

Content

* Foreword

* Preface

Inaugural Address

1. Economic and Financial Aspects of Human Development

1.1 Financing Education for Human Development

(Prof. Mohd. Muzammil)

1.2 Economic Growth and Happiness: Beyond Gross Domestic Product

(Prof. Rajesh Pal)

1.3 India's Rural and Urban Poverty-Pattern and Policy Imperatives- 2011-2021

(Dr. Ankita Gupta)

1.4 Balanced Human Development

(Dr. Jyoti Mishra, Srijan Mishra)

1.5 Inequalities of human development in India : a Study

(Dr. LokanathPaital)

2. Educational Characteristics

2.1 Effect of education on Human Development in India

(Dr. Bharti Rastogi)

2.2 Education, Poverty and Human Development in India

(Dr. Rahul Gupta)

3. Health and Human Development

3.1 Developing Human Capital in the Rural Health

Care System: A Social Work Perspective

(Dr. Mahendra Mohan Verma)

3.2 Malnutrition A Global Challenges and Its

Opportunity and in Ayurveda

(Dr. B. Ram, Sanjay Kumar, MinshuPrashant)

4. Effects of Globalization and Technology

4.1 Globalization and Human Development

(PratyushPratapVerma)

- 4.2 Future Effects of technology in Society
(Arjun Kumar)
- 5. Ecology and Climate Change**
- 5.1 Ecology, Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Few Observations
Professor (Dr. SukantK.Chaudhury)
- 6. Law and Human Development**
- 6.1 The Role of Law in Human Development
(Dr. S.P. Mishra)
- 7. Problems of Empowering Elderly and Youth**
- 7.1 The Problem of Digital Illiteracy among Elderly
(Dr. Anuradha Bapuly, Simran Seth)
- 7.2 Role of Social Media in Empowering Youth
(Anand Chaurasia)
- 8. Development Schemes, Strategies and Ideologies**
- 8.1 Human Empowerment : Development Schemes and Their Dilemmas
(Prof. Nand Lal)
- 8.2 strategy for empowerment of Tourism organisations through tourism marketing
(Prof. Ajit Kumar Shukla)
- 8.3 Marxism: A vociferous voice of Human Rights
(Dr. Reena Chatterjee)
- 9. Empowerment of Women and Gender Problems**
- 9.1 Status of Women from Ancient to Post Independent Period
(Dr. Bharti Rastogi)
- 9.2 Media Exposures and Higher Educations as a Gateway to Women's Empowerment
(Dr. Rashmi Singh)
- 9.3 Women empowerment in India: Challenges and Opportunities
(Dr. Anuradha Bapuly)
- 9.4 Eunuch's of Plight of Being the 'Other': A Battle for Identity
(Aarti Vishwakarma)

- 9.5 Representation of Women in The Ramayana and Paradise Lost (A comparative study)
(Dr. Niraj Kumar Sonkar)
- 9.6 Addressing Problems Faced Western Women in Spiritual City of Varanasi
(Akanksha Singh/AnshumanRana)
- 9.7 Issues Related to Women Empowerment
(Rajani Mishra)
- 10. Ayurveda, Yoga and Spiritual Aspects**
- 10.1 Hatha Yoga: The Practice Towards A Balanced Life
(Dr. Somdatta Mukherjee)
- 10.2 Human Development Through the Illumined Mind
(Prakhar Pandey)



The Problem of Digital Illiteracy among Elderly

Dr. Anuradha Bapuly*

Simran Seth**

Abstract

The contemporary era is the era of Information and Communication technology. With the digitalization of almost all basic services, it is very important to empower those who are digitally illiterate. It has been observed that younger generations are well versed with the new technology as they learn it from their peers, in school etc. but elder people those of 60 years or above found it difficult to handle it. So, it is a major problem for them. They don't know how to cope with these technologies. In the present time, nobody is there to help them to get rid of the problem. It negatively affects the elder people and put mental pressure on them. As society is moving toward digitalization, it is very important for the elderly to learn digital skills. Due to digital illiteracy, they face innumerable problems. They are unable to grab basic services and facilities available online, governmental schemes, they feel marginalized, isolated and lonely; they are often targeted for various types of financial fraud. These all negatively affect their sense of digital literacy. So, in view of the gravity of the situation, there is a need to digitally literate elder people as it helps them to adjust in modern fast-paced lifestyles and connect them with the world.

Keywords: *Elder, Digital Literacy, Digital Illiteracy, Information and Communication Technology, Digital Skills, Digitalization*

Introduction

Gerontology is the study of old people. The father of gerontology is V. Korenchevsky. The word gerontology is derived from the Greek word "geras" meaning "old age" and 'logos' meaning 'science'. It refers

* Assistant Professor(Sociology), VasantKanyaMahavidyalaya,Kamachha, Varanasi

** M.Phil. Department of Sociology, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith

to the branch of science that deals with the aged people. The branch of gerontology in social science is still in its infancy stage. Very few researches have been done on aged people.

All over the world, the population of older people is increasing. "Today, 8.5 per cent of people worldwide (617 million) are aged 65 and over. According to a new report, "An Aging World: 2015," this percentage is projected to jump to nearly 17 per cent of the world's population by 2050 (1.6 billion)."¹

"If we talk about India, the population of the aged, that is, the age of 60 years and above in 1971 were 28 million and in 1981, 42 million, in 1991, 56 million and in 2001, 75 million. It is expected that in 2025 their population will be more than 175 million."² The population of aged people is increasing but their status and roles in society have been weakened. This is because of the modernization, digitalization, and industrialization that their status and power is on the decrease. The family members and other people do not look at them. They don't bother about their desires. They are just engaged in their daily routines. This marginalized the elderly population from society. The best way to assimilate the elderly in the mainstream is to digitally literate them. Lack of digital literacy can drastically influence their lives.

Review of Literature

Review of Literature helps to clear understanding of the concept selected for the study. Niemela, Huotari, and Kortelainen (2012) declared that active use of media, such as television and the internet could motivate older adults to age in healthy and active ways.³ Petrauskas, Bileviciene, and Kiskiene (2008) have attempted to define e-inclusion as an activity or an instrument which is a prerequisite for the creation of an information society. They further assert that e-inclusion has many benefits when pursued correctly; such as decreasing the risk of digital disjuncture and securing that marginalized individuals such as disabled or elderly persons are involved in the development of e-government.⁴ Fausset et al. (2013) mention that when older adults notice personally relevant usefulness of technologies, and when, at the same time, they receive family support, they will regularly use and adopt ICT. Therefore, gaining a greater understanding of the experience lived by older adults in the use of technology will facilitate the implementation of appropriate technological solutions for this population.⁵

Objectives

1. To discuss various problems faced by elders due to digital illiteracy.
2. To know various schemes available to promote digital skills among elders.

Research Methodology

Secondary data has been used to write this paper. Secondary data has been collected from various books, articles, papers, journals, and government websites.

Digital Literacy

"History has witnessed two industrial revolutions associated with general-purpose technology, the first driven by steam and the second by electricity. The third revolution, namely the Information Technology (IT) revolution, driven by computers and networks, is unfolding now. For more than three decades now, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) or IT has been instrumental in transforming human lives in ways that one cannot possibly deny or overlook. The history of IT dates back to the landmark invention of the moveable typewriting machine by Guttenberg. Thereafter, it meandered its way through other iconic creations, starting from the giant calculator to the Personal Computer (PC), finally making way for laptops, tablets and smart phones."⁶ The contemporary era is the era of information and communication technology. The advancement of new technologies has a profound impact on the life of peoples. The rapid growth of new technologies brings about the need for digital literacy. It is extremely important for one to have digital skills if they want to use these technologies.

The term digital literacy was first introduced by Paul Gilster in his book *Digital Literacy*. He defines digital literacy as "the ability to understand information and- more important- to evaluate and integrate information in multiple formats....being able to evaluate and interpret information is critical."⁷

The American Library Association's digital-literacy task force defines digital literacy as: "Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills."⁸

"Digital Literacy is the ability of individuals and communities to understand and use digital technologies for meaningful actions within life situations."⁹

So, digital literacy can be defined as the ability to use, share and understand the information and communication technology.

In 2013 the American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy's Digital Literacy Task Force (Task Force) stated that "A digitally literate person:

1. possesses a variety of skills- cognitive and technical- required to find, understand, evaluate, create, and communicate digital information in a wide variety of formats;
2. is able to use diverse technologies appropriately and effectively to search for and retrieve information, interpret search results, and judge the quality of the information retrieved;
3. understands the relationships among technology, lifelong learning, personal privacy, and appropriate stewardship of information;
4. uses these skills and the appropriate technologies to communicate and collaborate with peers, colleagues, family, and on occasion the general public;
5. uses these skills to participate actively in civic society and contribute to a vibrant, informed, and engaged community."¹⁰

With the proliferation in these technologies, it is crucial for the elderly to learn these techniques. Younger generations are well versed with the new technologies as they learn it from their peers and from schools. But older people find it difficult to use and handle it. This can be because of two reasons, that is, first because of their physical and cognitive inability to learn all these sophisticated technologies and second there is no one to help them to learn these technologies. This negatively affects older people.

There is a negative correlation between digital technologies and ageing. Elder people are digitally illiterate as they have no sense of how to use these complex technologies. Not only has this but elders themselves don't want to use digital services. As they thought that modern technologies are unsafe and complex therefore they don't use them. This also increases the sense of digital illiteracy among them. And due to digital illiteracy, elder people face countless problems.

Digital illiteracy refers to the inability to use, share and understand the information and communication technology. "Digital illiteracy is one of the major reasons for the digital divide not only between rich and poor, nor between developed and developing countries but it can also be seen between different generations. It is also argued that the digital

divide is the outcome of not only the unavailability of IT services but also the lack of access to technology and the inability to use it effectively."¹¹ Digital literacy is the way by which we can reduce the so-called digital divide. It encourages elders to participate in societal activities.

The below table-1 provides a comprehensive picture by showing the digital disparity on the basis of States, age and gender. The table clearly depicts, that the digital illiteracy is predominantly found among the 60+ age group. So, in this digitalization era, it is very important for elder people to have knowledge of digital literacy.

Table-1
Purpose of Usage of a Computer (%) (2013-14)

State/UT	Ability to Operate a Computer (Percentage in the Population of a Particular Age Group)							
	Male				Female			
	Age Group (Years)				Age Group (Years)			
	14-29	30-45	45-60	60+	14-29	30-45	45-60	60+
Andhra Pradesh	34	14	8	2	21	6	2	0
Arunachal Pradesh	30	13	8	0	21	5	1	0
Assam	21	7	9	2	16	3	2	2
Bihar	16	4	2	2	8	1	0	0
Chhattisgarh	14	5	4	2	9	3	1	0
Delhi	57	42	29	34	54	27	20	19
Goa	78	31	30	21	64	27	18	4
Gujarat	41	19	11	4	27	8	4	0
Haryana	42	16	7	8	30	10	4	1
Himachal Pradesh	51	20	13	3	40	9	5	1
Jammu & Kashmir	29	11	6	4	20	4	3	3
Jharkhand	22	5	6	0	11	2	1	0
Karnataka	41	19	9	2	30	10	3	2
Kerala	81	34	16	6	74	25	9	2
Madhya Pradesh	23	9	8	2	14	4	2	0
Maharashtra	45	24	14	8	35	13	7	3
Manipur	24	8	5	2	15	4	2	0
Meghalaya	30	12	7	9	30	9	3	1
Mizoram	49	32	20	5	43	25	16	2
Nagaland	77	42	38	8	63	23	14	0
Odisha	18	9	5	1	12	2	1	0
Punjab	49	19	9	4	39	11	2	0
Rajasthan	34	12	8	3	17	4	2	0
Sikkim	37	25	12	1	38	16	6	0
Tamil Nadu	53	23	9	5	46	11	4	1
Telangana	39	20	6	6	25	6	3	0
Tripura	13	5	5	1	7	2	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	23	9	5	2	13	3	2	1
Uttarakhand	40	18	6	1	21	7	1	0
West Bengal	26	11	7	3	18	5	1	0
A&N Islands	38	16	7	0	37	10	14	0
Chandigarh	73	33	49	28	65	25	33	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27	32	28	0	27	15	14	0
Daman & Diu	30	43	5	2	50	15	5	0
Lakshadweep	65	47	30	17	57	22	3	0
Puducherry	61	42	22	16	57	18	15	1
All-India	32	14	8	4	23	7	3	1

Source: Council for social development (Digital Literacy Training to Non-IT Literate Citizens) National Sample Survey (NSS), (2015), Government of India

Problems of Digital Illiteracy Faced by Elder People

Due to the lack of digital skills, elder people faced innumerable problems. These are as follows-

1. **Feeling of Isolation-** Due to digital illiteracy, elder people feel isolated and marginalized. Basically the age of 60 or 65, roughly equivalent to retirement ages in most developed and developing countries. So in these leisure time, they want something by which they can keep up with the fast pace. Due to digital illiteracy, they are not able to use new technologies due to which they even can't connect with their family member and other people. This brings a feeling of isolation among them.
2. **Easily targeted for financial frauds-** Elder people are frequent targets of financial frauds and scams. Fraudsters target the elderly as they are generally lonely, and have little knowledge of online services. So the elderly are prime targets to scheme attributed to credit cards, banking, investment etc.
3. **Unable to use online services-** Due to digital illiteracy, elder people are not availing of various services which are available online. In this information and communication technology, everything is online such as health services, banking, payment of bills, online food services etc. To grab these services one should have digital skills. But elder people are generally digitally illiterate. Due to which they generally don't benefit by these services. So, it is important for elders to have digital skills.
4. **Unable to use government services-** Government has availed various services online. But due to lack of digital literacy, they are unable to grab those online services availed by the government. "Even government has the push for digital India, 51 per cent of the elderly said there were hardly any facilities where they could get digital training and considered walking to the nearby computer training centers in their old age as major hurdle."¹² "So, for the smooth implementation of e-governance under the digital India model, it is important to be digitally literate."¹³
5. **Lack of support from their family members-** "The 85 per cent elders lack communication with younger members of their families,

due to their" more demanding lifestyle and the inability of older people to understand the modern digital languages of communication."¹⁴

6. Health problems- Due to digital illiteracy, they feel isolated and marginalized. This led to depression and anxiety among them which negatively affect their health.

Schemes Available to Promote Digital Literacy Among Elders

Government has made various online services; even they made various schemes to digital literate people so that people would be benefitted by those services.

1. Government has launched the Digital India program on 1st July 2015, to ensure that government's services are made available to the citizens for digital empowerment of people. It was launched by our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India schemes, such as Bharatnet, Make in India, Startup India, etc."¹⁵
2. Government has also made PMGDISHA under Digital India mission which refers to Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, launched in October 2017 with an objective to make six crore persons in rural areas digitally literate across States/UT's by reaching around 40% rural households and covering at least one member from every e household by 31st March 2019. The schemes would empower the citizens in rural areas by training them to operate a computer for digital access devices, send and receive emails, browse internet etc. but this scheme includes persons belonging to 14 to 60 years of age group.¹⁶
3. Recently, the government has also started the National Digital Literacy Mission. "As part of the Digital India Campaign, the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) was implemented by CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. to provide training in Information Technology (IT) to 10 lakh persons in every eligible household in each State/Union Territory (UT). The objective of this training was to enable the beneficiaries to use IT and IT-related applications for effective participation in democratic processes and enhancement of their livelihoods. But the chief beneficiaries of this program were respondents in the age group of 14 to 25 years."¹⁷

So, from the above government schemes, we can clearly observe that very little effort has been taken by the government to increase the digital skills among them. Government has paid less attention to elders. This negatively affects them. And this reduce the chance to become digitally literate. As elders are also part of society, we cannot exclude them. So, it is the duty of the government to make proper schemes and to pay attention to this vulnerable section of society so that elder can modify themselves to the era of Information and Communication technology.

Conclusion

The present time is being recognized as the era of digitalization. It has changed the way in which the world has functioned. Now today, everything is online that is from online bill payment to online classes. Information and communication technology has made our lives easy. But to use those services, it is very essential for one to be digitally literate. As I told earlier, younger generations are well versed with those services, but elders found it difficult to handle it. It is so because no one is there to encourage them. Not only has this but their physical and cognitive inability also worked as a barrier to be digital literate. So most of the elders (i.e., above 60 +) are digitally illiterate. Due to digital illiteracy elders encounter innumerable problems. So it is very important for elders to adjust to those modern technologies. Otherwise, they will be deprived of various rights and opportunities available to them. Government has made various plans to boost digital literacy among people. They even tried to reduce the digital divide between rural and urban society. But they give less attention to elders. So, it is the government's duty to make plans to boost and foster digital literacy among the elderly. The government should run various awareness programs for elders so that they will be aware of the usefulness of the digitalization as well as get to know how to use it. So that it helps them to adjust in modern fast-changing lifestyles and connect them with the world.

References

- <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/worlds-older-population-grows-dramatically>
- Joshi, A. K. (2006), Older Persons In India, Serial Publications, New Delhi, India: p-ix

- Peishan, Yang and Shan-Ju Lin, Digital aging as an essential component of active aging, International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science Vol. 7 No. 4
- Digital Literacy; Concepts, Methodologies, Tools and Applications, Information Resource Management Association, Volume-1
- Giacomo, Dina. Di., Vittorini, Pierpaoto and Lacasa, Pilar, Digital Skills and Life-long Learning: Digital Learning as a New Insight of Enhanced Learning by the Innovative Approach Joining Technology and Cognition, Frontiers Media SA, 01-Mar-2019
- <http://csdindia.org/publications/project-reports/attachment/digital-literacy-report-2017/>. p-7
- Ahlquist, Josie and Endersby, Lisa. (2017), Going Digital in Student Leadership, p-38
- <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/11/09/what-is-digital-literacy.html>
- <http://csdindia.org/publications/project-reports/attachment/digital-literacy-report-2017/>. p-7
- Cordell, Rosanne M. (2013), Library Reference Services and Information Literacy: Models for Academic Institutions, Information Science Reference, p-45
- <http://csdindia.org/publications/project-reports/attachment/digital-literacy-report-2017/>. p-7
- <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/majority-of-elderly-in-delhincr-feel-excluded-from-indias-digital-literacy-drive/article9871310.ece>
- Babu, R., Kalaivani, S., and Saileela, K, Empowering India Through Digital Literacy (Monograph), Volume- 1, p-111
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/digital-illiteracy-marginalising-elderly-survey/articleshow/60855072.cms?from=mdr>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_India
- <https://www.pmgdisha.in/about-pmgdisha/>
- <http://csdindia.org/publications/project-reports/attachment/digital-literacy-report-2017/p-xiii>



Content

* Foreword

* Preface

Inaugural Address

1. Economic and Financial Aspects of Human Development

1.1 Financing Education for Human Development

(Prof. Mohd. Muzammil)

1.2 Economic Growth and Happiness: Beyond Gross Domestic Product

(Prof. Rajesh Pal)

1.3 India's Rural and Urban Poverty-Pattern and Policy Imperatives- 2011-2021

(Dr. Ankita Gupta)

1.4 Balanced Human Development

(Dr. Jyoti Mishra, Srijan Mishra)

1.5 Inequalities of human development in India : a Study

(Dr. LokanathPaital)

2. Educational Characteristics

2.1 Effect of education on Human Development in India

(Dr. Bharti Rastogi)

2.2 Education, Poverty and Human Development in India

(Dr. Rahul Gupta)

3. Health and Human Development

3.1 Developing Human Capital in the Rural Health Care System: A Social Work Perspective

(Dr. Mahendra Mohan Verma)

3.2 Malnutrition A Global Challenges and Its Opportunity and in Ayurveda

(Dr. B. Ram, Sanjay Kumar, MinshuPrashant)

4. Effects of Globalization and Technology

4.1 Globalization and Human Development

(PratyushPratapVerma)

- 4.2 Future Effects of technology in Society
(Arjun Kumar)
- 5. Ecology and Climate Change**
- 5.1 Ecology, Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Few Observations
Professor (Dr. SukantK.Chaudhury)
- 6. Law and Human Development**
- 6.1 The Role of Law in Human Development
(Dr. S.P. Mishra)
- 7. Problems of Empowering Elderly and Youth**
- 7.1 The Problem of Digital Illiteracy among Elderly
(Dr. Anuradha Bapuly, Simran Seth)
- 7.2 Role of Social Media in Empowering Youth
(Anand Chaurasia)
- 8. Development Schemes, Strategies and Ideologies**
- 8.1 Human Empowerment : Development Schemes and Their Dilemmas
(Prof. Nand Lal)
- 8.2 strategy for empowerment of Tourism organisations through tourism marketing
(Prof. Ajit Kumar Shukla)
- 8.3 Marxism: A vociferous voice of Human Rights
(Dr. Reena Chatterjee)
- 9. Empowerment of Women and Gender Problems**
- 9.1 Status of Women from Ancient to Post Independent Period
(Dr. Bharti Rastogi)
- 9.2 Media Exposures and Higher Educations as a Gateway to Women's Empowerment
(Dr. Rashmi Singh)
- 9.3 Women empowerment in India: Challenges and Opportunities
(Dr. Anuradha Bapuly)
- 9.4 Eunuch's of Plight of Being the 'Other': A Battle for Identity
(Aarti Vishwakarma)

- 9.5 Representation of Women in The Ramayana and Paradise Lost (A comparative study)
(Dr. Niraj Kumar Sonkar)
- 9.6 Addressing Problems Faced Western Women in Spiritual City of Varanasi
(Akanksha Singh/AnshumanRana)
- 9.7 Issues Related to Women Empowerment
(Rajani Mishra)
- 10. Ayurveda, Yoga and Spiritual Aspects**
- 10.1 Hatha Yoga: The Practice Towards A Balanced Life
(Dr. Somdatta Mukherjee)
- 10.2 Human Development Through the Illumined Mind
(Prakhar Pandey)



Women Empowerment in India: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Anuradha Bapuly*

For a nation whose population is comprised of 48.88% of women¹, it is an undeniable fact that women must play an important role in economic and social activities for the growth of the country. Women should be able to take decisions, relating to their own wellbeing, independently. Empowerment of women can happen through legislations or with the help of the society itself. But it is more important that women themselves try to solve their own problems. According to Swami Vivekananda "Women must be put in a position to solve their own problems in their own way. No one can or ought to do this for them. And our Indian women are as capable of doing it as any in the world."²

What defines Women Empowerment

Even though empowerment of women is something which has been said and repeated zillions of times by many, it could arguably be the most misunderstood term whose true meaning may have been lost in this clamour. In simple terms a woman feels empowered when she can opt to study, play sports or join any vocation of her own choice. She feels empowered when she can take her own decision to whether or not to apply for a job. She is empowered when her opinion is expected and respected. If she decides to marry, she should have the freedom to choose her partner without any barriers of caste, religion or social status. She feels empowered when she can travel to her college or workplace without the slightest of worry about her own safety. A woman is empowered when she is paid the same amount as her male counterpart gets for the same job. She is empowered when she is treated as an equal. Swami Vivekananda had said "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing."³

* Assistant Professor, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha, Varanasi

From Panchayat to Parliament - Participation of women in governance

Women have made significant inroads into political and administrative spheres. They have been getting into more decision-making roles which is enabling them to bring change to the lives to many.

Role of women in Panchayat

Mahatma Gandhi was one of the biggest proponents of Panchayat Raj. It still took us 46 years after independence to institutionalize Panchayati Raj. In April 1993, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 was passed by the parliament which institutionalized Panchayat Raj system. The act made it mandatory that 33% of the seats and offices of Chairpersons be reserved for women. As of today, as many as 20 states have reserved 50% of seats for women.⁴ The participation of women has been on a steady rise and as per the ministry of Panchayat Raj's report of March 27, 2018, 44.37% of panchayat seats are occupied by women.

Panchayats undertake several tasks relating the development of villages and their surroundings. Most important of them is MGNREGS which gets annual budgetary allocation of over 60 thousand crore rupees. Panchayats prepare a list of beneficiaries under schemes like MGNREGS and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna. Grameen Panchayats also prepare job cards for beneficiaries under MGNREGS. Another main function of Panchayats is to utilize the funds allocated for various infrastructure projects.

Women members of Panchayats have played an important role in the development of villages. For instance, a woman headed Gram Panchayat, Dhauj in Haryana, has not only worked on skill development of women and girls, they have also campaigned against Ghunghat (veil) system. Another Gram Panchayat in Haryana, Chandasamand, which is also lead by a woman, has developed a three-tier pond which treats grey water to use it for gardening and irrigation purposes. Panchayats are now also attracting well educated women who are highly motivated to transform the lives of the rural population.

Chhavi Rajawat left her corporate job to become Sarpanch of Soda village in Rajasthan. Chhavi has extensively worked in the areas of

conservation of water, availability of clean drinking water, building of paved roads, construction of drains and toilets, solar energy, campaigning against child marriage and financial inclusion. She has inspired a lot of girls, women and men to come forward and actively participate in the work undertaken by the Panchayat.

Chhavi Rajawat has highlighted many issues that work as hindrance for the Panchayats while performing their jobs, a few of these issues are:

1. Panchayats cannot spend even the money that they themselves have earned without getting permission from district level officers
2. The Panchayat members should get a higher amount as honorarium
3. There should be greater level of delegation so that Panchayats have a greater say in the projects that they undertake
4. People with vested interest either try to stop work or try to delay in implementing the project.
5. Lack of availability of good professionals like doctors and lecturers who are willing to work in the villages

On the flip side, even though seats are reserved for women, it has been observed that they sometimes fight the panchayat elections as proxies to a male member in their family. Such women get elected, but the say remains with the male member who wields this additional power for personal gains.

Women in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament

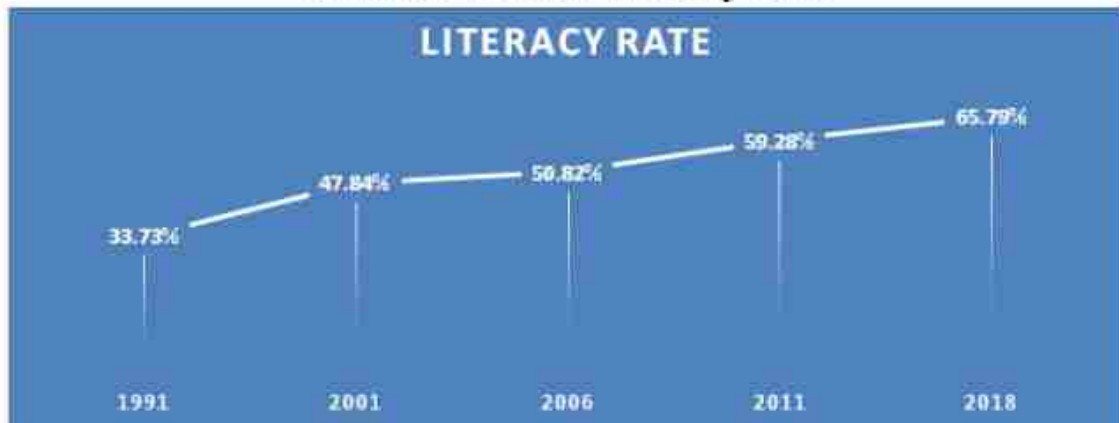
Over the years the number of women Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Member of Parliament (MP) has increased, the number is still dismal. The number of women MLAs across all state assemblies is less than 10% of the total. In the Seventeenth Lok Sabha 14 percent of MPs are women. These numbers are still quite low for women to have a meaningful say in enactment of laws in the Legislative Assemblies and in the Parliament. There have been many women chief ministers who have ruled some of the most populous states in the country. These women have left significant mark with their work and they are followed by millions. There have been many ministers in the Union government who have been quite extraordinary.

Chart-1: Women MPs elected to Lok Sabha since 1952

Source: Website of Lok Sabha, Members since 1952

Education and good training are the paved paths to success

Education provides a platform for people to perform. Literacy rate is one key indicator which provides an insight into empowerment of women. In the last few years, the literacy rate among women has seen a big jump. Education also ensures that the women get a better deal not only at workplace but also in the most difficult life situations.

Chart-2: Female literacy rate

Source: World Bank

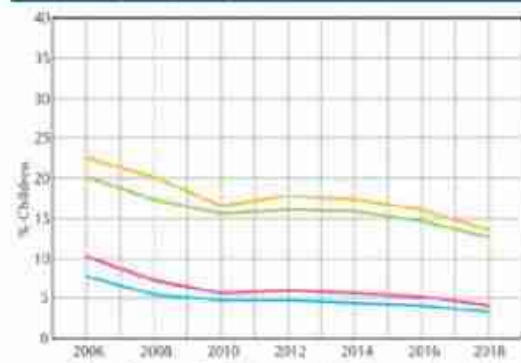
All the efforts put in by the Union government, state governments and local bodies have started bearing fruits as the dropout rate among girl students has dipped sharply in the last few years. A major concern is that 13.5% girl students in the 15-16 years age category either dropout of schools or the have never attended school. Another worrisome fact is that only 66.4% of schools have usable and unlocked toilets for girl students. It has been observed that one of the biggest reasons for girls to dropout of schools is unusable toilets.

Chart 3: Female "Not in School" numbers

Age group	Govt	PM	Other	Not in school	Total
Age 6-14: All	65.6	30.9	0.7	2.6	100
Age 7-16: All	64.2	30.8	0.7	4.4	100
Age 7-10: All	66.0	31.7	0.7	1.6	100
Age 7-10: Boys	62.4	35.4	0.7	1.6	100
Age 7-10: Girls	69.9	27.8	0.7	1.6	100
Age 11-14: All	65.0	30.6	0.7	3.3	100
Age 11-14: Boys	61.6	34.4	0.7	3.3	100
Age 11-14: Girls	68.4	29.8	0.8	4.1	100
Age 15-16: All	57.4	28.9	0.6	13.1	100
Age 15-16: Boys	55.7	31.2	0.5	12.6	100
Age 15-16: Girls	59.0	26.9	0.7	13.5	100

*Other includes children going to Madarsa or TGS.

*Not in school includes children who never enrolled or have dropped out.



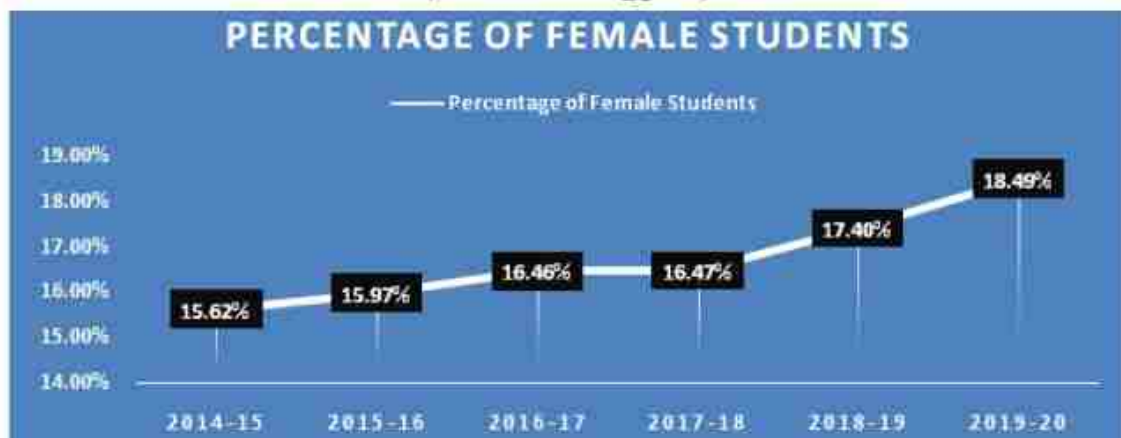
Each line shows trends in the proportion of children not enrolled in school for a particular subset of children. For example, the proportion of girls (age 15-16) not enrolled in school was 22.6% in 2006, 17.9% in 2012, and 13.5% in 2018.

Source: Annual Status of Education (ASER) Report (Rural) 2018

During the academic year 2018-19, 181.90 lakh women students enrolled in all courses and levels across regular and distance education programmes, constituting 48.64% of all students. During the academic year 2017-18, women students constituted 47.59% of all students across all courses and levels. A number of initiatives have been taken to ensure that the women students are encouraged to opt for higher studies.

The number of female students getting into technical and professional courses has also increased in the last few years. Even though the ratio of female to male students is still not very satisfying, the chart shows an upward trend which is quite encouraging.

Women have also been part of administrative services. The number of women recommended for administrative services by UPSC usually stands between 20% to 25% of all recommendations.

Chart 4: Percentage of female students in each Academic Year (IIT Kharagpur)

Source: Council of Indian Institutes of Technology, Student Statistics

Women have also won many laurels for the country. Olympic medallists, Karnam Malleswari, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindu and Sakshi Malik have inspired many other countrymen (incidentally both men and women) to take up sports as a career and dream of winning a medal for the country at the highest level. Another impressive fact is that Haryana, known for low female to male ratio, has been churning out world class athletes and the sex ratio has also improved significantly.

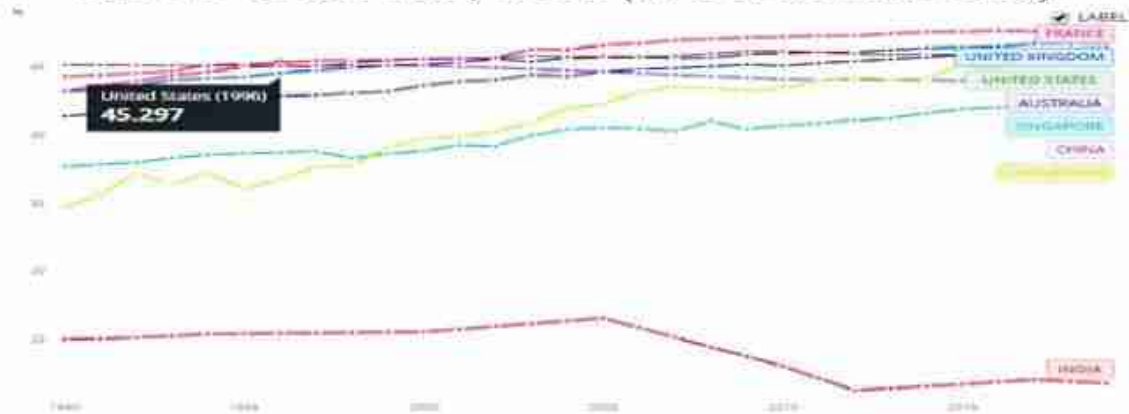
Participation of women in the workforce

Female participation in the overall workforce in India has traditionally been lower than the other countries. In 2012, India was ranked at 84th out of 87 countries where the study was conducted. Women in India on an average have to spend a lot more time than men on unpaid work. Average time spent by women per day is 5 hours and 52 minutes compared to just 52 minutes spent by men. Only 21.8% women (15 years and above) are part of workforce compared to more than 40% in most of the developed countries.⁵ The percentage of women as part of the labour force has seen a huge decline since its peak in 2005 despite the introduction of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MGNREGA). Various studies on this massive drop in women workforce have suggested a number of reasons, such as 1) lack of good opportunities⁶, 2) increase in household income leading to reduction in the need for female participation⁷, 3) women opting for higher education instead of menial work⁸ and 4) domestic and childcare responsibilities constrain women from participating in the labour market⁹. In 2011-12, women received 34% less than men in India for doing the same job with same qualification. Dependence is another reason for this massive fall in the workforce numbers could be due to the identification and deletion of fake beneficiaries.

The Indian parliament passed the Maternity (Amendment) Act 2017 on March 9, 2017 which ensures protection of employment of women during pregnancy and entitles her of maternity benefits which includes fully paid leave for a period of 26 weeks. The Act also makes it mandatory for establishments employing more than 50 women to provide Crèche facility.

It seems that we have reached a trough and the only way is upwards.

Chart 5: Labour force, female (% of total labour force)

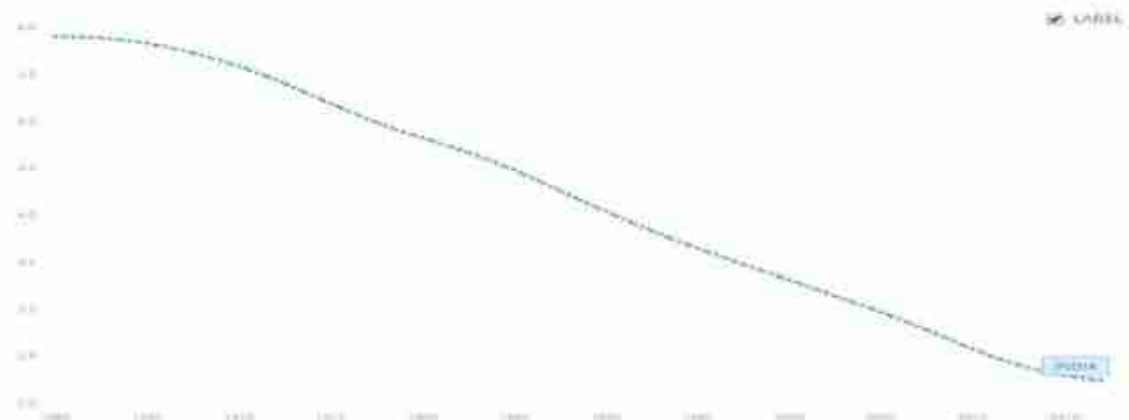


Source: World Bank Website

Correlation between empowerment and nation's growth

It has been observed that with the improvement in literacy rate, per capita income and savings have gone up. On the other hand, fertility rate has come down drastically with the increase in literacy rate. Women have a greater say in family planning as well as financial planning. It is apt to quote Mahatma Gandhi who had said that "To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self-sacrificing, has she not greater powers of endurance, has she not greater courage? Without her, man could not be. If nonviolence is the law of our being, the future is with woman. Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?"¹⁰

Chart 6: Fertility rate over the years



Source: World Bank Website

Conclusion

Women have been disadvantaged due to familial and social pressure for last many centuries. The gender pay gap has been quite astonishing. The disparity in the participation of women and men in the workforce is also quite alarming. But it is also a fact that the situation has improved over the years. Women are able to get better quality work and many measures have been taken for their wellbeing. Female dropout rate has fallen sharply and more women are opting for higher studies. Women are excelling in different vocations and they are making a mark in every sphere of life. Women business leaders have steered their companies towards success. Women are being recognized for their ability to multi-task, efficiency handwork and unflinching nature.

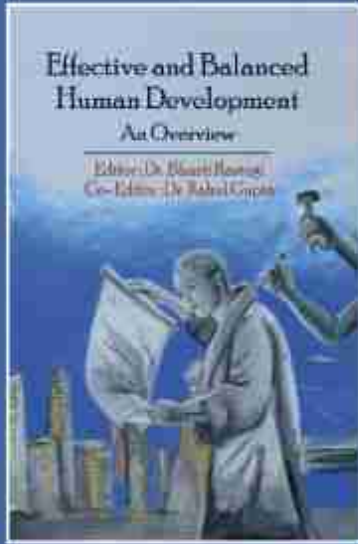
The 21st century could belong to women, but the destination is far, and the road is not an easy one.

References

- Periodic Labour Force Surveys. 2017-18, published in May 2019
- Vivekananda, Swami, On Indian Women - Their Past, Present and Future, December 1898, Prabuddha Bharata Newspaper
- Vivekananda, Swami, Letter to disciple Shashi translated from Bengali, 1895, Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda. Oregon Publishing
- List of States having 50% reservation for Women in PRIs, Ministry of Panchayati Raj website
- World Bank website, Labor force, female (% of total labor force)- United Kingdom, United States, Australia, France, Singapore, China, Luxembourg, India
- <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.FE.ZS?locations=GB-US-AU-FR-SG-CN-LU-IN>
- Urmila Chatterjee, Rinku Murgai and Martin Rama (2015), Job Opportunities along the Rural-Urban Gradation and Female Labor Force Participation in India, Policy Research Working Paper 7412, World Bank, Washington DC
- <http://crossasia-repository.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/3883/1/Job%20Opportunities%20Rural-Urban%20Gradation%20India.pdf>

- Steven Kapsos, Andrea Silberman and Evangelia Bourmpoula (2014), Why is female labour force participation declining so sharply in India?, International Labour Office, ILO Publications (Rights and Permissions), International Labour Office, CH - 1211 Geneva 22 (Switzerland)
- https://ilo.userservices.exlibrisgroup.com/view/delivery/41ILO_INST/1245308160002676
- Geeta Gandhi Kingdon and Jeemol Unni (2000), Education and women's labour market outcomes in India
- <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.198.4199&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
- Ruchika Chaudhary and Sher Verick (2014), International Labour Organization, ILO DWT for South Asia and Country Office for India. New Delhi
- http://www.oit.org/wcm5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/--sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_324621.pdf
- Mahatma Gandhi (October 4, 1930), To the women of India, Young India, Newspaper.

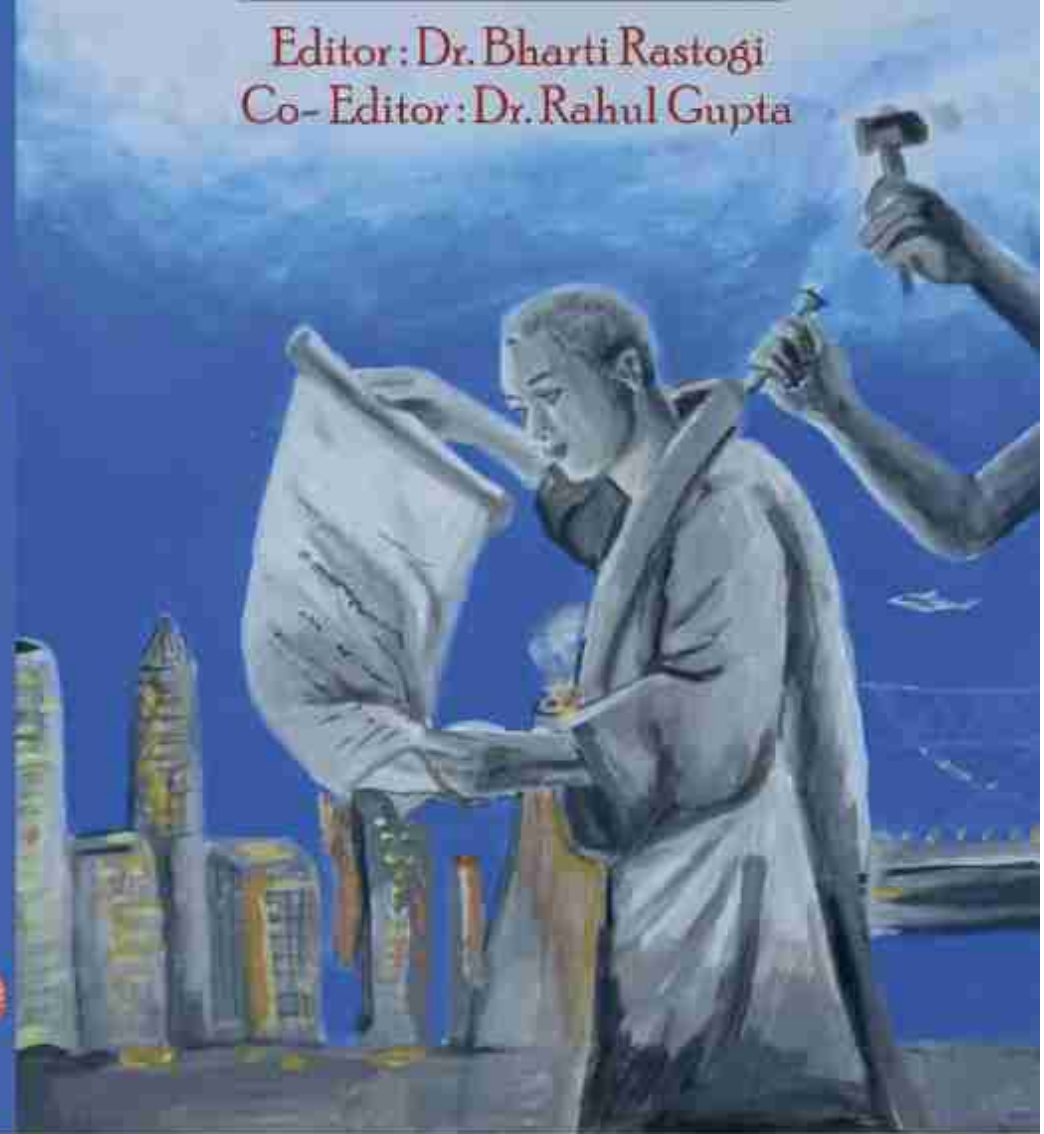




Effective and Balanced Human Development

An Overview

Editor : Dr. Bharti Rastogi
Co-Editor : Dr. Rahul Gupta



Effective and Balanced Human Development : An Overview Dr. Bharti Rastogi • Dr. Rahul Gupta



BHARATI PRAKASHAN

45, Dharmisangh Complex, Durgakund, Varanasi - 10
Phone : 0542-2312677, 9305292293
e-mail: bharatiprakashan@gmail.com
www.bharatiprakashan.com

₹ 500/-

ISBN 978-93-91297-58-9



9 789391 297589

Hundred Years of Indian Cinema *Crisis and Resilience*

— Editor —

Dr. Bandana Jha

*Associate Professor (Department of Hindi),
Vasanta College for Women,
KFI, Rajghat, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh*

2017

Regency Publications

A Division of

Astral International Pvt. Ltd.

New Delhi - 110 002

ience
own
still
ilgal
ns
ould
me

Chapter 6

Indian Films and Plight of the Aged

*Anuradha Bapuly**

As the demography of India is changing due to better health care and life expectancy, the study of the condition of elderly in India becomes of utmost importance. Due to demographic transition, there has been a continuous growth in the population of the aged not only in India but also all over the world. India is the second largest country in the world both in terms of the total population and the proportion of the elderly in the population (see **Figure 6.1**).

Ageing scenario in India shows that the number of people above 60 years will be increasing in the coming years and by 2020, 11.1 per cent population will be in this bracket and by 2040 this will increase to 17.5 per cent and in 2050 the population above 60 years will be 21.3 per cent. In absolute numbers, by 2020, 14,15,23,000 people will be above the age of 60 (Bose, Shankardass and Kapur, 2004). Due to population ageing and transition from agricultural economy to market economy, joint family type to nuclear family, modernization, rabid western education without ethical values, increasing professional involvement of women, decline in traditional Indian cultural values and a growing sense of materialism and self-centric approach have weakened the intergenerational relations and strong familial obligations. As a result of changing social structure, negative values of the younger generation towards the elderly and compulsory retirement of the elderly from economic activities will contribute a great deal in the emergence of old age as a social problem in the country. The declaration of 1982 as the International Year of the Aged by United Nations and

**Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya,
Kamachha, Varanasi – 221 010*

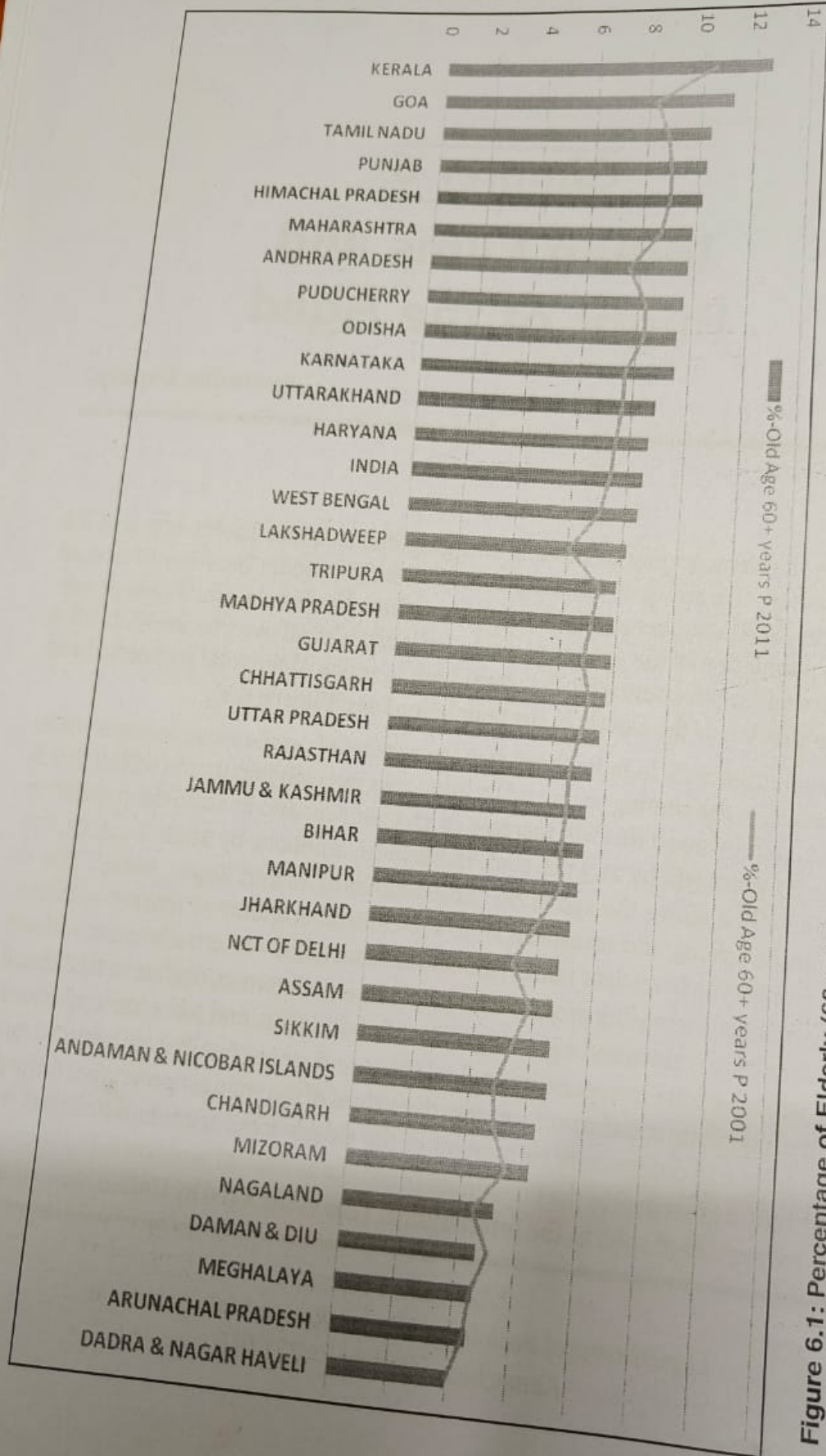


Figure 6.1: Percentage of Elderly (60 years or more) to Total Population, India, States and UTS, Persons, Census 2011 and 2001.

the Year 2000 as the National Year for Older Persons by the Government of India shows the seriousness of the problem of old aged (Joshi, 2006).

There is a need to promote systematic study on older persons. The study of Gerontology and the Sociology of Ageing are still in their infancy in India. The increasing population of the aged throughout the world has attracted the attention of Social Scientists, Demographers and Policy makers. Amid this backdrop, the objective of the present paper is to analyze the portrayal of condition of the aged through Indian Cinema. Cinema is a medium which has a mass appeal. Over the years it has successfully projected different issues that are prevalent in the Indian society.

Cinema is a rich medium which showcases the prevailing social norms. It is reflection of the society which has very powerful impact on people. The cinema is the prime form of entertainment which has always addressed universal issues (Dasgupta, 2009). India which has become a powerhouse of cinema has seen a rise in number of movies that have portrayed the life of an elderly person and the challenges faced by him in fast changing Indian social structure.

The journey of Indian Cinema began with *Raja Harishchandra*, made by Dada Saheb Phalke in the year 1913. It was a silent movie and it took 18 more years for the first talking movie to be made in India. Though *Alam Ara* was released on 14th March 1931, which was the first Indian talking movie, Indian cinema has since then moved in leaps and bounds. Cinema has gained popularity across Indian society during the early 20th century. With the mass production of camera films, production of movies became cheaper and gained access among the masses. New theaters were opened in the big cities and people started visiting these places as new art form had arrived which people could identify with.

Since then, movies have been made on mythological, historical, sports, nationalism, family values and also prevalent issues that were prevailing in the contemporary society. Issues like untouchability, child marriage, casteism and communalism were denounced in the movies. Movie making made forays into every part of the country. Be it Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu or Mumbai, movies became a medium of expression for people from every region.

After the success of *Alam Ara*, new production houses came into being. These production houses made sure that every aspect of film making is properly looked after and the films are distributed to every region of the country. These production houses became household names and the actors and directors became celebrities. Production houses started taking up subjects that affected people in their day to day life.

In the year 1957, a movie called *Mother India* was released. Even though the subject was about peasants and it was set in the rural backdrop, the movie became an instant blockbuster. The movie, which was directed and produced by Mehboob Khan, captured the journey of a woman who raised her family single handedly after her husband died and left his family with sufferings and a loan to repay. Radha (the

protagonist), raises her two sons through hardships and gains respect from the whole village. In the end, Radha kills her son to save the daughter of the money lender whose acts had destroyed her family. The film portrayed a self-respecting elderly woman who did not think twice before killing her own son to save the honour of the village. Nargis had played the role of Radha so convincingly that it became the catch phrase so that whenever an elderly woman took a stance against the popular belief she is referred to as 'Mother India'.

M.S. Sathyu came up with a gem called '*Garm Hawa*' in the year 1973. *GarmHawa* tells the story of a generation of Muslims who are torn between India and Pakistan just after the partition of India. The protagonist played by Balraj Sahani is the patriarch of the family who fights a battle of uncertainty inside his family where the majority wants to move to Pakistan as they feel that Pakistan is the land of opportunities and India is unsafe for Muslims and outside with the society which is agitating against the formation of Pakistan. When almost everyone in the family leaves for Pakistan and the Protagonist, his wife and his octogenarian mother are looking to stay back in India. This movie broadly showed the patriarch of the family as a very strong willed person.

Mahesh Bhat's *Saaransh*, travels through the life of an elderly couple, B.V. Pradhan and Parvati Pradhan, who have to fight against the apathy of the system and the bureaucracy in everyday life and their zeal to fight for their belief. Here too the protagonist is an elderly man who single handedly takes the onus of fighting against the corrupt system.

Just like *Mother India*, *Deewar* portrayed mother as a strong character who would not support the wrong and take the righteous path. Traditionally in the Indian context where we have had the concept of joint families for centuries, mothers have played an important part in shaping the family values. There have been many instances where a widowed woman has brought up her family with little or no support from outside.

In Satyajit Ray's *Agantuk*, the protagonist Manmohan Mitra (played by Utpal Dutt) goes through a phase where his intentions are doubted and his actions are looked upon suspiciously. Manmohan is visiting India after 35 long years and he wants to meet his only surviving relative Anila before he sails off. Anila and her husband Sudhindra start to suspect that the person who calls himself as Manmohan Mitra might be an imposter whose main intention is to claim a share of the inheritance. The conflict increases and this makes the guest so uncomfortable that he suddenly disappears. Even though Anila and her husband manage to win Manmohan's confidence back, this does not happen in real life too often as we are torn between false ego and distrust towards an elderly person.

The Malayalam movie '*Thinkalazhcha Nalla Divasam*' tells the story of a son (played by Mammooty) who wants to sell his ancestral house and send his mother off to an old age home so that he can buy a flat in Bangalore. Even though the son

is doing well financially, he does not have any remorse to send his mother away to the old age home as his brother and sister become mute spectators. This movie highlights the problem that the elderly parents are facing due to nuclear families and migration of children, who have no affinity towards their parents or ancestral village, to cities and far away land.

In recent times, a movie called *Piku* has effectively portrayed a few aspects of aging such as BhaskorBannerjee's struggle with ill health and loneliness, his relationship with his young unmarried daughter and his life in a Cosmopolitan city. The movie revolves around their conflicting ideologies while being fully aware that they are each other's only emotional support. While *Piku* is successful professionally, she is struggling to play the role of an ideal daughter. Even though Bhaskor loves his daughter, his care for her sometimes becomes too intrusive.

Indian cinema has dealt with the issue of neglect shown by kin through couple of landmark movies like *Avtaar* and *Baghban*. Both these movies ended with the protagonists winning against all odds. These kinds of movies bring in a positivity among the elderly that their most important asset is their experience which will ultimately take them across the winning post. These movies also highlighted the need for a social security net which can safeguard them during hardships and the torment that elderly people have to go through when their children start abusing them and even evict them out of their own property which took them a lifetime to build.

Nana Patekar enacted the title role in *Natsamrat* (directed by Mahesh Manjrekar) which tells the story of a person who has gained great fame as a theatre artist, but his children feel embarrassed by their father's behaviour. GanpatBelwalkar, the protagonist, goes through a phase of rejection by his kin post retirement. His life is torn apart after his wife's death. The movie depicts the dependence of the husband and the wife on each other quite sensitively. This Marathi movie was commercially successful and critically acclaimed.

The year 2015 saw the release of the Bengali movie '*Bela Sheshe*' which was based on the life of an elderly couple. Soumitra Chatterjee plays the role of BishwanathMajumdar (owner of a successful publishing house) who decides to divorce his wife of 49 years, Aarti Majumdar. This decision of Bishwanath comes as a shock to his kids and their spouses. Unable to understand the motive behind this decision, the kids try different ways to find out the reason. Through the course of the film it is revealed that Bishwanath wants Aarti to be independent so that she does not go through any hardships when he leaves this world.

These kind of movies deal with the problem and prospect of graceful ageing and how the societal perspective can be changed through Indian cinema. In olden days the aged embodied wisdom and maturity and thus they were valued and honoured both in the family and in the society. Elder care was not a problem (Suryanarayana, 1998). But in modern era, it is a very common trend in domestic and institutional settings that mostly the older persons are living as abused or unwanted human beings. Social

exchanges are slowly shifting towards economic exchanges. Under the scenario, the elderly are exploited by the family and society (Thara Bhai, 2009). It shows an urgent need to sensitize people and change their negative attitudes to the aged and ageing, which causes irreparable harm on their health, status and dignity.

References

1. Bose, Ashish, Shankardass, and Kapur, Mala (2004). *Growing Old in India: Voices Reveal Statistics Speak*, Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation.
2. Joshi, Arvind Kumar (2006). *Rural Aged: Living Arrangements, Problems and Care in A.K. Joshi (Ed.) Older Persons in India*, Serials Publications, New Delhi, pp.68-85.
3. Dasgupta, Susmita (2009). *The Hindi Commercial Cinema in the Days of Globalisation in Sociology of Globalisation: Perspectives from India*, Edited By- Sakarama Somayaji and Ganesha Somayaji, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, pp.250-263.
4. Suryanarayana, M. (1998). *Changing Status in the Family Life of the Rural and Tribal Aged*, Paper Presented at the Regional Conference of Help Age India, Madras.
5. Thara Bhai, L. (2009). *Ageing: A Conceptual Clarification in the Backdrop of Globalisation, in Sociology of Globalisation: Perspectives from India*, Edited by- Sakarama Somayaji and Ganesha Somayaji, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, pp.264-275.

Issues of Land Acquisition in India

Edited by - **Indu Upadhyay**
Nairanjana Srivastava
Arti Kumari

Patron - **Principal, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya**
Prof. Rachna Srivastava



2019

Kala Prakashan

**B. 33/33 A-1, New Saket Colony,
B.H.U. Varanasi-221005**

✓ AB

Land Acquisition in India: Safeguards, Challenges and Solutions

* Dr. Anuradha Bapuly

Introduction

India is the fastest growing large economy in the world. India's nominal GDP stood at \$2.8 billion in 2018 which is expected to become \$5 billion by 2022. The country needs better amenities, infrastructure, military establishments and a large number of factories. India needs to interlink rivers, construct dams, establish large number of solar and wind power parks and construct bigger and efficient factories. As the number of vehicles is increasing, the need for newer and better-quality roads is also increasing. India is one of the most attractive markets in the world which is also attracting a large number of multinational companies to invest in the country. To sustain the current growth rate and to cater to the future needs, the country requires land which is not abundant. Land acquisition has thus become a very controversial subject which has turned violent on many occasions and it can make or break governments.

Projects that require land to be acquired

Not every project requires land to be acquired. Railways has 46,409 hectares of vacant land bank** and 931-hectare

* Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Vasant, Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha, Varanasi

encroached land in its possession.¹ Still, the railways may need to acquire land for projects such as the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed rail corridor (Bullet Train project). This kind of requirements arise because of the alignment and the design proposed by the project consultant.

On the other hand, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) frequently requires to acquire land for its projects as most of the projects require the width of the existing roads to be expanded. NHAI is mostly working on projects which require the existing two-lane roads to be widened to four-lane. These kinds of projects require the adjacent tract of land to be acquired.

A few examples of large-scale land acquisition:

- Sardar Sarovar Project: It affected 19, 33 and 122 villages in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh respectively. Project Affected Families (FAF) was 48,304 families across these 3 states.
- POSCO Steel Plant: The proposed 12 million metric tonne steel plant required the state-owned Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Authority to acquire 2,700 acres of land.
- Tata Motors' passenger car manufacturing plant: It was first proposed to be built in Singur (West Bengal), but later shifted to Sanand in Gujarat. This project saw massive protests in and around Singur.
- Tehri Dam: The project was first conceived in 1961 and the project design was completed in 1972. It took 43 more years for the phase 1 to be commissioned. The project has fully affected 37 villages and Tehri town, and partially affected 88 other villages.²

Issues of Land Acquisition in India

- Land Acquisition for Metro projects in different cities: As metro network passes through the most crowded parts of a city, these kinds of projects require residential and commercial buildings to be acquired. Alignment of these projects also affect public parks and heritage buildings.

Land Acquisition Acts

In simple terms, land acquisition is a transaction between the possessor the land and the acquirer. But land acquisition is never simple as it involves many aspects. In this transaction the initiator is always the acquirer and the possessor may not always be willing to part away with his or her prized possession. The acquirer wants contiguous tract of land which usually becomes the bone of contention.

Land Acquisition Act, 1894

Until 2013, all land acquisition undertaken for public purposes and for companies came under the purview of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894³. This act had defined the process through which any land acquired for public purposes and companies has to go through. The act also defined entities who should get involved (for example: the collector of the district) and the amount of compensation that should be provided to the possessor by the acquirer. This act was drafted and enacted during the British rule, hence it gave the government of the day a few powers which benefited the acquirer more than the possessor. It still had a few provisions which allowed the possessor to move to the courts in case of disagreement between the parties.

Land Acquisition in India: Safeguards, Challenges and Solutions

A Few important clauses from the Land Acquisition Act, 1894:

- It would not be applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- It would cover land to be acquired for
 - Development of villages
 - Construction or expansion of a corporation owned or state-controlled entity
 - Construction of dwellings for the employees of corporation owned or state-controlled entity
 - Construction of residences for the poor
 - Resettlement of people affected by natural calamities
 - Construction of amenities for the public
- The nodal officer for the acquisition was the district collector
- The district collector would identify the land to be acquired, resolve any issue arising during the process and decide on the compensation
- The act gave the collector a few sweeping powers in case of urgency
- The aggrieved party could move to courts within the stipulated time frame (within six weeks from the date of Collector's award)

Land Acquisition Act, 2013

It was observed that many land owners were being forcibly made to part ways with their land. It was also observed that in a democratic country like India, people and their representatives should have a greater say in the land acquisition process. To rectify these deficiencies in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, the government came out with a new La

Issues of Land Acquisition in India

Acquisition Act in 2013⁴. It was also evident that the compensation and rehabilitation processes were opaque.

The act is known as Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. It has incorporated a few significant changes to the act of 1894.

The act covers land acquisition for the following projects:

- Strategic purposes relating to armed forces or work related to national security
- Infrastructure development excluding private hospitals, private educational institutions and private hotels
- Agro-processing, construction of warehouses and cold storage facilities, and infrastructure for dairy, fisheries and meat processing units
- Industrial corridors, mining activities and national investment and industrial zones
- Water harvesting and water conservation
- Sports, tourism, transportation and space programme
- Housing projects for low income groups and project affected families

The act also covers land acquired for Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects. Projects where the acquirer is a private company or an appropriate Government is acquiring land on behalf of private companies also come under the purview of the act.

A few important points incorporated in the Land Acquisition Act, 2013:

- Land acquisition process should ensure that consultation with local self-government and Gram Sabhas takes place
- The act says that no irrigated multi-crop land can be acquired; such land can be acquired only under exceptional circumstances as a last resort

Land Acquisition in India: Safeguards, Challenges and Solutions

- The act has made provisions for food security
- Social impact assessment study should be mandatorily conducted
- The act has made sufficient provisions for the rehabilitation of displaced families
- The act also has provisions for additional compensation for displaced Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families
- The act also says that the aggregate of agricultural land acquired for all projects combined in a district cannot exceed the total net sown area
- The act has tried to make the process more humane, informative and transparent
- The act extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- It has clearly defined the amount of compensation to the affected families
- It ensures greater participation of people's representatives
- The act makes it mandatory for private companies to seek approval of at least 80% of the affected families

Amendment to Land Acquisition Act, 2013

The government introduced an amendment bill which was passed by the Lok Sabha in 2015, but the bill has not been passed by the Rajya Sabha yet. Hence, the government had to introduce it as an ordinance known as Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015.

The amendment seeks to make a few changes to the Land Acquisition Act, 2013⁵. These changes are:

- The amendment seeks to empower appropriate government to take steps for exemption from Social Impact Assessment
- The amendment also wants to do away with the clause with respect to Special Provisions for Safeguarding Food Security which made it almost impossible to acquire irrigated multi-crop land.
- It also seeks to make the consent clause less stringent
- The amendment also says that Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is followed while prosecuting a government employee
- The amendment also seeks to change the method of calculating the date of actual possession. This would help in those cases where the acquired land has remained unused due to delays caused by court proceedings or the land loser not accepting the compensation amount.

Notable agitations against major projects

Land Acquisition process for major projects has remained controversial through out the span of independent India. All major projects have got engulfed in one controversy or the other. It is imperative that we discuss these controversies to understand the subject through another context.

Agitation against Sardar Sarovar Dam:

Sardar Sarovar Project was conceived as a humungous infrastructure project which would consist of a number of dams, reservoirs, canals and hydro power plants. The project would cater to the people of three states: Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The project would submerge a large

number of villages in Madhya Pradesh and a few villages in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

A huge agitation erupted in the 80s which stalled work on the project. There was opposition on the proposed increase in the height of the dam and grave concerns were raised on the effectivity and efficiency of the rehabilitation process. Along with displacing the tribal population, the project was going to cause a major damage to the ecology of the area which would get submerged.

After a hard-fought battle, in the courts and on the streets, the court gave its consent on increasing the height of the dam. Even though this case has led to a huge cost overrun for the project, the movement has been able to successfully highlight the plight of the displaced families. This project has forced the government to reconsider the compensation and rehabilitation processes and to make them more effective and efficient.

Table 1

Progress made on Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families As on April - 2008

State	Total Project Affected Families	Total PAFs Resettled	Balance Families to be resettled
Gujarat	47405	4737	3
Maharashtra			
a) In Gujarat	807*	807	0
b) In Maharashtra	3388*	3014	374
Total (i)	4195	3821	374
Madhya Pradesh			
a) In Gujarat	7227*	565755	1570 ⁵⁵
b) In Madhya Pradesh	32142*	32142**	0
Total (ii)	39369	37799	1570
Total (i) + (ii)	48304	46357	1947

(S) In Gujarat 3 newly declared PAFs have been included.

(⁵⁵) The figures are tentative and allocation of PAFs for R&R in Gujarat is yet to be ascertained.

(*) This number may change after taking option of PAFs for R&R and declaration of genuine PAFs by GRA / State Government.

(**) The figures are based on the ATRs/progress report submitted by GOMP in NCA.

Source : Study on Land Acquisition Process – Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam, Special Land Acquisition Officer, Government of Gujarat

Table 1 represents the number of families affected due to the project and the number of families who were resettled. The Gujarat government has taken a lead role in the resettlement of affected families. The table also provides information on PAFs from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh who are being resettled in Gujarat.

Agitation against POSCO Steel plant:

The proposal for the steel plant was placed by the South Korean steel major, POSCO, in front of the Government of Odisha in 2005. Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (OIIDC) started acquiring land on behalf of POSCO. The land to be acquired was along the coast and in the jungles as the proposal also included construction of a sea port. The Union Government had also rushed through its files and given all the clearance in a record time.

Land acquisition process soon ran into rough weather as a few villages began to protest against the steel plant. Many of these villages relied on beetle leaf farming which was quite profitable. The agitation turned violent and a few people lost their life. OIIDC was able to acquire 1,700 acres till then out of the required 2,700 acres of land. A few political parties and NGOs were able to enter the scene through the backdoor. As the protest got prolonged, POSCO decided to drop its plan to construct a steel plant and left Odisha for good. People who were supporting the steel plant and people who were opposing it for a better bargain were disappointed as they lost out on a major job opportunity. POSCO also lost its business opportunity. The Odisha Government lost a major investor and revenue which could have been collected through tax and royalty.

Agitation against Tata Motors' plant:

Tata Motors had launched world's cheapest car and it wanted to keep the cost low. The company had chosen West Bengal which had a very strong tradition of Trade Unionism. Government of West Bengal started acquiring land on behalf of Tata Motors, but it soon hit a roadblock. The farmers of Singur, supported by political parties and intellectuals, started protesting against the automobile plant. The bone of contention was that the Government of West Bengal was acquiring land on behalf of the company instead of the company doing it by itself. Agitators rebutted the state government's claim that a clause of Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which allows the government to acquire land on behalf of a private company for public purposes, could be invoked.

Whatever the reason be, the Tata Nano plant was shifted to Sanand in Gujarat. The plant started with production of Tata Nano, but now it manufactures other models offered by the company. Singur still relies on farming, and the protestors, who were looking for a better compensation and job in the plant, got their land back after the Supreme Court directed the state government to return the acquired land to the farmers.⁷

Conclusion

Land Acquisition is a contentious topic, but the concerned governments should take utmost care in compensating and rehabilitating the affected families. The Land Acquisition Act, 2013 sufficiently safeguards the interest of the land losers, but it still needs to be amended as the restriction on acquisition of irrigated multi-crop land may adversely impact infrastructure in the Gangetic plains.

Not all the projects get stuck at the land acquisition stage. A few projects, like the Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar

Issues of Land Acquisition in India

highway, get stuck at the implementation state due to insufficient fund.

** Land banking is a term used for the practice of aggregating land parcels for future sale or development. Land banking has been practised by Indian Railways for quite long and most of the doubling, and electrification work has been undertaken by using these pockets of land which exist on both sides of an existing rail line. Jaiprakash Associates which has built the Yamuna Expressway has created a land bank by acquiring land on both sides of the highway for future use.

References

1. Management of Vacant Land in Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Public Accounts Committee (2018-19)) http://164.100.47.193/lssco-mmittee/Public%20Accounts/16_Public_Accounts_108.pdf
2. S.C.Sharma, Rehabilitation of Tehri Dam and Lessons Learnt, IIT Roorkee, Alternate Hydro Energy Center http://www.ahec.org.in/wfw/web_ua_water_for_welfare/case_studies/tehri/article_on_REHABILITATION_OF_TEHRI_DAM.doc
3. Land Acquisition Bill, 1894, Website of PRS https://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Land%20Acquisition/bill167_20080311167_The_Land_Acquisition_Act_1894.pdf
4. Land Acquisition Act, 2013, Legislative Department, Government of India <http://www.legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A2013-30.pdf>
5. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015, Press Information Bureau Website, Government of India, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=122149>
6. Singur case: Supreme Court declares land acquisition for Tata plant illegal. Live Mint report, September 1, 2016, <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Yr15OkSielfvHtnG4AajM/CPM-govts-acquisition-of-land-for-Tata-Motors-in-Singur-ill.html>.