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- ❖ **October Revolution Centenary**
- ❖ **The Czech Elections**
- ❖ **Demagogy of the Media**
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Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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INSIDE

Editorial	
Deliberate Preterm	5
<i>B.K</i>	
The October Revolution Centenary	7
<i>Eric Mann</i>	
Testing Interstate Terms of Service Sector Growth	15
<i>Sikka, Pooja</i>	
Demagogy of the media: information or manipulation	22
<i>Prof. Dr. Sabahudin Hadžialić</i>	
Online Threats Women Receive	30
<i>Dr. Deepa Viswam & Pooja K Jethwani</i>	
The Czech Elections in Perspective	33
<i>Dr. Binoy Kampmark</i>	
Medical Tourism in Hyderabad	35
<i>M. Vijay Kumar</i>	
Has Naxalite Movement Lost its Ideology?	44
<i>Dr. Kalinga Ketaki</i>	
Dr. Ambedkar & Upliftment of Dalit Women	48
<i>Dr. Ramesh Kamble</i>	
Maldives' Vulnerability amidst Global Warming	52
<i>Alok K. Gupta & Vandana Mishra</i>	
Gender Issues in Gujarat (Part - II)	57
<i>Dr. Sanjay A. Pandya</i>	

Deliberate Pretermitt

Despite agriculture being the major mainstay of Indian economy and the only means of livelihood of the major chunk of rural population, this sector is seemingly falling a prey to deliberate pretermitt on the part of the present dispensation at the helm. Farmers' suicides, their protests and their miserable plight throughout the country have failed to bear fruitful results. Constitution of high-powered committees and their recommendations from time to time to ameliorate the conditions of the farming community have also conked out in their efforts. In March 2015, the Ramesh Chand Committee in its report suggested a new formula to calculate the Minimum Support Price (MSP), which if implemented, could help the MSP to rise by over 50 per cent. The government was also called upon by the Committee to while calling upon the government to modify all instances where the MSP was found to be lower than the cost of production, the Committee also drew attention to the recommendations of the Swaminathan National Farmers Commission that had made analogous recommendation decades ago. No concrete action has thus far seemingly been taken on these recommendations and media reports indicate that farmers are often forced to sell their produce below the MSP across the country.

Undoubtedly, the ostentatious launch of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide crop insurance to 90 million agricultural households had raised high hopes for the farming community; nonetheless, media reports have made it discernible that only 20 per cent of the eligible farmers were covered and most farmers had no idea about the scheme. According to one opinion, a whopping amount of Rs. 13,240 crore of taxpayers' money found its way into the bank accounts of private insurance companies that more often than not refused to pay, making a variety of excuses. While addressing the plight of farmers by adhering to concrete pragmatic policy measures also entailing fiscal measures and incentives, they should be enabled to avail of latest farming tools and technology. The recommendations of the Task Force on Organic and Non-Chemical Farming, appointed by the Central government as well as the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates headed by Murli Manohar Joshi on organic farming should be accorded priority in implementation.

Some experts have drawn attention towards unfair trade policies that have reportedly been detrimental to the interests of farmers. It has been opined that at times of high production, import policies have been tweaked to allow for cheap imports, decimating the farm economy. While drawing attention of the national government to the fact that at times when all over the world, governments subsidise and take care of their farmers, experts point out the Central Government should brook no delay in ameliorating the plight of the farmers and save them from being pushed to the wall. Politics should not be allowed to become a stumbling block in bringing farm community to the national mainstream of development, especially by preventing them from falling an easy prey to the tenterhooks of the multinational enterprises (MNEs), which often emphasize agriculture by small farmers is not viable. Viewed in a broad perspective, MNEs experience of taking over agriculture in Some African countries and resultant creation of mass poverty is an alarming lesson for India. Agriculture has to be saved from MNE take over.

Time has come to clean all the mess afflicting the agriculture sector. Adequate measures should be adhered to tone up the ailing health of agriculture sector and bring it back on the trajectory of growth. There is need to build resilience of the farming community to combat with vagaries of climate change and make it capable of adopting essentials of climate-smart agriculture. Agriculture is the greatest consumer of water and in view of the shrinking water resources and augmenting level of water pollution, wastewater needs to be recycled, especially for agriculture sector to ensure food security. Strong determination coupled with a sincere will-power is required at this juncture to solve the problems confronting the agriculture sector. Hurdles will come, but the bar of the determination should be high enough to deal with it. The government should walk the talk and refrain from making tall promises to hoodwink the farming community. Let the farmers be the harbinger of a strong and prosperous India.

— BK

The October Revolution Centenary

Eric Mann*

[**Veteran of the Congress of Racial Equality, Students for a Democratic Society, and the United Auto Workers and the prolific author of several books. Early version of this text “The 100th Anniversary of the October Revolution: The Great Breakthrough in Anti-Imperialist Socialism” was posted for Fast Capitalism.*]

The month of October this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution of October 1917. As we in the United States try to imagine a revolutionary opposition to the U.S. imperialist system, a great appreciation of the achievements of the Russian revolution and the erstwhile Soviet Union is a critical part of our revolutionary future.

The Russian revolution created the Soviet Union—the first “workers’ state” and the first successful revolution that survived the world imperialist counterrevolution. The Bolshevik Party (the first communist party) was part of a united front of parties that seized power from the reactionary feudal Tsar in the February revolution of 1917. Then in October 1917 the Bolsheviks overthrew the forces of capitalism and seized state power from the social democratic Kerensky government. The Russian revolution came to power as an anti-war movement against the forces in Russia that wanted to continue First World War — one of the greatest imperialist bloodbaths of all time in which more than 18 million “workers of the world” were sent to their deaths by the capitalist governments of Europe with strong support from their “socialist” parties.

The Bolshevik Party and Soviet State built its own military and police, defended themselves against external and internal capitalist attack, and survived in a hostile world for 72 years—a true miracle against all odds. From the perspective of the world’s exploited and oppressed people this was a profound achievement in human history and offered them an optimistic vision of their own future.

The day before the successful October revolution, the entire world was ruled by the U.S. and European colonial and imperialist powers. But the day after the Russian Revolution the communists created a

new political momentum and material balance of forces that captured the imagination of workers and anti-colonial movements all over the world. This was reflected in the Indian independence victory of 1947, the Chinese revolution of 1949, the Cuban revolution of 1959, African independence movements in Ghana, the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, and Tanzania, the Vietnamese revolution from 1945 until its victory in 1975, and the South African independence movement against apartheid culminating in the victory of 1994.

The Soviet Union was a great friend of Black people in the United States and the pro-Soviet Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) attracted some of the greatest Black political figures in U.S. history—Richard Wright, Claudia Jones, Harry Haywood, W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, William L. Patterson and tens of thousands of Black sharecroppers, domestic workers, auto and steelworkers as well. In 1951, in the midst of a ferocious U.S. war against communists all over the world, Black communists Patterson, DuBois, and Robeson produced the historic and still prescient *We Charge Genocide: The Historic Petition to the United Nations for Relief of a Crime Against the Negro People by the United States*. A reading of that document 66 years later reflects the painful, egregious, and endless war of the U.S. government against Black people and the Black nation today.

Those of us in the United States who participated in the great revolutions of the Two Decades of the Sixties (1955-1975) were all pro-communist and with our own concerns and even criticisms, pro-Soviet. I was blessed to work as a field secretary with the Congress of Racial Equality and work closely with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Later, I was an organizer with the Newark Community Union Project and Students for a Democratic Society and worked closely with the Black Panther Party.

At that time in history we had a sense of history. We saw the United States as what Dr. King called “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world” and saw the peoples and revolutions of the Third World and the socialist and communist nations as our allies in a world united front against our own government. We supported the Cuban revolution and appreciated Soviet support for Cuba and hated the U.S. government and the CIA for working to overthrow the Cuban revolution. We supported the Vietnamese revolution and thanked both the Soviets and Chinese for trying to stop our own government’s genocide against the people of Vietnam and contributing to the Vietnamese victory as we tried to stop U.S. genocide against Indigenous and Black people inside the U.S. borders as well.

Today, a new generation of organizers and those searching for revolutionary answers, especially those leading heroic struggles in Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities in the U.S. can advance their work by challenging the anti-communist lies of the system, studying the great revolutionary achievements of the Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cuban, and African revolutions, and in particular on the 100th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution, study Soviet history from the perspective of its friends and delve into the great work of pro-communist Pan African leaders Harry Haywood, Paul Robeson and W.E.B. DuBois. Our only hope is to situate ourselves in the long continuum of revolutionary experiments with a sense of deep appreciation and the most profound opposition to the crimes of the U.S. government throughout its history that continue today

I ask you to go on a journey with me to appreciate, celebrate, analyze, and learn from the key achievements of the Russian Revolution and to see the errors and abuses of that and other revolutions in the larger frame of our own government’s role as the World Center of Counter-revolution that has worked to attack, infiltrate, suppress, sabotage, assassinate, invade, and if possible overthrow every successful revolutionary movement and revolution in the world

State and Revolution

The Russian revolution was the first revolution that seized state power, built its own military and police, beat back the capitalists, and was able to sustain its own revolutionary advances against the most reactionary and brutal attacks to overthrow it. It was a “workers state” that was born in the caldron of a world dominated by U.S. and European imperialism—a world capitalist system that was exercising a brutal world colonial dictatorship over the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and Black, Indigenous, and other colonial peoples inside its borders. The Russian revolution came out of the womb needing to defend its very existence from a world imperialist system that carried out counter-revolutionary infanticide as a central tenet of its strategy and existence.

Imagine that in August 1917, while V.I. Lenin was hiding in exile, he wrote *State and Revolution*, arguing that Russian communists had to understand that a revolution involved a forcible seizure of power. Miraculously, only 2 months later the Bolsheviks did just that. Lenin argued that if capitalism ruled through armed force than the only revolutionary possibility was the armed overthrow of the capitalist state.

“if the state is the product of the irreconcilability of class antagonisms, if it is a power standing above society and “alienating itself more and more from it”, it is clear that the liberation of the oppressed class is impossible not only without a violent revolution, but also without the destruction of the apparatus of state power which was created by the ruling class and which is the embodiment of this “alienation”

State and revolution and the successful Russian revolution spoke to the direct experience of oppressed people all over the world—even if European socialists, their consciousness already clouded by the super-profits of empire, disagreed.

In 1492, there were more than 100 million Indigenous peoples in the Americas. They had built complex and advanced societies that had their own conflicts and wars among them but none based on barbarism and genocide—a unique byproduct of Christian European feudal capitalism. The invasion of the Spanish and Portuguese with horses, steel weapons,

and even bacteria as weapons of war wiped out entire indigenous societies in decades and in a century reduced the Indigenous population by 90 percent. The Indigenous peoples fought back as warriors but could not defeat the armed states of Spain, Portugal, England, France, and later the United States. I point readers to *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz.

- In 1796 armed African slaves in Haiti led by Toussaint L' Ouverture miraculously overthrew French rule in Haiti. This was met by the most vicious armed counterrevolution by the French in which L' Ouverture was captured and brought to France where he died in prison. The French imposed the most brutal reparations on the Haitians to pay them back for their loss of human property— reparations that they are collecting to this day as the U.S. dominates Haiti militarily and the people live under subjugation and poverty. See *Black Jacobins: Toussaint L' Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution* by C.L.R. James
- In 1863, after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation more than 400,000 Black slaves fled the plantations and joined the Union army where many of them were armed and played the critical role in the defeat of the Confederacy. From 1865 to 1877, a broad united front of radical Republicans, anti-monopoly progressive capitalists, Black freed slaves becoming free peasants, workers, and professionals, and white workers, enforced by Northern troops—state power— imposed what W.E.B. DuBois also called “the dictatorship of the proletariat” over the defeated Southern planters and racists. By 1877 the Republicans, representing northern monopoly capital, agreed to turn the South back to the reactionary Slavocracy and what followed was a true genocide and re-enslavement of 5 million Blacks. DuBois' *Black Reconstruction in America* is one of the greatest analyses of the challenges of Black revolutionary strategy and the inherent relationship between Black liberation and anti-imperialism as well as the reactionary nature of white corporate capitalism itself.
- In 1871, the French proletariat rose up in a great revolution, the Paris Commune. Karl Marx called

that 30 day rebellion the first reflection of “the dictatorship of the proletariat” meaning that for once the working class armed itself to protect itself against the bourgeois or capitalist dictatorship. The Commune was met with brutal retaliation by the French monarchy and bourgeoisie—with more than 20,000 communards murdered in the counter-revolution.

So, since long before 1492 oppressed people have understood that unless there was an armed force to overthrow the armed forces of the oppressors there was no hope. Thus, when in October 1917 the Bolsheviks successfully seized state power, created their own armed forces, suppressed the armed forces of the occupying powers and reactionary forces in a bloody civil war, the Soviet Union's successful seizure of maintenance of state power was seen all over the world as a great historical victory—the first time in modern history that the masses of oppressed people had successfully managed to not just overthrow the power of their oppressors but create military structure to protect and maintain a new society.

In that context, the Soviet victory raised the strategic question of control of the army and police for every social movement in the world and was the first revolution that was not immediately overthrown by capitalist powers. This was one reason the United States and the European capitalist and colonial powers sought the overthrow of the Soviet Union from the day it came to power and oppressed people all over the world felt inspiration from its victory. Throughout this essay I will document the consistent, relentless, and ruthless efforts by the U.S. government to overthrow the Russian revolution until yes—from 1917 to 1989—and the anti-imperialist imperative of decent people in the U.S. to stand up to our government's role as the World's Center of Counterrevolution.

The Soviet Union successfully defended its revolution from a brutal world invasion of imperialist countries that included the British, U.S., and Canadians, Indian colonial recruits sent by England, Scots, and 70,000 Japanese troops. It also had to defeat a right-wing assault inside Russia, appropriately called “The Whites!” in a civil war instigated by the world imperialist powers. The Russian Revolution came to power in blood and

war instigated against it by the most powerful imperialist forces in the world and won! The Soviet Union was built on military force against military force. Let the record show that the United States, England, Japan, and every other capitalist state” tried to overthrow the Russian revolution and had they succeeded they would have re-established a bloody puppet government as they have all over the world. The October Revolution, led by workers, peasants, and a political party that had never governed and had been underground for a decade, took on the entire world capitalist system—and won!

The Bolshevik Revolution as an Anti-Imperialist Socialist Revolution

The Bolshevik revolution came to power in struggle not just against European capitalism and imperialism but European social democracy—especially the German Social Democratic party led by Karl Kautsky that played a role in provoking World War I. As such, the Russian revolution was not an extension of European “socialism” but its negation.

The Russian revolution was based on Lenin’s analysis of *Imperialism: the Highest State of Capitalism* written in 1917. Lenin explained that capitalism in its monopoly stage—the merger of industrial and finance capital—went beyond the exploitation of the European proletariat to the oppression of whole nations and peoples of the colonies. As such, Lenin argued a world revolutionary strategy should change from “workers of the world unite” to “workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite.” More than that, Lenin argued that significant sectors of the U.S. and European working class benefited from “the super-profits of imperialism” and, without aggressive anti-imperialist socialist/communist parties, would support their own ruling classes in inter-imperialist wars. He argued that the responsibility of workers in “oppressor nations” —England, Germany, France, the United States, Russia, and all those whose capitalist system benefitted from the oppression of whole nations and peoples—was to side with the colonies’ struggle for self-determination and independence against their own governments. Otherwise, the socialist parties of the West would become “opportunists and scoundrels.”

But as the First World War approached, the European Social Democrats (who were at the time, the only

form of socialists even with many tendencies among them) not just supported but actively participated in their own nation’s division of the world and one of the most bloody and disgraceful world wars—18 million deaths and 23 million wounded. As the winds of war began swirling in Europe, Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Rosa Luxemburg and other left socialists aggressively opposed the war and urged workers of the world to build an anti-war movement. But Karl Kautsky, the father of German Social Democracy supported a world war initiated by Germany as did the vast majority of French, Italian, English, Austrian socialists who all capitulated to oppressor nation aspirations and supported their own capitalist classes against each other and agreed to their division of the world—including the colonies. What had happened to “workers of the world unite?” This was a devastating blow to the theory of socialism. So, the Russian revolution also overthrew the hegemony of racist, genocidal, European socialism.

The Russian Revolution came to power by opposing World War I and building the first anti-imperialist socialist movement in Europe. The Bolshevik led Revolution challenged its own nation state and rejected imperialist patriotism with the slogan “Bread, Peace, and Land.” Bread, for the starving industrial proletariat, Land for the starving peasants, and Peace—the most revolutionary demand of all. Russian peasants and workers in the Tsarist Army mutinied in the midst of a bloody World War and, organized and encouraged by Bolshevik cadre, refused to fight the Germans and deserted the front where they were freezing, starving, and dying.

The Bolsheviks and Social Revolutionaries overthrew a government led by moderate socialist Alexander Kerensky that had come to power in February 1917 but refused to get out of WWI. Instead, the moderate socialists and liberals in Russia continued the brutal war on the side of the British, French, and U.S. against Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey. The October revolution was the first revolution that came to power by aggressively refusing to fight in an imperialist war while again, all the other “socialists” were sending their own working class to its deaths to support their own capitalists. No wonder the Soviet revolution has such prestige and respect all over the world from the outset.

The Soviet Union pulled its economy out of the world imperialist system and denied markets to U.S., British, French, and other world imperialists that had previously plundered Tsarist Russia

The day after the revolution what in the world was the new Russian revolution supposed to do? The Bolsheviks, as a new ruling party, inherited a nation ravaged by imperialist invasion and civil war. How could they produce an economy and feed its people in the midst of a world war and a civil war? The story of the Soviet Union's successful experiments and many errors in a rich social practice is truly remarkable. Steven F. Cohen's *Bukharin and the Bolshevik Revolution* describes the great debates about how to merge a new socialist, more like a state capitalist at first, economy with limited but critical market mechanisms on the way to a socialist economic system.

But the miracle of the Soviet experiment is that it achieved some level of self-sufficiency by somehow getting the workers to work and produce goods and the peasants to farm and produce food and somehow set up distribution systems to get the products to the people while also finding ways to get new capital to rebuild a very backward and war-devastated country. The Soviets embraced the concept of "autarky" —that is a nation that is economically self-sufficient and independent. They used aggressive state power to keep out imperialist investors (while yes, also encouraging some) from infiltrating and taking over their economy.

The Soviets used state power at times brutally for what is called "primitive accumulation of capital" which the capitalist nation states accomplished through violence, war, enslavement, and colonialism and the massacre of entire populations over 600 or more years that continues today. The Soviets built a new economy by forcing the peasants to produce more than they wanted and paying the workers less than they wanted, and somehow producing a surplus of agricultural products that they could export to purchase machinery to expand their economy. The record of many Soviet experiments in building an independent socialist economy in the midst of a world imperialist dictatorship, the exciting achievements of the New Economic Policy under Lenin, and the chilling abuses of forced collectivization is a story worth studying.

But clearly, for Third World nations later facing the same problems after nominal independence from their imperialist masters, the fundamental challenge and achievements of the Soviet economy were inspiring. The entire concept of how oppressed people, formerly oppressed nations still surrounded by a world imperialist economic and political system, could use the state to seize its own resources, collective a lot of production and distribution, and raise the standard of living of an entire people in ways that capitalism did not and could not to this day led many Third World leaders to great gratitude to the Soviet model.

Many years later, in 1947, Winston Churchill, the arch-imperialist former Prime Minister of Great Britain, derided the Soviet Union as an "Iron Curtain" keeping the Eastern European nations out of the influence of the Western "democracies." To some degree that was true. The Soviets tried to build a wall to keep out capitalist infiltration and re-colonization and built an international alternative "socialist bloc" that took more and more of the world out of the capitalist orbit. This was an amazing achievement that of course led to U.S. and European wars against the Soviet Union from the day it was born until the day it died.

The Soviet Union led a revolution inside the socialist movement—Proletarian Internationalism and workers and oppressed people's unite

The victory of the Russian Soviet revolution led to a two-line struggle, a split, in the world socialist movement between the new Communist parties, aligned with the Soviet Union and the old Social Democratic parties centered in Europe. The split between communists and socialists was complex but it was shaped the "communists" who had opposed World War I and supported the formation of the Soviet Union and the "social democrats" who had supported World War I and opposed the formation of the Soviet Union. Many former socialist parties split in two with the new communist parties attracting the most dedicated, anti-racist, anti-imperialist revolutionaries in every country and by far the greatest representation of Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans and soon, Blacks in the United States.

The Soviet Union initiated and built a Communist International—The Comintern— where new

communist parties all over the world built the first viable international movements of workers and oppressed peoples against the world organization of imperialism. The Comintern was the first successful counterforce to world capitalism and attracted the best, brightest, and most dedicated fighters in every country in the world. There is a critique that the Soviets dominated the Comintern and exercised predominant and often dictatorial control of the international party line. While there is some truth to that assertion it is often raised to anti-communist caricature.

For in fact, there was significant struggle inside the Comintern and like all structures, there was a struggle for political power among communist parties who did disagree on many subjects and while of course courting Soviet approval the more effective ones, such as the Vietnamese Party led by Ho Chi Minh exercised considerable influence on Comintern policies and challenged the great nation chauvinism of the French communists who still supported, or weakly opposed, French control of Vietnam, Algeria, and other French colonies.

The Comintern gave far greater voice to the communist parties of the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America in struggle against the European communist parties and led great struggles against the white chauvinism of the South African and U.S. Communist Parties to give greater voice to Black liberation and Black members. It was of profound attraction that often small communist parties could be part of a world-wide movement and organization.

And again, contrary to anti-communist stereotypes, the Soviets won international leadership by their successful practice and greater theoretical and practical sense of strategy and tactics. Communists all over the world looked up to and admired a communist party that had successfully carried out a revolution, seized state power, pulled their nation out of World War I, built an international communist movement, set up a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and governed a multi-ethnic nation of 170 million people in a land mass that spanned from Eastern Europe to Asia. Why shouldn't the Soviet Union have great influence in setting the general direction of the world communist movement—as the U.S., England, and Germany set the “party line” for the imperialists?

The Soviet Union became a world university for revolution. If you were a young revolutionary in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Honduras, or a Black revolutionary in the U.S. you could go to the only socialist society that actually existed and be trained in strategy, tactics, and the specifics of your people's struggle for liberation and socialism by the leading revolutionaries in the Soviet Union and the world.

As just one example, Ho Chi Minh studied in Moscow during the 1920s and from there launched a struggle against the white chauvinism and pro-imperialism of the French Communist Party where France still colonized Vietnam and more than 50,000 Vietnamese studied in Moscow through the duration of the Vietnam War. In the U.S. many Black communists studied in the Soviet Union where they were given more support for the merger of Black Nationalism and communism than they were in the U.S. Party and came back to the U.S. with more power and prestige to fight white chauvinism in the party and white racism in the U.S.

The Soviet Union Led the Worldwide Struggle against Fascism during World War II

The Soviet Union led the only worldwide movement against German and worldwide fascism while the United States conciliated with fascism and only joined the fight against Germany in World War II as a last resort. Right after the war the United States rehabilitated the fascists in Germany and Japan and turned against the Soviet Union that had sacrificed the most and won the war against fascism.

The Soviet Union and the world communist movement were the first to recognize the danger of fascism in Germany and worldwide and try to build an anti-fascist movement to stop Adolph Hitler. In the early 1930s during the rise of fascism in Germany the German and Soviet communists badly underestimated the power and appeal of Hitler. They believed that world revolution was on the horizon and as such, they refused to build a united front against Hitler with the Social Democrats who they saw as their primary competition (and the Social Democrats were sectarian towards the Communists as well.)

The Comintern put forth the arrogant and sectarian slogan, “After Hitler, us” meaning that after the

people saw through the fascists they would turn to the communists and socialist revolution. Needless to say this was a terrible misassessment. “After Hitler” was the mass murder of Jews, Gypsies, and yes, communists.

Recognizing this grave misjudgment, the world communist parties began an international campaign, reflected in a major theoretical and strategic paper, *The United Front Against Fascism* by Georgi Dimitrov, the head of the Comintern, written in 1935. The Soviet Union encouraged world communist parties to build broad alliances with capitalist governments and social democratic forces and yes, many communist parties moved in more “reformist” and conciliatory directions out of a true terror that the Soviet Union and the world would be taken over by a uniquely reactionary, racist, and murderous form of capitalism led by Adolph Hitler and the German Reich.

As the Comintern argued against mechanical application of the theory, they reprimanded the U.S. Party for portraying U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal as a form of fascism as “partial to hackneyed schemes” Instead, they called on the U.S. Party to defend and ally with Roosevelt against “the most reactionary circles of American finance capital who are attacking Roosevelt and stimulating and organizing the fascist movement in the United States” which they did.

But these efforts by the Soviet Union and the world communist movement did not sway the capitalist powers of the West to build a united front against fascism with the communists. Many histories of this period make clear that United States, England, and France saw the Soviet Union and communism as the far greater danger and hoped that Hitler would invade the Soviet Union—as many Western capitalists shared Hitler’s hatred of both Jews and communists. And again, Nazi Germany was a capitalist country and many U.S. capitalists saw fascism as a commercial opportunity. There were strong pro-fascist forces in the United States including Henry Ford, Alfred P. Sloan head of General Motors, and Joseph Kennedy, Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s U.S. ambassador to Great Britain from 1930 to 1940.

In September 1938, while the Soviets offered massive numbers of troops to fight Hitler in Poland,

the British (along with French and Italians) negotiated what came to be called The Munich Agreement with Germany agreement. This allowed Hitler and the Nazi’s to annex the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia while the Czechs were not even allowed at the meeting—as British Prime Minister Neville Chamber claimed he bought “peace in our time.”

After another year of unsuccessful overtures to the Western capitalist powers and aware that the Western capitalists wanted Hitler to invade the Soviet Union, in August 23, 1939, Stalin signed a non-aggression pact with the Nazis. This was denounced by capitalists all over the world as the Soviets tried to buy time before the inevitable Nazi invasion. The entire story of the Soviet’s efforts, mostly unsuccessful, to get the U.S., Britain, and France to stand up to Hitler is a tragic story of Western “democratic” conciliation with fascism. Only the Soviets were ideologically opposed to fascism, saw the grave danger, and did everything they could to build a world movement against Hitler that eventually did succeed.

In September 1939 the Germans invaded Poland and the Western allies began World War II, and the Soviet Union joined the allies shortly after Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 while the United States did not enter the war until the December 11, 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Germans, under pressure from their Japanese allies, declared war against the United States. For the United States to act as if it was a leading anti-fascist power is just not true. As usual, the U.S. watched the rise of German and Japanese fascism, stayed out of the war as long as possible, and then came in to help win the war and then take over the world at the war’s end.

The Soviet Union was the main force to defeat Hitler in World War II—sacrificing 20 million of soldiers and civilians during the long German invasion which the U.S. and British welcomed—hoping both sides would eventually kill each other off.

The oppressed people of the world and those Jews who survived owe their existence to the heroism of the Soviet people in spite of the cynicism and betrayal of the United States, England, and pathetic France that capitulated to the German invasion in weeks—with many of the French people willingly supporting the Nazi Vichy occupation government.

Throughout the war, communist parties all over the world called on the United States and Britain to open up “a second front” against Hitler in Europe and yet both countries delayed—again hoping that Hitler would destroy the Soviet Union. Then, the Soviets began to defeat Hitler in the long Russian winters and the Soviet Army began to march eastward. Then, the “Allies” realized that the Soviets and the communists might take over all of Europe with communist parties in every country having the great prestige of leading the resistance against Fascism and only then did the United States finally take great risks.

The United States, led by General Dwight Eisenhower, led a bloody and heroic battle on the beaches of Normandy, France in June 1944, in which 160,000 allied troops won a decisive battle in the and began to march on the Germans from the West. This also forced the Germans to move some troops from the Eastern front and helped the Soviets beat back the German invasion. Still, as just one measure of the supreme sacrifices the Soviet people paid in the fight against world fascism, the Soviet Union suffered the deaths of 10 million soldiers and 14 million civilians whereas the United States suffered 416,000 military deaths only 2,000 civilian deaths. The world owes the Soviet Union a profound debt for being the primary force to pay the price to defeat Hitler.

The United States violated every concept of international “law” and human rights by dropping a nuclear bomb on Japanese civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 7, 1945 the U.S. dropped nuclear weapons, The Atom Bomb, on Japanese civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They killed more than 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 80,000 in Nagasaki; roughly half of the deaths in each city occurred on the first day in which people were incinerated instantly and virtually all of them were “civilian non-combatants.” And that does not count the long term cancer deaths of those exposed to the massive radiation. And yet, a study of his horrific act indicates it was not really used to defeat the Japanese as much as to terrorize the Soviet Union since Japan was ready to surrender. And even if

Japan had not yet been ready to surrender the use of atomic weapons against civilians is not an acceptable “act of war” —and a massive violation of international and human rights treaties principles none of which constrain U.S. military actions—as the Indigenous, Vietnamese, Iraqis and so many other can testify.

U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower opposed using the bomb, “It wasn’t necessary to hit them (Japan) with that awful thing.’ knowing full well the Japanese were ready to surrender. Historical accounts indicate that the United States and U.S. President Harry Truman already saw the communist Soviet Union not the Japanese as their main enemy even though the war was still going on against Japan. They withheld all nuclear information from the Soviets and did not want the Soviet Union to come into the war against Japan because they feared Soviet influence in Asia after the war. Truman, and many other Democratic anti-communists, also wanted to terrorize the Soviet Union because they feared Soviet influence in Europe.

When they learned of the U.S. nuclear attack on Japan, and the Soviets were not informed, Stalin and the Soviet leadership were in shock and massively depressed. They saw this as a provocation against the Soviet Union, which of course it was—an effort to get Japan to surrender before the Soviets became involved in the war, and to terrorize the Soviets in negotiations over Eastern Europe where, yes, the Soviets wanted pro-Soviet governments to protect them from a third German initiated and U.S. conciliated world war.

Gar Alperovitz’ book *Atomic Diplomacy* goes into brutal detail about the cynical calculations of U.S. decision-makers who saw the Atom Bomb as a weapon against the Soviet Union. The masses of Soviet people, already traumatized by the murderous German invasion, were truly terrified of a U.S. nuclear attack—which of course was exactly what the U.S. ruling circles, Harry Truman, Averell Harriman, Henry Stinson and all Cold war Democrats wanted to accomplish.

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

Testing Interstate Terms of Service Sector Growth

Sikka, Pooja*

[Service sector has emerged as the largest and fastest-growing sector globally in the last two decades. In line with this global trend, the services sector in India has also been witness to rapid growth, especially since the 1990s (Shingal, 2014). The services sector has been performing much better than agriculture and industry in India and in many other developing countries as well. The service sector contributes about half of the world GDP. Developed economics are predominantly service economies and generate over 60 percent of the total employment. Services sector assume special importance for developing countries too.]

Services like banking, communication, transportation etc. provide infrastructure services to the entire economy. In the low income economies, services contribute more than one third of the GDP. The share of the services in India's GDP increased from 38.04 percent in 1980-81 to 41 percent in 1991 then the share increased to 66.1 percent in 2015-16 (GOI, 2016).

According to standard literature, services experience an accelerated growth only after a certain level of development in agriculture and then in industry. As economy progresses the share of the primary sector decreases and that of the secondary sector increases. After industrialization gathers momentum, the secondary sector becomes the dominant sector in the economy. It is only at a later stage when the economy attains a fairly high level of development, typically when it becomes a middle income country that the tertiary sector overtakes the secondary sector economy.

In this regard, the Indian experience is somewhat different. The pattern of structural changes which are noticed in India deviated from the development pattern of other Western economies. According to Kuznets, Western economies experienced a stage by stage shift from primary to secondary and from secondary to tertiary in their advanced stage of development but in India

this trend is not visible. Even today India cannot be considered as an industrially developed economy. In India, at aggregate level, and also at the regional level, the tertiary sector became the largest sector even before the secondary sector can dominate the economy (Bhattacharya and Mitra, 1990).

In most states, the share of the service sector now exceeds 50 percent of SDP. During the last three decades, the service sector has grown on an average by 8 to 9 per cent per annum in many states, notably Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The pattern of growth across states has always remained as a subject of interest both to academics as well as policy makers. The existence of wide inter-regional variations in a vast country like India is well recognized. Regional disparity in India is now a matter of serious concern. Reducing such disparities is essential for the success of a federal structure. This has been really an important challenge in India.

Transition of India from an agrarian economy to an economy dominated by service sector, thereby bypassing the stage of a developed industrial economy, is increasing economic inequalities. The economic performance of different regions in India has been extremely different over the past few decades which have resulted in higher level of regional disparities. There is a rich literature using regional data to test whether

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growth in regions within India has converged or diverged over time. All these studies, however, look at the performance of services at the national level. There is not much literature exploring the services sector at the sub-national or state level in India.

In this paper an attempt has been made to bridge this gap in research by employing standard growth regressions from the convergence literature. The present paper explores the role of service sector growth in widening or narrowing income inequalities across Indian states. The whole paper revolves around examining the question of how far service sector growth is responsible in widening disparities across Indian states and whether or not in the time to come states will converge or diverge with respect to their domestic products. Therefore, the sole objective of the present paper here is to see whether there is any possibility of convergence or divergence across Indian states in terms of service sector growth during the study period.

The scope of analysis in this study is restricted to a comparative analysis of the trends in service sector growth across fourteen major and most populous States. The fourteen States taken up for the detailed study are ; Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The included states have a combined population accounting for more than 90 per cent of India's population. Also the area covered by these states is 2.7 million sq. km., accounting for 83 per cent of India's total land area (Sachs, Bajpai and Ramiah, 2002).

The study is primarily dependent on secondary data sources. The main data source used in this article comes from CSO (Central Statistical Organisation) and official website of Reserve Bank of India. The study covers the period from 2004-05 to 2014-15. The organisation of the paper follows as: Section I is the introduction itself. Section II gives a theoretical base for carrying out convergence test. In section III convergence hypothesis is tested by carrying out

test related to beta convergence. Section III examines the possibility of convergence in inequality by applying test for sigma convergence. Lastly section IV concludes the whole empirical exercises carried out in section III and section IV.

II

Issue of Convergence or Divergence: Theoretical Base

The topic of convergence is at the heart of a wide-ranging debate in the growth literature. Empirical studies of convergence differ widely in their theoretical backgrounds, empirical specifications and in their treatment of cross-sectional heterogeneity. A key economic issue is whether poor countries or regions tend to grow faster than rich ones and are there automatic forces that lead to convergence over time in the levels of per capita income and product? The income convergence hypothesis derives from neo classical economic growth model state that because of diminishing return to capital, the further away an economy is from its steady state level of capital, the faster will be the growth of capital and income levels (Barro and Sara-i-Martin, 1992).

In neoclassical growth models for closed economies, as presented by Ramsey (1928), Solow (1956), Cass (1965), and Koopmans (1965), the per capita growth rate tends to be inversely related to the starting level of income per person. In particular, if economies are similar in respect to preferences and technology, then poor economies grow faster than rich ones. Thus there is a force that promotes convergence in levels of per capita product and income (Barro and Sara-i-Martin, 1990).

One can distinguish between two types of convergence in growth empirics: Beta convergence and Sigma convergence. When the dispersion of real per capita income across a group of economies falls over time, there is sigma convergence. When the partial correlation between growth in income over time and its initial level is negative, there is beta convergence. Typically, the existence of convergence is tested

by running so-called Barro (1991) regressions which involve regressing of the growth in per capita GDP on its initial level for a given cross-section of countries or regions within countries. According to this methodology, convergence in the unconditional sense is implied if the coefficient on initial per capita GDP is negative and statistically significant.

III

Test of Beta Convergence across Indian States: Growth of Service Sector

By the “convergence literature,” economists typically refer to the large literature, exploring $\hat{\alpha}$ convergence, contributed by the seminal papers of Barro and Sala-i-Martin. This literature has investigated the convergence process using growth regressions, with the level of initial income as the pivotal explanatory variable. A negative correlation between growth and initial income implies a tendency for poor regions to catch up (Baumol, 1986). The convergence

concept associated with these regressions is known as $\hat{\alpha}$ convergence.

Following the work of Barro and Sala-i-Martin (1991), there has been a plethora of empirical studies concerned with investigating the common speed at which economies converge towards their own steady-states. A general finding of these international and regional studies has been that $\hat{\alpha}$ convergence is about 2 per cent annually (Sala-i-Martin, 1996).

Now next concern is to test for convergence across fourteen major Indian states. This exercise has been performed by calculation of state wise annual average trend growth rate of per capita services based on both GSDP and NSDP data (Table:1). Then these growth rates have been regressed on the initial values of per capita Services. The result of this regression and the corresponding scatter are shown in Table 2 (equation (i) and (ii)) and Figure 1 and 2.

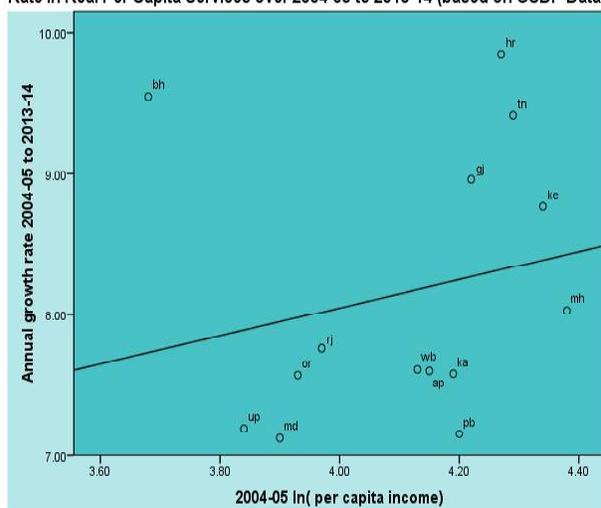
Table:1 State-wise Annual Rates of Growth of Per Capita Services for the period 2004-05 to 2013-14

STATES	Annual average growth rate 2004-05 to 2013-14	Annual average growth rate 2004-05 to 2013-14
Andhra Pradesh	7.60	7.20
Bihar	9.55	9.72
Gujarat	8.96	9.13
Haryana	9.85	9.92
Karnataka	7.58	7.42
Kerala	8.77	8.69
Madhya Pradesh	7.12	7.11
Maharashtra	8.03	7.95
Orissa	7.57	7.53
Punjab	7.15	6.94
Rajasthan	7.76	7.62
Tamil Nadu	9.42	9.42
Uttar Pradesh	7.19	7.05
West Bengal	7.61	7.56

Source: Author’s Calculations based on CSO data

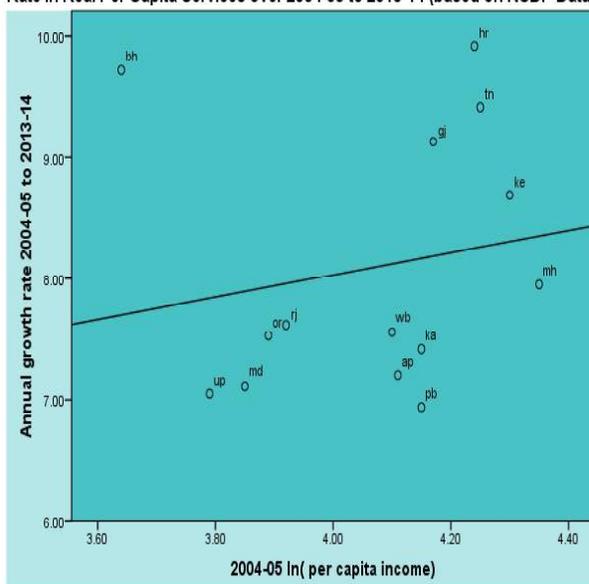
Figure: 1

Real Per Capita Services by States in 2004-05 log and Annual Average Growth Rate in Real Per Capita Services over 2004-05 to 2013-14 (based on GSDP Data)



Source: Author's Calculations based on CSO data
Figure: 2

Real Per Capita Services by States in 2004-05 log and Annual Average Growth Rate in Real Per Capita Services over 2004-05 to 2013-14 (based on NSDP Data)



Source: Author's Calculations based on CSO data

Table 2: Estimated Linear Regression of Growth Rates of Per capita services of State on their respective Initial per capita Services

Equation No.	Dependent Variable	Intercept	Initial value of per capita services
i.	Estimated trend growth rate of (based on GSDP data)	4.062 (0.764)	0.217 (0.771)
ii.	Estimated trend growth rate of (based on NSDP data)	4.378 (0.757)	0.182 (0.642)

Source: Author's Computation based on CSO (Central Statistical. Organisation) data

Note: (i) Figures in parenthesis are t-ratios of the estimate

(ii)* means significant at 5 per cent level of Significance

It is clear from the glance at scatter plots that, there is absolutely no sign of $\hat{\alpha}$ convergence. States are in fact diverging with respect to their per capita services. The coefficients of the indices of initial per capita income are positive in both set of data (GSDP and NSDP) and non-significant. Undoubtedly, poor regions (e.g., Bihar) grew faster than rich ones but this did not lead to convergence over time in the levels of per capita services.

IV

Test of Sigma Convergence across Indian States Vis a Vis Growth of Service Sector

Another important measure of convergence is Sigma convergence. When the dispersion of real per capita income across a group of economies falls over time, there is σ convergence. Sigma convergence is usually measured by the standard deviation of per capita income or output for regions over time. A persistent decline in the annual standard deviation indicates sigma convergence.

In convergence literature, Friedman (1992) and Quah (1993) have argued that *sigma* convergence is the only valid measure of convergence because beta convergence test are subject to Galton's

fallacy of regression to mean. Barro and Sala-i-Martin (1991) tested for sigma convergence from 1880 to 1988 using state per capita income data. Their result supports sigma convergence for the U.S. economy throughout the study period except the 1920s and 1980s.

In the present study, coefficient of variation of per capita services were calculated at 2004-05 prices across states for each year based on both GSDP & NSDP data (Table 3). Then a linear time trend over the series of CV was fitted. The striking result that emerges here is that the trend

of the CV is increasing. Moreover the increase in CV is more by using NSDP data. The CV (based on GSDP data) increased from 42.04 in 2004-05 to 46.67 in 2013-13 (Figure 3). By using NSDP data, CV has increased from 42.53 to 47.50 (Figure 4). In both the equations time coefficient is positive. It can be inferred, therefore, that for the period under study, the Indian states do not exhibit sigma convergence also. In fact Indian states have diverged in terms of per capita real services over the study period under consideration.

Table: 3 Coefficient of variation for Per capita services at 2004-05 prices across states (based on both GSDP & NSDP data)

Years	Coefficient of variation Based on per capita gross services	Coefficient of variation Based on per capita net services
2004-05	42.04	42.53
2005-06	44.04	44.70
2006-07	45.14	45.86
2007-08	46.09	46.80
2008-09	45.57	46.23
2009-10	46.57	47.37
2010-11	46.33	47.01
2011-12	46.52	47.27
2012-13	46.28	47.04
2013-14	46.67	47.50

Source: Author's Calculations based on CSO Data

Table 4: Estimated Linear Trend Equations for Per capita Services of States for the period 2004-05 to 2013-14

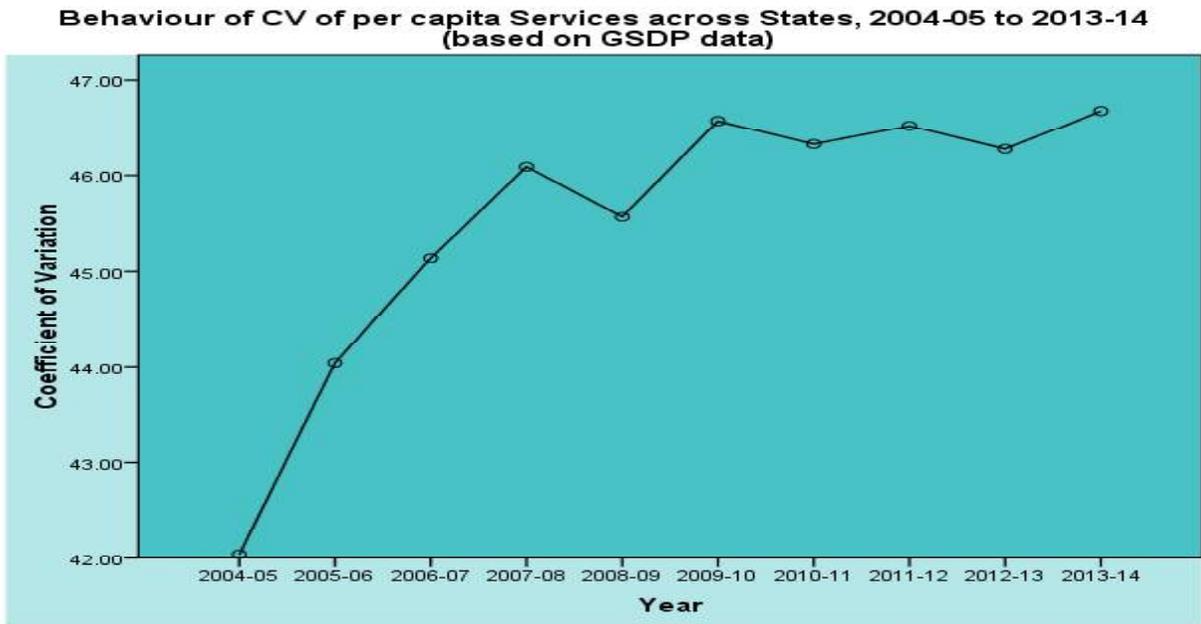
Equation No.	Dependent Variable	Intercept	Coefficient of Time	R2
(i)	CV of State's per capita Services(based on GSDP data)	43.326 (71.795)	0.824* (4.111)	0.679
(ii)	CV of State's per capita Services(based on NSDP data)	43.900 69.034	.825* 4.135	0.681

Source: Author's Computation based on CSO (Central Statistical Organisation) data

(ii)* means significant at 5 per cent level of Significance

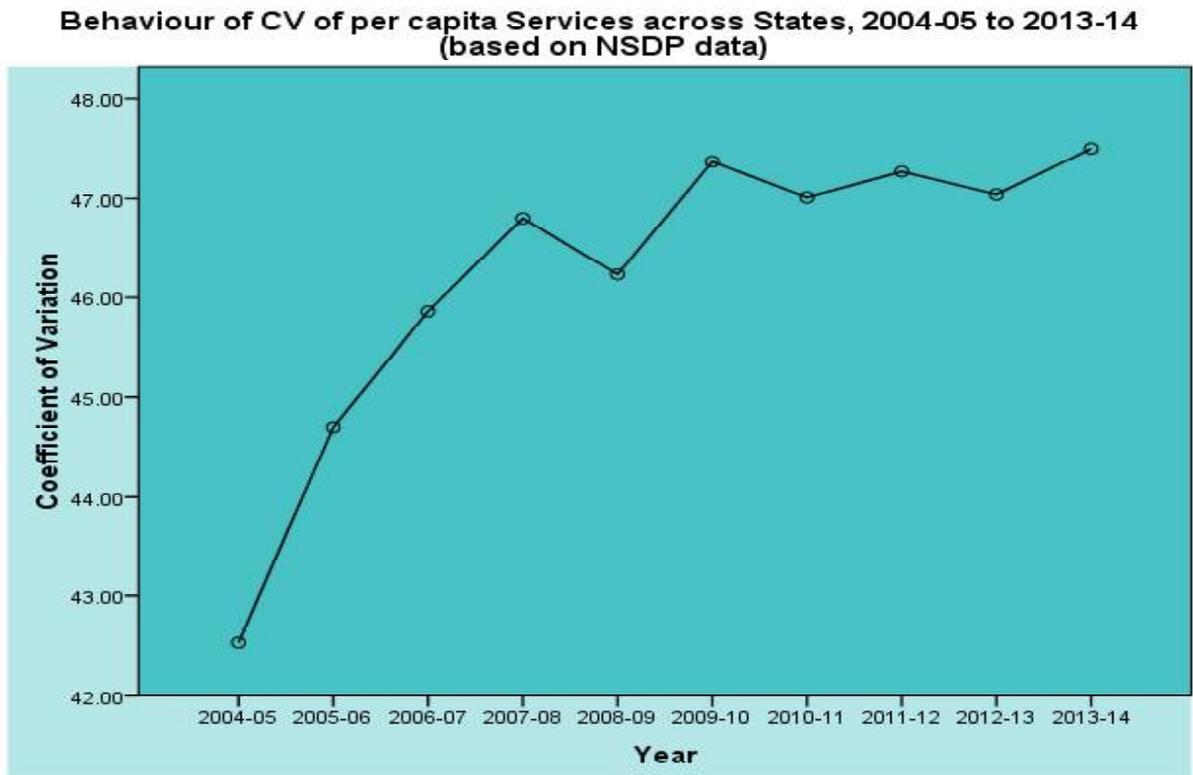
Note: (i) Figures in parenthesis are t-ratios of the estimate

Figure: 3



Source: Author's Calculations based on CSO data

Figure: 4



Concluding Remarks

The primary focus of this paper was to ascertain about how far service sector growth is responsible in widening disparities across Indian states and whether or not in the time to come states will converge or diverge with respect to their domestic products from services. The findings clearly state that there is absolutely no sign of convergence. In fact Indian states have diverged in terms of per capita real services over the study period under consideration. The coefficients of the indices of initial per capita income are positive in both set of data (GSDP and NSDP). Indian states do not exhibit sigma convergence also. The dispersion of real per capita services across Indian states has increased over time. Hence the Indian states are diverging with respect to their service sector growth leading to increase in regional disparities.

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& Please check up grammatical & typographical mistakes before sending. Editor will not be responsible for these lapses.

& Editor reserves the right to reject/ modify / edit an article without assigning any reason.

Demagogy of the media: information or manipulation

Prof. Dr. Sabahudin Hadžialić*

[Demagogy of the media is gaining prominence within the virtual perceptual reality of social networks on WWW as information and / or manipulation with the goal of realizing individual and / or group interests. The social networks which we are using online for information and / or communication are both the message and the medium. We use it as a classic medium for transmitting, sublimating, creating information with existent feed-back of identical, similar or contradictory intents. The way of presenting of us within this media is a kind of message about the sop intent of the opposing ones but also of those who “follow, read, communicate with us”.]

If social networks are used for online journalism, we allow far more people access in a difference from ‘classic journalism’ and at the same time we have the possibility, through the aforementioned *many to many* thesis, that at the time of creation, we have a commentary on the social networks as well as a kind of marketing of our own messages and of our media. Let’s start from the fact that *information is power and who controls information controls all human immediate activities aimed at sustainability and advancement*.

That is why social networks are not only a unique example of unification of information, but also of power within a media that has a “social” prefix. Is that right? Perhaps it is a “social” but “controlled social” medium. On social networks are close to two billion users of planet Earth, sitting in their homes, talking online, reading news online, watching video and movie records, negotiating, falling in love, wrangle, bully, inviting for the protests, calling for government decay or activating, as a control, by the side of governments towards their own citizens.

Do we live the virtual world of real social communication with the goal of comprehensive information of our own being, or does that real world of virtual social communication create us as part of the binary code of our own thinking?

The aim of the paper is to define the role of social networks (<https://ba.linkedin.com/in/sabahudin-hadzialic-3b486b1a> and / or <https://twitter.com/sabi1960?lang=en> and / or <https://www.facebook.com/sabahudin.hadzialic>) on the WWW within the assumption of whether there is any information or manipulation in the reflection of demagogy of the media in virtual perceptual reality:

- a. In order to explain the “and / or” the possibility that the media itself is the source of information and / or manipulation to confirm the thesis that “Conspiracy theories do not exist, but it works.” (Hadžialić, Sabahudin, 2010).
- b. In order to establish the fact that even the most sincere ideas for advancing the existence of mankind can become their own opposite (Oppenheim, Robert, 1947) with the aim of manipulating the sequence of events that ultimately leads to control of thoughts and actions.
- c. In order to detect hidden agendas within the use of information collected from social networks, they are analyzed and manipulated by governing structures with a focus on controlling possible future actions of their own citizens (NSA, 2013).
- d. In order to deal with the problem of everyday “bombardment” with excessive and unnecessary flash information that condition certain reactions with the aim of manipulating our consciousness in the direction of assumed intentions in the model and the state of

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something called *social networks* as the assumption of total and / or mad/insane (Maciedo, Mladen, 2013) awareness that, through the social networks, tell us about the end of history we know.

- e. In order to find solutions that in the modern Agora (a central public space in ancient Greek city-states), that could appropriately become the use of social networks, to create preconditions that, avoiding manipulation, we create the possibility of mutual information with the aim of improving everyone's prosperity with the goal *everyone for one and one for everyone*. No matter how utopian it sounded "Avelange was the snowflake at the beginning" (Hadžialic, Sabahudin 2009) in the space and time where manipulation is the subject of all sorts of information we know, even when we talk about online journalism.
- f. In order to present the potential *positive* role of social networks on the WWW with the aim of realizing *the promise of the Internet*, that his/her full incarnation as the individual will be experienced as immediate, at the same time as the creator, participant but also the perpetrator of this/her own guidelines presented on social networks. However, at the level of *communication theory*, "it complains that the political public on the Internet substantially promotes its privatization, because the individual can use the possibilities again only as an individual and thus avoids the effects of filtering that are coming from the representative public and communication among the present ones". (Mayer, Thomas, 2003).

Pro et contra of the observation of theoretical framework

The attractiveness of direct/immediate and *many-to-many* communications includes its *pro*, but also *cons* observations. Namely, within social networking, with the advantages (which are sometimes also flaws, depending on the way of use) that are reflected in:

- a. instant, momentary communication of all with everyone

- b. the infinite ability to store information in the unit of time
- c. shaping the desired information without (it is only possible afterwards in the case of obscenities, hatred, racial and gender prejudices, etc. ...) censor control (Rääbus, Carol, 2017)
- d. photos, videos, texts, comments, responses generated by our wishes and the freedom of communication
- e. exchange of information with the aim of improving their own knowledge
- f. ... in front of us lays down the same, if not even the bigger form of flaws (which often become the advantages, depending on the mode of use) that are reflected in:
 - 1. manipulation of information through lies, deception, shalf-truths, propaganda within created groups, individual interests, and targeted topics
 - 2. testing and directing (read: manipulating) public opinion for the needs of certain politicians (Markandey, Virat, 2012), group (Keller, Jared, 2010) and / or marketing products (DeMers, Jayson, 2014) through seemingly simple, "innocent and naive" communication panels/riddles.

Demagogy of the media - testing of the assumptions

Demagogy of the media within the virtual perceptual reality of social networks on the WWW as information and / or manipulation with the goal of realizing individual and / or group interests is interestingly starting axiom of possible perceptual responses.

Namely, it contains within itself a multitude of assumed modalities (models, above all) of comprehensive, possible "truth" (Dependent on from which angle is viewed - or from which ideological-religious-social aspects we are focusing our analysis), depending on the current (read - daily-political), but ultimate (the one who proves much, nothing proves) truth we strive for.

Let us go *in medias res* - from the point of view that *the medium is the message* (McLuhan, Marshall, 1967) and in which way we can view social networks within the form of Makluan's assumptions? The social networks we use online for information and / or communication are both the message and the medium.

How?

First, we use it as a classic medium for transmitting, sublimating, creating information with existent feed-backs of identical, similar or contradictory intents/purposes.

Secondly, the way we present it on the media is a kind of message about the intentional intent/purpose of the opposed ones, but also the ones who thinks like us and who are "following, reading, communicating with us".

Thirdly, if we use social networks for online journalism, we allow far more people to access information as opposed to "classical" (old school) journalism and at the same time we have the possibility, through the above-mentioned thesis *many to many*, that we have, at the time of creation - over the social networks, comment, but also a kind of marketing of our own messages and our media.

It is a simple fact that human always has at all times *a desire to success*. Success can be seen both from the point of view of the individual benefit and also as the achievement that goes hand in hand with the success of the community in relationship with the survival of its development and prosperity. Oriented towards prosperity. How do you find within all of it the interest within social networks? In the question is always, as usually it is, the answer: in every society, created on the system of an *equitable* social treaty (the Constitution of a country), the goal is to enable a fair distribution of the intentions, possibilities and goals of every individual, but also of the group within the society (Metcalf, Stephen, 2017) with the intention of making and doing good, if we start from this axiom-assumption.

I will retain within it the desire that we should try, no matter how naively it looks like, to unmask

the manipulation of information on social networks by creating the prerequisites for communication susceptible to the people as identities of the communication rather than identities of consumerism (either product, service and / or ideology of all forms) and within social networks itself (Spinetti, Luana, 2016).

At the very beginning of the discussion about the set up hypothesis we should start with the problem of legal regulation of the Internet as a *network of all networks* worldwide which (legally, of course) can be intuitively deliberately wrongly sanctioned to satisfy the interests of an individual, group, state and / or corporation *per se* (Chivers, Tom, 2009). Let's start from the fact that *information is power and who controls information controls all human immediate activities aimed towards sustainability and advancement*. That is why social networks are a unique example of unification of information, but also of power within a media that has a "social" prefix. Is that right? Perhaps it is a "social" but "controlled social" medium.

Let us outline and explain mentioned with the methodological, clear and concrete examples of practice, but first of all we should bring closer, *in general*, the use of the Internet in 2017. (3.77 billion users): The top five WWW browsers (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Opera) cover 98% of the online community, while only 2% of the other web browsers belongs to the online community, that, even within the use of social networking, creates a problem:

- a. Who controls those browsers and pages you visit within social networks (Edwards, Jim, 2016)
- b. How is designed (which information from our *surfing* collects and to whom it is delivered to)
- c. To whom social networking information is provided to (Slade, Hollie, 2014) and how (Bort, Julie, 2016).

Graph. 1.

(global desktop web browser market share statcounter 2017 - <http://gs.statcounter.com/>)



And we come to numbers that exceed all expectations of the normal (only for someone who does not understand the meaning of communication through the network) understandings within the assumptions of communication:

E-mail

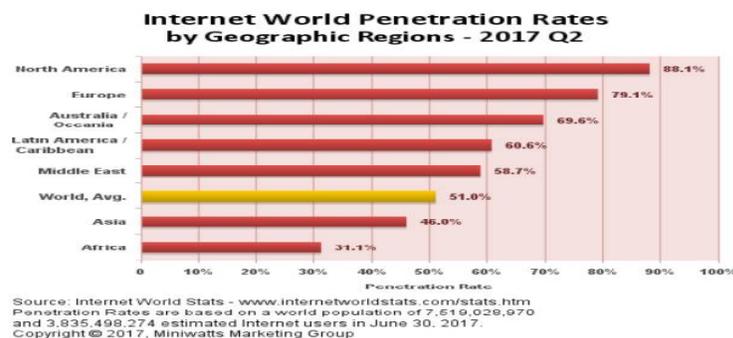
- 3.7 billion email users around the world will be up until the end of 2017. (Tschabitscher, Heinz, 2017);
- 205 billion email messages will be exchanged each day by the end of 2017. (Tschabitscher, Heinz, 2017);

Websites and Web Hosting (Hosting Facts, 2017)

- 43% of the most visited million pages are based in the United States;
- 58.8% of the most visited blogs are based on WordPress;
- There are even 363.3 million Tumblr blogs.

Graph. 2.

(<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>)



Domains (Verisign, 2017)

- There are 329.3 million domains registered;
- The most expensive domain (sex.com) in 2010 was sold for as much as \$ 13 million.

Internet users

- There are as many as 3.85 billion Internet users in the world;
- Of this, 1.9 billion comes from Asia;
- 650 million people access Internet from Europe;
- The country with the largest number of internet users in the world is China, which accounts for nearly 700 million.

Social networks (Zephoria, 2017) and (Greenwood, Shannon, Perrin Andres and Duggan, Maeve (2016)

- The number of active Facebook users in August 2017 is 2.1 billion;
- Facebook users are 76% female (out of 100% of all females) and 66% male (out of 100% of all males).
- The average age of a Facebook user is 40 years;
- Every day it sends 175 million Tweets;
- LinkedIn counts as many as 500 million users (Darrow, Barb, 2017);
- Google+ uses 111 million active users (Wikipedia, 2017).

Graph. 3.

(<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>)

WORLD INTERNET USAGE AND POPULATION STATISTICS JUNE 30, 2017 - Update						
World Regions	Population (2017 Est.)	Population % of World	Internet Users 30 June 2017	Penetration Rate (% Pop.)	Growth 2000-2017	Internet Users %
Africa	1,246,504,865	16.6 %	388,104,452	31.1 %	8,497.0%	10.1 %
Asia	4,148,177,672	55.2 %	1,909,408,707	46.0 %	1,570.5%	49.8 %
Europe	822,710,362	10.9 %	650,558,113	79.1 %	519.0%	17.0 %
Latin America / Caribbean	647,604,645	8.6 %	392,215,155	60.6 %	2,070.7%	10.2 %
Middle East	250,327,574	3.3 %	146,972,123	58.7 %	4,374.3%	3.8 %
North America	363,224,006	4.8 %	320,059,368	88.1 %	196.1%	8.3 %
Oceania / Australia	40,479,846	0.5 %	28,180,356	69.6 %	269.8%	0.7 %
WORLD TOTAL	7,519,028,970	100.0 %	3,835,498,274	51.0 %	962.5%	100.0 %

NOTES: (1) Internet Usage and World Population Statistics updated as of June 30, 2017. (2) CLICK on each world region name for detailed regional usage information. (3) Demographic (Population) numbers are based on data from the [United Nations Population Division](#). (4) Internet usage information comes from data published by [Nielsen Online](#), by ITU, the [International Telecommunications Union](#), by [GfK](#), by local ICT Regulators and other reliable sources. (5) For definitions, navigation help and disclaimers, please refer to the [Website Surfing Guide](#). (6) Information from this site may be cited, giving the due credit and placing a link back to www.internetworldstats.com. Copyright © 2017, Miniwatts Marketing Group. All rights reserved worldwide.

Mobile

- Over 5 billion mobile phone users around the world;
- 44% of the world's population will have a smartphone by the end of 2017. (Sui, Linda, 2017)

And now we come to the methodological-logical sequence of human survival, where in the center of human's experience of the world and of himself/herself as one of the most important questions the question is raised the question of freedom (From, Erich, 1994). Freedom is linked to the existential question about the overcoming of each immediate challenge and the opposition to every misunderstanding, degradation and / or destruction during the course of civilization development (is it? – in the last 100 years has been killed more people then in the past 2000 years). Of course, this is, even in details, concretized in the field of personal, social space of the individual, even in the social network. How?

We put a few simple questions aimed at understanding the real and the unreal, within the manipulation of human peculiarities.

On the social networks are more than two billion users from the planet Earth who are sitting in their homes, talking online, reading news online, watching video and movie records, negotiating, falling in love, wrangle, arguing, inviting protests (Taylor, Chris, 2011), call for devastation of the governments (Radio Free Europe, 2013) or control by governments towards their own citizens (Otta, Evelien, Rousseau, Ronald, 2002).

So, the question is how close is the real and unreal interaction, and how thin is the line between *genius and madman*, when it comes exploitation and the (mis)use of social networks?

Do we live the virtual world of real social communication with the goal of comprehensive information of our own being, or does that real world of virtual social communication create us as part of the binary code of our own thinking?

The message as the medium of socialization - the medium as the socialization message

Answers to these methodological questions are not hidden in the cheaply way of everyday life transferred into the virtual world of legitimate constants, but in the media itself or in the

message, depending on whose follower are we of the possible media intentions. Namely, the answers are hidden in something entirely different but different. I'm going to be blasphemous, brutally-painfully different: Variable, or, in other words, changeable, in this case, is the message, but also the media that change depending on the perception / recognition mode by the side of communicator but also by the side of the consumer of information. Example: A Facebook message with a photo where you are in a company with a well-known poet and / or journalist can be differently read by your virtual, but also real (who are that in the real world) friends depending on their social, psychological, gender and / or voyeuristic profile (Grainger, Charlotte, 2017).

That is how everything will be read in social networks. Given that we should not omit the most basic assumption that is aimed at understanding of this kind of communication: *the goal is to recruit someone for something*. Whether it is respect, product, and / or service depends on the way of presentation as well as depends on the way how to formulate the possible information. But we have to be careful not to overdrive in anything. Even in something as banal/cheaply as it is advertising, to avoid happening, as it was claimed by THE GUARDIAN (Sir Martin Sorrell, 2012) as he is not convinced, that FACEBOOK will succeed as a good advertising medium.

Yes, I might agree with the above because, on one side, we have a social network that focuses on information and communication, but also *vice versa* on the one hand, and on the other hand someone wants to turn it into *an advertising*

medium. Still, realistically speaking, even if we agree with the above mentioned, do today, as communication is all within the study of the media, and is that all is advertising, or advert, regardless if to do it on the social and / or business binary way? Yes, I think that we can keep on one and the other as interactive forms of identical intents/purposes. Regardless if we would like to shape it as basic communication or something else. The only problem is if it happens to us as with the photo that is in front of you. And where do not you know if *you're up or down*.

Photo 1. (what is reality?)

(Photo by Erik Johansson: <http://hypenotice.com/artwork/photo-manipulations-by-erik-johansson/11/>)



The fact that FACEBOOK as a social network has really created the preconditions for becoming a medium of the socialization message, but the message of socialization of the media as well, however, leads us into doubts if we perform a comparative analysis of the *journalistic stigma*, which is, in this case, realized *through online journalism on social networks*. What are we facing?

Table 1. - (online journalism on social networks) - In general vs. In particular

Online Journalism in General (Craig, Richard 2005)	Journalism On Social Networks In Particular
The online audience of the news, in many respects, looks more like the audience of specialized cable channels than on a radio or TV audience	The online social media audience is already in the fact that it is able to cover literary all all in a favor/ advantage of classical online journalism for which we need to focus on a particular link - in this case, on the posts are lines to everyone, for all, and everywhere

Online news creates a team (journalist, web designer, editorial board). Understandably, susceptible accurately (depending on the respect of the basic postulates of the journalist profession - ethics, codex and morals).	News on social networks creates an individual / group and there is on respect for the basic postulates of the journalistic profession (ethics, codex, morality) but only indications of future constraints and warnings, and we know that after the execution of some (evil) act and/or crime it is difficult to correct the curved river.
Informing at the moment of the event happening with the possibility of placing live content (video, audio, photo)	Informing at the moment of the event with the possibility of placing live content (video, audio, the “catch 22”? In the fact that information depends one whether an educated journalist or uneducated manipulator placed the information on social network - an individual / group with an aim of focusing the public on a particular topic or news.
Interactivity of presented contents at the placing of the information. Recognizing quality and reactions to it.	Interactivity of presented contents at the time of placing of the information. The problem with (journalism on social networks lays within the fact that “it’s not hard to write, it’s hard to know how to write” (Hadžialić, Sabahudin, 2010)
Creative thinking (improvement of the ways of news reporting)	Creative and recreational thinking (improvement, but also so-called relaxing, recreational journalism one to many and many to one)
Focus on informing of the targeted audience	Focus on informing of the targeted audience, but also intermittent hitchhikers (who are currently are online and chat with the person who is just reading and / or watching the presented online news) of the news.

Benefits of media presenting or selling news over and through social networks (greater number of users, diversity of readers - levels of education, interests, gender) can often turn into flaws. Targeted? Maybe. Let’s try to explain it methodologically. Yes, the fact

is that socialization or the establishment of more social way of communicating on the Internet got its culmination through social networks, but at the same time presented us a mosaic of various forms of *manipulation a priori and a posteriori*, from the moment of presenting the

Southeast Europe as a modus vivendi of uneducated virtues
Table 2, - (Journalism vs, and so call “Journalism”)

Journalism on Social Networks	So Call “Journalism” on Social Networks
News published via social networks about the removal of the plates with Cyrillic inscriptions from the buildings of state institutions in Vukovar (Croatia), in October 2013 with the purpose of supporting this.	The news is „liked” (the relationship between journalism and yellow journalism on social networks) by a side of one national corps (in this case – Croatians) and “shared” with its own commentary across the FACEBOOK with the aim of unifying as many people as possible who thinks the same as the one who started “sharing” the news.

<p>News published via social networks about the removal of the plates with Cyrillic inscriptions from the buildings of state institutions in Vukovar (Croatia), in October 2013 with the purpose of discrediting the support of the mentioned</p>	<p>The news is „liked” (the relationship between journalism and yellow journalism on social networks) by a side of one national corps (in this case – Serbians) and “shared” with its own commentary across the FACEBOOK with the aim of unifying as many people as possible who thinks the same as the one who started “sharing” the news.</p>
<p>News published via social networks about the removal of the plates with Cyrillic inscriptions from the buildings of state institutions in Vukovar (Croatia), in October 2013 with the purpose of trying to find the solution for the problem.</p>	<p>The news is „liked” (the relationship between journalism and yellow journalism on social networks) by a side of one national corps (in this case – both – Croatsians and Serbians) and “shared” with its own commentary across the FACEBOOK with the aim of unifying as many people as possible who thinks the same as the one who started “sharing” the news.</p>

Regardless of whether we approve the first one, the second one, or the third way of “like” and “share” of the news in the right column of the above-mentioned tables, so call “journalism” is just one step away from classical manipulation of information. How? Instead, to, in the 21st century, we forget the (mis)use of symbols, with the respect of the fundamental respect for minority and related rights, a society is still not faced with catharsis of the sins of the past and cannot expect then division on the stitches of the own survival. In this case we are talking about all the countries created on the territory of the former Yugoslavia where we still have war criminals on one side, and heroes on the other side from the wars from 1990 to 1999 (UN, 2016).

Even when we have a Vukovar case (Coen van den Vinn, 2015) that has really been destroyed in the last war, we cannot afford, even after the generalizing the guilt that comes out of the mouth of the many numbers of manipulators, *uneducated with virtues from this places*, blame the symbols of written prints, *sui generis* epistle. Specifically, when we look at the mentioned table, on the one hand, we have the possibility of total democratic communication, but there is an abyss opening in front of us, in which we have to distinguish the already mentioned axiom of the thin boundary

between the genius and the madman, previously mentioned. Where’s the solution?

Within the understanding of the other and the different one, even in social networks, not only in Vukovar, but also in Srebrenica, Sarajevo, or in Kosovo, with the goal of unifying the aspirations for the conversation aimed at the prosperity of all and not just selected ones. And this can be achieved through the creation of groups for dialogue, compromise and conversation that would not happen to, just as in Vukovar, the same ones who for their own narrow-party interests a few years ago voted for putting on the mentioned Cyrillic plates, while they were on power, and today because of, allegedly, higher national-state interests are promoting their removal.

The complete cathartics in this area will then be (even on social networks) when we are not root for “this or that side” but when, twenty years later, asks the key question: Where is Vukovar today, twenty years later? How do its citizens live, regardless of the names and surnames they wear? The problem with the symbols will always be, and aside of the daily-political needs.

(.....Continued the Next Issue)

Online Threats Women Receive

Dr. Deepa Viswam* & Pooja K Jethwani**

This brief paper aims at creating awareness among citizens on the misuse of the luxury we all enjoy today- The Internet. This paper also throws light on women becoming the target on the social media and as to how their security and their posts are being under scrutiny.

The Popularity/Rise of The Internet

“The birth of the internet has given us the power to connect.” With this most powerful invention, there has been a rise in its used in times of needs and then slowly using it for leisure has become an addiction in our daily lives. ‘The power of click’ can mend or bend our lives.’ The online world has given us a platform to express our feelings, but are people using it constructively?

Has the domination of the Internet led us being insecure- especially women, how secure is women’s safety over the Internet? This seems to be the important question lingering in the minds of all today.

As the world moves from Analog to digital, it is important and apparent that access to information flows for that Media literacy is very important. When the Internet was introduced the access was simple with not many features, just the browsing of information on Google and then the exchange of e-mails but with the latest upgrades and technology seeing a new high, there are various social media platforms to connect to people on a larger scale. With the high innovations there is an equally high threat to our safety, with more rise to popularity there seems to be a chance of higher threat equally, which eventually leads to ‘Online harassment’. Next, we will discuss on the online harassment and how it affects women on a large scale.

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Online Harassment And Women Being The Target

Today with the social media giving us the freedom of expressing thoughts freely, somehow and somewhere still it lacks total security for women, it is a biased medium, when women try to express their feelings, it can be their opinion on a particular subject, they are also ridiculed often. Stalking is also a form of harassment and then women are also threatened, this can lead to a dangerous point where they can also be given death threats.

Stalking, hacking, trolling and writing hurtful comments are all part of the ‘online abuse’ that is very important to be immediately reported and here the person going through all this can be traumatised and it can be dangerous in the future, so do not ignore but report the incident as soon as possible. Nowadays, the hacker can be tracked and action can be taken immediately.

Online harassment is as serious as any other type of violence and should never be ignored. “Online violence is real violence” says Bishakha Datta of Mumbai-based non-profit organization *Point of view*. Online participation limits our participation when in real it should give us the freedom of expression and right to safety and privacy, and one should never ignore the virtual threat. We should realize that it is harmful and immediate action should be taken if we face any such case.

Sometimes the online abuse is just laughed off at, or sometimes women will never be allowed to use the Internet again, if they complain about any such issue and so they decide to keep quiet about the whole matter, but such cases should be voiced out and if one faces such issues, immediate redressal ought to be sought.

Strong women are more likely to face threats because they have an opinion about everything and they are also successful in their respective fields also. There can be symptoms of jealousy among other people and so they try to damage their reputation online, and so when they voice out their opinion on a certain issue they are ridiculed by others who cannot tolerate the women's view.

Use of Language Online

The language used online is 'emotionally explosive' these days and makes an impact on a person, positive or negative and 'watch your words' must be the key when one is posting content online and keep an eye on comments as well.

However, the social media sites have upgraded their sites and recently Instagram automatically removes content if found to be a hate speech, content that targets individuals or anyone trying to hack an individual's private information, mail ids etc. Even Twitter has its policies updated now making it is easy for a person to report any kind of discomfort on the public platform.

Even the writer, before posting content, must see to it that:

1. What he/she is trying to say?
2. What words will express it?
3. Will it be useful after posting it?
4. What effect it will have?

These are some of the ways where one can be safe from trolls and also if the post is sensible, no person will be hurt and hence there will be no spark of debate.

Need for Women Empowerment

The main aim of the Internet is 'freedom of speech' but women are being constantly targeted with the hate speech, increased form of threats can lead to psychological disturbances and cause a trauma in women and can especially affect career-oriented women leading to them being unable to function in their workplace.

We all need to be sure that we are secure and there is need for women empowerment. We can easily keep ourselves updated with the developments, as for the stalkers there is new feature of GPS tracking, where the person harassing online can be easily tracked and all of his further actions can be kept in record and then necessary action can be taken.

Along with that, also regular workshops on 'gender sensitization' should be organized for media personnel, since women from media and journalists are ridiculed often since they have strong opinions for every subject and they can comment on any issue with ease, which does not go well sometimes and becomes a subject of debate and from there it gives rise to 'hate speech'; so these workshops will be useful to make everyone understand how to accept their opinions and will lead to gender justice as well.

Importance of Online Security

The online world should be open and safe for everyone to use. The Internet provides incredible opportunities to exchange and share knowledge and to freely access information, but what about the social platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram... how safe are we? There is a rapid development in these social media platforms, so these have been platforms that are not secret anymore. There is need for privacy since there is no secrecy, so one must be careful. We do have to keep a tab on what do we post and along with that the online companies should also make sure that their sites are safe to use and must keep upgrading their website.

Facebook customizes their privacy and keeps a check every now and then, so that their users feel safe, also their recent safety feature of protecting the profile pictures is a huge hit among users. Also Facebook requests users to immediately report abusive content so that the appropriate action can be taken. Blocking is very easy on social sites and one need not feel afraid to do so.

Conclusion

In a world where we are too privileged to enjoy these luxuries, we should never misuse our

powers and take advantage! As far as the future is concerned there will be different challenges and opportunities. However, there will be more issues which will grow, one can never run away from them but face them and women should fight back and have proper knowledge of the Internet. Let's keep ourselves secure and use it wisely only then we can save ourselves and others from this threat that can occur anytime.

Here are certain suggestions on what action the victim can take:

- Recognize the situation and do not reply back to the bully, it can only make things worse.
- For the proof, take a screenshot and keep it safe with you, also you can copy the URL of the website and keep the link with you, this is a proof of from where the message was sent.
- Contact the website operators immediately, request the websites to take down the information immediately, this will also be a proof when you have to contact the police, as these things can turn worse at any time, where the last resort is contacting the police.
- Also file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3), which is a partnership between the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, they work together to track down serious cases of online criminal complaints.
- Also having the whole issue being discussed with close family members and friends is very important, not on phone but personally informing them about the whole case is very important
- Above all to avoid any unnecessary trouble, it is always better to have proper privacy settings in any of your online forums, also avoid visiting websites that are unknown or clicking into too many links. Also occasionally it is good to take a break from social media
- Do not share too much of personal information online, all these are the necessary precautions one can take when one is bullied online, or

can always keep in mind to escape further problems.

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The Czech Elections in Perspective

Dr. Binoy Kampmark*

The Pirate Party are buccaneering their way into European politics, having found a foothold in the testy soil of Central Europe after colonising, in small measure, various hamlets in Sweden, Germany and Iceland. The Czech Pirates (PPCZ), a term certainly exotic by current political pedigrees, managed to obtain over 10 percent of the vote, a result that gave them a rich harvest of 22 members in the parliamentary elections.

It took nine efforts, but the Czech Pirates had been edging their way onto conspicuous terrain in various local elections, including netting 5.3 percent of the total vote in Prague in 2015. The city of Mariánské Lázně also found itself having a Pirate Mayor after garnering 21 percent of the vote.

Retaining their oppositional colours, the Czech Pirates are insisting on avoiding the muddying nature of coalition talks with the overall winners. (The dangers of compromising collaboration!) Their agenda is one that has become fairly known across its other incarnations: the abolition of internet censorship, the favouring of institutional transparency, and the revision of, amongst other things, punitive copyright laws. But other agenda items form their twenty point program, including improving the lot of teacher salaries and tax reform.

The latter point is particularly appropriate, given the party's experimentation with testing EU laws on the subject of pirate sites through its "Linking is not a Crime" stance. This was sparked, in large part, by attempts by the Czech Anti-Piracy Union

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to target a 16-year-old for that great terror of the regulator: linking to content designated as infringing of copyright law.

Launching several of their own contrarian sites, including Tipnafilmy.cz and Piratskefilmy.cz, the latter carrying some 20,000 links to 5,800 movies, the Czech Pirate Party was overjoyed by the prospect of prosecution. "Our goal is to change the copyright monopoly law so that people are not fined millions for sharing culture with their friends."

As Czech Pirate Party chairman Lukáš Èernohorský said at the time, belligerent and defiant, "Instead of teenagers, copyright industry lobbyists are now dealing with a political party which didn't run the website for money but because of our conviction that linking is not and should not be a crime."

The gains of the party showed a certain mood at work and, as has been the case in much of Europe, proved boisterously, and at stages angrily, anti-establishment.

Check the Polish, Polish the Czech

"Europe's redemption lies in the re-affirmation of the Lisbon Strategy of 2000 (and of Göteborg 2001), a ten-year development plan that focused on innovation, mobility and education, social, economic and environmental renewal. Otherwise a generational warfare will join class and ethnic conflicts as a major dividing line of the EU society in decline." – prof. Anis H. Bajrektarevic warned years ago in his seminal work 'Future of Europe: Of Lisbon and Generational Interval.' But as with other intellectual farsighted voices,

it was largely ignored. Well so, until the recent alarming elections results in central Europe.

Thus, across its own political spectrum the Czechs were clearly showing they can add fuel to a brewing EU political fire, setting matters to rights on the continent while tearing down assumptions. As with any fire, however, the consequences can be searing.

While the Pirates did well, the Freedom and Direct Democracy party (SPD), a strident right wing outfit, nabbed similar numbers from the other side of the spectrum, sporting its own anti-EU, anti-immigrant brand. As its leader, Tomio Okamura, insists, “We want to leave just like Britain and we want a referendum on EU membership.”

Billionaire fertilizer tycoon Andrej Babiš, the sort of oligarchic figure who should always trouble democratic sensibilities, weighed in the elections with some 30 percent of the vote with his ANO party. His version of politics, another confection of anti-politics dressed for disgruntled consumption, reprises that of the businessman turned party leader. The claim made here is common: that the machinery of governance is somehow analogous to running a business.

Traditional parties, foremost amongst them the long performing Social Democrats, with whom Babiš had been in coalition with after gains made in 2013, found themselves pegged back to sixth position in the tally.

The swill stick of politics did not tar Babiš all that much, a figure who has managed to develop

a certain Teflon coating in a manner similar to other billionaire leaders (think Silvio Berlusconi and a certain Donald Trump in the White House). He had become the focus of suspected tax crimes, and lost his job as finance minister. European subsidies, it was claimed, had found their mysterious way into his pocket.

Such suggestions merely touched the tip of a considerable iceberg, one which also consists of allegations of previous employment with the Czechoslovak secret state security service Stb. According to Slovakia’s Institute of National Memory, his code name for collaboration during his espionage stint was Bureš.

The billionaire seemed distinctly unperturbed, and his party’s showing suggested that some water will slide off a duck’s back. “I am happy that Czech citizens did not believe the disinformation campaign against us and expressed their trust in us.” He roundly insisted that his was “a democratic movement” positively pro-European and pro-NATO “and I do not understand why somebody labels us as a threat to democracy.”

These elections, however, will be savoured by a party that promises a fresh airing of a stale political scene, and one not nursing those prejudices that provide all too attractive gristle. Legislation, should it be implemented, may well remove the cobwebbed fears long associated with the Internet. But facing these newly elected figures will be ANO and an invigorated, indignant right-wing of politics, a far from easy proposition.



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Medical Tourism in Hyderabad

M. Vijay Kumar*

[The medical tourism in Hyderabad is a money-minting industry and serves as a magnet for approximately two lakh patients – foreign and domestic – to visit this unbelievable heritage city and enjoy its medicinal blessings of traditional, cultural and peaceful ambience and comfortable weather condition. Hyderabad is full of well-trained, highly qualified and experienced professional doctors. Most of them have earned their professional degrees from foreign countries and they will have been practicing over there for years. It has emerged as a popular destination for the patients from the Middle East, Africa and the CIS countries.]

Hyderabad was visited by three million patients from abroad requiring medical treatment in India in 2015-16. What is called the ‘medical tourism industry’ is probably to grow to 10 million patients by 2019. In Hyderabad, the Apollo Group of Hospitals treated about 1.5 lakh foreign patients. Ten other most important hospitals in the city catered to another 20,000 patients. Dr. H.N. Garg, director of International Indian Wellness and Medical Tourism Association, articulates that, “Apollo Hospitals is the only group that make certain that the patient from the foreign country comes to their hospital. They have been ensured that the patients are not requested to go to other hospitals by brokers, agents or even translators at the airport. Their paper work is diligent, which is very important for these patients. That is one of the reasons they have such sky-scraping figures.”

A greater part of the foreign patients is from Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the United Arab Emirates. The number of patients from the UAE had seen a drop in the past three years, from 1.5 lakh in 2013 to 70,000 in 2015 and 95,000 in 2016. The association had asked all hospitals to pay attention to these patients and focus on the issues of harassment that they face. Dr. P.N. Rao from a corporate hospital says, “Patients from the UAE have relatives or friends here and they balance rates of a variety of hospitals. Sometimes after the

surgery, they are finding that they have been charged more or feel they would have got better treatment elsewhere.”

Patients from Africa and CIS contact the hospital and follow all the modalities and advice given to them. Dr. Garg says many patients come for dental treatment, liver, heart and orthopedic procedures.

Objectives

Following are objectives of this study:

1. To assess the competency of Medical Tourism industry in Hyderabad.
2. To capture the cost-effectiveness of Medical treatment in Hyderabad.
3. To analyze the role of Telangana Government in promoting Medical Tourism and Medical Tourist inflow.
4. To study the role of Government in attracting Pharmaceuticals Industries to promote Medical Tourism.

Methodology

Research methodology will be partly descriptive, partly exploratory and partly analytical. The data and information had been collected with the help of newspapers, books, research articles, and magazines.

Analysis and Discussion

Medical Tourism can be defined as a fruitful medical care, with due consideration to quality in collaboration with tourism industry, for foreign

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patients who need specialized treatment and surgery. The country has witnessed 22-25 per cent growth in medical tourism and healthcare contribution of this industry will double to \$6 billion by 2018 from \$3 billion now.

The Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Culture are working in tandem to increase the figure of medical tourists. The government affords online visas, multiple entries, extensions of stay, and accreditation to more hospitals. Several other measures are underway, according to the Indian Medical Association (IMA). “The government had improved the visa rule to be making it patient-friendly. There is no waiting time for foreign patients at hospitals,” said Radhey Mohan, vice president, international business growth, at Apollo Hospitals.

The chain received 170,000 foreign patients from 87 countries during 2016-17. Medical tourists to Hyderabad frequently inquire about joint-replacement surgeries, heart, liver and bone marrow transplants, spine and brain surgeries, cancer and kidney treatments, and in-vitro-fertilisation (IVF). Patients from Africa and the Middle East access private healthcare in India due to lack of amenities and doctors back home.

Medical tourists from Europe and the US come here for cosmetic surgeries that are not covered by insurance. “We will be do bariatric surgery at \$6,000-8,000, while it costs around \$15,000 in the US. Almost 15-20 per cent of our surgical patients are from other countries,” said Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Saggu, practicing laparoscopic surgeon at Apollo Spectra, New Delhi.

Non-resident Indians, persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and in a foreign country citizens of India (OCIs) prefer to come here for IVF and gynecology treatments. “They spend only 30 per cent of what it costs in the US or UK. Moreover, they have family support here,” said Dr. Kamini Rao, medical director at Milann - the Fertility Centre.

AV Guruva Reddy, managing director of the Hyderabad-based Sunshine Hospitals, said the general standard of hygiene and technology in Indian medical facilities had improved. The number of foreign tourists coming to the country for medical purposes increased 50 per cent to 200,000 in 2016 from 130,000 in 2015. This number is expected to double in 2017 with several new initiatives like easier visas for medical tourists.

Lack of opportunities and poor health infrastructure in their own home town and huge sums incurred on traveling long distances by the native patients result in waste of money, which can be stopped if an initiative in a positive manner is taken by the state level organizations and the Government of Telangana itself.

It has been seen that where international tourists are migrating to Hyderabad for cheaper treatment, domestic patient migration in India is a result of poor health infrastructure in rural areas and small towns. The leading cause for growing importance of medical tourism in Hyderabad is the cost of medical treatment which is comparatively 40% less, than offered by other developed countries and it less than home towns like Bangalore, New Delhi and Chennai.

Table –I: showing Average Expenditure Each Disease in Different Cities.

Comparison of Expenditure for Overview Among Metropolitan Cities

Table –I: Average Expenditure for Each Disease in Different Hospital in Hyderabad

S.No	Name of Disease	Hyderabad	New Delhi	Bangalore	Chennai
1	Basic health checkup	Rs. 2071.00	Rs.2221.00	Rs. 1747.00	Rs. 2000.00
2	Cancer check up	Rs. 5267.00	Rs.2380.00	Rs. 3487.00	Rs. 2525.00
3	Child Health checkup	Rs. 1207.00	Rs. 1540.00	Rs. 945.00	(-)

4	Heart Checkup Cost	Rs. 3973.00	Rs. 5316.00	Rs. 4590.00	Rs. 3240.00
5	Diabetes Checkup Cost	Rs. 2133.00	Rs. 2148.00	Rs. 2391.00	Rs. 2369.00
6	Master Health Checkup Cost	Rs. 2769.00	Rs. 10100.00	Rs.2634.00	Rs. 3083.00
7	Senior Citizen Health Checkup Cost	Rs. 3644.00	Rs. 6807.00	Rs. 3862.00	Rs.3072.00

Source: Medifee.com

This segment of tourism will be increasingly gaining importance and attracting several large corporations, such as pharmaceuticals and industrial companies, and several NRIs and foreign investors to invest money in setting up super-specialty hospitals in Hyderabad such as Apollo, CDR, Mediciti in Hyderabad, Hindujas and Max, Escorts, and Apollo in Delhi etc. These hospitals are well-equipped with those new machineries and technologies, which are required by the medical professionals for serious diseases, and are capable to cater to the needs of aristocrats and as well as of the budgetary class.

A tourist who is coming to enjoy something desired and gets attracted himself in a healthy and pure atmosphere, to learn the art of yoga and meditations, for maintaining their looks by travelling to Cosmetic Surgery Clinics etc., will be considered as a medical tourist. It is not necessary that they should come for any surgery or treatment to be counted as the medical tourist. For example, going to China to get treated of backache with acupuncture and acupressure is the example of former travelling to Kerala for ayurvedic treatment for entire body.

Aarogyasri Scheme in Telangana

Aarogyasri Scheme is a sole Community Health Insurance Scheme being implemented in Telangana from 1st April, 2007. The scheme provides financial protection to families living below poverty line up to Rs. 2 lakh in a year for the treatment of serious ailments requiring hospitalization and surgery. 938 treatments are covered under the scheme.

The main objective of the scheme is to get better access for BPL families to quality medical care for treatment of identified diseases connecting hospitalization, surgeries and therapies through an identified network of healthcare providers. The scheme provides coverage for the systems like Heart, Lung, Liver, Pancreas, Kidney, Neuro-Surgery, Pediatric Congenital Malformations, Burns, Post-Burn Contracture Surgeries for Functional Improvement, Prostheses (Artificial limbs), Cancer treatment (Surgery, Chemo Therapy, Radio Therapy), Polytrauma (including cases covered under MV Act) and Cochlear Implant Surgery with Auditory-Verbal Therapy for Children below 6 years (costs reimbursed by the Trust on case-to-case basis). All the pre-existing cases of the above-mentioned diseases are covered under the scheme. Now cardiac replacement surgery has been recently started in aarogyasri scheme by Telangana government.

Rural population of state, greater part of which are farmers, is not having access to advanced medical treatments and are silent sufferers of ill-health. This is true in case of diseases related to heart, kidney, brain, cancer and injuries due to domestic accidents and burns. While the Government is in the procedure of adequately strengthening the health institutions for basic healthcare, lack of specialist doctors and equipment for treatment of serious diseases have created a wide gap between the disease load and the capacity of the Government hospitals to serve be the poor.

These facilities, though available in corporate sector, are catering mainly to the affordable sections of society and are beyond the reach of poor families living in villages. Because of this

gap poor patients are constrained to go to private hospitals for treatment and in the process, sustain huge debts leading to sale of properties and assets or are, sometimes, left eventually to die.

Medical Device Park Hyderabad

Foundation stone has been laid down for first of its kind Medical Devices Park at Sultanpur in Sanga Reddy district. IT and Industries Minister, KT Rama Rao, has said that Hyderabad will soon become a Medical Hub in the country. Launching the new medical devices park is a good step as it will give sufficient scope for employment for local talent and get more recognition to the city in future.

Being developed in 250-acre in first phase, the park can accommodate about 1000 production companies in the premises. The production of medical devices locally will bring down the health expenditure for the people; he said adding that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is of the opinion that high end technology is useless if it is not useful for the people.

The Government will hold talks with the investors and companies for roping them into the new medical devices park for providing jobs to the local talent, he said. Though 35 per cent of vaccines being produced in the country are from Hyderabad, we are largely relying on other nations for importing about 75 per cent of medical devices, he felt. However, this problem will not continue with the launching of the new facility, KTR stated. Telangana Government has inked a deal with China Medical City and Korea Medical Devices Park, he disclosed. In the three years of formation, Telangana has been witnessing fast development and rapid growth with statehood spirit.

Pharmaceutical Hub

The market for pharmaceuticals in India has a physically powerful potential for increased growth, from 2008 right through to 2023. Within that environment, Hyderabad is becoming an increasingly important hub for pharmaceutical

manufacturers look to distribute drugs and biotech goods worldwide. To discover out more about this surfacing “pharma village” and to get an insight into pharmaceutical traffic across the globe, Dr. Kevin Robinson spoke with Mat Burton, head of BA World Cargo’s offering in India, to converse the measures that drug manufacturers need to take to ensure that the supply chain involved in the delivery of drugs remains watertight.

India has a strong domestic pharmaceutical industry and a swiftly expanding market with a population of more than a billion and a rapidly expanding economy. The pervasiveness of many diseases is likely to increase as a result of population growth, urbanization and other contributory factors. As such, India’s pharmaceutical market is increasingly important in global pharma, with both domestic and foreign companies benefiting.

Healthcare provision, both public and private, is improving, leading to rapidly expanding markets for healthcare products, especially modern pharmaceuticals. India is emerging as a competitive outsourcing hub and is performing a major role in the global pharmaceutical industry in manufacturing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and intermediates for drug makers. Global pharmaceutical companies are establishing long-term relationships with Indian manufacturing companies and contract research providers in India.

Generic drugs produced in India are increasingly being accepted worldwide, with leading companies such as Ranbaxy, Cipla and Dr. Reddy’s surface made the way for others. Indian companies have increasingly taken on outsourced manufacturing for foreign clients, in addition to marketing pharmaceuticals themselves. There are also new drugs development programmes by Indian companies, with eventual international market launches. Outsourcing to India has proven to be effective in saving costs and valuable developmental time.

Increasing costs for R&D and low productivity have compelled major pharmaceutical companies worldwide to outsource part of their research and manufacturing activities to lower-cost, developing nations such as India and China. India's prominence on research and development and new drug discovery is growing. Furthermore, India is emerging as the preferred purpose for outsourcing clinical trials, with both high quality and lower costs achieved there. With this in mind, pharma spoke with BA World Cargo's Mat Burton to find out more.

Specific Tour Packages for Medical Tourist in Hyderabad

Telangana Government is launching various schemes and programmes to promote health tourism and inviting foreign and private investors to invest in hospitals and accommodation sector. According to a study, 40-60% of healthcare services and investments in Hyderabad are now provided by the private sector. India has granting various incentives and tax rebate to various pharmaceuticals industries to provide medicines and surgical equipment.

Telangana government was committed to develop Hyderabad as a major medical tourism hub. Addressing a meeting after inaugurating the multi-specialty Continental International Cancer Centre at Gachibowli, the chief minister said that it would itself act as the brand ambassador for the hospitals in the city.

He was all praise for the state-of-the-art cancer centre and said he was impressed very much by the ambience of the place. The Centre is India's first LEED qualified, a 700-bed super specialty tertiary care hospital, built to international standards. "I feel as if I am in a foreign country when I am in this hospital," he said, complimenting the architects of Continental Hospitals Dr. Guru N Reddy and others for designing it on par with international standards. He noted that such a medical centre would give a great boost to the brand image of Hyderabad. There are additional more than 30 wings to

provide comprehensive treatment for all kinds of cancer. Eminent doctors of the city have been roped in to provide round-the-clock service to patients.

Radiation oncology unit at the Centre offers the most focused treatment with least side-effects and fault. With advanced imaging and 4D RT technology, and the 'Image Guided Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy' technique, Continental Hospital's physicians securely guide the radiation beam into tumors, while protecting surrounding normal organs like heart, kidney, bladder, and spinal cord etc., explain. Anuradha Reddy, Vice-President, CHL, Dr. Praveen K Dadireddy, Consultant Breast Oncoplastic Surgeon. Other medical facilities. Various specific tour packages accessible Hyderabad to medical tourist are as follows.

- I. Bone Marrow Transplant
- II. Cancer Procedures (Oncology) and Cardiac Care
- III. Cosmetic Surgery
- IV. Dialysis and Kidney Transplant
- V. Drug Rehabilitation
- VI. Gynaecology & Obstetrics
- VII. Health Checkups
- VIII. Internal and Digestive Procedures
- IX. Joint Replacement Surgery
- X. Nuclear Medicine, Neurosurgery & Trauma Surgery
- XI. Osteoporosis, Urology and Vascular Surgery
- XII. Gall Bladder stones surgery and Hernia surgery
- XIII. Laparoscopic Appendicectomy,
- XIV. Laparoscopic Banding of stomach for Morbid Obesity.

XVI. Heart surgery packages like Cardiac Surgery and Cardiology,

Contribution of Medical Tourism to the Indian Economy

Healthcare industry is growing at a tremendous pace owing to its strengthening coverage, services and increasing expenditure by public as well as private players. During 2008-20, the market is expected to record a CAGR of 16.5 per cent. The total industry size is expected to touch US\$ 160 billion by 2017 and US\$ 280 billion by 2020. As per the Ministry of Health, development of 50 technologies has been targeted in the FY16, for the treatment of disease like Cancer and TB.

The overall Indian healthcare market is worth around US\$ 100 billion and is expected to grow to US\$ 280 billion by 2020, a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 22.9 per cent. Healthcare delivery, which includes hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostics centres, and pharmaceuticals, constitutes 65 per cent of the overall market. The Healthcare Information Technology (IT) market which is valued at US\$ 1 billion currently is expected to grow 1.5 times by 2020.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India has predicted that with increased digital adoption, the Indian healthcare market, which is worth around US\$ 100 billion, will likely grow at a CAGR of 23 per cent to US\$ 280 billion by 2020. Over 80 per cent of the antiretroviral drugs used globally to combat AIDS (Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome) are supplied by Indian pharmaceutical firms. There is a significant scope for attractive healthcare services considering that healthcare spending as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is rising. Rural India, which accounts for over 70 per cent of the population, is set to emerge as a potential demand source.

India requires 600,000 to 700,000 additional beds over the next five to six years, indicative of

an investment opportunity of US\$ 25-30 billion. Given this demand for capital, the number of transactions in the healthcare space is expected to witness an increase in near future. The average investment size by private equity funds in healthcare chains has already increased to US\$ 20-30 million from US\$ 5-15 million. A total of 3,598 hospitals and 25,723 dispensaries across the country offer AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) treatment, thus ensuring availability of alternative medicine and treatment to the people.

The Indian medical tourism industry, which is currently at US\$ 3 billion per annum, with tourist arrivals probably at 230,000, it is expected to reach US\$ 6 billion by 2018, with the number of people inward in the country for medical treatment set to double over the next four years. With greater number of hospitals getting attributed and receiving recognition, and greater awareness on the need to develop their quality to meet international standards, Hyderabad aims to become India's healthcare hub in a couple of years.

The hospital and diagnostic centres have attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth US\$ 4.09 billion between April 2000 and September 2016, according to data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Some of the major investments in the Indian healthcare industry are as follows:

1. Max Healthcare, a healthcare institute based in New Delhi, has plans to invest Rs 320 crore (US\$ 48 million) to build a cancer care hospital in Delhi, being a part of Max's larger plan to develop its hospital in Saket.
2. Thyrocare Technologies, a diagnostic laboratory chain, plans to expand its lab centres from 7 to 25 and franchisees from 1,200 to 5,000 to achieve a target revenue of Rs 1,000 crore (US\$ 150 million) by 2020.
3. OrbiMed, a healthcare dedicated investment firm, plans to invest around US\$ 40 million in Kolkata-based pathology and radiology

services chain Suraksha Diagnostics for expanding the diagnostics chain's laboratory network across India and enhancing its equipment technology backbone.

4. International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment arm of World Bank, has invested around Rs 450 crore (US\$ 67.5 million) for a 29 per cent stake in Healthcare major Apollo Group's subsidiary Apollo Health and Lifestyle Ltd for funding Apollo's expansion activities.
5. Abraaj Group, a Dubai-based private equity investment firm, is in advanced discussions to acquire a controlling stake in south India's leading diagnostics services provider Medall Healthcare Pvt. Ltd, at an enterprise value of around Rs 1,500 crore (US\$ 225 million).
6. Practo Technologies Pvt. Ltd, a digital healthcare start-up, has raised US\$ 55 million in series D round of funding led by Chinese investment holding company, Tencent Holdings Ltd, which will be used for expanding its product portfolio.
7. Bengaluru-based health technology start-up SigTuple Technologies Pvt. Ltd. has raised US\$ 5.8 million in series A round of funding led by existing investor Accel Partners.

Government Initiatives to Promote Medical Tourism

India's universal health plan that aims to offer guaranteed benefits to a sixth of the world's population will cost an estimated Rs 1.6 trillion (US\$ 23.72 billion) over the next four years. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government of India to promote Indian healthcare industry are as follows.

In the Union Budget 2017-18, the overall health budget increased from INR 39,879 crore (US\$ 5.96 billion) (1.97% of total Union Budget) to INR 48,878 crore (US\$ 7.3 billion) (2.27% of total Union Budget). In addition, the Government of India made subsequent announcement in the Union Budget 2017-18 to harmonise policies and

rules for the medical devices industry to encourage home manufacturing and move towards improving affordability for patients, modify the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to promote generics and reduce the cost of medicines and set up two new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gujarat and Jharkhand, convert 1.5 lakh sub centres in Indian villages to health and wellness centres

There are plans to set up short and medium-term targets for key health indicators and bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate to 100 by 2018-2020 and Infant Mortality Rate to 28 by 2019. Prepare action plans to eliminate Kala Azar and Filariasis by 2017, leprosy by 2018, measles by 2020 and tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.

The Government of India plans to set up a single window approval system for innovation in medical research, in order to sanction permission and approvals within 30 days from the date of application to Indian innovation projects who had applied for global patent.

Shripad Naik, Minister of State with Independent Charge for AYUSH, has demonstrated that the AYUSH Ministry is working with various agencies, institutions and Ayurveda researchers and practitioners across the globe to turn India into a global center for knowledge, research, practice and developmental projects on traditional medicines.

The Government of Assam has launched the Atal-Amrit Abhiyan health insurance scheme, which would offer widespread coverage for six disease groups to below-poverty line (BPL) and above-poverty line (APL) families, with annual income below Rs 500,000 (US\$ 7,500).

The Government of India and the Government of the State of Nagaland signed financing agreement and project agreement in that order with The World Bank, for the 'Nagaland Health Project' for US\$ 48 million, which endeavor to improve health services and increase their utilisation by communities in targeted locations in the state. The Union Cabinet had approved an

agreement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) under which WHO will develop technical documents on traditional medicines which is expected to lead to better acceptance of Indian systems of medicines at an international level.

The NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India) is looking for to bring reforms in India's public health system like outsourcing primary healthcare to private doctors and promoting contest between government and private hospitals at the secondary level. Government of West Bengal has introduced G1 Digital Dispensary, which aims to afford people from rural areas access to primary healthcare services.

A unique proposal for healthcare 'Sehat' (Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine) has been launched at a government-run Common Service Centre (CSC) to empower rural citizens by providing access to information, knowledge, skills and other services in various sectors through the intrusion of digital technologies and gratifying the vision of a 'Digital India.' J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, had commenced the National Deworming initiative aimed to protect more than 24 crore children in the ages of 1-19 years from intestinal worms, on the National Deworming Day.

Under the National Health Assurance Mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will provide all citizens with free drugs and diagnostic treatment, as well as insurance coat to treat serious diseases. Mission Indradhanush launched by JP Nadda aims to immunise children against avoidable diseases namely diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B by 2020. Government had set a target of 95 per cent immunisation cover by the end of 2016.

The E-health proposal, which is a part of Digital India drive launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims at affording effective and economical healthcare services to all citizens. The programme aims to make use of technology and portals to make possible people maintain health records and book online appointments with various departments of various hospitals using e-KYC data of Aadhaar number.

Conclusion

Medical tourism in Hyderabad has emerged as the highest growing segment of tourism industry in spite of the global economic downturn. Hyderabad is offering very low-cost treatments not only to Indians but also to the foreigners. Patients from UAE, USA and UK, are coming to Hyderabad to look for alternative and cost-effective destinations to get their treatments done. The Hyderabad medical tourism industries are presently at a blossoming stage, but have an enormous potential for future growth and development. In just couple of years, medical tourism in India has made a remarkable position in the world medical tourism map and is recognized as reputed health tourist destination all over the world.

Hyderabad is a land full of opportunities for players in the medical devices' industry. The country has also become one of the leading destinations for high-end diagnostic services with tremendous capital investment for advanced diagnostic facilities, thus catering to a greater proportion of population. Besides, Indian medical service consumers have become more conscious towards their healthcare upkeep.

Hyderabad's competitive advantage also lies in the increased success rate of Indian companies in getting Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) approvals. India also offers vast opportunities in R&D as well as medical tourism. To sum up, there are vast opportunities for

investment in healthcare infrastructure in both urban and rural India.

India is a place which offers services of well-trained health practitioners, fluent English speaking medical staff, a good stuff of herbal, natural, allopathic, and alternative system of medicines. Private/internationally accredited and super-specialty hospitals of India are serving global health tourist with their specialized services and helping in earning the million dollars. Medical Tourism in India is emerging as a prime health tourism destination. The Indian Government can play a significant role in enhancing the benefits of medical tourism. Tourists should be granted quicker visa or visa on arrival so that they can make hassle free travel and can contact the Immigration Department at any point of entry for quick clearance. Acknowledging the importance of medical tourism, Government has granted several reductions, exemptions and tax incentives to the service providers.

There is also a need to develop supporting infrastructure such as transport, accommodation, and communication and information channels to facilitate medical tourism. In this research study we tried to find out the positive economic benefits of medical tourism and to focus on the role of government, ministry of tourism, pharmaceuticals industries, and private sector to build the image of Hyderabad as high quality medical tourism destination.

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Has Naxalite Movement Lost its Ideology?

Dr. Kalinga Ketaki*

India is a land of diversity and democracy. We celebrate diversity in the form of festivals or social gatherings or giving rights to the different diverse groups. In schools also when a child is given an essay to write on any social topic, he /she either chooses or is given to write on women empowerment, child rights or human rights, importance of education, or reservation system etc... But we fail to encompass every one under the umbrella of so called *diversity & democracy*.

One such most important special group which needs to be addressed in India is the *Naxalite group*. The Naxalite groups and their movement draws attention of the government from time to time and plays a vital role in Indian governance. It's we and the government have to see whether the Naxalite movement is an *issue* or a *threat* and must go deep inside to raise and fight for the issue or curb the threat.

History of Naxal Movement

The origin of the term is traced back to the Naxalbari village in Darjeeling, West Bengal, where the movement took place. A section of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) led by Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal, and Jangal Santhal initiated a violent uprising in 1967. Jangal Santhal was the President of the Siliguri Kisan Sabha and supported the movement initiated by Kanu Sanyal to adopt armed struggle to redistribute land to the landless.

Within a week of the uprising of the movement, a sharecropper near Naxalbari village was attacked by the landlord's men over a land dispute. On 24th May 1967 the team of police

arrived to arrest the peasant leaders, it was hunted down by a group of tribals led by Jangal Santhal, and a police inspector was killed in a hail of arrows. This event encouraged many Santhal tribals and other poor people to join the movement and to start attacking local landlords.

The Naxalite movement was initiated by some of the poor sections of the society who were too depressed to demand anything for their welfare. They were morally compelled to raise arms to get what they wanted. No one came to listen them, neither the government nor the law. These oppressed and suppressed took arms in their hand and thus carried their movement in the name of revolution.

Difference between Naxalites and Maoists

Both Maoists and Naxalites trace their origin from an outcome of the 1967 uprising. Maoists work with an agenda and use weapons to achieve their aims. Naxalites focus on mass organizations.

Naxalism: Naxalism originated as a rebellion against marginalization of the poor forest dwellers and gradually against the backwardness in rural parts of Eastern India. The origin of the Naxalism was a result of the split that took place in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1967. The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) has been fighting elections in several states across India. Most prominent among these groups are the CPI-ML (Liberation), CPI-ML (Kanu), CPI-ML (Jan Shakti), CPI-ML (New Democracy) and others.

Maoism: - Maoism originated in China as a form of Communist theory derived from the teachings of Chinese political leader Mao Zedong. Maoists were the loyal believers of chairman Mao's philosophy.

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Ideology of Naxal Movement

To give a movement any ideological base is quite political because a so-called Naxal before raising an arm to attack his opponent never thought of any ideology; he just took the arm and attacked. To be political as well as scientific in nature it can be seen that the ideological basis of the Naxals owes its origin to the abject penury and stems from the all-pervasive poverty in the Indian Hinterland. The Naxal movement is organized in the Red Corridor across the swath of forest lands, from Andhra Pradesh in South India to Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar and is expanding.

The insurgency is fueled by the exploitation of the peasants and poor tribals by the timber mafia, as well as neglect and corruption by the governmental offices. The lack of socio-economic development that has occurred in these regions from any governmental force is an issue that the Naxalites frequently exploit in their calls for violent, Mao-inspired, revolution. Naxalites are considered far-left radical communists, supportive of Maoists political sentiments and ideology.

Root Causes of Naxalism

'Naxals are not born out of their mother's womb; they are born out of society's atrocities.'

- Inequality prevailing in the society.
- Socio-economic disparity.
- Suppression of needs and demands of a poor section of the society.
- Frustrated youths due to unemployment.
- Illegal smuggling of the arms to the insurgents from China.
- Injustice.
- State terrorism.
- Molestation of poor people.
- Maltreatment.
- Forced labour.

- Minimum wages for maximum works.
- Unlawful torture.
- Killings.
- Suppression of initial voices or movements by forces.
- Landless farmers.
- Poverty.
- Misery.
- Deprivation.
- Indiscriminate social order.
- Loss of human dignity.

Out of total 1.17 billion populations, over 39% of dispossessed Indians, living below poverty line are hopeful that Maoists would bring a change in their wretched life.

Demand of the Naxals

The origin of their demand can be traced back to the colonial period when the Permanent Settlement revenue system was introduced by the Britishers. This system allowed zamindars/landlords the ownership of large tracts of land, but they rarely took interest in cultivation or utilization of their land and thus they used to hire sharecroppers or tenants to work on their land which after harvest will yield some profit and that will be distributed among the owner as well as the worker. The sharecropper in turn would employ agricultural lab laborers in many cases, who would be paid a pittance because in most cases the sharecropper would hardly get much of the total agriculture produce from the land and whose tenure was not secure.

Moreover, the sharecropper could be evicted at any moment from the land, because he/she did not own the land. This happened both under the Britishers and continued with the *Land Reforms Act of India (1955)*, which stated that sharecroppers had permanent use rights on land leased out to them under certain conditions, but these rights could not be claimed if the landlord wanted to take the land back for personal

cultivation. This empowered the landlords to use and throw the workers. Thus, the first Naxalbari uprising was the result against the Land Reform Act.

There were complaints about molestation and rape of women by the landlords/zamindars. All they could demand was the safety of women, respect and a dignified life. Taking loans from the zamindars was life-threatening as the loans had very high interest rates and repaying them was quite impossible, it used to take the farmer's whole life in order to pay the interest only and the burden of debt was shifted to the wife or children of the sharecropper after his death. This system used to continue for a long time. So, they have a genuine demand of getting relief from the burden of debt.

They want equality in the society, a social status, a sense of belongingness, food security, preservation of their homeland, home free from any encroachment, employment opportunity. It so happens that when a dam is created or any land is taken away from the tribals or villagers in the name of developmental work, then the amount of compensation given to the people who are being replaced is not sufficient to actually compensate them emotionally and socially. So again, there is a demand for '*stay away from our land.*'

The demand of tribals has taken a different course which is explained below. The rebels of Andhra Pradesh in 2005 accused government authorities of not addressing their demands, they forced the government to release the prisoners and redistribution of land. They feel that they are being neglected by the political and bureaucratic establishment, dominated by officials from the 'non-tribal' areas who did not care for the tribals. They feel voiceless, frustrated, helpless and outcaste from the mainstream. They demand for acceptance.

Though their demands are not much specified. They demand their leaders (if arrested) freed from the police station and if not then they go to the height of killing police personnel and even set buildings as well as vehicles on fire. The

Naxalite / Maoists groups of India are so much aggressive that they want to overthrow the government and want to set up their own government. Demands arise out of needs. But when our demands exceed our needs then it becomes our greed and nothing on earth can satisfy our greed. The demand of the naxals is somewhat like this only. The demands of Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal and Jangal Santhal were quite reasonable but if we compare it to the present activities, we will find that they want constitutional things in an unconstitutional way.

Ultimately though they don't demand but we must try to understand that they are the part of us and we need to accept them whole-heartedly in the mainstream too.

Government Policies to Combat Naxalism

In February 2009, the Central government announced a new nationwide initiative, to be called the "Integrated Action Plan" for broad, coordinated operations aimed at dealing with the Naxalite problem in all affected states, namely (Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal). This plan included funding for grass-root economic development projects in Naxalite-affected areas, as well as increased special police funding for better containment and reduction of Naxalite influence. In August 2010, after the first full year of implementation of the national "Integrated Action Plan" program, Karnataka was removed from the list of Naxal-affected states. In July 2011, the number of Naxal affected area was reduced to 83 districts across 9 states.

In December 2011, the national government reported that the number of Naxalite-related deaths and injuries nationwide had gone down by nearly 50% from 2010 levels.

The NDA government's proposed "Anti-Naxal policy" includes a robust surrender and rehabilitation plan for Maoists and intends to double the amount paid to the rebels who want to lay down weapons. *The Union Home Ministry has proposed up to Rs. 5 lakh as onetime*

payment to surrendered Maoists. The amount during UPA's tenure was Rs. 2.5 lakh. The monthly stipend for three years to surrendered Naxals will be increased from Rs. 3,000- Rs. 6,000. It is also proposed more "Proactive" role of the Naxal-affected states and intends to increase their power to limit their dependence on the Centre to tackle the menace.

This could mean rising of more state auxiliary forces and less dependence on central forces like CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), BSF (Border Security Force) and ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) for operations in these areas.

The new policy also talks about increasing the number of fortified police stations from 400 to 650 in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected states. The Ministry of Home Affairs will provide Rs. 2 crore to construct each such police station, which will have high walls and bullet proof gates. As per the proposed policy, the government is going to take on the second phase of Road Requirement Plan (PRO-II) to improve connectivity in the Maoist-affected areas. The total cost of this of the project is Rs. 7,200 crore.

The first proposed plan of Road Requirement Plan (RRP-I) which aimed at constructing 5,477 km of state and national highways in Left Wing Extremism districts but the project could only reach up to 2,750 km because the road contractors do not want to take up such projects in those districts and also demand high costs for which sometimes they are rejected. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in a meeting with the DGP's of all 10 Left Wing Extremism affected states had announced the policy to deal with Naxalism. The policy will focus on the 23 worst affected districts, which have reported 80% of the violence and incidence so far.

The ministry will also extend support to the states under the Security Related Expenditure. There will be an increase in the amount meant for the several infrastructural schemes. Operation Green Hunt (2009) is an "*all-out offensive*" program of the Union Government to hunt down Maoists and Naxalites in the '*Red Corridor.*' Initially in

2009, the Government of India had decided to move 80,000 central paramilitary personnel to wage offensive against the Maoists, strengthened by a fleet of 10 armed helicopters from the Indian Air Force.

Conclusion

The very first impression any one can build about a Naxal is that he will be considered as a person who is almost a terrorist. Isn't? Even after building a concept about them we don't try to find out who are Naxals? How they came up? Why a small section of poor people raised arms and gained mass popularity? This brief article has tried to focus on about the origin, motives, demands, atrocities etc. of the Naxalites/Maoists. In my opinion yes, the Naxalite movement has lost its ideology in India. There are many cases where the acts of the Naxals have shown the derailment of Naxal ideology. The existence of Naxalite parties shows that there is still a string of demands which needs to be fulfilled but not at gun-point.

The ideological decline led to the decline of political parties as well as the Naxal members. Many leaders are ready to surrender themselves. Unfortunately, like indigenous people all over the world, the India's adivasis too have been savaged and ravaged by later people claiming to be more "civilized."

So, to conclude, the government must take care of the Naxal uprising not as threat rather as an issue which needs to be addressed, must take care of their simple demands and especially must see that they don't lose the lap of their soil in the name of development.

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Dr. Ambedkar & Upliftment of Dalit Women

Dr. Ramesh Kamble*

[A great French writer remarked “.... If you want me to tell you what a nation is like or what a social organization is like, tell me the position of women in that nation....”¹ Thus social status and place of women thus indicate the country’s character more than anything else. That applies equality to the other fields like educational, social, economic and religious status of the women. Here in this paper an attempt is made to highlight the upliftment of Dalit women as a part of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s Movement. Paper examines the social aspects, religious matters and level of education of Dalit women in order to understand holistic approach of Babasaheb to eradicate the issues of Dalit women and empower them with the self-respect.]

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has been one of the greatest social transformers of modern India, who struggled against caste, class, varna and gender discrimination to build egalitarian society based on equality, liberty and fraternity in every aspect of human life, that too between men and women. He is the real super human being who did not leave the worst structure of our Indian society, which was required to be restructured with the equalitarian and humanitarian principles.

He advocated social and economic democracy and insisted that without them there would be no peace, happiness and prosperity in India. He was ardent supporter of the cherished value of liberty,

equality and fraternity. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s contribution for the betterment of all in general and progress of Dalit women in particular is unique. He not only wanted to ensure social equality between man and man but also between man and woman.

Methodology

Objectives

- i. To know the Socio-religious Movements of Dr. Ambedkar and emancipation of Dalit women.
- ii. To explore the constructive solution for the issues of Dalit Women with the reference to the Socio-religious Movements of Dr. Ambedkar.

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Research Design

The study is based on secondary sources of existing literature. Descriptive method was taken into consideration to examine issues of the Dalit women in-depth. Explorative design helps in finding solutions for the Dalit women to prevent and protect them for the future challenges.

Dalit Women

Being a Dalit is reason enough to be ready to face a life full of miseries, suffering, degradation and dehumanized way of life. Being woman means life-long exploitation in the name of sex, a weak variety of human subordinating to man, unwanted burden since birth and a domestic servant for life. Put the two together in one body and you have a creature that reflects the humanity at its worst, a Dalit. This is what it means to be Dalit woman. A Dalit woman suffers on two counts, first as a Dalit and second as woman. As Dalit she suffers at the hands of society of upper castes, as woman she suffers in society as well as at the hands of her own family members – males and females.

Religious Aspects of the Movement

The impassioned appeal to cast away evil practices and customs among certain sections of the depressed classes was made by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at a meeting held at Bombay in 1936, which was largely attended by men and women belonging to the Devadasi patraje, Bhute, Aradhi communities and held to accord support to mass conversion.

“Whether you change your religion along with us, or not it does not matter to me. But I insist that if you want to be with the rest of us you must give up your disgraceful life, you must marry and settle down normal domestic life as women of other classes, do not continue to live under conditions which inevitably drag you into prostitution.”²

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar also critically analyzed that, “the Chaturvarna system of Hinduism made you the slave of the caste Hindus by imposing number of restrictions and it made you as an

Untouchables. Though you people worship and pilgrimage to number of places like Savadatti, Pandarpur and Khandoba etc. but none of these Gods and Goddesses had solved problems like Poverty, Exploitations and Atrocities. In Hindu Dharmasastras, it is loudly mentioned that, God took ten incarnations to punish the evil and protect good. But the same God never looked at you to enslave and uplift you. These are false stories, by which Brahmanas have cheated the non-Brahmanas and have dominance in the name of God and religion. Thus, the root cause of Dalit was the blind practice of Chaturvarnya of Hinduism.

He further asked that “If Yallamma of Savadatti and other Gods and Goddesses will be pleased and satisfied and they bless you for having practicing the Devadasi system among Dalits. Then, why caste Hindus did not practice to get blessing from Gods and Goddesses? Thus, unless you gave up all these evil practices, there cannot be escape from slavery and exploitation.”³

Social Aspects of the movement

The first Belgaum District Bahishkrit Social Conference was held on 23rd March 1929 at Belgaum under the Presidentship of Sri, Sitaram Namadev Shivatarakar, in which Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Dr. Solanki and others participated. Devaraya Ingale was Reception Committee President. It was presided over by Sitaram. Namadev Shivatarakar who told that, untouchables were not themselves having remained backward but it was environment, which never allowed them to advance. Though they are outside the Chaturvarnya system but all these four varnas kept them away.

After the speech of the Shivatarakar, resolutions were passed by the Parishad, which reflects their concern to the cause of Dalit women and the children. They wanted the Untouchability to be made as an offence by law. No one is superior or inferior by birth and not to accept the sanctity of Dharma Shastras, which uphold the high and low on births. The Parishad also severely condemned Chaturvarnya system, which

discriminates between men and women. They urged that the government should interfere into the religious affairs, to redress the insults of the Bahujans.

It was decided to fix the marriage age 20 years for men and 16 years for women, inter-caste marriage was to be allowed between men and women of different castes and to avoid unnecessary expenditure in marriages so that the money thus saved could be utilized for educating both males and females and their children.⁴

These were some of the important resolutions of this Parishad. Then after this, with the permission of the president, Dr. Ambedkar delivered the speech and suggested the twin means for enslavement of Dalits are-one is to get right through waging struggle and another is to get political power.⁵ Thus he concluded the speech with message “You must abolish your slavery by yourselves, do not depend upon God or a superman. Your salvation lies in political and not in pilgrimages and observance of fasts.”⁶

While addressing Devadasi women at Athani in Belgaum district, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said that, “unless our womenfolk give up this evil practice of Devadasi system, there is no emancipation to our Community” Then, one Devadasi woman stood and replied that, “scarcity of love, affection and wealth forced us to practice these kinds of social ills. We are seeking for status and dignified life which is declined by the wealth-centric people.”

Dr. Ambedkar replied her in a pragmatic way declaring that “you are my mother from this day”, listening these holy words, women from the crowd got inspired with the affectionate approach of Dr. Ambedkar and she donated all her earnings to him for the socio-religious movement. This is one incident of peculiar kind, which shows that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was genuine emancipator of women. So, women were greatly influenced by his work and actions. Thus, they were ready to make any kind of sacrifice. some of these women went to jail also along with their kith and kin and pets.⁷

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had a vision for the future. He always thought far ahead of his contemporaries. He rightly emphasized on the progress of women. He said so in his address in the All India Depressed Classes Women’s Conference held at Nagpur on July 20, 1942. He asserted that marriage is a liability and said, “let each girl who marries stand up to her husband and claim to be her husband’s friend and equal and refuse to be his slave”.⁸

Even after the centenary celebrations of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar are over, it is painful to see that a majority of the women have faith in rites and rituals of Hindu religion, irrespective of the fact, whether they are educated or not. They worship traditional gods and goddesses. They are completely in the dark. Even most educated Dalit women are not aware of Ambedkar’s teachings, not having studied his writings. They do not know what Hindu religion had done to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes nor do they understand the riddles of Hinduism.⁹

They are completely confused. But for all these, actually the Dalit women are not to be blamed. Their men are responsible for their backwardness and ignorance. But influenced by Dr. Ambedkar’s Movement, the enlightened women from Maharashtra are playing an important role in the society. They have started their own organizations. But outside Maharashtra, especially in the Hindi speaking states, women have not been able to unite for their cause; though a few women have come forward to fight against injustice and atrocities.¹⁰

Dalit Women and Education

Once Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar asked his followers in a seminar ‘If you want to educate your children, first educate women. ‘It is the duty of true Ambedkarite that they must educate and provide all facilities to the Dalit women, if they are honestly anxious to fulfil the desires of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had studied the problems of Dalits very seriously. He had seen the horrible condition of women, which was no different from the Shudras and the

Untouchables. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar took risk of challenging the established traditions of Hindu society because he had firm conviction that no society could change positively unless it was challenged. Thus instead of justifying and glorifying it, he felt that the better way to serve Hinduism was through its open criticism. Further, he suggests every Dalit member of the country must educate and develop the critical thinking ability. Education is the ultimate solutions for the majority issues of Dalit community, he said.

Conclusion and Discussion

It is established fact that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was not only the emancipator of Dalit women but entire womenfolk in India. The gist of his advocacy of the cause of women and his exhortation to the Hindus to change the society to suit the needs of the modern times can best be described in his own words: “Those who want to conserve must be ready to repair and all I want is that, if you want to maintain the Hindu system, the Hindu culture, the Hindu society, do not hesitate to repair where it is necessary. The Hindu Code Bill asks for nothing more than repairing those parts of the Hindu society, which has almost become dilapidated.”¹¹

It is important to note that under the leadership of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Dalit women took active part in Dalit Movement on several occasions. Until and unless there is an improvement in the status of Dalit women and their equal participation in the society, all talk of nation’s progress and development is meaningless. This study encourages the future researchers for descriptive and analytic studies in this area in future.

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Maldives' Vulnerability amidst Global Warming

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[The Second World Climate Conference, 1990, discoursed about the need for an urgent multilateral action. However, the unfortunate consequence of the concern is the politics of blame game that neutralises all the efforts to curb this major threat. The result is no constructive foreign policy can be carved out for the mitigation of or the adaptation to the climate change and global warming. Although the disasters related to climate change are visible across the whole world, the island nations are the most vulnerable geographical entities on the globe in the contemporary context.]

The irony of the situation is that these nations are least responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases but they are the worst victims. Such a change also poses potentials to cause political upheavals and protests making these countries politically unstable. Many of the island nations share the same fate such as Bermuda and Bahamas in Atlantic, Palmerstone, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Solomon Islands in the Pacific.

Sea Level Rise—Extent and Causes

Rise of the sea level is one of the dominant manifestations of global warming. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US) estimates that “since 1992, new methods of satellite altimetry (the measurement of elevation of altitude) indicate a rate of rise of 0.12 inches per year.¹ NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, US) calculates that average sea level rise is 3.41 mm per year and that sea level rise is directly caused by the expansion of water as it warms and the melting of polar ice caps.² Maldives is one such nation-state which stands threatened in the wake of rising global temperature and global warming.

Maldives' Vulnerability

Maldives undoubtedly is on the frontline of climate change and consequent global warming. It is a tiny island-nation consisting of nearly 1,200

islands and atolls in the Indian Ocean. It is only 8 feet above the sea level at its highest point. The archipelago is spread far and wide with low-lying islands. Some of the larger atolls are 50 km long and 30 km wide. The 1,190 islands that make up the rest of the country are no larger than 8 kilometres.³ The lack of topography in the Maldives makes it one of the most vulnerable nations to rising sea level and coastal flooding.⁴

191 of the country's 358 inhabited islands have fewer than 5,000 people,⁵ and about one-third of all residents live in the capital city of Male on North Male Atoll. With roughly 104,000 people residing within 2.2 square miles (5.8 square kilometres), North Male Atoll encompasses some of the most densely populated islands in the world. The vast majority of government revenue (approximately 90 percent) comes from import duties and tourism-related taxes.⁶

Human-induced global warming is causing glaciers and polar ice caps to melt, leading to a rise in ocean levels. Therefore, it makes it obvious that given the height of Maldives' islands from sea levels the entire country could disappear under water if the ocean levels rises. Since the 1950s, sea level in and around the Maldives has been rising at a rate of 0.03—0.06 inches (0.8—1.6 millimetres) per year.⁷ The topography of Maldives is such that even a small change in the sea level translates into extensive land inundation. More than 90 of the inhabited islands of Maldives experience annual floods.

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The scientists looked closely into the volume of water that could come from glacial and ice sheet melt by the year 2100, and estimates that sea level could rise 2.6 feet (80 centimetres)—and that as much as 6.6 feet (2 meters) is possible depending on the pace at which heat-trapping emissions are released. Given mid-level scenarios for those emissions⁸, the Maldives is projected to experience sea-level rise on the order of 1.5 feet (50 centimetres) by around 2100. The country would lose 77 percent of its land area by the end of the century.⁹

If sea level were to rise by 3.3 feet (1 meter) and the Maldives did not pursue further coastal protection measures, it would be nearly completely inundated by about 2085.¹⁰ Even according to World Bank, with “future sea levels projected to increase in the range of 10 to 100 centimetres by the 2100, the entire country could be submerged.¹¹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that average global sea levels will rise by between 0.09m and 0.37m (3.5 to 14.6 inches). Along with rising sea levels, increased beach erosion, more powerful storms, higher storm surges, and threats to biodiversity are among the major threats to the Maldives due to climate change over the coming decades.¹² Therefore, the impact of global warming has ratcheted overtime and has led to a significant security threat in Maldives and is getting severe day by day.

Firstly, most of the vital infrastructure such as airports facilities, settlements, fisheries, powerhouses, waste disposal sites, tourist accommodations are located close to the coastline are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the sea level rise. Housing and critical infrastructure, including five airports and 128 harbours are concentrated along the coastlines. The country’s two international airports, for example, critical components of the tourism sector, lie within 165 feet (50 meters) of the coastline.¹³

Secondly, a rise in sea level may also affect Maldives’ already scarce freshwater resources. The country provides drinking water to about 87 per cent of its population by collecting rainwater.

Groundwater aquifers on the islands are shallow, and high extraction levels have made them vulnerable to inundation by salt water. Only 11 percent of the Maldives’ inhabited islands had potable groundwater before 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.¹⁴ Transient seawater inundation during that event contaminated these groundwater supplies as well as soils.

Thirdly, sea level rise also threatens the habitat of every human, plant, and land animal in the country. Humans could be easily relocated to other neighbouring countries, but preventing biodiversity and species loss would be difficult. Cataloguing each animal and plant in the country would be costly and time-consuming affairs. Furthermore, introducing those animals to a new ecosystem could also be problematic and upset the natural balance of that ecosystem. The newly-introduced plants and animals could become invasive or the domestic plants and animals could eradicate those rescued from the sinking Maldives.¹⁵

Fourthly, the majority of the population of the Maldives lives on small, flat, densely populated atolls that are threatened by violent storms or even the slightest sea level rise. The capital Male is especially threatened because it is on a small, flat, extremely densely populated atoll that is surrounded by sea walls, and other barriers to protect against storms. This means the Male atoll cannot change shape in response to rising sea levels and is increasingly reliant on expensive engineering solutions.¹⁶

Maldives is extremely vulnerable on account of climate change as it threatens its entire existence. It becomes obvious from the fact that capital city of Male was swept over and inundated by an unusually high tide in 1987. The Asian tsunami of December 26, 2004 killed 82 people, displaced an additional 12,000 and caused extensive damage to the country’s important tourism industry.¹⁷ The tsunami inflicted \$375 million in overall damages, \$100 million of which included damages to resorts. As a result, the Maldives’ GDP contracted by 3.6 percent in 2005.¹⁸ In 2007, a series of swells forced the

evacuation of more than 1,600 people from their homes and damaged more than 500 housing units.¹⁹

Threat to Maldives' Economy

The major source of revenue for this nation is tourism and fishing industries and both of these have received a serious setback due to the environmental problems. Tourism sector is being threatened by the increased likelihood of violent storms, damage to coral reefs, and beach erosion. Maldives is famous worldwide as one of the tourist destinations because of uniform weather and white sandy beaches. Extreme weather patterns, heavy rainfall, sea level rise, coastal inundation and erosion are threatening the tourism infrastructure. Tourism accounts for 28 percent of Maldives GDP and for more than 60 percent of its foreign exchange.²⁰

According to one estimate, the white sand beaches and extensive coral reefs of the Maldives' 1,190 islands draw more than 600,000 tourists annually.²¹ Even the tourist attraction, the white sand beaches are being washed off due to erosion. Frequent coral bleaching also negatively impact tourism industry.

Secondly, fishing and fish processing is the second largest industry, Maldives have also engaged in sand dredging and coral mining, for building materials and jewellery, until recently when these activities were curtailed owing to it being extremely destructive to the sea surrounding the Maldives. The economic implications are acute for the people whose economy is dependent on the fishing and tourism. Such people migrate to other regions thus leading to further migration related challenges.

Social Implications

According to United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), one person every second is displaced by a disaster. An average of 22.5 million is displaced by weather and climate related events.²² Firstly, the displaced people always live as immigrants and never get the right as the nationals of the country of their refuge and

lose their national identity. Secondly, due to the limited resources, shortage of food and water, it also leads to local and global conflicts. Thirdly, health hazards are most compelling of all the social implications as high temperatures, population displacement, land and water scarcity, growing unemployment, have led to severe food insecurity and malnutrition. Fourthly, contamination of drinking water is a regular phenomenon. The increasing temperatures and humidity has increased the scope of many water and food borne infections diseases such as malaria and dengue.

Governmental Interventions

Mitigation and adaptation to the climate change requires efforts at all levels from suffering state at the individual level to initiatives by regional and the global powers. The dangerous situation of Maldives came to the forefront in 1992 Earth Summit where Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was one of the major issues. It was also the first nation to sign the Kyoto Protocol. It also actively participated in the United Nations climate summit at Doha. In 2009, Maldives led a UN human rights council panel debate calling on the international community to protect the rights of the people of the nations which are vulnerable to climate change.

The national government of Maldives has prepared a comprehensive National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to prepare itself against the climate change and the resulting sea level rise that attempts to critically consider and alleviate many of the serious threats that Maldives faces in the present.²³ Maldives is also taking the lead in attempting to arrest global climate change by instituting a goal of achieving a carbon-neutral economy by 2020.

Sea walls were also being built surrounding the capital of Male and thereby reducing the vulnerability to some extent. The extreme climate change impacts made the leaders realize to search for an alternative area so that the population could be moved out. Maldives is also trying to create a strong resilient infrastructure

and financing innovative adaptation and mitigation measures. It had also framed a strategic plan of action alongside refurbishing of local infrastructure.

Maldives climate change trust fund was also created for implementing the projects dealing with the environmental concerns. A renewable energy programme was also launched whose major aim was to enhance energy security and reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. In UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP) in Bali, Maldives raised the awareness about the human dimension of climate change. In this way, Maldives is actively engaged in calling upon the international community to mitigate the carbon emissions.

Although Maldives has played an important role to engage the world on this issue, the domestic political instability has obstructed a concerted effort. A stable political structure serves as a strong foundation for carrying out the plan and policies because a stable domestic politics is important to frame innovative strategies and implement them. Therefore, its concerns are seriously taken up on the international platform.

Responsibility of Global Community

Global powers, national, regional and global Non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, multilateral organizations, multinational companies and philanthropists all requires to make judicious interventions so that there is genuine initiatives at a faster pace towards containment of the problem.

Firstly, the leading industrialist and business concerns have an important role to play in cutting the emission, embracing the low carbon economy, and thereby reduce further warming of the earth. Secondly, the international effort is evident in the form of extensive debates in United Nations Conferences. The IPCC was the first to recognise this grave threat to the small island nations due to global warming and the rise in sea level. Thirdly, as far as the role of other nations is concerned, the neighbouring countries have the topmost responsibility ranging from the proper

accommodation of climate refugees to cutting emission of greenhouse gases and the use of sustainable practices, providing them with the technology of harnessing the renewable energy.

European Union has contributed 6.5 million Euro (US \$ 8.8 million) to the newly created climate change trust fund which aims to help the government of Maldives to become carbon neutral.²⁴ Fourthly, the UN Climate Change Conference of Paris brought together over 195 nations to achieve a universally binding agreement on climate change. It aims to keep the global warming below 2 degrees.²⁵ UNFCC principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is also included. The nations such as India and US have agreed to finance the use of solar power. Fifthly, the regional organization should serve as platform to enforce the international norms. It is important for the global powers and duty of the global community to address the security concern of Maldives.

Conclusion and Imperatives

The most immediate imperative for Maldives is to keep a close watch on the climate changes that are taking place and their impacts, in order to tackle the related problems and frame the policies accordingly. Secondly, the places which are most susceptible should be evacuated and proper and safe arrangements should be made for such people. The displacement of people will lead to further challenges and here the role of neighbouring nations is important to accommodate the migrated population. The migration related problems can be countered by proper security facilities. The neighbouring nations should realize the gravity of the situation and thus extend some financial help.

Thirdly, the most compelling issues of health hazards also need to be addressed because migration along with spread of chronic diseases can aggravate the situation. Fourthly, proper infrastructure is needed for the places that are still safe. Fifthly, the use of renewable energy resources is one of the major initiatives that needs to be considered. The rising ocean level

has been threatening the very existence of Maldives, as a consequence of which the residents of Maldives will be forced to move to other countries such as India and Sri Lanka leading to refugee problem for such countries.

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Gender Issues in Gujarat (Part - II)

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Table-4

Literacy rate in Gujarat (1961-2011)

Census Year	Rural Literacy Rate in %			Urban Literacy Rate in %			Total Literacy Rate in %			Difference In U-R
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1961	34.5	13.2	24.1	59.6	36.7	48.8	41.1	19.1	30.5	24.7
1971	38.9	17.2	28.3	64.0	44.8	54.9	46.1	24.7	35.8	26.6
1981	47.9	24.1	36.2	68.6	51.1	60.3	54.4	32.3	43.7	24.1
1991	55.3	32.1	44.0	71.5	57.3	64.8	61.0	40.6	51.2	20.8
2001	62.0	40.3	51.5	76.7	65.1	71.3	67.6	49.4	58.9	19.8
2011	70.0	53.0	61.7	80.4	71.9	76.4	74.5	60.9	68.0	14.7

Source: Derived from the table no. 1, 2 and 3

Table No. 4 shows the state of education in Gujarat state. It can be seen see the details of the table that literacy has increased steadily during every census of rural areas of Gujarat. Rural literacy in Gujarat was 24.1% in 1961. It has grown almost two and a half times to 61.7% in 2011. Rural male literacy has increased almost twice during this period, from 34.5% to 70.0%. Rural female literacy has increased almost four times, having increased from 13.2% to 53.0%. Urban literacy in Gujarat increased from 48.8% in 1961 to 76.4% in 2011.

From the details of Table No. 4, it can be said that there has been a steady increase in literacy

in Gujarat. As per 2011 census, literacy in Gujarat is 78%, which is more than average 74.04% of the total literacy rate of India. However, it is also a fact that Gujarat is 17th in terms of literacy ratio in the country. There is a rural-urban difference in literacy. Rural literacy is lower than urban literacy. However, from 1961 to 2011, it has been successful in reducing rural-urban literacy deficits from 24.7% to 14.7%. However, 14.7% is also considered a big difference when primary education is free and compulsory. Secondly, rural-urban differences have been reduced to only 10% in the 50-year period.

Table-5

Disparities in Female Literacy in Gujarat State

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Census Year				Difference between Male and Female Literacy
	Rural	Urban	Total	Female to Female in Urban & Rural
1961	21	23	22	23
1971	22	19	21	28
1981	24	17	22	27
1991	23	14	20	25
2001	22	12	18	25
2011	17	8	14	19

Source: Derived from the table no. 1, 2 and 3

Table No. 5 shows the percentage of how much female literacy is less compared to male in the period 1961 to 2011. It is evident from the table details that in 1961, female literacy was 22% lower than male. This percentage has dropped to 14% in 2011.

In rural areas of Gujarat, female literacy was 21% lower than male in 1961. This percentage has dropped to 17% in 2011. Thus, the difference in male-female literacy in rural areas is very large and recorded only 4% decrease from 1961 to 2011.

In urban areas of Gujarat, in 1961, female literacy was 22% lower than male in 1961. This percentage has dropped to 8% in 2011. Thus, the male-female literacy difference has been successful in removing significant amounts in urban areas. However, when the primary education is free and compulsory, this difference is also bigger in the progressive state like Gujarat.

It can be further discerned from the above table that the literacy gap between rural and urban females was 23% in 1961, which is also still very high at 19% in 2011. The fact is that the difference in rural-urban female literacy is still the biggest.

Major Findings

1. Gujarat (42.58%) is fourth most urbanized state in India. Undoubtedly, Gujarat is one of the leading states; nevertheless, it ranks 17th in terms of literacy rate and 19th in terms of female literacy in the country.
2. The sex ratio is low in Gujarat; sex ratio has decreased from 940 to 919 in the 1961-2011 period in the state. In the case of the age group of 0-6 years, the condition of sex ratio is more serious. The child sex ratio is 918 and 894 in India and Gujarat.
3. There has been a steady increase in the rural population; its percentage ratio has declined constantly. That is, the rapid urbanization has taken place in Gujarat.

4. Gujarat is 22nd in sex ratio among 28 states. The rural sex ratio in Gujarat is 949. Sex ratio of entire Gujarat state was 946 in 1911. In this way, it can be said that even today rural sex ratio is the same as it was a century ago.

5. There is a huge gap in literacy rate between rural and urban and male and female.

6. Gap in literacy between urban female and rural female is huge.

Conclusion

Gujarat is one of the leading states in the Indian economic and industrial development, per capita income and urbanization etc. But Gujarat is far behind in literacy and female literacy. Sex ratio is also very low in Gujarat. There are wide disparities in urban-rural and male-female ratios. The state of Gujarat has a lot to do in terms of increasing the literacy rates of women both in rural and urban areas, with more emphasis on rural female literacy to enhance the women's increased participation in the mainstream development.

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