

ISSN 0970-7247

# THIRD CONCEPT

*English Monthly*  
Annual Subscription Rs. 200

Vol. 35

No. 418

DECEMBER 2021

Rs. 20.00

- ❖ **Situation in Afghanistan**
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Vol. 35 No. 418 DECEMBER 2021 Rs. 20. 00

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**Published, Printed and Owned by**  
Babuddin Khan  
Third Concept,  
LB - 39, Prakash Deep Building,  
7, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.  
Ph : 23711092, 23712249, Fax No: 23711092.  
E-mail : third.concept@rediffmail.com  
Website: www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in

**THIRD CONCEPT NOW UGC-CARE List**

Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

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# COP26: Success or Failure?

With the two-week long 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) coming to a close on November 12, there have been mixed reactions to the outcomes of this climate summit, and these outcomes are characterized by both successes and failures. While welcoming the Glasgow Climate Pact, reached at by consensus of all delegates from around the globe, some experts raise the question as to whether did the Glasgow Pact text along with many agreements forged on the sidelines of the summit, mean the world is now closer to averting climate catastrophe or not.

Major positive outcome of COP26 can be construed in terms of reference to fossil fuels, with the emphasis on phasing down coal and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, a reference that had never been named directly in the past COPs. Undoubtedly, 2015 Paris Agreement envisages 1.50 C as the target for the reduction of emissions, and interestingly this target came at a time when the narrative was hovering around 20 C; nonetheless, currently, we are at about 2.70 C of warming. Pointing to the commitments for 2030, some critics opine that it can be brought down to 2.40 C, and it may seem closer but still far off from the Paris Agreement target. Admittedly, COP takes place very year tending to exist on a cycle where one gets a big COP after a gap of five years, as it happened in – Copenhagen and then in Paris and now in Glasgow – and in terms of the Paris Agreement, countries are coming back after every five years with new and improved commitments that will improve a nation’s standing on reduction of emissions. At the time of convening of the Glasgow summit, nations were actually behind the target and one can hope that nations can keep up the momentum to make that happen at ensuing COP27.

Another positive outcome of COP26 veers around ‘loss and damage’ that takes care of the concerns of the vulnerable countries and opens the door to liability. The question of providing financial help to developing countries is still hanging in the balance. Developed countries’ commitment in 2009 COP to providing \$100 billion a year beginning in 2020 until 2025 in climate finance for developing countries has not been met thus far. Nevertheless, the developing countries are looking for means to really gear that up and Glasgow Climate Pact contains language around creating post-2025 adaptation finance, and this is, as one critic opines, really more robust than what has been seen thus far.

Another salutary outcome of COP26 is the conclusion of bilateral agreements. The US-China agreement to slow down climate change says: “We’re going to work together on this issue. We’re going to put aside our differences for the good of addressing climate change.” Besides, the agreement on deforestation brings together more than 100 countries, and an agreement on reducing methane emissions globally by 30% between 2020 and 2030 has brought together over 100 countries to sign this agreement. Moreover, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net-Zero (GFANZ) is committed to finding ways to get to net-zero. Similarly, the First Movers Coalition, coming out of a partnership between the World Economic Forum and the US State Department, is set to galvanize clean energy technology by getting companies to commit to buying it and thereby creating that demand signal.

Admittedly, COP is held every year and countries make commitments; however, there is need to devise a mechanism that accounts for fulfillment of those commitments. It is also incumbent upon media and activists to ensure that the follow-through happens. According to a media report, Achim Steiner, the head of the UNDP, has said: ‘When we’re in such a dire situation, COPs can never really be a success.’ While referring to COP26 having made important progress in a number of areas, one critic laments that not enough is done and the world still remains off track to beat back the climate crisis.

COP26 moved the ball forward but it didn’t move it far enough forward. In order to make major emitters ramp up their 2030 emissions reduction targets to align with 1.50 C, more robust approaches are required to hold all actors accountable for the many commitments made at COP26.

— BK

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# Afghanistan in the Vortex of Internal Power Politics

Prof. Saumya Maniny Sinha\*

*[The recent developments in Afghanistan, with the Taliban takeover of the country after 20 years of democratic practices, has been the most troublesome development in the pandemic times. While nation-states and economies were busy fighting an invisible enemy in the form of Corona virus, Afghanistan was transformed into a barbaric civilization by the Taliban regime even before the complete withdrawal of U.S forces from Afghan soil. A 20-year long exercise of democratic restoration and peace-building process with the use of soft power was derailed in a month of an effortless takeover and regime change. The then Afghan President and his council of ministers fled the country to save their lives. This created a governance vacuum which was filled up easily by the government of terrorists in a span of three weeks. The international community was spell-bound and watched all the political developments without any resistance and opposition, raising questions on the efficacy of U.N.O and Operation Enduring Freedom led U.S alliance. ]*

In the last week of August, 2021, the sun rose in Antarctica after nearly five months of winter darkness. The long polar night had become a fertile ground for researchers carrying out research in various areas and exploring new possibilities. In *Paradise Lost*, Milton had spoken about night as an unholy time when the original chaos returns to its original form. In Afghanistan too, the chronology of events in the last few weeks presents the slipping of the nation into an obnoxious and uncertain darkness. While the world introspects and speculates the possibilities of restoring normalcy, the darkness in Afghanistan is synonymous with terror, death and helplessness.

Ironically, bloodshed and murder are happening in broad daylight. It is said that 'Time is the best healer' and it is time alone which will explain whether there will be a heaven of hell or a hell of heaven in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

South Asia is home to a quarter of the world's population, making it one of the most densely populated regions of the world. The region holds a strategic importance as it is at the threshold of two potential futures - either of becoming an economic power-house due to the presence of burgeoning demographic dividend or turning out to be the epi-center of global concern due to the spread of Islamic terrorism and Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

The whole world is ambushed with one-million-dollar question: What will the Taliban's sudden return to power mean for Afghanistan? 'The Great Game' as it seems which never ended in Afghanistan has added many complexities to it today – the opium trade, the role of oil reserves in West Asia, the involvement of Pakistan, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran in the new Taliban regime and the emergence of a trans-national terrorist haven in South Asia.

History has never been kind to the Afghans, nor have Afghans been kind to their country. One of the oldest civilizations of the world, Afghanistan – the land of the

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Pashtuns – has been seen through the lens of "Great Game". A handful of fierce Islamic warriors had fought the Soviet army in the 1980s as Mujahideen (freedom-fighters). The emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan is mired with excessive secrecy which leads to ambiguity. The Taliban – a pan-Pashtun movement appeared in Kandhar in 1994. The movement was symbolic of Pashtun nationalism. The Pashtuns have ruled the country for some 300 years, but in the recent past because of being a victim of Anglo-Russian rivalry, Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and two-decade long presence of US-led Allied forces on the Afghan soil, they have been pushed to the wall and made to lose their identity.

The Taliban army has been hardened during the 20-year long war. In fact, it would not be wrong to say that the nation-building process in Afghanistan is still incomplete. The state-building process in Afghanistan has been a prisoner of its own past and therefore, it would not be wrong to say that nationalism as a process has not yet started in the country.

The earlier Hybrid regimes of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani were puppet regimes, regulated by the U.S., which perhaps thought that by its super power status, it could topple regimes, reorder political systems and emerge as a king-maker of the world community. It did bring down regimes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, but it remained clueless about the internal challenges in these countries and how to tackle them in course of time. Libya collapsed into anarchy and Iraq witnessed the emergence of I.S.I.S and Afghanistan, the comeback of Al Qaeda and Taliban regime. All these developments are indicative of an embarrassing humiliation for America on the foreign policy front.

## **The Taliban Take-over**

'Taliban' literally means students. Talibanis were originally young Quranic students drawn from hundreds of madrasas set up in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan. The Taliban has established an authoritarian regime which has led to various incursions on the freedom and civil liberties of women. The extreme interpretation of

Islamic laws by the Taliban has led to serious restrictions on the liberty of women and girls, prohibition on any conceivable form of entertainment like music, T.V, videos, cards, kite-flying, sports, games, and social media, restrictions on movement and education of people has raised many eyebrows in the liberal international order of today.

Women attending private Afghan universities must wear an abaya robe and niqab covering most of the face, leaving just the eyes open. Further, the classes must be segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain. The female students should only be taught by other women. These and other draconian laws have defined the nature of the new Taliban regime which has unleashed a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

The impact of violence and breeches of human rights of women and children in Afghanistan has started an anti-Taliban women's movement and civil unrest there. Interestingly, for the first time the women's movement has emerged as a powerful vehicle of public contestation and outburst raising their voice against the human rights violations in the country. The civil society agitation there should get a support from Malala Yousafzai and other women's movements in South Asia to make it stronger. The other countries of S.A.A.R.C also need to play a constructive role in this regard.

Three weeks after they captured Kabul, the Taliban announced an interim government on September 7, 2021. The new administration, unfortunately, a gang of most wanted international terrorists, will in course of time, transform Afghanistan into a graveyard of dying aspirations. Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban emir since 2016 will be the new 'Emir al Momineen' (commander of the faithful) of Afghanistan or the acting Prime Minister. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar is Deputy Prime Minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani as Interior Minister, Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob as Defense Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi as Foreign Minister and Khalil Haqqani as Refugee Minister. 17 of the 33 members in the Cabinet are designated as terrorists by the international community.

The coup d'état in the last week of August, 2021 leading to a takeover by Taliban government has raised security concerns not just for South Asia but for the entire world. Afghanistan should not be used as a safe haven for breeding and training of terrorists by the Taliban. This is a serious concern of the world community. Along with Taliban, the presence of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Haqqani Network and Islamic State in Khorasan (I.S.I.S -K) - all are inimical to the security of the India.

### **Viability of Soft power in Afghanistan**

What will be the trajectory of the new establishment and its shape is yet to be seen? It is yet not clear as to how the world community will accept the 'undesirable'. Shedding its past inhibitions, the Government of India

has started an open, formal talks with the Taliban which has formed the government in Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>

Even earlier when the Taliban was in power from 1996-2001, it had unleashed a reign of terror in India by sponsoring anti -India activities in the Kashmir valley. The uncertainty surrounding the recognition of Taliban by the international community has raised questions over its membership in S.A.A.R.C also. Afghanistan was admitted in the S.A.A.R.C as the eighth member in 2007 under the leadership of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.<sup>2</sup>

India's foreign policy with regard to Afghanistan is also at crossroads and past policy decisions are producing strategic, moral, and political boomerangs. To a large extent, India made a mistake, as many Western powers did: it put its faith and confidence in the Ashraf Ghani government. The Taliban seized control over the Afghan-India bridge (formerly Salma Dam) in an offensive, as well as the provincial capital of Zaranj, which connects to Chabahar Port in Iran. These losses, along with the seizure of an MI-24 attack helicopter gifted by India to the Afghan military, have demonstrated the failure of India's soft power strategy in Afghanistan.

Soft power or the intangible assets had strengthened India's moral position in the country through the construction of schools, colleges, hospitals, as well as electrification projects. Today, India's losses are huge. The country has invested more than \$3 billion in Afghanistan since 2001 on development and reconstruction projects, including the Salma Dam along the Iranian border and Afghanistan's Parliament building, the latter was built costing to the tune of \$90 million and was supposed to symbolize Afghanistan's transition to democracy. New Delhi provided scholarships to Afghan students, offered food assistance, and helped restore Afghanistan's war-ravaged power grid.<sup>3</sup>

Nevertheless, the recent developments in Afghanistan have raised new questions about the viability of India's use of soft power in Afghanistan. It is still to be seen as to what shall be the future course of action for India which faces a serious security threat from the developments in South Asia.

### **Internal Challenges in Afghanistan**

Nation- states are and will continue to fail in this and succeeding decades, if they fail to provide the basic services to the people. They are 'Failing' as they fail to ensure the life, liberty and security of individuals, by abrogating the Rule of Law, by denying political freedoms and economic opportunities and by the presence of crippling Infrastructure. The Taliban takeover has crippled any future hopes of progress in Afghanistan.

With the establishment of a semi-presidential system in Afghanistan in 2004, attempts were made to restore normalcy and deliver the basic services to the people. With an influx of aid since 2002, Afghanistan sustained

rapid economic growth and improvements against important social indicators for more than a decade. Annual growth averaged 9.4 percent between 2003 and 2012, driven by a booming aid-driven services sector, and strong agricultural growth.<sup>4</sup>

Rural poverty is estimated to have declined from 58.5 percent in 2016-17 to 47.6 percent in 2019-20, reflecting strong agricultural production following recovery from the 2018 drought and associated increases in incomes derived from fruit and vegetable crops.

Party system was slowly evolving in Afghanistan and before the Taliban takeover in August, 2021, it had around 86 political parties with different shades. On various socio-economic indicators also, the country had shown considerable progress. In 2001, no girl attended formal schools and boys' enrollment was estimated to be one million. Net Enrollment was 43% for boys and a meager 3% for girls. Only 50% of the registered schools had proper buildings, while the rest operated in tents, houses and under trees. In 2015, there were nearly 300,000 students and the net enrollment of girls increased to 36%.

Afghan health system had also made considerable progress during the past decade thanks to strong government leadership, sound public health policies and international initiatives. There has been a significant decline in maternal and child mortality rates. The under 5 mortality rate dropped from 257 and 165 per 1000, Live Births to 55 and 45 respectively. Though there might be improvement in coverage and quality of health indicators, but still a lot needs to be done. Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of child malnutrition in the world, with about 40.9% of children under 5 suffering from chronic malnutrition.

Despite significant progress in developing the Electricity Grid, Afghanistan retains one of the lowest rates of access and usage of electricity in the world. While over 89% of population in large urban areas like Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif have access to Grid electricity, less than 11% of rural population has access to Grid connected power. About 77% of entire Afghan population lives in rural areas. They get electricity from north-east power system i.e., Uzbekistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.

However, security and development remained inextricably linked in Afghanistan to the poor security environment continuing to exert a significant constraint on confidence, investment and growth in the country. The civilian casualties were more than 10,000 per year between 2014 and 2019 and in the present times once again a reign of terror has been unleashed by the Taliban.

There is an intricate inter-mingling of crime and politics in Afghanistan. Allegations of corruption, poor

governance or 'Governance Vacuum', presence of a parallel economy in the form of illicit drug trafficking, mining, illegal weapon trade, narcotic trafficking - are serious internal challenges faced by the country. Afghanistan accounts for 90% of world's supply of opium. Value of drug trade was around \$ 2.8 billion in 2009, around 26% of its G.D.P, which was then used to fund terrorist activities in and outside Afghanistan.

Admittedly, the Doha peace negotiations and restoration of democracy in Afghanistan had helped in strengthening the governance and nation-building process in Afghanistan; nonetheless, the recent developments in the wake of the withdrawal of U.S forces and the resultant Taliban takeover, have once again pushed the Afghan society into an era of barbarianism and lawlessness.

### Conclusion

The recent developments in Afghanistan pose a serious challenge to the world community and the United Nations for intervention and restoration of normalcy. The peace process should be started immediately by the involvement of neighboring member countries of SAARC, including India and U.N. should play a constructive role in this. The use of soft power will have a decisive impact in the restoration of democracy and peace. The SAARC nations can play an important role in this. Last, but not the least, the only pathological remedy of the prolonged Afghan fever is the medicine of Good Governance.

The future stability and peace of the South Asian region depends on the success of a stable and unified Afghanistan. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the entire world community including SAARC nations, to help Afghanistan come out of the historical, evil spell of ill-fortune, misery, hunger and suffering, towards a new dawn of peace, prosperity and development.

### End-Notes

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# Perspectives on Regime Change in Nepal

Rishi Gupta\* & Dr. Sarita\*\*

*[Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, political instability has doubled human agony in Nepal. In less than six months, a democratically elected Prime Minister KP Oli had dissolved the parliament twice using his political might to safeguard his position as Prime Minister. However, with the intervention of the Supreme Court of Nepal, the prestige of the offices of Prime Minister and President has been restored, and a new Government led by Nepali Congress Party President has been appointed. On the other hand, Nepal's internal developments impact India's security and geo-strategic interests. Also, China has been deploying all strategic and financial means to fuel anti-India voices in Nepal. In this light, the present paper analyses Nepal's political developments. It focuses on the rising influence of China in Nepal and how it poses a challenge to India.]*

On 12 July 2021, the Supreme Court of Nepal restored the parliament of Nepal and appointed opposition leader Sher Bahadur Deuba as the new Prime Minister, who took oath on 13 July 2021. While hearing more than thirty writ petitions against President Bidya Devi Bhandari's decision to dissolve the lower house of the parliament at the recommendation of Prime Minister KP Oli, the court observed that such dissolutions of parliament go against the spirit of democracy in Nepal. Now, a new government is led by Nepali Congress in coalition with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center), Madhesh based Janta Samjwadi Party led by Upendra Yadav and Baburam Bhattarai and a faction of Nepal Community Party (UML) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal. In a floor test, the coalition Government won 165 votes, enough to claim the majority in the house. With this, the apex court has come to rescue constitutional integrity, and democratic values won after a decade-long Maoist movement in Nepal.

Meanwhile, these political developments are taking place during the COVID-19 crisis in Nepal. As of 18 August 2021, Nepal has recorded around 8.32 lakh cases and 10,292 fatalities.<sup>1</sup> Nepal is in dire need of vaccines and other medical help, and a small neighbouring country like Bhutan, along with other international players, have supplied vaccines to Nepal. Amidst an ongoing medical emergency, an unstable political environment in Nepal has doubled the pain of Nepalese people. However, it is not for the first time that Nepal is witnessing such political mayhem. Since the dawn of democracy in 2006, no government has been able to complete a five-year term despite few winning a clear majority in the parliament to run the Government.

## Follies of Left Alliance

The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) (CPN-UML), led by KP Sharma Oli and the Maoist Party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal, aka Prachanda, joined hands to form a Left Alliance and won the largest

political mandate in the 2017 Parliamentary Elections. The two had later merged their respective political parties to form Nepal Communist Party (NCP). However, the merger was indeed a case of political compromises as Maoists sought to come back in national politics amidst their fading popularity. KP Oli also saw it as the biggest opportunity to end a potential opposition by the Maoists against his UML party. Meanwhile, an interest-based coalition had a little light to see considering KP Oli and Prachanda's quest to lead the Government. For more than two years, KP Oli continued as Prime Minister. In May 2020, disputes between NCP Chairman KP Oli and Prachanda came wide in the open over their contest for the post of Prime Minister.

## Democratic Values Compromised

With rising support to Prachanda within NCP, KP Oli sought to divide the party by recommending two new Ordinances to the President approved overnight in May 2020. These ordinances received heavy criticism from the NCP and Nepalese people as they compromised the integrity of the President's Office, allegedly acting at the behest of KP Oli. The ordinances were withdrawn after Prachanda threatened to withdraw support to the Government. Yet, it did not resolve the political differences between Oli and Prachanda. With no compromise reached with Prachanda, Prime Minister KP Oli dissolved an elected parliament on 21 December 2020, and fresh elections were scheduled for March-April 2021.<sup>2</sup> However, amidst public uproar and judicial activism, the Supreme Court and restored Parliament. At the same time, the apex court declared NCP illegal, citing that another party was already existing in the same name with the Election Commission of Nepal. This came as a relief to KP Oli, and he once again took complete control of a restored UML party. The President of Nepal once again appointed KP Oli as the Prime Minister on 13 May 2021, even after losing the parliament's vote of confidence.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, in a sharp political turnover of events, the apex court once again derailed an ambitious political drive of KP Oli. It allowed the Opposition Parties to form a new Government led by the second-largest party, namely Nepali Congress.

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### **Shifting Blame on India**

In 2015, the Government of Nepal promulgated a hasty constitution that resulted in violent movements in the Terai (southern region). The Madhesis (people living in Southern Nepal) who share close socio-cultural ties with India, especially Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, protested against the new constitution. They alleged that the majoritarian Pahadi people (hill people) led Government had marginalised the Hindi, Bhojpuri and Maithili speaking Madhesis in the parliament. Also, few provisions in the new constitution had deprived citizenship to women marrying foreigners. Since India and Nepal share matrimonial ties across an open border, the new laws were discriminatory to age-old people to people ties between India and Nepal.<sup>4</sup> Due to cultural affinity, India extended its moral support to Madhesis, which did not go well with the ruling elites of Nepal. To worsen the relations, Prime Minister KP Oli alleged that India was plotting his ouster in 2016.<sup>5</sup> As a result, the Nepalese Ambassador to India Deep Kumar Upadhyay was recalled on 07 May 2016. This was the lowest point in the diplomatic history of India-Nepal bilateral ties. Although Ambassador Upadhyay was re-appointed by a new Government led by Maoist Chief Prachanda in October 2016, Oli began to speak against India publicly to gain political mileage out of it. In this process, Oli had, over the years, succeeded in creating an ultra-nationalistic outlook and attempted to change an India-centric of Nepal. During 2017 election rallies, Oli had capitalized upon anti-India sentiments.

### **Implications for India**

With the signing of the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, India has assured Nepal of all possible help and support against any foreign aggression, trade, transit and peaceful co-existence. It has allowed Nepal to benefit from an open border with India mutually. However, politicians like KP Oli have misused India's good intent and exploited it for his political purposes. Since 2016, KP Oli had used a language of assertion and offence against India. In response, India had opted to abstain from commenting on the political developments in Nepal.

Meanwhile, India's difficult position to remain silent as political instability in Nepal has direct implications on the safety and security of India due to an open border. The Madhesh movement of 2015 had severe security implications for India. The bordering states of India-Bihar and Uttar Pradesh saw spill-over effects of the Madhesh Andolan in Nepal's Terai. As a result, India reached out to Prime Minister Sushil Koirala through its special envoy Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar with a request to accommodate the demands of the Madhesis before the constitution was to be promulgated. Against India's good intentions, the Sushil Koirala government alleged it as an intervention into the internal matters of Nepal, and a hasty constitution was enacted on 20

September 2015. An inconclusive Madhesh movement affected the cross-border movement at the India-Nepal border. It eventually turned into a Border Blockade for three months, affecting the supplies from India to a landlocked Nepal. Also, politically influenced anti-India campaigns on social media in the last two years have hampered people to people (P2P) relations between India and Nepal.

### **Border Dispute**

In 2019, India released a new political map after Article 370 in the Constitution of India was abrogated, which gave special status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. While the J&K was now governed under the Constitution of the Union of India, two new union territories were created Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Nepal had objected to the map, saying it depicted India's boundaries with Nepal wrong as the Kalapani region belongs to Nepal. Against these claims, India held its position that no boundaries were shown differently other than showing newly created states. The border issue further escalated after India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80 km long road from Dharchula to Lipulekh pass, close to the India-China border, in May 2020. Upon this, the Oli government once again accused India of encroaching on Nepalese territory. This event marked the second-lowest point in the history of India-Nepal relations where the Nepalese Prime Minister himself was badmouthing India for a border dispute.

### **Nepal Shifts to North**

With the relationship with India touching the lowest point, Nepal has shifted its treads towards China at the policy and strategic level. Besides establishing political relations with the leftist parties in Nepal, Beijing has advanced bilateral ties with Nepal from "Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity"<sup>6</sup>. The agreement to elevate political ties to strategic one was signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Nepal in October 2019. Xi became the first President to visit Nepal after a gap of 23 years. The last high-profile visit from China took place in 1996 when President Jiang Zemin had landed in Nepal. While Nepal-China began their diplomatic ties in 1955, relations were merely diplomatic with occasional global and regional affairs engagements. However, with the arrival of democracy in Nepal, bilateral ties have seen continuity in the interaction.

### **China's Tibet Nexus**

In 2008, Beijing was hosting Olympic Games. At the same time, there were violent anti-China protests taking place in the Tibetan capital Lhasa. Protestors were commemorating the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dalai Lama's refuge in India. With a global media present in China to cover the Olympic Games, China came heavily upon the

protestors, and thousands of protestors were reportedly imprisoned, and hundreds were killed. With Nepal home to more than twenty thousand Tibetan refugees and a gateway to Tibetan refugees to enter India for refuge, China had reached out to Nepal to stop the protests in Nepal and capture all attempting defectors through the China-Nepal border into India. The then Prime Minister Prachanda had cracked down on the demonstrations and threatened to deport the protestors back to China. A democratically elected government's positive response was the beginning of new strategic ties between Nepal and China. From then onwards, Kathmandu has extended its complete support to China in sharing intelligence and security consultation on the Nepal-Tibet border. While Tibet remains a matter of vulnerability for China considering global attention and criticism for its treatment of the Tibetans and gross Human Rights violations against them, Beijing has been seeking Nepal's support to capture escaping Tibet through the China-Nepal border and silencing Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

Since the 2015 border blockade, China is trying to use India-Nepal tensions to its advantage to increase its geo-strategic presence in Nepal. For instance, it has allowed Nepal to use the Tianjin Port for Nepal's third-country trade. Although the agreement was symbolic since the Chinese port is 3000 km away from Kathmandu and road infrastructure is extremely poor, the agreement was undoubtedly aimed to irk India. Secondly, Nepal has helped the Tibetan refugee community to stay and facilitated their departure to Dharamshala in India. However, in the last ten years, Nepal has gone against the 'Gentleman's Agreement', signed with the United Nations, where Nepal has assured the global community to protect the rights of the Tibetan refugees. Against this, China has even signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal Matters in 2019 with Nepal, which will jeopardise the safety and security of Tibetans in Nepal.<sup>7</sup> In some cases, any new refugees crossing the China border to enter Nepal may be deported to China. On the other hand, ongoing military cooperation and COVID-19 vaccines from China to Nepal facilitate a welcoming space to China in Nepal.

### **Challenges and Road Ahead**

The end of an authoritarian government led by KP Oli and the formation of a Nepali Congress-led coalition government comes as a relief to the people of Nepal. For the next one and a half years, a government with a majority cannot be out through floor tests under the constitution. Hence, Prime Minister Deuba led Government has guaranteed political stability, but it has a litmus test of holding the pressure of coalition in the matters of national interest. For instance, the Nepali Congress party wants to have Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) ratified by the parliament. The MCC was signed in 2017 where the United States government

will provide financial assistance of USD 500 million to Nepal for infrastructure development, electricity and road transportation. However, the leftist parties, including Maoists, have opposed MCC saying it forms security obligations for Nepal. Therefore, MCC has been kept in the backyard. There is also a clear indication that since MCC poses a challenge to China's Belt and Road Initiative in Nepal, Beijing uses its political influence to keep MCC at bay.

At the same time, the new Government, under a Common Minimum Programme (CMP), promises to resolve border disputes with India through diplomatic means. CMP also promises to act against the anti-constitutional and democratic forces without naming KP Oli. It aims to provide better health facilities to fight CVOID-19 and address the social and economic conditions of the country affected by COVID-19. However, with a short-term administration at hand, Prime Minister Deuba will need the support of the coalition to put CMP in action. On the other hand, China will prove to be a litmus test for the Deuba government as traditionally Nepali Congress has been considered close to India. Therefore, India needs to work with Prime Minister Deuba to resolve bilateral issues and start afresh for mutual benefits.

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# India's Security Challenges in North East India

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*[The North East Region is very important for India from strategic point of view as about 99 per cent of its borders form India's international boundaries. It is a region rich in culture, natural resources, tourism and hydropower potential. Despite its advantages, the region has been facing numerous security challenges including insurgency problem, inter-state boundary dispute, illegal immigration and refugee issue, poor economic development, inadequate infrastructure facilities etc. Taking these facts into consideration, this article focuses on various security issues, both internal as well as external, that have been posing serious security threat to North East in particular and India in general.]*

The North East India consists of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. It comprises an area of 2, 62,230 square kilometers which is almost 8 per cent of the total geographical area of India. It is located in between longitude 89.46°E and 97.30°E and latitude 21.57°N and 29.30°N. Strategically, the North East is the most sensitive region of India which shares an international boundary with Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Nepal. More than 99 per cent of the borders of the North East abut other countries.

Geographically, the region is isolated from the rest of India which is connected by a narrow stretch of land of about 22 kilometers called "Siliguri Corridor" or "Chicken Neck." The corridor extends from Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Terai areas of West Bengal towards the north east. West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh all rely on the region for trade, commerce, and tourism. This corridor serves as the conduit for all land trade between the North East and the rest of the country (Gurung, 2018).

Though the region has enormous potential for utilising its vast natural resources and tourism, the region's poor connectivity, perceived isolation, insurgency problem in some states, growing vulnerability to terrorism, ethnic conflicts, cross-border linkages including cultural connect with countries like China and Myanmar, inter-tribal feuds for dominance, poor economic development etc., are some of the strategic concerns that make the current security situation in the region extremely difficult to deal with, but strategically inescapable to be tackled (Asthana, 2020).

## Security Issues of India's North East

### *Inter-State Boundary Dispute*

The border disputes in the region primarily involve Assam because the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya were carved out of Assam. The longest and bloodiest inter-state boundary

dispute is between Assam and Nagaland, which started right at the inception of the state of Nagaland in 1963. There have been several incidents of violent clashes between the two in which hundreds of people died. The boundary problem is still unresolved since they have refused to accept recommendations of two commissions set up by the Centre and thus a suit is pending in the Supreme Court since 1988.

Likewise, Assam shares 804-km long border with Arunachal Pradesh. Initially, though there were no disputes between the two, later allegations of encroachments have led to multiple disputes and attendant violence. A suit has been pending in the Supreme Court since 1989 on the issue (Parashar, 2020). The states of Assam and Meghalaya have a boundary dispute as well. The clashes between the two sides along the border occur on a regular basis, resulting in the displacement of a large number of residents as well as the loss of life and property. Despite several rounds of talks, they have failed to resolve the issue.

Similarly, there has been a controversy over the issue of boundary between Assam and Mizoram. There were a few instances of tensions along the border in 1994, 2007, 2018, 2020 and most recently on July 26, 2021 when police clashed on either side of a contentious border point exchanging fire in which six Assam Police personnel were killed and over 50 people were injured (Press Trust of India, 2021).

### *Illegal Immigration*

Large-scale illegal immigration in the North East has been a serious national security threat, besides altering the demographic complexion of the region particularly of Assam, Tripura and Sikkim. In fact, influxes of illegal migrants have had an adverse impact on the socio-economic and political lives of the indigenous people of the region. The growing number of illegal immigrants has reduced the indigenous population to a minority in their own states as happened in the case of Tripura and Sikkim. In Tripura, the indigenous population became landless and reduced to a minority status, while migrant Bengalis emerged as the dominant force.

North East has international border with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and due to its strategic

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location with the neighboring nations, socio-cultural affinity, kinship networks and historical reasons, the illegal immigrants mostly from Bangladesh, have made the region their destinations over the years and eventually their home. Four of the states together share an 1,879-km long border with Bangladesh viz., Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (262 km) (Das, 2016: 17-18).

The increase in illegal immigrants has exacerbated the law-and-order issue. In fact, illegal migration is one of the most important factors of social and ethnic violence in the region. Furthermore, it has caused a crisis of identity among the indigenous people, as well as increased economic burden on the government to increase its expenditure on education and health facilities for immigrants.

The illegal migrants have become the vote banks for the political parties as vast majority of them have got their names enlisted in the voting list illegally. Illegal immigration has resulted into an anti-foreigner uprising in Assam, from the late 1960s prominent during 1979 to 1985, led by the All-Assam Students Union demanding the three 'Ds'-detection, disfranchisement and deportation of illegal migrants.

The illegal migration was, in fact, the prime factor for the outbreak of insurgency in the state. For instance, the strong armed and insensitive handling of the movement by the government wounded the psyche of the people and anti-Indian sentiments began snowballing among the youths, leading to the development of a secessionist-armed insurgency led by United Liberation Front of Assam (Das, 2016: 20-21).

### ***Insurgency***

The region is home to over 220 ethnic groups, each with its own culture, tradition, language, religious beliefs and food and dress habits. Moreover, every single state is multi-ethnic and diverse in nature. There are inter-ethnic conflicts and the ethnic demand for homeland has resulted in the formation of number of states in the region. For instance, the greater Assam was broken down into the states of Nagaland (1963), Meghalaya (1972), Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram (1987) to meet the demands of these ethnic groups (Jain, 2016: 275-285). Another threat is from insurgent groups whose demands ranging from complete secession from Indian Union to greater autonomy within the constitutional framework of India, and yet some others demand separate state and the right to self-determination and special rights and the protection of their distinct identity. The Naga insurgency, which started way back in the early 1950s, has gradually spread to other areas and still remains an unresolved problem. Nagaland was the first state where armed groups seeking secession surfaced in the 1950s. Mizoram followed this in the 1960s, Manipur in the 1970s, Assam and Tripura in the 1980s and parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya in the 1990s (Bhat, 2019).

There has been an endeavor by some insurgent groups to join hands together for coordinated operations. For instance, in 2015, a conglomeration of insurgents led by ULFA-I and NSCN-Khaplang attacked an Assam Rifles convoy in Chandel in which 18 soldiers were killed. In December 2017, two Assam Rifles personnel was killed in an attack in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh, for which NSCN-K, ULFA-I, and the Meitei-dominated and Imphal-centric Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup group claimed responsibility (Paliwal, 2020).

### **External Forces as a Threat**

No doubt, insurgency, weak economy, underdevelopment, ethnicity, political immaturity and illegal immigration are security concerns of North East, the real threat is from external forces. Since around 99 per cent of the borders of the region are international, many internal security challenges have strong external linkages. The neighboring countries have been active in exploiting the volatile situation created by the unrest in the region. Not only countries such as China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, but also smaller powers like Bhutan and Nepal have been involved in the region. They have varyingly contributed to the ongoing violence in the region through political support, economic assistance, logistic support, military training and arms supplies (Datta, 2008: 1495-1496).

Chinese assistance to insurgents came early in the 1960s and continued through the 1970s. Issac Muivah, the leader of Naga National Council along with 300 men was imparted the knowledge of arms, guerrilla tactics and Maoism in Yunan province in January 1967. The Naga insurgency became stronger and more intense with better tactics and modern weapons with the Chinese support. Likewise, China also provided moral and material support to the Mizo and Meitei insurgents by arranging for their training in guerilla warfare and subversion in training centres in Yunan province of mainland China and Lhasa in Tibet (Datta, 2008: 1496).

China provides shelter to several insurgent groups. For decades, Paresh Baruah, chief of the ULFA-I who seeks Assam's separation from India has been operating from China's Yunnan province with interim stays in and travels to Myanmar's Sagaing Division (Paliwal, 2020). In addition to China, Pakistan also poses a serious threat to the region. Pakistan is believed to have provided training and funding to militant groups through its intelligence agency, the I.S.I. Photographic evidence, passports seized from arrested militants and confessional statements made by arrested and surrendered militants have been provided as evidence in support of the Indian claim although Pakistan refutes such claims (Kumar, 2018).

Besides, a boundary dispute with China in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim has been another security concern of India. China has been claiming 90,000 sq km areas of Arunachal Pradesh based on a historical relationship that

existed between Tawang and Tibet in the past. China, considering the McMahon Line to be illegal, made several incursions into the territory of Arunachal Pradesh and attacked India in 1962. Most recently, China has constructed a new village in Arunachal Pradesh, consisting of about 101 homes approximately 4.5 kms within the Indian Territory on the banks of the river Tsari Chu, which lies in Upper Subansiri district (Som, 2021).

In 2017, a military border standoff occurred in Doklam when India helped Bhutan against Chinese construction of road in the area. China has been trying to seize de facto control over the region keeping in view its strategic location. Since Doklam is close to India's Siliguri Chicken's Neck Corridor and thus if the road is completed, it will shorten the distance for the Chinese army and would give them an easy access to India's strategically vulnerable Siliguri Corridor.

Over the years, the Chinese have sought to build bridges with India's neighbours in order to contain India. They have helped to build Pakistan as a counterweight to India. They have also tried to use Myanmar as a strategic observatory and have attempted to gain a foothold in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. China's three largest arms clients are India's neighbours—Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh (Datta, 2008: 1496). China's increasing influence in Bangladesh and Myanmar, both of which have joined BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) project, is also a matter of grave concern for India.

China's infrastructure development in Yunnan and its extension to Myanmar, besides increasing its influence in North East, provides it with access to the Bay of Bengal and bring its connectivity in close proximity to Indian borders with Myanmar (Asthana, 2020).

The growing China-Pakistan strategic nexus poses a more serious geopolitical and security threat to India. Several incidents in recent years have indicated an increase in military cooperation between China and Pakistan. In 2020, the two countries completed a nine-day naval exercise called operation Sea Guardians, which involved special forces, warships, aerial assets and, for the first time, submarines in a series of live-fire exercises.

China's assistance was also critical to Pakistan's successful development of the Shaheen II medium range ballistic missile. With China's growing support for Pakistan and increased supply of military expertise and equipment, it is clear that India's approach to the two countries may require a strategic rethinking. It has been noted that India is not well equipped at the military level to counter a threat from both China and Pakistan (Mohan, 2020).

India shares a long land border of over 1600 Kilometres with Myanmar as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four North Eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, share an international boundary with Myanmar and thus Myanmar

lies at a very strategically important location which has been posing serious security threat to India. Since the beginning of insurgency in the North East in the 1950s, Naga, Mizo, Meitei, and Assamese insurgents have crossed into Myanmar to establish bases, particularly in Chin state and Sagaing region, where they rest, recoup, train, plan and launch future offensives, and seek refuge when pursued by Indian security forces.

Around 2,000 cadres of insurgents such as ULFA-I, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland-S, the United National Liberation Front, the People's Liberation Army etc. are said to be hiding in Myanmar. Furthermore, rampant gun running and drug trafficking are major security threats emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Because of its proximity to Myanmar in the 'Golden Triangle,' the India-Myanmar border is vulnerable to heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) trafficking produced in Myanmar. These narcotics are trafficked into India via the states of Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland from Bhamo, Lashio and Mandalay (Finnigan, 2019).

The recent military coup in Myanmar has put India's border security at risk. Following the coup, there has been a large influx of people entering India through a porous and unfenced border, especially in Manipur, posing a serious threat to India's internal security. Since the Chin people of Myanmar are ethnically related to the Mizos and Kukis of India, they are willing to accommodate refugees. Even the Chief Minister of Manipur, Zoramthanga, assured the state Assembly on February 24, 2021, that his government would assist refugees.

However, it contradicts New Delhi's position. India has positive engagements with the military junta, with whom it collaborates on counter-terrorism operations. New Delhi is currently walking a geopolitical tightrope because even a minor miscalculation could threaten India's border security (WION, 2021). Moreover, China is always ready to take advantage of any mistake made by India to build closer ties with the military junta.

Geographically located at the trifurcation of ASEAN, India (South Asia), and China (East Asia), Myanmar's internal crises have significant geopolitical implications. Myanmar, particularly for India, serves as a bridge to Southeast Asia and ASEAN, as well as an important factor in keeping the North Eastern states peaceful. Any unrest in Myanmar has an immediate impact on India's internal security (Kullashri, 2021).

### **Conclusion**

The North East region is the most ethnically diverse region inhabited by heterogeneous population with distinct socio-cultural identities. The region is, in fact, the most isolated region and strategically it is much more important than any other regions of the country as it is surrounded by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and above all China who has always been the biggest security threat to India.

Taking into consideration the geo-strategic location of the North East India, New Delhi needs to speed up the infrastructure development and inclusive growth in the region to avoid and counter any security risks, both internal as well as external. Because of its strategic location, the region deserves serious attention in the foreign policy decisions of India. Thus, it is high time to solve the internal issues such as insurgency, interstate border conflict, poor economic development and poor connectivity etc. so that India can effectively counter security challenges from external forces.

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# Towards Inclusive Education in India

Dr. Kalinga Ketaki\*

*[Inclusive education means different and diverse students learning side by side in same classroom. They enjoy educational trips and other extracurricular activities together and they attend the same sports meet and plays. Around the world children are excluded from schools on the ground of disability, race, language, religion, gender and poverty. But every child has the right to be supported by their parents and community to grow, aspire, learn and develop in the early years and upon reaching school age to go to the schools and be regardless of their differences are educated together and benefits, this is the cornerstone of inclusive education. Inclusive education values diversity and the unique contribution each student brings to the classroom. In a truly inclusive education system, every child feels safe and has a sense of belongingness. Students and their parents participate in setting learning goals and take part in decisions that affect them and flexibility and resources to nurture, encourage and respond to the needs of all students.]*

**I**nclusive education means different and diverse students learning side by side in same classroom, and internationally there have been regular efforts to include children with disabilities in the educational mainstream. In order to achieve truly inclusive education, we need to think about and incorporate children with special needs into regular schools, especially, because these children face some sort of problems to learning and participation in the classroom situation. As general education classrooms include more and more diverse students, teachers realize the value of accepting each student as unique.

In effective inclusive programs, teachers adapt activities to include all students, even though their individual goals may be different. Inclusive Education is a new approach towards educating the children with disability and learning difficulties with that of normal ones within the same roof. It brings all students together in one classroom and community, regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area, and seeks to maximize the potential of all students. It is one of the most effective ways in which to promote an inclusive and tolerant society.

It is known that 73 million children of primary school age were out of school in 2010, down from a high of over 110 million out-of-school children in the mid-1990s, according to new estimates by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). About Eighty percent of Indian population lives in rural areas without provision for special schools.

Around the world, children are excluded from schools where they belong because of disability, race, language, religion, gender and poverty. But every child has the right to be supported by their parents and community to grow, aspire and learn and develop in the early years and upon reaching school age to go to the schools and be regardless of their differences are educated together, everyone benefits. This is the cornerstone of inclusive education.

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## **Inclusive Education and Government Policies**

The Government of India is constitutionally trying to ensure the right of every child to basic education. It has created numerous policies for special education since the country's independence. One of the earliest formal initiatives undertaken by the Government of India was the Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) scheme of 1974 (NCERT, 2011). The Kothari Commission (1966) which highlighted the importance of educating children with disabilities during the post-independence period (Pandey 2006).

In the 1980s the then ministry of welfare, Government of India, realized the crucial need of an institution to monitor and regulate the HRD programmes in the field of disability rehabilitation. Till the 1990s, ninety percent of India's estimated 40 million children in the age group-four-sixteen years with physical and mental disabilities were being excluded from mainstream education. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE, 1986), and the Programme of Action (1992) stresses the need for integrating children with special needs with other groups.

The Government of India implemented the District Primary Education Project (DPEP) in 1994-95. In the late 90s (i.e., in 1997) the philosophy of inclusive education was added in District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). This programme laid special emphasis on the integration of children with mild to moderate disabilities, in line with world trends, and became one of the GOI's largest flagship programmes of the time in terms of funding with 40,000 million rupees (approximately 740 million US dollars).

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education in 2001, is one such initiative. Three important aspects of UEE are - access, enrolment and retention of all children in 6-14 years of age. A zero-rejection policy has been adopted under SSA, which ensures that every Child with Special Needs (CWSN), irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education. National Curriculum Framework

(NCF) 2005 has laid down a clear context of inclusive education. In 2005, the Ministry of Human Resource Development implemented a National Action Plan for the inclusion in education of children and youth with disabilities.

Furthermore, IEDC was revised and named „Inclusive Education of the Disabled at the Secondary Stage (IEDSS) in 2009-10 to provide assistance for the inclusive education of the disabled children at 9th and 10th classes. This scheme now subsumed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) from 2013. It is important to integrate these children into regular schools to help them socialise and build their confidence.

### **Need and Importance of Inclusive Education**

Inclusive systems provide a better quality of education for all children and are instrumental in changing discriminatory attitudes. School provides the context for a child's first relationship with the world outside their families enabling the development of social relationships and interactions. Respect and understanding grow when students of diverse abilities and backgrounds play, socialize, and learn together. Education that excludes and segregates perpetuates discrimination against traditionally marginalized groups.

When education is more inclusive, so are concepts of civic participation, employment and community life. Inclusive Education Inclusion refers to the “full-time placement of children with mild, moderate and severe disabilities in regular classrooms” (Staub & Peck 1994/95). Inclusive education differs from previously held notions of “integration” and “mainstreaming”, which tended to be concerned principally with disability and “special education needs” and implied accommodation of all categories of learners in the classroom (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, 2014).

Inclusion is a step further in mainstreaming, as it presents a means by which a school attempts to respond to all pupils as individuals, by reconsidering and structuring its curricular organization and provision, allocating resources to enhance equality of opportunity and through this process, the school builds its capacity to accept all pupils from the local community who wish to attend, and in doing so, reduces the need to exclude pupils (Sebba & Sachdev, 1997).

Inclusive education is concerned with minimizing and removing barriers to access, participation and learning for all children, but especially for those who have been socially discriminated because of poverty, disability, gender, religion, ethnicity or any inequalities (UNESCO, 2006). According to the National Centre on Educational Restructuring and Inclusion (1995), inclusive education means: Providing to all students, including those with significant disabilities, equitable opportunities to receive effective educational services, with the needed supplementary aids and support services,

in age-appropriate classrooms, in order to prepare students for productive lives as full members of society. Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (2002) as cited in Okobah (2007) defines inclusive education as a programme for all children and young people with or without disabilities or difficulties learning together in ordinary pre-primary provision, schools, colleges and universities with appropriate network. The aim of inclusive education is not to erase differences in children but to enable all children to belong to the same educational community (Knight, 1999), while at the same time laminating social exclusion arising from attitudes and responses to diversity in race, social class, ethnicity, religion, gender and ability (Vitello and Mithug, 1988 cited by Ainscow, 2004).

The goal of inclusive education as rightly observed by Knight (1999) is not to erase differences in children but to enable all children to belong to the same educational community. Separate special education provides no guarantee of success for children who need special attention. Inclusive schools that provide supportive, context appropriate conditions for learning demonstrate far better outcomes. Extra-curricular activities, peer support or more specialized interventions involve the entire school community working as a team.

The growing body of research has shown that children do better academically when in inclusive settings and inclusion provides opportunities to develop relationships. Some of the benefits include: friendships, social skills, personal principles, comfort level with people who have special needs, and caring classroom environments. The most important function of friendships is to make people feel cared for, loved, and safe. In an inclusive educational setting, low-achieving students are able to get extra help even though they did not qualify for special education.

Classmates of students with disabilities also experience growth in social cognition, often can become more aware of the needs of others in inclusive classrooms. An interesting side effect is that these parents report that they also feel more comfortable with people with special needs because of their children's experiences. Students with disabilities can create long-lasting friendships that would not be otherwise possible, and these friendships can give them the skills to navigate social relationships later on in life.

### **Elements of Inclusive Education**

#### ***Use of Teaching Assistants***

These staff have the potential to be inclusive or divisive. For instance, a specialist who helps teachers address the needs of all students is working inclusively. A specialist who pulls students to of class to work with them individually on a regular basis is not.

#### ***Inclusive Curriculum***

An inclusive curriculum includes locally relevant themes and contributions by marginalized and minority groups. It avoids binary narratives of good and bad and allows adapting the curriculum to the learning styles of children with special education needs.

### ***Parental Involvement***

Most schools strive for some level of parental involvement, but it is often limited to emails, home and occasional parent teacher conferences. In a diverse school system, inclusion means thinking about multiple ways to reach out to parents on their own terms.

### **Development of Inclusive Education**

To make inclusive education a reality we need to do the following:

- Ensure that educators have the training, flexibility and resources to teach the students with diverse needs and learning styles.
- Ensure that kindergartens and schools receive adequate and sustainable financial resources / support, so all activities and services are fully inclusive.
- Empower parents to assert their children's right to education in inclusive setting.
- Enable the entire community including mainstream and special educators, social workers, parents, students to work together and participate in design, delivery and monitoring of education thereby reframing inclusive education as a shared responsibility.
- Holds government accountable for implementing anti-discrimination legislation, legal mandates for inclusive and policies to remove barriers.

### **Role of Civil Society to Promote Inclusive Education**

We suggest changes to policy and practice in a variety of ways, including the following:

- Advocate for the recognition of children's legal rights such as supporting organizations of parents with children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Fund empirical research, including support for an organization of young people with disabilities in Uganda that is documenting barriers to education.
- Support sustainable services like networking and learning opportunities for schools and NGOs, such as teacher association and parent groups.
- Strengthen civil society groups that give young people, parents, educators a voice including parent led organizations advocating for the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities.
- Engage with civil societies and other actors in policy development by, for instance providing technical

support to the development of key inclusive education related laws, policies and strategies at national level.

- Support government and system services pilot model of successful inclusive education provision that could be scaled up and replicated.

### **Advantages of Inclusive Education**

Inclusive education helps the disabled child to develop a sense of pride in their work because they actually feel like they accomplished something. Educating children with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers is considered one of the better ways to provide education to the population in India (Shah, 2005, Shah et al., 2014). The Government of India needs to bridge the gaps in their education system to build a strong system of inclusive education in the country.

Research indicates that at the elementary school level, students with disabilities who are included in general education curricula can benefit socially and academically without facing the stigma of segregated or pull-out classrooms. Standards for behavior and instruction are higher, and students with classifications have more opportunity to reach higher standards and become independent learners.

It is also believed that integration into the mainstream enables students with disabilities to benefit from the stimulation of mixing with relatively more able students and to have the opportunity to observe higher models of social and academic behavior. Inclusion has academic and social benefits for all students, whether with or without disabilities, such as increased communication and social interaction opportunities, age-appropriate models of behavior skills, more active participation in the school community, individualized education goals, as well as access to the rich core curriculum. Inclusion recognizes that all students are learners who benefit from a meaningful, challenging, and appropriate curriculum and differentiated instruction techniques that address their unique strengths and needs.

Studies also indicate that students without disabilities can benefit from inclusive settings. Findings reveal academic performance is equal or superior to comparative groups of students educated in a non-inclusive setting, and students with severe disabilities do not significantly limit or interrupt instructional time for non-disabled peers in inclusive settings. Friendships and awareness of diversity are also benefits of the inclusive classroom for individuals without disabilities.

At an interpersonal level, inclusive education allows children to develop friendships with their peers and feel less social tension about their disabilities. Some people believe that children who are placed in standard classroom environments generally have higher self-esteem than children who are isolated to different classrooms simply because they have special needs.

## Conclusion

A good inclusive education is one that allows all the students to participate in all aspects of classroom equally or close to equal. To meet the challenges, the involvement and cooperation of educators, parents, and community leaders is vital for the creation of better and more inclusive schools. The Government of India is trying to improve its education system focusing on the inclusive approach. The challenges can be overcome by raising awareness of human rights in communities and publicizing positive examples of disabled children and adults succeeding in inclusive education and in life beyond school as a result.

We need to develop an inclusive design of learning to make the education joyful for all children so that the education for them is welcoming, learner friendly and beneficial and they feel as a part of it not apart from it. Obstacles to inclusive education can be also overcome by creating awareness on what inclusion is and the benefits to the society, schools having the resources and the ability to re-structure their curriculum to cater to all types of students, by recruiting teachers who have the skills and proficiency to meet varying demands within the classroom and by having the support of family.

The bottom line of this type of education for students with disabilities should be equitable access to opportunities that will guarantee successful outcomes in education, employment and community integration. Therefore, Inclusion arose as a good solution to the question of how to educate these children more effectively.

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# Future of Bio-Tech Entrepreneurship in India

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*[Biotechnology is scientific domain wherein living organisms are applied for developing products and chemicals that are used in a large number of industries that cater to the services of equally diverse end-users. Therefore, biotech entrepreneurship opens the door for strategic B2B and B2C businesses. Entrepreneurs in India are steadily waking up to the government's flagship Make in India program to strategically invest in Biotechnology for sustainable growth. This article sums up the promises of Biotechnology entrepreneurship in India and the key challenges before the entrepreneur.]*

**E**ntrepreneurship is the pursuit of the opportunity to create new resources and infrastructure, services, and jobs by utilizing natural and human resources. The entrepreneur must have the willingness and expertise to develop, organize, and manage a business venture along with accompanying risks and gains. An entrepreneur is usually a creative thinker, curious, opportunistic, optimistic, and ready to solve any problem that comes across the way.

Biotechnology utilizes biological systems and living organisms to develop products to be used for personal care or industrial applications. Biotechnology makes use of cellular and biomolecular processes to develop lifestyle or life-sustaining goods and technologies. This scientific research-based discipline is heavily dependent on infrastructure, laboratories, high-tech equipment, and skilled human resources.

The frontline of Biotechnology aims at the qualitative improvements in agriculture, food science, and medicine. However, in the 21st century, it has gone ahead to embrace emerging disciplines like genomics, biochemistry, molecular biology applied immunology, and processes such as recombinant gene techniques, pharmaceutical therapies, and diagnostic tests. Systemic developments in genetically modified plants, bio-fuels, biological treatments, probiotics, vaccines, or production of chemicals, paper, textiles, and food pay evidence to the far-reaching implications of Biotechnology.

Biotechnology entrepreneurship is the sum of all the aforementioned activities to build enterprises through the intersection of science, technology, and business. Its activities range from research and development (R&D) to skill development, from marketing to the preservation of intellectual property rights (IPR).

The biotech entrepreneur undertakes the challenge of translating a new technology concept into a salable product, incorporating angel investments, business process evaluation, business development leading to the economy of scale, partnering, manufacturing, and retaining statutory approvals.

## **The many promises of Bio-technology**

The 21st century is beset with formidable challenges in the field of public health starting with cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and

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depression at individual levels to the onslaught of mutating viruses leading to a vicious cycle of pandemics. In this context, genetic engineering brings in shades of hope.

The discovery of CRISPR/Cas9 is a major scientific breakthrough of the 21st century. It is a microbial adaptive immune system that uses RNA-guided nucleases to resist and destroy alien genetic elements. CRISPR/Cas9 edits genes by precisely cutting DNA and then letting natural DNA repair processes prevail. The CRISPR/Cas9 system is a way forward to cleanse humans off diseases emerging around the world.

The exponentially rising global population alongside rapidly shrinking agricultural land around the world is a matter of concern regarding food security. While the scale of agriculture has produced massive greenhouse gases, the dependence on pesticides and chemical fertilizers is ruining the quality of soil systems, water bodies, and many terrestrial as well as aquatic lives. In this context, vertical farming has ensured a sustainable food chain. Vertical farming harnesses the methods of biotechnology using artificial lighting, climate control tactics, and hydroponics. This has steered the re-purposing urban spaces for cultivation by taking care of the acute crunch of land, soil, and water.

The animal husbandry industry produces a great deal of methane and carbon dioxide that is responsible for global warming and climate change. Water recycled for livestock manure contributes to 37% of the dangerous chemicals contaminating the world's freshwater (Mohammed, 2017). The antibiotics and chemicals used for animals and meat processing leech into water bodies resulting in antibiotic resistance.

Bio-tech induced "cultured meat", in this context, is being considered as a possible alternative to the conventional animal meat industry. As a part of this drive, a few cells collected from animals are grown into suitable meat under the controlled environment of a laboratory.

Gene therapy has created fresh hopes of diseases control and cure. Genetic testing enables doctors to predict and advise people about possible diseases to take preventive measures. With their large-scale applications, the cost of human genome sequencing will come down to be affordable to the common man. This will unleash more scientific and accurate means of medical diagnosis.

Currently, plastic is manufactured from petroleum-based resources. These resources are finite and environmentally unsustainable. Therefore, manufacturers are looking forward to bio-resources such as raw plant feedstocks and bio-modified

plant sources. For that, the genes encoding the key enzymes are being introduced for bio-modification conducive to bio-processing (Heo, Lee, and Chung, 2021).

Monoterpenoids are types of natural products extracted from plant sources. They are extensively used for flavoring, fragrances, colorants, cosmetics, fuels, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals in several industries. Their availability in nature is minimal, and hence, not commercially viable. The chemical synthesis of Monoterpenoids involves high energy consumption and the release of pollutants. As the alternative, microbial biosynthesis provides the potential solution to these problems through the transformation of biological cells into monoterpenoids (Zhu et al., 2021).

The progress of Biotechnology in the field of plant and agri-biotechnology has been remarkable. Specifically, in commercial preservation of rare and mutating species and the medical assessment of plants and animals towards the formulation of naturopathic drugs, the role of Biotechnology deems attention. Moreover, because of its focus on new reproduction techniques, Biotechnology can contribute a lot to the preservation of biodiversity.

In medical sciences, Biotechnology has a critical role in immunotherapies, regeneration of organs, dealing with neural disorders, and so on. Its role in controlling pollution through waste management and offering unique lifestyle products is being realized steadily. However, Biotechnology is still in its infancy. It has to go a long way to find answers to the mysteries of nature as well as to liberate mankind from its self-made perils. It has to expand the scope of science and technology by addressing ethical issues of nature and culture, and by engaging the scientific communities in a continuous mission to address the evolving problems of human society.

The biotech domain offers multiple opportunities for the new generation entrepreneur to invest in agri-clinics, biodiesel production, bio-fertilizer manufacturing, compost fertilizer production, biopesticide manufacturing, food processing, hybrid seeds, specialty medicine manufacturing, and vaccine production. Virtual clinical tests and remote monitoring will reduce the cost and time of personal visits to local clinics.

Large-scale genomic data available will remote centers will enable research on human gene systems. Advancements in the domain of genomics, proteomics, drug design, high-performance screening, and diagnostics already set the field for fresh opportunities for micro-fluidics in biotechnology.

### **Biotech entrepreneurship in India**

With 665 FDA-approved plants in the US, an appreciable 44% of the global ANDA, and over 1400 manufacturing plants that comply with WHO guidelines, India is rated as the top 12th destination for biotechnology worldwide. Globally, it ranks third in the production of recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine and second for the production of BT cotton (<https://www.ibef.org/>). The biotech industry of India amounted to a whopping 63 billion US\$ in 2019.

With a compounded growth of 16.4% per annum, it is estimated to grow up to 150 billion US\$ by 2025. By that time, it would occupy 19% of the global biotechnology market. The

biopharmaceutical sector added approximately 58% to the Indian biotechnology market in 2019. This was followed by a 19% stake in bio-agriculture and 15% in bio-services in 2019. Overall, the biologics market of India can continue its CAGR of 22% to grow up to 12 billion US\$ by 2025 (<https://www.ibef.org/>).

The onslaught of the Covid 19 pandemic has emerged as a turning point for the Indian think tank to pay special attention to the biotech discipline. In addition to the prescribed medicines, people were seen rushing to collect vitamins and healthcare supplements at large. This period enabled the biotech industry to take off and flourish both in fame and application.

Today, several industries such as Biocon, Sea6 Energy, MedGenome, Bharat Biotech, GANIT Labs, and Forus Health are actively engaged in providing affordable and practical healthcare solutions to the people. Bharat Biotech, in particular, came into existence in 1996. This Hyderabad-based company was founded by the eminent Indian scientist, Krishna Ella. It is the first pharmaceutical startup in India that has successfully developed a generic drug. It earned its global reputation for its vaccine Zikavac.

This was formulated to fight the Zika virus. The operating revenue of Bharat Biotech International Limited is approximately INR 500 Crore. The company has also come out as India's prolific and trusted vaccine producer for Covid 19, second to the Serum Institute of India.

Several start-ups are stimulating the Indian Biotechnology sector. Moreover, many global companies have increasingly collaborated with their Indian counterparts keeping in mind India's strong benchmark in generic biotechnology. Some of the start-ups are investing in the biotech space.

Increased government investments and institutional support have attracted many new-age entrepreneurs to cut. Notable of the start-ups that are scaling up the biotech sector are Pandorum Technologies (tissue engineering and regenerative medicine), Sea6 Energy (bio-fuels), Ganit Labs (Genome Science and use Bioinformatics and Computational Biology).

### **Public policy and support**

Biotechnology is scientific domain wherein living organisms are applied for developing products and chemicals that are used in a large number of industries that cater to the services of equally diverse end-users. Therefore, biotech entrepreneurship opens the door for strategic B2B and B2C businesses. Entrepreneurs in India are steadily waking up to the government's flagship Make in India program to strategically invest in Biotechnology for sustainable growth.

With funding close to USD 250 million, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India (GoI) has unleashed a program called "Innovate in India". This unique mission focuses on encouraging India's booming biopharmaceutical industry towards affordable healthcare. This program is promoted jointly with the World Bank and is supervised by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a public-sector enterprise established by DBT.

Agriculture is the mother bed of India's economy and employment and food and nutrition. Catering to the services of

the rural farmers, the GoI has launched a program called “Biotech-KISAN”. It aims at providing scientific solutions to challenges such as soil quality, irrigation, and marketing at large. On the other side, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) are actively engaged in producing bio-energy promoting the commercially viable, second-generation ethanol plants. Ethanol can be blended with petrol to be used as low-emission fuels.

Catering to innovative environmental solutions, the DBT in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), has supported the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in multiple ways. Using bioremediation, BIRAC has contributed to the efficient treatment and management of harmful and toxic waste from municipalities, industries, and mining sectors. It has gone ahead to clean up the polluted rivers, develop bio-toilets, and produce biogas and bio-fertilizers.

BIRAC has lent support to more than 700 biotech companies, research institutes, and small and medium scale enterprises including 500 start-ups. Its Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) program has emerged as the leading program empowering more than 230 startups and entrepreneurs (<https://www.biotechnika.org/>).

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has called for the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship in the agro-industry. Subsequently, The Govt. of India has taken several initiatives in this direction. It has done R&D collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). It is on track to launch a venture capital fund of Rs 1,000 crore (US\$ 146.72 million) to provide financial stimulus to start-ups to step up R&D in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors.

The CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Phyto Biotech to formalize the transfer of technology for the production of SOD enzyme that is used in cosmetic, food, and pharmaceutical industries.

As a fast-growing knowledge-based sector, the biotechnology industry is developing fast as a knowledge-based sector in India to contribute significantly to the rapid development of the economy. With significant stimulus from India’s R&D set-ups, knowledge and skill base, and cost-efficient chain of production, the biotechnology sector of India is poised to lead the global market.

With a market valuation of US\$ 11 billion and 20% compounded growth per annum, the Indian biotechnology industry comprises approximately 800 companies. Its current share of the global biotech industry is limited to 2%. The government has to pump in a stimulus of US\$ 5 billion to develop scientists and technicians, infrastructure, and research centers so that this rapidly growing sector can be transformed into an enterprise of US\$ 100 billion by 2025 (<https://nextwhatbusiness.com/>).

### **The challenges ahead**

The biotech business involves high investment and low, long-term returns, and therefore, the entrepreneur has to face periodic financial crunch. The entrepreneur has to spend a lot on infrastructure, laboratory, and R&D. One of the major challenges

before biotechnologists is smooth commercialization, i.e., to develop need-based products or technologies at affordable prices. A company may have to look for international and inter-institutional collaborations and the related issue of knowledge and technology transfer. The last step is to understand the intellectual property (IPR) right laws and policies and to protect the company’s interests through appropriate patents.

Biotechnology is research and technology-intensive area. Therefore, it promotes R&D and contributes to the knowledge economy of a nation by skilled manpower, innovation, and the creation of new job portfolios.

Technology and a skilled workforce are the twin prerequisites for developing a product. Skilled people are most sought after in the biotech industry for their knowledge and practical expertise. In its formative days, a start-up needs huge financial investments towards infrastructure, lab-setting, and R&D. Therefore, having sufficient and competitive funds for skilled human resources is an additional challenge.

Crafting a new product or upgrading an existing one using biotechnologies involves pilot study, statistical analysis, and prototype development. The yielding and fabrication of a bio-modified product and its desired application is dependent upon the understanding and prediction of the marketing trends and user expectations. Moreover, the evolution of a product from the basic concept takes time. Since there are a lot of companies in the market with competing ideas and products, by the time an invention is market-ready, it may lose its originality and uniqueness out to a competitor.

A novel product enters the market after a lot of testing and research concerning quality, pricing, and competition. Therefore, it must be protected from fraudulent people by intellectual property rights. The government has to formulate appropriate policies to ensure fair governance and justice to the innovator.

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# Digital Marketing in the New Age Business

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*[The internet revolution has brought about lot of changes in all sectors in the world, especially the business sector. The business organizations started depending on internet for various business activities. The business firms are aggressively using digital tools to promote their products and services. Digital marketing connects the customers with the firms using online tools. At this juncture, this paper is an attempt to discuss the basics of digital marketing tools and present the advantages of digital marketing. The common methods for conducting digital marketing are discussed in detail. The future of digital marketing is also discussed in a nutshell at the end of this paper.]*

The advent of internet in 1990 facilitated the business grow globally. The business organizations are able to offer customized products and services with the help of internet, to their customers thus enhancing their satisfaction. The global market place has become much accessible via various digital tools. The automation of the business processes through internet has impacted every element of business ecosystem. The society is being driven by digital technologies.

According to The Economist (1999), the internet is helping companies to lower costs dramatically across their supply and demand chains, take their customer service into a different league, enter new markets, create additional revenue streams and redefine their business relationships. On the other hand, millennials and Generation Z are highly engaged in electronic gadgets and interactive communication devices.

The people are spending most of the time on electronic devices such as-laptops, smartphones and tablets reading blog posts and chatting with friends, relatives and colleagues. The products and services have become digital and the customers are depending on digital platforms for data and information about product knowledge and offers.

## Objectives of the Study

1. To discuss various kinds of digital marketing tools.
2. To review the advantages of digital marketing in the new age business.
3. To Understand the Source to Generate Revenue through digital marketing.

## What Is Digital Marketing

According to American Marketing Association, digital marketing refers to any marketing methods conducted through electronic devices. This includes online marketing efforts conducted on the internet. In the process of conducting digital marketing, a business might leverage websites, search engines, blogs, social media, video, email and similar channels to reach customers.

The Institute of Digital Marketing (DMI) defines digital marketing as the use of digital technology to create integrated, targeted and measurable communication that helps to acquire and retain customers in building deeper relationships with them.

According to Forbes (2014) for a business to succeed in today's world, it is important to have a strong digital footprint within the internet. Therefore, when a business is defining its marketing

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plan, it must incorporate a solid digital strategy. Without a digital marketing strategy in place, new client acquisitions, brand visibility, and impactful revenue generating opportunities will likely be damaged. The five most important elements of a digital campaign consist of mobile considerations organic search, social media marketing, content marketing and lead nurturing.

## Digital Marketing Campaign

A digital marketing campaign involves the execution of a marketing strategy across all the digital channels where consumers engage with a brand, usually for the purpose of improving a company's conversion rate. To start a campaign, marketers need to understand who their customer is and where to reach them and anticipate what action the customer will take next. Customers approach brands through an Omni channel lens.

So, to effectively reach a customer, marketers should connect digital marketing campaigns across all channels. Digital marketing campaigns can be less expensive than other marketing campaigns and can engage with customer behaviour in real time. Companies can use a digital campaign for a variety of uses, from raising brand awareness to telling loyal customers about a new product.

## Common Methods for Conducting Digital Marketing

### Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

SEO is the practice of improving ranking within major search engines to increase online traffic. This SEO increases its visibility for relevant searches. It targets unpaid traffic. It is an art and science of making webpages rank in high in search engines. The traffic that comes via SEO is called as Organic search traffic. Search engines such as Google use an algorithm or set of rules to determine what pages to show for any given query. These algorithms have evolved to be extremely complex, and take into account hundreds or even thousands of different ranking factors to determining the rankings of their SERP (Search Result Page).

### Search Engine Marketing (SEM)

SEM leverages paid online advertising to increase website visibility within search engines. SEM is often used in conjunction with SEO. Search engine marketing is the practice of marketing a business using paid advertisements that appear on search engine results pages (or SERPs). Advertisers bid on keywords that users of services such as Google and Bing might enter when looking for certain products or services, which gives the advertiser the opportunity for their ads to appear alongside results for those search queries.

### ***Pay-Per-Click (PPC)***

PPC is an online method for advertising where a business only pays for its ads when a person clicks on them, a model of internet marketing in which advertisers pay a fee each time one of their ads is clicked. Essentially, it's a way of buying visits to your site, rather than attempting to "earn" those visits organically. The most common PPC ad format appears on search results pages of search engines like Google or Bing. Advertisers have the opportunity to place their brand, product, or service front and center in the form of an ad that targets a specific keyword or behavior.

### ***Social Media Marketing (SMM)***

SMM is the practice of using social media channels to promote business products or services. The use of social media influencers, often referred to as influencer marketing, is prevalent in SMM. Social media marketing is the use of social media platforms to connect with your audience to build your brand, increase sales, and drive website traffic. This involves publishing great content on your social media profiles, listening to and engaging your followers, analyzing your results, and running social media advertisements. The major social media platforms are Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube, Snapchat and WhatsApp.

### ***Email Marketing***

Email marketing enables businesses to send branded, promotional content directly to prospective customers via email. The use of automated newsletters is common in this context. Email marketing is the highly effective digital marketing strategy of sending emails to prospects and customers. Effective marketing emails convert prospects into customers, and turn one-time buyers into loyal, raving fans. Email marketing can include newsletters with updates on the company, or promotions of sales and exclusive deals for subscribers. Marketing emails may also seek to share a general message on the company's behalf, such as in the wake of a natural disaster or company scandal. At its best, email marketing allows businesses to keep their customers informed and tailor their marketing messages to their audience. At its worst, this kind of marketing can drive customers away with persistently annoying spam emails.

### ***Affiliate Marketing***

Affiliate Marketing is a way for a company to sell its products via individual or company partners (affiliates) who market your company's products for a commission. It is a traditional way of selling goods or services but when applied to a digital business, affiliate marketing has its own specificities and offers a wider range of opportunities. Affiliate marketing is a performance-based exercise that enables revenue sharing and pay-per-sale (PPS) compensation within a common network. Affiliate marketers become independent promoters of their chosen product, service or even a range of products. As an affiliate marketer, you will have the freedom to choose what techniques or strategies you want to use to reach the greatest number of customers. It is a low-cost attractive technique requiring no skills.

### ***Content Marketing***

Content marketing refers to the publishing and distribution of text, video or audio materials to customers online. Blogs, videos

and podcasts are common ways for businesses to engage in content marketing. Content marketing is the process of creating valuable, relevant content to attract, acquire, and engage your audience. Buyers and customers today are inundated by more marketing messages than ever before - more than 2,900 per day, by current estimations. This creates an environment of attention scarcity, challenging marketers with the task of producing engaging content that won't get lost in the static.

A well-crafted content marketing strategy places your business in the position of a thought leader, building brand preference as you inform and educate buyers. Providing helpful and entertaining content can form a strong bond between your brand and customers that continues to grow and strengthen over time. The content can be presented in the forms such as Blogs, Videos, Slide decks, E-books, Info graphics, White papers, Workbooks, Case studies, Demonstrations and Reports.

### ***Advantages of Digital Marketing to Business***

The digital marketing helps all types and all sizes of business organizations. The business firms should make use of right blend of digital marketing tools and the required technology to reap the benefits of digital marketing. The following are the benefits of digital marketing.

1. Digital marketing is convenient and easy to operate.
2. Operating costs are low.
3. A wide range of potential customers can be reached easily.
4. The products and the services can be marketed globally.
5. The digital marketing campaigns can run 24x7.
6. It enables diversification in marketing campaigns.
7. It provides a chance to the firms to compete globally.
8. All types of digital customers with laptops, smartphones and tablets can be reached.
9. It gets you customer in the form of traffic without spending much.

### ***Future of Digital Marketing***

There seems to be greater scope for digital business systems. The internet usage among the people is growing day by day and the people are attracted towards digital applications and are involved themselves in buying the products and services online, making the business grow. The people are highly engaged in social media and they are dependent on social media for every data and information regarding their purchases.

In the future, the business firms can depend on digital marketing tools by creating artistic content to attract majority of new customers. The rural and semi urban customers are becoming more tech savvy. Rural masses slowly developing trust and confidence on digital marketing campaigns and are opting to purchase online. This trend will surely increase the business in the near future. The academic courses on digital marketing in PG, UG and diploma level are being introduced by various institutions to produce new generation creative digital marketing professionals, thus professionalizing the digital concepts and encourage their growth in the future.

Since the digital marketing enables the business organizations reach globally, the growing internet users can be attracted and

business can be generated from throughout the world. Since the central government and the state governments are giving a lot of fillip to the digital businesses and payment mechanisms in India, there is a bright future for digital marketing.

### Conclusion

The digital-based business systems are eliciting growing popularity among the people throughout the world. The business organizations are seriously adopting various digital marketing tools such as Email marketing, Search engine optimization, Affiliate marketing, native advertising, sponsored content, social media marketing, pay per click etc. And thus, digital technologies offer many benefits to both the customers and the business organizations. Since the people around the world are habituated to use the digital gadgets in all geographical areas, the future for

the business houses adopting digital systems appears to be very bright.

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## Exploring Mediating Role of Employee Training for Organizational Efficacy

Syed Fazal Uddin\* & Dr. M.A. Sikandar\*\*

*[Employee training and development is one of the most critical human resource management activities that focus on human resource development, ultimately benefiting the organisation. The term 'Employee training' and 'Employee development' are often used interchangeably and that include employee learning activities too. The benefit of employee training and development for both employees and organisations has been a topic of debate among industry professionals and researchers for a long time. Much research is being done to study the effectiveness of employee training and development on employee and organisation performance. Business organisations operating in an increasingly competitive environment due to technological challenges must pay attention to employee training activities by investing wisely. This conceptual study is aimed to study the importance of employee training and development and its possible influence on organisational effectiveness. The study also explores the mediating role of organisations' employee training and learning interventions to improve performance and retain their competitive advantage.]*

Training is not a new concept for the corporate world, but it has been gradually refined into the strategically planned sophisticated process in today's world. Employee training involves allowing employees to learn specific skills and gain knowledge to improve their performance on the job. Employee training and development have an essential role in improving employees' productivity and increasing productivity. The success of every organization largely depends on its workforce.

Organizations should view the cost, time, and effort of employee training and development as an investment for preparing themselves for present and future competition and not as just an expense. As organizations grow fast, preparing in advance and improving the abilities, information, and work knowledge is essential. Organizations must prepare their workers after continually checking them and their general character and work abilities.

Investment in training and development, on the other hand, is widely considered as a good management practice that helps to maintain needed expertise skills for current and future

requirements. In this highly competitive business world, employee training and development has emerged as an essential subject of study for researchers and industry professionals who have been discussing its benefits for both employees and organizations.

### Research Problems

The study begins with the importance of employee training and development in modern-day organizations and its influence on organizational performance in the long run. Big corporates have been investing a large portion of their earnings on employee training and development for a long time. Past research shows that there is an interconnection between such employee training and the performance of the organizations. Past research also shows that there is a positive relationship between the training intervention and organizational effectiveness. However, it has to be seen in the present context, especially in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, as to how organizations are coping with the changing nature of the training and development intervention. There is a gap in the available literature on the subject, and the present study primarily aims to find answers to the following research questions:

- i What is the mediating role of employee training, learning and development in organizations?

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- i How the employee training, upskilling, reskilling influence Organizational Effectiveness?

The present study also captures the critical reviews and the practices in vogue in some companies, based on past and contemporary research, surveys and reports to provide directions for future research through primary data on the topic by other researchers.

### **Research Objectives**

The following are the research objectives of the present study:

- i To investigate the objectives of the employee training, learning and development;
- ii To identify the mediating role and significance of the employee training and development; and
- iii To explore the mediating role of training, upskilling, reskilling on organizational effectiveness.

Research Methodology: Exploratory research based on past studies, reports, and literature available on the subject.

### **Review of Literature**

#### ***Employees Training***

Employee training is a systematic and planned step-by-step procedure with the organizational goal of imparting and providing learning experiences that will improve an employee's performance and enable him to contribute more effectively to an organization's goals and objectives. Employees Training also helps employees improvise their knowledge, skills, and behaviour towards their job, making them perform their duties in the desired manner.

Training is the process of imparting the needed skills required for a specific craft, job. "Training is the process of developing in new employees the fundamental abilities required to do their jobs." (Dessler, 2008). "Training is the process of transmitting and receiving information related to problem-solving." (Halloran J. 1986). "Training is the intentional use of formal methods to impart knowledge and assist people in developing the skills they need to do their jobs adequately." (Armstrong. 2014).

#### ***Employee Development***

Employee development is when the manager or supervisor and the employee concerned work together to create a development plan that aligns with the organizational goals. Employee development programs use a variety of teaching methodologies, a flexible timetable, and a supportive learning environment to ensure that employees enhance their abilities and apply them to their employment afterwards. Organizations always valued employees as assets and strived to retain them.

A trained workforce contributes for the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization. Employee development program not only improves the employees' skills but also makes an organization more productive that can help make more profits. The career development of employees is valued at every level, which promotes employee retention and motivation. There is no doubt that a well-trained and well-developed workforce will add value to the firm by increasing efficiency and effectiveness. "Development is the process of a person's skill

and potential being realized through learning and educational experiences." (Armstrong. 2014).

#### **eed for Employee Training and Development for Business**

Employee Training and development is an integral part of any organization which values human resources. The training activity is planned, structured, and result-oriented to bring an individual or an organization to increase its performance in this highly competitive market. Training is often considered a short period and task-based activity, but enhancing one's skills with the help of training is a part of a career. There are numerous benefits of training for any organization, such as optimum utilization of human resources, skills development, knowledge enhancement, Communication improvement, Productivity, Team spirit, and improvement in organization culture (Healthy, Morale, Safety etc.).

Training is a learning experience that can bring about good changes and help the company achieve its goals. It enhances the employee's capacity to do the work effectively and efficiently in the desired manner. Training programs are the structural and functional basis for an organization's personnel development. "The degree of change in the external environment, the degree of internal change, the availability of suitable skills within the existing workforce, and the extent to which management views training as a motivating factor in work are all factors influencing the quantity and quality of training and development activities." (Cole, 2002). "Training is an organized method of learning and development which expands the efficiency of individual, group, and the organization." (Goldstein and Ford, 2002).

#### **Mediating Role of Training and Development to Business**

"The concept of organizational effectiveness (sometimes called organizational success or organizational worth) is ordinarily used to refer to goal-attainment" (Georgopoulos and Tannenbaum, 1957). Employees training and development is an ongoing continuous process in any organization. Education and learning increase capabilities and knowledge to make current and future employees better at what they do by shifting attitudes and behaviour toward work positively. It can also be viewed as a strategy to upgrade an employee's existing skills, abilities, and knowledge, or to provide new skills to enable them to perform better by learning, by changing their behaviour, their view of work, and enhancing their performance helps an organization. The need for employee training and development can be analyzed by employees' performance and attitude towards work.

Productivity of employees and organization suffers whenever there is a gap between actual performance and required, i.e., the standard. It is not easy to eliminate this gap, but it can be narrowed down to an extent by proper training programs. Any organization must provide training to its employees to achieve its ultimate goals in a better way in business. Further providing training to employees definitely costs the organization, but it pays off well (Flynn et al., 1995). Figure-1 shows the role of employee training and development for business (Noe & Kodwani, 2018).

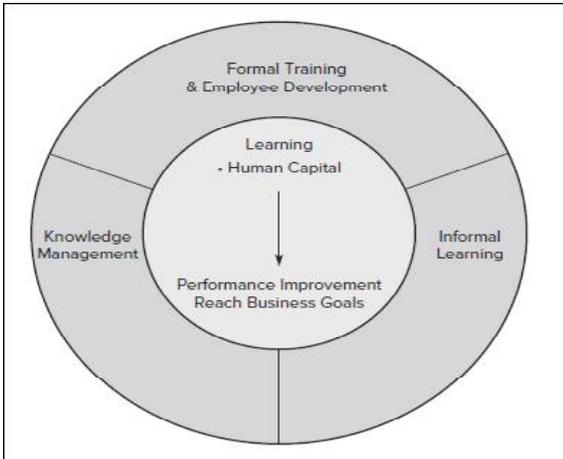


Figure 1: Role of training and development for the business.

Source: Noe & Kodwani (2018).

### Results of past studies

A study undertaken by a group of researchers indicates that training shapes the employee behaviour to adapt to the work environment, which contributes positively to the organization (Sudhakar and Basariya, 2018). A Tanzania-based study revealed that employee performance profoundly influences an organization's performance and employee training is vital to employee performance (Samwel, 2018). Another South Africa based study shows that training support in transferring skills and knowledge to the employees in the form of training activities resulted in high performance and ultimately benefited the organization (Nkosi, 2015). A study undertaken among the employees of IT companies based in southern India indicates that organizations that give due importance to employee training and development could retain their talents (Rajendran and Udayasurthy, 2015).

The performance of employees increases when proper training is given. It also motivates an employee to be loyal and hardworking, which ultimately benefits the organization. (Imran and Tanveer, 2015). Public sector banks provide training and development programs for their employees to help them perform their daily tasks more efficiently and satisfy their customers, making the banking sector in India popular due to the skilled workforce (Kavita Rani and Garg, 2014). There is a direct relationship between employee development and employee performance, and an organization's success and failure depend mainly upon employee performance (Hameed and Waheed, 2011).

A Philippines-based study conducted on 120 larger companies on the impact of employee training shows that most companies believed in employee training and development as an essential practice. These companies also believe that it encourages innovations and positively affected organizational performance.

**Benefits of Employee Training and Development:** Numerous benefits of employee training and development make employees work professionally and help them in personal development

and for organizations. It is beneficial in survival and growth. Some of the identified factors from the past studies contributing to employees and the organizations through training and development intervention are listed under Employee Training in the digital age.

Organizations are actively aware of the importance of learning and development, and Technology is changing the nature of work and roles. Today's workforce needs to learn new skills and update domain knowledge to adapt to the new responsibilities and change the organizations' business models in a digital world. The advent of digital technologies in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine learning also brought many challenges to even digital platforms. In order to survive in this highly competitive business environment, employee training and learning need to be integrated profoundly and required to be aligned with the organization's strategy. Such exercise would help the companies to utilize the core talent of the employees and executives to improve their performance.

### Recommendations and Conclusion

Employee training and development helps to improve organizational effectiveness and productivity. Modern organizations have realized the importance of employees training and development for their survival or to lead ahead among the competition and employees' betterment to some extent but a fact which cannot be ignored that they are still far behind in organizing regular needed training and developments programs and its execution which as a result affects employees and organizations productivity. Employees' training and development practices that are undertaken as per the current requirement positively affect employees' and organizations' performance irrespective of the nature of their industry, like IT, banking, constructions, hotels, manufacturing, service industries, or any other industry.

As a result of competition, every organization is under constant pressure to perform better and have realized the value of employee training and development programs. Employees' training and development practices differ from industry to industry and company to company. Based upon their requirements, companies have to evaluate their training design and implement their training strategies to help their workforce acquire and enhance their needed skills.

Generally, new employees have to be trained so that they can start performing their job in a required manner. In contrast, old employees are trained to take up new challenges in the current role or to improve their skills for a newer role organizations face market changes, competition, and challenges they have to upgrade their employees' abilities, domain knowledge, and attitude towards work to pursue innovation in their organizations. Employees training and development improves, managerial, leadership, software, communication, technical skills which help in the smooth flow of work, improves the work by making workers efficient in delivering their duties, improves

understanding among workers cultural behaviours are valued thus making an organization a workable place, which ultimately benefits the organization.

Training and development programs are essential for improving employee skills and developing the organization's fundamental values and philosophy. Organizations should value human resources and invest appropriately in human resource development. Needed training and development programs should be practiced which are helpful for both the employees and the organizations. Employees are an asset for any organization, as skilled employees are always in demand. Similarly, an organization with skilled employees has an extra edge over its competition.

Organizations must have employees who can quickly adapt to a changing business atmosphere which can only be achieved with training and development. It is not just employees who benefit from training and development, but the organization as well. Every modern organization should adequately prepare its employees so that to face external competition in a business environment.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted considerably the employee training and development interventions in the world of business. The pandemic forced every business organization, be it private or government to recalibrate its training activities by fullest use of digital technology as most of the workforce was on work from home mode or hybrid mode of working. Including Government organizations business is taking top priority in the workplace. One of the biggest challenges every business organization face is adopting disruptive technology and insufficient internal skills when combating technology in the business environment.

So, upskilling and reskilling takes a central place in every organization today. These would essentially benefit organizations to retain talents, preparing them for future challenges, empowerment and increased workplace engagement. Post COVID-19 pandemic, organizations have to develop effective strategies to provide soft skills to employees, personalize employee development, emphasize digital learning. Technology also brought a lot of new challenges to an organization which pushes them to adapt to the highly volatile and competitive business environment.

Employee training, learning and development have been the top priority for big companies for several decades. It is especially true for multinational corporations, but there are disruptions caused due to digital transformation in their business models. The refocus on training and development activities by corporates today in the changing business environment is playing a mediating role in the effectiveness of organizations. The focus is now shifted to employee learning and personalized learning in organizations. It has created a 'win-win' situation for employers and employees to achieve their respective goals.

#### **Limitation of the Study**

The limitation of the study is that there are no valid indications to correlate the mediating role between the training interventions

undertaken by several organizations to measure their effectiveness. However, the present study is aimed to provide future directions to the researchers to undertake a detailed study by using primary data with adequate financial support from an Agency or industry.

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# Appraising Educational Rights of Differently Abled Children

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*[The Persons with Disabilities has been recognised as one of the largest minority groups all over the world. The debate and dialogue regarding their rights in general and their educational rights, in particular, is very common in recent years because of disturbing patterns of treatment, discrimination, and disparity. The government of India mandated that every child has the right to avail free and compulsory education through the Right to Education Act 2009. The present paper explores certain issues and raises concern over the prevailing education for disabled children and evolves an appropriate approach to educate them. The paper also attempts to understand the real picture and missing link between human rights and disability. It would also try to locate the areas of misunderstanding of disability and its impact on different practices. Finally, the paper suggests to provide need-based education, training, employment, and suitable rehabilitation for empowering the livelihood and life of disabled children.]*

The human race has always been witnessing the struggle for certain basic rights. The struggle for human rights is a part of human quest for collective happiness. From a legal standpoint, human rights can be defined as the sum of individual and collective rights recognized by sovereign States and enshrined in their constitutions and in international law. Since the Second World War, the United Nations has played a leading role in defining and advancing human rights, which until then had developed mainly within the nation-State.

As a result, human rights have been codified in various international and regional treaties and instruments that have been ratified by most countries, and represent today the only universally recognized value system. The expression 'Human Rights' has become popular after the formation of United Nations in 1945. According to Article- 1 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.* Human rights cover all aspects of life. Their exercise enables women and men to shape and determine their own lives in liberty, equality, and respect for human dignity.

Human rights comprise civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights and the collective rights of peoples to self-determination, equality, development, peace, and a clean environment.

## Human Rights Education

Human rights education is a path to create a peace, progressive, tolerant and non-violence society. According to the United Nations decade document for human rights education (1995-2004), human rights Education means "A lifelong process by which people at all levels of the development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies". From this definition, it is clear that people living in any society have to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity without any deviation.

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Human rights education will help to establish peace, prosperity and security. It further enables us to achieve an all round socio-economic, political and cultural sustainability.

In recent years human rights education is felt quite essential among all because a large number of people across the country are still unaware of their basic rights. The keystone of human rights education is that education should not only aim at producing trained professional workers but also inculcate in them a sense of higher purpose. Human rights education aims at providing people and students with the abilities to accomplish and produce societal changes. It is highly and widely acknowledged and seen as a way to empower people to their quality of life and increase their capacity to participate in the decision-making process, leading to desired transformation in the social, cultural, and economic policies. It teaches us the practice of various values to be adhered to.

The knowledge of human rights would also lead us to establish an orderly, peaceful, and friendly society both at the international and national spheres. It helps people and policymakers to evolve the ways and means to overcome the problems of each nation and that of the international community. It helps to foster understanding, tolerance, and gender equality and develops friendship among all nations and eliminates racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic differences.

## Rights of Disabled Children

The Persons with Disabilities have been recognised as one of the largest minority groups which have been vulnerable to neglect, deprivation, segregation and exclusion all over the world. The disabled are deprived of all opportunities for social and economic development. The basic facilities like health, education and employment are denied to them. The State infrastructure is inadequate and ill-functioning where the disabled are concerned. The disabled are also not a homogenous group.

Each disabled person's problems and needs are different from one another and each one has to be treated and cared for on an individual basis. Human rights perspective on disability means viewing people with disabilities as subjects and not as objects. The debate and dialogue regarding the rights of the disabled (differently abled) person in general and their educational rights, in particular, is very common in recent times. The government of

India mandated that every child has the right to avail free and compulsory education through the Right to Education Act 2009.

### **Policy and Legislation**

Government of India is trying to provide quality education to all children through various legislative measures. There are three major Acts that deal with education of children with disabilities exclusively in our country. They are Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, 1992; (ii) Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Act, 1995; and (iii) National Trust Act, 1999. At the same time Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and the Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 are some of the important landmark documents for disabled children. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 attempts to address the growing inequality and inequity plaguing country's education system today and aims to provide high-quality equitable and inclusive education for all.

### **Educational Rights of Differently Abled Children: Issues and Concerns**

- It is to be noted that issues of the disabled are becoming a part of the national education system, and the planning and management of educational programme is to be seen in the context of individual learners from the viewpoint of access, survival and success. The issue is quite complicated when carrying out an exercise for a specific disability. For example, education of the visually impaired throws up challenges which are different from those of the mentally retarded or the learning impaired. It is important that as early as possible problems of child needs are to be identified. Usually, the whole range of processes would involve identification, assessment, placement for education and /or rehabilitation programme.
- Special schools for disabled children are one point of discussion. The exact number of special schools is not fully known as many NGOs run such schools. There are also concerns of curriculum, possibilities for continuing education, levels of achievement, management issues and service conditions of these schools.
- There is a need to expand the educational facilities for the children with special needs. Disabled children who might have been placed in special schools would also need to be provided opportunities for being benefited from inclusive education programmes. The policy statement, as well as the planning and management dimensions of provision for the disabled, are to be coordinated. It is observed that most of the special education initiatives in the Department of Education have either been closed or are performing poorly. They have to be reviewed and strengthened. The linkage and jurisdiction of teachers among apex authorities such as the NCTE and the RCI -need to be properly looked out for. They have implications for the status, preparation, and recruitment of teachers for special education.
- Another aspect that needs attention is the location of their schools and access to them. the largest number of special schools are located in metropolitan cities, however, a very a smaller number of schools are found in rural and remote areas. Needless to say, the coverage in terms of number is very meager. The vision of the NPE and POA (1992) of

one special school at each district headquarter remains a distant possibility.

- The discussion on enrolment trends also highlights the issue of access and retention. By and large primary schools in India are single-floor structures, except where these are sections in large secondary schools. However; if the schools are friendly in terms of architecture, then it is more because of prevailing conditions than conscious effort. There are also issues of wheelchairs and changing the structure of the schools.
- Disabled children and persons require support from more than one sector in order to develop their maximum potential. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is designed both as a preventive as well as a developmental measure in meeting the needs of a growing child. It extends beyond the existing health and education system to reach children and their mothers in villages and slums and delivers to them an integrated package of services. It captures children in the 0-6 age group in the form of non-formal pre-school education, immunization, health check-up, supplementary nutrition, medical referral services, nutrition, and health education for women.
- Policymakers are aware of disabled children but children with special needs are not a part of social policy, concerning even the basic needs such as health, nutrition, personal facilities. Thus, major social policy in the country has left out disability which school is one of the important agenda items.

### **Hope for the future**

A number of provisions have been created to provide inputs by way of manpower, learning materials, and others for upgrading the quality of education programmes for differently-abled children, especially at pre-school and elementary levels. However, there are still serious challenges which would require increased effort and decisions for ensuring the expansion of educational facilities in all parts or pockets of the country.

The focus has to be on the qualitative levels to be attained by disabled through schooling and on sustaining the industrial and organisational structures for their educational development. It is important to note, realise and advocate that a child with special needs is, first of all, a child, an individual, a citizen; hence all such provisions and programmes must cover her/. him as a general principle. In addition to that there is also a need of proper interpretation and implementation of various Acts like 1995 and 2016.

### **Conclusion**

Responding to the alarming trend, the Government of India has initiated and introduced several measures for the disabled. However, much more effort in this direction is needed. No doubt, the beginning has been made through policies and programmes but implementation would need more concerted efforts. The first and primary task before the country is to make them functionally literate and to provide quality education for the differently-abled children. In order to strengthen them, all those with disabilities should be reach-out with appropriate aids and

applications such as education, training, employment, and suitable rehabilitation. Finally, it is felt that there is a need for an attitudinal change among the people which makes this movement a grand success.

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## Historicity of Indi Region

Ravindra Chavan\* & Dr. K. L. N. Murthy\*\*

*[Dealing with Indi region, located in Bijapur that is now renamed as Vijayapura, this article provides the historical background of the region spanning from the ancient period to the advent of Muslim rule to the dawn of Christian era that witnessed the region passing from one ruling dynasty to another and finally falling under the British rule. In doing so, the author focuses on the historicity of the region and emphasizes the need for further research into the history of the region from archeological and anthropological aspects to evaluate this region's historical and socio-cultural significance. Ed.]*

The present region of Indi belongs to Bijapur (presently renamed as Vijayapura in 2014). It comprises thirty-six villages and there are nearly eight/nine epigraph sources. Vijayapura region passed through dynastic rule of several dynasties and lastly being under the Adil Shahi Rule before the British East India Company took over it. The history of Vijayapura goes back to 3000 B.C. The Stone Age period inhabitations are also traced here. Historians also trace Harappan cultural influence in the region surrounding Krishna and Bheema River.

### Historical References of the Indi region

Greek astronomer Ptolemy in his famous work Geographia refers to Badami, Pattadakallu and Indi regions. Arab traveller Sulaimaan, speaking about the region, hints that it was one among the four great kingdoms of deccan plateau. The region of Vijayapura was established in 10th century by the Kalyani Chalukya kings. It was called as Vijayapura meaning a city of victory. The whole area of present Vijayapura district was considered a symbol of victory by the royal dynasty. After Chalukya rule, the province was passed on to Yadava rulers in 1347 it was conquered by the Bahamani sultanate.

### During Epic Period

The region of Indi is historically evolved. It is said that during Ramayana, Lakshmana was survived through sanjeevani. Bheema valley has heavy big boulders and it is also the seat of seven great sages who did penance.

### During Christian era

The beginning of Christian era, Roman Empire saw the commercial activities flourishing in the area. Several merchants

visited the Deccan trade centres and cities. The writings of Huen Tsang and such other pilgrims definitely add to the historical and mercantile importance of the place.

### During royal dynasties

The evolution of the place has been classified into four stages covering western Chalukya, Rastrakuta, Kalachuri and Hoysala, Devagiri Yadava, Muslim Adil Shahi period. The journey of the region can be classified as

1. Early Western Chalukyas Period- 535 AD to 757 AD
2. Rastrakuta Period 757 AD -973 AD
3. Kalachuri & Hoysalas Period -973 AD -1200 AD
4. Devagiri Yadavas Period -1185 AD
5. Adil Shahi Rule Period -1312 AD -1690

### Relevance of the Present Study

According to available epigraphic and contemporary literacy sources, the taluk of Indi including Bheema river valley, Hengani, Anaji, Chikka Mannura and the entire region was a seat of commercial and cultural exchange since 3000 BC. The march of the region from historical place to a flourishing commercial centre during Adil Shahi rule is an interesting and epoch-making story. They are listed as below.

1. There is a need for studying the historical journey of Indi region with more supportive archaeological sources which may help to rebuild the historicity of the region.
2. There is a need for examining several unpublished inscriptions for corroborating further research resources.
3. There is a need for revisiting historical sites around Indi region to gather information about Social, Political, Cultural development of the region.
4. There is a need for examining several foreign literary sources for linking industrial, trade and commercial activities in the region.

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5. There is a need for taking up further research in and around Bheema river valley which may help in linking the place to Ramayana and Mahabharata period.
6. There is a need for taking up further research in understanding the Sufi influence in the region
7. There is a need for taking up further research in understanding the development of language, literature and cultural efflorescence in the region which even today dominates the cultural life of people.
8. There is a need for collecting local folk lore and local literature which directly or indirectly refers to varieties of socio – religious traditions, practices and thoughts.

### **Emerging River valley culture**

The Indi region falls in Deccan plateau and is a dry and arid area with very average rainfall. The flow of five rivers around Indi region contributes to the green horizon of the region and is also the factor influencing emergence of civilization. It is to be researched whether this river valley acted as seat of learning and higher education during early period. The following five rivers flow in the area

1. Bheema river
2. Ghataprabha river
3. Malaprabha river
4. Shona river
5. Krishna river

### **Review of Research**

1. Archaeologists Robert Bruce Foot and R V Jones have successfully traced the remains of Stone Age culture in this region.
2. Archaeologist R. Sundaram undertook researches in Vijayapura region.

### **References to Stone Age culture**

The process of civilization and development of human habitations are found around Indi region. The archaeological artefacts found during excavations throw light on human living around the region.

### **References to Urbanization around Indi Region**

The process of urbanization in Vijayapura including Indi region accelerated during the Adil Shahi sultanate rule and arrival of Sufi saints in the region. Several Suburbs started primarily as trade enters called as Pet. The process of urbanization in this region was a direct consequence of increased trade and mercantile activities. The production of goods for export purpose added to increased functioning of commercial activities. Amplified trade activities also supported emergence of business communities such as Baniya, in the region. There are references to 36 Pets in this region which were popular among traders for producing finest varieties of cotton, silk clothes, jewellery, aromatic perfumes, decorative ornaments, ammunitions, diamond and herbal products.

### **References to industrial activities around Indi region**

The accounts of Greek historians and East India Company depict references to roaring industrial and trade activities in the region. Commercial activities received special boost as a result

of the booming textiles, salt petre and diamond mining industries during the 16th and 17th centuries. There was a great demand for urban industrial products as society was marching towards new-fangled intensification of commercial activities. The march of military troops demanded more and more commodities and production for export also gained momentum. The most important of the urban industries were cotton and silk weaving industry.

During 17th century, Vijayapura and present Aurangabad region of Maharashtra state were famous for exporting large quantities of cotton, silk and decorative jewellery. This process of production and manufacturing amplified the inclusion of Persian and Armenian merchants as they were attracted by the finesse, superiority and better-quality. The merchant caravans carried products from this region to far off lands including Persia, Arabia, Syria and Turkey.

### **References to Sufi influence around Indi region**

The Adil Shahi period also witnessed Sufi influence. As writer Ainuddin Gahjul Ilm Dehelvi narrates, Sufism gained momentum along with the coming of Ibrahim Sangane, who is considered as was one of the early Sufi saints of Vijayapura region. There are nearly 300 Dargahs and tombs in Vijayapura belonging to different Sufi saints and holy people which prove the larger Sufi influence in the region. This influence along with local folk lore and culture got assimilated into regional traditions and practices.

The following Sufi saints held their sway in the region. Sayyid Chanda Husaini – he hailed from Arabia and landed in Bidar region in 15th century. His historical movement in the region of present North Karnataka provides evidences of socio- cultural life of the region. Sheikh Shamsai Din Zinda Dil - he hailed from Persia and came to Karnataka province through Ahmadabad. He came to Vijayapura during rule of Ali I. He was very much interested to meet people and his warmth and friendliness attracted people.

Shah Miranji Shamsal - he hailed from Mecca and lived for a short period in Vijayapura and he travelled along Bheema river valley and spread the thoughts of love, compassion, humanity and warmth among all sections of people. Shah Nurul Din Safawi, Shah Abul Hasan Qadri, Shah Sibghat Allah, Shah Alam Sashim alawi, Abul Hasan-, Shah Mustafa qadriya, Shad Qadri Qasim were among others. Ibrahim Zubairi writing in his book *Rouzatul Auliye Beejapore* which was compiled around 1695, says that more than 30 tombs or Dargah (Islamic places of worship) with more than 300 khankahs (Islamic missionary schools) with notable number of disciples of different lineage existed in this region.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, the region of Indi is supported by various resources to prove that it was a legendary place with flourishing trade, administrative suburb and well-known imperial place. Indi region has evolved through centuries from being a pre historic site to a historical region. The place abounds in un-deciphered and unpublished inscriptions, historical artefacts and archaeological resources which need to be excavated and re-visited because there is lot of resources to be researched. A meticulous and planned research in the region will lead to furthering of economic and commercial development of the region.

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# Glimpses of the Indus Saraswathi Civilization in *Shiva Trilogy*

Dr. S. Kandasamy\*

[Amish Tripathi, in his sequel novel 'Shiva Trilogy', has based his story on the old mythical story of lord Shiva's avatar as Neelkanth to clean the poison that polluted the earth. He reconnects this myth to the environmental pollution of post-modern India placing his context in the Indus Saraswathi civilization in 1900 BC. This paper in the course of discourse traces out if the existence of the river was only a myth in the sequel or was it in the history of one of the civilizations of India.]

**S**hiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi is based on the famous myth of Neelkanth of India and is reintroduced in a different context reconnecting Indians to challenges faced by Post Modern India. The Myth is the struggle of good and evil and the avatar of Shiva, the Neelkanth is to save a whole nation from dying of pollution. Amish Tripathi commenting on the origin of this myth says in his book *Immortal India* that Myths are born. And then they die. It is the way of everything in the universe, and it would seem that even the God's cannot prevent it. ... But the myths of Lord Ram reign strong in India, Lord Krishna continues to entice and the magnificent Mahadev, Lord Shiva has not ceased to dance in our hearts. (Tripathi ,19)

Tripathi continues that the Indians never tire of dissecting the characters in the Epics of India. This made him think that why the Indians are interested in ancient civilization and in their mythological heritage. He questions that why Indians remain endlessly animated by the vibrant kernel of these millennia - old memories that continue to guide their daily lives. He confesses that this was the best time to connect people to myth and God.

For these are times of complex conundrums reconnecting myth and people which is very significant. Religious liberty is being connected to the society again as was never before. So, the author chooses the God of contradictions to be his protagonist. The God who has a myth of wearing a dress that may not be accepted by an elite society but he was the same mythical hero who was an originator of many art forms which are loved by the same society. He is the Lord of Dance and mythology reveals that he is the one who revealed secrets of Indian Classical dance. Therefore, he is the only mythological hero who drinks bhangs that reveal to the mind an ethereal world, he attracts and then he balances us when one delves deeper into the philosophy of Neelkanth.

## Mythology in *Shiva Trilogy*

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The development of the plot of growth of Mahadev attracts men as the mythological God who balances contradiction, intelligence and innocence. The story of *Shiva Trilogy* is the Myth of Mahadev, Neelkanth in search of the even binary opposite life virtues, 'Good and evil'. The narration is captivating because the author has chosen this hero of contradiction, embedded him in mythical India of 1900 BC, he allows him to tread on the human and non-human space of all mythical kingdoms. Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus an alternative history*, "... we need to use history to understand myth - that is we need to understand why such was composed..." (Doniger 23).

The novel, as the author himself says, is about the mythical protagonist Shiva's avatar as Neelkanth, but it is logical research to defend that it is mostly on the mythical existence of the river *Saraswathi* and to prove the scientific existence of *Indus-Saraswathi* civilization. Though the attraction is uncouth barbaric existence of Shiva, that the Myth is reconnected to the existence of the river Saraswathi and its disappearance owing to some scientific drug which was good in one period under the rule of Rama, a mythical king and the same goodness cause of evil at the end. This has become the cause of the eco-apocalypse of the 1900 BC. The drug was nothing but a mythical drink called as 'Somras' - a drug for longevity.

The medicinal drink *Somras* was produced from the water of the river -Saraswathi, which is the main source. It is important to trace the history of the river Saraswathi which emerged at the confluence of the Sutlej and Yamuna River like Wendy Doniger puts it in the book *The Hindus an alternative history*, "The history of ideas, even if not a source of "hard" history is still a very precious thing to have. For stories, and the ideas in stories, do influence history in the other direction, into the future" (Doniger 23).

## River Saraswathi and Indus

The history of the river Saraswathi and the Indus - Saraswathi can be traced from the recorded facts. Wendy Doniger while

discussing about the origin of the people who composed the Veda in her article between the ‘Ruins and the Text’ put forth four most often cited guesses. In the fourth guess she delineates a guess that the Vedic people lived in Indus Valley. In this reference she reveals a culture called “Indus-Saraswathi culture” (Doniger 94). She explains that the Vedic people are a hybrid of the European people and Dravidian “This hybrid is sometimes called the Saraswathi Valley culture, or the Indus –Saraswathi culture, because there were Indus settlements on Saraswathi River (though it dried up around 1900 BCE) and the Rig Veda mentions a Saraswathi River” (Doniger 94).

In this guess about the origin of people who wrote Veda, she claims two myths. One is the Myth of the existence of Saraswathi River and the other is the existence of Indus - Saraswathi civilization. These two are the significant myths transformed in eco- apocalyptic rhetorical discourse of *Shiva Trilogy* by Amish Tripathi.

The river Saraswati is mentioned in Rig Veda and Michel Danino counts that it is being mentioned in this Veda in forty - five of its hymns and praises the river Saraswathi seventy-two times. He also comments that Sanskritists think that the word Saraswati to mean a ‘chain of pools ‘or ‘full of lakes ‘(Saraswati). But some translations mean ‘Saraswati’ as water or flow and ‘she of the stream, the flowing movement’.

Michel Danino continues his exploration of the river Saraswathi and states “To return to her Vedic origins, the Saraswathi early symbolism clearly rests on a physical fact: the existence of an actual river” (Danino 37). Amish Tripathi having done good research on these myths has given the readers a varied taste of the delicious repast. He has mixed it with the science and technology of the past and the present with Hindu mythology suited for a gourmet of the readers.

#### **Historical Elements Embedded**

According to history of excavation and myth, the river Saraswathi existed. As quoted earlier, the Rig Veda showers praise on the river Saraswathi in forty- five of its hymns. The name of the river appears seventy-two times and three hymns are dedicated to her. It is mentioned that the river Saraswathi waters are lauded as a great flood. Hence it is really sad that the novel

mentioning that the river had retarded owing to some ecological crisis created by a tribe called Chandravanshis.

Historically, in his book, Michel Danino, quotes what BBC announced on 29th June 2002, “A few years ago the BBC ran a story on what it called ‘India’s miracle river’. The Saraswathi river’s dry bed, it announced, had been traced in the Rajasthan desert, and there was ‘startling new evidence that it may not have been a myth after all” (Danino 1). This great river seems to face a problem of drying owing to some industrial production of a drink called Somras. The author has preserved the essential beauty of the story of the mythology of the protagonist, Lord Shiva, and has reasserted the basic philosophy of Hinduism. His directions in the novel with the Hindu myth are like the center of gravity, the still centre of the balance between the virtues of good and evil. The still centre solving the chaos of the world into order and its dissolution back into chaos.

#### **Conclusion**

The myths of the river Saraswathi, Indus -Saraswathi civilization and its culture, delineate a concern of ecological apocalyptic features under a clean pattern of chaos and order of the tribes. The greed of the tribes turns the order of life into chaos and Amish’s dissolution with mythological resolution of the avatar of lord Neelkanth to reverse an order into the world is crux of the utility of myths in this fiction. Amish Tripathi in the last chapter of his third volume *The Oath of Vayuputras* states the fact of his choice of the lord “... It stood sentinel over the great Mahadev, the one who had saved India from Evil” (OV 551). So, this was the purpose of the writer to choose the eco- apocalyptic disappearance of the river Saraswathi in the 1900 BC.

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# Hybridity in the Select Novels of M.G. Vassanji

P. Anitha\* & Dr V. Srividhya\*\*

[This paper aims to study the concept of hybridity as employed in the select novels of M.G. Vassanji, namely *The Gunny Sack* (1989) and *No New Land* (1991). The characters dealt in this novel experience a series of migration from India to South-East Africa and then later to the European nation or Canada or America. The migration which the characters undergo introduces them to a newer world of opportunities, cultural differences, racial conflicts and various ethnic groups. This gives rise to a new kind of a situation where people of various nationalities come together and strive to live together either with assimilating with the mainstream culture, or with multiple cultures or trying to fit into the 'in-between' or 'third space'. This study mainly concentrates on the racial differences that persist among the people of different nations in a given place. In *The Gunny Sack* (1989) there are three layers of people of three different races: Africans, Asians and the English or German, together form the background of the novel.]

Bhabha has created a series of concepts in the collection of essays, *The Location of Culture* (1994) to study the world and literature from the perspective of self and other. One of these concepts emphasizes the 'hybridity' of culture which on one level refers to the mixedness or even impurity of cultures. The term refers to the original 'mixedness' within every form of identity. In the case of cultural identities, hybridity refers to the fact that cultures are not discrete phenomena, instead they are always in contact with one another and this contact leads to cultural mixed-ness.

Writers like Salman Rushdie have taken an interest in expressing hybrid cultural identities and using hybrid cultural forms. Many non-literary writers like sociologists and anthropologists have explored the emphasis. Their writings do not have a claim to pure or authentic cultural identities or forms. But, Bhabha insists on hybridity's ongoing process called 'hybridization' than on hybridity. For Bhabha, there are no cultures that come together leading to hybrid forms, instead cultures are the consequence of attempts to still the flux of cultural identities.

Rather than concentrating on pure cultures, Bhabha concentrates on what happens on the borderlines of cultures, in-between cultures. He calls this as 'liminal', meaning that which is on the border or the threshold. The settled cultural forms or identities that are in-between the identities like self and other are central to the creation of new cultural meaning. Liminality, meaning unexpected hybrid and fortuitous, is juxtaposed with the solid, authentic culture.

Bhabha refers to the location of culture as both spatial and temporal. The liminal is often found in particular social space, but also marks the constant process of creating new identities (their open-endedness or their 'becoming'). The liminal is often found in particular social spaces in post-colonial circumstances and may often refer to the constant process of creating new identities that may refer to open-endedness or their becoming.

The colonial discourse wants only domination of the colonized and it depends on the assertion of difference that the colonized are inferior to the colonizers. The colonial authority rather unconsciously knows that this supposed difference is undermined

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by the real sameness of the colonized population. The tension between the illusion of difference and the reality of sameness leads to anxiety.

For Bhabha colonial power is anxious and never gets what it wants a stable, final distinction between the colonizer and the colonized. He suggested that this gap can be exploited by the colonized, the oppressed, despite violence and dominance exercised by the colonizers. Bhabha addresses the discourse on stereotypes in *The Location of Culture* and summarises it as follows:

Racist stereotypical discourse is informed by a productive splitting in its constitution of knowledge and exercise of power. Some of its practices recognizes its difference of race, culture and history as elaborated by stereotypical knowledge, racial theories, administrative colonial experience, and on that basis institutionalize a range of political and cultural ideologies that are prejudicial, discriminatory, vestigial, archaic, 'mythical', and crucially are recognized as being so. (83)

The stereotypical knowledge is recognized for what they are, a means of practical control. The colonizer and the stereotypes are necessarily inseparable, with the one always undermining the other, phantasy world of the stereotype always invading the colonizer's narrative. The problem with the stereotype seems to be that it fixes individuals or groups in one place, denying their own sense of identity and presuming to understand them on the basis of prior knowledge, usually knowledge that is at best defective.

The colonial discourse wants stereotypes to be fixed, and in turn traditional analyses of colonial stereotypes assume them to be fixed. Stereotypes are an example of how identities are mere productions, but their damaging effects and the many powerful examples of colonial counter-discourses always remind us that identities are not 'merely' anything. Identities are lightly borne, worn, or torn asunder, only if we have legal, material and other securities.

## Text Analysis: Three-Tiered Society

M.G. Vassanji's *The Gunny Sack* (1989) and *No New Land* (1991) are studied in the light of ethnic differences and racial discriminations that exist in the life of immigrants in their adopted land. Ethnic diversity is a major constituent of the immigrant's life in which the action transpires, and the problematic negotiation

of transcultural dealings becomes a recurring theme. According to Malak, Vassanji's characters- 'whether in Africa, Europe or North America- are hounded and haunted by racism, real or perceived. It hinders their progress and cripples their emotional and intellectual growth, making them give 'survival' an exceptional priority in their lives.

Skin colour, language and stereotypical images of the 'other' govern the relationship in an implicitly and a designed manner. Europeans, remnants of an imperial age, appear superior; the Africans are beneath the Indians in pre-independence era, although the roles are reversed after independence. This role-reversal, enacted in several instances, further suggests the inevitability of the departure of the Indians from East-Africa. Nothing stays the same for the immigrants. In *The Gummy Sack* (1989), Bibi, an African woman is deputed to Govindji as an assistant (27).

The Indians who went to Africa as traders or slaves started treating the Indigenous Africans as slaves and as those who belong to an inferior race. The Indians are faithful to the White rulers. When, Bwana Wasi, German Government representative in Matamu comes to Gulam's house, one of Ji Bai's sons, "greeted him as he entered and shook the dust and mud from his boots" (54).

A mutual relationship of concern exists between the minorities in a new land while the plight of the natives is miserable. One of the last slaves who the Germans possessed is handed over to the Indians and certain supplies are given in return to the Whites for their survival. The Indians as such were considered to live in a buffer zone, a life between the European settlers and the Africans.

### **Nationalization in Africa**

Haji Lalani, in *No New Land* (1991) goes to Tanganyika as a young man of sixteen in 1906. The Indian Immigrants are colonial elite that supported the British and the German Colonial rule in East Africa. Starting out as shopkeepers and businessmen settling on the coast of British and German East Africa, they assisted the colonial administrations. They are privileged to be superior to the Indigenous Africans and to be favorites to the Europeans and thus they occupy a middle position between the two groups.

Haji Lalani moves to Dar from Bagamoyo after the confiscation of Dar by the British. He leads a flourishing life with his shops becoming a landmark among the busy side streets of the Indian quarter. During his last days he would sit at the ocean looking towards the land of his birth with only a twinge of nostalgia (After all, we've brought India with us) died believing he had found a new country for his descendants. Two years later, his middle son, with his own family, set off for yet another continent. (30)

Nurdin Lalani, the middle son of Haji Lalani is one of the victims affected by nationalizations and Africanization. Because of the affiliation the Asians had established with the former colonizers, the African Governments marginalize the Asians and many of them migrate to the west in search of better prospects. The novel describes the fate of immigrants as being condemned to re-create their beginnings wherever they are. There is excitement and restlessness among the Asians.

Many families are flying to Canada for better prospects and to become 'rich'. Roshan, the sister of Nurdin's wife, urges the Lalani family to come to Canada. The Lalani's are drawn to Toronto by the lure of the safe haven in Canada after they are turned away from London following an Immigration Check at Heathrow Airport.

Canada, someone must have whispered the word somewhere. What was Canada a distant place most did not know where, a pink mass on the map beside the green of Greenland. Suddenly everyone was talking of Canada: visas, medicals, interviews, 'landed'. (29)

The whiteness of the snow is juxtaposed with the whiteness of the immigration officials' 'colour of skin'. The Lalanis at their arrival in Canada are relieved when they find finally someone to welcome them, a white man welcoming them, finally a place to lay down their head. The hostility of the weather is an anticipation of the alienation and isolation for Nurdin and his family but the warm reception extended by a white man trigger up fantasies and desires inherent in the Africans, Asians.

Nurdin Lalani, after a brief stay at Roshan's house settles in Don Mills, an apartment and is seeking for a job to settle his family. He could not find a job in the new place. He tries to "change his accent, practices idioms, and buys shoes to raise his height, deodorizes himself in the course of finding a job" (44), but all that is expected of him is 'Canadian Experience'. At one stage, Nurdin bursts out in anger, "but how can I get Canadian experience if you don't give me a chance? I have sold shoes for eight years! Eight years" (48). Canadian experience becomes a trump they always call, against which you have no answer (44).

### **Difficulties in the Alien Land**

Nurdin, the father, in *No New Land* (1991) is accused of assaulting a white woman. One night on his way home he finds a White girl in misery and out of genuine sympathy for her extends his hand for help. But the girl cries "He's trying to rape me!" (74). He feels defeated and dejected, and thinks that it is not only against his innocence but also against his inbred beliefs or morality. He had been brought up by the disciplines of Islamic religion and his father used to whip the children in German fashion.

Sandwiched between the Goddess Laxmi in the building of 'sixty-nine', Rosecliff Park Drive, a symbol of a burgeoning Toronto and the huge jabbing in the sky building of CN tower, between the dreams of riches, comforts and security and the constant futile battle against the harsh realities of the new land, between the values of his cultured origins and the problems of existence and survival in a new country, the Lalanis are at the crossroads of their life.

Nurdin's failure to get a decent job, the injustice and discrimination meted out to him and the shattering of his old faith in the new world adds to his misery. Nurdin, having been strictly brought up according to the principles of Islam, clings to his Islamic principles and hence is unable to relate himself to the world in which he is placed. Nurdin suffers from a state of spiritual or mental division due to conflicting impulses: the values of his cultural origins, the discipline of Islamic religion that he

bears are ink sharp opposition to the problems of existence and survival in a new country.

The accusation of rape shocks his moral sensibility, gnaws away at his conscience and leaves an indelible stain which he can only remove by clinging to his old faith. His memory goes back to his father who strictly followed the tenets of Islam. His father, born in an Indian Muslim sect and belonging to the Shamsis, immigrates to Dar es Salaam in East Africa and is a man of strict morality

To whom the harsh German justice-epitomized in the whip made of hippo hide and the name 'Hand of Blood' given its wielder by the native-was not alien in spirit. He could have taken, bought a black woman... to while away the lonely nights.... instead, he prayed and fasted and became friendly with the Fathers at the German Catholic mission and spent his time in theological discussion and friendly debates with the fathers at the mission or with the sheikhs at the mosques. (13)

Nurdin bears the burden of his father's strict notion of morality. He upholds and is nurtured by Islamic principles which seem to give him strength to face the harsh realities of the new land. The author comments.

We are but creatures of our origins and however stalwartly we march forward, paving new roads, seeking new worlds, the ghosts from our pasts stand not far behind and are and are not easily shaken off. An account of Nurdin Lanai's predicaments must therefore go back in time and begin at a different place. (9)

Vassanji exploits the situation to highlight the problems that the immigrants face and how easily they are accused of the crimes they have not even contemplated as they are tagged as the 'other'. The racial prejudices are the same everywhere. Nurdin's skin colour becomes the target of lower-class racism propelled by frustration and greed. The reactions of Nurdin's colleague are characterized by racial differences. The conversation below explains the attitude prevalent against Nurdin.

"I'm not going to serve this rapist!" she (i.e., Nurdin's colleague) said, running away. "I thought in this country a man was innocent until proved guilty", said Romesh, to no one in particular. "Where he comes from, both his hands would be chopped off, announced Mrs. Broad bent. (180)

It is the incident of Esmail, another Asian, to which the immigrants of Don Mills react strongly. On a subway station three youths attack Esmail. They joyfully abuse him, "Paki!" Esmail is carrying a package of meat pieces. They again shout, "what do you have there, Paki? Hey, hey? Paki - Paki - Paki" (95-96). They punch him in the stomach. The bystanders cannot do anything, Nanji being one of them. Vassanji describes the darkness of the tunnel first: "The subway tunnels were as dark and endless as a moonless, starless sky" (95).

Then the author changes his previous statement, "brakes screeched somewhere along the tracks in a tunnel, in which a light was now visible" (96-97). This light is the light of hope for the immigrants. This incident provokes the agitations. People assemble at Esmail's residence to console his sister. Once more they are bound to think of their existence, "what now? Was this a sign of things to come to danger to self and property, to wife and kids? Have we come to the right place after all?" (102).

People come out on the roads shouting slogans. Children too participate in the agitation with provocative placards in their hands: "ESMAIL WE ARE WITH YOU, NO TO APARTHIED, LET MY PEOPLE COME" (110). Many persons speak against racial discrimination and what they call Canada is the limit of their hatred against apartheid-"Multiculturalism" (111). Esmail returns to his mother country and becomes a popular artist. While his art goes unnoticed in Canada, they get a rousing attention in East Africa, probably because his sensibilities are well appreciated and understood in his native land.

### Conclusion

The Indians suffer for what they have not done. They suffer partly because of their own individual self and partly because of the pain inflicted upon them. The first-generation immigrants are a lot who strive in the adapted land to become one with the nation but the second or the third generation may adapt with ease to the life in the adapted land but one wonders how far it may stand true from the racial point of view. The differences that persistently endures despite various efforts to either reconstruct or resolve even with multicultural policies of the government stands time-tested.

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# Position of Matuas in West Bengal

Dr. Rajneesh K. Gupta\* & Sujay K. Bag\*\*

*[It is a human nature to move from one place to another in search of better scenarios. For that reason, people have been crossing political, cultural or geographical borders since ages. However, modern waves of migration are closely linked with the growth of capitalism in Europe and expansion of colonialism in different parts of the world. Thereafter, it has become a never-ending practice. This paper attempts to explore the journey of Matua community (a separate ethnic minority group originally from Orakandi, now in Bangladesh who are currently settled in West Bengal and other parts of India. Matuas came from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) during the partition of India due to the communal and political violence. They migrated from Orakandi, the district of Gopalganj in Bangladesh and settled in the state of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India.]*

**M**atua Mahasangha is a Vaisnavite Hindu sect that is made up of Namasudras, a Schedule Caste community. Matua is a religious reform movement that began in what is now Bangladesh around 1860 and has a sizable following in both Bangladesh and India's West Bengal. And if you see in 1860 was the time when the area of Bangladesh and West Bengal fell under the British India and that is why it accounts a space in the modern history of British India.

Matua is a socioeconomic religion with spiritual outlook based on the uplift of the down-trodden masses, including their family life and for their mass salvation by way of eradicating the barriers of casteism and untouchability, social and economic disparities.

## Matua Movement

The Matua movement was actually launched by a reformation by the followers of Shri Namouras Harichand Thakur. Harichand acknowledged to be the God of Matua people. Yugavatar Shri Yu avatar Harichand Thakur was born in the house of Yaswanta Thakur of Safladanga village in the district of Faridpur (now in Bangladesh), on the auspicious day of Madhukrishna Traodashi Thithi in 1812A.D.

Harichand Thakur's main goal was to bring untouchables and oppressed people together for a common cause of collective thought, and this is where the secret to spiritual freedom resides. He aspired to create a society without castes or classes. So, we have seen in the reform movement in India that many of the people like B R Ambedkar also fought for the classless and casteless society, and Harichand Thakur was also one of them. The Orakandi Thakur Bari is maintained by Bangladesh and Matua Mahasangha and its counterpart is Thakurnagar in West Bengal under district North 24 Parganas, very near to Kolkata.

Matua Mahasangha in Thakur Bari and Matua Mahasangha in Orakandi are twin bodies. Harichand's son Guruchand consolidated the organisation, garnered disciples who spread the messages of anti-discrimination in rural areas and established the first school for the Namasudra community in 1881 with the help of Australian Clergymen Dr. C.S. Mead.

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Matua community is actually not a backward community in terms of education. Actually, they focused attention on value of education. The other group of Matua was led by Jogendranath Mondal who became the first law minister of Pakistan, but spate of riots against Matuas and other religious minorities in 1950 forced him to resign. After that he died during his exile-era in India in 1968.

With the rise of communalism and unprecedented rioting across Bengal; the Matuas were fragmented. One of their sections controlled by Guruchand Thakur's grandson PR Thakur, associated with the Congress Party, moved to India and also established Thakurnagar, in the district of North 24 Parganas in West Bengal. This was the time of intense difficulties for the Matuas.

In Bangladesh too, the movement went subversive as their most important ashram in Khulna came under attack from the Muslims. Khulna is a place in Bangladesh where Matuas had their Ashram and they were ruining movement from there. Since Matuas were Hindus, so their houses were looted, taken over and attacked by the Pakistani radical Islamic people.

It is a human tendency to travel from one location to another in quest of more favourable circumstances. As a result, people have crossed political, cultural, and geographical borders for millennia. Rabin Cohen explained in his Diaspora thesis by referring to the victimised Jewish people and how they were expelled from their homeland and migrated to various parts of the globe. So, here Cohen has referred to William Safran's understanding to elaborate the diaspora specifically.

## Diaspora and Matua Migrants

One of the most significant declaration marking the beginning of contemporary diaspora lessons was Safran's article in the opening matter of the then new journal, *Diaspora*. Safran was sturdily inclined by the underlying paradigmatic case of the Jewish diaspora, but correctly alleged that many other indigenous groups were experiencing equivalent condition due possibly to the difficult situations surrounding their departure from their place of origin and or as a consequence of their limited rejection as well as acceptance in their place of settlement (Cohen, 2008).

Jews were driven from their homeland of Israel to Egypt, where they were persecuted to the point where, as current American

journalist and author Tim Black puts it, “no group has been more victimised than the Jewish people throughout the history of mankind.” Despite the fact that they are remembered today for being mass-murdered in Hitler’s death camp, their persecution dates back to thousands of years. Why? To comprehend how Hitler planned to utilise Jews as scapegoats, we must first comprehend the underlying anti-Semitism that Hitler was able to exploit, not just in Germany but throughout Europe” (Black, 2004).

This paper is dealing with text, named “The Other Jew” which is written by Kapil Krishna Thakur (who also belongs to the Matua Community). And it’s basically a translated work (Originally Bengali Title is “Anya Ihudi”) by Angshuman Kar, a well-known Bengali modern poet, earlier who had also served in the Eastern zone Sahitya Academy Secretariat post.

Being a Matua, author Kapil Krishna Thakur shows in his text the inexorable fate of the of the Bangladeshi Hindu people (Matuas too) who migrated to West Bengal in 1971. During the riots of 1971, most of the Hindu Bangladeshis, willingly or unwillingly went India to save their lives.

The protagonist of that short story named Brajabasi who came to West Bengal with some other people and settled in North 24 Parganas district, was running a seasonal fruit shop and suddenly he got an information from Chenno’s grandmother Harimoti, who said: “O Bejo, have you heard anything... People have come from Boulitali”. Boulitali is place of Bangladesh from where Brajabashi’s one of the uncles Bishnu Pandit had come to Bengal along with his daughter Runu after having lost his elder daughter Jhunu who was killed by one Muslim boy Ferumiya.

Bishnu Pandit told Brajabasi, “that dirty, rotten scoundrel Ferumiya. One day when Jhunu was coming back from college, Feru and his mates kidnapped her. Feru wanted to marry her. She did not agree. They assaulted her all through the night just before day break...” Bistcharan lost his wife during the turbulent days of 1971 and after that Ferumiya lost his lovely daughter, finally he also came to India. And got a shelter at Brajabashi’s house (Thakur, 2012).

This text also demonstrates the terrible conditions of women or girls who were doubly victimized by the contemporary socio-political conditions. On one side, women were alienated inside the society on account of patriarchal hegemony, and on the other, they were also victimized during the partition. Bishucharan, who was a school teacher in Bangladesh, after his migration to India, started “hawking fried chickpeas in train.

Even Runu was doing something. She had learnt sewing blouses. Runu and Braja’s sister Shiuli sew blouses. Everybody in this slum was doing something or the other” to earn their livelihood. They tried to assimilate to the host culture to pay the Durga Puja’s chanda, they knocked the door of the local political leader and demanded to make their ration or voter card as Indian citizen or as a voter of West Bengal too. Likewise, all the Matuas

were also bound to ‘maintain’ almost all the socio-political and cultural activities to assimilate or to survive in their new land of inhabitation.

### Conclusion

All the Matuas always rationally follow their God Harichnad’s every single word. “Shri Shri Hariliamrita” is one of the sacred books of Matua Community. The book is full of Harichnad’s valuable words and speeches, about his life style, many philosophical speeches and so many principles which always help them to remain united. The anguish of abandoning their ancestral homes and the fear of travelling to a strange nation in quest of a new home were indescribable.

Following the partition, they were obliged to abandon all of their possessions and, trusting entirely on the ‘Hari Guru’ fled to West Bengal as refugees. The plot of that work revolved around these people’s sad stories. As a result, before and after the country’s division, a trend of Matua books emerged, including stories about the life of the Matua community. Guruchand’s teachings and idealism had inspired them to fight and continue their struggle for survival a new setting.

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# Reflections of Globalization in Upamanyu Chatterjee's *English August: An Indian Story*

R.P. Kuraliya\* & Dr. B. Visalakshi\*\*

[Modern man has been compelled to derive decision from the Indian beliefs and good conviction in view of the mastery of the western culture. The human pain gets a bad situation for affection and love for other people. Because of westernization, the valuable custom, social morals and joint family structure have lost their importance in India. Each progression of development towards monetary, political and social modernization, taken by every country, is reacted to by individuals with an upgraded self-awareness and attention to personality. Social modernization, supported by the powers of globalization, is disdained on the off chance that it infringes upon or doesn't advance the central social estimations of society, its language, traditional practices and lifestyle. Upamanyu Chatterjee's *English August: An Indian Story* (1988) conveys the hybridized state of the protagonist Agastya Sen. The novel portrays activities of the frustrated mind of Agastya and contention inside his broke self. The mental conflict forces him to venture out of his pioneer self, his western cultural practice and preparing and find himself through his own social berths. The present paper aims at the theme of the impacts of globalization in modern man's life.]

Globalization is the interaction which grows and speeds up the development of thoughts and trade of wares over huge distances. From a worldwide point of view, globalization's most significant effects are frequently profoundly confined. Globalization truly influences individuals concerning their lifestyle, culture, taste, design, inclinations, and so on it has prompted great and terrible consequences for the existences of individuals. Every individual used to move from east to west and the other way around with the fantasy of extraordinary freedoms.

While talking about the impact of globalization Ruchira states: "Across the world, all societies to varying degrees, have had to grapple with global capital's forced restructuring of jobs, and the various impacts on national cultural industries, local and national policies, and ultimately on people's hopes and aspirations, their day-to-day survival, and their plans for the future" (Ganguly 1)

Indian culture which as a result implies multicultural, multi-strict, multi-local area human advancement and various lifestyles, is under the deadly danger of the merciless powers of globalization today. For the sake of modernization and globalization it claims to elevate people groups whom it is truly abusing.

## Dilemmas of Modern Generation

Upamanyu Chatterjee made his introduction as an author with his debut novel, *English August: An Indian Story* in 1988. Upamanyu Chatterjee was born on 19th

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December 1959 in Patna Bihar. The novel portrays the confidence of modern youth and his issues under the effect of westernization and globalization and his Self-awareness towards his life. The story additionally presents a comprehensive profile of Agastya Sen, the IAS officer waiting on the post-trial process, posted at modest town Madna. Agastya is a maverick for the Indian Administrative position. He has a place with the new era, "the generation of apes" (EA 280), "the Cola generation" and "the generation that doesn't oil its hair" (EA 47). He remains 'an absurd combination, a boarding-school-English-Literature education and an obscure name from Hindu myth' (EA 129).

He is named after the incomparable Hindu rishi, Agastya who prevented the Vindhya mountains from rising up and swallowed up the sea. Be that as it may, his direct words and deeds hang out as opposed to his legendary partner. In his school days Agastya has ravenous feeling on a portion of his Anglo-Indian school boys whose mentality is in a noteworthy way and consistently with the Tibetan young girls and demands to thoroughly understand sex. At one phase he needs to be an Anglo-Indian as Keith or Alan for a name and attempts to communicate in English with their articulation. These progressions make his companions to give him different new names" 'Last Englishman', 'hey English' ... 'hello Mother Tongue'" (EA 6) and 'August' which he lastly admits.

Agastya is a posterity of blended parentage his Bengali father, Madhusudan Sen is the Governor of West Bengal and his mother is a Goa Christian woman. This renders him a social mutt. His encounters and conditions are amazing distancing sources which fixed him in the feeling of separation. Another huge factor depicting his

diverse reasonableness is the English language. His friend Dhruvo states, “August, you are going to get hazaar fucked in Madna” (EA 5).

Furthermore, added to this, he wryly remarks during their excursion to New Delhi, in the railway station, where Agastya board at Madna train, that he doesn't 'look the role' (EA 7). Agastya comments “When I say our accents, I, of course, exclude yours, which is unique in its fucked mongrelness...” (EA 5).

There are numerous occurrences where one can discover the image of this scene without any problem. The novel shows how a new age of India has been now impacted by the Western culture because of globalization. It is an age which isn't totally passionless or distanced, however have no certain on future, objective and its aspiration. Agastya who has a place with a similar age. He has representation as an unsuitable for the furious rivalry of the world. He ponders himself as one “with no special aptitude for anything”, (EA 7) and considers, “I should have been a photographer, or a maker of Ad films, something like that, shallow and urban” (EA 19). His “... 'cultural cripples'... your generation has missed the most dramatically significant years, the first five decades of our century” (EA 256).

He fits to “the cola generation – the generation that doesn't oil its hair” (EA 56), “you generation of apes (EA 36). The questions of the protagonist are practically innumerable, “he always wanted something with immediacy...” (EA 80). He is a survivor of the way of life of idealism and conceited has which lays him on perpetual longing and satisfaction. Agastya needs to live his dreamland. His age gives the interest to do some fervour throughout everyday life. Agastya assumes both the part of a storyteller and a purposeful anecdote for the youthful metropolitan of current India. Chatterjee shows the more youthful age of India which has been caught between the universe of innovation and custom of East and West. Chatterjee notices misery of India itself. The western effect on Indian youth has much been mirrored in Agastya's colleague and his friends in Madna, Bhatia, who walks around “...two headphones and a Walkman- witheringly... calling rupees bucks, and being called Mandy” (EA 88). Chatterjee states about Bhatia that “He's the sort who'd love to get AIDS just because it's raging in America” (EA 88).

Agastya additionally takes part in the IAS examination. Like his father, he chooses to go along with quite possibly the most conspicuous post in India. He is sent for one year training as an IAS official to a remote country town named, Madna. Madna is one of the most sweltering spots in India and the outsider town which doesn't have the highlights of a major urban areas. It is very obvious from the start that Agastya isn't intrigued to be in civil servant.

Agastya's mind is generally overwhelmed by the contemplations of women and sex, someone who is addicted to marijuana and very much want to act in a pornography film than an IAS officer.

These characteristics demonstrate that he isn't reasonable being for set as an IAS. During his training period he substantiates himself as a torpid specialist, a constant smoker, an extravagant and extraordinary liar. He generally arrives at his office at 11.00 A.M. in the first part of the day and works till noon at that point gets back to his private room where he rests, drink and tune in to music (Rabindra Sangeet) and peruses some uncommon Marcus Aurelius.

Agastya is enclosed by many forlorn characters. To be first in the rundown is Srivastav, the prideful head administrator and his hot spouse Malti, the design and cultural head of the town. Next is Sathe a nearby pothead and illustrator likewise called 'the joker of Madna', the third is Kumar, the Police Superintendent and expert of pornography films, trailed by Vasant, the most exceedingly terrible cook, Shankar, a heavy drinker government engineer, Madan Bhatia, the woods official and his old acquainted.

Agastya gets drawn in himself with their nearby people and once in a while finds out about his future work. His real occupation at Madna, as a learner is to find out about locale organization yet he invests most energy with of these people. Agastya works under the locale Collector, Srivastav however invests energy to comprehend the way of life of these officials, their spouses and children. He has inquisitively noticed each and everything about his superiors.

The novel brings to limelight the difficulties looked by the public authority officials, how they act in their obligations and handle various circumstances, the duties they attempt, the political impedance and pressing factor under which they need to work and furthermore the internal clashes among the different levels of the public authority officials. Chatterjee depicts a genuine image of the climate where the public authority officials in India needed to continue their expert lives as he unmistakably draws reasons delivered by the representatives who work under them to try not to do works, their appearance and take-off time on so on.

Agastya senses his first isolation from everything at Madna. He articulates his wretched condition as, “He asked himself again. Is it because it is a new place? Yes. So, do I miss the urban life? Yes. Is it because it is a new job? Yes. The job is both bewildering and boring.” (EA 34-35). Agastya is distracted with estrangement on account of his disengagement and dislodging in Madna. His partitioned self can't hold fellowship with anything

around him in the general public in which he lives. Upamanyu Chatterjee shows Agastya's estrangement by making him as a distanced person. It is, in this manner, planned to investigate and explain Agastya's psychological issues to discover the reasons for his feeling of aloofness.

Agastya doesn't experience the ill effects of any monetary worries as he has a place with the wealthy urbanized family. Plus, he has been chosen for the most desired work. His distance is by all accounts identified with his offense from the way of life, society and his own self. He experiences hostility, social detachment and self-estrangement. He experiences external as well as from the inward issues brought about by his separation and dislodging to a country town, Madna.

He thinks consistently to escape from his work and to appreciate the joy of his mysterious life in the hot dull room in the Rest House: "There would be marijuana and nakedness, and soft, hopelessly incongruous music (Tagore or Chopin), and the thoughts that ferment in isolation." (EA 33). Agastya endeavours to find purpose behind his issues yet he discovers nothing. Agastya's constant endeavours to track down his self-personality:

He realized obscurely that he was to lead at least three lives in Madna, the official with its social concomitance, the unofficial which included boozing with Shankar and Sathe, and later, with Bhatia, and the secret, in the universe of his room, which encompassed jogging by moonlight. Each world was to prove educative, and the world beyond Madna was continually to interrupt and disturb him, letters and the radio, and ungovernable memories. (EA 58)

He never charges Madna to be the explanation of his eagerness, uneasiness and wretchedness. Like a savant he advises to Bhatia, "But, Mandy, all jobs are boring, and life for everyone is generally unhappy. You can't blame Madna." (EA 89). Agastya likes his despair and does not want to part his inclination with others. Chatterjee writes, "He realized obscurely that the sense of loneliness was too precious to be shared, and finally incommunicable, that men were ultimately, island; each had his own universe, immense only to himself, far beyond the grasp or the interest of others." (EA 89)

#### Real Existence

Agastya tells his uncle, "I'm in a sort of state of flux, restless... I don't want challenges or responsibility or anything, all I want is to be happy" (EA 166). He believes that he discovers bliss in Delhi. He is in a condition of faltering when he meets Tonic. He doesn't care for Tonic and abhorrence to work with him. Chatterjee writes, "He wondered why he was going to meet Tonic, he didn't particularly want to work with him" (EA 188). After he

meets Tonic, he arrives at the resolution that not to get together with him and "...go back to Madna and get used to things." (EA 192)

Agastya accomplishes some development in his maturity level during his visit in Delhi. At the point when he converses with his old friends, he comes to realize that people who lives in Delhi likewise not fulfils with their lifestyle. Dhruvo, who works in City Bank likewise gets ready for the IAS. Agastya actually feels disarray in his psyche and doesn't have any desire to communicate his circumstance to anybody. He believes that it is something individual and no one needed to hinder with that. "No emotion was sacredly his own, and he half-hoped that his restlessness would thus succumb to attrition. Perhaps his mind would finally realize that its disquietude was merely an index of its immaturity, as inevitable a sign of growing up as the first emission of semen, as universal as excrement, and about as noteworthy." (EA 194-195).

Agastya's development reflects in his conduct when he gets back to Madna. Following not many months in Madna, he is shipped off a far-off ancestral square, Jompanna as a Block Development Officer where he accomplishes something with the full obligation. He has tackled the water deficiency issues of the town Chipanti gallantly and startlingly. This makes a velour in him and this make him change leaving the IAS administration and changes himself with his new position and the climate. The idea of work of a Collector is clarified in a detail way denoting his methodology with different kinds of individuals who comes to meet him every day with petitions.

Chatterjee composes, "District administration in India is largely a British creation, like the railways and the English language, another complex and unwisely bequest of the Raj. But Indianisation (of a method of administration or of language) is integral to the Indian story." (EA 16) The novel draws an image of India's urban youth change over toward the Western culture. The English they speak is, "Amazing mix, the English we speak... our accents are Indian, but we prefer August to Agastya" (EA 5) As indicated by an imaginative writer like Upamanyu Chatterjee the part of modern education annuls the conventional legacy.

On talking about the effect of the western culture, Bharat says that, Upamanyu Chatterjee's English August: an Indian Story raises the issue of identity in a post-colonial society and problematizes the issue by implicating the subject in a web of contradictory and opposing material and discursive practices. The focus of the novelist is to show the mental plight of the urban Indians like August who are victims of an alien cultural discourse which has been internalized by them in the

course of their educational cultural nurturing”. (Bharat 107)

Upamanyu Chatterjee examines the situation of the more established age in urban culture in detail. The new age feels that old people are pointless. They dismiss their own parents once they get free. They turn out to be more egotistical and makes another universe of their own. The parent ship off Asylum, in light of the fact that the young people need haven in their life. Comparable is the situation with the widows of Varanasi. While conversing with Shankar, Agastya says, “But I read in an article somewhere that some of the inmates of the Ranchi Asylum are perfectly sane, they’re just unwanted at home, and it’s just cheaper to keep them in the asylum. Then the widows at Varanasi...” (EA 39)

### Conclusion

Upamanyu Chatterjee’s *English, August: An Indian Story* depicts the contentions among East and West cultures. It displays issues of contemporary man’s quest for self-identity. The novel brims with two ideas which remember the social disasters for Administrative Services of India like the debasement in high places, provocation of the framework, class segregation among

the IAS ladder and another is self-acknowledgment of modern youth at different phases of life. The protagonist discovers removal from all practices and social legacy which he finds unimportant because of the fusion of globalization.

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## Regional Disparities in India: Causes and Consequences

Dr. Sharanappa Saidapur\*

*[India is an incomprehensible, plural nation, loaded with diversities of religions, cultures, dialects, tribes and societies. A wide range of cultural and linguistic groups is concentrated in certain territorial segments, to which they are attached emotionally and historically. During the colonial rule the administration was interested in economic exploitation of the country and not in its development, it empowered different divisions based on religion, caste, creed and language. They did not pursue any plan or strategy for a balanced development of the country. This resulted in regional imbalance. So, a group identity developed. Subsequently, the independent India saw rise of evils like regionalism, linguistic separatism and communalism. These challenges faced by Indian democracy resulted in the socio-economic challenges today. The regional disparity is one of the main challenges faced by Indian democracy. ]*

Nevertheless, the balanced regional development is an important necessary condition for the harmonious and smooth development of a country. It does not imply equal development of all regions of a country. Rather it indicates utilization of development potential of all areas as per their capacity so that the benefit of overall economic growth is shared by the inhabitants of all the different regions of a country. This term “balanced regional development is the economic development of all regions simultaneously, raising their per capita income and living standards by exploiting their natural and human resources fully.

The policy of balanced regional development is considered on economic, social and political grounds. The second five-year plan documents of India observed in this connection: In a comprehensive plan of development, it is axiomatic that the special needs of the less developed area should receive due attention. The pattern of development must be so devised as to lead to balanced regional development.

### Objectives of the Paper

*The main objectives of the paper are as follows;*

1. To understand the regional disparity in India.
2. To discuss causes and consequence of regional disparity.

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3. To analyze different dimensions of regional disparity.
4. To make suitable suggestions for regional disparity.

### **Methodology**

This paper is based on secondary sources. These sources are collected from books, journal articles, government reports, census report and other printed materials related to subject. And also, this paper has adopted analytical as well as descriptive methods.

### **Discussion and Analysis**

Present paper deals with primary and preliminary issues of regional disparities in India. It focuses on various issues regarding the regional disparities. This study addresses issues related to definition, dimension, divisions, difficulty, causes, consequences, key indicators and policy intervention for regional disparity. Now, it is a burning issue for the dispensation at the helm. Regional disparities recorded rapid increase after the implementation of a new economic policy in 1991 in independent India. It was a curse for sustainable development and democracy. It has proved instrumental in creating conflicts and confrontations across the region. Moreover, it serves as setback for the harmonious development of the country.

Regional disparities of various kinds have been viewed as the price paid by man for development gains. Problems of regional disparities in the realm of economic development is almost a universal phenomenon. Its extent may differ in different economies, but its existence can hardly be challenged seriously in any nation of respectable size. While most experts generally agree that inherent tendencies for increasing regional disparities exist in the early stages of national economic development, sharp differences of opinions and judgments exist on the prediction of ultimate convergence as the nation reaches matured stages of development and on the basic determinants of regional growth of differentials.

### **Growth of Regional Disparities in India**

A balanced regional growth is necessary for the harmonious development of a federal State such as India. India, however, presents a picture of wide regional variations in terms of such indicators of economic growth as per-capita income, the proportion of population living below the poverty line, working population in agriculture, female literacy rate, access to electricity, water and sanitation, banking facility, the percentage of workers in manufacturing industries etc. Relatively speaking, some states are economically advanced while the others are backward. Even within each state, some regions are more developed while the others are almost primitive.

The co-existence of relatively developed states on the one side and economically depressed states on the other and even regions within each state leads to regional disparities. It may be natural due to unequal natural endowments or man-made in the sense of negligence of some regions and preference for others as far as investment and development efforts are concerned. Regional disparities may be inter-State or intra-State; it may be total or partial. The economic backwardness of a region is indicated by symptoms like high pressure of population on land excessive dependence on agriculture leading to high incidence of rural poverty and unemployment, absence of large-scale industry low productivity in agriculture and cottage industries etc.

### **Causes of Regional Disparities**

Every country whether developed or under-developed, agricultural or industrial, big or small, has economically advanced and backward regions. Now the questions are why particular regions move ahead in the process of development while others lag behind. It may be mentioned that disparity is inherent in the process of development. Economic development has not been uniformly distributed either over space or time. Certain countries and regions grow almost exponentially owing to the industrial sector working as the kingpin of the dynamic process of growth. While others lag and stagnate, the fact that all the regions were not developed equally due to different reasons for regional disparities.

Curbing disparities has now become a big task of the planning authorities. It is hindering growth and prosperity. We must need to identify the root cause of the problems. Some of the reasons are: 1) Historical Factor, 2) geographical factors. 3) Locational advantages, 4) Inadequacy of economic overhead, 5) Failure of planning mechanism, 6) Marginalization of the impact of green revolution of certain regions, 7) Lack of Growth of ancillary industries in backward states and others.

### **Historical Factor**

As mentioned earlier (in prelude) regional disparity in India started with the British rule. British industrialists mostly concentrated their activities in two States – West Banal and Maharashtra and more particularly to their metropolitan cities like Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai that had easy access to sea ports. The concentration of industries in these areas led to development of these cities while others remained under-developed. This put them of an edge over other from the very beginning.

### **Geographical Factors**

Regionalism in Indian polity has deprived the inaccessibility of mountain dominated regions of the country from various amenities of life, which are

enjoyed by the people of plain region. Geographically, the forward groups of States fall in the Western and Southern parts of the country. The groups of backward States are in the Eastern and Northern parts of the country. Another remarkable geographical feature is that while six out of eight States, except Haryana and Punjab, in the first group have vast sea coasts, only two out of the seven in the second group, which are, Orissa and West Bengal, is shoreline. These relatively forward States have taken the benefit of their geographical position and international trade has benefitted them.

While the forward group of States accounts for about 42 percent of the national population, the backward group account for as much as 54 percent of the population of the country. In terms of natural resources including mineral wealth, water resources and quality of soil, the latter has certain edge over the former but refrain them from enjoying the benefits.

### **Failure of Planning Mechanism**

Although balanced growth has been accepted as one of the major objectives of economic planning in India, since the second plan onwards, but it did not make much headway in achieving this object. On the other hand, the backward states like Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been receiving the smallest allocation of per capita plan outlay in almost all the plans. Due to such divergent trends, disparity between the different States in India has been uninterruptedly widening in spite of framing achievement of regional disparity as one of the important objectives of economic planning in the country.

### **Lack of basic Infrastructure**

Another reason for disparity is lack of infrastructure in many States and cities. The major cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad are regions which have basic infrastructure such as power, water, road and airports and ports. The better infrastructure has led to the concentration of Indian as well as foreign investment in these cities. These cities have now become the commercial hubs that has further increased the income and growth of these cities. However, there are many cities that lack basic infrastructure due to which they have attracted low investment that has further hindered the progress of these cities.

### **Financial Sector focus on Market-Oriented areas**

Financial sector reforms have led to a booming stock market that has helped large firms finance their expansion easily. However, small and medium enterprises which are important engine of growth and productivity have not been able to access finance in rural areas as they are too small to be interested to equity markets or FDI.

### **Political Factor responsible for regional disparities**

Another important factor responsible for regional disparities is the lack of political will and political instability prevailing in backward regions of the country. The political instability in the form of unstable government, extremist violence, law and order problems etc., have been obstructing regional flow of investment into these backward regions.

Apart from economic factors, non-economic factors such as deepening democracy and decentralization can help in reducing disparity. Unequal distribution of development is rooted in the inequalities of political, social and economic power. We have to find opportunities and space where the power can be challenged and distributed.

### **Consequences of Regional Disparities in India**

The following are some of major consequences of regional disparities in India.

1. **Inter-State and Intra-State Agitations:** Uneven regional development or regional disparities lead to several agitations within a State or between the States. The erstwhile combined State of Andhra Pradesh can be cited as the best example of the consequences of Intra-State regional disparity in terms of development, which has led to several agitations for separate Telangana State for several decades from 1969-2014. Finally, it was formed as a separate State on 2 June 2014 as the 29th State of India, still there are agitations for separate Vidarbha State in Maharashtra, Bodo movement in Assam for separate State and in Karnataka separate state for Hyderabad Karnataka.
2. **Migration:** Migration takes from backward areas to the developed areas in search of livelihood. For example, migration from rural to urban, because, urban areas will provide better quality of life and more job opportunities when compared to rural areas.
3. **Social Unrest:** Differences in prosperity and development leads to friction between different sections of the society causing social unrest. For example, Naxalism. Nexalites in India function in areas which have been neglected for long time for want of development and economic prosperity.
4. **Pollution:** Centralization of Industrial development at one place leads to air and sound pollution.
5. **Housing and water problem:** Establishment of several industries at one place leads to shortage of houses as a result the rental charges will increase abnormally. Besides, influx of population from rural areas to urban areas like Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad not only increases the population but also leads to water crises.

6. Frustration among Rural Youth: Absence of employment opportunities in rural and backward areas leads to frustration, especially among educated youth.
7. Under-Developed Infrastructure: Rural and backward areas do not have 24-hour power, proper housing, safe drinking water, sanitation, hospitals, doctors, and telephone and internet facilities.
8. Aggregation of the disparity: Once an area is prosperous and has adequate infrastructure for development, more investments pour-in neglecting the less developed region. So, an area which is already prosperous develops further. For example, the rate of growth of the metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad is higher compared to other metro cities of India.

### **Key indicators of regional disparity in India**

Some of the major key indicators of regional disparity in India exist. These indicators determine the level and severity of regional disparity in the country. Some of the indicators are as follows:

1. State Per-capita Income: The most significant indicator of regional disparity among the different States of India is the difference in per-capita income especially State income. Among the 33 states in India, Maharashtra has the highest State GDP of about Rs 233 million while Lakshadweep has the smallest GDP of Rs 60 million. Tamil Nadu is at second position and India's most populated State of Uttar Pradesh ranks third. According to a report, in 2014 Maharashtra contributed about 14 percent to India's GDP.
2. Population below Poverty Line: Percentage of population living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in different States is another important indicator of regional disparity. While some states like Goa, Maharashtra have about 5 percent of population living below the poverty line, States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have 29, 31 and 33 percent of population respectively living below the poverty line. With all-India average of 21.6 percent in 2013, there were 11 States whose percentage of population lying below the poverty line exceeded the all-India average.
3. Spatial Distribution of Industries: The country as a whole has achieved industrial development at a fair rate, since independence, but the spatial distribution of such industries and their development between various States remained almost uneven.
4. Unemployment Rate: Another important indicator of regional disparity is unemployment rate in different states while Kerala has the highest unemployment rate

but Gujarat and Rajasthan have the lowest unemployment rate. High unemployment within States indicates slow development and wastage of human resource.

5. Literacy Rate: Literacy rate is another indicator of regional disparity. Today while Kerala has the highest literary rate of 93 percent, Bihar has lowest rate of about 73 percent only. The gap of 20 percentage increases the regional disparity through evils like more unemployment among the illiterate which increases poverty and hinders development.
6. Intra-State Disparity: Co-existence of comparatively developed and economically depressed states and even regions within each State leads to regional disparity. Regional disparities are the result of incomplete task of nation-building. These reflect basically the insufficiencies brought about by colonial rule. Of late, these tensions have acquired alarming proportions and are threatening to strike the very base of the nation-state.
7. Inter-State disparities in Agricultural and Industrial Development: In spite of various attempts for industrialization, agriculture continues to be the most important economic activity from the point of view of output and employment in most of the States in India. Within the agricultural sector because of emphasis on instant increase in production, inter-State disparities in per capita agricultural production has been on constant increase. The impact of green revolution has been confined to relatively small areas. Inter-State disparities in agricultural and industrial development in India are in the states like Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Yet Punjab and Haryana have recorded high rate of productivity due to their high proportion of irrigated area and higher level of fertilizer use.

### **Policy Intervention**

The problem of regional development in a national context did not get adequate attention of the policy makers. Some of the already developed regions enjoyed the privilege to develop further at the cost the backward regions that continued to stagnate. Third Five-Year plan devoted some attention to the problem of regional disparities. Some efforts were made to identify the backward regions. Fourth plan onwards, planners have increasingly emphasized this objective. Deliberate policy measures are being taken to improve the levels of living of the people in regions identified as backward. However, in practice, in spite of the increasing awareness of these aspects, very little has been achieved. Even

though India's Planning Commission had identified industrially backward regions, no such attempt had been made in regard to the regions that can be deemed to be backward from the point of view of overall economic development. Actually, the main focus of regional policy during the Indian plans had been on the dispersal of industry among the different regions of India.

Some of the core policy issues to mitigate the regional disparities exist in the Indian economy. They are:

1. Identification of the backward areas and allocation of funds on priority basis.
2. Special fund needs for investment in backward area.
3. Political will is vital for the balanced regional development.
4. Incentive should be provided for promoting investments in the backward regions.
5. Setting up of special Regional Boards: As per article 321D of Indian Constitution, Regional board with necessary legal powers, funds should be instituted to remove the regional disparities in the States.
6. Strengthening of local government and making them responsible and accountable.
7. Provision of Grant-in-aid by the Central Government to the backward States.
8. Propagation and use of improved dry farming technology.
9. Provision of infrastructural facilities in backward districts.
10. Special grants are to be given to the backward areas.
11. Schools to be opened providing free and compulsory education to remove illiteracy.
12. Hospitals and dispensaries to be set up to give medical care to the people.
13. Cottage and small industries are to be promoted to provide employment opportunity.
14. Government must speed up developmental works and completion of work within stipulated period in backward areas.

### Concluding Remarks

In a nutshell, after attainment of independence, the India adopted a constitution by virtue of which India become a Democratic Federal Republic and Welfare State. Its main aim is to ensure social and economic justice to its people. To this effect several provisions are made in the Constitution. The preamble of the Constitution sets out the objectives of security, social, economic and political justice and equal opportunity for all the people.

The directive principles lay down that the State shall strive "to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of National Life". Thus, the Directive Principles seem to imply removal of all types of imbalances including regional imbalances to promote all-round economic growth and fostering economic development in the various part of the Country. The Directive Principles are expression of the will of the people for economic growth and consequently the government adopted planning as a means of accelerating economic development.

Regional disparity is a threat to the goal of inclusive growth and reduction of poverty. The growing regional disparities have decreased the speed of further economic reforms and hence may pose a barrier to India's future economic growth. Regional disparity is a major economic issue in India. Had all the regions of the country reaped the benefit of economic growth equally the demand for new states and other regional conflicts might have been non-existent here. Hence, a big thrust for inclusive growth has remained a cherished goal of our policy planners.

### End Notes

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# Impact of Covid-19 on the Livelihood of the Daily Wage Earners: A Case Study of Thingchom Village, Churachandpur District, Manipur

Dr.Ruolkhumzo\*

*[The Covid-19 pandemic has its impact on the livelihood of the people around the world. The daily wage earners are one of the most vulnerable sections of the society which has adverse effects of the pandemic. As they work in the informal sector they have less access to social protection. In India nationwide lockdown was imposed in March 2020. The outbreak of the pandemic has unfavourable effects on the livelihood of the daily wage earners as a result of the various restrictions imposed by the Government as well as the local authority. The present paper studies the impact of Covid-19 on the livelihood of the daily wage earners of Thingchom village of Churachandpur District in Manipur. In order to explore the impact of Covid-19 on the livelihood of the daily wage earners of the inhabitant of Thingchom village, the researcher collected primary data from 200 daily wage earners of the village. Beside, an interview was also conducted to get more information. It is found that 98.5% of the households'/respondents' livelihood has been adversely affected by the covid-19 pandemic. It is also found that the assistance received from the Government and other organization is insufficient. As such, more initiatives need to be taken up by the Government and other local authorities to lessen the hardships faced by the villagers.]*

In India the first COVID-19 case was reported on 30 January 2020, which was originating from China. Slowly, the Pandemic spread to various states and Union Territories including the state of Manipur. The first Covid-19 case of Manipur was confirmed on 24 March, 2020 on a young student who was returning to the state from United Kingdom. The Covid-19 positive cases continue to rise in the state leading to imposition of complete curfew in most parts of the districts and extension of lockdown as a whole in the state. The outbreak of the Pandemic has unfavourable effects on the livelihood of the daily wage earners as a result of the various restrictions imposed by the Government as well as the local authority. The present paper studies the impact of Covid-19 on the livelihood of the daily wage earners of Thingchom village, Churachandpur District, Manipur.

## Objectives of the Study

*The present paper focussed in the following objectives*

1. To find out the impact of covid-19 on the livelihood of the daily wage earners of Thingchom village.
2. To highlights the measures taken up by the Government and the local authorities during the pandemic.
3. To give suggestions to improve the conditions of the daily wage earners.

## Methodology

The research work deals with daily wage earners. In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, researcher has used questionnaire tools as a means of primary data collection. Data was collected using the simple random sampling method. Sample sizes of 200 responses were collected on the basis of convenient sampling. The collected data was tabulated, and interpreted using the simple percentage method as a data tool. Beside, in depth interview of 30 persons were also conducted to better understand the real situation of the impact of the Covid -19.

## Profile of Thingchom Village

Thingchom is one of the villages in Churachandpur District of Manipur. It is under Saikot constituency. The people living in this village are tribal and mostly belonging to Hmar Tribe. The village was established in 1940. It comprises of 120 houses with a population of 860. The village has one Government primary school. This is the only Government institution found in the village. There is only one Government Employee in the village. He is a primary teacher. There is no health care facility in the village. Most of the houses are kucha houses and majority of them are daily wage earners. As such, the covid-19 pandemic has severely affected the livelihood of the daily wage earners.

The coming of covid-19 led to the imposition of strict nationwide lockdown. But there are many villages in the rural areas where there are no Government officials to enforce the lockdown. In the absence of such Government officials to enforce the lockdown, the village authority headed by the village chief played a very important role in enforcing the restriction to contain

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the pandemic. Many villages in the remote areas have to fend for themselves. This was the case of Thingchom village too. In order to protect the village from covid-19 pandemic the Thingchom village authority formed Covid-19 Task Force. The Covid-19 Task Force is responsible for all matters relating to Covid-19 in the village.

A notable restriction imposed in Thingchom village during the covid-19 pandemic was that no villagers were allowed to go outside the village and no one from outside was allowed to go inside the village without the permission of the village Covid-19 Task Force. A gate was erected at the main entrance of the village and duties were carried out on rotation basis. Anyone violating the restriction would be punished. For any emergency the Covid-19 Task Force was informed and they make arrangements in such a way that nobody brings the covid-19 inside the village. This must be the reason that the village is safe from the pandemic even after the second nationwide lockdown. However, this restriction of the village brings endless hardships to the villagers as they cannot go out to earn money to buy their daily requirements.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on Livelihood of Daily Wage Earners**

The Government of India imposed nationwide lockdown on in March 2020. The lockdown was also strictly enforced in the cities and towns of Manipur. As mentioned earlier, in the remote areas of Manipur there are hardly any Government officials to enforce the lockdown; it became the responsibility of the village authority to enforce it. Like any other village of remote village of Manipur, Thingchom village was also regulated by the village authority headed by the chief. The village authority formed the Covid-19 Task Force to deal with matters relating to covid-19 pandemic in the village.

As a restriction measures Thingchom village no one was allowed to go in and out of the village. In case of any emergency they were required to inform the Covid-19 Task Force. This has caused untold hardships for the villagers especially those of daily wage earners who usually have a hand to mouth existence. During the interview a thirty-five year old man stated, “I am a daily wage earner, I earned Rs.400 a day. We usually go outside

the village to work. Because of the lockdown and closing of the village I do not earn anything now. Our family don’t have any other source of income; we are having a tough time. Sometimes the Government distributes rice but this is not enough. Other villagers are also in the same situation. We are very much worried and we cannot think about our future. How can we survive if the situation goes on like this? We are all tense about our livelihood. Corona virus destroyed our future and it made us poorer.”

A women daily wage earner of 30 years old said, “During the lockdown and closing down of the village my family is facing many hardships. Before lockdown I went out with my husband and work to earn for our daily requirements. We can send our children to school. But now we cannot go out to work. We got sick all the time and we don’t have money to buy medicines. Sometimes we don’t have food to eat and when the village chief came to know about this he gave us some rice. The rice distributed by the Government is very little, it is not enough. My children need to join online class. Since we can’t afford to buy Smart Phone which support online class, my children are having a difficult time. We also have network problem here. So we are not afraid of corona virus any more. We may die of hunger before corona virus came to us.”

#### **Analysis and interpretation of the following tables show the impact of Covid-19 on the Daily Wage Earners:**

**Table -1**

#### **Age and Gender Wise Respondents (Data within the bracket is % Percentage)**

**N – 200**

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Up-to 35	30 (19)	24 (12)	62	31
36 to 45	30 (15)	20 (10)	50	25
46 to 55	24 (12)	18 (9)	42	21
56 to 65	20 (10)	18 (9)	38	19
Above 65	6 (3)	2 (1)	8	4
Total	118	82	200	100

Sources: Primary Data.

**Table- 2**

#### **Nature of Problem during the Lockdown and Closing down of the Village**

(Data within the bracket is % percentage)

**N-200**

Nature of the Problems	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Lost of Wage Earning Opportunity, Essential Food Items less than a month, Financial Problem, Not Happy with the Lockdown and sealing of the Village, Can’t Afford to have balance diet and ready to risk Life to Work	90(45)	70(35)	160	80

Essential Food Items less than a Month, Financial Problem, Afraid of Corona Virus, Problem of Availing Health Care and Medicines, Can't Afford to have Balance Diet	27(13.5)	10 (5)	37	18.5
Domestic problem	1(0.5)	2 (1)	3	1.5
Total	118	82	200	100

Sources: Primary Data

Interpretation: Table-2 describes the nature of the problems faced during the lockdown and closing down of the village. It shows that 45% of men & 35% of women have lost of wage earning opportunity, have essential food items less than a month, are having financial problems, not happy with the lockdown and closing down of the village, can't afford to have a balance diet and ready to risk life to work. 13.5% of men and 5 % of women are afraid of Corona Virus, are having the problem of availing health care and medicines, and 0.5% of men and 1% of women have domestic problem.

It is concluded that 98.5% of the respondents collectively face the problem of wage earning opportunity, have essential food items less than a month. They are having financial problems and can't afford to have a balance diet. They also have the problems of availing health care and medicines. At the same time, 1.5% of the respondents have domestic problem.

### Relief and Aid for the Daily Wage Earners during Lockdown

To lessen the financial burden during lockdown, the Government announced to provide assistance like

“Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) in which an additional 5kg of rice/wheat would be given to 80 crore poor people, above the existing 5kg they receive, along with 1kg pulses according to regional preferences per household free of any charge, for a period of three months. Under the PM KISAN scheme, instalment of Rs.2000 would be transferred to the bank account of 8.7 crore farmers. Beside, 8 crore poor families will get free cylinders for three months under the Ujjwala scheme. With effect from 1 April 2020, the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been increased by Rs.20 per day or Rs. 2000 annually per worker on an average, as additional income to help daily wage labourers” [5].

During the research at Thingchom village, it is found that the above mentioned assistance is not fully avail by many of the villagers. A 40 (year) man reported that “We get only few rice from the Government. We depended on our everyday earning and since we cannot go out to work we need more support”. The following table shows the assistance received by the villagers during lockdown: Table – 3 Gender and assistance from Government and other Bodies (Data within the bracket is % percentage)

N-200

Assistance Received	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
From Government, the Village Chief, Relatives and Neighbours, Not satisfied with the Assistance from the Government	116(58)	80(40)	196	98
Only from Village Chief, Relatives and Neighbours	1(0.5)	1(0.5)	2	1
Not Satisfy with the Assistance from other Authorities/ Bodies	1(0.5)	1(0.5)	2	1
Total	118	82	200	100

Interpretation: Table -3 describes the assistance received from the government and other authorities/other bodies. It shows that 58% of men and 40% of women received assistance from the government, the village chief and, relatives and neighbours, and not satisfy with the assistance from the Government. 0.5% of the respondents received assistance only from the Village Chief, Relatives and Neighbours. At the same time, 0.5% of the respondents are not satisfied with the assistance from other Bodies.

It is concluded that 99% of the respondents collectively received assistance from the Government, relatives and Neighbours. However, they are not satisfied with the assistance from the Government. At the same time, 1% of the respondents are not satisfied with the assistance from other Authorities/Bodies.

### Findings of the Study

Base on the Data Analysis and Interpretation of the study the following are the major findings:

1. 98.5% of the respondents collectively face the problem of wage earning opportunity, have essential food items less than a month, have financial problem, can't afford to take a balance diet, and have the problem of availing health care and medicines.
2. 99% of the respondents collectively received assistance from the Government, relatives and neighbours. However, they are not satisfied with the assistance from the government.

### Suggestions of the Study

The followings are the suggestions to the Government and other Authorities/Bodies to handle the grieved situation during the lockdown period:

1. Essential food items and medicines should be provided at free of cost/ at a very subsidise rate to the daily wage earners during the lockdown period.
2. Job opportunity should be created for the daily wage earners on the basis of their capacity.

3. The local authority should understand the problems faced by the daily wage earners and see to it that they at least have a square meal a day.
4. The Government has to ensure that the assistance announced during the lockdown reached the intended persons.

### Conclusion

Across the countries, the covid-19 Pandemic has a severe negative impact in the socio-economic life of the people. Although it has affected all groups of people in the society, the daily wage earners have become the more vulnerable. In developing countries, where the majority of the people depend on their daily income, the covid-19 outbreak has threatened their subsistence. The absence of livelihood means, fear of getting infected by corona virus, and insufficient Government's assistance has made their livelihood vulnerable. At Thingchom village it is found about 98.5% of the villagers are daily wage earners. The national lockdown and closing down of the village has severe affect on their livelihood. The assistance they received from the Government and other Bodies is insufficient. As such, more initiatives need to be taken up by the Government and other authorities/bodies to lessen hardships faced by the villagers.

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## A Study on the Problems faced by Female Teachers working in Primary Schools of Dima Hasao District

Dr. Malina Basumatary\*

*[The main objective of this paper is to study the problems faced by female teachers working in Primary schools of Dima Hasao District which is also one of the hill districts of Assam. The district is situated in the southern part of Assam. There are 750 (Provincialised & Government) primary schools in the district. A total of 1261 female teachers are employed in the primary schools. Out of it 100 female teachers were selected as a sample for the present study with the help of simple random sampling method. Descriptive survey method has been used for the present study. The researcher also gave some suggestions to overcome the problems faced by the female teachers of primary schools in the district.]*

Teacher is the most essential part of the teaching learning process. Any educational system is a failure in the absence of the teacher. Enrolment of the students in the primary schools is directly related to the appointment of the good and qualified teachers. The parents now a day are concerned regarding their children's education and they enroll their children in those educational institutions where only qualified teachers are appointed. The parents of the girl student's also shows interest in sending their daughters to schools only if there are female teachers in the school. The presence of female teachers in educational institutions can bring a positive impact on the retention and achievement of girls' education. Many researched studies have found that female

teachers working in educational institutions face many problems and challenges in their desire to maintain their positions. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to study as to why the female teachers working in primary schools face various problems in rendering their duties. The researcher therefore keeping in mind the condition of female teachers working in rural areas made an attempt to study on the problems faced by female teachers working in primary schools of Dima Hasao district.

### Significance of the study

Teaching is the major service chosen by females in many states. Large number of teaching fraternity is comprised of female teachers. They are the role models for most of the students in the schools. Being woman most of them take up teaching as a job with the notion that this profession is simple, safe, secured

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and requires fewer efforts. But the reality is too far. At present teaching job is considered as one of the tough job especially for women as they have to juggle between their personal and professional life. This job demands hundred percent dedications from the teachers as they build the foundation of education for the students. Therefore the present study will try to reveal the problems, female teachers of primary schools encounter while rendering their duties in the district.

The review of related literature pertaining to problems faced by female teachers working in primary schools conducted by various researchers revealed certain general findings in the area such as-

Nath (2008) in his study entitled 'Problems of Female School Teachers in Kerala' found that health related problems are very much prevalent among female school teachers in the district.

Rashid & Maharashi (2015) made a study on 'Problems of Female School Teachers in District Kulgam (J&K)' and they have found that majority of working female teachers are facing personal, professional and familial problems in the district.

Farooq, Feroze & Kai (2017) in their study 'An Analysis of the Problems Faced by Female Primary School Teachers in District Muzaffarabad' found that 100% female teachers of girls government primary school asserted that they were completely deprived of promotion due to non-availability of service rules and service structure.

#### **The review of the different studies which have been stated above, have given the researcher an**

ample opportunity and sufficient scope for the formation of the objectives of the study. Therefore, it has been considered worthwhile to make a study on the problems faced by female teachers working in primary schools and the topic of the present study have been entitled as - 'A Study on the Problems faced by Female Teachers working in Primary Schools of Dima Hasao District'. The main purpose of the study was to find out the problems of the female primary school teachers. With this aim in view; the reviewed literatures have helped the researcher to design the present study and to formulate the objectives of the present study

#### **Objectives of the study**

1. To find out the various problems faced by the female teachers working in Primary Schools of Dima Hasao District.
2. To provide necessary suggestions to solve the problems.

#### **Research Questions**

1. What are the various problems faced by the female teachers of primary schools?
2. What are the measures need to be taken to solve these problems?

#### **Methodology**

##### **Method used**

The present study is purely based on field survey. Therefore the Descriptive Survey Method was adopted for the study.

##### **Population**

There are 750 (Provincialised and Government) primary schools in Dima Hasao district. All the Female Teachers working in primary schools of Dima Hasao District of Assam are the

population of the present study. The total number of female teachers is 1261.

##### **Sample**

The present study was undertaken in Dima Hasao District of Assam. Simple random sampling method was used to select the sample size for the study. From the total female teachers of 1261, 100 teachers have been selected from the district by the investigator.

##### **Tools used**

In order to collect data the investigator prepared a self constructed questionnaire for the present study.

##### **Findings of the study**

- 85% of the female teachers have acquired D.El.Ed training in the district.
  - 50% female teachers working in primary schools possess Matric qualification, 40% H.S and 10% teachers are Graduates.
  - It is found that the approach roads to school in remote and hilly areas are not good when compared to the school of town areas and as a result they had to walk a long way due to poor condition of roads.
  - Most of the teachers responded that they are irregular in attending their duties and they have stated lack of quarters is one of the reasons of their irregularities.
  - 70% female teachers responded that there are no separate common rooms for the male and female teachers in the school and they face discomfort due to this.
  - It is also found that 80% of the female teachers responded that there are no separate toilet facilities for male and female teachers in the school. They find it very difficult and uneasy to share the common convenience with their male counterparts.
  - Majority of the teachers stated that they are not given their salaries on time due to corrupt processing system
  - All the teachers stated that their promotions are also not given on time.
  - Some of the teachers responded that the parents of the students do not cooperate with them.
- Most of the teachers responded that they face health issues during their menstruation. They feel tired, exhausted and restless as they have to determine many kilometers by walking to reach their schools by crossing many bridges, rivers and valleys.
- Due to delay in salaries majority of the teachers face problem in running their families as some of them are single mothers and they are the only bread earner of the family.
  - Lack of transportation, lack of quarter for female teachers working in remote and hilly areas, frequent transfer from one school to another are stated to be the problems they face in their professional fields.

##### **Suggestions**

- Quarters should be established for female teachers posted in rural and hilly remote areas.
- Female teachers should be made aware of their rights of being a woman.

- Career improvement programs for female teachers need to be organized frequently.
- Parents should be made aware of their child's education and the parent teacher meeting should be organized more frequently to work cooperatively on the education related matters.
- Separate common rooms and toilet facilities for the male and female teachers in the schools may be established immediately.
- Salaries should be provided on time so that they can do away with their financial problems as some of them are the only bread earner of the family.
- Promotions should be given on due time to encourage the female teachers to work enthusiastically for the welfare of the students.

### Conclusion

It is pertinent from the present study that female teachers working in primary schools in the district face lots of problems. They basically juggle between their professional and personal lives. They are mostly expected to do the household works very accurately by the family members at home and by their administrators and colleagues in the professional field. They had to take care of their children at home and their students in schools. Even after working tirelessly for the welfare of the students, if the salaries are not paid in time, might demoralize the spirit and enthusiasm of the teachers. Therefore it is a high time that we respect and understand the hard work they perform, the situations they undergo while crossing old bridges, rivers and valleys through forests to spread the ray of education to the young learners residing in the remote hilly areas.

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## Ambedkar Methods for Removal of Untouchability

Dr. Mauchumi Hazarika\*

[The aim of this paper is to describe the Ambedkar Methods for removal of Untouchability. Ambedkar, born as an Untouchable, faced social ostracism right from his childhood. Ambedkar strove to free himself of his hereditary handicaps and this effort he extended to his entire community. Early in life, he became aware that the Mahar community and other Depressed Classes were denied legitimate human rights by oppressive social customs. Ambedkar gave a graphic of the plight of the Untouchables in the following words: "The Hindu society insists on segregation of the Untouchables and will not allow the Untouchables to live inside Hindu quarters. This is a fundamental feature of Untouchability as it is practiced by the Hindus. It is not a case of social separation, a mere stoppage of social intercourse for a temporary period. Every Hindu village has a ghetto. The Hindus live in the village and the Untouchables in the ghetto."<sup>1</sup> Ambedkar concluded that Untouchability was a unique phenomenon unknown to humanity except among the Hindus. He considered that the "present caste system with its invidious distinctions and unjust dispensations is one of the greatest sources of our communal and national weakness."<sup>2</sup>]

Ambedkar availed of every opportunity to demand political rights and safeguards for the Depressed Classes. When in 1918-19 the South brough committee,

set up to recommend Franchise Reforms, toured India, Ambedkar gave public testimony to plead for the, political rights of the Depressed Classes. Ambedkar, who was only 28 years old at that time, submitted a written Statement to this Committee. Explaining the social divisions in India, describing the position of Untouchables, analyzing constituency-wise population of

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Untouchables in Bombay Presidency and recommending that the Untouchables of the Presidency should be allowed to elect 9 members in specified constituencies, this was a bold attempt to provide for communal electorates for the Untouchables in such numbers as would enable them to claim a modicum of social redress. Ambedkar was examined by the committee, when he acquainted the members with the position of the Untouchables and his proposal to reserve 9 seats by separate communal election for the Untouchables on the basis of their population.

### Discussion

Although Ambedkar's testimony was logical, the Bombay Government recommended that no special representation be given to the Depressed Classes. Ambedkar's campaign for political rights for the Untouchables gained momentum in the 1920s and 1930s. The Simon Commission (Indian Statutory Commission) provided a golden opportunity to Ambedkar to plead the case of the Depressed Classes. Adult suffrage, which is supported by political justice and favoured by political expediency, is also, I find, demanded by a substantial body of public opinion. "The existence of separate interests of the Mohammedan community is therefore a myth. What exist are not separate interests but special concern in certain matters."<sup>3</sup>

Assuming, however, that separate interest exists, the question arises: are they better promoted by separate electorates than by general electorates and reserved seats? According to Ambedkar, "My emphatic answer is that the separate or special interest of any minority are better promoted by the system of general electorates and reserved seat than by separate electorates... the best system is the one under which the Mohammedan candidates could be elected by the suffrage of the Hindus and the Hindu candidates elected by the suffrage of the Mohammedans.

The system of joint electorates is to be preferred to that of communal electorates, because it is better calculated to bring about that result than the system of separate electorates. With separate electorates the minority gets its own quota of representation and no more. For, every member of the majority if not a member of the minority, will certainly be a member for the minority; will certainly be a member for the minority. This, in my opinion, is a very great advantage which makes the system of mixed electorates superior to that of separate electorates as a means of protection to the minority."<sup>4</sup> As we shall see subsequently, Ambedkar kept changing his views on this issue.

In other words, all that Ambedkar demanded was protection through adequate representation for the Depressed Classes. There can be no two opinions that the standing of the Depressed Classes, both educational and economic, is the lowest in this Presidency.

Ambedkar submitted another statement on behalf of the Bahishkrita Hitakarini Sabha (Depressed Classes Institute of Bombay) to the Simon Commission. This statement related to the education of Depressed Classes in Bombay Presidency and made the following propositions: That the right of the Depressed Classes to unrestricted recruitment in the army, navy and the police shall be recognized without any limitation as to caste: That the right of the Depressed Classes to appeal to the Government of India in cases of violation of these rights by the Provincial Government shall be recognized and the Government

of India shall be given the power to compel the Provincial Government to conform to the law in the matter.

He explained to the Indian Statutory Commission that the terms Depressed Classes and Untouchables were synonymous and stressed, "The first thing I would like to submit is that we claim that we must be treated as a distinct minority, separate from the Hindu community. Our minority character has been hitherto concealed by our inclusion in the Hindu community, but as a matter of fact there is really no link between the Depressed Classes and the Hindu community. Secondly, I should like to submit that the Depressed Classes minority needs far greater political protection than any other minority in British India, for the simple reason that it is educationally very backward, that it is economically poor, socially enslaved, and suffers from certain grave political disabilities, from which no other community suffers."<sup>5</sup>

Ambedkar was searching for a method by which he could awaken the Untouchables. Holding Conferences seemed to him best suited for awakening the Untouchables and for mass support. As stated earlier Shahu Maharaj attended this Conference and announced prophetically, "You have found your saviour in Ambedkar." This Conference was presided over by Ambedkar. Later in the same year, another Conference of Depressed Classes was held at Nagpur with Shahu Maharaj as President. Ambedkar spoke at the Conference and urged political representation by election and not by nomination.

In 1924, a Provincial Depressed Classes Conference was held at Barshi in Sholapur district, where a resolution to form a central organization for the task of the amelioration and uplift of the Depressed Classes was passed. In the same year, the Bahishkrita Hitakarini Sabha (Depressed Classes Institute) was formed in Bombay with Ambedkar as Chairman of the Council of Management. The purpose of this organization was to hold conferences for the welfare of the Depressed Classes, as well as to spread education, improve economic conditions and represent the grievances of the Depressed Classes. Another organization called Samaj Samata Sangh (Social Equality League) was established in Bombay in the late 1920's with Ambedkar as President, which stressed on inter-caste activities and published a newspaper. It promoted ceremonies such as Vedic weddings and the sacred thread ritual for Untouchables.

In a conference held at Nipani in 1925, Ambedkar commented at length on the Vykam Satyagraha. His comments showed appreciation of Gandhi's efforts but his criticism that Gandhi did not enforce non-practice of Untouchability and non-rejection of scriptures on which the orthodox based their opposition was forewarning of a less optimistic and conciliatory attitude in the future. Ambedkar noted that the orthodox Brahmins at Vykam had used scriptures to justify their position to Gandhi. The Mahad Municipality had declared open the Chowdar Tank to the Untouchables. Yet the Untouchables could not exercise their right.

In March 1927, Ambedkar presided over a Conference of the Kolaba District Depressed Classes and urged thousands of his followers to march to the Chowdar Tank for drawing and drinking water. Enraged by the widespread rumours about the plan of the Untouchables to defile the Chowdar Tank, caste Hindus attacked the Untouchables. Ambedkar at the Conference said, "Should we fail to assert our rights as human beings and citizens, we shall have to remain fallen forever".<sup>6</sup>

After nearly ten years, the Bombay High Court decided in favour of Ambedkar.

In his Presidential address at this Conference, Ambedkar espoused the abolition of social disabilities. Our Conference aims at the same achievement in social, religious, civil and economic matters.” The movement was not only for the removal of disabilities but also to bring about a social revolution, a revolution that would remove all man-made barriers of caste by providing equal opportunities to all to rise to the highest position, making no distinction between man and man and to provide civic rights to all. “If we achieve success in our movement to untie all the Hindus in a single caste we shall have rendered the greatest service to the India national in general and to the Hindu community in particular.”<sup>7</sup>

The existing caste system with its invidious distinction and unjust dispensations is one of the greatest sources of our communal and national weakness. Ambedkar wished to carry on the movement as peacefully as possible. At the Conference, four resolutions were passed. According to Ambedkar, “They reveal a new outlook which the Untouchables had acquired.”<sup>8</sup>

This conference is in the opinion that the present deplorable condition of the Hindu community is only an illustration of how a community becomes fallen by reason of its tolerating social injustice, following erroneous religious beliefs and supporting economic wrongs. In order that every Hindu may know what are in the opinion of this Conference the inalienable birth-rights of man, this conference to issue the following proclamation containing a list thereof. All Hindus have the same social status from birth. This equality of social status is an attribute, which they retain till death. This Conference is therefore opposed to any action -whether in the political, economic or social field of life - which would result in producing a difference in social status.

The ultimate aim of all political, economic or social changes should be to maintain intact the equal status of all Hindus. That being the view of the conference, the Conference strongly disapproves of all literature of the Hindus, whether ancient or modern, which supports in any way the pernicious doctrine of inequality underlying the Hindu social system.

The privileges claimed by any class or individual have not validity if they are not granted by the people. This Conference, therefore, repudiates the social and religious privileges enjoyed by some classes of Hindus as much as they are founded upon the Vedas, Smritis and Puranas and not upon the free consent of the people.

This Conference, therefore, repudiates all restraints on religious, social and economic freedom imposed upon the thought and action of the Hindus inasmuch as they are imposed by the Shastras and not by the people. Hindus can be deprived of their rights other than their birth-rights only by law. Persons, causing obstruction in matters where law has laid down no prohibition, are in the opinion of this Conference enemies of the public. Law is the people’s prescription for change. This Conference repudiates the Hindu caste-system firstly as being detrimental to society, secondly as being based on birth and thirdly as being without any sanction from the people. This memorable Declaration foreshadowed the Fundamental Rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution of India.

As a symbol of rejection of the caste system, which was the basis of Untouchability, a copy of the Manu Smriti was burnt ceremoniously in full view of the Conference, In his assessment

of the Resolutions, Ambedkar stated that these resolutions were absolutely revolutionary in character. The burning of the Manu Smriti was a deed of great daring. After the Mahad Conference, Ambedkar realized that mass action produced unity and courage and this is seen in his role in the temple Satyagraha that followed. Pune and Nasik were the sites of the temple entry movement. The impetus for temple entry grew out of the Mahar movement, but he name used, “Temple Satyagraha”, and the technique of non-violent direct action came from the teachings of Gandhi. Although there was no direct confrontation between Ambedkar and Gandhi on this issue, yet the failure of the Satyagraha and the lack of Congress support increased distrust between Ambedkar and his followers and Congress and Gandhi.

The longest Satyagraha for temple entry took place at the Kalam temple at Nasik, 1930-1935. Organised by Ambedkar and the local Mahar leaders, the Kalam Satyagraha involved thousands of Untouchables in a five-year attempt to enter the temple and to participate in the annual temple procession. The Satyagraha ended with Ambedkar’s announcement at Yeola, in 1935 that he no longer considered himself a Hindu.

### Conclusion

Ambedkar’s approach to the problem of Untouchability was naturally militant and that of a victim. The approach of reform envisaged by Gandhi within the existing social structure was impractical to Ambedkar who wanted an independent identity for his community with significant political rights and safeguards in relation to its population, based on the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. The cause of the Untouchables was the mission of both Gandhi and Ambedkar. Gandhi wanted the Untouchables to remain within the Hindu fold and sought their amelioration by reforming the caste Hindus and purification of the Hindu heart. Ambedkar wanted the Untouchables to help themselves by becoming aware of their rights, organizing themselves politically and demanding political and legal rights.

Ambedkar was a more pragmatic, cautious and astute leader. Being an untouchable himself, he was closely aware of the humiliation and degrading conditions of the untouchables both in rural and urban areas. For some years he fought for reforming the orthodoxies of Hindus through “Satyagrahas” for temple entry. And later, he embraced Buddhism with a belief that Untouchability would vanish once they changed their religion. While promoting education and legal protection for the untouchables, he displayed an acute modern – liberal – rational sense.

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# Change in Socio-economic Status of Scheduled Castes through Implementation of Reservation Policy

Dr Ramesh Kamble\*

*[The present study is an empirical effort to know the impact of reservation policy on the socio-economic status of scheduled caste people. Due to the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar reservation policy got constitutional support and was implemented as a strong weapon of the welfare of all the deprived communities of Indian society. Implementation of reservation policy for them brought considerable development in their life. Therefore, this study is intended to know the changes in the socio-economic life of scheduled castes community through the implementation of the reservation policy—a descriptive research design was adopted for this purpose. The present study is proposed to conduct the research in the Vijayapur district of Karnataka state. Major findings of the study are Due to the high amount of illiteracy (60%),; the respondent's occupation is Coolie. The study explores the social status is linked with the financial status of the respondents. Almost 100 % of the respondents said that the social status of the person is entirely dependent on his financial status. The important finding is less than 1% of respondents are government employees.]*

The scheduled castes constitute one of the most distinct classes of people in Indian society. They suffer from untouchability, separation, low socio-economic status, illiteracy and lack of political power. Altogether, they suffer from impoverishment. More than 85 % of their population seek a job in the primary sector that is agriculture. The proportion of agricultural labourers is considerably higher than the other castes in India. They have not been given the opportunity of social mobility due to the nature of rigidity of the social system. As a result, they have been denied the facilities of modernization. Their economic, political and social progress remained highly restricted, and they were given opportunities of unclean and menial jobs which earned less income. They generally do their traditional occupations as scavenging, cobbling and fishing etc.

## Objectives of the Study

- a. To critically analyze and study the hurdles, proposals and schemes of Dr B R Ambedkar in providing reservation for Scheduled Caste.
- b. To explore the importance of Reservation policy in improving socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste.
- c. To explore the supplementary provisions for the socio-economic and political representation of the Scheduled Caste.

## Research Methodology

This study intended to examine and explain the changes brought in the socio-economic status of scheduled caste by implementing reservation policy in India. The study is based on primary data and some extent, partially secondary data and the researcher's primary observation. The descriptive research design was adopted for this purpose as significantly fewer studies have been done. The researcher intended to understand the role of reservation policy to change the socio-economic status of the scheduled caste. The researcher adopted a non-probability sampling method; under this method, the purposive sampling technique is used for the study purpose. The reason to choose

purposive sampling is to focus on particular characteristics of a population that are of interest and will be able to answer the research questions.

## Movement for Reservation

The subject of reservations is a vast one; all the aspects of historical accounts of reservation can't be recounted in one paper. This study deals with some of the more significant historical and legal movements with regard to the history of a reservation policy in India, which need to be covered at length. Since the Mandal Commission report was accepted in 1991, giving reservation in higher education and government services to the other backward classes of India, reservation policy has been criticized very vehemently, but not much has been written in favour of reservation policy by its beneficiaries either in a book form or in the form of articles in the national press only people from dominant and privileged groups who have been enjoying the benefits of education, wealth, land and public services" in a big way are the vocal critics of the Reservation policy. Undeniably, in contemporary society, shudras, Dalits (untouchables) and women have been the worst victims of persecution, exploitation and subjugation.

## Implementation and Monitoring of Reservation Policy

The Central Government has devised administrative mechanisms for monitoring, implementing and regulating the reservation policy with other affiliated programmes. Following institutions can be divided into:

- Those "that are related with policy-making & overseeing the overall development of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled tribe."
- Those "that are instantly involved in regulations (i.e., preparing rules for reservation from time to time) and monitoring the achievement of the required quotas in the central government jobs and" services.
- "Those, acting as investigation agencies in the event of the offence of reservation rules, and"
- Those that are concerned with policy-making and over-seeing the overall development of the Scheduled Castes /Scheduled tribes

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- National Commission for S.C.s and S.T.s: The other significant independent organization is the “National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes”. It works as the “investigating agency on specific complaints from Scheduled Caste/Scheduled tribe employees with regard to service and promotion matters. The matters may be related to incidents of discrimination, violation and offences of reservation policy, etc.
- Constitutional Provisions “Article 46 contains the provision regarding the interests of the weaker sections of society. According to this section, the state shall take care of the education and economic benefits of the weaker sections of the public, and, in especial of the S.C.s and the S.T.s, shall safeguard them from social unjustness and all forms of exploitation. That person will be a member of the scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes who belongs to such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups in such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under Article (341) to be scheduled for the intents of this constitution. “Scheduled Tribes” means such tribes or tribal communities for parts of groups within such tribal communities as are deemed under article (342) to be the S.T.s for the purposes of the constitution. Article (14) guarantees equality, the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law, and the equal protection of the laws within the area of India article (15) prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the ground of religion, race, castes sex, place of birth or any of them. Article 16 (1) guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment” etc.

**Table No. 1.** In your opinion, whether social status depends upon the occupation of the person

S No	Occupation	In your opinion whether social status depends up on the educational level of the person		Total
		Yes	No	
		Yes	No	
		Yes	No	
01	Coolie	36	00	36
		60%	00	60%
02	Agriculture	08	00	08
		13.3%	00	3.3%
03	Business	07	00	07
		11.7%	00	11.7%
04	Private	05	00	05
		8.3%	00	8.3%
05	Govt. Service	04	00	04
		6.7%	00	6.7%
	Total	60	00	60
		100%	00%	100%

Table No.1 deals with the social status that is linked with the occupation of the respondents. The cross-table analysis is made with the occupation of the respondents. Almost 100 % of the respondents said that the person’s social status is entirely dependent on his occupation. Among them, 60 % of the respondents whose occupation is coolie are told that the social status of the person is fully dependent on his occupation. 13.3 % of the respondents whose occupation is agriculture are said that the person’s social status depends on his occupation. 11.7 % of the respondents whose occupation is business are agreed that the person’s social status depends on his occupation. 8.3 % of the respondents whose occupation is private employment agree that the person’s social status depends on his occupation—only 6.7 % of the

respondents whose occupation is govt. Servants are told that the social status of the person is dependent on his occupation.

**Table No. 2.** In your opinion the reservation policy is contributing is improving socio economic status of S.C.

S. No.		In your opinion, whether the efforts of the central and state govt have improved S.C.’s social status?		Total
		Yes	No	
01	In your opinion, the reservation policy is contributing is improving the socio-economic status of SC	46 76.7%	14 23.3%	60 100%
	Total	46 76.7%	14 23.3%	60 100%

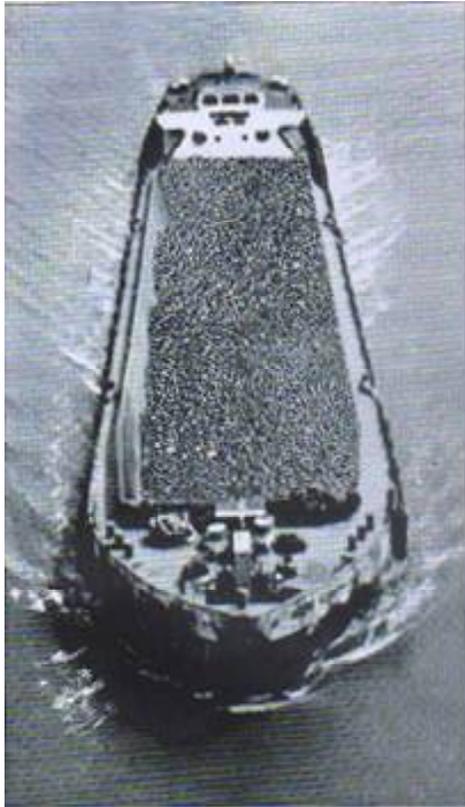
Table No.2 deals with the central and state governments’ efforts that have resulted in improving the social status of S.C. The cross-table analysis is made with the opinion of the respondents towards reservation. 76.7 % of the respondents said that reservation policy contributed to improving the scheduled caste’s socio-economic status. 23.3% of the respondents said that reservation policy contributed to improving the socio-economic status of the scheduled caste. The study reveals that reservation policy contributes to improving the socio-economic status of the scheduled caste with central and state government efforts. But the ground reality is that reservation policy has to be implemented more rigorously in developing the socio-economic status of scheduled caste people. The policy of reservation needs to be rationalized and streamlined. Apart from caste consideration, socio-educational backwardness, the economic criterion should also be given due consideration since poverty is the root cause for all the miseries of life.

### Conclusion

The present work is an endeavour to compare the condition of the different castes of Scheduled Castes apart from comparing their condition vis-à-vis the conditions of the Backward Castes and Upper Castes” in the various divisions of Karnataka. In order to attain the change among the Scheduled Castes, new norms are being evolved, and new processes are being initiated for enabling to reach these norms. The Scheduled Castes as a group has not only to shed their inferiority but also to gear up them to adapt to the new order. They have to give up their old traditional occupations and lifestyles, come out of their shell and learn new skills and ways of life. This requires a great deal of change, both in their personal life, family ethos and group life. The problems of adjustment are thus entirely new and intricate.

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