered by the bank which acts as the foundation for the company to attract, maintain and enhances customer relations.

The study will be useful to the banking to understand the banking perception and expectation of customer in relation to the service rendered by them. Bankers can further identify the extent to which they are able to maintain customer relations and the measures they can take to improve their relationship. Hence, the concept of 'CRM' may be emphasized so that the

customers are treated royally in relation to bank services. To be successful a bank needs to be not just high tech but high touch as well.

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THIRD CONCEPT *welcomes your valuable comments on articles published in each issue. Suggestion to further improve quality and get-up of your favourite magazine, which has a record of uninterrupted publication since 1987, are also solicited.*

Environmental Sustainability

Ms. Jyoti Saini*

[Environmental sustainability is the rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely. If they cannot be continued indefinitely then they are not sustainable. Sustainability is a broad discipline, giving students and graduates insights into most aspects of the human world from business to technology to environment and the social sciences. The core skills with which a graduate leaves college or university are highly sought after, especially in a modern world looking to drastically reduce carbon emissions and discover and develop the technologies of the future. Sustainability draws on politics, economics and, philosophy and other social sciences as well as the hard sciences. Sustainability skills and environmental awareness is a priority in many corporate jobs at graduate level and over as businesses seek to adhere to new legislation.]

Sustainability is one the newest degree subjects that attempts to bridge social science with civic engineering and environmental science with the technology of the future. When we hear the word “sustainability” we tend to think of renewable fuel sources, reducing carbon emissions, protecting environments and a way of keeping the delicate ecosystems of our planet in balance. In short, sustainability looks to protect our natural environment, human and ecological health, while driving innovation and not compromising our way of life.

The Three Pillars of Sustainability In 2005, the World Summit on Social Development identified three core areas that contribute to the philosophy and social science of sustainable development. These “pillars” in many national standards and certification schemes, form the backbone of tackling the core areas that the world now faces.

Economic Development

Economic development is about giving people what they want without compromising quality of life, especially in the developing world, and reducing the financial burden and “red tape” of doing the right thing.

Social Development

There are many facets to this pillar. Most importantly is awareness of and legislation protection of the health of people from pollution and other harmful activities of business and other organisations. It is

also about maintaining access to basic resources without compromising the quality of life. The biggest hot topic for many people right now is sustainable housing and how we can better build the homes we live in from sustainable material. The final element is education - encouraging people to participate in environmental sustainability and teaching them about the effects of environmental protection.

Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is the third pillar and to many, the primary concern of the future of humanity. It defines how we should study and protect ecosystems, air quality, integrity and sustainability of our resources and focusing on the elements that place stress on the environment. It also concerns how technology will drive our greener future; the EPA recognized that developing technology and biotechnology is key to this sustainability, and protecting the environment of the future from potential damage that technological advances could potentially bring.

Primary goals

- The end of poverty and hunger
- Better standards of education and healthcare - particularly as it pertains to water quality and better sanitation
- To achieve gender equality
- Sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies
- All of the above and more while tackling the effects of climate change, pollution and other

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environmental factors that can harm and do harm people's health, livelihoods and lives.

- Sustainability to include health of the land, air and sea

Environmental dimension

Healthy ecosystems provide vital goods and services to humans and other organisms. There are two major ways of reducing negative human impact and enhancing ecosystem services and the first of these is environmental management. This direct approach is based largely on information gained from earth science, environmental science and conservation biology. However, this is management at the end of a long series of indirect causal factors that are initiated by human consumption, so a second approach is through demand management of human resource use.

Management of human consumption of resources is an indirect approach based largely on information gained from economics. Herman Daly has suggested three broad criteria for ecological sustainability: renewable resources should provide a sustainable yield (the rate of harvest should not exceed the rate of regeneration); for non-renewable resources there should be equivalent development of renewable substitutes; waste generation should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment

The goal of the Environmental Sustainability program is to promote sustainable engineered systems that support human well-being and that are also compatible with sustaining natural (environmental) systems. These systems provide ecological services vital for human survival. Research efforts supported by the program typically consider long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. The program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions.

Four Principals

- Industrial Ecology
- Green Engineering

- Ecological Engineering
- Earth Systems Engineering.
- In ecology, sustainability (from *sustain* and *ability*) is the property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive indefinitely. Long-lived and healthy wetlands and forests are examples of sustainable biological systems. In more general terms, sustainability is the endurance of systems and processes. The organizing principle for sustainability is sustainable development, which includes the four interconnected domains: ecology, economics, politics and culture.¹ Sustainability science is the study of sustainable development and environmental science.²
- Sustainability can also be defined as a socio-ecological process characterized by the pursuit of a common ideal.³ an ideal is by definition unattainable in a given time/space but endlessly approachable and it is this endless pursuit that forms a sustainable system in the process (ibid). Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival of humans and other organisms. Ways of reducing negative human impact are environmentally-friendly chemical engineering, environmental resources management and environmental protection. Information is gained from green chemistry, earth science, environmental science and conservation biology. Ecological economics studies the fields of academic research that aim to address human economies and natural ecosystems.
- "The term 'sustainability' should be viewed as humanity's target goal of human-ecosystem equilibrium (homeostasis), while 'sustainable development' refers to the holistic approach and temporal processes that lead us to the end point of sustainability."

Environmental management

Atmosphere, Freshwater and oceans, Land use

Management of human consumption

Energy: Sustainable energy, Renewable energy, Efficient energy use

(.....*Continued the Next Issue*)

DELHI POSTAL REGN. NO. DL (ND) - 11/6026/2018-19-20

R.N.I. NO. 45898/87

POSTED AT N.D. PSO ON 7/8 EVERY MONTH

Date of Publication : 5 - 10 - 2018
