

UGC Approved Journal No – 49297
(IIJIF) Impact Factor - 3.262

Regd. No. : 1687-2006-2007

ISSN 2231-4113

Śodha Pravāha

(A Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Refereed Research Journal)

Editor : S. B. Poddar

VOL. 8

ISSUE II

FEBRUARY 2018

Chief Editor : S. K. Tiwari

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Varanasi-221005, INDIA
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Rural Enterprise: A Force to Reckon With

*Dr Kalpalata Dimri**

The Indian Economy has been undergoing a period of job-less growth, and this has been particularly severe on the rural areas whose main economic activity viz. agriculture is under severe stress. In this situation, farmers are forced to abandon their fields and look for opportunities in the urban centres, which have created its own problems. The way forward is encouraging rural enterprise as a means to create wealth and employment, and laying the foundation of a truly dynamic economy.

According to Census 2011, more than 70% of India's population lives in rural areas where the main occupation is agriculture. Agriculture in India is characterized by small and marginal landholdings with peasants cultivating their ancestral lands using family labour and the average farm size only 1.57 hectares¹. Add to it the fact that in 1950-51, agriculture accounted for over 60% of India's GDP, which fell down to 15% in 2011-12. However, the proportion of people depended on agriculture declined only from 75% to 51%². It is understood that small land size prevents farmers from realizing economies of scale, leading to subsistence farmers, i.e., farming for self-consumption. Clearly, agriculture, which is the backbone of rural economy, is stressed.

Dwindling land holdings, lowering of profits, falling productivity and climate change are all forcing farmers to abandon agriculture altogether and move to urban/peri-urban areas, which does not have the capacity to absorb this huge migration. In this scenario, it is only imperative to give focused attention on rural enterprise as a way to make growth more equitable and provide meaningful employment to the youth.

Literature Review:

Mathur et.al (2007)³ looks at the trends in Indian agriculture, and makes projections for future growth. Chand. et.al (2011)⁴ have analysed that the smallholdings in Indian agriculture exhibit a higher productivity than large holdings. These smallholdings however show lower per capita productivity and the incidence of poverty is widespread. The lives of smallholding families can be improved among other things, by promoting off-farm rural employment.

Deshingkar (2010)⁵ explores the relationship between migration, remote rural areas (RRAs) and chronic poverty in India. It presents various case histories to show how migration fits into the complex strategies employed by poor households to improve their standard of living. It suggests that although migration is not an ideal or easy way of earning money and improving the living standard of the family, it is often the only option in places that have suffered from log jams of disadvantage.

MacKenzie (1992)⁶ focuses on fostering of entrepreneurship as part of an integrated approach to economic development. In the era characterized by advances in technology and exchange of data/information, entrepreneurial ability is an important means of wealth creation.

Saxena (2012)⁷ summarizes the problems faced by rural entrepreneurs in India and suggests remedies to solve them. Among other things, it says that the promotion of rural

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UGC Approved Journal No – 40957
(IIJIF) Impact Factor- 4.172

Regd. No. : 1687-2006-2007

ISSN 0974 - 7648

J I G Y A S A

**AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PEER REVIEWED
REFEREED RESEARCH JOURNAL**

Chief Editor : *Indukant Dixit*

Executive Editor : *Shashi Bhushan Poddar*

Editor
Reeta Yadav

Volume 12

February 2019

No. 2

Published by
PODDAR FOUNDATION
Taranagar Colony
Chhittupur, BHU, Varanasi
www.jigyasabhu.blogspot.com
www.jigyasabhu.com
E-mail : jigyasabhu@gmail.com
Mob. 9415390515, 0542 2366370

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Understanding the Female Labour Force Participation in India

*Dr Kalpalata Dimri **

Globally, there is a rise in the number of women entering the labour force. However, the trend has been puzzling in India, which has seen this falling despite registering strong economic growth. Various factors are at play here, which are discussed further. Numerous studies have indicated that by bringing women into the labour force, India can achieve multi-fold rise in GDP. Policymakers have introduced certain measures, however it must be understood that these policies will merely be on paper unless it nudges the patriarchal trends in society.

Select sectors of India's workforce have historically been dominated by women-such as Nursing, Primary School Teachers, Human Resource and Social Work. However, it is now no longer surprising to meet female airline pilot, cab drivers or even detectives¹. In fact, women from multiple walks of life have been constantly been foraying into sectors once dominated by men and is a welcome change in the otherwise rigid Indian society.

While India's performance has improved on gender indicators like women's agency and involvement in decisions around their health, but the country is still grappling with a serious declining percentage of women in workforce, as noted by the Economic Survey². Studies and experience show that women face an uphill struggle in India's workplace, and it is twice as hard for them to break into the top ranks due to underlying social, economic and political barriers. In fact, the percentage of women who work has declined over time, from 36% of women being employed in 2005-06 to 24% in 2015-16. The falling female labour force participation in India has been a sort of puzzle and requires greater discussion.

Nonetheless, it is important to note that Women's economic empowerment boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes³. It is worth pointing that the women outside the labour force participation are still toiling at home or working on the fields in unpaid work. If more women did paid work, India's

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Issue - 16
Vol. - 16 (Jan.-March, 2017)

ISSN - 2322-018X
ICRJIERS IMPACT FACTOR
8.2856

Indexed Peer Reviewed & Refereed Quarterly Bilingual

RELEVANT DERIVE

Social Science
International Research Journal

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DR. AMIT JAIN
M. COM, PH.D., MSW

An official publication of
Amit Educational and Social Welfare Society (Regd.)
Firozabad (U.P.)



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RELEVANT DERIVE
(International Research Journal of
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The Need For Balancing The Environment And Development

Dr. Kalpalata Dimri

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Abstract

Many assume that economic interests and environmental interests are in conflict. However, this belief is highly unfortunate as it puts the entire sustainability of the planet at risk. The policies which India (along with China) adopts at present with reference to the environment will ultimately determine the fate of the future. Hitherto, our focus has been unrelentingly been on 'growth', since we have a huge population which needs to cross the basic threshold of dignified life. However, what is needed is a balancing act.

Methodology

The analysis presented in this study is based on secondary data gathered from Government of India publications, UN publications and various other contemporary journals and news papers. The environment and economic development policies of Government of India have been reviewed to find out balance between them. The international performance of India towards environment has also been reviewed.

Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to review contemporary Indian Government Policies in light of their objectives towards the balanced and sustainable economic development.

Keywords

Environment, Development, Economic development, Poverty

In 1972, Indira Gandhi-the then Indian Prime Minister of India-said at the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (UNCHE), "*we do not wish to impoverish the environment any further and yet we cannot for a moment forget the grim poverty of large numbers of people*". She added, "*Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters?*"¹This statement has been manipulated to constantly shift the burden of environmental degradation. Developing countries look at the historical emissions of the rich and say the burden of carbon reductions should lie with them. Rich countries, on the other hand worry that the rise of the middle class in developing countries will create an unprecedented growth in carbon emissions. The 2015 Paris Deal was in this case a milestone, since it brought for the first time the developing and developed countries on the same platform whilst acknowledging "*Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities*". India is particularly of importance when it comes to environmental protection, since it houses over 1.2 billion people and is growing at a fast pace.

Literature Review

Since 1991 the environmental Kuznets curve (EKC) has become a standard feature in the technical literature of environmental policy, which suggests the relationship between environment and economic growth, as has been observed in the Western developed countries. S.Dinda (2004) gives an overview of the EKC literature, background history, conceptual insights, policy and the conceptual and methodological critique.² Its application, is however strongly contested, as has been shown by Roberts (2003)³. Stern (2004)⁴ has used new generation models to fully understand the relationships in EKC.

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Land Acquisition: Issues and Way Forward

Abstract

Land acquisition is one of the most controversial pieces of legislations in India. Since land is very fragmented, the Government considers acquisition an important tool for development purposes. But, the history of rehabilitation and resettlement has mostly been inadequate for communities being affected by it. In this sense, the 2014 amendment to the 2013 legislation has brought into focus yet again the issues of land rights. It may be better to move away from acquisition to a market based solution where no parties feel to be at the losing end.

Keywords: Land acquisition, Act 1894, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, Land ownership, Environment, Special Economic Zone.

Introduction

Leo Tolstoy, in his story "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" has questioned the need and greed behind man's quest for land ownership. The story concluded with the message that man, in reality, needed no more than six feet of land, that is, amount of land required for his burial¹. Despite the obvious fact, ownership of land remains a rather emotive issue. Why is land so important? One important reason for its unparalleled value is the fact that we live on land. All our requirements are derived, in one way or the other from it and more often than not, our identity is based on it. The other factor which makes land such an important resource is its limited availability- It cannot be expanded beyond what is provided by Nature and the question remains on how to allocate a particular land parcel. Writing for Down to Earth, Jitendra (2015) points out, in India, land pressure is already high. The country accounts for about 2.4 per cent (328.73 million hectares) of the world's geographical area but supports about 17 per cent of the world's human population and 15 per cent of livestock².

In the recent years, the issue of Land Acquisition has emerged yet again. Put it simply, land acquisition is the process by which the government *acquires* private property for public purpose (which can be through coercion). It is thus different from a land purchase, in which the sale is made by a willing seller, at the market price³. Till the end of 2013, land acquisition was governed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The erstwhile UPA Government, in 2013 replaced it with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (LARR). In 2015, the BJP led NDA, who came with the huge mandate to deliver on its private sector led development sought amendment to the LARR, which was not passed by the Rajya Sabha. Let us first discuss the provisions under the laws, and then understand its real world ramifications, particularly on the displaced and the environment. Finally, we discuss some of the other alternate models which balance the concerns of landowners and development.

Aim of the Study

To study the challenges associated with land acquisition in India and suggest possible solutions.

Land Acquisition: The Past and Present

The colonial British Government had enacted the Land Acquisition Law way back in 1894. The power to take property from the individual is rooted in the idea of Eminent Domain. Land ownership in India is highly disorganized and fragmented, making it difficult for the private sector to acquire it for operations. Thus, successive Governments have used this route to create land banks which can then be used for industrialization. However, amongst other things, the law was silent on the issue of compensation, consent of landowners and others who depended on the land. Land acquisition has led to large-scale protests against Mega projects



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R.N.I. No. : UPBIL/2009/27081

ISSN : 0976-1136

ICRJFR, IMPACT FACTOR
9.9901

Indexed
ProQuest.

Peer Reviewed & Refereed International Multidisciplinary
Quarterly Bilingual

DELIBERATIVE RESEARCH[®] JOURNAL



Editor-in-Chief
Amit Jain
M.Com, Ph.D, MSW, LLB

Vol.- 39
Issue. - 39, July-Sept., 2018

DELIBERATIVE RESEARCH

(A Quarterly Bilingual International Journal)

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ISSN : 0976-1136

The Female Labour Force Participation in India

Dr. Kalpalata Dimri

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Abstract: Globally, there is a rise in the number of women entering the labour force. However, the trend has been puzzling in India, which has seen this falling despite registering strong economic growth. Various factors are at play here, which are discussed further. Numerous studies have indicated that by bringing women into the labour force, India can achieve multi-fold rise in GDP. Policymakers have introduced certain measures, however it must be understood that these policies will merely be on paper unless it nudges the patriarchal trends in society.

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Nonetheless, it is important to note that Women's economic empowerment boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes worth pointing that the women outside the labour force participation are still toiling at home or working on the fields in unpaid work. If more women did paid work, India's national income would rise dramatically. One estimate is that GDP would go up by 20% if women matched men in workforce participation

Literature Review

Goldin (1995) was one of the first theorists to put female labour force participation, generally considered to be in the realm of sociology, into mainstream economic theory.

Joumotte (2008) examines the determinants of female labour force participation in OECD countries, including a number of policy instruments over the period 1985-99.

Kapsos et al (2014) attempts to shed some light on the cause behind the decline in female labour force participation in India and to identify factors underpinning the long-term stagnation. Sorsa et al (2014) include that apart from lack of jobs, social and cultural factors keep women outside the labour force. Other determinants relate to infrastructure, access to finance, labour laws and rural employment programmes.



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Agricultural Sustainability for 21st Century

Abstract

Agriculture has been one of the most widely discussed topics in India. Yet, it remains the most neglected. Even today, agriculture is the largest employer in India despite its contribution falling down substantially over the last 50 years. The challenges to agriculture have also undergone a major transformation: from being an activity to feed the nation, it now needs to consider the environmental consequences into account along with technological innovations, since land is becoming a scarce commodity. All of it calls for an evergreen revolution, such that the needs of the present do not compromise the viability of the future.

Keywords: Sustainable Agriculture, Green Revolution, Agricultural Growth, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Holdings.

Introduction

'*Jai Jawan Jai Kisan*' (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer) was the slogan chartered under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri in the 1960's owing to the importance of these two in sustaining the backbone of India (i.e., External Security and Food Security). In the next few decades, we have witnessed a secular decadence of the latter. Year after year, scores of farmers are staging multiple protests, in the hope that their voices will be heard.

It must be kept in mind that before independence, India faced recurring crop failures and famines. Realizing the insecurities arising due to improper supply of food-grains, the Government of Independent India took successive policy measures. The most important change introduced was the 'Green Revolution' of 1960's. Data from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that the total food grain production in India has more than doubled, from 108.42 million tonnes in 1970-71 to 275 million tonnes in 2016-17¹. It is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices, and has the world's largest cattle herd (buffaloes), as well as the largest area under wheat, rice and cotton. It is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, farmed fish, sheep & goat meat, fruit, vegetables and tea². If history is a witness, this is an achievement in itself. However, the scenario has changed drastically in the last 50 years, which calls for another green revolution, and possibly one that balances the growing demand for food with socio-economic equity and environmental sustainability.

Let us look at the major issues plaguing the agriculture sector, followed by the strategy for future sustainable growth.

Aim of the Study

To review the sustainable growth of agriculture.

Review of Literature

Bagchi (2010)³ extensively examines the impact of colonialism in various aspects of Indian economy, including agriculture. To a certain extent, the seeds of current crisis in agriculture were sowed during this period. Dandekar (1994)⁴ gives an insight into the agricultural institutions of India beginning from the British administration. The disproportionately large burden of population which causes net capital consumption rather than capital creation in agriculture is identified as the basic problem of Indian agriculture.

Dr. YV Reddy (2001)⁵ has highlighted the concerns facing the Indian agriculture. Of particular interest is the analysis of middlemen, who according to Reddy are inevitable in the agriculture. The issue is how to foster competition and assure regulation of such middlemen keeping in view the interest of producers as well as consumers drawn Rajendran et al (2014)⁶ highlight problems of organized agricultural marketing in India. The various regulations have prevented the emergence of a domestic market in



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Empowering the Youth for an Empowered Nation

Abstract

India is undergoing an important phase of its demographic transition. At a time when major countries of the world are ageing, India is seeing a rise in the population of its youth. It is important to reap this potential 'dividend' not just because this opportunity rarely occurs, but also because not harnessing it would lead to discontent and demographic disaster. Governments have been addressing this issue through their multiple skill development initiatives, which have had a mixed record. The fact of the matter remains that these measures will fall short of expectations till the structural rigidities of the economy and the Indian labour market peculiarities are tackled.

Keywords: Youth empowerment, Empowerment, Skill, Employment, labour market

Introduction

Today, India and the world need a skilled workforce. Skills and knowledge development are the driving forces behind the financial growth and community development of any country. Skill building is a powerful tool to empower individuals and improve their social acceptance. It must be complemented by economic growth and employment opportunities to meet the rising aspirations of society. In this regard, it is important to understand the policies adopted by the Government to cater to the most important demographic, who should be at the forefront of this policy, viz. the Youth.

By 2020, India's population is expected to become the world's youngest: more than 500 million Indian citizens will be under 25 years of age and more than two-thirds of the population will be eligible to work. This means that a growing number of India's youth needs the right to educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed or become entrepreneurs. However, there is a wide gap between those who have access to education and skill development, and those who don't, and this is the challenge that needs to be overcome¹.

Review of Literature

Various studies and reports have been commissioned by researchers, Governments as well as private sector to understand the empowerment of youth. The rate of unemployment among youth (15-29 years of age) is higher than total rate of unemployment. India, however presents a curious case of Employment, Employability and Higher Education. Khare (2014) shows that demand for labour is high in India, and will remain so, but there are critical missing links which makes the labour market highly fragmented². In fact, as per Aspiring Mind Report 2016, 80% engineers unemployable as they lack key skills³.

Moreover, one must also understand certain peculiarities of labour market in India. Thorat & Neuman (2012) indicate that caste and religion plays an important role in the market, and Social Capital/networks preventing development of a competitive field⁴. Moreover, Ramaswamy (2018) in his reviews finds out technological change and automation are likely to trigger job losses, particularly in the low-skilled and routine jobs⁵.

The Public and Private sectors must understand the skill gap, and broad pathway should be identified to plug in the gaps and missing links.

Reaping the Demographic Dividend

The population dynamics move like a wave. In the beginning the dependency ratio (number of people in the 0-14 and 60 and above age group) increase as the number of children increases. Then the dependency ratio decreases as the birth rate declines and the large number of children become adults. A "demographic dividend" is reaped at this stage because we have large numbers of working persons and less numbers of dependents. This fortuitous circumstance occurs only rarely when the high



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UGC Approved Journal No – 40957

(IIJIF) Impact Factor- 4.172

Regd. No. : 1687-2006-2007

ISSN 0974 - 7648

JIGYASA

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PEER REVIEWED
REFEREED RESEARCH JOURNAL

Chief Editor : *Indukant Dixit*

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Editor
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Volume 12

May 2018

No. V

Published by

PODDAR FOUNDATION

Taranagar Colony

Chhittupur, BHU, Varanasi

www.jigyasabhu.blogspot.com

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E-mail : jigyasabhu@gmail.com

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Significance of Health and Nutrition in Economic Development

*Dr Kalpalata Dimri **

Nutrition is a basic requirement for all from a human rights point of view. Unfortunately, India has historically been lagging behind in this crucial indicator despite making remarkable progress on the economic front. One of the main reasons attributed to this is the patriarchy which reduces the nutrition intake of girls, and when they become mothers, it percolates to the next generation as well creating a never-ending chain. This has severe economic consequences in the long run as well. The Government has taken positive steps to tackle this, but what is needed is a multi-sectoral approach and most importantly, a change in mindset.

Amartya Sen, who was awarded the Noble Memorial Prize in Economics in 1998 for his contribution to welfare economics, famously said during an interview, *"India is the only country trying to become a global economic power with an uneducated and unhealthy labour force"*¹. In fact, Sen and his disciple, Jean Dreze (who are the world's best minds in development economics), debunk in their book, *An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions*, that although India as a nation has made remarkable gains when it comes to GDP growth, but the fruits have not been equal for all. Moreover, we lag behind majorly when it comes to healthcare and nutrition. Mr. Sen reiterated in the same interview, *"It's never been done before, and never will be done in the future either."*

Literature Review

Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze (1999)² have made outstanding contribution in understanding the causes of hunger, the role public action can play in its alleviation and the Indian experience in this context. Their works provide a comprehensive theoretical and empirical analysis of relevant developmental issues.

A seminal study from the Nutrition Foundation of India (1992)³ and WHO Multi-centre Growth Reference Study Group (2006)⁴ have shown that Indian children grow at the same rate as children when they are allowed to reach their full genetic potential.

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Gandhian Economics- Beyond Money to Ethics

Abstract

2019 marks the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As a political philosopher, he has inspired scores of individuals, but the same can be extrapolated to the field of Economics. Through this article, we try to construct and deconstruct the basic tenets of Gandhian Economics, and why it is important in the 21st Century.

Keywords: Gandhian Philosophy, Satya, Ahimsa, Violence, Dalit, Swaraj.
Introduction

The significance of Mahatma Gandhi as a political and social leader can hardly be underestimated. 2019 marked the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma, which was celebrated in multiple ways not just by the Government of India, but also abroad. Truly, the quote by Albert Einstein "Generations to come, it may well be, will scarce believe that such a man as this one ever in flesh and blood walked upon this Earth" holds significance till today.

When it comes to the economy, it can be safely concluded that Gandhi never wrote a treatise on Economics nor read a lot in its subject matter. However, his followers, in particular JC Kumarappa coined the word 'Gandhian Economics' by extrapolating his ideas into the realm of economics.

It is important to understand that these ideals are derivations of core Gandhian philosophies, Satya (Truth) and Ahimsa (Non-violence). His early life and views were radically shaped during the first wave of globalization (1840-1929) characterized by the rise of steamships, telegraph and railroads. It was also the time of growing disparities, two bloody World Wars, Colonialism, Rise of Socialism, Famines, etc. While studying law in London, he encountered the works of radical European and American philosophers such as Leo Tolstoy, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and John Ruskin—transcendentalists who advocated intuition over logic. It is in this light that we first analyse the school of thought, after which we would investigate its significance for the 21st Century.

Aim of the study

To study the relevance of Gandhian Economics in contemporary times.

Gandhi: Shaping of the Ideology

In his book, *Gandhi before India* (2013)¹, Ramachandra Guha takes the reader into the experiences of MK Gandhi in South Africa which ultimately led to articulation of ideas that would challenge the British Empire. What is worth appreciating is how he mobilized a cross-class and inter-religious coalition, pledged to non-violence in their battle against a racist Government².

Coming to India and determined for its independence, Gandhi clubbed the political freedom with larger social issues like extreme poverty, backwardness and caste discrimination. An independent India, in his opinion, should not be merely a transfer of power from British but should lead to inclusive development and an emancipation of the masses. In this regard, he favoured social mobility for the lower caste/Dalits (who he referred to as Harijans) and equality of opportunity for the minorities. This was the true definition of Swaraj (Self-Rule)³.

Gandhi despised mass-production and rather favoured production by the masses. Concomitantly, he was not much in favour of Western-style Industrialization which accentuated inequalities and failed to create decent livelihoods for all. In this regard, Khadi, which was both homespun and domestically made, became not just a symbol against the British colonial government (textiles were a major import from Britain), and by extension, to



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ISSN - 2322-013X
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 8.2856

Issue 17
 Vol. 7 April 2017

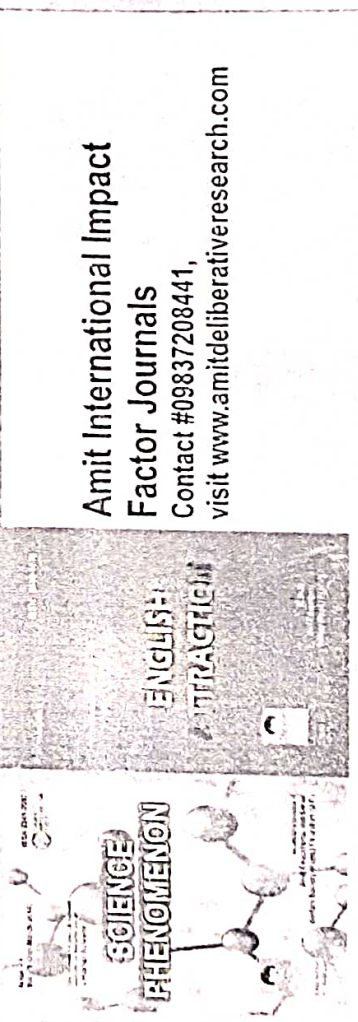
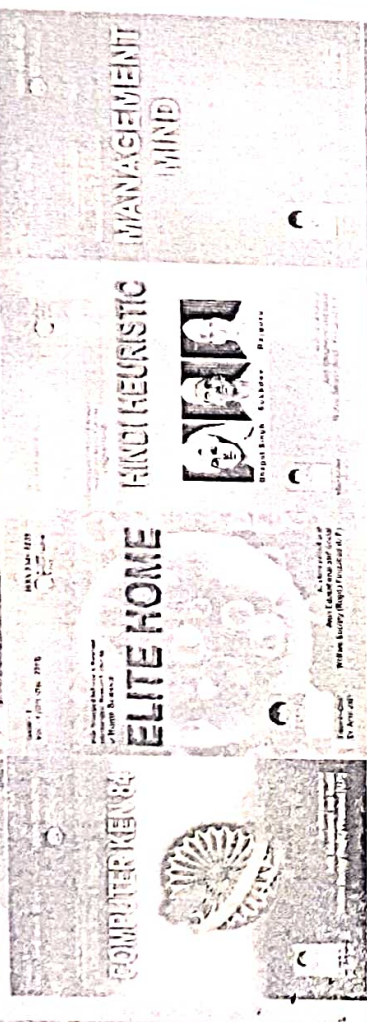
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MGNREGA: The Efficacy And Effects During The Last Decade

Dr. Kalpalata Dhuri

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Abstract:

The MGNREGA has been one of the flagship initiatives of the Government of India. With the aim to generate employment in the rural areas, the programme has already reached out to millions of people. Though there have been criticisms on its implementation as well as corruption, it still remains the most effective poverty alleviation programme and will continue to remain so in the future as well.

Keywords: *Employment, poverty, employments, person days*

Economic policy, up until the 1940's relied almost exclusively on *laissez-faire*, i.e., Governments should abstain from intervening in the markets. The market forces, it says, are itself efficient to solve economic problems. This body of work was challenged by John Maynard Keynes and his followers, who suggest that there is an important case for Government intervention to spur demand, which is in turn important for generating employment.

In the backdrop of twin problems of unemployment and poverty, as well as the failure of trickledown theory, it became even more important for successive Indian Governments to take a leaf out of Keynesian principle. The problem became more acute in the post reform period where the share of agriculture to the GDP started declining but with the number of people dependent on it remaining almost constant. Moreover, growth in this period became job-less, i.e. not enough jobs were being created. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) can be seen as one of the chief tools implemented by the Government of India to generate employment, improve personal/household income through rural asset creation and demand generation to reduce poverty¹.

History of Employment Generation Schemes

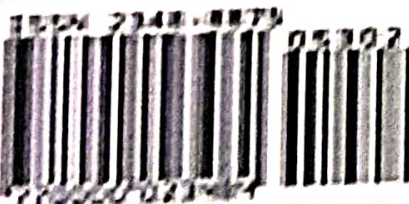
Since Independence, successive Governments understood the need to generate jobs in the economy, which was enshrined in the Five Year Plans. Public works programme to create jobs have been the traditional method for poverty alleviation and wage employment. The pioneer scheme in this regard was the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) in Maharashtra during the 1970's. From generating five million person-days of employment in the early 1970s, employment through the EGS rose to over 200 million person-days in 2004². In the 1980, National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) was launched to provide profitable employment opportunities to the rural poor, it was expected to increase man-day per annum, create durable community assets and improve nutritional status and living standards of the poor. The 6th Five Year Plan had an outlay of Rs. 1834 Crore for NREP while the Seventh Five Year Plan had an outlay of Rs. 2487 Crore. About 1775 million and 1477 million man-days of gainful employment were created under the 6th and 7th Plan respectively³.

The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced in 1983. The programme was aimed for providing employment to landless farmers and labours. Later on, in 1993-94, NREP & RLEGP were merged into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) to provide employment to rural unemployed. In 1989-90 and 1990-91, total employment

ISSN: 2348-8875 (Print)
ISSN: 2348-5302 (Online)

Scholars Journal of Economics, Business and Management

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- DOI: 10.21276/sjebm.2017.4.12.9
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Startups- Taking India towards a Knowledge Economy

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Article History

Received: 20.11.2017

Accepted: 30.11.2017

Published: 30.12.2017

DOI:

10.21276/sjebm.2017.4.12.9



Abstract: Start-up has become the new buzzword in the Indian business jargon. With its emphasis on innovation and technology, they are the future for India. However, their journey has been a roller-coaster ride. From being plush with funding, we are increasingly seeing investments to companies with sustainable models. Moreover, this trend is also moving in to Tier-2/3 cities. While most of them still suffer from the issue of profitability, we can expect that this will settle down in due course and usher a new phase in the economy.

Keywords: Start-ups, software, technology, funding and investment.

INTRODUCTION

What is a Start-Up? Eric Ries, the creator of the Lean Startup movement, defines a startup as a newly formed company, the purpose of which is to develop new, usually innovative products or services in uncertain circumstances. If it satisfies a new need, present in a broader area or even globally, it also has great growth potential [1]. There has been a phenomenal growth of Start-ups in India during the last decade. A typical adult spends most of their day around start-up products. If you are too lazy to cook, food is just a click away on Swiggy/Zomato. One can commute to their workplace using Ola. For booking hotel rooms to your next travel destination, choose from hundreds of options in OYO. Above all, paying for all the above services using PayTM! With a commitment to creating customized solutions, start-ups are easing the lives of people. What is most encouraging in all this is that all these companies are home-grown and thus, carving a niche for the nation globally.

In the present dispensation, only a handful of these companies have become successful and even fewer have generated profits, it is important for us to analyse the reasons for its, as well as their sustainability. Even the Government has realized the potential of this sector to India's product market as well as job creation, given proper regulatory framework. Let us study these issues in detail.

Literature Review

Carl Dahlman and AnujaUtz [2] suggest that in the global knowledge economy of the twenty-first century, India's development policy challenges will require it to use knowledge more effectively to raise the productivity of agriculture, industry, and services and reduce poverty. Start-ups can be seen as one of the outcomes in this direction.

Arora [3] traces the growth of the software industry in five emerging economies, including India. As per the study. India used the comparative advantage of a relatively low-cost, technically skilled (and English-speaking) workforce to develop strong export-oriented software industries. Moreover, Indian software firms grew by providing low-level software services to US firms, graduating over time to higher stages in the

technology chain. Jain analyses the growth and prospects of Startup systems in India [4].

Prashantam [5] analyses how Startups in developing economies are addressing local problems through creative technologies and solutions. This is creating special challenges and opportunities for large global companies as well.

Baporikar [6] gives an overview of contemporary perspective on startups in India, enhancing understanding of startup ecosystems and recognizes the framework for social change taking shape due to Indian startups contribution to the national economy. The paper also attempts to understand the key success factors and provides commandments to further foster startups to optimize the social change. Kshetri [7] gives an in-depth study of the hindrances faced by Start-ups in India.

Funding Trends

Over 1000 tech start-ups were registered in 2017, taking the total to 5200 and making India the world's third largest start-up ecosystem-according to a Nasscon-Zinnov Joint Report on the 'Indian Start-up Ecosystem-Traversing the Maturity Cycle'. It is also employing close to 80,000 people [8].

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Need for Inclusive Growth: Empowering the Persons with Disabilities in India

Abstract

India has one of the largest numbers of Persons with Disabilities in the world. Unfortunately, this population falls in the least of priorities for policy makers. Few measures have been put in place to empower them, but they largely remain true on paper since critical linkages to education and employment are fragmented. The private sector has been slowly coming into the fold of employing them, which stems from sound business case. There is yet, a lot of depth to be covered before the vision of Growth for Everyone ('Sabka Saath') is realized.

Keywords: Disabled, Disability, Skill Development, Empowerment.

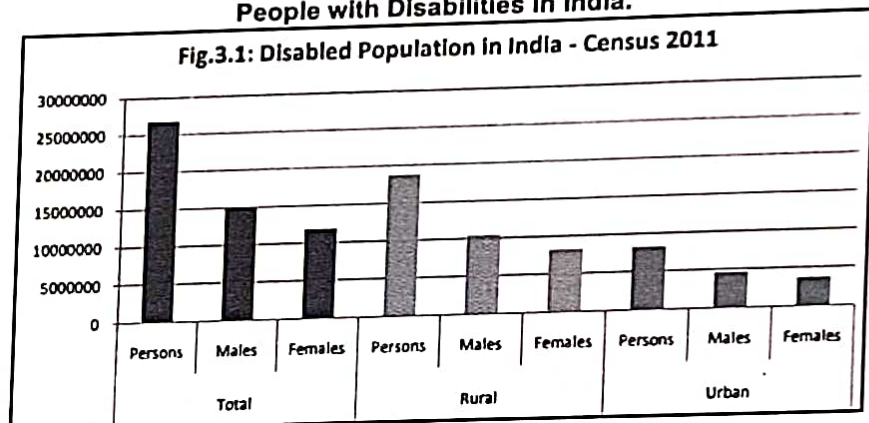
Introduction

The degree of evolvement of a society is gauged by the manner in which it cares for those on its fringes or those placed at any kind of disadvantage, vis-à-vis the rest of society at large, due to force of circumstances such as birth, age or disability. A truly compassionate society makes allowances for such infirmities in a non-intrusive, participative and sensitive manner, ensuring equal opportunities to all by providing a level playing field. The above is quoted from the archives of the Government of India¹.



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Figure 1
People with Disabilities In India.



Source: Government of India

We need to make our society and systems inclusive for People with Disabilities (PWD) in India, enabling them to lead a dignified, independent life while recognising them as valuable human resource to our country. All this is possible through an integrated approach, to include legislation, policies and concessions by the government, coupled with active participation by organisations, employers and, in fact, every citizen.

The 2011 Census states that out of the 450 million-plus workforce India have 2.68-crore people have some form of disability (see Fig 1).

Estimates by the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), however, put the figure upwards of 7 Crores².

Methodology

This study is based on secondary data gathered from the government of India Publications, contemporary journals and newspapers discussing the obstacles on the way for physically disabled persons.

Aim of the study

To review contemporary Indian government policies towards the persons with disabilities, thus putting them in the main channel of development by providing health, education and vocational training.

The Governmental Nudge

Empowering Persons with Disabilities Strengthens Human Solidarity for Everyone, former Secretary-General of the United Nations,