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- ❖ **India's Trade with ASEAN**
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Fueling the Fuel Prices

At a time when international price of crude oil is currently pegged at \$ 60 per barrel and India's economy has just started looking up after a severe downslide of more than two years coupled with devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the continued hike in petrol and diesel prices cannot be said to be a wise step to tone up the ailing health of country's economy. It is rather a wrong step in wrong direction. There has been an unprecedented hike in petrol and diesel prices in recent months.

Unprecedented hike in fuel prices on the plea that the Government has to continue with its development agenda at a time when the state coffers are empty and the only source of revenue to meet these exigencies is through the revenue income from hiking fuel prices is not an acceptable plea because such a wrong step entails the likelihood of adversely impacting other revenue resources of the government on account of phenomenal increase in the prices of transportation and essential commodities. And interestingly, all this is happening at a time when purchasing power of the common man is already shrunken.

A reasonable price increase in fuel can be appreciated in the wake of the recent price rise partly traceable to the firming up of global crude prices that has made the Indian crude oil price basket rising from \$40.66/bbl in October 2020 to \$54.79 in January this year. Nevertheless, this hardening of prices gets amplified by the disproportionate high fuel taxes imposed by Central and State governments. Given the fact that global energy demand will firm up in view of the rolling out of the COVID-19 vaccine, the crude oil prices may well harden further resulting in higher retail prices that have already skyrocketed. At this critical juncture, both Central and State governments are required to roll back the high levels of indirect taxes in a calibrated manner.

Recent media reports make it discernible that a substantial part of the retail fuel cost is attributable to the levy of taxes by both Central and State governments. In case of the national capital of Delhi, as per media reports, retail price of petrol on 16 February was pegged at Rs. 89.29 per litre, and of this, the basic fuel cost was Rs. 31.82, while Rs. 32 was on account of excise duty and Rs. 20.61 was due to the levy of a value-added tax (VAT). This indicates that approximately 60 per cent (37 per cent on account of excise duty and 23 per cent on account of VAT) of the total retail price is due to Central and State taxes.

This amply demonstrates that the cumulative effect of such high fuel-related taxes is that income accruing from the petroleum now constitutes a prime source of revenue for both Central and State governments, and latest data reveals that the total contribution of the petroleum sector to Central Government revenue that stood at Rs 1.72 lakh crore in 2014-15 rose to Rs 3.34 lakh crore in 2019-20, while for state governments, it has risen from Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 2.21 lakh crore in 2019-20.

At a time when the country is passing through a very crucial phase economically and struggling very hard to recover from the havoc wreaked by COVID-19 pandemic, phenomenal hike in petroleum prices is prone to minimize household discretionary spending and is also likely to contribute to enhance inflation. It devolves on the dispensation at the helm to reduce its expenditures on spurious measures like advertisements, image-building exercises and unnecessary travels within the country of its ministers and officials.

It is high time that elected representatives – of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures – who are privy to many privileges and fat salaries come forward to do away with those privileges and accept a reasonable cut in their salaries and pensions voluntarily to show solidarity with the common masses of the nation. The amount thus saved can be utilized for the benefit of the poor and down-trodden segments of the population. At a time when a major part of the nation's working population has accepted a cut in their salaries along with enhancement in their dearness allowance, these elected representatives are also called upon to act accordingly.

— BK

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Recent Trends in India's Trade with ASEAN Countries

V. Loganathan* & Dr P. S. Joseph**

[The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. India has focused to strengthen its relationship with ASEAN in all spheres' viz. Political security, science and technology, space, environment and climate change, economic co-operation, socio-cultural cooperation, agricultural development, human resource development, capacity building, new and renewable energy, tourism and connectivity etc.]

Though India has vital relationship in all the aspects, this paper is an attempt to study recent trends in India's trade with ASEAN countries. The descriptive analysis found that India has exported 11.35 per cent to ASEAN countries in total world exports and imported 11.54 per cent from ASEAN countries in total world imports in 2018-19. The balance of trade of India has been widening with ASEAN. It was Rs.-27,941 crore in 2011-12 and has increased to Rs.-153868.58 crore in 2018-19.

In terms of co-efficient of variation, it has witnessed a consistence volatility for India's balance of trade with Malaysia at -15.39 per cent followed by Indonesia (-20.88 per cent) and Thailand (-33.12 per cent). This problem needs immediate attention of policymakers to decrease India's Balance of Trade with ASEAN in particular with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. So, India has to formulate strategy to control this situation.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. India has focused on strengthening its relationship with ASEAN in all spheres viz. political security science and technology, space, environment and climate change, economic co-operation, socio-cultural cooperation, agricultural development, human resource development, capacity building, new and renewable energy, tourism and connectivity etc. (Ministry of External Affairs of India). ASEAN continues to be far more integrated with the world economy than India. This is indicated by its much higher merchandise trade to GDP ratio and greater dependence on external sources of capital, technology, external borrowings and manpower

Cooperation in the civilian nuclear power is also feasible and desirable (Rahul Sen et al., 2004).

The ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) has come into force since 1 January 2010. ASEAN is not a natural trading partner of India, unlike China, India has not established close relations with the region. But the agreement may make strategic sense in the long run, especially if India wishes to become a hub for services export (Parthapratim Pal and Mitali Dasgupta, 2008). Until the early 2000s, India and the Southeast Asian countries were not significant trade partners for each other except for Singapore (Smitha Francis, 2011).

With the signing of AIFTA, India has made commitments to reduce or eliminate tariffs for over 89 per cent of all of its agriculture, marine and manufactured goods by 2016. About 70 per cent of India's tariff lines fall under Normal Track-1, for which tariffs were reduced to zero by 2013. The remaining nearly 9 per cent tariff lines fall under Normal Track-2, for which tariffs were to be reduced to zero by 2016. The 496 products were excluded from tariff reduction commitments and kept under the Exclusion List constituting 9.8 per cent of India's total tariff lines, while India has kept 11.1 per cent of its total tariff lines under the Sensitive Track. Special Products constitute just 0.1 per cent of its total tariff lines.

Obviously, the vast majority of products come under the lists for tariff rate eliminations by 2013 or 2016 (Smitha Francis, 2011). With this background, this paper is an attempt to study recent trends in India's trade with ASEAN countries.

Objective

1. To examine the recent trends in India's Trade with ASEAN Countries.

Materials and Methods

The study is based on secondary data that was collected from Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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(commerce-app.gov.in) website. The time series taken for this analysis spans from 2011-12 to 2018-19. The following descriptive analyses viz. *Percentage Analysis, Average and Co-efficient of Variance* are used to describe the recent trends in India's trade with ASEAN countries.

Results and Discussion

Table no.1 has exhibited India's exports with ASEAN countries in terms of value and percentage share in 2011-12 and 2018-19. In 2011-12, Singapore has parked first position with the value of Rs.80363 crore

followed by Indonesia (Rs.32100.70 crore), Malaysia (Rs.19103.21crore), Vietnam (Rs.14253.53 crore), Thailand (Rs.14253.53 crore), Philippines (Rs.4763.22 crore), Brunei (Rs.4062.36 crore), Myanmar (Rs.2644.51 crore), Cambodia (Rs.477.53 crore) and Laos (Rs.73.20 crore). The table also shows that India exported 45.68 per cent to Singapore among the ASEAN countries followed by Indonesia (18.25 per cent), Malaysia (10.86 per cent), Philippines (2.71 per cent), Brunei (2.31 per cent), Myanmar (1.50 per cent), Cambodia (0.27 per cent) and Laos (0.04 per cent).

Table no.1: India's Exports' with ASEAN countries in 2011-12 and 2018-19

Countries	2011-12		2018-19	
	Value in crore	Percentage share	Value in crore	Percentage share
Brunei	4,062.36	2.31	393.4637	0.15
Cambodia	477.53	0.27	1370.8194	0.52
Indonesia	32,100.70	18.25	36871.0645	14.07
Laos	73.20	0.04	275.0528	0.10
Malaysia	19,103.21	10.86	45103.722	17.21
Myanmar	2,644.51	1.50	8458.5357	3.23
Philippines	4,763.22	2.71	12189.4056	4.65
Singapore	80,363.00	45.68	80942.2479	30.88
Thailand	14,253.53	8.10	31106.0715	11.87
Vietnam	18,084.98	10.28	45409.7037	17.32

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Singapore has occupied first position with the value of Rs.80942.25 crore followed by Malaysia (Rs.45103.72crore), Indonesia (Rs.36871.06 crore), Thailand (Rs.31106.07 crore), Philippines (Rs.12189.41 crore), Myanmar (Rs.8458.53 crore), Cambodia (Rs.1370.81 crore), Brunei (Rs.393.46 crore), and Laos (Rs.275.05 crore).The table also has shown that India exported 30.88 per cent to Singapore among the ASEAN countries followed by Malaysia (17.21 per cent),Indonesia (14.07 per cent),Thailand (11.87 per cent),Philippines (4.65 per cent), Myanmar (3.23 per cent),Cambodia (0.52 per cent),Brunei (0.15 per cent) and Laos (0.10 per cent) in 2018-19.

Table no.2 demonstrates India's imports from ASEAN countries in terms of value and percentage share in 2011-12 and 2018-19. In 2011-12, Indonesia has parked first position with the value of Rs.70419.90 crore followed by Malaysia (Rs.45385.03 crore), Singapore (Rs.39708.48 crore), Thailand (Rs.25324.84 crore), Vietnam (Rs.8323.26 crore), Myanmar (Rs.6,614 crore), Philippines (Rs.4763.22 crore), Brunei (Rs.2853.70 crore), Laos (Rs.440.65 crore) and Cambodia (Rs.34.64 crore). The table also shows that India imported 34.54 per cent from Indonesia among ASEAN countries followed by Malaysia

Table no.2: India's Imports' with ASEAN countries in 2011-12 and 2018-19

Countries	2011-12		2018-19	
	Value in crore	Percentage share	Value in crore	Percentage share
Brunei	2,853.70	1.40	4,122.03	0.99
Cambodia	34.64	0.02	298.28	0.07
Indonesia	70,419.90	34.54	111,148.53	26.78

Laos	440.65	0.22	7.18	0.00
Malaysia	45,385.03	22.26	75,491.67	18.19
Myanmar	6,614.01	3.24	3,674.25	0.89
Philippines	4,763.22	2.34	4,062.53	0.98
Singapore	39,708.48	19.48	113,918.75	27.45
Thailand	25,324.84	12.42	51,979.65	12.53
Vietnam	8,323.26	4.08	50,585.80	12.12

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(22.26 per cent), Singapore (19.48 per cent), Thailand (12.42 per cent), Vietnam (4.08 per cent), Myanmar (3.24 per cent), Philippines (2.34 per cent), Brunei (1.40 per cent), Laos (0.22 per cent) and Cambodia (0.02 per cent).

In 2018-19, Singapore has parked first position with the export value of Rs.113979.65 crore to India followed by Indonesia (Rs.111148.53 crore), Malaysia (Rs.75491.67 crore), Thailand (Rs.51979.65 crore), Vietnam (Rs.50285.80), Brunei (Rs.4122.03 crore), Philippines (Rs.4062.53 crore), Myanmar (Rs.3674.25 crore), Cambodia (Rs.298.28 crore) and Laos (Rs.7.18 crore). The table also has shown that India imported 27.45 per cent from Singapore among the ASEAN countries followed by Indonesia (26.78 per cent), Malaysia (18.19 per cent), Thailand (12.53), Vietnam (12.12 per cent), Brunei (0.99 per cent), Philippines (0.98 per cent), Myanmar (0.89 per cent) and Cambodia (0.07 per cent).

Recent Trends in India's Balance of Trade with ASEAN Countries

Figure no.1 reveals the trends in India's Balance of Trade with ASEAN countries. There is a downward tendency as observed for India's Balance of Trade with ASEAN countries. It started with Rs. 27941.48 crore in 2011-12 followed by a declining to Rs.-53896.79 crore in 2012-13, a little improvement was witnessed in 2013-14 at Rs.-49415.41 crore. Again, it fell down to Rs. -78924.10 crore in 2014-15 and Rs.-96139.48 crore in 2015-16. It is also perceived from the figure that a semblance of respite for India's Balance of Trade occurred in 2016-17 with ASEAN when it narrowed down to Rs.-64778.44 crore; nevertheless, the Balance of Trade increased to Rs.-83302.56 crore in 2017-18 and Rs.-152868.58 crore in 2018-19.

The figure no.2 illustrates the tendency of Balance of Trade of India with ASEAN countries for the period of 2011-12 to 2018-19. It is detected that India has enjoyed a favorable trade balance with the Philippines

(Rs.8126.88 crore), followed by Myanmar (Rs.4748.28 crore), Cambodia (Rs.1072.54 crore), and Laos (Rs.267.88 crore) in 2018-19. Thailand (Rs.-20873.58 Crore), Vietnam (Rs. -4876.10 crore). It has an unfavorable trade balance with Indonesia (Rs. -74277.46 crore) followed by Singapore (Rs. -32976.50 crore), Malaysia (Rs. -30387.94 crore), Thailand (Rs. -20873.58 crore), Vietnam (Rs. -4876.10 crore) and Brunei (Rs. -3728.56 crore) in 2018-19.

It is also witnessed that India started a positive trade balance with Brunei (Rs.1208.66 crore), Singapore (Rs.40654.52 crore), Thailand (Rs.11071.31 crore) and Vietnam (Rs.9761.72 crore) in 2011-12 and ended with negative trade balance of Rs. -3728.56 crore, Rs. -32976.50 crore, Rs. -20873.58 crore and Rs. -4876.10 crore respectively in 2018-19. The countries like Laos (Rs. -367.45 crore) and Myanmar (Rs. -3969.51 crore) started with negative trade balance with India in 2011-12 and ended with positive trade balance Rs.267.88 crore and Rs. 4784.28 crore respectively in 2018-19. It also becomes discernible that India has widened its Balance of Trade with Singapore in 2018-19.

The table no.3 demonstrates the Mean and Co-efficient of Variance (C.V) of Balance of Trade of India with ASEAN countries for the period of 2011-12 to 2018-19. It is revealed that Indonesia parked at first place with mean Balance of Trade value of Rs. -6333.37 crore followed by Malaysia (Rs. -28863.41 crore), Thailand (Rs. -14942.66 crore), Brunei (Rs. -3213.46 crore), Myanmar (Rs. -895.28 crore) and Laos (Rs. -477.77 crore) in the aspect of unfavorable Balance of Trade. Singapore has occupied first position in terms of favorable Balance of Trade at Rs.16017.47 crore followed by Vietnam (Rs.13820.33 crore), Philippines (Rs.5246.39 crore) and Cambodia (Rs.633.40 crore). In terms of co-efficient of variation, it has witnessed a consistent trend in India's Balance of Trade with Malaysia at -15.39 per cent followed by Indonesia (-20.88 per cent), Thailand (-33.12 per cent) and the high-level

C.V. noted for Brunei (-60.10 per cent), Laos (-111.5 per cent) and Myanmar (-377.80 per cent) for negative side.

Table no.3: The Mean and Co-efficient of Variance for Balance of Trade of India with ASEAN

Countries	Mean Balance of Trade value in crore	Co-efficient of variation of Balance of trade
Brunei	-3,213.46	-60.1
Cambodia	633.4	35.42
Indonesia	-63,233.37	-20.88
Laos	-477.77	-111.5
Malaysia	-28863.41	-15.38
Myanmar	-895.28	-377.8
Philippines	5,246.39	46.71
Singapore	16,017.47	145.49
Thailand	-14,942.66	-33.12
Vietnam	13,820.33	64.97
ASEAN	-75,908.36	-49.81

Source: Compiled from Secondary Data

In the case of positive CV, Cambodia has placed first place with 35.42 per cent Philippines (46.71 per cent) which is low C.V compared to ASEAN C.V. the following countries has high C.V compared to ASEAN viz. Vietnam (64.97 per cent), and Singapore (145.49 per cent)

Why the Balance of Trade has been increasing with ASEAN?

- The domestic producers in India are finding it difficult to compete with agricultural imports from countries like Vietnam (spices including pepper and plantation crops), Indonesia and Malaysia (palm oil). Also, Thailand is a big exporter of agricultural goods and as an ASEAN member it has better access to other ASEAN markets. Therefore, in agriculture, it is unlikely that India will be able to take much advantage of the tariff margins given in AIFTA.
- ASEAN is a leading exporter of light manufacturing products and are considered to be more competitive than India to compete with these countries and increase its foothold in the ASEAN market.

- India has to compete with China in the ASEAN market which already has signed an FTA with these countries and has a head start.
- The ASEAN countries are one of the first recipients of global relocated capital and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which has played a major role in promoting exports in these countries. Therefore, it is possible that in many cases, the Preferential Tariff Rates of the ASEAN-India FTA will actually help a firm from a developed country (e.g., a Japanese or US firm) based in one of the ASEAN countries (Parthapratim pal and Mitali Dasgupta, 2008).
- India is pursuing diversification of supply sources and trying to significantly increase exploration of oil and gas. Among the ASEAN countries, India at present imports crude oil from Malaysia and Brunei, which contributes 5.4 per cent of its total crude imports from the world. (Das Gupta et al., 2006).

How to handle the widening of Unfavourable Balance of Trade with ASEAN?

- India could reduce its negative Balance of Trade with ASEAN by way of concentrating further on mineral exploration and processing, improving productivity and reducing wastage in agricultural and agro-processing value chain and extend the ICT services to the development of human resources and on software programmes in the local languages of the respective ASEAN countries.
- Educational services are another area of potential cooperation between ASEAN and India. Two Indian schools (Bhavan's Indian International School and Delhi Public School) are already operating in Singapore (Rahul Sen et al., 2004). So, India may further extend the educational services to other ASEAN countries.
- India presently is one of the top exporters of services and according to WTO data, it is ranked 10th in the world and ahead of ASEAN countries like Singapore (ranked 16th), India is particularly strong in Information Technology (IT) and

Information Technology Enabled Services (IETS), Telecommunication Services (TS), Professional Services (PS), Healthcare, Financial Services and distribution services. So, India could be further extending its services to ASEAN countries to reduce its Balance of Trade with ASEAN.

Conclusion

It is clear from the discussion above that the Balance of Trade of India with ASEAN has been increasing over the period under review. It could be reduced by way of reducing imports' through increasing tariffs, through tariffs cannot be raised above the levels scheduled in the AIFTA. But India can fix with in bound rate. Indian policymakers should ensure that AIFTA does not become a conduit for firms from developed countries so that they can avoid the tariff rates by deflecting their exports through the route using their subsidiaries in the ASEAN region (Parthapratim Pal and Mitali Dasgupta, 2008).

India could also further extend its services viz. Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (IETS), Telecommunication Services (TS), Professional Services (PS), Healthcare, Financial Services and distribution services to ASEAN countries to decrease negative Balance of Trade with ASEAN.

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Farmers' Protest: Issues, Apprehensions and Consequences

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[Farmers, mainly from Haryana and Punjab, laid a siege to Delhi since November 26, 2020. Later, farmers from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh also joined them. More than 500 farmers' unions started agitating on Delhi's borders, protesting against three Farm Laws: (i) Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; (ii) Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; (iii) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. Protest was happening within states ever since related Ordinances were in place owing to Pandemic. Bills became Act in September 2020. By, November stakeholders lost patience as stakes were high and since then farmers unions started demanding repeal of all three laws.]

The farmers' protest had been going on peacefully and sometime in the month of January 2021, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an apex body representing various kisan unions and comprising over forty members of constituent units, decided to organize a Kisan Tractor Rally on 26 January 2021. Representatives of the SKM held negotiations with the Delhi Police about the modus operandi of the rally and an agreement was reportedly reached between the SKM and Delhi Police that farmers will be allowed to organize the tractor rally on the designated routes agreed between the SKM and the Delhi Police only once the official function of the Independence Day celebrations on the Rajpath was over.

Before the Kisan tractor rally could take place as per agreed schedule, a group of so-called farmers started the tractor march prior to the schedule and somehow reached Red Fort by defying the law enforcement authorities. A segment of these so-called farmers was armed with kirpans and other lethal weapons. Incidents of clashes between these so-called farmers and law-enforcement authorities at Sanjay Transport Nagar and in and around the Red Fort and unfurling of a "religious flag" on the ramparts of the Red Fort proved instrumental in tarnishing the image not only of the ongoing two-month-old farmers protest but also denigrated nation's image. Outrage was massive and unprecedented. Reportedly, 200,000 tractors were mobilized against permission of 5000 tractors for the

rally and flouted the specific routes provided by administration.

The protestors and the police clashed after protestors removed the barricades to enter Central Delhi. Protestors successfully entered Delhi: destroyed public property; injured police personnel; stormed historic Red Fort; and hoisted two different flags scaling the walls of the iconic monument. Farmers while entering Central Delhi were continuously requested to maintain law and order by Delhi Police. Reportedly, a tractor overturned leading to death of farmer who was driving. When police approached to help and rescue, they were attacked, hence left the scene. Following which the farmers turned violent and hooliganism began.

Delhi Police subsequently registered FIR against number of farmer leaders and has also detained nearly 200 farmers to be arrested later. 86 police (later the figure went up to 300 as reported) personnel got injured. According to Police, farmers used swords, lathis and other weapons during their attacks. Hence, police booked them under IPC sections like 395, 397 and 120(b). Finally, farmers returned to the protest sites on the borders of Delhi in January 27, 2021. While denouncing the Red Fort violence, SKM has called it a shameful act and has also tendered an unconditional apology to the nation by making it clear that the so-called farmers who took part in this shameful act were neither members of any of the constituent unit of the SKM nor had any type of link or connection with the SKM and its member units.

From November 26, 2020 to January 26, 2021 both print and electronic media were replete with stories of farmers protests and analysis about their demands

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and Government's day-to-day response. This paper provides an analytical account of the same. Farmers' protests are still being continued.

Three Farm Bills: The Prospects

These Bills were brought to address farmer's entitlements in the light of Dr. Swaminathan report: freedom from indebtedness (has been the main cause of increasing farmers' suicide); guaranteed remunerative prices (leads to mounting debts) as farmers are forced to sell even at half the MSP (Minimum Support Price) declared by Governments for 24 crops.

Protests are mainly against the first two Acts

The first one called FPTC Act allows farmers to sell their produce outside the erstwhile Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), the government-controlled regulated marketing arrangement called *mandis*. This provides wider choice to farmers for selling their produce anywhere to anyone. APMC became infamous for monopoly-cartel fixing low prices for the produce, forcing distress sales on farmers, as well as for market fees and levy by state governments. Farmers are apprehensive of government's trick to eliminate MSP safety net. Farmers are not convinced about provision of the Act as it leaves them at the mercy of big corporates increasing their vulnerabilities further. *Adhatiyas* (commission agents) would lose substantial commissions. State government stands to lose revenue as sale through APMC would shrink substantially.

The second Bill called 'Contract Farming Bill' provides regulatory framework towards striking deal between farmer and an ordained buyer before producing a crop, ensuring predetermined quality at minimum guaranteed prices. Contract farming has been operational in different crops. Potatoes used by beverages and snacks company PepsiCo for Lay's and Uncle Chips (wafers) or for exports. It has assured farmers buyback at pre-agreed prices alongside companies providing seeds/planting material and other extension supports to farmers to maintain product's standard. Hence, the Act formalizes voluntary contract cultivation for crops not traded in APMC.

Sugarcane and milk are also not sold in *mandis* but through contract. The Act prohibits sponsor firm from acquiring land of farmers through purchase, lease or mortgage, in fact protects them. Act again considered to have potentials to kill government procurement

process, which procures nearly 85% of paddy and wheat grown in Haryana and Punjab. Farmers also have trust deficit with corporates.

The third Act will not affect the Farmers rather would serve their interests. It mitigates Centre's powers to impose stockholding limits on foodstuffs, except under 'extraordinary conditions' like war, famine and other natural calamities and annual retail price rise exceeding 100% in horticulture products like onions and potatoes and 50% for non-perishables like cereals, pulses and edible oils. Hoarding has been beneficial to traders and not to farmers. Earlier, in spite being a criminal offence, the practice was there. Government argues this would attract private investment and FDI in agriculture, cold storage, warehouses and would facilitate farmers when bumper crops are there.

Fourthly, the opposition parties have castigated all three Acts as anti-democratic as it threatens food security and would destroy farmers through mortgaging agriculture and markets to the caprices of multi-national agri-business corporates and domestic corporates. Hence, are standing by farmers' demands.

Protests over Bills in Perspectives

Amidst deadlocked negotiations between government and farmers, farmers have been firmly demanding repeal of all three laws.

Negotiables are though limited. First, farmers problem confines mainly to the FPTC Act as it weakens APMC *mandis*. Government could make MSP a legal right, though thus far the Government has been giving verbal assurance that MSP will continue to stay. The Act proposes disputes to be referred to offices of SDM (sub-divisional Magistrates) and District Collector, which are not an independent court, hence justice would be a casualty. Proper Dispute Resolution Mechanism for transaction outside APMC could be negotiated for timely payment and all transactions. State and *adhatiyas* too are required to be assured of their revenue.

Government is arguing misperception prevails among the people and farmers. Nearly, 86% of farmland are smallholder farmers owning less than five acres (two hectares) of land each. Hence, farmers would continue to be vulnerable before the corporate giants, for lack of bargaining power to get fair prices. Both need to listen and understand each other. Neither should hijack nation's interests, which unfortunately has happened thus far.

Stalemate Continued as Farmer's Protests Intensified

On December 10, 2020 when the Farmers' protest entered the 15th day, Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, Narendra Singh Tomar, was firm that government is open to dialogue sans acceptance of any withdrawal of agricultural reform legislations. Consequently, agitation by farmer unions expanded in several parts of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Many 'Khaps' of Muzaffarnagar (UP) extended support and promised to join the stir on December 17, 2020 on Delhi borders. On December 14, 2020 the protest was organized in 350 districts across the country, and was claimed as successful to the satisfaction of farmers.

Farmers also made 150 toll plazas free. Expanding protests are causing immense inconvenience to public as highways and Delhi borders are being blocked. On December 15, 2020 Tomar, in his attempt to keep the communications open, proposed willingness of Government to discuss the Bills once farmers respond to the proposed amendments. Government is reluctant to budge, hence there is spread of miscommunication amidst fruitless dialogues.

Reasons for Protest Intensification

First, inherent flaw in the Agricultural Laws: According to Farmer Union spokesperson, if Centre was agreeing to 12 of their demands out of 15, that means the laws are not right, then why not destroy them. Farmers proposed one law on MSP but government brought three bills through the ordinance. This smacks of ill-intentions of government which has sacrificed farmers interests in favour of corporates.

Second, politicization of the protest: Government claimed that opposition parties failed to bring agricultural reforms to address the plight of farmers, when in power, are now trying to confuse the farmers by instilling fear in them against the laws. Given an opportunity, it would remove confusion and educate the farmers about the merit of the laws in terms of their interests. Allegedly, opposition parties have ganged-up to malign the image of government misinforming the farmers about the merit of the laws. Members of the government have also been claiming of external hand and support to the protest. Hence, mud-slinging upon the protests including claims and

counterclaims have increasingly politicised it amidst its intensification.

Third, farmer's loss of life in the protest: Nearly over 200 farmers (number varies in different reports) have been declared '*shaheed*' (martyr) by mid-February 2021 which has further enraged them to escalate the protest. Subsequently, farmers started getting firm that they will negotiate only after the three laws are repealed, though earlier the farmer unions claimed that they were ready to negotiate provided government paid heed to their demands with concrete proposals. This made the deadlock a hard nut to crack with enough potentials of turning violent and further loss of lives in the process given toughening winter conditions.

Fourthly, Industrial Production stands choked: Many of the agriculture-based industries went on the verge of shut down on account of shortage of raw material even though operating at 30% of their workforce. ASSOCHAM claims loss of Rupees 3000 to 3500 crores on account of value chains and transport disruptions in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and J&K. This will further damage industrial production reeling on account of lockdown, and unmake economy leading to further unemployment.

Fifthly, loss of exchequer's revenue: Railways claimed to have lost nearly Rs 2000 to 2400 crores on account of protest both in freight and passenger trains. Thus, movement may further cause loss to already ailing economy on account of COVID-19 driven Pandemic.

Sixth, crack within the movement: On December 15 Tomar and members of Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) had dialogue. Accordingly, working committee of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) criticised government of adopting illusory and diversionary tactics as the people whom the government was talking to, neither represented the struggling farmers, nor do they articulate the right demands. Startlingly enough, it reveals the crack within the farmers' movement. Nothing could be more detrimental than this to the cause of agriculture and farmers.

Supreme Court Decision on Farm Laws: Politicisation of Justice

Amidst an impasse that ensued between the protesting Farmers and the Government, a three-judge Bench of Supreme Court responded number of petitions lying

before itself, challenging the constitutional validity of all the three farm laws. Consequently, it passed orders on January 12, 2021: (i) ordered stay on all the three farm laws; (ii) it formed a Four-Member Expert Committee comprising HS Mann, Pramod Kumar Joshi, Ashok Gulati, and Anil Dhanwant (non-court members) to examine the farm laws and submit report within two months; (iii) the Bench urged the farmers' unions to go before the Committee and cooperate to resolve the dispute; (iv) the Court asked the attorney-general to confirm by filing an affidavit before the court along with Investigation Bureau's records, in response to the application alleging help and support being extended by banned organization (Khalistanis) to the protesters; (v) asked the farmers to seek permission from the Delhi Police to protest at Ramlila Maidan and abide by the norms set by police; (vi) the existing Minimum Support Price (MSP) system will be maintained till further order (vii) that farmers' land will not be affected by these laws.

Consequences of Judicial Interventions

While reflecting on the conundrum, the Chief Justice of India, Justice SA Bobde, highlighted the following: (i) the farm laws cannot be kept in abeyance for nothing; (ii) there must be some progress towards resolving the impending issues over the farm laws; (iii) that women, children and old were exposed to cold and COVID-19, and many have lost lives due to illness and suicide; (iv) the court doesn't want to stifle a peaceful protest, rather want to save lives and want protesters to return to their livelihood.

These observations of the Bench are of great significance in view of the claims of farmers' unions and government.

Firstly, as reported, farmers' unions have said that they would not go to any apex court-appointed panel for resolution of disputes. They are firm on repeal of farm laws, sans any amendment to it.

Secondly, all the four members of the Committee have been pro-farm laws in their opinion expressed in media and elsewhere. Hence, their neutrality has been challenged at the inception itself.

Thirdly, government has been adamant throughout that they may accommodate amendment to protect the interests of farmers being jeopardized, if any, without repealing the laws.

Fourthly, the apex court too seems to be quite pressurizing when the Bench reiterated that they are forming a Committee to have a clear picture. That they don't want to hear arguments that the farmers will not go to the Committee. The court also said, 'This is not politics', highlighting the difference between politics and judiciary. One may take it as arm-twisting by the court in favour of the government.

Fifthly, the laws have been suspended by the Court to calm protestors and convince them to discuss about the legislations with the government. On the one hand, suspension has angered the government, and on the other farmers are unsatisfied as they are demanding repeal, hence critical of the Committee formed without consulting them.

Sixthly, constitutional validity of all three laws has been challenged in the Court which it is yet to hear. Hence, how the Court would handle those petitions is ambiguous. Court's endeavour to locate a mid-way through Committee smacks of politics more than the justice.

Last but most important, stay means delay in final decision. Delay would lead to rotting of crops and produce. Farmers once again would be at receiving end.

Thus, stay on laws incapacitates Centre with any executive action to implement the same. Farmers protest that began on November 26, 2020 on different borders of the national capital witnessed several rounds of fruitless negotiations between the farmers' unions and government. Continued stalemate prompted Supreme Court to make its interventions to bring farmers to the negotiating table.

However, negotiations have been happening but the will to resolve has been missing on both sides. Farmers and government are stuck on two extremes of the spectrum; hence a middle ground will be too challenging.

The adequacy of the 'Decision' remains questionable. It may have given reprieve to government but the fate of laws still hangs. Farmers too stand divided within, which government is aiming to capitalise upon. How far the Committee thus constituted would be able to create a congenial atmosphere and improve the trust and confidence of the farmers, is difficult to predict.

Farmer's Protest turned Violent: Political Game of Double-speak

As stated above, Farmers Union proposed a Tractor Rally on January 26, 2021 on the streets of Delhi, which led to massive violence and hooliganism. Farmers' Unions are accused of double-speak: promising peaceful march to the administration and resorting to violence when allowed in good-faith. Thus, it led to blame game raising several issues. Blame games have already started among the political parties and rival Farmers' Unions. Government may be successful once again towards dividing the Unions and achieving its objectives. Democracy may be at peril on account of rigidity on both sides.

Conclusions

Neither daunting Cold nor COVID-19 has deterred the spirit of farmers since November 26, when they commenced their protest. Increasing politicization and invectives about them on social media too has not let down their courage to stand like gladiators against the government machinery, which is hell-bent to castigate and declare it anti-social, anti-national and politically motivated. Persistent and protracted protest indicates government to get into serious negotiations and resolve it amicably in the larger interest of farmers. Good sense must prevail on 'Opposition Leaders' not to politicise the interest of farmers and agricultural business for sheer political mileage.

Stalemate marked by deadlocked negotiations that may have jolted the patience of farmers, which erupted in violence. Government has entire state machinery at its disposal. Therefore, onus of restraining and containing such episodes of internal conflict lies upon the Government. Political game of one-upmanship must not be played at the cost of public property. A competitive and alternative market mechanism for agricultural produce is the need but not at the cost of farmers' interest and lives. Thus, challenge continues.

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Applicability of Labour Law in Indian IT Industry

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[Information Technology sector in India is a big sector. In the nineties, liberal policies of the then serving Government has helped the Information Technology Sector to grow exponentially. The IT industry which is also being addressed as Software Industry deals with advance technology in delivering its products. The Industry is dependent on highly-skilled young engineers. The IT industry employs millions of young engineers every year and the numbers are growing on a large scale. The Industry is market-driven and hiring and firing of employees are fully dependent on the markets and business demand. In IT industry massive Layoff of employees happen when recession hit the markets and business demands were low. This research paper is focused on the various Labour laws which are instrumental to the protection of employee's rights and highlights some important cases of the judiciary on employment rights.]

The Information technology sector which is also addressed as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has grown exponentially over the years. The Industry has grown big not only in India but in the whole world. The IT companies of India have taken the advantage of the global business demands to grow their business at the global level. The Information technology is better recognized for skilled manpower, good compensation, better working condition and flexible contracts. The government has given special status to the Information Technology Sector. The employer and employee relationship are considered to be flexible and dependable.

However, with the growth of business and the changing nature of employment relationship “Lay-off” of employees has emerged as the biggest problems for the employees of the IT companies. In fact, it can be said that Lay-off has become a common phenomenon for the employers of the IT industry. The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis has severely impacted the business of the IT sector in India largely. This has resulted in massive layoff/retrenchment of employees from their jobs. IT companies are resorting to massive lay-off because of COVID-19 crisis¹. In this perspective, it is important to know the labour laws which are applicable for the protection of employees.

In India, there are several labour laws which are enacted for the protection of the employees’ rights. Some of the important labour protection laws are Industrial Dispute Act of 1947; Factories Act of 1948 and Shops & Commercial Establishment Act. The

Information technology industries are governed mainly by Shops & Commercial Establishment Act. The Shop & Commercial Establishment Act is different in different states. The present paper highlights the important provisions of the law enacted for the protection of the employees. It also highlights the judicial approach to the problem of Lay-off.

Labour Laws

a. Industrial Dispute Act of 1947

Section 25N of Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 has laid down the important conditions of retrenchment as:

- i. “No workman employed in any industrial establishment to which this chapter applies, who has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer shall be retrenched by the employer until the workman has been given three months’ notice in writing indicating the reasons for the retrenchment and the period of notice has expired, or the workman has been paid in lieu of such notice, wages for the period of the notice; and the prior permission of the appropriate government or such authority as may be specified by that Government by notification in the official Gazette (specified authority) has been obtained on an application made in this behalf”.
- ii. Where an application for permission under sub-section (1) has been made, the appropriate Government or the specified authority, after making such enquiry as it thinks fit and after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the employer, the workmen concerned and the person interested in such retrenchment, may, having regard to the genuineness and adequacy of the

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reasons stated by the employer, the interests of the workmen and all other relevant factors, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, grant or refuse to grant such permission and a copy of such order shall be communicated to the employer and the workmen.

- iii. Where no application for permission under sub-section (1) is made, or where the permission for any retrenchment has been refused, such retrenchment shall be deemed to be illegal from the date on which the notice of retrenchment was given to the workman and the workman shall be entitled to all the benefits and any law for the time being in force as if no notice has been given to him.
- iv. Where permission for retrenchment has been granted under sub-section(3) or where permission for retrenchment is deemed to be granted under sub-section(4), every workman who is employed in that establishment immediately before the date of application for permission under this section shall be entitled to receive, at the time of retrenchment, compensation which shall be equivalent to fifteen days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months

b. Shops & Commercial Establishment Act

The Orissa Shops and Commercial Establishment Act of 1956 provides the provision that service of the employee cannot be terminated without serving of thirty days' notice of such termination or in lieu of and against such notice the employer has to pay wages for one month which is calculated at the rate payable on the date of the notice of the termination of service. Other States of India have similar clauses on termination.

c. Industrial Employment Standing Order act, Central Rules of 1946

The act has provided protection in "Termination of services" which says (a) For terminating the services of permanent workmen having less than one year of continuous service, notice of one month in writing with reasons or wages in lieu thereof shall be given by the employer: Provided that no such notice shall be required to be given when the services of the workmen are terminated on account of misconduct established in accordance with the Standing Orders".

Judicial Decisions

K Ramesha VS. HCL Technologies²

In the Additional Labour Court the Presiding Officer justice S. Nambirajan, 2016, had given judgment on the termination of an IT employee on arbitrary terms. In this matter Mr. K Ramesha working with HCL technologies was arbitrarily dismissed by HCL for non-performance. The court has given relief to the employee as "Workmen". The HCL Company could not produce before the court any evidence on the dismissal of the employee. The court extended protection to employee under the Industrial Dispute Act of 1947.

Sasirekha Thangavel Natarajan vs. Labour court-III³

The Hon'ble Madras High Court passed an interim order and stayed the whimsical decision of the employer for four weeks. The employee was working with Tata Consultancy limited, Chennai as software Engineer. The Hon'ble High Court elaborated that the company in which the employee was working can be treated as a 'industry' and covered under the scope of Sec.2 (j) and Sec. 2(a) of the Industrial Tribunal Act of 1947. The employee can get relief under the definition of 'workwoman'.

Tapash Kumar Paul V. BSNL & Ors. , Hindustan Tin Works V. Employees.⁴

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a broad definition on 'termination' and elaborated that no termination is valid which violates the provisions of Section-25 of the Industrial Dispute Act of 1947. In case of any violation the employee is entitled for reinstatement with back wages.

Jayanti Raojibhai Pate V. Municipal Council, Narkhed & Ors⁵.

The Hon'ble Supreme court of India held that in case of wrongful termination the employee is entitled to get re-employment with back wages from the period of termination.

Olga Tellis V. Bombay Municipal Corporation⁶

The court held that "the person's right to life and liberty guaranteed under Art. 21 of the constitution also guarantees right to livelihood".

These cases are significant judgments on the protection of employees against arbitrary removal of employees from employment.

Analysis

The COVID-19 crisis has severely affected the industries of India and Information technology sector is also part of this story. The \$180 billion IT sector is

severely facing the challenge of business continuity⁷. In the COVID-19 crisis the employers of IT companies have laid off employees for business survival. The section 2(kkk) of the Industrial Dispute Act of 1947 says “the failure, refusal or inability of an employer on account of shortage of coal, power or raw materials or accumulation of stock or breakdown of machinery or natural calamity or any of the connected reason.” In cases of pandemic like this, the employer has no choice other than “laying off” employees.

In this scenario what kind of rights the employees can exercise is an important question for all employees. The Industrial Dispute Act has given provisions of compensation in case of Lay off by employer. Section 25 C of the Industrial Dispute Act says “whether a workman (other than a badli workman or a casual workman) whose name is borne on the muster rolls of an industrial establishment and who has completed not less than one year of continuous service under an employer is laid off, whether continuously or intermittently, shall be paid by the employer for all days during which he is so laid off, except for such weekly holidays as may intervene, compensation which shall be equal to fifty percent of the total basic wages and dearness allowance that would have been payable to him had he not been laid off”⁸.

The provisions are absolutely clear on laid off compensation. But it’s important here to mention that IT companies violate these legal principles for their business interests. In this scenario the employees of the IT companies have two choices either to go for legal recourse or for reemployment. In many of the cases related to lay off it is observed that employees prefer to go for reemployment as the option of legal remedy takes a longer period of time.

The Information Technology sector is growing fast all the industries whether it is manufacturing or services is driven by software industry. So, the Government of the day should bring specific laws for the regulations of employment relations in the information Technology Sector. The labour relations of the 21st century are different and it has to be judiciously balanced so that employer and employee can get the maximum benefit.

Conclusion

One of the important facets of the welfare state is to ensure labour rights of the employees. As the Information Technology Industry has grown big, it’s

highly imperative for the rule makers to bring labour laws in consonance with the requirements of the Industry. It is also important that Judicial activism in the employment matters of IT industry will get the right attention and justice. The advent of artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, data science has made the business world more skilled and technology-driven. In this perspective, a new paradigm shift is required to ensure an effective employment relationship.

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Indian Education System: Problems and Reforms

Dr. Dipak Pathak*

[Since independence India has formulated numerous of policies for education for the students belonging to school, college and university levels. During Rajiv Gandhi regime, a new education policy was formulated and executed in the schools at different educational hierarchy. Every year the central and the state governments spend millions of rupees for conducting seminars, conferences and symposiums at college, university, national and international levels. It has been observed that the millions of rupees have been spent on research and development for making a considerable improvement in our educational system.]

At a school levels, no doubt; the institutions like NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) and the NIEPA (National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration) have been playing a significant role for making improvement in educational system. The scholars and the professionals belonging to different streams have been throwing an adequate light on various problematic areas of the educational system and planning.

On the basis of their findings, they suggest some strong points for ameliorating the education-system at different school levels e.g., primary levels, middle levels and secondary and the senior secondary levels. Every project on educational system, brings some sort of innovative methodology for curriculum, teaching method, teacher-student ratio, mode of education and the interaction between teachers and the students.

Even after several education policies, which have been formulated and implemented at various educational levels e.g., primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary level; the standard of education is not in accordance with the present changing scenario. During the 80s and the 90s and the recent decade, considerable socio-economic changes have taken place at a global level. With coming of liberalization and globalization, a new international economic order has been setup in the countries like India, where a considerable change has been experienced in country's economy, social system and the orientation of education at different levels. There is considerable change in demand for job-oriented education.

The indigenous and multinational companies have a demand for the personnel who possess professional qualifications rather than stereotype degrees or

diplomas, which have almost zero value from employment-orientation perspective. On the other hand, the number of government job-generation capacity is decreasing day-by-day in the changing scenario. Except few services, a considerable number of services rendered, are replaced by the private sector. As a result, the services become more efficient and responsive for the public. Same is the case of the agencies which act as catalytic factor for urbanization and industrialization. Large numbers of real estate companies are coming up for developing residential and industrial estates in various pockets in India. As a result, large number of 'positions' are created for job-oriented professionals.

Keeping in view, this 'shifting paradigm' from rigid to liberalized and public to private, it becomes imperative to think judiciously on existing educational system. Now, it requires an innovative approach in the curriculum of the students, so that the education may be developed in accordance with the demand of the market; meaning thereby, a "demand-derive approach" is to be developed, so that the funds, which are to be spent on education, may be returned to a considerable extent. The education should be productive. The introductive elements should be eliminated without further delay. The education-policy should be formulated in accordance with the regional perspectives, so that the policy may be more responsive to the local conditions.

In the rural society, where the girl child is often engaged with her primary job to entertain her younger brother/sister, in that situation, she is often made to neglect her studies at the cost of her domestic tasks. This type of tendency has given rise to drop-out of the children during primary educational level even. The situation of drop-out among STs/SCs and OBCs is worse as compared to general castes. The situation in the rural areas is also worse than that of urban areas.

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The other problems are related to curriculum of the syllabi, which is generally outdated. It is more theoretical rather than practical, as a result; it is least utilized in its application for the development for the students. It leads to lop-sided development. The stereotyped education does not contribute anything for all-round personality development.

The teachers, especially belonging to government schools, do not bother much about the students. They are least responsive to the students' activities and their actions taken in and outside the schools. They are almost indifferent to the "extra-curricular activities" done by the students, resulting in indiscipline among the students, especially in the rural areas. The teachers' 'indifferent attitude' is also responsible for deteriorating the student's conditions. And ultimately, it leads to students' unrest. It is all because of faulty educational system.

Recently, a haphazard growth of private institutions is focusing on 'profitability' rather than quality education. The high level of privatization has led to neglecting the requisite standard of education. As a result, large number of schools and other institutions are coming up without looking into the 'Quality of Education'. This 'blind race' is steadily declining the required standard of education.

Privatization has led to make the education more costly than that of previous years. As a result, only 'well off' families are in a position to afford this 'costly education'. And rest of the economically and the depressed sections of the society, send their children either in the ordinary schools or in the government schools. Though Hon'ble Supreme Court has given the direction for making reservation of 25 per cent for the economically weaker sections of the society, but it has not been executed effectively, by the public / private schools. It is the plight, faced by the needy and deserving students.

The teachers belong to government schools often indulge in extra duties which are allotted to them from time to time. As a result, the teachers do not have full time to pay their attention towards the students. For example: election duty, census duty, preparation of votes during elections etc. As a result, they work under stress of undue work pressure, loaded from time to time.

The faulty reservation policy entails some pitfalls and that has left some of the deserving students belonging to higher castes, but having poor economic conditions, to be often neglected and ignored. Secondly, no doubt, there is fast growth of

infrastructure in the schools e.g., modern lab; computer labs, sports infrastructure etc. It has been observed that the schools often suffer from constant power cuts, especially in the rural areas. As a result, these infrastructure facilities merely prove a 'white elephant'. Closely associated with this problem is the misappropriation of education funds by the administrative officials, resulting in unproductive expenditure on education.

In order to prevent the 'drop-out' problem from the schools, especially from the rural areas, a systematic survey is to be conducted, so that the real cause may be discovered for this problem. In order to change the 'mind set' of the parents, there should be special teams, who should make a personal contact with the families, who send their children, especially girl students to the schools. After diagnosing the root cause of drop-out problem, especially in the rural areas, a substitute or alternative remedy should be included in the strategy, so that the parents may find an alternative for entertaining/playing with their younger brother/sisters. Sending the small children in the crèche, is one of the effective remedies, which can be proved conducive to prevent 'drop-out' rates of the students from the schools.

Closely associated with these problems is the problem of the school-going age children, belonging to poor and depressed classes, who often indulge in collecting papers dumped on the ground and doing petty-works for helping their parents. In this case, some public/private funding is very essential for supporting those parents, who take the economic help from their children. These families should be helped from some of funding agencies, so that their children may find an adequate time for their school.

For this, a preventive measure, in the form of a periodic monitoring, is very essential, so that the children, belonging to depressed classes/castes may get the opportunity to go to their schools. Secondly, the poor and illiterate parents should be made to acknowledge the significance and importance of education for their children.

The syllabus of the curriculum for the students should be up-dated periodically. In addition to theoretical part of the syllabus of different subjects, more emphasis should be given to the practical and applied aspects of the subject, so that the students may learn the applicability of their subjects.

Recently tuition fee, especially in the public schools and other esteemed institution, has been increased by manifold. In order to curb this practice, there

should be executive and administrative control on the fee, so that the people belonging to depressed classes and the middle-class people can approach these institutions. Secondly, the direction given by Hon'ble Supreme Court should be executed, without any further delay. A strict vigilance of the government machinery can play a significant role for executing the apex court's order in the schools throughout India.

In order to vigil the functioning of the government schools, especially in the rural areas, more power should be devolved to the local self-governments and the Panchayati raj institutions like *Gram Panchayat*, *Block Samiti* and the *Zila Parishad*, so that the government teachers may realize their duties for the students. In this connection, there should be a multiple control on the functioning of government schools, e.g., The control of public representatives as well as the administrative control at different administrative hierarchy, so that the functioning of the schools may be more responsive to the community as well as the administrative official itself.

To curb 'despotism' on the salary issue in the private institutions, the state policy should be implemented with strict discipline. The teachers, who fulfill the requisite qualifications, should be paid in accordance with the 6th pay commission. In this context, the private institutions/schools, which do not follow the state norms, should not be allowed to run their institutions. There should be a special 'cell' for having a 'constant vigil' for looking into this matter on the functioning of private schools and other institutions.

Along with the public-private partnership, the focus should be given to TQM (Total Quality Management) of education too. In this context, there should be periodic 'Capacity Building Programme' at different levels. There should be periodic assessment of the teachers, head teachers along with their students, so that every parameter of education may attain the qualitative position and may prove best to achieve the desired results.

Apart from above mentioned improvement programs, there should be exchange programme too. This practice is followed in 'Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya' these days. Same policy should be adopted in provincial government school too. Only then, we shall be in a position to achieve the desired results on sustainable basis.

Conclusion

Since pre- and post-independence periods, various education reforms have been put forward by the educationists, administrators and policy makers. Every reform is characterized by some of salient characteristics and shown fruitful results. On the other hand, the education system becomes obsolete with the changing scenario. It; therefore, requires innovative methods with demand-driven approach, so that the educational system may become more job-oriented and responsive to the local conditions. In order to attain the total quality management (TQM) position for education development, it requires a research and development mechanism at different educational hierarchy levels. It also requires a constant vigil at implementation fronts so that a 'Quality Education' service may be rendered in rural and urban areas of India.

Measures should also be taken to guide students and parents ought to be encouraged to develop and retain interest in educating their wards. Special emphasis must be focused on developing communication and presentation skills amongst students, especially for students coming from rural background / remote locations and that for students' studies in vernacular languages etc., so that they can perform well in the corporate world, across the globe. Industries may also be encouraged to be partners with educational institutions directly for the development of human resources dedicated to their interests. This could happen in the areas of creating infrastructure, faculty sharing and direct support with funds.



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Empowering Women in India

Santi Saya. Boruah*

[Empowerment of women is a necessity for the very development of a society since it enhances both the quality and the number of human resources available for sustainable development. Woman, the lead planner of the family, the first trainer; supplier of labour power and by playing focal role in the development of agriculture, industry, service sector, socio-culture etc., creates a civilized society. Women contribute directly or indirectly for economic development. Though the nature has given the genetic power of reproduction especially to the women, the socio-economic status of women is so poor and the incidence of poverty is more on women only. Empowering women is the only solution for all questions. The micro finance is the ray of hope in alleviating women's poverty.]

Women play an important role in all fields of development. If socially and economically, she is strengthened then she will create wonders. Now-a-days, as women are joining Self-Help-Groups (SHGs), their economic strength and social status is gradually improving. Understanding the problems related to female poverty, social status, security etc. and the importance of the micro finance in alleviation of women's poverty, studies are required. This study aims at having microscopic view and find solutions.

The empowerment is a support to help women to attain equality with men or, at least, to reduce gender gap considerably. Women play a distinct role in the economic development. She is the chief architect of family, the first teacher; supplier of labour power and by playing main role in the development of agriculture, industry, service sector, socio-culture etc., and thereby helps in creating a civilized society.

In the visible and invisible form, women contribute for economic development. The nature has given the biological power of reproduction especially to the women. She can create social, cultural and economic wonders. Even then the socio-economic status of women is so poor. So, without empowerment she cannot perform certain social roles.

Socio-economic condition of women labourers is so poor. Women labourers in India are often not literates. Often, the women are victimized in the cases like

rape, dowry harassments, sexual harassments, kidnapping etc. The verdicts of many of such cases go against women because of the non-availability of witness, discontinuation of suits, difficulty of proving the incidents etc., that's why their conditions and status are to be improved. Woman should be physically, mentally, economically, socially, politically and culturally strengthened so that her potential power can be utilized for economic development. Therefore, woman should be empowered and her poverty should be alleviated.

The concept of empowerment of women refers to the process of strengthening the hands of women who have been suffering from various disabilities, inequalities and gender discrimination. It is the process of providing power to women to become free from the control of others and it is the process of providing equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities to women so that they can assume power to control their own life and determine their own destiny. The term empowerment of women has become popular only after the 1980s.

Targeting women through micro finance has proved to be a successful, efficient economic development tool. Women are usually the primary or sole family care-takers in many developing countries. Helping them gain additional daily income improves the conditions of their entire household. Putting extra income in women's hands is the most efficient way of affecting an entire family, as women typically put their children's needs before their own. Children are

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more likely to complete their education and escape the poverty trap than their parents are. Giving women access to micro-credit loans therefore generates a multiplier effect that increases the impact of a micro finance institution's activities, benefiting multiple generations.

Legal steps for protection of women's interests

After independence the Government of India has taken following legislative measures for safeguarding women's interests:

- i. The Special Marriage Act, 1954- this Act fixed the age of marriage at 21 for males and 18 for females and provided right to women for inter-caste marriage, love marriage and registered marriage.
- ii. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955-prohibits child marriage, polygamy, polyandry and provides equal rights to women to divorce and to remarry.
- iii. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956- provides right to parental property.
- iv. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 –according to this Act childless woman can adopt a child and claim maintenance from her husband if she is divorced by him.
- v. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961-prevents giving and taking dowry and women exploitation.
- vi. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic of Women and Girls Act, 1956.
- vii. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- viii. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983.
- ix. The Family Court Act, 1984.
- x. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

The year 1969, witnessed a considerable amount of resources being earmarked towards meeting the credit needs of the poor. There were numerous objectives for the bank nationalization policy including expanding the outreach of financial services to neglected sectors. As a result of this strategy, the banking network underwent an expansion.

Credit was recognized as a therapy for the poverty. There developed several pro-poor financial services, supported by both the State and Central governments, which included credit packages and programmes modified to the apparent needs of the poor. While the objectives were commendable and considerable progress was achieved, credit flow to the poor, and particularly to poor women, remained low. This led to converge the existing strengths of rural banking infrastructure and influence this to better serve the poor.

The efforts of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have resulted in the adoption of revolutionary policy for rural credit, provision of technical support backed by liquidity support to banks, supervision of rural credit institutions and other development initiatives.

During this time, NABARD conducted a series of research studies independently and in association with MYRADA, (NGO), which showed that, despite having a wide network of rural bank branches servicing the rural poor, a very large number of the poorest of the poor continued to remain outside the fold of the formal banking system. In this background, a necessity was felt for substitute policies, systems and procedures, savings and loan products, other matching services, which could fulfill the requirements of the poor, especially of the women members of households. The emphasis, therefore, was on improving the access of the poor to microfinance rather than just micro-credit.

The Government of India amalgamated various credit programmes together, refined them and launched a new programme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in 1999. The mandate of SGSY continued to provide subsidized credit to the poor through the banking sector to generate self-employment through a Self- Help-Group approach.

Government's contribution

The Government has taken some steps in uplifting the micro finance sector-

- The existing Micro-Finance Development Fund has been redesigned as Micro-Finance Development and Equity Fund (MEDEF) and the corpus of the fund is increased from Rs.100 crore to Rs. 200 crore. MFDEF is expected to play a vital role in capitalizing the micro finance institutions, thereby improving their access to commercial banks.
- The central government is considering the need to identify and classify the micro-finance institutions and rate such institutions to empower them to intermediate between lending banks and the clients.
- The target for credit-linking to SHGs has been raised from Rs.2 lakhs to Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

The Area of Apprehension

There are certain areas of concern in the field of micro-finance in India;

1. The demand for credit of micro finance institutions is estimated at Rs.2,00,000 crore. Against this a meager Rs. 7000 crore is recorded as flowing through the channels of banks.
2. There is need for a regulatory framework for increasing the number of savings mobilizations by micro-finance institutions. In the absence of the same, unscrupulous elements may enter the sector and exploit the hard-earned savings of the poor.
3. There is need for the rate of interest to be reduced which 12 to 36 percent is charged by micro finance institutions.
4. The growth of micro finance institutions is constrained by the capacity of their staff and the availability of capital.
5. Millions of low-income people remain unable to access financial services. A very conservative estimate suggests that at most, just 20 percent of all low-income people have access to financial services from formal financial institutions, micro-finance institutions and other stakeholders.
6. Micro-credit loans are too small to make any dent in poverty alleviation and growth.

The goal of poverty reduction can be achieved by making adequate institutional, financial and policy preparations for it. An important component of this

preparation is to make micro-credit available to the bottom half of the country's population. Micro-credit is a useful complement to overall strategies of employment generation and poverty alleviation, helping to improve the stability of consumption levels and income flows of poor households.

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Conclusion

Women play a very strategic role in the society in particular and economy in general. Her potential hidden power is to be utilized for which, her status in the society must be improved. Poverty is the main cause for her low bargaining power hence poverty should be removed. The micro finance is the weapon through which she can improve her socio-economic status and condition. As the SHGs through micro finance alleviate women poverty and empower women, the enrolment and participation of women in SHGs should be encouraged and interest should be protected in the male dominant society.

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Challenges Facing Women Entrepreneur in India

Santosh K. Sarma*

[Women entrepreneurs have larger social networks for advice and resources, but men surprisingly have larger emotional networks. Women entrepreneurs are better at establishing networks of friends, family, and associates, and their networks are wider and bigger than those set up by male entrepreneurs. But the bigger the network, the less the associations hurt profitability. The bigger the networks are for female entrepreneurs, the more they seem to drag down revenue growth. Women have big networks, but they include “lots of the wrong people, and people who have no useful resources.”]

Women Entrepreneurs may be defined as the women or a group of women who initiate, organize and operate a business enterprise.

Government of India has defined women entrepreneurs as an enterprise owned and controlled by women having a minimum financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving at least 51% of employment generated in the enterprise to women.

The hidden entrepreneurial potential of women has gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to their role and economic status in the society. Women are increasingly becoming conscious of their existence, their rights and their work situations. Today, women entrepreneurs represent a group of women who have broken away from the beaten track and are exploring new avenues of economic participation.

Among the reasons for women to run organized enterprises are their skill and knowledge, their talents, abilities and creativity in business and a compelling desire of wanting to do something positive. Women today are radiating that unmistakable glow of leadership. The time has come for the nations to celebrate and salute the success of women.

Role of Women as an Entrepreneur's

1. Imaginative: It refers to the imaginative approach or original ideas with competitive market. Well-planned approach is needed to examine situation and to identify the entrepreneurial opportunities. It further implies that women entrepreneurs have association with knowledgeable people and contracting the right organization offering support and services.

2. Attribute to work hard: Enterprising women have ability to work hard. The imaginative ideas have to come to a fair play. Hard work is needed to build up an enterprise.
3. Persistence: Women entrepreneurs must have an intention to fulfill their dreams. They have to make a dream transferred into an idea enterprise: Studies show that successful women work hard.

Women in business are a recent phenomenon in India. By and large they had confined themselves to petty business and tiny cottage industries. Women entrepreneurs are engaged in business due to push and pull factors that encourage women to have an independent occupation and enabling them to stand on their own legs. A sense towards independent decision-making on their life and career is the motivational factor behind this urge. Saddled with household chores and domestic responsibilities women want to get independence and under the influence of these factors, the women entrepreneurs choose a profession as a challenge and as an urge to do something new. Such situation is described as pull factors.

Roles played by Government and other Institutions

Below listed are various institutions for supporting women's sustainable development through rendering financial support for establishing a new venture in the market.

- Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE):
- Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY)
- Federation of Ladies Organization (FLO)

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- District Industrial Centre (DIC)
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Mahila Vikas Nidhi (MVN)
- Mahila Udyam Nidhi (MUN)
- Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY)

Micro-Enterprise Development

- Classified under three major heads;
- Related to agricultural and allied agricultural activities
- Related to livestock management activities
- Related to household base operation.

Self- Help Group (SHG)

It is a small, economically homogenous and significant group of rural/urban poor, who voluntarily form it to save and mutually agreed to contribute to a common fund to begin with a home-based business.

Groups meet regularly, initially for general awareness, once after selecting a specific project groups attend different training programs as per requirement. Initial contribution is made either by NGO's/funding agency/ the government, they may even start with home-based business, but each member is expected to contribute and participate. Even they help in marketing the products by arranging stalls in exhibition and fair.

Challenges Facing Women in Business

Major challenges are faced by women especially in all kinds of business. But as women, because of their gender, often have additional challenges and obstacles that their male peers are less likely to encounter. Working women who have children experience even more demands on time, energy and resources.

But this does not mean that women are less successful than men, in fact, statistics show that women are starting businesses at more than twice the rate of male-majority-owned businesses. The growing success rate of women entrepreneurs shows that they are resourceful, and able to succeed, despite the odds.

Women in India are faced with many problems to get ahead in their life in business. A few problems can be detailed as:

1. The greatest deterrent to women entrepreneurs is that they are women. A kind of patriarchal-male dominant social order is the stumbling block in their way towards business success. Male members think it a big risk in financing the ventures run by women.
2. The financial institutions are skeptical about the entrepreneurial abilities of women. The bankers consider women loonies as higher risk than men loonies. The bankers put unrealistic and unreasonable securities to get loan to women entrepreneurs. According to a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), "despite evidence that women's loan repayment rates are higher than men's, women still face more difficulties in obtaining credit", often due to discriminatory attitudes of banks and informal lending groups (UNIDO, 1995b).
3. Entrepreneurs usually require financial assistance of some kind to launch their ventures be it a formal bank loan or money from a saving account. Women in developing nations have little access to funds, due to the fact that they are concentrated in poor rural communities with few opportunities to borrow money (Starcher, 1996; UNIDO, 1995a). The women entrepreneurs are suffering from inadequate financial resources and working capital. The women entrepreneurs lack access to external funds due to their inability to provide tangible security. Very few women have the tangible property in hand.
4. Women's family obligations also bar them from becoming successful entrepreneurs in both developed and developing nations. "Having primary responsibility for children, home and older dependent family members, few women can devote all their time and energies to their business" (Starcher, 1996, p8). The financial institutions discourage women entrepreneurs on the belief that they can at any time leave their business and become housewives again. The result is that they are forced to rely on their own savings, and loan from relatives and family friends.
5. India women give more emphasis to family ties and relationship. Married women have to make a

fine balance between business and home. Moreover, the business success is dependent on the support family members extend to women in the business process and management. The interest of the family member is a determining factor in the realization of women folks' business aspiration.

6. They are ignorant of new technologies or unskilled in their use, and often unable to do research and gain the necessary training (UNIDO, 1995b, p-1). Although great advances are being made in technology, many women's illiteracy, structural difficulties, and lack of access to technical training prevent the technology from being beneficial or even available to females ("Women Entrepreneurs in Poorest Countries,"2001). According to *The Economist*, this lack of knowledge and the continuing treatment of women as second-class citizens keep them in a pervasive cycle of poverty ("The Female Poverty Trap,"2001). The studies indicate that uneducated women do not have the knowledge of measurement and basic accounting.

How Women Can Overcome Business Challenges

Women often have life skills and natural abilities that are useful in businesses. Women tend to be great net workers, have inherent skills for negotiating, and the ability to multi-task. Single mothers are often good at delegating and budgeting; skills that they rely on to manage their families. In order to get along with all entrepreneurial activities, some suggestions are given to meet those challenges and to encourage women entrepreneurship are given below:

- Better time management
- Setup home-based business
- Better education and adequate training programs on management skills
- Create a strong network to exhibit and market her products
- Effectively and efficient use of information technology to understand current trends of market
- Getting inspiration and advice by other women succeeding in business

Conclusion

Independence brought promise of equality of opportunities in all spheres of life for Indian women and laws guaranteeing for their equal rights of participation in political process and equal opportunities and rights in education and employment were enacted. But unfortunately, the government-sponsored development activities have benefitted only a small section of women in that, it could not reach the poorer sections. Empowering women entrepreneurs is essential for achieving the goal of sustainable development and the bottlenecks hindering their growth must be eradicated to ensure their full participation in business.

Entrepreneurship among women is also added advantage in economic activities, which improves the wealth of the nation as well as family, so women empowerment is very important Today women are more willing to take up activities, challenges and other odds to prove themselves to be one among the contributors to the growth of economy. Women entrepreneurs must be properly molded and trained with entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, information about changing trends, challenges in market both globally and domestically and also to be competent enough.

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Falling Dollar-Rupee Ratio & Indian Economy

Dr. Mukund M. Mundargi*

[Money is not an immoral creature but it's worth keep fluctuating with the society and its economic conditions. One rupee in 1947 is not the same as one rupee today, both in terms of appearance and purchasing power. The value of a country's currency is linked with its economic conditions and policies. According to Economics Times, "The foreign exchange rate is the rate at which one currency trades against another currency on the foreign exchange market." There are mainly two types of exchange rate: classified one is fixed exchange rate i.e., the rate refers to which always remains constant and do not fluctuate due to any market and economic condition. Another one is the foreign exchange rate which always keep changing with the foreign market condition and government policy.]

The two currencies have comparatively broad resources and requirements, economic performance, growth potential, interest rate differentials, capital flows, technological assistance and resistance levels, etc. There are many factors that impact a devaluation of rupee in various ways. According to experts' suggestion, valuation of currency works towards the positive and negative impact on the Indian economy. This article attempts to explain the reasons for the falling rupee value and suggests various necessary steps and strategies to reduce or prevent this decline in rupee value.

Objectives of the Study

This study is envisaged in keeping in view certain objectives which can be discussed as below:

1. To know about the trend of Indian rupee and its exchange rate against the US \$ historically.
2. To understand the concept of foreign exchange trade and Inflation rate.
3. To understand the causes of the falling value of

Indian rupee and its effects on the Indian economy.

4. To study the real implications of government policies for control excessive fluctuation of rupee in the Indian economy.

Research Methodology

This Research methodology tries to explain the aim of the study, the data collection methods and the tools used to examine the data. This paper is descriptive in nature i.e., it explains the present circumstances of the study. Therefore, whole analysis is based on secondary data only; so, they are collected from various journals, research papers, published and periodic reports of RBI and websites etc.

Historical Perspective on falling dollar-rupee ratio

Rupee's history since Independence: Down by 65 times against dollar: Dollar to Rupee Exchange Rate (1947 – 2020)

(Source: IMF, RBI, FED, Wikipedia, World Bank. Notes: Rate for 2020 is as of 10-Apr-20.)

Year	Dollar to rupee								
1947	4.76	1962	4.76	1977	8.74	1992	25.92	2007	41.35
1948	4.76	1963	4.76	1978	8.19	1993	30.49	2008	43.51
1949	4.76	1964	4.76	1979	8.13	1994	31.37	2009	48.41
1950	4.76	1965	4.76	1980	7.86	1995	32.43	2010	45.73
1951	4.76	1966	6.36	1981	8.66	1996	35.43	2011	46.67
1952	4.76	1967	7.5	1982	9.46	1997	36.31	2012	53.44
1953	4.76	1968	7.5	1983	10.1	1998	41.26	2013	56.57
1954	4.76	1969	7.5	1984	11.36	1999	43.06	2014	62.33
1955	4.76	1970	7.5	1985	12.37	2000	44.94	2015	62.97

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1956	4.76	1971	7.49	1986	12.61	2001	47.19	2016	66.46
1957	4.76	1972	7.59	1987	12.96	2002	48.61	2017	67.79
1958	4.76	1973	7.74	1988	13.92	2003	46.58	2018	70.09
1959	4.76	1974	8.1	1989	16.23	2004	45.32	2019	70.39
1960	4.76	1975	8.38	1990	17.5	2005	44.1	2020	75.8
1961	4.76	1976	8.96	1991	22.74	2006	45.31		

India opted to follow a fixed-rate currency system after independence. Between 1948 and 1965, the rupee was pegged at 4.76 against one dollar. A big deficit in India's budget resulted in two successive battles, one with China in 1962 and another with Pakistan in 1965, prompting the government to devalue the currency to 7.57 against the dollar.

In 1971, the rupee's bond with the British currency was disrupted and it was directly connected to the US dollar. In 1975, the Indian rupee's value was fixed against the dollar at 8.39. It was also devalued to 12 against one dollar in 1985. India faced a major balance of trade crisis in 1991 and was forced to devalue its currency significantly. The world was in the grip of high inflation, low productivity, and it was not even worth the foreign reserves to finance three weeks of imports.

In these conditions, the currency was devalued against the dollar to 17.90. 1993 was quite important. The currency of this year was made free to circulate with the feelings of the consumer. To decide the exchange rate, the market was left open, with arrangements for interference by the central bank in a case of extreme volatility. The currency was devalued this year to 31.37 against the dollar.

Between 2000 and 2010, the rupee traded inside the 40-50 band. It was about 45 against the dollar, for the most part. In 2007, it reached a high of 39. After the global 2008 economic downturn, the Indian currency has steadily depreciated. The liberalization of the currency system has led to a sharp rise in the inflows of foreign investment and boosted economic growth.

Present Scenario

The local currency benchmark for Indian Rupee opened on a flat note, rising 2 paise higher on Wednesday to 73.33 per dollar in opening trade despite domestic stock weakness and the lack of any big data triggers.

After opening at 73.39 per dollar on the interbank forex market, the local unit traded in a narrow range and gained traction to grow by 2 countries to 73.33 per dollar.

The Indian rupee dropped by 7 paise on Tuesday and settled at 73.35 per US dollar tracking muted domestic equities and reinforcing American currency "Investors would refrain from taking big positions due to the uncertainties surrounding the results of the US elections, and we could see that markets will stay within a small 73-74 trading range," Reliance Securities said in a research note.

Also, stalled US stimulus negotiations, COVID-19 vaccine instability and weak Asian currencies could restrict domestic unit gains, while RBI mopping up dollar buying flows could also prevent the domestic unit from appreciating above 73 levels, the note added. "In the absence of any big data or causes, we expect range-bound trading to continue, according to Abhishek Goenka, Founder and CEO, IFA Global." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which tests the power of the greenback versus a basket of six currencies, dropped 0.01% to 93.51. As for the lack of news from the political front, the US dollar was stable.

On the domestic stock market front, after nine consecutive days of growth on Wednesday, market indices traded on a negative note, despite weakness in global equities. At 40,398, Sensex traded 226 points below and Nifty slipped 77 points to 11,857. Provisional data shows that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) purchased shares worth Rs 832.14 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers of Rs 1,674.46 crore in the Indian stock market on 13 October.

The global oil standard, Brent crude futures, fell 0.19 per cent to USD 42.37 per barrel. 383 lakh confirmed cases and 10.9 lakh deaths from the COVID-19 outbreak have been recorded worldwide. India's COVID-19 caseload has violated the 72-lakh mark and, as of today, the death toll from COVID-19 infections has risen to 11.0 lakh.

Dollar v/s Rupee: Why is the dollar sliding against the rupee?

For more than two decades, the Home currency has been fighting and facing chaos with the dollar. With the evolving monetary laws and practices, the Indian currency has been faced with a downturn relative to the dollar.

Reasons

1. **Dollar strength:** The dollar index is up nearly 5 per cent this year on signs of growing economic momentum and talk of an early end to the Fed's stimulus effort. Most global currencies have weakened against the dollar including India's rupee.
2. **Weakness in domestic equities:** The BSE Sensex has fallen nearly 4 per cent over the last week. The selloff has been triggered by foreign institutional investors, who have sold about 1 3,900 crore worth of index futures in the last four trading sessions. This is a hedging move as FIIs expect stocks (cash segment) to fall in the near term, traders said. FIIs have been a key support for markets (and the rupee) after buying a net \$15.38 billion (Rs 90,000 crore) worth of shares this year as of Wednesday's close.
3. **Demand from oil importers:** India has to import crude oil to meet its domestic requirement. Traders say there has been continuous demand for the greenback from oil importers, the biggest buyers of dollars in the domestic currency market, pushing the rupee lower. Oil and gold imports account for 35 per cent and 11 per cent of India's trade bill respectively.
4. **Gold imports:** Gold imports hit 162 tonnes in May, twice the monthly average of 2011 when they reached a record. Gold is the second most expensive import for the country after crude oil. Falling gold prices have offset the government's and the central bank's moves to reduce gold imports, which increase current account deficit and weighs on the currency. India's current account deficit was equivalent to a record 6.7 per cent of gross domestic product in December.
5. **Weak economic fundamentals:** Moses Harding of IndusInd Bank told NDTV that weak economy and no signs of a quick fix solution are weighing on the rupee. The UPA government is unlikely to

deliver far reaching reforms to generate heavy capital inflows, as it did last September to stave off the loss of India's investment grade credit rating, experts say.

Impact of falling rupee on Indian economy

Positive Impact: Export-oriented industries may benefit from this. Weak rupee could help companies in the IT and textile industries. Depreciation of rupees makes IT firms. At the basis of poor trade results, the rupee from Indians decreased 0.7 per cent from the US dollar to 67.71. In the previous year, the Indian rupee shed nearly 25% value. It would potentially decline lower.

i. Investors in foreign funds benefit from this. ii. The hotel sector profits.

Negative Impact: Corporate India is a net dollar borrower and, to that degree, its balance sheet is negatively impacted by a depreciating rupee. Companies with overseas debts are severely impacted by their accounts. These businesses will need more ropes to repay their dollar debts as the rope depreciates against the currency. This would increase their burden of debt and decrease their profits. Investors would do their utmost to drive high foreign debt companies away from them. Negative effects on Indian students and overseas travelers and inflation and fiscal deficit effects.

How will India regulate the value of the rupee in the international market?

The Reserve Bank of India will sell dollars on the free market to put down, however marginally, the value of the US greenback. The RBI usually uses its Monetary Policies to protect the value of the rupee. Short-term shifts in interest rates affect the rupee's value against other currencies. Although, much of the strategy has been used by the RBI to manage internal conditions, such as measures to contain rising inflation. However, if the Indian capital markets were to surge, as they have done in the last few years, more and more foreign funds will start investing in India, reinforcing the rupee as demand for the dollar declines in local markets.

Government initiatives towards valuation of the rupee

1. **Easier External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)**
Only those manufacturing companies having threshold limit up to \$50 million. And Time of

maturity of one year against the norm of three years.

2. More Zing for Masala Bonds: Masala bonds to be exempted from withholding tax. Indian banks to be allowed to become market makers and underwrite the debt.
3. No Hedging for Infrastructure ECBs: Review mandatory hedging for infrastructure ECBs.
4. Revise of FPI 4 Exposure Limits Not more than 20% of an FPI's corporate bond portfolio can be invested with a single corporate group Also, 50% of a single issue cannot go to any such group
5. To equalize demand & supply
6. Proper application of monetary and fiscal policy in our nation
7. Import & export security, etc. 8. Export can be more than that.
9. To reduce the provision of imports from other nations, the Government should encourage more and more companies to produce more and more items.

Conclusion

This analysis offers a basic understanding of the term rupee fluctuation and the influence of rupee movements on the Indian economy. As there are to a large degree different internal as well as external factors behind rupee appreciation and depreciation, it takes time to return the situation to the usual state. To resolve this situation, RBI and other government agencies have to play their role. Curbs on imports of non-essential goods should be imposed.

Strict quantitative controls on imports of gold and non-essential commodities should be imposed, in addition to higher customs duty, so that demand for the currency could decrease.

The 'Made in India' framework is currently focused on further FDI inflows in India, improving the Indian manufacturing sector and rising forex reserves as well. The problem of 'Masala Bonds' by Indian corporate houses would regulate the fluctuation of the Rupee as well. More export incentives should be provided to improve the country's export trade. In order to monitor currency depreciation, RBI must sell forex reserves and buy rupees in an instant operation.

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Blended Learning: Need of the hour in Covid-19 Pandemic

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[The world today is facing a severe health crisis in the form of Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic has forced everyone to remain in their homes and maintain social distance with everyone. Due to this crisis the schools all over the country are closed to avoid any type of gathering. Because of this the studies of a large number of students are at stake. Such situation calls for an alternative method of study which can be used during this pandemic period. Blended Learning is one such method in which the learner studies with the help of online resources and at the same time the guidance of teacher is also available for him. The present paper aims to discuss the effectiveness of Blended Learning during this pandemic.]

The world is going through a global health crisis. The Covid-19 has disrupted the normal life of the people and in such situation the education sector cannot remain unaffected. The schools and colleges are closed and this closure has impacted a large number of students, parents and educators. The government is forced to find new and innovative approaches to redesign the teaching and learning process. Covid-19 has created such an atmosphere for policy makers and educators to reform the Indian education system and create a technology-enabled learning system which supports equity and excellence.

The face of education is continuously changing with time and period. Once there was a time when education was teacher-centered and teacher was the pivot on which the entire education system revolved. But with the passage of time, the education system has gone through a lot of transformation. If we talk about the present scenario of education then a whole lot of change is visible.

Today is the era of digital technology. But the schools of India even today do not indulge themselves in much of digital education. They are involved more in traditional system of education. In traditional system of education, the teacher plays an important role. Although the role of teacher can't be ignored in imparting education to the learners but the teacher can make efforts to use digital technology to provide education to the students. An effective teacher when combined with digital technology can prove to be a blessing for the students.

In the present situation when the world is fighting an unseen enemy, this digital technology comes as a blessing. In the current situation of worldwide health crisis few questions arise-

Will school be the same again after this prolonged closure?

What are the best ways to redesign the teaching and learning process?

Which method can be used to involve the learner actively in the learning process during this pandemic period?

The main purpose of this paper is to discuss the utility and effectiveness of Blended Learning for providing education in the time of Covid-19 pandemic. When attending of school is not possible, the educators are working for methods that will fulfill the aim of learning. In such condition the Blended Learning comes as a ray of hope.

Blended Learning

Blended Learning is an innovative concept which includes both face-to-face interaction and online learning. Blended Learning is defined as the integration of E-learning tool with face-to-face learning (Walker & Berardino, 2005).

Blended Learning can be explained very well by the following figure:

In Blended Learning the students get enough time to interact with their teachers and thus they get the much-wanted moral support from the teacher. This face-to-face interaction is very important because it gives a human touch to the learning process. Along with traditional teaching the student learns using online resources like virtual classroom, e-library, virtual laboratories, webinars etc. These online resources can be used by the learner according to his own pace and convenience. As we all are aware that no single method is complete in itself. Every method suffers from some limitations but by joining the strength of two methods we can surely develop a more efficient method. Garrison and Vaughan (2008) define Blended Learning as a new educational paradigm that integrates the strength of face-to-face and online learning.

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Objectives

The main objective of the paper is to study the effectiveness of Blended learning method for teaching the social science students of class VI.

The objectives of the paper can be summarized as-

- To study the effectiveness of Blended Learning.
- To explore the effectiveness of Blended learning among Boys and Girls.
- To find the effectiveness of Blended learning among the students of Urban and Rural area.

Rationale of the study

With the closure of the schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic the need of such a method is felt which includes the benefits of both-the traditional and the online methods and as such Blended Learning is the best method to follow. The government is also taking serious initiatives to make education available to all the sections of the society. Various digital e-learning platforms are started by the government which is available for the students. One such initiative is DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing). Through this e-content is provided to the students of class 1st to 12th. Various digital practices such as Project SMILE, Shikshadarshan, Shikshavani etc. are employed to provide the students with necessary digital assistance in their learning.

The use of digital technology has increased in the educational field and this has enhanced the need of producing more trained people to work in this digitalized environment. The use of Blended learning can be supported because of certain characteristics of the method and the advantages of Blended Learning can be listed as follows-

Individualized learning

Every child is unique in himself. Each child learns according to his own pace and speed. Therefore, in such situation, Blended Learning is very helpful as the student can go through the matter again according to his own convenience.

Different modes of learning

Blended Learning provides face-to-face interaction and online medium to study. The student can learn in his classroom and can get his doubts clear by his teacher and at the same time he can learn more using online resources. He can have access to an ocean of knowledge which can create curiosity among students to know more.

Enhanced learner's confidence and competency

As the learner is introduced to the whole wide world of knowledge through the use of digital technology, the learner feels more confident about his performance. The presence of teacher and online resources collectively

results into the development of the competency of the learner.

Efficient learning environment

Betul Yilmaz and Feza Orhan1 (2011) proved in their study that Blended Learning resulted in achieving more efficient learning environment. It provides best opportunity for a learner to learn with the help of a teacher as well as digital technology.

Flexibility

Blended Learning provides a very flexible learning environment to the learners. The most difficult or complex topics can be discussed in classroom while other simpler matter can be accessed by the learner online and at his own convenience.

Methodology

This paper aimed at studying the effectiveness of Blended Learning on the achievement of the students of class VI. The researcher conducted the study based on Experimental method. The study was conducted on a sample of 64 students. Population for the study included the schools of Jaipur city of Rajasthan. For this study two schools were selected. This included 1 Government school and 1 Private school. The schools were selected using lottery method. From these two schools, total sample of 64 students was selected.

Simple Random sampling was used to select the sample for the study. From each school 32 students were selected as sample. After the selection of these students, they were divided into 2 groups i.e., Experimental group which included 16 students in a school and Control group also included 16 students.

Method

Experimental method was used with pre-test and post-test on both the groups to examine the effectiveness of Blended Learning on the achievement of the students. Class VI students were selected and a sample of 64 students was selected through Simple Random Sampling method.

Sample

Findings-

The results showed that the scores of Experimental groups were more significant as compared to the scores of Control group. The Blended learning proved to be more effective regarding the achievement of the students. No significant difference was found in the effectiveness of Blended learning between boys and girls. Both boys and girls of Experimental group showed significant achievement. While the students of urban and rural areas showed some difference. The urban students were more acquainted to the technical concepts and therefore they showed better results as compared to rural students.

Blended Learning during Covid-19 pandemic

Blended Learning is a mix of traditional (classroom) learning and online learning. If we talk about the main difference between Traditional learning and Blended Learning then it can be said that Traditional learning is more class-oriented, with fixed schedule, less flexibility and little use of digital technology. On the other hand, Blended Learning is more flexible and supports both classroom and online learning. Self-guided online learning without the instruction or involvement of teacher is doomed to fail.

Various studies have been done which show that there is high dropout rate in such programmes. Without the peer pressure or active involvement of teacher, the learner does not feel the incentive to complete his course. Therefore, in such a situation the only alternative left is that of Blended Learning. Today we are facing a pandemic which has forced the governments of nearly all the countries to implement measures through which the number of people congregating in one place can be reduced. Because of this reason the schools and colleges are all closed. This situation is going to continue for certain period of time till vaccine becomes available to us. So, some alternative methods are necessary to continue the studies of the students.

The study of the children is necessary but their well-being is first priority. Blended method is an effective method which can be used during this pandemic period. According to Gordon Libby, College Park Academy is one of the first “Bricks and Clicks” school in the United States (Libby, 2020). The students of this school attended school every day but their curriculum was entirely online and one-third of their course was taught in virtual classes. During the pandemic period the learning of the students of this school was not affected as they are used to do self-learning and are familiar and comfortable with the use of online resources. This school, in present period of health crisis, presented an ideal which we all need to follow.

According to UNESCO, nearly 1.37 billion students are affected because of closure of schools due to Covid-19 pandemic. This large number of students has forced the governments to plan their education policy in such a way so that the education of these students does not suffer. Blended Learning gives the opportunity to the learner to continue his study with the help of online resources and the teacher also provides required guidance to him. Blended Learning use different mediums for study like Google Classroom, WebEx, Google Meet, YouTube, Skype etc.

With the help of all these mediums the learner remains active and involved in the learning process. During the

present pandemic period, by adopting these means we can contribute to the continuity of the student’s learning.

Conclusion

This pandemic has forced the educators to adopt digital technology to face the current educational need of the time. The use of digital technology in the schools is now no longer question of choice but it has become essential part of the education system. Blended Learning supports individualized learning, quick feedback, flexibility, critical thinking, confidence and competency of the learner. The learner is exposed to a wide world of online learning and with that the guidance of the teacher is also there to support him in his learning. Therefore, we can say that Blended Learning is the need of hour and we should not only see it as a method to be adopted during this crisis period but it should be made an inseparable part of the educational system in future also.

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Quest for Female Identity in Jhumpa Lahiri's *Unaccustomed Earth*

Dr. Nagaratna Parande*

[Different responses to migration, as an attendant phenomenon of globalization, are articulated in literature produced in places where diasporic communities exist. The interaction between the 'host' and 'immigrant' cultures raises new questions of identity politics and other issues involved. Questions of identity politics arise out of migration, diaspora and exile. Identity politics driven by migration, diaspora and exile have in turn mapped literary imagination and produced literary writings of distinct characteristics. The conditions propelling women's migration and their experiences during the process of migration and settlement have always been different and very specific to them. Standing 'in-between' the two worlds of origin and adoption, women tend to experience dialectic tensions between freedom and subjugation, but they often use this space to assert independence, and to redefine their roles and perceptions of self.]

Globalization has created an increasingly interdependent world and pluralistic society that reveals the connections between the global and the local. Globalization refers to the accelerated movement of people, commodities, ideas, and cultures across the world, encouraging people to migrate especially to Western countries in search of a better life. In social theory, globalization is linked to intensified social activity and increased interconnectedness between people across national, political and geographical boundaries. A natural outcome of this mingling is a fusion of cultures as people from one language and culture are forced to adapt themselves to an alien language and culture

A sense of homelessness, isolation and alienation is experienced by people who are deracinated from their native land and relocated in an alien environment. Lack of a sense of belonging often fosters an inner urge to reaffirm one's own identity. The phenomenon of migration has brought forth the popular term 'diaspora' which has gained tremendous currency in this age of globalization.

Unaccustomed Earth is a collection of short stories from American author of Indian origin Jhumpa Lahiri. It is her second collection of stories, following *Interpreter of Maladies* which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. This collection of eight stories takes its title from a passage from Nathaniel Hawthorne's introduction to *The Scarlet Letter*: "Human nature will not flourish, any more than a potato, if it be planted and replanted, for too long a series of generations, in the same worn-out soil. My children ... shall strike their roots in unaccustomed earth."

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Unaccustomed Earth consists of two parts; the first part contains five short stories that tell a number of families who live in the US. The stories are "Unaccustomed Earth", "Hell-Heaven", "A Choice of Accommodations", "Only Goodness" and "Nobody's Business". The second part talks about two families' life in one story which is told through three different points of view entitled "Hema and Kaushik" by subtitled "Once in a Lifetime", "Year's End" and "Going Ashore".

Unaccustomed Earth portrays the lives of Bengali-American characters and how they deal with their mixed cultural environment. About the Bengali-American families, Lahiri depicts struggle with doubts and uncertainties, emotional upheavals in their personal lives, and feelings of displacement in the face of cultural and social shifts and changes. Lahiri's collection of short stories talks about cultural assimilation.

There are many women characters in these stories who are Americanized yet they carry Indian cultural baggage. They are successful professionals, upper middleclass women who are in search of their identities. This paper analyses the ways they adopt to quest their identities.

In the title story, "Unaccustomed Earth" Ruma, a Bengali-American lawyer, gives up her job and follows her husband to a distant city as they await the birth of their second child. "Growing up, her mother's example moving to a foreign place for the sake of marriage, caring exclusively for children and a household — had served as a warning, a path to avoid. Yet this was Ruma's life now." What is considered natural, what happens normally in India takes place in America. The nurturing force, pregnancy makes Ruma take this step. Nobody forces her to do this. Still, she follows her mother's model. Her widowed father does not like her decision. When he visits her in Seattle, he asks her a very American question: "Will this make you happy?"

Urging Ruma not to isolate herself, to look for work, he reminds her that “self-reliance is important.” He says that “he had always assumed Ruma’s life would be different.” But his daughter chooses a life in Seattle that she could have led in Calcutta. She repeats her mother’s life pattern when she could have chosen different life, she had that freedom. Her father’s dissatisfaction with her decision, provocation doesn’t stop her. Though Ruma married an American boy, going against parents’ will, making them unhappy, after marriage unknowingly she followed her mother’s path.

It can be said that Ruma’s identity is affected less by her coordinates on the globe than by the internal indices of her will. She is brought up in the American soil, but she carries her own emotional bearings within her mental makeup where her cultural past lingers.

Ruma’s constant sense of isolation and her present status as an immigrant create confusion within her and she says: “She is much more American than her parents. Yet it is never easy for those with her background to completely feel American either. She explains that for older generation of immigrants the challenges of exile, loneliness, sense of alienation is more acute than they are for their children. For the latter, especially those who have strong ties to their country of origin, like her, is that they feel neither one thing nor the other. And in her stories, her characters move constantly between two worlds grappling bravely with this cultural displacement.” The story brings out Ruma’s difficulty in dealing with her recently widowed father. Ruma has married Adam and moved to San Francisco. Her father, a retired professional, pays a short visit to see his new grandson, Akash, who was just a baby when the grandmother died unexpectedly on the operating table. The week goes well with Ruma’s father undertaking a gardening project and becoming close to his new grandson. We learn about the complex relationship between Ruma and her mother. But we also find out that the father is on the brink of a new relationship with an Indian woman he has met on senior citizen travels to Europe. Lahiri expertly revolves the roles here and helps us to better understand the daughter-father conflict.

The story explores gender roles in America and family issues associated with Ruma’s Bengali heritage, including her sense of obligation to care for her father and have him live with her and her immediate family.

The story “Hell-Heaven” narrates the unique mother-daughter relationship that develops between Aparna and Usha; after many struggles and arguments, Aparna pacifies her daughter by relating her own experiences about a foolish decision that she would have made.

In “Only Goodness,” an older sister, Sudha, learns a sharp lesson about the limits of her responsibility to a self-

destructive younger brother. Rahul is the tragically flawed son of successful parents and sister. Sudha has seen her brother’s descent into uncontrolled alcoholism since his teen years and has indeed abetted it in innocence. We watch the ups and downs of this family’s struggle. Years pass. Sudha finds happiness in London with her English husband and their new baby. Rahul appears, newly sober and ready to be an attentive and loving uncle. A wider tragedy of emotion strikes even when real tragedy is averted, and the sad characters realize the impossibility of further contact.

“Nobody’s Business” is the story of Sangeeta, an unmarried Bengali-American, who prefers to be called Sang. Paul is an American who falls in love with his housemate, Sang, who cares little for his love and is engaged to a self-obsessed Egyptian. Bound by the American way of life, she dates with the man whom she considers to marry. On knowing his affairs with another woman, the glamorous Sang becomes heartbroken and leaves for London to join her sister. Lahiri presents here that the diasporic individuals have to deal with multiplicity of identities.

The second part has three stories, grouped together as “Hema and Kaushik,” which explore the overlapping histories of the title characters, a girl and boy from two Bengali immigrant families, set during significant moments of their lives. “Once in a Lifetime” begins in 1974, the year Kaushik Choudhuri and his parents leave Cambridge and return to India. Seven years later, when the Choudhuris return to Massachusetts, Hema’s parents are perplexed to find that “Bombay had made them more American than Cambridge had.”

The next story, “Year’s End,” visits Kaushik during his senior year at Swarthmore as he wrestles with the news of his father’s remarriage and meets his father’s new wife and stepdaughters. The final story, “Going Ashore,” begins with Hema. Hema is now a Latin professor at Wellesley. She is spending a few months in Rome before entering into an arranged marriage with a parent-approved Hindu Punjabi man named Navin. Hema likes Navin’s traditionalism and respect: “It touched her to be treated, at 37, like a teenaged girl.” The couple plans to settle in Massachusetts. But in Rome, Hema meets Kaushik. Kaushik, a world traveling, successful photojournalist, is preparing to accept a desk job in Hong Kong.

In spite of all that, they find their deep connection irresistible. They coincidentally reunite in Rome and relive their younger years together, exploring Italy together. Before leaving for a Christmas vacation, Kaushik asks Hema to leave Navin and come and live with him in Hong Kong. He tells her to brood about it while she is in Calcutta. Kaushik ultimately dies vacationing in Khao Lak when the 2004 tsunami occurs,

never giving Hema a choice regarding their future together.

Hema did not want the sort of life her parents wanted but eventually she surrenders to a normal and secure life that is the unavoidable arranged marriage. Her perception of love is torn with Julian and she refuses to mend it and move on. Instead, she feels liberated by being chained down by a marriage to a man she hardly knows. Kaushik finds that Hema is the only woman who has any understanding of his past.

The story depicts Hema's inner conflict. Her dilemma, her search for root and origin are described beautifully by the author.

Conclusion

Jhumpa Lahiri's characters in the collection *Unaccustomed Earth* build new identities in America, a land of opportunities. They make efforts to identify their roots and their crisis of identity are predominant almost in all her stories here. All the stories in *Unaccustomed Earth* show characters' quest for their identities as Indian Americans in various spheres of life like career, family, nurturing children, intermarriage and most importantly home.

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Bilingual Creativity and Nativization of English in two Indian English Novels

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[*This study involves a stylistic inquiry into selected passages from Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* and Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*. The objectives were: 1) to identify the types of formal deviations in the language of the selected novels; 2) to explain the cultural factors influencing the nature of linguistic deviation; and 3) to demonstrate the literary functions of the nativized English in selected passages. The analysis reveals that stylistic deviations are grounded in linguistic innovations to capture the essence of Indian life and culture in the English language. Similarly, code-switching and code-mixing are grounded in code-retaining that enables the novelists to retain the original nuances of the corresponding Indian languages.*]

As colonially transplanted English settles down in the diverse locales of the world, many new varieties of world Englishes, with their distinct pragmatic rules, emerge through nativization. According to Kasanga (2006), nativization of English refers to the adaptive and assimilative creation of new varieties of English in the "Outer Circle" (see Kachru 1986; 1992a; 1992b) as different from the 'Inner Circle', where English is overwhelmingly spoken natively. Kachru visualizes world Englishes in three concentric circles: The Inner Circle, the Outer Circle, and the Expanding Circle. The Inner Circle refers to native-speaker

varieties of English as in the UK, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Outer Circle refers to the nations where English was first introduced as a colonial language for administrative purposes as in the case of Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zambia among others (Kachru, 1985). The Expanding Circle includes countries where English has no historical or governmental role but is used extensively as a medium of international communication as in the case of China, Russia, Japan, Netherlands, South Korea, Egypt, and Indonesia.

In India, English plays the role of a link language, as the window to the world, and as the language of education and training. Through institutionalization and nativization,

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the new varieties of English evolved in the Outer and Expanding circles possess the common core characteristics of Inner Circle varieties of English, but with certain lexical, phonological, pragmatic, and morpho-syntactic innovations.

The debate over the genesis and evolution of world Englishes has unleashed two contradictory hypotheses: Substratist Hypothesis (Alleyne, 1986; Lefebvre, 1993) and Bi-program Hypothesis (Bickerton, 1984). The Substratist Hypothesis states that New Englishes are conditioned by the substrate languages encountered by English in the contact situation as in the case of the dialects of Chinese, Malay, and Tamil in Singapore. The Bi-program Hypothesis claims that the features of New Englishes emerge because of the *universal grammar* which provides a kind of genetic blueprint for natural languages in the minds of users.

According to Bickerton (1984), humans have an inherent biological propensity for Language (not 'a language') with certain universal features. However, Mufwene (1996a) and Baker (1993) see these two hypotheses as mutually complementary in their effect. A later researcher such as Kandiah (1999) posits that the users of world Englishes make choices that have social and other kinds of meaning, grounded in social contexts. They make the best use of the substrate, the superstrate, and the bi-programs available and, further, move beyond the constraints of all those resources by dint of their creativity and expressive urge with an intuitive understanding of the complex correlation of social variables and linguistic forms.

According to Kachru (1988, p. 1), "localized innovations in English have pragmatic bases and that the English language belongs to all its users." Involving linguistic, attitudinal, ontological, and pragmatic explanations, Kachru posits that the term "world Englishes" indicates the distinct identities of the language and literature written in English across the globe with variations in form, function, and use in linguistically and culturally distinct contexts, and with a wide variety of literary creativity (Kachru, 1996, p. 135).

Speaking of English in a framework of multicultural encounters and multilingual creativity, Kachru (1996) argues that the opening up of the canon has expanded the boundaries of English language and literature. In the writings of Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Raja Rao, Catherine Lim, Chitra Fernando, Shashi Tharoor, and Vikram Seth, English is used as a means of presenting canons unrelated to traditional associations of the language. The Outer Circle of English has harbored a shift away from the European socio-cultural and literary canons of yesteryears with a conscious attempt to make English relevant to local traditions of culture and creativity.

Emulating the Kachruvian model, Dawson (2011) focuses on the literary production of World Englishes. However, the arguments raised move beyond the questions of geography, spatial proximity to the English 'Standard', or characteristic linguistic properties. She is critical of the assumption that writing from the Outer or Expanding circles is always to be explained by the nature of the 'gravitational pull' of the language of the Inner circle. She observes that World Englishes' writers are far less interested in their presumed subalternity to a former colonial power than in maintaining the identity of their own culture, besides forwarding the existential issues affecting their people.

The interaction of socio-cultural variables and linguistic choices in the context of literary production is more complex than the everyday production of language because of the quantum of ideologies and deliberations involved. This demands a pragmatic inquiry into the epistemic formation of indigenized English in India and the specific conditions that triggered them. Drawing upon pragmatic theories and functions of language, three research questions are raised:

1. What types of formal deviations are observed in the language of the selected novels?
2. What are the cultural factors influencing the nature of linguistic deviation?
3. What are the literary functions of the indigenized English in the selected passages?

Methods

Building upon Kachru (1965 & 1996), this study aims to analyze the literary function of the varied linguistic experiments by selected Indian novelists. For this purpose, selected passages from Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* and Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* are taken into the purview of analysis. Raja Rao belongs to the older generation of novelists whereas Salman Rushdie belongs to the later generation. Overall, the sampling is based on the novels with maximum stances of nativization of English. Stylistic experiments are explained with specific attention to lexical experiments, syntactical deviation, English translation of Indian idioms and phrases, reproduction of Indian manners and sentiments in English, and code-switching and code-mixing.

The passages are analyzed using Halliday's (1971) stylistic concept of *foregrounding* which includes *motivated prominence*. The aim is to observe how the nativization of English contributes to the author's expression of the Indian sentiments and sensibilities in the context of the problems encountered by the nation and its subjects. Foregrounding presupposes some motivation on the part of the writer. In other words, foregrounding is motivated prominence (Halliday, 1971;

Simpson, 2004). A linguistic or literary pattern can be said to be foregrounded only when it contributes to the narrative and the overall production of meaning in a particular text.

Case 01. From Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*, pp. 104-105

- *Nativized English*: “Kumkum and haldi invitation” (*Kanthapura*, p. 104): Marriage invitation cards are marked with haldi (turmeric) and kumkum before they are sent out as it is considered to be auspicious. It is called *kamkum haldi amantrana* in Kannada. The red and yellow colors symbolize love and intellect and so these two colors are placed side by side in temples or homes during celebrations. Here it is a blessing/wish for long marital bliss.
- *Nativized English*: “a tight-jawed person” (*Kanthapura*, P. 105): A very reserved person. Women generally are considered to be garrulous but here Rangamma speaks less and only when required (a masculine trait).
- *Nativized English*: “not a mosquito moved in all Kanthapura” (*Kanthapura*, P. 105): The village was quiet and there was no movement. Raja Rao has created an idiom to suit the Indian sensibility.
- *Nativized English*: “veritable *Dharmaraja*” (*Kanthapura*, P. 104): Dharmaraja is another name of Yudhishtira, the eldest of the mythical Pandava brothers, who was known for his truthfulness and righteousness. Here Sankar is referred to as Dharmaraja.
- *Nativized English*: “Redman’s judges” (*Kanthapura*, P. 105): It refers to the jury members who were either white men or appointed by the white men, i.e., the British. The ‘red’ color refers to the fair reddish complexion of the British.

The story of *Kanthapura* (1938) is told from the perspective of a small Mysore village that wakes up to Mahatma Gandhi’s call for the socio-political independence of India. The novel is narrated in flashbacks by Achakka, an old wise woman of the village. It follows the form of Indian vernacular tales and folk-epic. Its folkloric narrative interweaves past with present and gods with mortals. Achakka alongside her female audience (addressed as “sisters”) has survived the turbulence of India’s independence from British rule. Achakka’s speeches and idiomatic expressions exhibit a uniquely feminine world view. The novel mirrors a faithful image of the South Indian countryside - goddesses and deities, chants and songs, morals and mannerisms. Achakka is invoked in every chapter and her authority draws from her past actions.

The linguistic foregrounding takes place in the epic narrative structure and is achieved through the portrayal

of Sankar’s character as a Gandhian and a *satyagrahi* from the omniscient point of view. Intent upon transforming the minds of the people with Gandhiji’s vision of political, social, and economic independence, Sankar not only follows principles ritualistically but also exerts his moral authority over others to act and behave accordingly. This message is rhetorically and pragmatically built into the first paragraph:

- a. The claim, Sankar as a Gandhian, is warranted by two central signifiers: the khadi and fasting. *Khadi* is a kind of hand-woven cloth that was worn and promoted by Gandhiji during India’s freedom struggle. It is significant because it was woven and promoted in protest against the foreign cloth that came from the British mills. This was part of the Satyagraha movement started by Mahatma Gandhi.
- b. Respect for his authority and resistance to the same by the villagers go side by side. His insistence on khadi as all-time wear in place of the glittering Dharmawar sari is guarded by the logic that the money spent on foreign clothes goes to Italian yarn makers while the poor Indian weavers starve. Although people respect his ideas, it is difficult for them to adhere to the same on all occasions. So, when they want to attend any “Kumkum and haldi invitation”, they silently slip through the back doors unnoticed by Sankar.
- c. The description of Sankar’s adherence to fasting is rhetorical in structure, rooted in the Indian epic narrative style.
And he also made the whole family fast - fast on this day because it is the anniversary of the day the Mahatma was imprisoned, fast on that day for the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre, and on another day in memory of the day of Tilak’s death, and someday he would have made everyone fast for every cough and sneeze of the Mahatma.
- d. His moral preference to work (spinning) over prayer ends up in a statement with the functional conversion of the noun “stomach” as a verb in “when the hungry stomachs food”.

In the second paragraph, the nativization of English continues in the use of: A) the simile – Rangamma describes Sankar looked like a “veritable *Dharmaraja*” – and B) the creation of a culture-sensitive idiom - Rangamma being described by others as “a tight-jawed person” who could “speak like a man”. The nativization of English steadily accentuates into the third paragraph concerning a place (Karwar), time and festival (*Magh* cattle fair), the expression of cultural othering in “the Red-man’s judges”, and the Indian idiom in English translation – “not a mosquito moved in all Kanthapura”.

Case 02. from Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, Chapter One

- *Nativized English*: "Piece-of-the-Moon" (*Midnight's Children*, P.9): Piece-of-the-Moon is a literal translation of the Hindi idiom 'Chand ka tukra'. Especially children are called so because they are considered to be precious and pretty as the moon. This phrase is one of the nicknames given to the protagonist of the novel Saleem Sinai.
- *Nativized English*: "The perforated sheet" (*Midnight's Children*, P.9): Aadam Aziz, the grandfather of protagonist Saleem, falls in love with his future wife by looking at her through a perforated sheet. Unable to see his future wife as a whole, Aadam falls in love with her in pieces and, thus, their marriage remains deprived of the cohesive unity of a family.

Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* is a loose allegory of events with relation to India's independence from British colonialism and the partition of India. The protagonist and the narrator of the story is Saleem who is born at the exact moment of India's independence. With an enormous, constantly dripping nose and an extremely sensitive sense of smell, Saleem is endowed with in-born telepathic powers.

Narrated in a tripartite framework, the novel is considered to be an example of postcolonial, postmodern, and magical realist literature. The passage under analysis is from the opening, the Book One of the novel entitled "The Perforated Sheet". It mentions how the narrator was born on the remarkable night of 15 August 1947. It speaks about the prophecy of his destiny being linked to that of Independent India. The narrator Saleem Sinai believes that he should talk about his life before death takes him away.

Stylistic prominence is achieved through the magical use of imagery and symbols, interspersed with the repetition of certain words and frequent use of appositions. The opening paragraph foregrounds the novel in terms of the weird and ironic interjection of place, time, and prophecies in a series of parallelisms and repetitions with an intertextual allusion to Jawaharlal Nehru's memorable Red Fort speech: "At the stroke of the midnight ..."

I was born in the city of Bombay... once upon a time.

... I was born in Doctor Narlikar's Nursing Home on August 15th, 1947. And the time? The time matters, too. Well then: at night. No, it's important to be more... On the stroke of midnight, as a matter of fact.

The narrative continues with the allegorical assertion of India, the nation, and Saleem, the child, with the clock pronouncing their historic birth in a periodic sentence structure suffused with appositions:

Clock-hands joined palms in respectful greeting as I came. Oh, spell it out, spell it out: at the precise instant of India's arrival at independence, I tumbled forth into the world.

Repetitions and appositions guide forth the narrative:

... I had been mysteriously handcuffed to history; my destinies indissolubly chained to those of my country.

... For the next three decades, there was to be no escape. Soothsayers had prophesied me, newspapers celebrated my arrival, politicians ratified my authenticity.

... I, Saleem Sinai, later variously called Snottose, Stainface, Baldy, Sniffer, Buddha and even Piece-of-the-Moon, had become heavily embroiled in Fate - at the best of times a dangerous sort of involvement.

And I couldn't even wipe my own nose at the time. The deft use of anti-climax at the sentence level, e.g., "... Piece-of-the-Moon" and bathos at the end of the paragraph, e.g. "And I couldn't even wipe my own nose ..." build up the mood of the political satire while referring to the rootedness to time-fate-destiny.

The next two paragraphs introduce a bleeding nose and a perforated sheet. Saleem talks about the times of his grandfather, Aadam Aziz, who had accidentally injured his nose during a prayer following which he had stopped being a theist. The perforated sheet through which Aadam falls in love with his future wife is used as a symbol. Unable to see his future wife as a whole, Aadam falls in love with her in pieces and, thus, their marriage remains deprived of the cohesive unity of a family. A nose with a hole and a sheet with holes, as a whole, refer to fragmented nations and families. The perforated sheet is also used as a symbol that encompasses the idea that when lessons are not learned, history repeats itself.

Saleem's fragile body and the country's fragmentation are rooted in time. His destiny is linked to that of his country and his problems are repeated in national and political events. A leaking nose refers to the recurring of past events into the present. Thus, the interaction between personal and public, past and present remains fluid and active like leaking liquid. This style of preserving history with fictional accounts is self-reflexive.

The narrative is self-referential because Saleem refers to himself in the first person as well as the third person. This resonates with indigenous Indian folk tales and oral traditions. The pervasive reference to time calls into the Indian epic traditions, especially, *The Mahabharat*, where time is omnipresent and omniscient and the controller of human actions and destiny.

Conclusion

The two novelists presented here wrote in an era historically known as post-colonial. As in *Kanthapura*, English for Raja Rao became a vehicle for the

expression of Indian life and sentiments. In the process, the English language had to undergo creative adaptations that are instinctive and unique. For Rushdie, who playfully improvised the language to fit into their message, the indigenized English was the outcome of his conscious experimentation.

Kanthapura captures the customs, rituals, collectivism, and, commitments to Gandhian principles in rural Karnataka in the context of India's freedom struggle. The child-nation allegory of MC enacts the disempowerment of specially gifted children as a consequence of the self-serving politics, lust for power, and, a tantrum of ideology that marred a young and independent India. In all these novels, the issues are Indian, the emotions and sentiments are Indian, the writers are Indian, and the target readers are prominently Indian.

As identified in *Kanthapura*, Raja Rao used Indian epic narrative style, myths, and regional aphorisms to portray the awakening of rural Karnataka to Gandhi's call for independence through Satyagraha. Satyagraha is given a performative stance in terms of culturally nuanced objects and acts: a) fasting (meant for inner purification and renunciation), b) khadi (which means rejection of Western business products and development of Indian handloom products), and c) non-violence (which is a mode of passive resistance against the colonial force). In *Midnight's Children*, time is used as a conceptual metaphor within which the English language is stylistically adapted to narrate the child-nation allegory suffused with magical-realism.

Last but not the least, the English of Raja Rao is cool and serves as the important landmark of creative adaptation whereas the English of Rushdie is like a mine-field of explosion. Rushdie has unleashed a style that exhibits a sort of linguistic post-modernism. In Rushdie, anagrammatical constructions describe the linguistic deficiency of a character whereas the post-modernist experiments demand embryonic pressure on language to break down and expand beyond its limits. The aim is to stand up to new experiences or emerging value systems. English language has, thus, undergone a significant transformation in the novels of Raja Rao and Salman Rushdie.

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Intersectional Feminism in Khalid Hossaini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Dr. Vibha Bhoot*

[Interaction enhances our understanding of sexes. The perceptions are created and then these perceptions exert a powerful opinion about the sexes. Sometimes stronger and deeper gulfs develop to separate a man from a woman. When we are able to narrow down the gulf, we are feminists. So, patriarchy is everyday sexism and, it envelops misogyny. It widens the aforesaid gulfs. Therefore, it produces gender inequality. Being a web of relationships and ideas, patriarchy has its own dynamism. Patriarchy with its exclusivity compels feminism. If there is an oppressive system then there are forces against it.]

Patriarchy contributes to gender equality as it defines roles for genders. Power is distributed in the hands of men. Public, business enterprises, all comprise of men who move the society according to a pattern and refuse to change. There is an array of Indian writers who have smashed patriarchy- Savitri Bai Phule, Amrita Pritam, Mahasweta Devi, Kamla Das etc. The discrimination is triggered on the basis of biological differences. It's a patriarchal bias that has been in continuation for centuries and the "weaker sex" has been imposed with a nomenclature!

Women are the subject of discrimination and women are blamed for the same too. The answer is complicated yet there is a problem within the framework of other problems. The question is that does a culture maketh man or a man maketh culture? When we talk of Harvard University, they took 237 years to allow or admit the first woman as their student. Cambridge and Oxford took a longer duration of time – more than 260 years! This is not an exhaustive watch list but an eye opener to the fact that how denied women were. How denied they are! Our thoughts navigate on the topic because one is compelled to think that – has patriarchy given birth to feminism? Yes, it has.

Nature creates diversity but has nature created hierarchy? Has nature created inequality? When it comes to resources, ideology and decision-making, men are an edge above. The idea of just being married becomes a life-time achievement for women. A process of normalization happened and the idea got seeped in the patriarchal system of the society. With no cure for the problem for centuries, women shouted out loud against anxieties, oppressions and fears and therein feminism was born. To change the political rhetoric prevailing in the society, to give women a breathing space, to provide equal opportunities and allow the women to create a world without discrimination on the basis of sex.

One can always say that I am a feminist. The question here is that do I hate men? No, I hate patriarchy. Patriarchy is compelling the societal system to go erstwhile. So, 50% of the humanity should hate patriarchy. One example of fighting out the rights for equal pay cheque can be stated here – The Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 at the US. Lily Ledbetter had to go to the court for equal pay as her male counterparts in the tyre company Goodyear. President Barack Obama signed the Act in 2009 whereas women were allowed equal pay for equal work just in 2009! How about years before that?

Yes, Oxford and Cambridge were not sailing in different boats! So, in literal way men ruled the world! It was right long back when physical power was needed for survival, yes men ruled the world, but not now. Today we live in a vastly different world. Now more creative, intellectually superior and humane lead the world. We have evolved but not our ideas about the gender have evolved. A woman is just worthy and human as man. Gender issues need the anger to be dealt with. This anger is important to bring about a positive change.

To a larger extent, it depends on how we raise our sons. We play a gimmick on the poor boys in the shape that we put them in a cage of masculinity. We cripple their thinking faculties and they become unable to think out of the cage. We teach them to mask their truer self because we tell them that men can't be vulnerable. We stifle the humanity of boys. We teach them to be away from fear because the masochistic psychology doesn't allow that. Nature doesn't label us. We label ourselves the biggest hierarchy that is created in the world is man v/s woman.

Patriarchy is global and so the violence and inequality are global. For some patriarchy may be closely related to hetero normativity, cast, class etc. So, when patriarchy includes institutionalized sexism, we can say that kyriarchy envelops all types of inequality. If we consider the oppression of a woman by considering her sex, it would be injustice as she may either be oppressed or

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privileged because of other aspects – social, economic or political privilege etc. So, if we want to study kyriarchy, we cannot ignore the inter sectionality of the oppressions or privileges.

Kyriarchy is useful for intersectional feminism because oppression is about institutionally and systematic repression and not about simple discrimination. Let's take an example of a woman who is being mocked at by some for belonging to the kitchen. Now it's not just about being in the kitchen, it's about her being denied proper education the job market, equal pay etc. It's the issue about the gender-based violence.

Mockery for belonging to kitchen may have hurt her emotionally but the oppressive state talks of deeper issues – women being presented as emotionally weak, irrational, not worthy of exposure to job/business world or commercial groups, education system etc. These institutions enforce oppression. So, it's all about stereotypes of all sexes. We can say that oppression cannot exist in isolation. It's too complicated as several factors pile up to create the pressure within an oppressive state – habits, culture tradition, force domination etc. Feminists call the institution of sexism as “the patriarchy”.

So, it talks about gender inequality in its broader perspective, ignoring the undercurrent waves which create oppression. Therefore, the term “kyriarchy” is in accordance with intersectional feminism. A Dalit woman is raped and we can't say that she was oppressed due to her gender. She is poor, she is Dalit and she is a woman! Injustice, lack of freedom, violence and patriarchy contribute to her oppression! One more aspect to feminism is – self-stereotyping. Patriarchy compels women to underestimate themselves and think about men as more capable and worthy of power and position. Low confidence levels encourage lack of self-esteem and self-efficacy.

Negative stereotyping is a condition that justifies the existing system. Internalization of such a state cannot challenge the existing state. Reeling with toxic and everyday sexism, the personality of a person changes and she is eventually siphoned into more oppressive state which include many other behind the door situations.

When all those happen together in a sequential or parallel way, we can call that intersectional feminism and precisely kyriarchy. *The Thousand Splendid Suns* is a story of two women, Mariam and Laila who were married to the same man. The events in the novel last for approximately forty years, when Mariam is a teenager in early 1970's to 2001, when Laila is settled with a family in Kabul. Women remained somewhat free till Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was integrated into Islamic states as Afghan Prime Minister in 1996. During the

four-year civil war, the women faced overboard violence and were unreasonably exploited.

During this, the Taliban also made their way and took the control of Kabul. Their leader was Mullah Omar. Women weren't allowed to leave their homes unescorted. Women had to be covered fully and they were denied formal education. Since most of the Afghani teachers were women before the Talibans, there was a huge shortage of teachers because women were under house arrest for almost five years. Al-Qaeda commanders were unbearably atrocious and cruel towards women. They were preposterously imposing and extremely brutal.

A constant threat of getting killed or getting monstrously raped haunted the women. They were laid on with a trowel furthermore with the entering of the Talibans. Even when Malala Yousafzai was attacked after she spoke for the importance of education in October 2012, the world was taken aback by the atrocities¹ which were confounded on the young women for their basic right like education. The book *I am Malala: The story of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban* speaks volumes about the cruel Talibanis and their assassination attempt made against Yousafzai.

Afghanistan was horror-stricken in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The women were marginalized politically, culturally, socially and even physically. Patriarchy took a cruel shape and women were the victims. Bell Hooks in her *Understanding Patriarchy* states that “Patriarchy is a political-social system that insists males are inherently dominating superior to everything and everyone deemed weak, especially females and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain that dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence.”

Patriarchal subjugation involves oppression at many levels. Commodification of women, gender discrimination right at the level of the birth of a girl, lack of facilities, lack of education etc. make the condition miserable. Right from Nana to Aziza, there is discrimination in several shapes. The toxic relationship between the genders develops a horrid picture in the book. The first sentence of the part one “Mariam was five years old the first time she heard the word *harami*” (3) speaks volumes for her plight that stood for her in future. Mariam's mother Nanas sentence describes of the destiny of a woman, “Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always you remember that, Mariam.” (ATSS,7)

Right through the text, the repressive ideological structures work and women suffer violence. Nana is not taken care of even while giving birth to Mariam. She cut her umbilical cord with a knife she kept by her side after giving birth to Mariam. Jalil was absent and “He had not

shrugged” (ATSS,12), upon receiving the news even. Illnesses of women was considered to be a “jinn” entering their bodies.

Afghan patriarch decided the fate of a woman. “In this most essential way, she had faded him – seven times. She had failed him – and now she was nothing but a burden to him. She could see it in the way he looked at her. When he looked at her, she was a burden to him.” (ATSS, 98)

If the food wasn’t done to satisfy his palette, then “he shoved two fingers in her mouth and pried it open, then forced the cold, hard pebbles into it.” (ATSS, 102) “CHEW!” he screamed. “Then he was gone, leaving Mariam to spit out pebbles, blood, and the fragments of two broken molars” (ATSS, 103). Aziza, Laila’s daughter faced similar treatment, well almost. Her condition aggravated when Zalmai was born. She was scoffed at, while Zalmai had the preference for toys, eatables and pampering by Rasheed.

Though the patriarchs propagate religion, that has to be followed strictly by all, yet women have more responsibilities as they are an easy target. Rasheed is pretentiously devout to Islam because Islam gives equal rights to women, whereas he was biased enough to be ignoring the needs of women. Rasheed insists that his women should wear burqa, even when Islam doesn’t make it compulsory. He believes that a woman must not show her face to anyone but her husband. “When women come uncovered; they talk to me directly, look me in the eye without shame ... They don’t see that they’re spoiling their own *nang* and *namoos*, their honor and pride”. (ATSS, 69)

Under the garb of Islam, the religion and patriarchal domination flourishes and patriarchal domination flourishes. Islam becomes a tool to satisfy men like Rasheed because they need a support to provide to what they are saying is prescribed code of conduct for women. Women like Mariam live a life of confinement believing these men because either they are left uneducated or they become used to tolerating the atrocities for a lifetime – a beguiling patriarch like Rasheed, was present in almost all wives’ life. Even Jalil uses Islam to impose restrictions upon women in the book.

Men take the opportunity of Islam allowing four wives (actually under restricted conditions) and marry women to satisfy their carnal desires. Eventually, the status of women is denigrated and none of the wives enjoy the status of becoming a wife. All spend a life of confined servile fidelity for the man.

The political changes, when the Taliban took over Afghanistan, affected women tremendously and gravely. Taliban had self-pride and so they exercised their power. In Khalid Hussain’s *A kite Runner*, the power of the Taliban forms the crux of the book. The political turmoil

of Afghanistan is shown when Aseef tells Amir during their final confrontation that Taliban wants to get rid of the Afghanistan of garbage in the name of Quran. He believes that he is a killer due to the will of God and Taliban is the radical version of Islam. In the name of ethnic cleansing as projected in the book, the Taliban would throw the garbage out of Afghanistan.

When the political situations changed in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, there was devastating violence. Looting, murders, rape and the intimidation of the civilians in the name of honor were rampant. When Mariam and Laila tried to escape from their tyrant husband, they were caught by police who accused them of moving around without a mahram (a male guardian). Taliban used religion as a political weapon to impose conditions on women. Women were objects to be used by men – physically, mentally and emotionally. Women were used for continuing their progeny and at the same time women enjoyed no respect for doing the same.

The forbiddance rules are enumerated on the page no. 271 of the book which includes everything related from a girl child to a grown-up woman – education, dress code, freedom of speech, cosmetics, etc. If a woman is found guilty of adultery she can be stoned to death. All this in the name of the holy Quran was being propagated by the Taliban. On one hand it was Taliban who imposed rules for women. On the other hand, there were people like Laila’s father, Hakim Khan, who believed that education is must for everyone to grow – be it man or a woman.

Sushmita Banerjee wrote *Kabuliwala Bangali Bou* in 1995. It is a record of Bengali girl who had fallen victim into the hands of Taliban. She had married an Afghan businessman and thereafter she went to Afghanistan with him only to endure the gender apartheid prevalent in Afghanistan. Gender segregation and the wrong imposing of the rules of Islam lead to the social and economic disempowerment of individuals. Forced confinement of women led to depression, isolation and stress. Lack of medical facilities for women is one of the major causes of female mortality.

In *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Laila underwent a C-section without anesthesia. She could have been dead, but she survived so to say. The average age of a woman was 51 years only because of the lack of medical facilities. If a woman was found wearing nail paint then the tip of her thumb was cut. If she wasn’t found clad in a burqa or if she wore the dress against the Sharia code of dress then she could be lashed on legs and back. Insult and whipping women were a common everyday thing. If a woman murdered her husband then she was executed openly.

The women in the text (though not tortured to that level) were denied rights and self-esteem. As Hossaini puts it,

a system of oppressive conditions continued till Laila meets her lover Tariq and they unite to live in peace. Here we come across oppression as a series of institutionally divided conditions that work together to create an oppressive state sexism, patriarchy, violence, cultural imperialism, political discrimination etc. – all the forces work together to create the oppressive state of a woman. Mariam dies and ends the story of a woman who was confined and oppressed in several ways. The intersectionality of these states creates a kyriarchal approach. This paper was an attempt to study the various angles of the oppression working together. Subjugated womanhood was a result of the intersectional feminism.

Yet the spirit to fight back and finally achieve a life of belongingness negated society's abstract convention. The voices of inner desires were heard and sisterhood contributed to the fulfillment of dreams.

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Role of Houseplants in Indoor Air Pollution Abatement and Psychological Wellbeing of its Inhabitants

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[Indoor air pollution has been a major concern in modern times. This article aims at explaining the ability of indoor plants as an interesting tool in reducing indoor pollution and improving the indoor environment which may positively affect the productivity and work satisfaction of the inhabitants]

Air pollution is the mixing of the unwanted substances in the air that causes health hazards. Indoor air pollution is build up in confined spaces of modern buildings possibly due to new building materials. In a bid to conserve energy resources, buildings, homes, offices, schools etc. have been designed as more energy efficient. These offices and homes have a tighter construction, sealing the buildings from outside air. As a result the pollutants which cause indoor air pollution accumulate in dangerous level in these buildings. People are spending 70 – 90% of their time indoors and therefore continued exposure to indoor air pollution can develop symptoms like upper respiratory problems, eye, nose, throat irritation, asthma, allergies, dizziness, fatigue, headache, skin allergies, sinus congestion and nervous system disorders.

Causes of indoor air pollution

Combustion by products like carbon monoxide, nitrogen and sulphur dioxides, formaldehyde and smoke produced by gas ranges, water heater, cloth dryers, microwaves, and cooktop play a major role in indoor air pollution. According to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases and can be released either from liquids or solids. EPA mentions that VOC levels can be up to 10 times higher indoor when compared to outdoors. Formaldehyde and styrene are two VOCs that are listed as known carcinogens and along with acetone are shown to cause

other serious health effects. (Aydogan and Montoya, 2011). These are constituents of 'Sick Building Syndromes' or SBS (Redlich, Sparer and Cullen, 1997). Formaldehyde occurs from wood based products, wall coverings, rubber paint, adhesives, lubricants, cosmetics, electronic equipment and combustion. It is also found in carpets, curtains and paper product. Newly built or remodelled residencies are often found to release high level of formaldehyde and the level of formaldehyde generally decrease with the age of the product. Styrene is a colourless liquid used in manufacture of rubber and plastics and a component of packing and insulation materials, fibre glass, pipes, carpet backing and paints. Acetone is used in the production of methylacrylates and is solvent for coatings, printing inks, adhesives cleaning material etc.

Benefits of Interior Plants

Since times immemorial plants have been used to decorate our homes both outdoors and indoors. In modern times people have been increasingly living and working indoors and have been using indoor plants to add aesthetic beauty, to mitigate indoor pollution as well as improving the well-being and comfort. Scientific studies have corroborated the positive effect of indoor plants for a cleaner air and of the indoor environment and also intangible health benefits like increased productivity, stress reduction, pain reduction etc.

Improving indoor air quality

Wolvetron et. al.(1985) stated that plants decrease the amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) through

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various processes within the plant thus decreasing the harmful effect of VOCs in the human body. The reduction in the level of pollutants was largely due to bacteria growing in the roots. Xu Wang and Hou (2011) elaborated that plant soil removed greater amount of formaldehyde in the day time as compared to night time. They absorbed the formaldehyde and metabolised it. One part of formaldehyde is oxidised to carbondioxide in Calvin Cycle while the other is incorporated into the organism.

Maintaining Relative Humidity

Plants release water vapour via transpiration through the leaves into the atmosphere thereby increasing relative humidity. Lohr (1992) has documented that plants can raise the relative humidity levels to comfortable levels in interior spaces. He showed that even when less than 2% space was occupied by plants, relative humidity was raised from 25% (without plants) to 30% (with plants). Increase in relative humidity has a relaxing effect on the inhabitants. High transpiration rates can also induce convection currents that pulls toxin laden gases of the interior environment towards the roots. Around the roots the soil borne microbes might break down these toxic gases as a source of food and energy.

Reduction of Particulate Matter

Plants growing indoors have been effective as potential dust accumulators. Plants kept in the corners of rooms have been found to reduce particulate matter by 20% even in the centre of the room many metres away from the plants.

Noise Reduction

Plants can help to reduce background noise levels inside buildings upto 5 decibels. Sound waves of different frequencies get diffracted, deflected, absorbed and reflected by interior plants. All parts of the plants - root, leaves, stem and trunk absorb sound. They reduce the levels of reverberations by absorbing vibrations. However the percentage reduction of the level of sound depended upon the frequency of the sound and position of interior plants. Strategic positioning of the plants so that the surface area exposed to noise is maximised may serve as an effective way to dampen intensity of sound in interiors which was similar to adding a carpet to a room. Recent researchers have found that plants worked best at reducing high frequency sounds in room with hard surfaces.

Psychological well being

Studies conducted on the effect of indoor foliage on health and discomfort among office workers showed reduction in cough by 37% and fatigue by 30%. A significant reduction in neuro-psychological symptoms (fatigue, headache, dizziness and concentration

problems) and mucous membrane symptoms (irritation in eyes, runny or stuffy nose, dry or hoarse throat, cough etc.) were observed by Fjeld (2000). Participants responded positively to the feeling of wellbeing with plants in the working area and agreed to the statements 'I am comfortable if I have plants in my office'. People also felt 'carefree and playful' and more 'friendly or affectionate' in a room with interior plants than in a room with colourful objects (Lorh and Pearson-Mims 2000).

Increase in Productivity or output

Presence of plants in a room had beneficial effect on mental alertness. When any task was provided people reacted more quickly when plants were in a room than a room without plants (Lorh et. al. 1996). Though reaction time was 12% faster, there was no increase in the error rate indicating increase in productivity. Studies on classroom performances with or without plants were also conducted. Two of the schools under study showed significant improvements (10 to 14%) in performances in spelling, mathematics and science. Improvement of 10% or more in these fundamental subjects are regarded as significant in a student's progress.

Relief from pain and stress

25% decrease in complains were observed radiology department of hospitals after changing the environment of a hospital by adding plants and full spectrum light. In a particular study when people were subjected to pain (by placing their hand in ice water and removal at anytime according to their will) it was noticed that people in rooms with plants have a greater capacity to keep their mind off discomfort. Colourful objects did not have the same effect. In another study a set of people were randomly given a task on computer under two different conditions – (1) where there were no plants in a room and (2) When plants were placed within the peripheral vision of the people. While performing the task systolic blood pressure rose in both the groups indicating that the task was stressful. But in the group with plants around them, the rise in B.P. was appreciably lower. The studies therefore evoke stress reducing effects similar to that evoked by nature. (Dijkstra et. al. 2008).

Conclusion

Air quality of the indoor environment can be improved artificially by increasing the ventilation process through the installation of exhaust fans, High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters, using formaldehyde free wood products, water based paints and low emission building products. On the other hand few species indoor plants like *Dyospis lutescens* (Areca Palm), *Chamodorea elegans* (Bamboo Palm), *Nephrolepis exaltata* (Boston fern), *Dracena fragrans* (Corn plant), *Hedera helix* (English Ivy) etc. can be effectively used to curb the

menace of indoor air pollution and passively have a positive psychological effect in the indoor environment.

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Perfectionism in Relation to Goal-Orientation of Undergraduate Students

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[The current study was conducted to investigate perfectionism in relation to goal orientation of undergraduate students. The sample of the study comprised 500 randomly selected undergraduate students of science stream studying in different colleges affiliated to Guru Nanak Dev University, situated in Amritsar district, Punjab (India). The data was collected by using Almost Perfect Scale – Revised by Slaney, Rice, Mobley, Trippi, & Ashby, 2001 and goal orientation scale developed by the investigator. The result of the study revealed significant positive relation between standard and order dimensions of perfectionism and goal orientation among undergraduate students. The findings of the study also revealed significant gender differences with regard to standard and discrepancy dimensions of perfectionism in favour of female science undergraduates and learning approach and performance approach dimensions of goal orientation in favour of male science undergraduates.]

Perfectionism is considered to be an influential attitude about whatever you do in your life, it must be done perfectly with no mistakes, deviations or inconsistencies. Individuals who hold perfectionist traits generally set excessively high expectations and define their self-worth with regard to the outcomes or achievements of the tasks. Burns (1980) stated perfectionism as a network of cognitions which included expectations, evaluation and interpretation of events.

Perfectionism is a personality trait characterized by an individual's striving for flawlessness and setting excessively high-performance standards. When perfectionists fail to reach their goals, they often

experience depression. Greenspon (2008) defined "perfectionism is the desire to be faultless, a fear of imperfection, equating errors as personal defect, and viewing perfection as the only route to personal acceptance." Perfectionism is considered to be "striving for flawlessness" (Hibbard, 2011). According to Hewitt and Flett (1991), "Perfectionism refers to a multidimensional phenomenon composed of self-oriented, other-oriented, and socially prescribed perfectionism" (Chang, 2006).

Self-oriented perfectionism "refers to the tendency for an individual to set and seek high self-standards of performance. Other-oriented refers to the tendency for an individual to expect that others should or will be perfect in their performance. Socially prescribed perfectionism refers to the tendency for an individual to believe that others expect perfection from him or her"

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(Chang, 2006). The distinction between these three types of perfectionism helps to understand the psychological dysfunctions that are associated with the individuals.

Goal orientation is developing as an important motivational construct which affects teaching-learning process. Goal orientation theory is based on the postulation that human behaviour is regulated by his goals and aims to achieve a purpose. In learning process, goal – orientation can be described as a student’s unique trait which states why a student adopts a goal of a learning task and how much he/ she is enthusiastic to accomplish it. Mastery of goal orientation is related to students’ internal motivation to achieve new knowledge and skills for self – improvement (Brett & Vande Walle 1999). Performance orientation, which is also known as competitive outcome, or ego-orientation, helps to measure success relative to the performance of others on a given task (Anderson & Dixon, 2009).

Damian, Stoeber, Negru and Baban (2014) found that socially prescribed perfectionism positively predicted performance-approach orientation. Ståhlberg, J. (2015) indicated that the adaptive perfectionists were prone to adopt mastery-extrinsic, mastery-intrinsic and performance-approach achievement goal orientations. On the other hand, the maladaptive perfectionists adopted performance-avoidance goal orientations.

Miller, Speirs and Kristie (2017) showed that both self-oriented and socially prescribed perfectionism were positively associated with performance goal orientation.

Objectives

1. To study the relationship between perfectionism and goal orientation among undergraduate science students.
2. To study the significance of difference in perfectionism among male and female undergraduate science students.
3. To study the significance of difference in goal orientation among male and female undergraduate science students

Hypotheses

H01: There exists no significant relationship between different dimensions of perfectionism and measures of goal orientation of undergraduate science students.

H02: There exists no significant difference in different dimensions of perfectionism of undergraduate male and female undergraduate science students

H03: There exists no significant difference in different dimensions of goal orientation among male and female undergraduate science students

Methodology

In the present study Descriptive survey method was used for data collection.

Sample

The study was conducted on a sample of 500 Undergraduate science students studying in degree colleges situated in Amritsar district of Punjab and affiliated to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Random sampling method was adopted for the selection of students.

Tools

1. Almost Perfect Scale – Revised by Slaney, Rice, Mobley, Trippi, & Ashby, 2001. The APS–R contains three subscales: Standards (perfectionistic strivings; high personal performance expectations), Discrepancy (perfectionistic concerns; the perceived gap between personal standards and one’s evaluation of having met those standards), and Order (preference for organization).
2. Goal orientation scale constructed by investigator. It contains four sub dimensions: Learning Approach, Learning Avoidance, Performance Approach, Performance Avoidance.

Statistical Techniques used

The obtained data were analysed by employing Karl Pearson coefficient of correlation and students t test.

Results and Discussion

H01: There exists no significant relationship between different dimensions of perfectionism and measures of goal orientation of undergraduate science students. The hypothesis was tested by computing Karl Pearson Product Moment Coefficient of Correlation. The results are entered in Table 1

Table 1: Showing the coefficient of correlation between different dimensions of perfectionism and measures of goal orientation among undergraduate science students(N=500)

	Learning approach	Learning Avoidance	Perfor approach	Perfor avoidance	Total Goal entation
Standard	.297**	-.097*	-.010	.068	.160**
P	.00	.01	.41	.06	.00
Order	.071	-.036	.112*	.009	.089*
P	.06	.21	.01	.43	.02
Discrepancy	.003	-.027	.004	.105*	.031
P	.48	.28	.47	.01	.24

From Table 1 it is clear that there exists significant positive correlation between standard dimension of perfectionism with learning approach dimension (r=.297, p<.05) and negative significant correlation with learning avoidance dimension of goal orientation. This clearly shows that undergraduate students who score high on standard dimension score high on learning approach and low on learning avoidance dimensions of goal orientation while standard dimension of perfectionism is not correlated to performance approach as well as performance avoidance dimensions of goal orientation

Further, Table 1 also depicts a significant positive correlation of order dimension of perfectionism with performance approach ($r=.112, p<.05$) which indicates that undergraduate students who are having higher preferences for organization and neatness have a good deal of ability and wish to measure themselves as against others' performance. A significant positive correlation of discrepancy with performance avoidance ($r=.105, p<.05$) indicates that undergraduate science students having high scores in discrepancy also score high on performance avoidance. Besides, Table 1 depicts that only standard dimension and order dimensions are significantly correlated with total goal orientation.

An examination of shows that t value between male and female science undergraduate students is significant

with regard to standard dimension ($t=5.82$) and discrepancy dimensions of perfectionism. This indicates that male and female science undergraduates differ with regard to standard and discrepancy dimensions while no significant gender difference exist with regard to order dimension of perfectionism. Further high mean scores of females (Mean= 29.10) on standard shows that female undergraduates possess high personal standards and performance expectations as compared to their male counterparts (Mean= 23.93). The high mean scores of females on discrepancy dimension (Mean=40.92) shows that they also have high perceptions that they fail to meet high standards as compared to male science undergraduates (Mean= 30.50).

Table 2: t values between male and female undergraduate Science Students with regard to Goal Orientation.

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Learning Approach	Male	250	21.89	6.58	2.08	.05
Learning Avoidance	Female	250	20.64	6.84	.018	Not significant
	Male	250	16.14	4.99		
	Female	250	16.13	5.12		
Performance Approach	Male	250	20.56	5.43	2.55	.05
	Female	250	19.27	5.83		
Performance Avoidance	Male	250	15.40	3.73	1.40	Not Significant
	Female	250	15.93	4.61		

Table 2 shows that t value between male and female science undergraduate students is significant with regard to Learning approach dimension ($t=2.08$) and performance approach dimension ($t=2.55$) of goal orientation. This indicates that male and female science undergraduates differ with regard to learning approach and performance approach dimensions while no significant gender difference exist with regard to learning avoidance and performance avoidance dimensions of goal orientation. Further high mean scores of male students (Mean =21.89) on the learning approach dimension indicates that they are more involved in completely learning an academic task as compared to female undergraduate (Mean =20.64) also males strive to do well in comparison with other students than female science undergraduates as mean scores of male students (Mean= 20.56) are higher on performance approach dimension than mean scores of their female counterparts (Mean= 19.27).

Conclusions

The findings of the study reveal a significant positive correlation of standard and order dimensions of perfectionism with total goal orientation. Significant gender differences exist with regard to standard and discrepancy dimensions of perfectionism in favour of females and learning approach and performance approach dimensions of goal orientation in favour of males

Educational Implications

The findings of the study revealed a positive correlation of standard and order dimensions of perfectionism with goal orientation so in the light of the findings of the study it is suggested that school personnel who desire to make students adaptive perfectionists should cultivate the students' learning approach and performance-approach goal orientations. This is possible by motivating them to engage in learning activities in order to acquire knowledge and learn skills by completely understanding them rather by avoiding those situations. Teachers can influence the students to adopt learning orientation in classroom by changing classroom goal structure and teaching necessary learning strategies in order to make them set their standards.

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Socio-Legal Implications of Geographical Indications in Odisha

Chinmaya K. Mohapatra* & Prof. (Dr.) Madhu S. Dash**

[This paper enumerates upon how a GI tag lends protection to an authentic item, if the novel character of the item can be demonstrated to have a particular quality, unique to the geological location wherefrom the item is produced, and which may not be recreated to a same standard in some other area. Most parts of this paper deal with how Odisha handlooms are secured through GI in order to prevent them from getting unjustifiably ripped off by corporate giants, by pushing the traditional weavers into enormous losses. Odisha has just received GI Tag assurance for Odisha Ikkat, Khandua Saree, Kotpad Handloom and Gopalpur Tussar Fabrics. The Handicraft Products of Odisha ensured under GI incorporates Konark Stone Carvings, Odisha Pattachitra and Pipli Applique Work. Likewise, two of the Agricultural Products have assurance under GI which are Ganjam Kewda Rooh and Ganjam Kewda Flower.]

Each locale has its specialty, where every unique technique for manufacturing of products or any produce, special to the area was deliberately developed and carefully kept up by the experts of that area, consolidating the best of man and nature, which allowed these unique traditions to continue to reap profit from one age onto the next for quite a long time. Slowly, a particular connection between the merchandise and spot of creation developed bringing about development of geographical indications around the world.

The Necessity of Assigning Geographical Indications

The entire purpose, historically speaking, of the Indications of geographical origins is to assign a particular repute to the product. This has proved to promote development in rural areas and peeked the consumer interest in cultures unique to certain people and places. It has definitely helped in the growth of various sections of the market attributed to 'organic farming' or 'historically authentic' and so forth. Moreover, one cannot dismiss the protection a GI lends to the indigenous community and a strategic attempt to reward the traditional knowledge accumulated by these communities. In the eyes of law, it is basically a collective right enjoyed by the indigenous people as long as the 'good-place-quality' link is maintained.¹

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However, one cannot disregard the disadvantages posed by the GI's, the most imminent of which is the possibility of misappropriation of the knowledge due to its presence in the public domain. This raises the pertinent problem of overlapping of leading to the grant of IPRs on similar subject matters.

Legislation Pertaining to Geographical Indications

During the conference at TRIPS a discussion followed with respect to the nature and extent of assurance to be allowed to geographical indications.² Essentially, two distinct ways to deal with ensuring them arose. The first depends on the existing unfair trade practices law and intellectual property legal framework, as for example, the US, contended that topographical signs are adequately secured within the aforementioned current legal system.

The second way to deal with securing geological signs is through enactment explicitly intended for this reason. The European Union, for instance, contended that they are not adequately ensured inside existing laws on trademark and in this manner requested sui generis security along with the creation of a multilateral register.

The TRIPS Agreement wasn't prescriptive in its way to deal with GI security and required that the members of this agreement create the required legal framework for the protection of geographical indications. Nations were subsequently allowed to control the safeguarding of geological signs at public level, as long as it goes along the base norms set by TRIPS.³

In the year 1999, the Indian Parliament passed the "Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999". This Act tries to accommodate the enrolment and better safeguards to geographical indications with relation to with products manufactured in India. The Act would be directed by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks and who also happens to be the Registrar of Geographical Indications.⁴

Brief Elucidation of the Act

Any consortium of people, marketers, associations or authority set up by or under the law can apply for registration of GI Tags as per Section 6 of the aforementioned Act. The candidate is required to bear the same interest as that of the producers. The application for registration ought to be recorded in written format and in the recommended structure provided by law. Lastly, the application ought to be routed to the Registrar of Geographical Indications alongside endorsed expense.

A producer of the merchandise can apply for enrolment as an 'authorised user' and it should be in regard to the enlisted GI Tags. The people managing three classes of merchandise are covered under the term 'Producer'; agrarian goods, which incorporates the creation, handling, exchanging or managing, natural goods which includes exchanging or managing, handiworks or

industrial products which incorporates production, assembling, exchanging or managing.

The next question that arises is whether the registration is deemed to be mandatory under the Act. Registration is not compulsory, but it is indeed preferred as it helps manage the cost for better lawful security and provides avenues in case of encroachment over one's rights and the registered owners and authorised users are allowed to commence actions against such infringements. It also ensures the exclusivity of use of such the rights by the authorized users.⁵

Furthermore, the validity of a GI tag registration is for a period of ten years. It can be renewed at a time for a period of ten years. Any failure to renew a geographical indication registration shall lead to its removal from the register.⁶ However, a geographical indication is deemed to be a public property and so it cannot be assigned or transferred in any manner. It cannot be allowed to stand as security against any agreement such as a mortgage or pledge. On the occasion of death of the authorised user, the right stands vested on his/her legal heir.

Yet another pertinent aspect that requires elucidation is the need to distinguish between a GI Tag and a Trademark. The former is a sign to recognize products having unique qualities and belonging to a distinct topographical region, whereas the latter is a sign which is utilized in the practice of business and it discern products of one venture from those of different undertakings.⁷

Infringement of Registered Geographical Indications

At the point when an unapproved user utilizes a GI tag registered product or technique or proposes that such merchandise hails from a geological zone other than the genuine spot of the registered GI tag of such products in a way which delude general society with respect to the topographical root of such merchandise is said to cause infringement of a registered geographical indication. Infringement also occurs⁸ when spurious goods are portrayed to be a product of the enlisted geographical indicator in order to deceive the public.

The Economic Footprints of Gi Tags

Trademarks act as a criterion which allows consumers to conquer market information irregularity, at least to some length. It aids customers in matters of decision making and serves to keep fraudulent products at bay. Trademarks impart a sense of reliability and stature. It also designates a source. It is a way to recognize quality while making a purchase. This inspires customers to return and repurchase the goods leading to cumulation of goodwill.

Geographical Indications are not limited to any single concern or undertaking. It is a benefit bestowed on every enterprise operating within a circumscribed territory which allows the use of the GI tag.⁹ Geographical Indications go beyond from being a mere tool of tying a particular product to a place. It accredits local

manufacturers with prominence and prestige and enhances their ability to trade without intermediaries, so accordingly, acting as a successful competition against mega-corps.

This kind of specification earmarks the rights of every person who can enjoy the rights and at the same time also protects them against third parties, which is a negative obligation and gives rise to the question of compensation on breach.¹⁰

Influence of GI Tags on the Economy of Odisha

It is only apt that some of the pertinent GI tags granted to Odisha be briefly discussed along with its economic advantages enjoyed by the indigenous community.

Kewda Rooh

Popular for its sweet flowery fragrance, the Kewda Rooh is most commonly utilized as cosmetic ingredient as well as for herbal medication purposes. It also lends its fragrance to toiletries and edible products such as soft drinks and other flavoured beverages.

Stone Carving at the Konark Sun Temple

The stone carving of the sculptures found in the Konark Sun Temple of Odisha shows a unique craftsmanship over serpentine stone, the origin of which can be traced back to the 13th Century A.D. Application for registration was made and accepted under Section 13(1) of the Geographic Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999 bearing Application Number 87. These soft stones can quite easily be carved with the help of very simple tools at a very cheap cost. Sahana Pathar which are the soft stones and Khadi Pathar which are the hard stones are mostly found in abundance in the Northern located districts of Balasore and Mayurbhanj in the State of Odisha.

Stone carving has offered livelihood to a massive number of artisans in Odisha and they are mostly found in huge concentrations around the more central districts of Puri, Khorda and Cuttack. The horde of tourists attracted in this eastern zone of India provides a ready market for these skilled stone merchants. This skill also enjoys massive range of product variety and what makes it most interesting is its demand in the international market. It shows promise to further expand its product base as well as its volume of production.

Odisha Pattachitras

Pattachitras are famous canvas or palm leaf paintings which depict various excerpts from various folklores, Hindu epics which date back to the 8th century A.D, are popular for their vibrant colours and unique display of poses of Odissi and art depicting various scenes from Mahabharat and Ramayana and the life of Vishnu. The craftsmen dealing with this art are mostly practicing farmers who are looking to make an extra buck. There is no dearth of raw materials and mostly excel in the manufacture of paper mache, wooden toys and coconut shell paintings which are not uncommon amongst these folks.

Pipli work

It is a unique form of stitchery created by joining small pieces of cloth, decorated with designs on an underlying fabric. Their products encompass from as simple as table-cloths and lamp shades to a more grandeur range of fancy garden umbrellas and vanity purses for woman.

This form of craft had always been an integral part of the livelihoods of the villagers of Puri and Khorda. They had gained vast unparalleled reputation through their association to the worship of Lord Jagannath. Their steady demand has ensured the

sustainability of these artisans in the ever-growing globalized market. The registration of the Pipli Applique work has ensured protection for these craftsmen, better publicity for this trade and has contributed in job creation for rural womenfolk.

Conclusion

Even though Dhalapathar Parda and Fabrics, Sambhalpuri Bandha Saree, Bomkai and Habaspuri Saree and Kandhamal haladi were granted GI Tag in the recent past, one feels the necessity to include Cuttack Filigree work under the protection of GI as they stand the risk of exploitation by large production houses. The exponentially talented weavers from Odisha require guidance in the form of marketing, in order to enlarge their customer base and pique the interest of the international market. Moreover, the role of the government cannot be downplayed because only they can help to protect and defend the GI granted to these various markets.

Notes

1. Kasturi Das, "Socioeconomic Implications of Protecting Geographical Indications in India", Center for WTO Studies, p.3.
2. Section 2(e) of Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, defines "geographical indication", as "in relation to goods, means an indication which identifies such goods as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating, or manufactured in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of such goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin and in case where such goods are manufactured goods one of the activities of either the production or of processing or preparation of the goods concerned takes place in such territory, region or locality, as the case may be."
3. See, "What are the benefits of GI tags and how are they awarded?" The Hindu Net Desk May 25, 2020 10:14 IST, URL: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/what-are-gi-tags-and-how-are-they-awarded/article31667981.ece>.
4. See, "Geographical indicators", Department of Promotion of Industry And Internal Trade. Government of India. URL: <http://www.ipindia.nic.in/gi.htm>
5. See, Ritik Dwivedi. "Geographical Indicators" Latest laws.com, URL: <https://www.latestlaws.com/articles/all-about-geographical-indications-of-goods-act-1999-by-ritik-dwivedi/>
6. Section 4 of the aforementioned Act deals with the "Power of Registrar to Withdraw or Transfer Cases etc."
7. Cerkia Bramley, Estelle Biénabe And Johann Kirsten. "The Economics Of Geographical Indications: Towards A Conceptual Framework For Geographical Indication Research In Developing Countries", The Economics Of Intellectual Property, p. 4.
8. Section 22 of the aforementioned Act deals with the "Infringement or Registered Geographical Indications".
9. Dwijen Rangnekar. "The Socio-Economics of Geographical Indications: A Review of Empirical Evidence from Europe", UNCTAD-ICTSD Project on IPRs and Sustainable Development, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, Warwick University, United Kingdom UNCTAD, Issue Paper No. 8, p.25.

10. *Ibid.*



Rural-Urban Disparity in Financial Inclusion in Manipur

Ngullen Chongloi* & Dr. M. Bobo Singh**

[This study highlights the perennial Rural-Urban divide in the field of financial inclusion. It is based on secondary data, particularly, number of bank branches and total amount of deposits and credits relative to census of India, 2011. The study, applying normalised inverse Euclidean distance from an ideal point, revealed that rural sector lagged far behind urban sector.]

The fundamental aspect of this study is the relative measurement in constructing Index of Financial Inclusion. The distinction between absolute measurement and relative measurement relates to the extreme values of the M_i and m_i in a normalised Euclidean distance from an ideal point. To measure rural-urban disparity, both rural sector and urban sector are taken into the same nutshell of M_i and m_i . Euclidean distance from an ideal point being greatly affected by the extreme values, taking separate value of M_i and m_i for rural and urban sector could probably reveal equal status for the unequal. Therefore, it is pertinent to take a uniform code for both rural and urban sector if accurate result is so desired.

Definition and Concept of Financial Inclusion

There is plethora of definitions on financial inclusion. Government of India (2008), define financial inclusion as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost. According to the Planning Commission (2009), financial inclusion refers to universal access to a wide range of financial services at a reasonable cost. These include not only the banking products but also other services such as insurance and equity products.

Nevertheless, none of the definition is universally acceptable in singly. This is mainly due to the multi-dimensional characteristics of financial inclusion. The definitional focused-dimension varies across countries/regions depending on the socio-economic conditions and priorities of social concern. Perhaps, all definitions are coherent to the compelling propositions of the so-called social agenda known as social inclusion. But, the crux of the matter is the precept of social inclusion.

In a developed economy, social inclusion is rigidly adamant to the prolific dimension. While in a developing economy like India, even the non-prolific dimensions are used as a clue to social inclusion. As for instance, the true indicators, in international level, are Current and Saving Account (CASA), short term and long-term

financial services access from formal financial institutions. But, in India, the main focus at present is the bare inclusion concept (V. Ram Kumar, 2007).

In Indian context, the definitional emphasis if concisely summarised, includes three dimensions: Leeladhar (2005) emphasised the availability and accessibility dimensions. Subsequently, Chakravorty (2006), Thorat (2007), Rangaranjan Committee (2008), define in a similar line. Rivetingly, Sarma (2008) added the third dimension by emphasizing financial inclusion in three dimensions; availability, accessibility and usage.

Last but not the least, complete financial inclusion, though it is an arrow target, is an ideal state of mind. This is because financial inclusion is related to the headcount of adult populations which is not a constant variable. Therefore, V. Ramkumar (2007) has truthfully remarked; *financial inclusion is not a one-time effort, but, an on-going process.*

Dimensions of Financial Inclusion under consideration:

- i. Availability Dimension: Availability of formal financial institution is the most important determinant of financial inclusion. It enhances the ease to access financial services. Positive correlation between availability of financial institution and financial inclusion is an axiomatic assumption. It can be measure by number of bank branch, ATM, bank employee as a proportion of total population or number of bank branches per square Km. of an area. In this study, number of bank branches per one lakh population and number of bank branches per one thousand square km are used to measure the availability dimension.
- ii. Usage Dimension: Mere affiliation to financial institution doesn't interpret the true sense of financial inclusion. To capture the intrinsic meaning, financial inclusion must be interpreted in terms of usage i.e., volume of transaction. Accordingly, the present study used P.C.D., P.C.C. and C.D.R to measure the usage dimensions. These indicators are express as a proportion of total population in reference to 2011 census.

Financial inclusion: Empirical Approach

Crisil Inclusix, since 2013, measures the level of financial inclusion. It focuses on the number of total

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account (deposit and credit) rather than total amount. The underlying principle is the headcount of social inclusion rather than enhancement of productive capacity.

Sarma (2008) developed Index of Financial Inclusion in three dimensions: availability, accessibility and usage. It addressed three core issues of financial inclusions: branch penetration, social inclusion and economic growth. In common parlance, researchers in India, apply the model developed by Sarma (2008) with or without modification.

Chandan Goyal (2013) used the model developed by Sarma (2008) with slight modification. That is, he measured the status of financial inclusion in Assam in three dimensions (i.e., availability, accessibility and usage) with two or more indicators. Poonam and Archana Chaudry (2016) used the model without any modification. They constructed state level I.F.I. in three dimensions, and used one indicator for one dimension. Vinayak Bhagwanrao Bhise and Sameshwar Narayan Babar (2016) constructed I.F.I. for Marathawada region in two dimensions with one or more indicators.

Relevant Banking Statistic of the Study:

In an attempt to draw empirical comparative analysis on the status of Financial Inclusion between rural and urban sector, financial inclusion is contextualized to banking.

Table 2.1: Relevant Banking Statistic of the Study

District	No. of B.B.		APPBB		AAPBB		P.C.D.		P.C.C.		CDC	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Imphal west	9	52	21679	6209	49.98	1.33	11199	173714	4380	66871	39.11	38.49
Imphal East	16	11	17056	16655	41.76	3.71	15090	39668	7602	12887	50.33	32.49
Thoubal	4	16	67708	9458	120.65	1.96	1161	20285	887	17731	76.40	87.41
Bishnupur	3	10	49964	8750	153	3.70	631	18051	837	15997	132.65	88.62
Chandel	7	4	18190	4211	418.59	95.73	10370	22882	9644	8642	93.09	37.77
Churachandpur	15	1	17052	18357	284.27	306.00	21854	11042	11461	751	52.44	6.80
Senapati	19		24824		169.46		8609		6409		74.45	
Ukhrul	2	5	78405	5437	1932.15	135.94	440	85996	511	39574	116.14	46.02
Tamenglong	2	3	60644	6454	1892.95	201.70	1185	70149	893	14047	75.36	20.02
Manipur	77	102	26255	8177	261.35	21.60	8852	86663	5276	35416	59.60	40.87

Source: Basic Statistical Returns in India, R.B.I., 2019: Quarterly Statistic on deposit and credit of SCB, March, 2019; Census of India, 2011: Statistical Yearbook of Manipur, 2017.

Note: (I) BB Bank Branch, APPBB Average Population Per Bank Branch, P.C.D Per Capita Deposit, P.C.C Per Capita Credit, C.D.R. Credit Deposit Ratio. (II) K.M. square of Urban areas of the hill districts, namely; Chandel, Churachandpur, Senapati, Ukhrul and Tamenglong districts are drawn in reference to the density of population, 2011 census.

Measurement of Index of Financial Inclusion

Concept

Measuring the level of financial inclusion is the pre-condition for course correction. A comprehensive

Within the circumference of banking too, number of bank branches, total amount (deposit and credit) in reference to 2011 census and number of bank branches per 1000 sq.km are the main underpinnings of the study. In short, the study relies on two dimensions of financial inclusion, namely; availability dimension and usage dimension.

The parameters and indicators of the two dimensions are presented in Table-1 below. AAPBB (Average Area Per Bank Branch) and APPBB (Average Population Per Bank Branch) are used as indicators of availability dimensions. Whereas, total amount (Deposit and Credit) and PCD (Per Capita Deposit), PCC (Per Capita Credit) and CDR (Credit Deposit Ratio) are used as indicators of usage dimension.

Studying rural-urban disparity, APPBB and AAPBB are comparatively low in urban sector and terribly high in rural sector. The extend of disparity in terms of minimum and maximum APPBB are 12841 and 60048 respectively. In the same light, the extend of disparities in respect to minimum and maximum AAPBB are 40.43 and 1626.15 respectively. In terms of PCD, P.C.C. and C.D.R., the figure for rural sector is diminutive in contrast to the figure for urban sector. The extend of disparity in respect to maximum P.C.D., P.C.C. and C.D.R. are 151860, 55410 and 44.03 respectively.

measure most includes as many dimensions as possible, preferably in single number. However, the available empirical literature on financial inclusion till date lacks common approach. Permissibly, the dimensions are optionalized and the vitalized dimensions are chosen to fit the objective of the study.

To draw a comparative status of rural and urban areas in financial inclusion, two dimensional I.F.I. is constructed in relative term. Here, the relative measurement as distinguish from absolute measurement lies on the extreme values; M_i and m_i in formula(i) below. Perhaps, the typical implication of the formula is relative by itself. However, the absolute term of measurement, here, is refer to the sole consideration of rural sector without any connection to urban sector. It is purely based on rural

banking statistic whereby the extreme values of the formula, M_i and m_i are substituted. In simplicity, the application of the formula is in its originality.

On the other hand, the relative term of measurement linked rural-urban banking statistic by applying the same values of M_i and m_i both for rural and urban sector. The underlying rationality is revealed by the fact that the indicator index, I_i for both rural sector and urban sector remained equal for equal values of A_i . This is done to achieve empirical adequacy in measuring rural-urban disparity.

Method

In this study, measurement of I.F.I. entails three steps of calculation. Firstly, indicator indices are calculated with the help of formula (i) given below. Then, dimension indexes are calculated by the same formula used for calculating I.F.I. Finally, I.F.I is computed with formula (2) to reveal the status of financial inclusion.

In formula (2), the numerator of the second component, D_i is the Euclidean distance from the ideal point, I , normalised by square root of n and subtracting from 1, gives the inverse normalised distance. The normalisation is done in order to make the value lie between 0 and 1 and the inverse distance is considered so that higher value of the I.F.I. corresponds to higher financial inclusion.

Availability Dimension Index

To contrast rural-urban sector, the relative measurements of availability dimension is given in table 2.2. Exceptionally, the rural sector outperformed the urban sector in Churachandpur district and Senapati district. Here, it may be noted that the urban sector of Churachandpur district has only one bank branch and Senapati District has no urban bank branch. In seven district (out of nine) and Manipur as a whole, the status of financial inclusion in rural areas is lower than that of the urban areas. The disparity is highest in Imphal West district and lowest in Imphal East district.

Table 2.2: Availability Dimension Index (Relative measurement)

District	No. of B.B. per one lakh population		Index		No. of BB per 100sq Km.		Index		Availability index	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Imphal west	4.613	16.106	0.149	0.660	20.01	751.88	0.026	1.000	0.088	0.830
Imphal East	5.863	6.004	0.204	0.210	23.95	269.54	0.031	0.358	0.118	0.284
Thoubal	1.477	10.573	0.009	0.414	8.29	510.20	0.010	0.678	0.010	0.546
Bishnupur	2.001	11.429	0.032	0.452	6.54	270.27	0.008	0.359	0.020	0.406
Chandel	5.498	23.747	0.188	1.000	2.39	10.45	0.002	0.013	0.095	0.507
Churachandpur	5.864	5.448	0.204	0.186	3.52	3.27	0.004	0.000	0.104	0.093
Senapati	4.028		0.123		5.90		0.007		0.065	
Ukhrul	1.275	18.392	0.000	0.762	0.52	7.36	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.386
Tamenglong	1.649	15.494	0.017	0.633	0.53	4.96	0.000	0.006	0.009	0.320
Manipur	3.809	12.229	0.113	0.487	3.83	46.30	0.004	0.061	0.059	0.274

Source: Table 2.1

Note: Common extreme value (i.e., M_i and m_i) is the fundamental criteria measurement.

2.4. Usage dimension

The comparative usage index value of rural and urban region is given in table 2.3. Surprisingly, rural sector

outperformed urban sector in four districts, namely, Bishnupur, Chandel, Churachandpur and Senapati district. On the other hand, urban sector outperformed rural sector in five districts. Rural –Urban divide in terms of usage dimension is highest in Imphal West district and lowest in Bishnupur district.

Table 2.3: Usage Dimension Index: A Relative measurement

District	Index of PCD		Index of PCC		Index of CDR		Usage dimension index	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Imphal west	0.062	1.000	0.059	1.000	0.257	0.252	0.126	0.751
Imphal East	0.085	0.226	0.107	0.186	0.346	0.204	0.179	0.205
Thoubal	0.004	0.115	0.006	0.259	0.553	0.641	0.188	0.338
Bishnupur	0.001	0.102	0.005	0.233	1.000	0.650	0.335	0.328
Chandel	0.057	0.130	0.137	0.123	0.686	0.246	0.293	0.166
Churachandpur	0.124	0.061	0.165	0.004	0.363	0.000	0.217	0.022
Senapati	0.047		0.089		0.538		0.225	
Ukhrul	0.000	0.494	0.000	0.587	0.869	0.312	0.290	0.464
Tamenglong	0.004	0.402	0.006	0.204	0.545	0.105	0.185	0.237
Manipur	0.049	0.498	0.072	0.526	0.420	0.271	0.322	0.432

Source: Table 2.1

Note: The same criteria as in the case of availability dimension is used as a relative measurement.

2.5. Index of Financial Inclusion- A relative measurement:

A relative measurement of I.F.I. is presented in table 2.4. There are a wide range of rural-urban disparities. The

District	Availability dimension Index		Usage dimension Index		Index of Financial Inclusion			Remark
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Difference	
Imphal west	0.088	0.830	0.126	0.751	0.107	0.791	-0.684	Relatively low
Imphal East	0.118	0.284	0.179	0.205	0.149	0.245	-0.096	Relatively low
Thoubal	0.010	0.546	0.188	0.338	0.099	0.442	-0.343	Relatively low
Bishnupur	0.020	0.406	0.335	0.328	0.178	0.367	-0.189	Relatively low
Chandel	0.095	0.507	0.293	0.166	0.194	0.337	-0.143	Relatively low
Churachandpur	0.104	0.093	0.217	0.022	0.161	0.058	-0.103	Relatively high
Senapati	0.065	0.000	0.225	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	
Ukhrul	0.000	0.386	0.290	0.464	0.145	0.425	-0.280	Relatively low
Tamenglong	0.009	0.320	0.185	0.236	0.097	0.278	-0.181	Relatively low
Manipur	0.059	0.274	0.322	0.432	0.191	0.353	-0.162	Relatively low

Source: Table 2.1

Note: The same criteria as in the case of availability dimension is used as a relative measurement.

Result and discussion

Perhaps, financial inclusion is a worldwide concern; nevertheless, the threat of financial exclusion (i.e., social exclusion) is highly sensitive in a developing economy. India being growing in stature toward a stage of developed economy, a major concern is the stark of socio-economic divide between the have and have-nots. Here, it may be highlighted that high per capita income widens the gap between the rich and the poor if there is no inbuilt mechanism to distribute the national income equally. Financial inclusion is such a mechanism through which the benefit of a healthy GDP trickles down to the lowest strata of the society.

In view of this, Government of India and RBI have been making various concerted efforts to enhance a paradigm shift from class banking to mass banking. The strategy includes bare inclusion concept and introduction of semi-formal financial institutions. Despite the fact, a huge rural population still remained financially excluded. This study empirically revealed that the status of financial inclusion in rural areas is relatively low. The direct reason as based on secondary data is inadequate availability of formal financial institutions.

According to RBI working paper too, branch penetration is more rapid in semi-urban areas than in rural areas. Delving deeper into the matter, low branch penetration in rural areas is due to the mismatch between cost and volume expected. Under the scenario, it is fearful that the package for rural areas if not redesigned, rural-urban disparities will probably be widened. In other words, there is a danger that rural population could probably be left behind and ruin by social evils such as bonded labour. Therefore, redressing the policy package of the rural sector in an ongoing process is a must.

Limitation of the study

Firstly, the study is based on secondary data which primarily focuses on the supplied-side aspect. In other words, demands side which require survey-based investigation is not taken into consideration. Secondly, the measurements of indicators are based on 2011

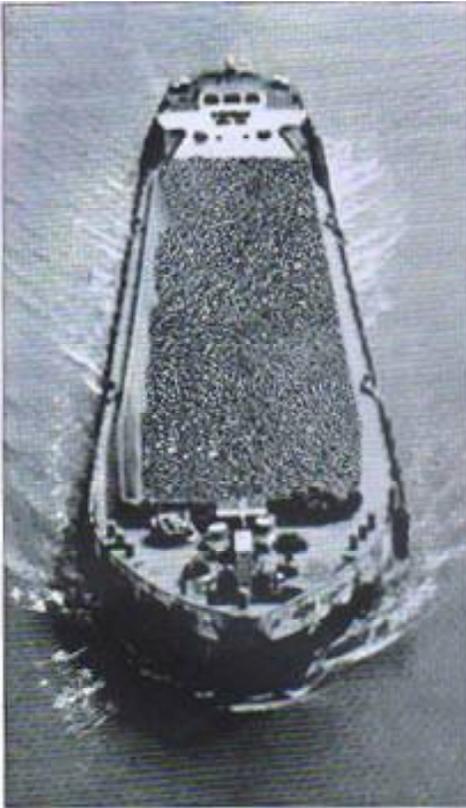
perennial doldrums of rural sectors beneath urban sector invariably remained alive till date. In seven districts (out of nine), rural sector lagged far behind urban sector. The disparity is highest in Imphal West (0.684) and lowest in Imphal East (0.096). The overall extent of rural – urban disparity in Manipur is figured out to be 0.162.

Table 2.4: Index of Financial Inclusion: A Relative measurement

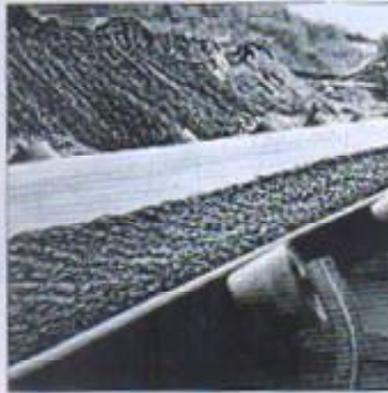
census without trending. Thirdly, it is based on only two dimensions, namely; availability dimension and usage dimension.

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