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Chief Editor
Dharam Vir

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Journal of National Development

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The Journal of National Development (JND) is an interdisciplinary bi-annual peer reviewed & refereed international journal committed to the ideals of a 'world community' and 'universal brotherhood'. The Journal is a joint effort of like-minded scholars in the field of social research. Its specific aims are to identify, to understand and to help the process of nation-building within the framework of a 'world community' and enhance research across the social sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, History, Geography, Education, Economics, Law, Communication, Linguistics) and related disciplines like all streams of Home Science, Management, Computer Science, Commerce as well as others like Food Technology, Agricultural Technology, Information Technology, Environmental Science, Dairy Science etc. having social focus/implications. It focuses on issues that are global and on local problems and policies that have international implications. By providing a forum for discussion on important issues with a global perspective, the *JND* is a part of unfolding world wide struggle for establishing a just and peaceful world order. Thus, the *JND* becomes a point of confluence for the rivulets from various disciplines to form a mighty mainstream gushing towards the formulation and propagation of a humanistic world- view.

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1

Decomposition Analysis of Cereals Production in Nagpur Division

S. B. Chavhan* and K. J. Patil**

The huge demand for cereals in the global market is creating an excellent environment for the export of Indian cereal products. The present investigation was undertaken to study to growth rate in Nagpur division, production and productivity of important cereal crops viz; wheat and rice. The study concluded that compound growth rate for area and production under cereals has increase in some district of Nagpur division of Maharashtra during study period. The study also revealed that the compound growth rate of wheat production in period I and period II was same in Nagpur division as whole. The area, production and productivity instability in cereals was observed in almost all districts in the state. It may be because the crop largely depends on vagaries of nature which causes heavy losses. Percent contribution of yield effect was more responsible for production of the selected cereals. Maximum instability was found in the overall period for selected cereals crops. For trend analysis among the competitive parametric models, in all district the area, production and productivity for wheat and rice only the cubic models are found best fitted.

[**Keywords :** Growth rate, Instability, Decomposition analysis, Cereals production]

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1. Introduction

Agriculture is the most important sector in Indian economy. India is the world's second largest producer of rice, wheat and other cereals.Cereals are the basic ingredient and important source of calories in the diets of a vast majority of the Indian population. As they provide perfect mix of vegetarian protein component of high biological value when supplemented with pulses, cereals are important alternative to vegetable for supplementing the diet of most food of the country. The huge demand for cereals in the global market is creating an excellent environment for the export of Indian cereal products.

The important cereals are wheat, paddy, sorghum, millet (Bajra), barley and maize etc. According to the final estimate for the year 2011-12 by Ministry of Agriculture of India, the production of major cereals like rice, maize and bajra stood at 105 million tonnes, 21.76 million tonnes and 10.28 million tones, respectively,India is not only the largest producer of cereal as well as largest exporter of cereal products in the world. India's export of cereals stood at Rs. 58279.80 crore during the year 2014-15.

In Maharashtra particularly in the Nagpur division of Maharashtra no such studies have been attempted so far, the Nagpur division on Maharashtra being an agrarian region, it has a wide scope for such studies. That's way formulating valuable planning polices of agriculture of this region. Keeping in view these aspects the present study was based on decomposition analysis of cereals production in Nagpur division.

2. Methodology

The whole study was divided under the following sub-heads :

2·1 Selection of Area

The study was confined to five district of Nagpur division of Maharashtra state namely Nagpur, Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Wardha district for the analytical purpose.

2·2 Selection of Period

The data were collected for area, production and productivity of cereals grown in the period from 1995-96 to 2014-15 (20 years) the

entire study period was split into two sub-period and overall as follows:

Period I : 1995-96 to 2004-05

Period II : 2005-06 to 2014-15

Overall : 1995-96 to 2014-15

2·3 Sources of Data

The district-wise time series data on area, production and productivity was collected from Government publication viz. Agricultural statistical information, Maharashtra

2·4 Analytical Tools

Growth Rate Analysis : The district-wise compound growth rates of area, production and productivity were estimated by using following exponential model.

$$Y = abt$$

$$\text{Log } Y = \log a + t \log b$$

$$CGR = [\text{Antilog } (\log b\text{-}1)] \times 100$$

Where, CGR = Compound growth rate

t = time period in year

Y = Area/production/productivity

a & b = Regression parameters.

't' test was applied to test of significance of 'b'

Instability Analysis : To measure the instability in area, production and productivity, an index of instability was used as a measure of variability.

The coefficient of variation (CV) was calculated by using the formula.

$$\text{C.V. (\%)} = \frac{\text{Standard Deviation}}{\text{Mean}} \quad 100$$

Decomposition Analysis : Measure the relative contribution of area, yield to the total output change for the major crops, Minhas (1964) and decomposition analysis model as given below was used. Sharma (1977), redeveloped the model and several research workers used this model and studied growth performance of crop in the state. Ao, Po and Yo are area, production and productivity in base year and

An, Pn and Yn are values of the respective variable in n^{th} year item, respectively.

$$P_o = A_o \times Y_o \text{ and}$$

$$P_n = A_n \times Y_n \quad ...(1)$$

Where, A_o and A_n represent the area and Y_o and Y_n represents the yield in the base year and nth year, respectively.

$$P_n - P_o = P$$

$$A_n - A_o = A$$

$$Y_n - Yo = Y \quad ...(2)$$

From equation (1) and (2) we can write

$$P_o + P = (A_o + A)(Y_o + Y)$$

Hence,

$$P \quad \frac{A_0 \; YY_0 \; A}{P} \quad 100 \quad \frac{Y \; A}{P} \quad 100 \quad \frac{}{P} \quad 100$$

Production = Yield effect + area effect + interaction effect

Thus, the total change in production can be decomposed into area effect and the interaction effect due to change in yield and area.

3. Results and Discussion

3·1 Growth Rate

In this study, the growth in area, production and productivity of cereals were estimated using compound growth rates as indicated in the methodology. In this analysis the general growth performances of the crop in Nagpur division were examined by fitting exponential growth function with time normalization on area, production and productivity.

The Table-1, revealed that during period I, the compound growth rates of area were negative for all district and Nagpur division as whole except Wardha district. In period II, the compound growth rate were positive for all district and Nagpur division as whole except Wardha district for productivity of wheat. The highest compound growth rate in productivity was estimated in Gadchiroli (4.17) followed by Chandrapur (3.31), Bhandara (3.26) and Nagpur (0.63) district respectively.

The compound growth rate for production in Nagpur division as whole was estimated 4.19 per cent per annum in last 20 years. At the

overall period, the compound growth rate were negative but non-significant in Wardha district in productivity of wheat crop. The compound growth rate in Nagpur division as whole for area, production and productivity were positive except area in period I is negative.

Table-1 : District wise Compound Growth Rate for Wheat

Particular		Wardha	Nagpur	Bhandara	Chandrapur	Gadchiroli	Nagpur division
Period-I	Area	0.18	-7.26	-13.47	-2.51	-8.34	-5.60
	Production	3.63**	-4.73	-11.11	-3.07	-9.24	4.18**
	Yield	-5.89	2.73*	2.77*	-0.54	-0.98	1.51
Period-II	Area	-1.70	6.47**	0.71	-4.03	-6.10	2.27*
	Production	-1.47	7.79**	4.01**	-0.81	-2.09	4.18**
	Yield	-1.36	0.63	3.26**	3.31**	4.17**	2.14
Period-III	Area	1.26	3.33**	-3.53	-0.23	-3.10	1.35
	Production	4.09**	5.62**	-0.01	2.65	0.05	4.19**
	Yield	-0.26	2.30*	3.52**	2.91*	3.11*	0.12

Note : **Significant at 1% level; *Significant at 5% level

The growth performance of rice pertaining to two period and overall was presented in the Table-1, which revealed that during period-I, the compound growth rate of productivity was recorded negative in all district and Nagpur as whole except Wardha district. The compound growth rate for area in period II was found to positive and significant in Nagpur district. The highest compound growth rate for area in period I was registered in Wardha district i.e. 23.16 per cent per annum followed by Nagpur (3.69) district, respectively. The highest compound growth rate for area in period II was registered in Nagpur district per cent.

The compound growth rate for production in period I were negative but non-significant in all district and Nagpur division as whole except Nagpur district. The compound growth rates of production in overall period were positive in Nagpur district. The highest (5.92) compound growth rate of production was found in Nagpur district in period II.

Table-2 : District wise Compound Growth Rate for Rice

Particular		Wardha	Nagpur	Bhandara	Chandrapur	Gadchiroli	Nagpur division
Period-I	Area	23.16**	3.69**	-9.23	0.59	-0.16	-3.59
	Production	-19.01	2.47*	-12.09	-2.83	-7.80	-7.72
	Yield	1.69	-1.17	-3.15	-3.32	-7.67	-3.88
Period-II	Area	-	6.79**	1.16	1.14	-0.16	1.66
	Production	-	8.58**	3.81**	-1.62	1.02	2.18
	Yield	-	-0.44	2.62*	-2.73	0.37	0.15
Period-III	Area	-	5.25**	-2.56	0.29	0.32	-0.50
	Production	-	5.92**	-1.33	0.02	0.49	0.02
	Yield	-	0.67	1.26	-0.28	-0.01	-1.18

Note : **Significant at 1% level; *Significant at 5% level

4. Instability of Crop

One should not obvious of instability by taking the growth rates only. Because the growth rates will explain only the rate of growth over the period, whereas, instability judge, whether the growth performance is stable or unstable for the period for the pertinent variable. To facilitate better understanding of the magnitude and pattern of changes in the level of production, cropped area and productivity of crop in the different cereals growing region, instability of production, area and productivity of cereals crop have been worked out for the periods mentioned in methodology. In order to know the instability in area, production and yield of crop, the fluctuation measured with the help of coefficient of variation. The results are presented in Table-3 and discussed as under for the period with ten years breakage and overall also. Fluctuation in area production and productivity due to the uncontrollable factors like climatic conditions can cause upward biqs in coefficient of variation.

4·1 Wheat

As seen from Table-3, that coefficient of instability for area under wheat in Wardha district was found to be lowest i.e.10.17 per

cent followed by Chandrapur (16.03), whereas c.v. of high in Gadchiroli (29.10), Bhandara (42.39) district followed by Nagpur (30.14) and Gadchiroli (29.10). The coefficient of instability for production of wheat less in period II as compare to period I in all district. However in overall period, the coefficient of instability for production under wheat was in between 28.94 to 37.16 except Nagpur (46.63) district.

Table-3 : District wise Instability Indices in Wheat

Particular		Wardha			Nagpur			Bhandara		
		S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.
Period I	Area	19.3	187.2	10.17	133.24	442	30.14	65.92	155.5	42.39
	Production	60.20	213.2	28.24	177.29	457.1	38.79	56.97	117.2	48.62
	Yield	306.37	1120.7	21.34	249.6	1047.3	23.83	192.19	765.6	25.10
Period II	Area	46.49	230.4	20.18	158.71	688.1	23.07	20.16	112	18.01
	Production	94.63	239.4	27.88	271.76	883.1	30.78	494.6	120.8	24.46
	Yield	150.55	1457.1	10.33	204.94	1298.8	15.78	132.2	1067.8	12.38
Period II	Area	41.07	208.8	19.67	190.97	565.05	33.71	52.4	133.75	39.20
	Production	100.74	276.3	36.46	312.46	670.1	46.63	44.21	119	37.16
	Yield	291.5	1288.9	22.62	257.01	1173.01	21.91	233.18	916.7	24.35

Particular		Wardha			Nagpur			Bhandara		
		S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.
Period I	Area	41.95	261.5	16.03	3.25	11.2	29.10	224.91	1057.4	21.27
	Production	47.45	174.5	27.20	2.61	7.8	33.54	308.04	969.8	31.76
	Yield	166.0	670	24.78	130.68	690.9	18.92	168.14	858.9	19.58
Period II	Area	51.34	283.9	18.09	3.06	9.6	31.90	181.2	1324	13.69
	Production	64.19	261.1	24.59	2.20	9.2	23.92	370.4	1613.6	22.96
	Yield	213.4	933.6	22.87	170.74	983.5	17.36	126.39	1148.16	11.01
Period II	Area	47.04	271.7	17.25	3.18	10.4	30.63	241.28	1190.7	20.26
	Production	70.65	217.8	32.44	2.46	8.5	28.94	467.99	1291.7	36.23
	Yield	230.05	801.8	28.69	210.78	837.2	25.18	207.315	1003.53	20.66

CV = Coefficient of variation; SD = Standard Deviation

Further instability in productivity in relation instability in area was contributed marginality toward production fluctuation. This instability of wheat in the zone was the effect of the instability experienced by wheat grower, probably due to the introduction of improved wheat technology in the farming system, Where the local varieties also under production.

4·2 Rice

The Table-4 revealed that coefficient of instability for area under rice in Chandrapur district was found the lowest (3.25) followed by Gadchiroli (3.86) district, Nagpur (14.93) district, Bhandara (35.71) district, respectively. The coefficient of instability for productivity of rice in Wardha district was found highest i.e. 127.8 per cent followed by Gadchiroli (31.07) district, Chandrapur (24.32) district, Nagpur (19.68) district and Bhandara (19.10), respectively. The coefficient of instability of Nagpur division as whole, in period I was the highest as compare to the period II and overall period for variable area, production and productivity. The coefficient of instability for production under rice in period I was between 24.83 to 43.84 except Wardha (91.22) district.

Table-4 : District wise Instability Indices in Rice

Particular		Wardha			Nagpur			Bhandara		
		S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.
Period I	Area	3.977	6.6	60.27	56.96	381.5	14.93	855.01	2394.4	35.71
	Production	4.92	5.4	91.22	110.83	446.4	24.83	1348.06	3074.7	43.84
	Yield	1667.1	1303.7	127.88	222.73	1167.4	19.68	239.97	1256.4	19.10
Period II	Area	-	-	-	132.34	643.3	20.57	73.37	1838	3.99
	Production	-	-	-	233.45	813.4	28.70	745.4	2815	26.48
	Yield	-	-	-	220.99	1305.5	16.93	386.8	1526.4	25.35
Period II	Area	-	-	-	166.94	512.4	32.58	655.97	2116.2	31.00
	Production	-	-	-	258.99	629.9	41.12	1068.5	2944.85	36.29
	Yield	-	-	-	227.27	1236.45	18.38	342.5	1331.4	24.62

Particular		Chandrapur			Gadchiroli			Nagpur Division		
		S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.	S.D.	Mean	C.V.
Period I	Area	46.50	1430.2	3.25	55.63	1443	3.86	789.70	5655.7	13.96
	Production	417.23	1637.7	25.48	567.37	1724.4	32.90	2142.6	6888.6	31.10
	Yield	278.66	1145.9	24.32	369.7	1189.9	31.07	429.25	1212.66	35.40
Period II	Area	189.92	1456.1	13.04	128.4	1494.5	8.60	368.78	5431.9	6.79
	Production	605.60	1824.8	33.19	448.98	2010.6	22.32	1742.0	7463.8	23.34
	Yield	255.06	1241.1	24.32	288.20	1313	21.95	224.23	1077.2	20.82
Period II	Area	135.23	1443.15	9.37	99.91	1468.75	6.80	610.74	5543.8	11.02
	Production	515.17	1731.25	29.76	519.0	1867.5	27.80	1923.3	7176.2	26.80
	Yield	314.46	1993.5	26.34	328.78	1251.45	26.27	340.4	1144.93	29.74

CV = Coefficient of variation; SD = Standard Deviation

The Nagpur division had shown the highest yield instability than area instability and likewise they contribute toward production fluctuation.

5. Decomposition Analysis

A quantitative assessment of contribution of the various factors to production in the districts of Nagpur division is helpful in reorienting the programmes and setting priorities of agricultural development so as to achieve higher growth rates of agricultural production. There are many factors which affect the growth of crop output. These factors believed to affect the production of crop viz., area, yield and their interaction have been considered in the present study. The result of decomposition scheme was worked for two equally divided sub period and overall period as pooled of 20 years data. The Table-5 demonstrates the contribution of area, yield and their interaction for increasing/decreasing of production in Nagpur division over period of time.

The above data showed that during period I, in Wardha district yield effect 72.60 per cent per annum and interaction effect 4.54 per cent per annum. Chandrapur and Gadchiroli district the yield effect was not existence -275.86 and -206.35 per cent per annum respectively. In overall period Gadchiroli showed the highest area effect 596.45 as compare to period I. The Bhandara district showed the highest yield effect i.e. 157.55

Table-5 : Per cent Contribution of Area, Yield and their Interaction for Increasing Production of Wheat

Particular		Wardha	Nagpur	Bhandara	Chandrapur	Gadchiroli	Nagpur division
Period I	Area effect	22.86	157.27	113.53	82.11	96.72	142.32
	Yield effect	72.60	-91.88	-33.10	20.53	5.77	-59.96
	Interaction effect	4.54	36.61	19.57	-2.64	-2.49	17.64
Period II	Yield effect	78.13	96.16	-47.47	299.97	226.10	38.40
	Yield effect	24.95	2.73	157.55	-275.86	-206.35	56.77
	Interaction effect	-3.08	1.11	-10.08	75.89	80.25	4.83
Period III	Yield effect	30.73	46.61	421.13	-21.57	596.45	19.65
	Yield effect	55.62	36.70	-593.43	133.20	-831.55	70.65
	Interaction effect	13.65	16.69	272.15	-11.63	335.10	9.70

Table-6 : Per cent Contribution of Area, Yield and their Interaction for Increasing Production of Rice

Particular		Wardha	Nagpur	Bhandara	Chandrapur	Gadchiroli	Nagpur division
Period I	Area effect	95.74	119.50	84.76	-22.57	3.10	56.10
	Yield effect	14.92	-15.18	27.82	118.28	98.24	55.14
	Interaction effect	-10.65	-4.32	-12.58	4.29	-1.33	-11.23

Period II	Yield effect	-	127.24	45.11	-63.58	979.29	201.58
	Yield effect	-	-17.33	51.11	151.92	-842.12	-91.38
	Interaction effect	-	-9.91	3.78	11.66	-37.17	-10.20
Period III	Yield effect	-	85.70	169.78	66.88	223.28	37.15
	Yield effect	-	6.50	-117.51	31.12	-113.89	70.46
	Interaction effect	-	7.80	47.73	2.00	-9.38	-7.61

Table-6 showed that in period I, the Gadchiroli district has the highest area effect i.e. 979.29. As compared to period I and period II Chandrapur district show the highest yield effect i.e. 151.92 in period II where Nagpur division as whole the period II showed the highest area effect i.e. 201.58.

6. Conclusions

Compound growth rates of production of wheat was 4.18 per cent in Nagpur division. The area, production and productivity instability in cereals was observed in almost all districts in the state. It may be because the crop largely depends on vagaries of nature which causes heavy losses. Percent contribution of yield effect was more responsible for production of the selected cereals. Maximum instability was found in the overall period for selected cereals crops.The compound growth rate of wheat production in period I and period II was same in Nagpur division as whole. The highest coefficient of variance for area and production was found only in Bhandara district i.e. 42.39 per cent per annum and 48.62 per cent per annum respectively during period I. The Chandrapur district was recorded the lowest instability (3.25 per cent) for area under rice 3.25 in period I. During period I the highest (36.61) interaction effect was found in Nagpur district followed by Bhandara (19.57). In overall period, the area effect was positive in all district except Bhandara district and Nagpur division as whole. In all districts the area, production and productivity for wheat and rice only the cubic models are found best fitted.

7. Implications

Provision of subsides, various facilities to the farmer on crops like wheat and rice is necessary along with Social awareness programmes by extension expert to meet the demand of cereals. Also allow the mill and other industrial corporate in input growing area to avoid loss of products. In add the technology so far generated by the State Government Institution and other agencies be transferred to the farmer by state extension agencies.

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2

Impact of Natural Medication on Human Health, Turn from Allopathic to Environmentalism : Study of Hot Spring in Singa, Myagdi

Mani Bhadra Gautam*

Natural medication is a way of natural treatment to a patient using medicinal herbs or natural/environmental resources to get a recovery from injury/illness. It is also used for adding bodily beauty or physical fitness. In the environment we find herbs and other natural resources that contain iron, protein, vitamin, salt and sulfur which are good for health treatment. In the past treatments were done using medicinal herbs, natural oil and other environmental resources that work as antibiotic or auto chemical to cure in the injured places for Ayurvedic treatment. Ayurved campuses run the trainings and academic programs about natural medication that are effective for health without side effect. Many of the diseases are cured doing yoga, sun bath, acupuncture, hot or cold water and other natural resources that we find in the fresh environment. The objective of this research is to study on impact of natural medication and it is practically observed in Hot Spring of Singa, Myagdi where thousands of patients of back pain, rheumatism, nerves problem, sore throat, common cold problem, spiral curd injury, gastric, bath, uric acid, skin disease, swelling, goiter and arthritis, paralysis and dozens of other diseases got recovery

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. Finding of this research is that with the development of science and technology people have a craze on allopathic treatments but they have some side effects and people are suffering for a long time as a result and therefore it is better to turn from allopathic to the environmentalism.

[**Keywords** : Environmentalism, Medication, Herbs, Bio-centrism, Social movement, Ethics]

1. Environmentalism and Natural Medication

Environmentalism is a philosophical ideology and social movement for the protection and improvement of environmental health. It concerns for the preservation of biosphere and aspire knowledge to save the non-human elements for shifting the anthropocentric views to the bio-centrism. Environmentalists view that 'the earth is first and it is important to save because the same earth is our savior'. Earth and earthly things work in the form of natural medication by balancing the things in ecological sphere to save us from all kinds of possible dangers. Pure water that comes in the form of spring originated from Mountains and Himalayas, fresh air around them and herbs of the beautiful forest are the means for natural medication. Herbal medicine don't have side effect and they are good for any kind of treatment for the human health than allopathic treatment. Environmentalists suggest us to shift from anthropocentrism to the bio-centrism rethinking about disastrous impact of industrialization, so-called modernization and side-effect of modern medicine with the lesson to control the pollution. Environmentalism is thus good for natural medication and it helps to balance a relation among biosphere, natural resources, human, ecology and bio-diversity.

Preservation and restoration of various natural resources like air, water, soil as well as forest is essential concerning with the land ethics. The practice of environmental resource management and natural medication helps to replace allopathic dependency as it treats the environment without creating pollutants, dangerous gases and chemicals to save the health of living beings. Natural medication protects the human health more than allopathic treatment and so we must turn to the environmentalism and renew the face of earth as U.S. Bishop quotes G.M. Hopkins in Renewing the Earth, "We can proceed with hope because, as at the dawn of creation, so today the Holy Spirit breathes new life into all earth's creatures". Today we pray with new conviction and concern for all God's creation : "Send

forth thy Spirit, Lord, and renew the face of the earth" (Environmental 482). Sustainable management of natural resources helps for eco-system and ecological balance as G. M. Hopkins in God's Grandeur writes, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil" (The Heritage of Words 69). According to the theism, earth and earthly things are believed to be gift of God and the God is always aware and busy to take care and save its own creation in the shining form so the environmentalist launch the supportive programs to save the natural, ecological and environmental beauties. To save the environment is to save the human health.

Early in the beginning of human civilization, people began to walk in the forest through Himalayas, Hills, and Mountains and used to eat fresh fruits, foods and vegetables and they exercised or used the medicinal herbs for the health treatment as Bill McKibben writes in The End of Nature, "Almost every day, I hike up the hill out of my back door. Within a hundred yards the woods swallowed me up, and there is nothing to remind me of human society-no trash, no stumps, no fence....." (Environmental 261). People enjoyed the friendship with nature without any tension of the human society. In the beginning of human history, If people felt sick or met an accident they got recovery from natural medication but with the modern development of Science and Technology people turned to the modern allopathic medicine. People started to control over the natural-environmental things taking human activities as the superior of all. Innumerable human activities are against environmental protection, land ethics, natural principle and so we are compelled to face the present disastrous situation.

2. Environmental Degradation and its Impact

Human activities in the present era, especially after Industrial Revolution increased toxic waste contamination, battles over public land use and industrial rights increased acid rain, made loss of fertile top soil, and brought destruction on the tropical rain forest bringing droughts, floods, hurricanes and different kinds of insects attacks/ diseases like Ebola virus viruses attack, dengue attack, malaria etc . People used allopathic medicine to get relief from or cure the diseases but they aroused new problems with side effect. In this regard modern love of industrial revolution, chemical discharges, dust production and destroy of natural resources are the major causes of

incurable diseases like COVID-19 that challenged the human, even scientific and modern medical investigations. Millions of people got infected from COVID-19 and thousands of people lost their life from it. The virus passes continuously from animal to human-human to animal or more the human to human as writes Keith Ervin in A Life in Our Hands, "Silently, motionlessly...the best method of attack. Suddenly, swoops down and, with scarcely a pause in wing beats snatches....." (Environmental 177). It enters into human through mouth, eyes and nose in invisible form and attacks seriously. COVID-19's terrific attack, death and bitter experiences are much more painful than World War results but the allopathic treatment did not work effectively to save the human life. Natural medication, home quarantine, drinking hot water and eating healthy/organic food to increase the immunity power is rather helpful. According to the research of John Hopkins University and report of WHO :

> COVID-19 has a disastrous affect over the world. It brought the grave problem in human health. More than 34, 00,000 people got infected all over the world and 2, 39,575 people lost their life but only 10,81,000 people got recovery all over the world. Among them 10, 31,000 people got infected and nearly 65,729 people lost their life in a single country America until the preparation of this article. (Saturday, 2nd May 2020, WHO).

The modern technologies and scientific investigations might be the causes and consequences of environmental degradation that brought the diseases like COVID-19. In the present we are in the danger of Corona and from a long ago we were in the danger of Ebola, Dengue, and Mosquitoes. Ecological-environmental degradation brings different reactions and might bring negative effect in the human health. Anthropocentric human activities against biosphere, human cruelty against non human life and natural disaster with the help of modern scientific and industrial chemicals are the causes and consequences of present death and disaster.

In the present, we have some challenges to face and we can get succeed only through smoke control, common preservation of the natural resources, conducting the natural resources preservation activities, natural medication awareness campaigns and controlling the manufacturing industries that help to save the natural medication resources like natural beauties of Mountains, Himalayas and Islands. Planting the new forests, protection of animal species and natural things like wind and rivers with land ethics saves us

with natural medication and so we should save the environment otherwise we must be ready and responsible to face the challenges as writes Stephen Crane in The Open Boat :

> The wind had a voice as it came over the waves, and it was sadder than the end. There was a long, loud swishing astern of the boat, and a gleaming trail of phosphorescence, like blue flame, was furrowed on the black waters. It might have been made by a monstrous knife. Then there came a stillness, while the correspondent breathed with open mouth and looked at the sea (Environmental 21).

Excessive increase of human population and exploitation of natural resources in rapid speed are the causes and consequences of natural disaster that mis-balanced in eco-system and brought the ecological disaster. Global warming, deforestation, industrialization, human empowerment in chemical industrialization and love of weapons with scientific investigations done by human have the stupidity to control over the natural-environmental, earthly things and practice to win the world through modern technologies and weapons is a serious mistake that brought the disease with wind and transformed with breath. Negative impact on environment challenged the modern technology and no allopathic medicine controlled the virus but the natural medication, self-quarantine, drinking hot water, exercising in homely fresh environment and eating healthy food to increase the immunity power in the body helped to save some human life through natural medication.

Environmental degradation has brought the disastrous result in our ecology and environment. Sustainable management of natural resources and control in massive hunting of animals and birds helps to balance in the biosphere. Smoke and pollution of industrial discharges increased after industrial revolutions. Late eighteenth century to 21st century people's activities increased the thick black smoke in the environment and that created the problem in human health. Popular movements for ecological preservation are essential to influence the people who work for greenery activities. In 1971 US secretary general took forward the deep ecological activities to control the negative effect of the global warming in the environment. Climate improvement action of the environment support community and the team works for the preservation of natural resources by the volunteer organization, federation and

global society, helped to preserve the endangered species to balance the eco-sphere.

3. Natural Medication in Singa, Myagdi

Hot Spring (Tatopani Kunda) lies near by the Tallo Tatopani Bazar in the bank of Myagdi River, heart of Beni Municipality ward number 4, Myagdi district, Dhaulagiri Zone in Nepal. Tatopani Bazar lies exactly 9km away west from Myagdi District Headquarter Beni Bazar. The road from Beni Bazaar to the Tatopani Bazaar is rather narrow and unsafe in the rainy season so it needs to be widened; black topped and cemented in sloppy area for the traveler's convenient to avoid the possible risks while travelling through for natural medication and other purposes. Going back to the history of Tatopani Kunda Tatopani Kunda Management Committee views :

> It was just a small ditch before 2042 BS. The place was named as Kulachaur Pokhari/Ditch as it was a part of Kaulachaur Village Development Committee. It was un-managed around the ditch in terms of basic infrastructures like drinking water; tap system, toilet management for proper latrines, and structure of the spring needed renovation. Cleanliness of the Tatopani ditch was must for proper medication to save the people in rush season from possible infection caused by the pollutants. Roadways for arrival of the people from different places of the country and abroad was difficult and now it is improved but it is not in an excellent condition. There were no hotels and lodges for stay of the people who came for natural medication to bath in the hot spring. Travelers were compelled to spend the nights on the road sides, caves and under the trees (Leaflets, Introduction).

The first management committee was formed in 2042 B.S. (1985 A.D.) to manage the Tatopani Kunda but the committee didn't do anything special for infrastructure development and environmental management however the patients of back pain, rheumatism, nerves problem, sore throat, common cold problem, spiral curd injury, gastric, bath, uric acid, skin disease, swelling, goiter and arthritis, paralysis and dozens of other diseases used to come as people get fit and fine after they sit in this hot water ditch at least for a week for natural medication. The reason of this effective medication is that the "temperature of the water is over 50 degree centigrade at the foundation and this hot water has a mixed up of black salt and phosphorus. This combination of the black salt and

phosphorus in natural hot water works in a form of natural antibiotic for natural medication" (Hot Spring Leaflet, np). Diseases are not transforming among each-other and others while bathing in the same Kunda at a time because of the mix up of natural medicines. It was not advertised well and only a few people near by the area knew about positive impact of this hot water for natural medication.

Previous committee was almost passive up to 2054 B.S. and the new management committee was formed in 2054 B.S. (1997 A.D.) under the chair of Prabuddha Kumar Shakya. The new management committee established the office and planned for managerial and constructive works interlinking with the helping hands, community people and agencies within the country and abroad. The committee focused especially in the field of road construction, transportation management and proper management of drinking water, separate bath area for the male and female. The first advertising documentary film was made in 2055 B.S. by Kabindraman Shakya with the help of Nepal Television that increased the flow of people for the hot water medication. Now the Kunda is sufficient nearly for 300 people to bath at a time and if the number of people is greater than that the committee forms the groups and divides the time and suggests waiting for the turn. In addition to that there are 3 separate bath tubs and special hot spring fall, too.

Singa Myagdi is an appropriate place for natural medication where one can get relief from different kinds of illness through hot water treatment. People usually get confused listening about Hot Water Spring (Tatopani Kunda) and medication using this water. Strangers begin to question about the place where, how and why the boiled water is stored. The answer from the local people and the researchers is rather different that it is a place where the water is naturally in the boiled form in more than fifty degree centigrade temperature and it is available there in the spring well form nearby Tallo Tatopani Bazaar. There are two bazaars named as Tallo and Mathillo/Upallo Tatopani Bazaars. On the Bank of Myagdi River nearby Tallo Tatopani Bazaar there is a pond for hot water collection. The collected hot water is also stored in the water tank and additional Spring Fall pond too using electrical motors according to the need if the travelers go there and love to enjoy pond bath for a short time.

Kunda is built nearby Tallo Tatopani Bazaar on the bank of Myagdi River by the people there to collect the water and have a natural medication. There is a temple in the entrance of Kunda where as people pray, worship God and wish for quick recovery after medication as their religious spirituality. There are some pictures of snakes on the big stone in the side of that Kunda known as nag raja. It is said that real snakes appear there in some special time. It is worshipped inside the temple with the help of priest or side by it especially in the first day of entrance to the Kunda with dhaja and agarbatti and on the last day before they exit or leave from there with dhaja, jyoti/agarbatti and bheti. People are free for donation for their name and fame if they like.

Fig. 1 : Temple and bath place on the bank of Myagdi River

Sourse : Field visit and photo click by the researcher on 15th Ashoj 2076 BS

Fig. 2 : record of the doners/Source : Click by the researcher 12th Ashoj 2076 BS.

The place is popular for its natural beauty as it is surrounded by the mountains, enriched by the natural greenery, medicinal herbs and clean water of the Myagdi River and hot water Kunda on the side

is valued for as said by Indira Parajuli in Environmental Impact Assessment....., ".....adverse impact on environment and human health, comparatively low impacting...allow lessening the force of impact on environment and human health" (The Journal of University Grants Commission, 38). Hot water collected in the Kunda and pond on the bank of Myagdi River outside the Kunda have different purposes as the Kunda water is used for steam bath and pond water is used for additional warm up and to have a final bath before going home after the stem bath. The water is really effective for natural medication to the human in getting rid from the physical injury of back pain, nerves problem, sore throat, common cold problem, spiral curd injury, over weight problem, ulcer, gastric, bath, uric acid, paralysis and dozens of other diseases because there is a natural mix up of black salt and sulfur.

This researcher went there continuously from 2074 B.S. to 2076 B.S. in the month of Ashwin with family and friends and spent a week long period each year in stem bath and other observation including purity of the water, its usefulness for natural medication, Kunda management system, environmental study and cleanliness around it for the research purpose. I stay in Hotel Serchan and Lodge for the first time and in Dhaulagiri Guest House and Restaurant (9867613515, 9847781393, 9857681393, 9821313162) continuously then after and collected all information from Padam Bahadur Baniya and Sarita Baniya, the owners of the hotel, in detail. Researcher conducted a meeting on 15th Ashoj 2076 with the present Tatopan Kunda Management Committee Chair Birendraman Shakya, Secretary Krishnabahadur Khadka, Joint-Secretary Ammarbahadur Khatri and their team for the further detail.

Fig. 3 : Meeting with Management Committee/ Source : Photo Click

Fig. 4 : Meeting with Management Committee/ Source : Photo Click

Fig. 5 : Surrounding Around, Environmental beauty and Water temperature measured post/Source : Photo Click

I clicked the photos of different parts of the Kunda and outside it for the matching of field realities and authenticity of the published sources with documents. I went through the official records :

> The water in this hot water spring is really amazing about its heat, combination of natural medicine and its effectiveness for human health if they suffer from any kind of illness. According to the water analysis report of 2074-12-30 prepared by Environment and Climate Study Laboratory, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology Central Office, lab code number 12/31 the water contains acceptable values to use (NAST np).

The final body wash place outside the Kunda is really beautiful in the side of clean Myagdi River and good environmental medication area. People make their final bath there on the taps on the side of Myagdi River, out of the Kunda, either in hot or cold water according

to their choices. This additional bath also helps for physical fitness. The separate bath place also is managed by Kunda Management Committee to bath before going home to make them fresh and feel free from group bath. People can't use soap while bathing inside the Kunda and Bath Tubs but they can use soap outside on the tap if they like.

Fig. 6 : Glimpse of the bath inside the Tatopani Kunda/ Source : Photo Click

Many patients of the skin disease, nerves problem, bath and uric acid cover their bodies with blankets and plastics after bath to discharge the sweats. People warm up the injury places by this hot water for healing of the pain. I met patients of different diseases there from different parts of the country and abroad. Among the patients I met an Army Officer serving for the India Government, permanent resident of Parbat, Nepal, Modi Village Development Committee ward number 1, had a serious problem of spiral curd injury in motorcycle accident who hospitalized for several months in Manipal Hospital, Pokhara Nepal and Army Hospital in India that did not get complete recovery and was in the natural medication in this Hot Water Kunda for few weeks that has brought a great change on him. Bimal Pun from Taman, Baglung was a patient of nerves problem who has a great changes after 9 days bath in the same hot water. Likewise, I met a young gentleman Tomo from Yokohama Japan who said that he is there for environmental studies and natural medication. French and German friends also appreciated about its natural medication and environmental beauty. "The appropriate seasons for the medication are autumn and spring whereas maximum numbers of visitors are from Baglung, Myagdi,

Parbat and Kaski" (Official record, np). The management committee has appointed 4 regular staffs for ticketing, internal management and to take care of the Kunda's property. In the year 2074/75 its annual income was 4,220, 570.00 and expenditure was 3,865,963.00 RS but it is increased in 2075/76. The major part of its income is spent for the academic works. Sarswoti Secondary School is totally depended in its income. This medication centre is also helping for academic centre, tourism and it is financially supporting to the community.

4. Conclusion

Natural medication does not have side effects and it is likely to replace the allopathic treatment in the days ahead. This study recommends that there are lots of benefits of natural medication for the human health with physical fitness. Natural-environmental medication is also connected with travel, tours, physical exercises and yoga. Religious activities also help for natural medication. Efficiently used natural medication should help to reduce the allopathic consumption and emission that is ultimately lowering the adverse effects on the health of the dwellers surrounding around the environment. Hot water of Singa Myagdi has an adverse effect on human health and I prefer to have a natural medication there. Impact of natural-environmental medication on human health makes a revolutionary turn from allopathic to environmentalism and one among natural medication is at least seven days bath in Singa, Myagdi hot spring.

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3

Biodiversity Conservation and Forty Second (42nd) amendment in the Constitution of India : In the Perspective of 21st Century

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The 20th century was marked by both the recognition and creation of array of environmental problems viz. deforestation, climate change, green house effect, Pollution, Sea acidification etc. Subsequently 21st century is bound to bear the burden of resolving these problems and preventing the emergence of more. Biodiversity wealth of our country is also very important for the global -ecosystem. However the important plants and animals, forests and trees in particular, as well as microorganisms and mangroves and marine biological wealth etc. is being threatened due to human unethically and ill-legal activities and causing the negative impact on the earth Ecosystem. Stockholm Conference (1972) stimulated the Indian Government to enact Amendment to the Constitution. In order to support environmental protection, Constitution was amended by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 and Articles 48 A and Article 51 A (g) were inserted in the Constitution. It is widely accepted that biodiversity loss viz. in forests; tree at macro level and soil flora at micro level is happening globally and its nature and causes need far better public understanding and learning in

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order for it to be stopped. Our role in changing the earth Eco-system calls for new, more comprehensive and cross-cutting perspective. This study revealed the legislative aspects of Capacity Building for Biodiversity Conservation as well as to halt the loss of biodiversity viz. forest.

[**Keywords :** Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 42nd in Constitution of India, Biodiversity Conservation]

1. Introduction

The 21 Emerging Issues concerning with environment, biodiversity and human welfare for the 21st Century; are given in Table-1 with ranking (Source : Result of the UNEP, 2011 Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues).[1] India, the second most populous country in the world, is the eleventh mega- biodiversity center in the world and the third in Asia with its share of ~11% of the total plant resources. The floral wealth of India comprises more than 47,000 species including 43% vascular plants. Nearly 147 genera are endemic to India.[2] The vast geographical expanse of the country has resulted in enormous ecological diversity, which is comparable to continental level diversity scales across the world. It has representation of twelve biogeography provinces, five biomes and three bioregions.[3] Natural forests and forest plantations together cover 21.02% of the geographical area in India. India, one of the twelve 'Vavilovian Centres of Origin' and diversification of cultivated plants, is known as the 'Hindustan Centre of Origin of Crop Plants'.[4] About 320 species belonging to 116 genera and 48 families of wild relatives of crop plants are known to have been originated in India.[5] The biosphere or ecosphere is the sum total of all the ecosystems of the world and self-regulating zone of life on Earth excluding the solar radiations and heat from the center of the Earth. The 'process of biopoiesis' *i.e.*, the process in which life created naturally from non-living matter, such as simple organic compounds in the beginning of the evolution of biosphere. 'Biogenesis' is the process in which life was created from living matter, at least some 3.5 billion years ago.[6-7] Natural environment consists of biotic and abiotic components i.e., living and non living constituents respectively. The complex interactions of these components with all the environmental factors viz. climate, geography and natural resources also affect human survival and economic activity.[8] Environment may also defined as the complex interactions of all abiotic and biotic factors

which finalizes and ultimately determine its form and survival. Biodiversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is typically a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.[9] Biodiversity is not distributed evenly on Earth, and is richest in the tropics.[10] Biodiversity generally tends to cluster in hotspots.[11] Biodiversity interconnect the biosphere and ecological services provided by ecosystem viz. life support system of human race. Conservation of biodiversity includes the preservation of all species of flora and fauna, the enhancement of wildlife habitat, the control of wildlife problems and the sustainable use of forests and wildlife including many dimensions. Components of the Biodiversity are grouped into two categories namely fauna and flora. Fauna includes all the animals including human beings as genus Homo sapiens; flora includes all the living creatures belonging to category Plant kingdom including trees, herbs shrubs etc.There exit a balance and collateral evolution between the two essential constituents of biodiversity viz. flora and fauna of the ecosystem.

2. Review of Literature

The 1972, Stockholm Declaration proclaimed that human's natural and man-made environment are essential to his/her well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights.[12] The Earth Summit held in Rio De Janerio, Brazil in 1992 resulted in the formulation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the three primary aims of which were to (i) preserve biological diversity on earth in recognition of the goods and services it provides; (ii) promote sustainable utilization of its components; and (iii) facilitate the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from its resources.[13] Since its inception in 1992, as of 2016, the Convention has 196 parties, which includes 195 states including the India and the European Union; all UN member states; with the exception of the United States have ratified the treaty.

International conservation policy recognizes biodiversity at three levels, ecosystem, species and genetic, and that management should aim to retain all three.[14] This is clearly reflected in the Convention on Biological Diversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed in 2010, where there is specific reference in goals and targets, not only to ecosystems and species, but also to genetic diversity.[15] Yet current approaches to biodiversity conservation are largely based on

geographic areas, ecosystems, ecological communities, and species, with less attention on genetic diversity and the species-population continuum. Species in particular provide a common measure of biodiversity that underpins much scientific and management endeavor.[16-17] Genetic diversity is important because it helps maintain the health of a population, by including alleles *i.e.*, different forms of genes; that may be valuable in resisting diseases, pests and other stresses and genetically very valuable. If the environment changes its normal patter, a population that has a higher variability of alleles will be better able to evolve to adapt to the new environment viz. 'Principle of survival of the fittest.' The importance of plant genetic diversity (PGD) is now being recognized as a specific area. Diversity in plant genetic resources (PGR) provides opportunity for plant breeders and biotechnologists to develop new and improved cultivars with desirable characteristics. The growing population pressure and urbanization of agricultural lands and rapid modernization in every field of our day-to-day activities that create biodiversity are getting too eroded in direct and indirect way. For instance, land degradation, land fragmentation, deforestation, urbanization, coastal changes and environmental stress etc. are collectively leading to large-scale extinction of plant species.

3. Findings

In the Constitution of India; some important Provisions articles and acts for the Protection of Environmental and biodiversity conservation are Article 14; Article 19(1) (g); Article 21; Article 48 (A); Article 51; Article 51 (A); Article 253, Indian Penal Code, 1860: Section 268 defined what is public nuisance. Abatement of public nuisance is also a subject of Section 133 to 144 of I.P.C. only prohibitive provisions.

Provisions mentioned in Section 269 to 278 emphasizes prosecution and punishment if there is violation of these provision.

Forty Second Amendment, Act 1976 : Stockholm Conference (1972) stimulated the Indian Government to enact 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976. This 42nd Amendment added Article 48-A and Article 51(A) in order to support environmental protection and biodiversity conservation including the natural resources viz. forest, lake wild life etc. Article 48(A) : inter alia, provides 'The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the

environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country' i.e. protection and biodiversity conservation of the country. Thus Article 48-A emphasizes on the 'Protection and improvement of environment'. Article 51 : comprehended 'The State shall endeavor to promote international peace and security; maintain just and honorable relations between nations; foster respect for international law and treaty obligations'. Article 51(A) : Article 51A(g) states 'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures'; to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture; to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures; to safeguard public property and to abjure violence; to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement. 18 While Article 48-A comprehend to 'environment'; Article 51-A(g) enjoins it as a fundamental duty of every citizen 'to have compassion for living creatures'. Thus, protection and improvement of natural environment including biodiversity is the duty of the State (Article 51Ag) and every citizen (Article 48-A) by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976.

In India at present there are strong provisions aimed at protecting the environment from pollution and maintaining the ecological balance viz. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, amended 1988; The Indian Forest Act, 1927; The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 are the mile stones in the protection and conservation of biodiversity. The Government of India monitoring various programmers and to educate the people and arouse their consciousness for the protection of environment. Department of Science and Technology. Department of Environment was established in 1980; after five years Government of India recognized the gravity and intensity of the biodiversity and environment conservation and to halt the depletion damage, disruption of different elements of ecosystem established the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) which serves as the nodal agency for the planning, promotion, making of environment laws and their enforcement in India. Some important agencies which help the MoEF in carrying out environment related activities are Central Pollution Control Board; State Pollution Control Boards;

State Departments of Environment; Union Territories (UT) Environmental Committees; The Forest Survey of India; The Wildlife Institute of India; The National forestation and Eco-development Board and The Botanical and Zoological Survey of India, etc.[18]

4. Discussion

Reflections or actions of the human being are based on the inspiration from his/her cultural and religious heritage as well as the legal bindings. Each and every unethically and ill-legal activities or the action of every human being causes the 'Butter fly effect' and subsequently impacts negatively the Earth ecosystem via a chain of reactions. The 'Butter- fly effect' is cumulating the negative impact and influencing very adversely the Earth ecosystem including the equilibrium of biodiversity *i.e.*, Flora and fauna in the ecosystem. Ecosystem and welfare of human beings both are inter-related, inter-dependent, inter-oriented. Basic principle of ecosystem services follow the 'Law of Limiting Factor'. The lowest factor in the ecosystem will determine the fate of life on the earth as well as the 'survival of human race'. Genetic diversity serves as a way for populations to adapt to changing environments. With more variation, it is more likely that some individuals in a population will possess variations of alleles that are suited for the environment. Those individuals are more likely to survive to produce offspring bearing that allele. It is important and essential to have genetic diversity and to take care of the major factors affecting biodiversity today. In situ conservation, which aims to keep a species in their ecosystem or habitat, is a top priority. Germ-plasma contains the information for a species' genetic makeup, a valuable natural resource of plant diversity. Agriculture benefits from uniformity among crop plants within a variety, which ensures consistent yields and make management easier. In order to conserve biodiversity in plants, it is important to targets three independent levels that include ecosystems, species and genes.

It is also essential to identify and predict the actual or potential impact of development and to consider ways of minimizing negative impact while maximizing benefits. The environmental protection and biodiversity conservation are integral parts of sustainable development. Conflict between eco-system and socio-economic

system arises from the unidirectional and unlimited human wants to meet the genuine needs of all the people and as also greed of some people. In order to make each of us accountable for present growth of human beings and present status of biodiversity, forest and global ecosystem; There is a need of holistic understanding of the relationship between the environment and the development processes taking place in the world. It has become the need of the hour to expand and evolve approaches to twenty- first century to 'biodiversity and forest conservation' and to strictly follow the 'global-environmental ecosystem approach'.[19-22]

Environmental protection laws in many, if not most countries, provide for citizen lawsuits as a means of enforcing legislative and regulatory standards. Such suits have played a significant role in enforcing constitutional provisions. The concept of environmental protection; which included conservation of biodiversity and Human Rights are enshrined in the Constitution of India. Thus environment protection and biodiversity conservation along with the term human rights through provisions in constitution must go hand in hand. The essential need is an epistemological shift towards more expansive and intentional standpoints that see economic obligations in the service of societal responsibilities. Thus Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and other judicial technique have been instrumental in promotion of Sustainable development; by ensuring conservation of biodiversity In addition, Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is a very important and effective tool against various ministries of central government, federal bodies, local authorities and public owned companies; for the conservation of biodiversity and environment. To link between environmental quality and the right to life was first addressed by a constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in the Charan Lal Sahu case in 1990 is one example.[23] Review and updating as well as proper implementation of the legislations is necessary in view of the challenges and threats in reference to resolve the challenges mention in table-1.

Table-1 : The 21 Emerging Issues for the 21st Century

Issue ID	Issue Title	Ranking
Cross Cutting Issues		
001	Aligning Governance to the challenges of Global Sustainability	1

002	Transforming Human capabilities for the 21st Century: Meeting Global Challenges and Moving towards a Green Economy	2
003	Broken Bridges: Reconnecting Science and Policy	4
004	Social Tipping Points? Catalyzing Rapid and Transformative Changes in Human Behaviour Towards the Environment	5
005	New Concepts for coping with Creeping Changes and Imminent Thresholds	18
006	Coping with Migration Caused by New Aspects of Environmental Change	20
Food, biodiversity and land issues		
007	New Challenges for Ensuring Food Safety and Food Security for 9 Billion People	3
008	Beyond Conservation: Integrating Biodiversity Across the Environmental and Economic Agendas	7
009	Boosting Urban Sustainability and Resilience	11
010	The New Rush for Land: Responding to New National and International Pressures	12
Fresh water and Marine issues		
011	New Insights on Water-Land Interactions: Shift in the Management Paradigm?	6
012	Shortcutting the Degradation of hiland water in Developing Countries	15
013	Potential Collapse on Oceanic Systems requires Integrated Ocean Governance	13
014	Coastal Ecosystems: Addressing Increasing Pressures with Adaptive Governance	19
Climate Changes Issues		
015	New Challenges for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Managing the Unintended Consequences	7
016	Acting on the Signal of Climate Change in the Changing Frequency of Extreme Events	16
017	Managing the Impacts of Glacier Retreat	21
Energy, Technology and Waste-Issues		
018	Accelerating the Implementation of Environmentally-Friendly Renewable Energy Systems	7
019	Greater Risk than Necessary? The Need for a New Approach for Minimizing Risks of Novel? Technologies and Chemicals	10

020	Changing the Face of Waste: Solving the Impending Scarcity of Strategic Minerals and Avoiding Electronic Waste	14
021	The Environmental Consequences of Decommissioning Nuclear Rectors	17

Source : Result of the UNEP, 2011 Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues

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4

Unemployment Rate among Youths of India

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On the strength of the youth power, we move around the world. The same youth power of the country is forced to wander from rate to rate for a unique job. But the bitter truth is that the stigma of the highest number of suicides is also on the forehead of our country due to increasing unemployment every day. According to the latest statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau, 26 youth are putting themselves in the cheek of the times every day and this state of anguish has been born due to the serious problem of student unemployment. Recent surveys and reports from the International Labour Organization, Government of India and various agencies indicate that the graph of unemployment has increased in the country. The condition of the foundation of the youth on whose strength we are looking forward to the future strong building is disappointing and the hollowness of our policies is showing on the national table.

[**Keywords** : Job, Unskilled and Skilled Education, Labour Force]

1. Introduction

According to data from the Union Ministry of Labour, 550 jobs have been reduced every day and self-employment opportunities

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have decreased. The figures which have come face to face between all these exercises, show that the situation in the country is very bad on the issue of employment. A report of the recent International Labour Organization has revealed that by 2019, three-fourth of the country's employees and professionals will be facing threat of job or they will not get the job according to their ability.

According to the report, out of the approximately 53.4 crore working people in India at present, about 39.8 crore people will neither get the job nor the job according to their merit. Apart from this, there is also the danger of losing their job. Although the unemployment rate is estimated to be around 3.5 percent during 2017-19, but in the age group of 15 to 24 years, this percentage is very high. According to the data, in 2017, unemployment percentage of youth in the age group of 15 to 24 was 10.5 percent, which may reach 10.7 percent by 2019. The situation is worse on the women's front. The report says that the unemployment rate of women has reached 8.7 in the last four years.

When a person is actively looking for employment, when he cannot find work, then this stage is called unemployment. It is generally measured as the unemployment rate, which is obtained by dividing the number of unemployed persons out of the number of persons in the workforce.

Normally, people in the economically active age group of 15-59 years are considered unemployed if not employed profitably. Unemployment related data in India is released by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). Most of the employment is provided by the unorganized sector in India. The unorganized sector consists of agricultural workers in rural areas and contract workers in urban areas.

According to the ELO's World Employment and Social Outlook report, many South Asian countries, including India, are expected to increase the number of unemployed people over the next two years. What is most worrying is that the prospects of poverty reduction in South Asia due to the informal sector will be reduced. 90 percent of workers in India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Nepal will be affected by the shortcomings of the informal sector. Unorganized groups are spread not only in agriculture but also in non-agricultural sectors like construction, wholesale and retail trade, housing and food

service industries. At the same time, employment growth rate is also less than the population growth rate in India. It has limited land resources and a large part of the workforce is engaged in agriculture which generates seasonal unemployment here. India's faulty education system also does not develop entrepreneurship and quality and most of the educated become unemployed. There has also not been enough industrial development in India.

2. Objectives

The main objective of present paper is to understand unemployment status among youth of India. So the specific objectives are as follows :

1. To understand, the status of unemployment rate since ninety.
2. To know the variation of unemployment in various state of India
3. To correlate establish linkages between unemployment rate and social indicator.

3. Method and Materials

This study is mainly based on the secondary data. Keeping in view the nature of objectives, data have been taken from Census of India, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Government of India. Firstly year wise information has been taken from CMIE and then it's correlate with Census of India. Some other useful information has also been taken from NSSO, Government of India for the fulfillment of the objectives. Besides these all, some demographic information has also been gathered from Census of India. Firstly raw data from all sources have been gathered and then feeded into SPSS (22nd version). Bi-variety and percentile method has been used at the time of analysis.

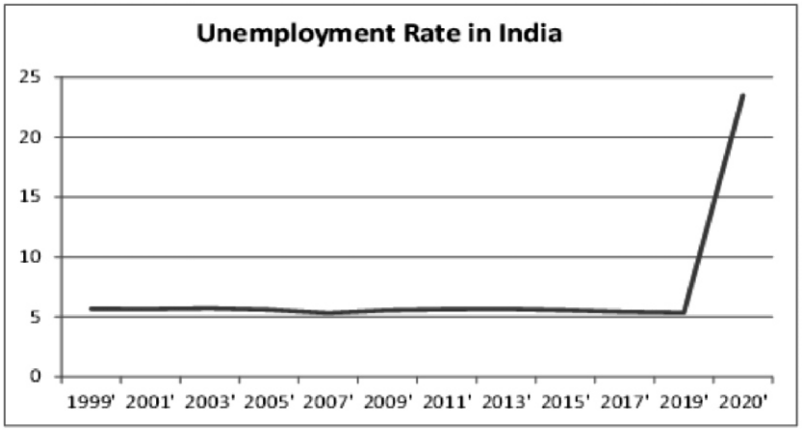
4. Results and Discussion

The main objective of the present study is to explain the condition and direction of unemployment among the youths of India. There was a slight fluctuation in the unemployment rate in India between 1999 and 2019, but it has increased considerably since 2019, which has been elaborated in Table-1 on next page.

Table-1 : Unemployment Rate in India since 1999

Year	Unemployment Rate	Year	Unemployment Rate
1999	5.69	2010	5.64
2000	5.66	2011	5.64
2001	5.66	2012	5.65
2002	5.72	2013	5.67
2003	5.73	2014	5.61
2004	5.67	2015	5.57
2005	5.6	2016	5.51
2006	5.45	2017	5.42
2007	5.32	2018	5.33
2008	5.28	2019	5.36
2009	5.57	2020	23.5

Source : Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)



The facts displayed in Table-1 show that from 1999 to 2001 the unemployment rate in India was around 5.6. The unemployment rate reached 5.7 in 2002 and 2003, but since 2004 the unemployment rate started declining again and in 2019 it fell to 5.36. By February 2020, the unemployment rate was around 5.4 but due to the COVID-19 epidemic in March 2020, the unemployment rate registered an unprecedented rise and reached 23.5 percent. Due to COVID-19, businesses, private jobs, small-scale industries, all started going to waste and there was an unprecedented increase in the number of unemployed.

Table-2 : Unemployment Rate in Major States of India

State	2017-18	May 2020
Gujarat	1.2	13.6
Meghalaya	1.5	5.9
Chhatisgarh	3.3	11.3
Goa	3.5	21.2
Madhya Pradesh	4.5	27.5
Maharashtra	4.9	16.5
Rajasthan	5.0	14.1
Uttar Pradesh	6.4	20.8
Bihar	7.2	46.2
Kerala	13.9	26.5

Source : National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)

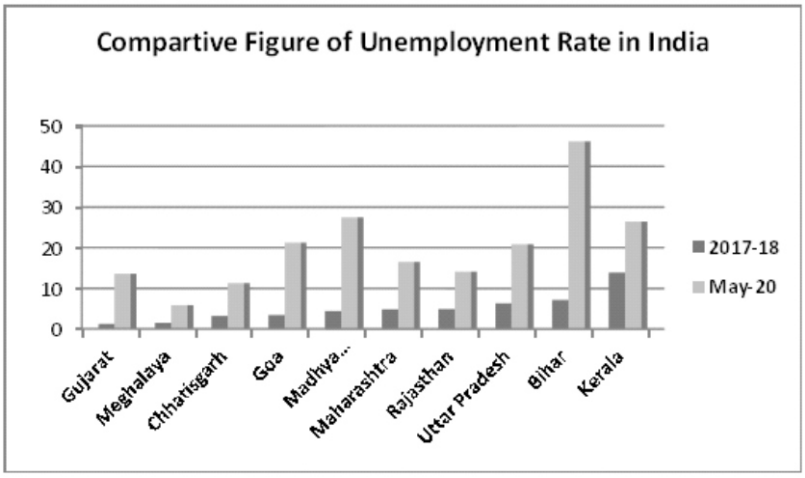


Table-2 shows the unemployment rate in various states of India. At the same time, the unemployment rate in 2017-18 is also compared to the unemployment rate of May 2020. The facts clearly show that in 2017-18 Gujarat and Meghalaya had negligible rate of unemployment which was 1.2 and 1.5 respectively, but in these same states the unemployment rate registered an unprecedented increase in 2020 and the unemployment rate reached 13.6 and 5.9 respectively. In 2017-18, the unemployment rate in Chhattisgarh and Goa was also very low which was 3.3 and 3.5 respectively and the same unemployment rate reached 11.3 and 21.2 respectively in May 2020. The worst case of unemployment rate is in Bihar which rose

from 7.2 in 2017-18 to 46.2 in May 2020. Madhya Pradesh has also recorded an unprecedented increase in the unemployment rate. In this state the unemployment rate was only 4.5 in 2017-18, which increased to 27.5 in May 2020. Kerala, which is the most educated state in India, is considered to be the most prosperous state in socio-economic terms but it also has the highest unemployment rate and it was 13.9 in 2017-18 which increased to 26.5 in May 2020. Uttar Pradesh is also not behind in the unemployment rate, which was 6.4 percent unemployment rate in 2017-18, which increased to 20.8 percent in May 2020.

Table-3 : Unemployment Rate according to Education

Level of Education	Unemployment Rate
Illiterate	32
Literate	84
Literate but below matric	41
Matric/Higher secondary but below Graduation	27
Technical/Diploma	1
Graduate and above	8
Technical/Diploma equal to Post Graduate	2

Source : CMIE

Table-3 attempts to relate the unemployment rate with the level of education. It is known from the facts that where the level of education is high, the level of unemployment is also high *i.e.* unemployment also seems to be increasing along with education. There is a negative correlation of unemployment with technical education because where there is technical education unemployment is less. Therefore, it can be said that unemployment can be reduced through technical education and skilled education.

5. Certain Initiative taken by Government of India

The Government of India has initiated to eradicate un-employment to introduce several programmed such as :

Prime Minister Employment Generation Program : A credit or loan limit of Rs 25 lakh has been provided for manufacturing sector and Rs 10 lakh for service sector.

Skill Development Program : It aims to create 500 million skilled personnel by 2022.

National Rural Livelihoods Mission : Under this scheme launched with the aim of bringing universal social cohesion, at least one woman member of every rural family has to be brought into self-help group network. Under this mission, 'Himayat' for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and 'Roshni' scheme was launched for the youth affected by Left Wing Extremism.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) : It provides 100 days of employment guarantee for all adult members of every rural family in a financial year, which is ready for unskilled labour. At least 33 percent of the beneficiaries should be women.

Make in India : It was introduced for the development of industrial units, whose emphasis is on ease of business, simple licensing, better use of technologies, etc.

Deendayal Upadhyay 'Shramev Jayate' Program : It focuses on topics related to Shram Suvidha Portal, Contingency Inspection, Universal Account Number, Trainee Incentive Scheme, Restructured National Health Insurance Scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana : To provide entrepreneurship training and education to more than 7 lakh trainees in the period from 2016 to 2021.

6. Conclusion

There was a slight fluctuation in the unemployment rate in India between 1999 and 2019, but it has increased considerably since 2019. By February 2020, the unemployment rate was not much more high but due to the COVID-19 epidemic in March 2020, the unemployment rate registered an unprecedented rise. Due to COVID-19, businesses, private jobs, small-scale industries, all started going to waste and there was an unprecedented increase in the number of unemployed.

Kerala, which is the most educated state in India, is considered to be the most prosperous state in socio-economic terms but it also has the highest unemployment rate. Uttar Pradesh is also not behind in the unemployment rate. It is known from the study that where the level of education is high, the level of unemployment is also high i.e. unemployment also seems to be increasing along with education. There is a negative correlation of unemployment with technical

education because where there is technical education unemployment is less. Therefore, it can be said that unemployment can be reduced through technical education and skilled education.

7. Recommendations

Due to the shutdown of trade and the changes in the economy, the jobs left cannot be considered as a sole cause of unemployment. Another equally important cause of unemployment is the lack of skills required for jobs. India is facing problems like slowness in job creation, especially in the manufacturing sector. In this area, capital and machine are preferred over humans for better efficiency and higher productivity. There is a need to find a solution by giving due priority to all the reasons for unemployment.

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5

Consumer Buying Preferences for Chain Stores in Ludhiana

Amaninder Pal Kaur Gill* and Surabhi Mahajan**

Chain Stores are one amongst many retail formats which are popular in market today. The present study attempts to identify the socio-economic and psycho-social factors that affect the buying preferences of consumers for various chain stores in Ludhiana city. Forty five respondents were randomly selected and data regarding their preferences was collected using a structured questionnaire. The results revealed that majority of respondents preferred chain stores because of their attractive window displays. Need of the product motivated majority of the customers to shop. Price of the product was the main consideration in selection of products and family likes and dislikes played an important role for the respondents while buying from chain stores. Wide and deep assortment under one roof was the unique selling point of chain stores. Respondents opined that difficulty in locating products and lack of sales personnel were major problems faced by them. Chain stores provided their customers with various facilities which helped in boosting their sales. Further, the study revealed that more than 80 percent customers were not loyal to any

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particular chain store and so the retailers need to develop their merchandising and marketing plans efficiently to be at par with their competitors.

[**Keywords :** Chain stores, Planogram, Window display, Assortment, Unique selling point]

1. Introduction

Consumer behaviour is an attempt to understand the buyer decision making process, both individually and in groups. It studies various characteristics of individual consumers such as demographics, psychographics, and behavioural variables in an attempt to understand what consumer wants. It also tries to assess influences on the consumer from groups such as family, friends, reference groups, and society in general (Mishra et al, 2014). As there are many retail formats popular now-a-days so it has become imperative to study the buying preferences so that retailers can plan their sale strategies more cohesively and executes them according to their customer needs. The current study is a humble attempt in this direction to study the socio-economic and psycho-social factors affecting consumer preferences for chain stores in Ludhiana.

2. Methodology

The present investigation was undertaken in ten different chain stores of Ludhiana city. A sample size of forty five respondents that visited these stores was randomly selected and an attempt was made to study the socio-economic and psycho-social factors that affected their buying behaviour by administering a structured questionnaire. The results of the investigation were interpreted using percentages and mean scores.

3. Results and Discussion

3·1 Psycho-social Factors affecting Buying Behaviour of Respondents

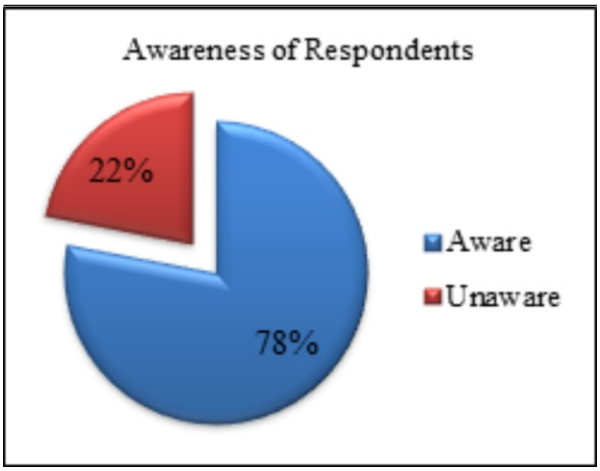
The psycho-social factors are the factors which are related to the interrelation of social factors and individual opinion and behaviour of people.

3·1·1 Awareness of Respondents for Chain Stores

The results revealed that more than three-fourth of the respondents were aware about various chain stores in Ludhiana. The

respondents opined that they have seen and heard of the same name of stores in different cities. This indicated that chain store is a popular retail format and today's consumer is well versed with different retail stores and their format.

n = 45



3·1·2 Unique Selling Point (USP) of Chain Stores

It was seen that the highest percentage of respondents considered wide and deep assortment as the USP of the chain stores followed by those who opined that chain store provides all merchandise under one roof.

Table-1 : Unique Selling Point of Chain Stores

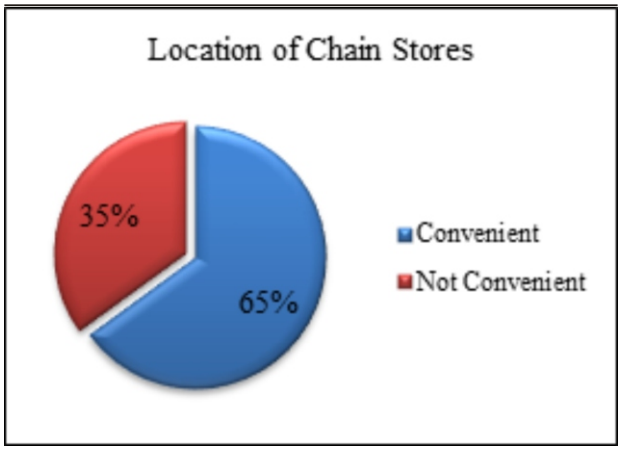
S.No.	USP of Chain Stores	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	Merchandise under one roof	14	31.11
2	Quality products	11	24.44
3	Availability of discount offers	9	20.00
4	Convenience in shopping	5	11.11
5	Wide and deep assortment	15	33.33
6	Well maintained environment	11	24.44
7	Notifications about new arrivals	6	13.33

*Multiple responses

3·1·3 Opinion of Respondents for Location of Chain Stores in Ludhiana

Majority of the chain store respondents (65%) were of the view that location of chain stores in Ludhiana is very convenient so it is not difficult for them to reach there.

n = 45



3·1·4 Shopping Interest of Respondents

The collected data contained in the following table show that majority of the respondents from chain stores preferred to go for shopping to buy merchandise for their family members/friends and also for themselves.

Table-2 : Shopping Interest of Respondents

S.No.	Shopping Interest	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		Mean	Rank
1	Window shopping	1.93	4
2	Purchasing for family member/ friends	3.13	1
3	Purchasing for self	2.76	2
4	Accompanying someone	2.18	3

3·1·5 Type of Products purchased by Respondents while Shopping

The chain stores included various product categories such as apparel, accessories, foot wear, household articles etc. but it was

observed from the following table that apparel were most frequently purchased by the respondents followed by foot wear, accessories and household articles respectively.

Table-3 : Type of Products Purchased by Respondents while Shopping

S.No.	Products	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	Apparel	40	88.89
2	Accessories	10	22.22
3	Foot wear	12	26.67
4	Household articles	10	22.22

*Multiple responses

3·1·6 Shopping Span of Respondents in the Chain Stores

Shopping span of respondents in the chain stores is shown in the following table-4. It is evidently clear that ninety one percent of the respondents spent more than an hour to shop for their required products in a chain store. The longer duration of stay in a chain store could be attributed to its wide assortment of products available at chain stores.

Table-4 : Shopping Span of Respondents in Chain Stores

S.No.	Shopping Span	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	30 minutes - 1 hour	4	8.89
2	More than an hour	41	91.1

3·1·7 Factors considered as Important while Shopping by the Respondents

Factors considered as important while shopping by the respondents are shown in table-5. It was observed that price of a product was highly preferred by the respondents while shopping. Availability of discount offers was least preferred by chain store respondents.

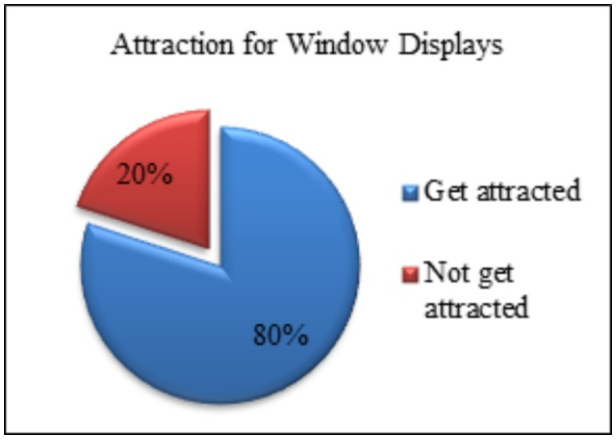
Table-5 : Factors Considered as Important while Shopping by the Respondents

S.No.	Factors	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		Mean	Rank
1	Price	3.82	1
2	Quality	3.49	2
3	Brand name	2.64	3
4	Availability of discount offer	2.16	4

3·1·8 Attraction of Respondents towards Window Display of Chain Stores

The collected data as contained in the following diagram show that more than three-fourth (80 percent) of the respondents get attracted towards the window display of the chain stores and then get lured to visit the stores to see the new merchandise indicating the fact that window display has an important role to attract the consumers.

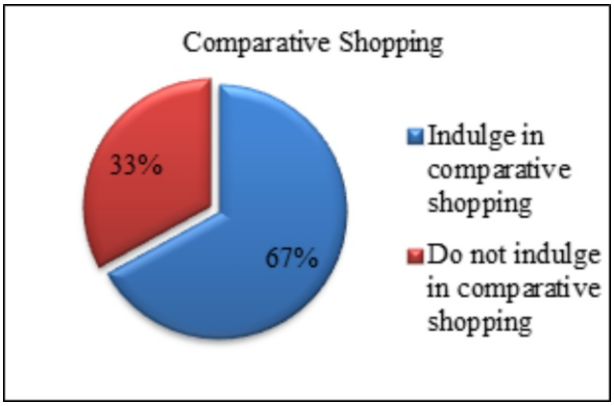
n = 45



3·1·9 Comparative Shopping undertaken by the Respondents

It is a common practice among the customers/consumers to make a comparison in various chain stores before taking a final decision to purchase. The collected data shown in the diagram on next page revealed that 67 percent of the respondents indulged in comparative shopping. They always compared quality and price of products before actual shopping.

n = 45



3·2 Socio-economic Factors affecting Buying Behaviour of the Respondents

Socio-economic factors are the social and economic features that help to mould one's personality, attitude and lifestyle. The role of various socio-economic factors in buying behaviour is analyzed in the following sub-heads :

3·2·1 Factors that Motivated the Respondents to shop from a Chain Store

The data showed that need of the product motivated the respondents to shop followed by the changing fashion trends.

Table-6 : Factors that Motivated the Respondents to Shop

S.No.	Motivating Factors	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	Need of the product	26	57.78
2	As fun field activity	4	8.89
3	Surplus money	9	20.00
4	Changing fashion trends	13	28.89

*Multiple responses

3·2·2 Preference of Respondents for their Company while Shopping in a Chain Store

The findings of the study revealed that 62 percent of the respondents preferred going for shopping with their family members

in a chain store followed by 29 percent who wanted to go with friends. This can be again related to the fact that the respondents shopped for their family and friends so taking them along would make the shopping process easier.

Table-7 : Preference of Respondents for their Company while Shopping

S.No.	Company while Shopping	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	Friends	13	28.89
2	Family Members	28	62.22
3	Colleagues	4	8.89

3·2·3 Frequency of Shopping in a Chain Store by the Respondents

The data revealed that majority of respondents do not have any fixed frequency of shopping. This could be attributed to the fact that need is the most important motivating factor for respondents to shop rather than time.

Table-8 : Frequency of Shopping in a Chain Store by the Respondents

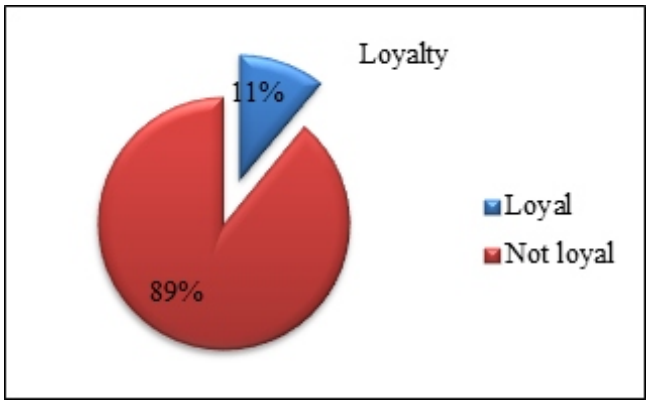
S.No.	Frequency of Shopping	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		F	%
1	Weekly	3	6.67
2	Fortnightly	13	28.89
3	Monthly	9	20.00
4	Seasonally	1	2.22
5	No fixed time	19	42.22

3·2·4 Loyalty of Respondents towards a particular Chain Store

Loyalty towards a retail store depends upon its brand value, store ambience and facilities provided to the customers. Now-a-days, every store provides their customer with such facilities. The collected data showed that very few respondents were loyal to any one chain

store located in Ludhiana. They opined that they preferred any store according to availability of time, recommendation of family and friends and their convenience.

n = 45



3·2·5 Preference of Respondents towards Stores offering Discounts

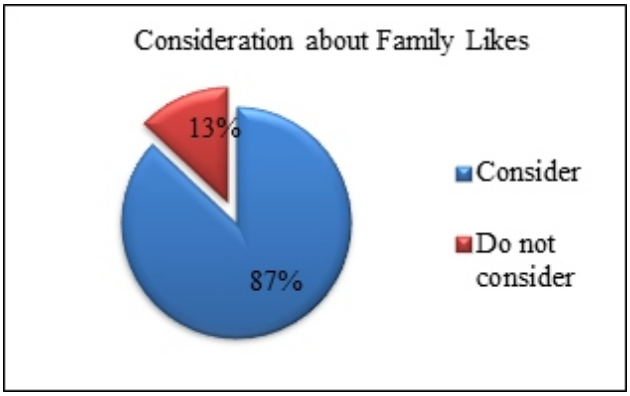
It was observed that majority (58%) of the respondents preferred going to stores with discount offers as it saved their money. This could be related to their preference for price as the most important factor while shopping in chain stores.

n = 45

3·2·6 Consideration about Family likes/dislikes while Shopping by the Respondents

It may be observed from the diagram on next page that majority (87%) of respondents from chain stores considered family likes/ dislikes before purchasing anything for them.

n = 45



3·2·7 Problems faced by Respondents while Shopping from Chain Stores

The respondents opined that difficulty in locating products followed by forcing by the sales staff for taking membership of the store and lack of trained sales personnel were the most common problems faced.

Table-9 : Problems Faced by Respondents while Shopping from Chain Stores

S.No.	Problems of Chain Stores and Factory Outlets	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		Mean	Rank
1	Lack of sales personnel	3.36	3
2	Difficulty in locating products	3.84	1
3	No Parking facility	3.33	4
4	Long queues for billing	2.44	8
5	Return/exchange of products	3.00	7
6	High prices	3.09	5
7	Forcing for membership	3.69	2

3·2·8 Attributes of Chain Stores contributing to their Success

The data presented in Table 10 reveals the store attributes of chain stores. It can be seen that respondents attributed factors like availability of different payment terms, availability of security

services and wide and deep assortment responsible for success of chain stores.

Table-10 : Attributes of the Selected Chain Stores

S.No.	Attributes of Chain Stores and Factory Outlets	Respondents (n = 45*)	
		Mean	Rank
1	Availability of different payment terms	4.44	1
2	Wide and deep assortment of products	4.36	2
3	Availability of security services	4.36	3
4	Discount offers	4.20	6
5	Nice Store ambience	4.36	4
6	Availability of try rooms	4.02	9
7	Good infrastructure	4.09	8
8	Well maintained and clean store	4.31	5
9	Availability of products at different price ranges	4.11	7
10	Online notification about offers	3.93	10

4. Conclusion

It may be concluded that consumers are well aware of different chain stores in Ludhiana. They are preferred because of their attractive window displays and availability of variety of products under one roof. Need of the consumers motivated them to shop. Price of the product was the main consideration in selection of the products. Family likes and dislikes played an important role for the respondents while buying and wide and deep assortment under one roof was considered to be the unique selling point of chain stores. Location of the chain stores was found to be convenient and apparels were the main product type preferred by the consumers. The average shopping span of customers was more than an hour and they bought products both for family members and themselves. The consumers indulged in comparative shopping and got attracted towards window displays of the chain stores. Difficulty in locating products and lack of sales personnel were major problems faced by customers in chain stores. The chain stores provided their customers with various facilities still more than 80 percent customers were not loyal to any

particular chain store and so the retailers need to develop their merchandising and marketing plans efficiently to be at par with their competitors.

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6

Strengthening Institutional Mechanism to ensure Ethical and Moral Values in Governance : The Road Ahead

Archana Sawshilya*

Governance is a dynamic process which needs to be strengthened by the framework envisaged in the constitution. Good Governance is a style of governance that is expected to be efficient, effective, responsive, corruption free and citizens friendly for social harmony, political stability and economic development. Corruption, decline in ethical and moral values are the toughest issues that states face in the governance process today. Government should work according to the essential criteria of good governance such as rule of law, accountability, political stability, responsiveness, transparency, participation, consensus orientation, governmental effectiveness and efficiency. But the real challenge before us is, how to strengthen ethics and moral values. The effectiveness of government depends more on the capacities of a public sector and less on the acts of political heads. The Right to Information Act, 2005 is a mechanism to fix accountability and adherence to appropriate procedure in public offices. Whistle Blowers Act appears as backbone of public vigilance today. CVC is an important institution for fighting corruption, ensuring probity,

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transparency and accountability. Strengthening of corporate ethics and implementation of integrity and respect for transparency is the way forward. Self-regulation, intervention of shareholders and regulators in case of violation or criminality should be exercised in corporate sector.

[**Keywords :** Good governance, Accountability, Right to Information Act, Whistle Blowers Act, Central Vigilance Commission, Corporate ethics]

1. Introduction

Governance is a dynamic process, not only about how a territory -country/state is governed but also how does it interact with the society and its citizens. It needs to be continuously strengthened by vigorously pursuing the framework envisaged in the constitution. Good Governance is a style of governance that is efficient, effective, responsive, corruption free and citizens friendly for ensuring people's trust in government and promoting social harmony, political stability and economic development.

Corruption, decline in ethical and moral values are the toughest issues that states face in the governance process today. The agenda of ethical governance 'in its purest form' is unrealistic due to some unequivocal feasibility concerns. In this situation, if not 'Good governance', we can look for 'Good enough governance'. It can at least reduce problems in society by creating new innovations and developing suitable mechanism to eradicate corruption. Both political and administrative levels need correction and citizens grievance redressal system.

Government should work according to the essential criteria of good governance such as rule of law, accountability, political stability, responsiveness, transparency, participation, consensus orientation, governmental effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, public management committee of OECD referred to ethics infrastructure—to maintain highest degree of integrity and good conduct—workable code of conduct, supportive public service conditions, effective legal framework and active civil society. But the real challenge before us is, how to strengthen ethics and moral values. The effectiveness of government depends more on the capacities of a public sector and less on the acts of political heads.

Governance is for efficiently and objectively implementing the social contract. It needs a highly proficient, well knowledgeable administration to make government institutions inventive, participatory to make sound policies, and citizen friendly orientation.

To restore trust in governmental functionaries, institutional mechanisms—Central Vigilance Commission, Lokpal and Lokayukta (Indian version of Ombudsman), Right to Information need redefinition in an intelligent and realistic manner. Changeover to liberalization and economic reforms, and new types of complex and difficult managerial set-ups, demand an highly competent, well informed and caring administration.

2. Strengthening Moral Values in Administrative Behaviour

For the promotion of ethical conduct in public service, public servants need to improve their knowledge, skills, ethics and attitudes to provide platform for inclusive decision making, reconciliation and social cohesion. They need to be trained and socialized in the changed situation. Any Public servant can reach the highest ethical standard by being friendly to the citizens and promptly delivering services to them and earn respect from them. By fulfilling their lawful obligations to the government with professionalism and integrity, public servants can avoid bringing the public services into dispute through their private activities. 'Unless public Office is regarded as a trust that a public servant holds for public good, democratic values cannot be generated. Democratic ethos can be fostered through various socializing institutions—homes, religious institutions, schools, youth clubs and mass media.

There are various ways to reinforce the ethical standards in governance. Holders of public offices should take decisions solely in terms of public interest and in no circumstances place themselves under any obligations to outside individuals or organizations that can influence or control their official duties. Merit should be the only criteria in conducting public business, making public appointments and awarding contracts. Cordial relations between the government and the people at different levels will also help ensure moral values transforming governance into good governance. This also applies to elected representatives.

Hota committee too, focusing on the incorporation of ethical principles in the new statutes of civil services had suggested for disclosure of annual property return of all public servants, attachment of *benami* property of corrupt public servants on the websites. Article 311 of the Constitution (dealing with inquiries and

disciplinary procedures) should be suitably amended to enable the President/Governor to dismiss or remove public servants in case of corrupt practices or having assets more than known source of income.

For managing ethics in public services, developing and also reviewing policies, procedures that promote ethical conduct should be clearly drafted and get reflected in the legal framework.

3 Right to Information : Fundamental Source of Citizen Power

The Right to Information Act 2005 is a mechanism to fix accountability and adherence to appropriate procedure in public offices. Corruption is an upshot of secrecy and avowed confidentiality in the conduct of government affairs. The Official Secrets Act of 1923 and its section-5 were convenient smoke screen to deny the public, even the most required or important information classifying as an official secret. Right to Information Act 2005 empowers the citizens to seek information from a public authority, thus making the government and its functionaries more accountable and responsible.

But this Act itself faces challenges from both demand and supply sides, which are of crucial concern for effective flow of information. However common public is not much aware of RTI and its significance. The efforts made by appropriate governments and public authorities have been restricted to publishing of rules and frequently asked questions on websites. There is lack of accountability, inadequate processes within the Government to highlight the success and failures in carrying out various activities mentioned in the Act.

However to make RTI an effective tool to combat corruption, the institutional structure and information infrastructure need to be transformed. Digitization of old and updated records for public reference, disclosure of lists that are not to be disclosed, proper disclosure of information on governmental websites are essential for the citizens to be aware of the functioning of the systems. Hiding information is a crime therefore punishment for concealing information should be decided. It should also be mandatory for the departments to make their audit reports public.

Detailed guidelines on implementation of *suo motu* disclosure under section 4 of RTI Act 2005 was issued to all departments in 2013

i.e. details of public authority to be uploaded in a user friendly manner on their websites. It also directed that training modules should incorporate matters related to the virtues of transparency and open government.

Janta information system should replace Management Information System (MIS) to have accessibility of information of database, helping us to know about the implementation procedure and raise questions. However, to make RTI an effective tool to combat corruption, the institutional structure and information infra-structure need to be transformed. Citizens should be given the Right to Corrupt free Services.

4. Protection of Whistleblowers : Backbone of Public Vigilance

Every organization expects its personnel to be loyal and maintain confidentiality. But if anything goes awry, then extension of support by the employees is highly unjustifiable. It provides ground for whistleblowers to play active role in unearthing illegal and unethical practices to safeguard the interests of the society at large.

The concept of whistleblower is not new. Even Kautilya in Arthashastra had given reference of Suchaka that after giving information if he succeeds in proving it, gets reward in some proportion.

However, there has been multiple cases of threatening, harassment and even murder of whistleblowers (Satyendra Dubey), who had blown the whistle in a corruption case in the National Highways Authority project. It was decided to enact a separate legislation to provide adequate protection to the person reporting corruption. This Bill was passed by the LokSabha in 2011 and became an ACT on 21 February 2014. What is important in this Act is the term—Public Interest Disclosure.

But this Act has no provisions of rewarding in financial terms nor does it deals with corporate whistleblowers. Unfortunately it does not define the term and extent of victimization nor has any specified procedure for enquiring into complaints. Anonymous complaints are also not entertained.

What is expected today is proper dissemination of information about the meaning and concept of this Act to both public as well as private offices. Its domain should include private sectors also

because of close liaisoning between corporate and government departments. Provision for financial rewards or incentives will encourage whistleblowers.

There is provision for Anonymous disclosure but not for complete anonymous disclosure, so identity of whistleblowers has to be revealed. The safety issue is of crucial importance and for this, Protection Agency has to be created. Whistleblowers should also be provided immunity from vexatious legal actions. The judiciary, media and NGO need to play an active role in the cases of whistle blowing and ensure that civil servants receive justice in the course of legal proceedings. Official Secrets Act 1932 should be amended to give civil servants reasonable amount of freedom to express their views including the mal-practices in bureaucracy. An internally vigilant bureaucracy will be an effective antidote against its wrongdoings.

Public vigilantism through RTI activists is increasingly becoming a powerful weapon to promote transparency and corruption free administration. But because of the high stakes involved in the RTI applications, it often endangers the lives of the activists themselves. Analysis of victimization of RTl applicants and proper strategies for their protection is a bare necessity today. This will encourage citizens to be more vigilant and active in participation.

Compared to other civil services across the world, Indian civil servants enjoy better terms of service conditions and constitutional protection. It is also the responsibility of the officers to protect whistleblowers working under them. Violators have become so accustomed to their practices and the protection given to them that on exposure they express surprise, claim innocence and unfair discrimination.

At the same time whistle blowing is an act of responsibility, therefore the whistleblowers should act in good faith so as to safeguard the interest of the organization and should have concrete evidence regarding the mal-practices.

5. Central Vigilance Commission : Potent Watchdog can Improve Performance

CVC is an important institution for fighting corruption, ensuring probity, transparency and accountability. However, in last few years there has been vigorous debate on corruption due to

involvement of media, civil society and increased level of expectation and awareness among people of India.

Since the dimensions and scope for corruption has undergone drastic change, there is a need for CVC to re energize itself and pro-actively lead the change, investigate all cases of corruption without fear or favour. Due care to be taken to ensure that honest officers are not harassed for bonafide mistakes, else decision making will suffer and stifle the process of governance. This balancing acts needs high degree of expertise in analyzing and scrutinizing controversial and complex cases of policy making and implementation.

Anti corruption functionaries need new and effective ways to minimize scope for misuse of power, to conduct multi jurisdictional investigations and prosecution to unearth corruption cases.

Issues of corruption of politicians and civil servants dominate public discourse on governance and credibility of institutions. Laws alone are not sufficient to restore public faith in governance, rather timely enforcement is the key to effective deterrence. Need for better legal framework, use of modern technology to combat corruption, balancing of accountability with autonomy are also important to ensure ethical and moral values in governance. Some result oriented measures for improving transparency and accountability are e-auction, e-procurement, e-payment in public sectors.

6. Corporate Ethics

The trust deficit between society and business is clearly becoming a serious issue. Given the large stakes for which corporate compete with each other, it is only inevitable that adjudicating public authorities are often under enormous pressure to favour one corporate against the other. Developing transparent frameworks for decision making is the need of the hour.

Strengthening of corporate ethics and implementation of integrity and respect for transparency is the way forward. Self-regulation, intervention of shareholders and regulators in case of violation or criminality should be exercised in corporate sector.

7. Crony Capitalism - At the Root of Political Corruption

Business and political elites are expected to complement each other to further the cause of society. But this complementarity often

takes the form of cronyism in a democracy putting public interest in jeopardy. All the scams over the decades involving corporate and politicians and bureaucrats stand testimony to this.

To a large extent, high cost of election in India lies at the root of crony capitalism. The necessity of this bonhomie will perhaps be not there once we help usher in the right electoral reforms to cut down on excessive election expenses. Though the Election Commission has over the years tried to come down heavily on abuse of monetary power by candidates by laying down limits on expenses but enforcement of these limits remain weak and lackadaisical.

8. Lokpal and Lokayukta - A Good Beginning, but long way to go

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, is an anti-corruption Act of Indian Parliament which "seeks to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal". It has to enquire into allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers and members of Parliament and group A officials of central government. The bill was introduced in the parliament following massive public protest, led by anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare and his associates.

The structure and functioning of this Act is not without loopholes. Judicious representation of members from different background, having expertise in anti corruption policy, in the institution of Lokpal is expected today. Independent investigation and prosecution wing of Lokpal will facilitate its work of investigation and prosecution. Anti-corruption wing of CBI, should be part of the Lokpal so that there is no confusion about jurisdiction of activities.

On the principle of equality, the Prime Minister should come under the ambit of the Lokpal because he also holds several portfolios. After all in a Parliamentary democracy, the Prime Minister holds the office as 'the first among equals'.

The members of the Parliament should be accountable to the Lokpal for their conduct in the Parliament. Lokpal should be empowered to recommend measures and penalties under conduct rules and these should be binding on bureaucrats.

While aiming to make the office of the Lokpal the supreme body to keep an eye on the possible wrongdoing across the legislative and

administrative spectrum, we should not lose sight of the fact that individuals assuming these roles can also be fallible. Hence, Lokpal members should also be made accountable to citizens, who can make complaint to the Supreme Court against any Lokpal member and seek his/her removal.

9. Media cannot pretend to be 'Holier than Thou'

A vigilant media is a sine qua non of a successful democracy. Neutrality of news is critical to formation of healthy and constructive public opinion. But the so called Fourth Estate is often found wanting in this critical role of 'playing the arbiter' in Indian democracy. In the absence of any strong regulatory mechanism over print or electronic media (the reach of Press Council of India is limited and too circumscribed), regulation has by and large remained limited to 'self-imposed restrictions', which have obviously been found to be inadequate. Siding with political agendas of the government or the opposition has often been the practice.

We urgently need to revamp the existing framework of regulation to bring media under a non-political body, which is not only acutely aware of its fiduciary role but has the powers to enforce neutrality in conduct.

10. Conclusion

It is obligatory on politicians and the government officials to function in a fair, impartial and unbiased manner to uphold and preserve the trust of our people. Anti-corruption institutions are striving hard to address the problems of corruption, but the task cannot be accomplished without the participation of all the stakeholders including the civil society. After all institutions are only as good and as effective as they are made out to be by the widest set of stakeholders.

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7

Objectives of Nirankari Mission

Kavita Rani*

The Mission was founded on May 25, 1929 in Rawalpindi by Baba Buta Singh Ji. This the day when Baba Avtar Singh Ji received God-knowledge from Baba Buta Singh Ji and joined him in taking the spiritual light to as many people as possible. The present paper attempts to analyze the objective of Nirankari Mission. The main objective of the Nirankari Mission is to produce (bring) uniformity in the highly stratified Indian society. Nirankari Mission aims at setting lower communities free the stigma that they are spreading communal pollution and to make them feel that they are in the main stream society. The Nirankari Mission opposes the belief of bombastic rituals spread in the society and wants to provide a platform for worshipping God on scientific or rational basis.

[**Keywords :** *Nirankar*, *Nirankari Mission*, *Yog Darshan*, Divine virtues, *Satguru*, Oneness]

The goal of human life is the realization of Nirankar. It makes life blissful and bring salvation from the boundaries of life and death for ever.

Human birth is golden opportunity to be one with God every where. ***—Sant Nirankari Mission***

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1. Introduction

In Religious texts, it is probable that God can be reached through *'Yog Darshan'* by which one can overcome his sense organs and hence, reach the God. Whereas, in Nirankari Mission, the soul first knows the supreme soul, *i.e.*, God and then comes to know herself as well. Hence, in Nirankari Mission confirmation it talked about because these three elements, *i.e.* Soul, Divine (Supreme Soul) and Nature are eternal. Nature is the changeable truth, while the supreme soul is the unchangeable truth. When the soul gains the true knowledge about the virtues, of two (nature and supreme soul) the it gets to know that its virtues, duties and nature are similar to those of supreme soul, hence it is also true and awakened and it gets salvation.

The main difference between the Nirankari Mission and other *'Yog Darshan'* means that in this mission, the soul is not entangled in the web of such means, rather it directly helps the soul to reach its final destination therefore, the slogan of the Nirankari Mission also says "Self Realization is possible only through God realization". Aims are met as one goes. It is also said that "*Lok Sukhi, Parlok Suhela*", which means, in this way one gets worldly pleasures on the earth as well as after his death. After this realization, the soul rests in to the supreme soul and similarly unity in diversity is also established. Concepts like oneness, "world without walls" and universal brotherhood are embodied which are the objectives of the mission. Nirankari volunteers rather than being the representatives of the caste, religion or country are the representative of humanity, as they see God in all and serve all of them.

2. Objectives of Nirankari Mission

Sant Nirankari Mission identifies itself as "Neither a new religion nor a sect to any exiting religion but an all embracing spiritual movement dedicated to human welfare by helping seekers realize God through the grace of a living true master *(Satguru)*" inspiring them to live as dutiful global citizens.

As the name goes, the Mission's corner stone is the realization of God of Formless one, *Nirankar*. He is omnipresent and pervades every particle of the universe. He is imminent and all are in Him, and being transcendent, He is in all. He is the creator, nurturer and ultimate end of all that it visible. Though formless, one can know

God, perceive Him and realize Him and liberate himself from the bondage of transmigration or life and death.

The mission, however, does not end up with the description of the Truth of God. The emphasis here is on knowing the Supreme Entity *i.e.* God. We do not mind to name God differently, but we would stress on His oneness despite the multiplicity of names. While the entire universe is subject to change, the Almighty God is not.

The Mission believes that God be realized only through the True Master *(Satguru).* Since the seeker requires a hint to perceive or realize God, *Satguru* must be present in physical form, even though his real importance lies in his formless entity. *Satguru* here is the embodiment of Formless God. Just like God, we can realize the presence of *Satguru* all the time, everywhere. Again like God, *Satguru* is not bound by the considerations of caste, colour and creed. Significantly, *Satguru* in our Mission attaches us with the Almighty and not own physical form when it comes to the question of devotion.

Just as God manifests Himself and function in the physical form of *Satguru*, Satguru manifests himself and functions in the physical form of saints who receive God-knowledge. He offers them his holy seat, his *Dupatta* (scarf) and bestows all his spiritual powers to them. Practically he bestows his entity on his disciples and operates through their physical form and blesses one and all. This, however, does not mean that the disciple replaces *Satguru*. It is *Satguru* who merges his spiritual identity into that of the disciple.

As we receive *Brahm Gyan*, we are advised to seek the company of spiritually enlightened saints *(Satsang)*, do service to others *(Sewa)* and remember God *(Sumiran)* to keep us steadfast in our devotion to God and faith in *Satguru*. They also keep us away from bondage of superstitions. While *Satsang* presents a beautiful picture of unity in diversity and promotes love, respect and humanity. *Sumiran* keeps us conscious of the presence of God in every though and action and thus fosters noble virtues instead of negative feelings. *Sewa* enables every devotee to give expression to his or her devotion to the Almighty. A significant features of *Satsang, Sewa and Sumiran* in this Mission is that they are free from bindings and restrictions.

The Mission believes that religion symbolized by rites and rituals which differ from faith to faith, rather sect to sect, is not the

reality simply because it seeks to segment one group of people from the other. The Mission feels that the rites and rituals being practiced by way of worship of God are not the end or the Truth by itself. If at all, they become meaningful only after one realizes the Truth or knows God. The best way to worship God, then, will be to realize His presence all the time everywhere and associate Him in every action of daily life. True religion, the Mission says, unites mankind, it never divides. Naturally, we conclude that Humanity, taking the entire human race into its fold, promising equality and universal brotherhood, is the best religion.

The Mission treats God as that sacred link that inter- connects every objects of the universe—animate or inanimate. His common cord unites every human being with one another. This feeling of oneness takes the mankind beyond national boundaries and physical distances. We may live anywhere on earth, speak any language, wear any dress, follow any religion or culture, we are one simply because we exist in God and God exists in us all at the same time.

God is also the supreme source of all divine virtues. Hence once we are with God, we imbibe these virtues including love, compassion, humidity, tolerance, broad-vision, selflessness and so on. We become human beings in real sense.

Unity means togetherness. We join together and work for a common cause, aim or object as a group. We mention about the need of such unity at all levels. All the members of a family need to work together to fight a common enemy, such as poverty. We need social unity to protect our common identity as a community. The people of a State or a country may need unity to defend their common interests as against other States or countries. Similarly, we talk about unity in a trade union, political party, etc.

The unit here remains the individual member, with some amount of difference of outlook and aptitude admissible, which may cause no hurdle in the way of unity, of course, for example, individually one member of the family may have liking for a different food, colour of dress, hair, style, etc., from the other. They may follow different courses of education and land in different occupations with different levels of income. But when it comes to dealing with another family, they will be together, they all will be united. They will have a common action on a particular issue, matter or occasion. Then, even a single member may represent the family as a whole.

Similarly, when various families in a community follow similar rites and rituals on similar occasions in similar situations, trust or believe the same prophet and holy scripture, this is their social, cultural and religious unity. Here also the unit, the family, may reside anywhere in the world, pursue any occupation, they are united simply because they perform the same rites and rituals in matters such as birth of a child, marriage of the son or daughter and death of an elderly member.

In the same way, we talk about our unity at State or the national level. Precisely, this is what we call 'unity in diversity'. Individual units enjoy their own freedom in the matter of thought, speech and action, but when it comes to a common cause, they rise together and act together as a group and, if necessary, fight with the same zeal and fervor.

Now, before proceeding to 'Oneness', let us have a word about uniformity also. This is unity rather similarity of physical appearance, dress language or culture. This is not the unity in the form mentioned earlier, because people may not think or act together even if they wear the same dress or use the same language. Sometimes people do try to bring about unity through uniformity, but they have never succeeded. In fact, diversity has its own significance. Nature with a variety of landscapes present a prominent example. Diversity breaks the monotony of uniformity and adds beauty to the objects looked at. The world would not have been so fascinating, colourful and beautiful if, for example, all the trees were of the same variety yielding the same fruit or the landscapes all over were uniform—deserts, forests, hills or even plains only. Different colours, sizes and design of various objects certainly makes the world charming.

When the Berlin Wall was finally broken in 1992 and the people from the Eastern and the Western parts of the capital of Germany could each other after a long separation of three decades, someone wrote on one of its relics : This world is too small for walls. This was perhaps the best expression assigned to the sentiments of the citizens of Berlin who had just come out of the agony of the bifurcation and the restrictions on their movement that it caused in the name of so-called Fascism and Socialism.

Literally, the slogan seeks to point out that the world has already overcome physical distances. We can fly from one end of the

planet to the other within a matter of hours. We can speak to each other whatever the distance between caller and the called. We can see and talk with one another through internet over computer. We can organize a discussion over internet with participants sitting in different countries of the world. In fact, the computer, the social media networks, the mobile telephone and all kinds of other means of transportation and communication have revolutionized human life and virtually eliminated the physical distances. Hence, the world is not only too small for the walls, but any wall that you erect will fail to stop people from getting in touch with each other.

The world, however, is not suffering from the barriers like Berlin Wall or China Wall alone. The barriers exist in the minds, in the hearts too much are all the more agonizing and distressing. And even though the world is witnessing so much of violence and the loss of life and property, these walls are proving insurmountable. No effort whatsoever made locally, nationally or even globally seems to be effective enough to dismantle these walls from the minds and the hearts.

It is not very difficult to identity these walls. Individuals a re fighting for these walls. Individuals are fighting for their self-interest or selfishness. Ego is acting as the spark that ignites the fire of jealousy and hatred which then causes flames of violence. This shatters the family and destroys the fine fabric of love, compassion, mutual understanding, the spirit of sacrifice for each other. Parents are being thrown out like useless stuff. No doubt they find shelter in old age homes in some cases here and there, but this fails to return their happiness and peace of mind to them. One brother is prepared to murder the other over a small portion of property. Couples seek divorce over trifles and we know the consequences it has on both the parties as well as children.

Then we find similar mental creating distances among communities and threatening harmony at social level. Different group of people fight over the age-old customs, traditions and conventions in the matter of dress and diet. One can understand a particular group taking pride in whatever culture, customs and beliefs they have inherited , but the tension or conflicts arises when they do not allow their counterparts to follow their own. And who will agree to ignore the beliefs and practices they have inherited from their ancestors just because they hurt the feelings of some other

groups? The result is before us—the riots, bloodshed, painful migrations, strikes, curfews and what not!

Similarly, we find conflict at the state and national levels. Several states have virtually been bifurcated because people in one felt ignored by those in the others. Instead of finding some way to stay together, they choose to stay apart, and not as friends but foes. They continue to fight over the sharing of river waters, state capitals, etc.

And then, nations fight too. We witnessed the First World War with all its devastating consequences. And as the war concluded the world leaders vowed not to repeat it and they set up the League of Nations to ensure peace. It appeared that a generation which was called upon to play a heavy price in blood, toil and tears seriously cherished that its succeeding generations should not perish in another bloody war.

We, however, saw the second world War bringing more blood, toil and tears just after two decades. As the war somehow concluded after six long years of fighting and fear, the world leaders worked out a new boundary map for the planet and also resolved once again to have the United Nations Organization with several specialized agencies with the aim to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war and provide fundamental human rights, worth and dignity, better standards of life, peace tolerance and good neighbourliness.

No doubt we have been led fast into the age of computer and satellite with more and more gadgets entering our work place, kitchen, bed-room and the drawing-room, but the fact remains that peace harmony visualized in the UN Charter is still eluding Regional conflict and wars have continued to end anger peace in different parts of the world. We find international conflicts shattering internal unity and integrity, peace and harmony of several nations. Evils like terrorism in one country are found to have their roots some where else in the world. Political stability of one country is being shattered simply because it does not suit the international designs of another.

Religion that was always expected to strengthen the fundamental unity of the mankind and promote peaceful co-existence, too is found distancing man from man at every level. Be it family, locality, state or a country as a whole, religion is a big reason to keep the people divided. Lack of religious tolerance and the

clashing nature of the beliefs of various religious faiths are keeping the mankind disintegrated. We see the years long conflicts and even wars being fought in the name of religion. Even terrorism within nations has religious overtones. So, we find walls in the name of caste, creed and colour dividing man from man and causing hatred, jealousy and violence with no part of the world as exception.

The Sant Nirankari Mission is a global spiritual movement and is a mission of universal Brotherhood based on Divine knowledge of God realization and endeavour to create high standard of human values. The mission believes in tolerance, humility and love for entire humanity having an ideology of 'Harmony in oneness'. It does not believe in a caste, colour, creed or religion. Currently flourishing in India and abroad under the benign guidance of her Holiness *Satguru* Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj. The mission endeavours to remove the darkness of ignorance, blind faith and superstitions with the light of divine knowledge and spread love, tolerance, positivity, harmony and humaneness irrespective of religion, caste, colour and creed aiming to create world without walls.

The Mission seeks to reveal God realization, also known as *Nirankar* to all human beings irrespective of their religious faith, sect or community. They are born with and thus liberate them form the shackles of ignorance superstition, ritualism, and dogmatism in the name of devotion God. Nirankari Mission's message of universal brotherhood more relevant today.

As far as the sociological study is concerned, a harmonious environment gets place among action, interaction, social relations, social institutions and social structure. Actions are harmonious and behaviour is with norms. 'Theory of Panchdevas' becomes personified (The Taittiriya Upnishad).

A healthy form of social relations was apparent. Solidarity in relations is found as all the relations are taken care of The Bhagvad Gita also tells about action without wishing for a result. Psychological solidarity is found. Isolation is not felt. Daily routine or behaviour is based on the level of the soul so there is not any caste discrimination. The soul has same merits, nature and instincts. God realization is possible through the true master *'Satguru'*. This is the enlightenment.

And Gita says that all the followers live in God's contact every moment while performing their roles and duties since. God is

omnipresent. They feel God's presence everywhere and follow this feeling in their day-to-day behaviour and relations and live with harmony. Most important element of caste is inter marriage system that makes caste system complex one of the Nirankari Mission principles is that there is observed 'No caste' theory that breaks caste barriers and enhances harmony.

In families of the Nirankari followers, status & role are performed without the feeling of 'doer' as per hierarchy. Social equality is established. There is no gender based discrimination.

As far as the system of social structure, the Hindus - a person performs all the following four objects of human pursuit *(purusharthas)* while living in any of the *ashrams* (stage) - student, household, retirement, and renunciation :

Dharma : Righteousness, moral values,

Artha : Prosperity, economic values,

Kaama : Pleasure, love, psychological values and

Moksha : Liberation, spiritual values.

Craving : Free dharma-driven action - *Nishkam Karma.*

and gets liberated from all the three obligations, *i.e. rinas* - teacher, parents and deities.

The Nirankari Mission provides a safe frame to the above-mentioned social system. This embodies the concept of universal brotherhood with its slogan "World Without Walls".

Flexibility in social stratification in quite apparent in the Nirankari Mission. Males and females are equal, for example, Present head of the Nirankari Mission is a woman itself.

Deviation from social norms is almost nil. Healthy behaviour interaction are at high status conflict and role strain are almost finished from the society love compassion harmony and fraternity are being established in the society.

Indian society and culture is full of varieties. It is and old saying 'In India after every 4 miles, water changes and after 60 miles changes the language' In such scenario. The Mission aims at uniting everyone on humanity basis.

The main objective of the Nirankari Mission is to produce (bring) uniformity in the highly stratified Indian society. In the society, certain lower communities are stymied to spread pollution in

place of purity *i.e.*, they are not pure and not applicable to perform the religious rituals, while the other 'upper' castes perform such rituals. So Nirankari Mission aims at setting them free this stigma that they are spreading communal pollution and to make them feel they are in the mainstream society.

The Nirankari mission opposes the belief of bombastic rituals spread in the society and wants to provide a platform for worshipping God on scientific or rational basis.

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Access to Safe Drinking Water and Economic Development : A Comparative Analysis of Developed and Developing Countries

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Water is at the core of sustainable development goals and it is critical for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. Safe drinking water is an essential component of primary health care and have vital role in poverty alleviation which further accelerate the process of economic development. In this present study, an attempt has been made to provide a comparative analysis of the access to safe drinking water and economic development, which explores a comparative situation of the universal access in the developed world and an inadequate access in the developing one. It also addresses how inadequate access to water impact the different aspects of human life such as health, education, livelihoods, gender equality etc. This study is a comparative analysis of developed and developing countries. The study concluded that the highest proportion of population in the

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world had no access to safe drinking water. The problem of access to safe drinking water is more severe in the developing countries, particularly in rural areas. Moreover, the life expectancy at birth, female labour force participation rate and female population with at least secondary education are positively correlated with water coverage of total population whereas, infant mortality rate and mortality rate under 5 years of age are inversely related to the total population with water coverage. The study also suggests that the access of safe drinking water in developing countries could be improved by increase public as well as private investments in infrastructure and projects related to water.

[**Keywords :** Safe drinking water, Health, Education, Developed and developing countries]

JEL Classification : I1, I15, Q01, Q25, Q28.

1. Introduction

Improved longevity, reduced infant mortality, health, labour productivity, and material well-being are usually recognized as fruits of development. The developing country populations generally have poor ranking on these indices compared to those of developed ones. Availability of safe drinking water for domestic use and adequate sanitation to dispose of waste have long been known to be fundamental to the development process, with benefits, such as labour productivity, spread across all sectors. In the last few decades, there have been improvements to the use of water resources; however, there are still an estimated 1.1 billion people in the world who do not have access to safe drinking water and about 4 billion people who live underwater scarcity at least one month per year (Gadgil, 1998). Universal access to safe drinking water is a fundamental need and human right. Securing access for all would go a long way in reducing illness and death, especially among children. In 2015, about 89 per cent of the world population relied on improved source of drinking water called basic service which was 83 per cent in 2004. As many as 844 million people are still living without adequate availability of basic water services in the developing countries. Among them, almost 159 million people still collected drinking water directly from rivers, lakes and other surface water sources (WHO 2004, 2013, 2017). There are pronounced disparities, with the poorest and those living in rural areas are least likely to use a basic service (WHO/UNICEF, 2015). Only 71 per cent of the global population used a safely managed drinking water service located on premises and free from contamination which clearly indicates that one third of

the global population had no access to safe drinking water (WHO/ UNICEF, 2017). Rapid growth of population, with change in climatic conditions and dietary changes led to increase the demand for safe drinking water. The world population is predicted to grow from 6.9 billion in 2010 to 8.3 billion in 2030 and further to 9.1 billion in 2050. The urban population is projected to increase by 2.9 billion Thus, the urban areas of the world are expected to absorb all of the population growth over the next three decades (UN, 2009). This also points towards the need of the increase in access to clean drinking water in the urban areas. Lack of clean water causes millions of children in the developing world to suffer needlessly and die from disease and malnutrition. Lack of safe water contributes significantly to the high incidence of diarrheal disease and chronic malnutrition. Parasites transferred by waterborne contamination, consume nutrients, aggravate malnutrition and retard children's physical development. The broader effect of these conditions is weak regional economic development (Braghetta, 2006). According to the World Health Organization Report, as many as 3.4 million people die from water-borne diseases each year. Progress on access to drinking water is critical for the achievement of sustainable development targets, including reducing poverty and achieving universal access to basic services, ending all forms of malnutrition, ending preventable child deaths, combating neglected tropical diseases and waterborne diseases and achieving universal health coverage, providing safe and inclusive learning environments, ending violence against women and girls and reducing gender inequality, ensuring adequate, safe and affordable housing for all and reducing deaths caused by disasters (UNICEF/WHO, 2017). Climate change is also expected to have an impact on the availability of water in many regions. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) Fifth Assessment Report, climate change over the twenty-first century is projected to reduce renewable water resources significantly in many dry subtropical regions.

The basic structure of this present paper is divided into four sections including the introductory one. Section 2 presents the theoretical perspective and past empirical studies related to it. Section 3 discusses the methodology and specific objective of the study. Section 4 provides empirical evidence regarding the impact of access to safe drinking water on health, education and economic

development. The final section comes with conclusion and policy suggestions.

2. Brief Review of Literature

A number of studies have been conducted on the issue of water in the developed as well as the developing countries. Hence, it is important to review the related studies in order to have an overview of not only the situation in the past in various parts of the world but also to find the research gaps. Some of the studies are given below :

Grover (1984) highlighted the main features of international drinking water supply and sanitation during late 1990s. This study found that more than half of population in LDCs does not have adequate supplies of water and facilities for the disposal of human wastes. The people in developing countries were less healthy than developed countries and children born in the developing countries were twelve times more likely to die before the age of four than children in developed nation because of lack basic water supply and sanitation.

Goldblatt (1996) analyzed the challenges of urban water supply for South Africa. This study finds that South Africa's water supply authorities are facing so many challenges like severe blockage in urban areas, growing urban population and large capital requirements. Reddy & Rathore (1993) focused on regional disparities in distribution pattern between rural and urban areas of Rajasthan and analyzed bias in social consumption of residential water which would result in inequalities such as hygiene and health. This study finds existing bias between urban and rural water supply distribution like benefits of subsidized water are not distributed equally in both societies and public distribution of drinking water is more favourable for rich people in urban areas as compared to rural areas.

Nayar (1997) investigated that health promoting factors such as housing conditions availability of safe drinking water, adequate sanitary facilities could contribute to health improvements among the population even more than health services. The study based on the results of findings related to experiences of European and American countries related to unavailability of basic services during 18th and 19th century. The study found negative correlation between availability of piped water supply and crude death rate, households

with water source in premises and infant mortality rate. Another study on safe water by Roy et al. (2004), found that there is a positive correlation between expenditure on purification and ability to pay and also with level of education and as any consumer earns more, his spending capacity on averting measures increases with the positive influence of education level.

Shah (2005) looks at the cost of delivery and benefits of a drinking water and supply projects undertaken in Anantpur district in Andhra Pradesh. It has been found that unsafe water creates health problems and insufficient water would hinder the ingestion of food over time. O'Reilly (2010) analyzed a study on women participation in Rajasthan considering water supply and sanitation provisions are key elements in progress of women participation to the sustainability of the MDG projects. This study finds that prevailing social inequalities and difficulties faced by women are big challenges for sanitation coverage projects.

Begum et al. (2011) focused on the effect of improved drinking water and sanitation facility on the incidence of water-borne diseases among children in Bangladesh. It has been observed that the children from households with access to improved drinking water source and improved sanitation face less vulnerability to diarrhoeal attack than those households who did not have such access.

Odaro (2012) conducted a study on Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) and analyzed the causes of poor services delivery and its impact on development. This study finds out that weakness in service delivery can be attributed to a number of issues and states that only private investment is not enough to fill the gap and to build strong infrastructure for services delivery.

Wardrop et al. (2016) conducted a study on drinking water and sanitation at global level to examine drinking-water and sanitation availability, safety, accessibility and sustainability and evaluate the related policy changes. The results of the study show that there is lack of international harmonization and standardization relating to safety, accessibility and sustainability of services.

No doubt the various studies related to water and sanitation have been conducted at national and international levels but no such detailed study has been made to examine the impact of access to

water, sanitation and hygiene on the economic development from all dimensions.

3. Objectives, Database and Methodology

The access to drinking water in the world especially, in the developing countries, is a matter of concern which continuously ignored by researchers. To fill this gap, in the present study, an attempt has been made to provide a comparative analysis of the importance, nature and extent of access to safe drinking water in the developed world as well as in the developing ones. Moreover, the study also analyzed the impact of access to safe drinking water on different indicators of economic development such as health, education and labour force participation rate. This research paper is a comparative analysis of 20 countries across the world, out of which 10 developing and 10 developed countries which has been selected according to the higher and lower access to safe drinking water coverage respectively (as given UNICEF Report 2017). For any empirical analysis availability of a good database is pre-condition. For the purpose of this present study, the secondary data-set has been used and taken from various sources for the period of 2000 and 2015. Data on population with improved water coverage were obtained from World Development Indicators, World Bank 2017. Education and health related data were collected from Human Development Report, 2016 and Health Statics, 2017. The other main sources of the related information for developed and the developing countries are the reports from the WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and UN-Water. For further analysis, simple statistical tools such as percentages, simple averages, correlation coefficients etc., have been used to derive the meaningful findings.

4. Results and Discussion

In this section, we discuss the main findings of the study obtained from the secondary data that include the trends of access to improved water in developed and developing countries.

Improved water and sanitation coverage has been rapidly increasing since 2000 because of global efforts. Developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Sweden and France, have better access to improved water sources. The perusal of Table-1 presents the total as well as rural and urban

population in developed as well as in developing countries with improved drinking water coverage over the period 2000 to 2015.

Table-1 : Proportion of Population with Improved Water Coverage among Developed and Developing Countries

Developed Countries				
Country Name	**Year**	**Rural Pop. (Per cent)**	**Urban Pop. (Per cent)**	**Total Pop. (per cent)**
Australia	2000	100.0	100	100.0
	2015	100.0	100	100.0
Chile	2000	67.8	99.2	94.9
	2015	93.3	99.7	99.0
Canada	2000	99.0	100.0	99.8
	2015	99.0	100.0	99.8
France	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
Germany	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
New Zealand	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
Norway	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0.	100.0
Netherlands	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sweden	2000	95.8	99.6	98.8
	2015	98.2	99.4	99.2
United States	2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
Developing Countries				
Country Name	**Year**	**Rural Pop. (Per cent)**	**Urban Pop. (Per cent)**	**Total Pop. (per cent)**
Afghanistan	2000	24.3	52.2	30.3
	2015	47.0	78.2	55.3

Bangladesh	2000	73.7	83.2	76.0
	2015	87.0	86.5	86.9
Bhutan	2000	79.0	98.2	83.9
	2015	100.0	100.0	100.0
China	2000	70.8	97.2	80.3
	2015	93.0	97.5	95.5
Nepal	2000	74.5	94.3	77.1
	2015	91.8	90.9	91.6
India	2000	76.1	92.3	80.6
	2015	92.6	97.1	94.1
Indonesia	2000	68.2	91.3	77.9
	2015	79.5	94.2	87.4
Malaysia	2000	88.6	97.4	94.1
	2015	93.0	100.0	98.2
Pakistan	2000	85.0	95.4	88.5
	2015	89.9	93.9	91.4
Sri Lanka	2000	76.3	94.8	79.7
	2015	95.0	98.5	95.6

Source : WHO/UNICEF, 2017 & World Bank, 2017

A comparison of rural and urban areas shows that a greater progress has been made in expanding water sources to urban areas than the rural ones. The table gives an overview of the proportion of population in the country that receives a good quality of drinking water supply coverage. In 2015, in Chile, 99 per cent of the population had access to improved water. This coverage for improved sources of water stood at 99.7 per cent and 93.3 per cent in urban and rural areas respectively. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized access to safe and clean water and sanitation as a human right which is essential for the full enjoyment of life. There have been remarkable achievements in increasing the extent of improved water coverage over the last decades in developed countries, which is clearly observed from the above data.

In Canada, 99.8 per cent of the population had good quality of water coverage. The drinking water supply in cities is continuous and of excellent quality. While United States achieved universal access to water target with 100 per cent safe water coverage in 2015. France

also have good water supply in rural as well as urban areas. It has been observed from above table that New Zealand, France, Germany, Netherlands are the countries where nearly all the people have good drinking water supply. Thus we have seen that nearly 100 per cent of population residing in the developed countries has access to improved water but few studies outline that in these nations few communities are still struggling to meet water standards (Davis & Ryan 2017& Calderon et al. 2018).

Access to safe water source and improved sanitation is the one of the main objective of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Improved sanitation and safe drinking water have important impact on the health status and socio-economic development of country. The large portions of the populations in developing countries are living in the rural areas. Lack of access to improved water and sanitation facilities is a predominant feature, especially in the rural areas of the developing countries because a greater proportion of population in developing countries lives in the rural areas. According to the UNICEF Report 2017, only two out of six people having access to safely managed water live in rural areas.

The perusal of Table-1 also shows the relative share of population with access to safe drinking water coverage between the rural and urban areas of developing countries. It is clearly evident from the data that Afghanistan has the highest number of people in the world without access to safe water coverage. In the country, only 55.3 per cent of the population receives the improved water. This share is very low as compared to the other developing countries. The further result reveals that India comes at the second place with maximum number of people in the world without access to safe drinking water.

The majority of the people comes from impoverished communities and is forced to collect dirty water from open ponds and rivers or spend most of what they earn buying water from tankers. If they have the opportunity to buy water from a tanker it can costs higher, sometimes double if supplies are scarce. Drinking water has always been on top of the priority list of social consumption items, because it is not only essential but also scarce in most parts of the country, especially clean and healthy water (NITI Aayog, 2018).

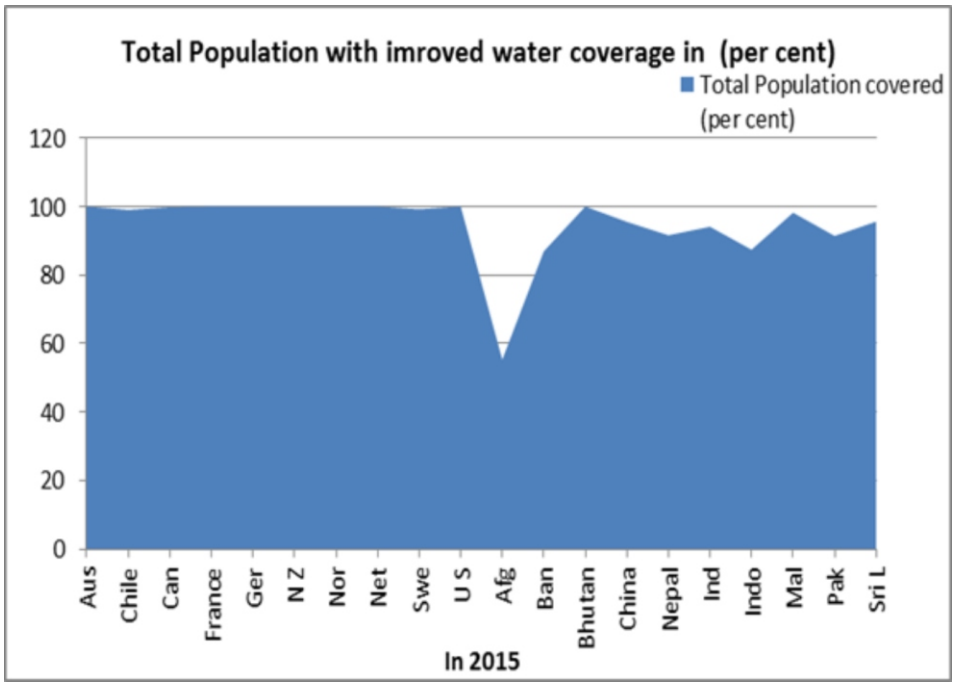
In India, the number of piped water supply systems in rural areas is rapidly increasing, driven in part by water resource

constraints, but increasingly because people want a higher level of service. In 2010, about one third of rural households already use piped water and about one third of these have house connections. However it should be noted that there are significant inequalities between the rich and the poor and this needs to be addressed in moving forward. For example while about 32 per cent of the rich people have piped connections on their premises, only about 1 per cent of the poorest have this facility (GoI, 2011a).Earlier also, keeping in view the need and the unequal distribution of safe water, the Seventh Plan aimed at providing safe drinking water to all sections of the population besides raising the per capita norms of water supply from 40 to 70 litres per capita per day (Planning Commission, 1985). But the evidence indicates that the achievements of this plan were far below the targets (Reddy & Rathore, 1993).In continuation of earlier goals regarding the access to safe drinking water, the 12th five year plan had the vision for rural domestic water supply in order to cover all rural households with safe piped drinking water supply for 70 litres per capita per day.

It is clearly evident that the proportionate share of population with access to improved drinking water was the highest (100 per cent) in Bhutan during 2015 followed by Malaysia Sri Lanka, China and India. But it was the lowest in Afghanistan (55.3 per cent) during the same period of time. Further the data clearly shows that there is highly unequal distribution of improved drinking water sources within the developing countries.

The above table also highlights the coverage of improved drinking water sources among rural and urban population of developing countries. Almost 97.1 per cent of the urban population and 92.6 per cent of the rural population in India use improved water in 2015. There are considerable variations in the coverage of safe water among various developing countries such as Afghanistan, Indonesia and India with a difference of 31.2, 14.7 and 4.5 percentage points between rural and urban dwellers respectively. It is observed that Bhutan has maximum coverage of access to drinking water with 100 per cent in both rural and urban population. Thus, the level of disparities in the access of water is very high across the developing countries. On the one hand, the proportion of population with safe drinking water is higher among the Bhutan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and China, while lower across the India, Indonesia Nepal and Pakistan in both rural as well as urban areas.

Figure-1 : Total Population with Improved Water Coverage among Developed and Developing Countries

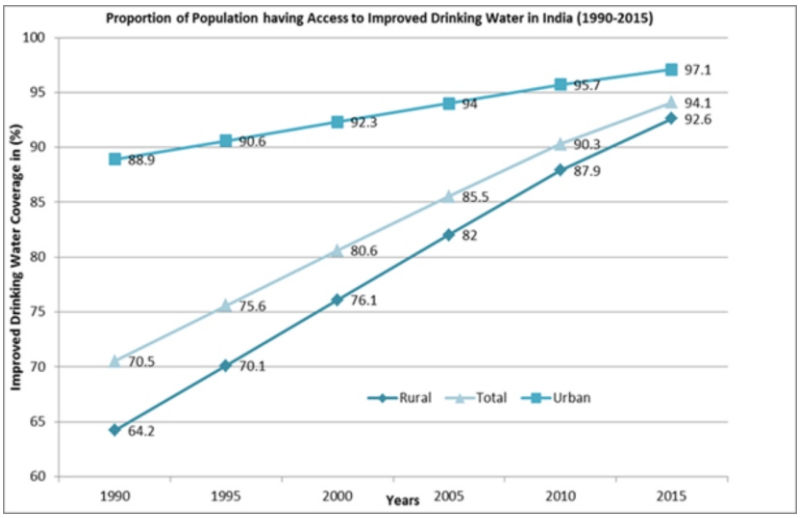


Source : WHO/UNICEF, 2017 & World Bank, 2017

It is evident from the above area graph that in developed countries the total population with improved water coverage is much higher than the developing ones. Most of the selected developed countries come under the category of above 95 per cent population coverage with water sources. This is visible from the horizontal line of the graph. Whereas, shrinking point demonstrates that the maximum number of people in the developing world is without access to safe water. The majority of developing countries belong to the range of coverage between 35 to 75 per cent. The population with water coverage is highly skewed within developing countries. The area graph show that the developing countries are still far away from the desired goals of universal coverage of safe drinking water.

According to the recent World Health Organization report, about 783 million people have no access to safe drinking water. The problem is particularly more severe in Asia. However, eighty five per cent of the global population without access to improved drinking water sources lives in the regions—Central Asia and Southern Asia, East and South-Eastern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa (WHO/ UNICEF, 2017).

Figure-2 Proportion of Population having Access to Improved Drinking Water in India (1990-2015)



Source : WHO/UNICEF, 2017 & World Development Indicators World Bank, 2017

India is home to 1.2 billion people (GoI, 2011). With 16 per cent of the global population, it has only 4 per cent of the world's water resources (GoI, 1999). India has made significant progress in development of water resource and supporting infrastructure, yet rapid industrial and agricultural development, population growth and unequal water distribution have resulted in demand for water exceeding supply.

Equal access to essential health and improved water sources continue to be a first priority for India. The issues of health and well-being are closely related to an adequate water supply and improved sanitation facilities. India is a country of villages; more than 830 million people (69.84 per cent) are still living in the villages. According to Census of India 2011, around 70 per cent of India's rural and slum population is exposed to water-borne diseases due to lack of safe drinking water (GoI, 2011b). In India during 2015, about 150 million people had not access to improved source of drinking water. If we consider the improved water sources, it shows the greater change in rural as well as in urban India.

The above bar graph reveals the information about changes in the proportion of population with access to improved drinking water in rural as well as in urban India from 1990 to 2015. The figure illustrate that the access to safe drinking water coverage had

increased slightly between the given periods of time. In 2015, almost 94 per cent of the population had access to improved water sources in India. But there is high degree of variations among the rural and urban areas of the country. In rural areas, where 72 per cent of India's population lives, the respective share of population with access of drinking water comes to be 92 per cent whereas, it is the highest (94 per cent) for urban areas. The overall access of water has improved from 71 per cent in 1990 to 94 per cent in 2015. No doubt in the last two decades, there have been improvements in the access of drinking water in rural as well as in the urban areas of India. However, there are still an estimated 150 million people in the country who do not have access to safe drinking water.

4·1 Health, Education and Labour Force Participation Rate in Developed Countries

The poor access to water supply is a prevalent issue in over 850 million people worldwide. The global burden of disease and mortality rates could be reduced by about 9.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively, if rapid success is attained in facilitating access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. A large proportion of these diseases are related to diarrhoea incidences which contribute to the mortality rate of about 1.9 million and new diarrhoea cases estimated at 4 billion annually especially among children under five years old. Developing countries account for around 19 per cent of those mortality rates (Joshi & Amadi, 2013).

The Table-2 shows the health outcomes such as life expectancy, mortality rate and mortality due to unsafe drinking water sources, level of secondary education and labour force participation rate in the developed countries. The data reveals that life expectancy at birth in 2015 was the highest in case of Australia (82.5years) and the lowest in case of United States (79.2years). Infant mortality rate as well as mortality under five is the lowest in Norway that is 2.0 and 2.6 per1000 live births and it is the highest in Chile where these are respectively, 7.0 and 8.1 per thousand live births. On the other hand, in case of labour force participation rates, it has been found that it is the highest for the females in New Zealand (62.4 per cent) while for the males, the highest rate has been observed in Chile (74.6 per cent) among all the countries listed in the Table-2 on next page.

Table-2 : Health, Education and Labour Force Participation Rate in Developed Countries

Developed Countries								
Country Name	**Water Coverage of Total population, 2015**	**Life Expectancy at birth (2015)**	**Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 2015**		**Labour Force participation (% ages 15 and older 2015)**		**Population with at least some secondary education (% ages 25 and older) 2005**	
	%	**Years**	**Infant**	**Under -5**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**
Australia	100.0	82.5	3.0	3.8	58.6	70.9	91.4	91.5
Chile	99.8	82.0	7.0	8.1	50.7	74.6	76.1	76.9
Canada	99.0	82.2	4.3	4.9	61.0	70.3	100.0	100.0
France	100.0	82.4	3.5	4.3	50.7	60.1	79.7	85.5
Germany	100.0	81.1	3.1	3.7	54.5	66.4	96.4	97.0
New Zealand	100.0	81.7	3.2	3.8	57.5	70.2	86.2	90.3
Norway	100.0	82.0	4.7	5.7	62.4	73.1	98.8	98.7
Netherlands	100.0	81.7	2.0	2.6	61.2	68.5	96.1	94.6
Sweden	99.2	82.3	2.4	3.0	60.9	68.2	87.8	88.3
United States	100.0	79.2	5.6	6.5	56.0	68.4	95.4	95.1
Average	**99.8**	**81.7**	**3.8**	**4.6**	**57.3**	**69.0**	**90.7**	**91.7**

Source : Human Development Report, 2016 & Health Statics, 2017

The table also reveals that France has the lowest labour force participation rate for the males (60.1 per cent) as well as the females (50.7 per cent) among all the developed countries. Similarly, the information regarding secondary education shows that the proportion of the population with at least secondary education is the highest in Chile (100 per cent) for both the males and the females while the lowest values have been observed in Canada for both the males (76.9) and the females (76.1).Thus, we have seen that the achievements of the developed economies on the indicators of the

health as well as education are very high as compared to the developing economies. In case of the most of the indicators, the lowest values registered in the developed countries are higher than most of the developing countries with highest outcomes within their own group.

4·2 Health, Education and Labour Force participation Rate in Developing Countries

On the other hand, with the average coverage of 99.80 per cent of water coverage, the average value of life expectancy at birth is 81.71 years in developed countries. The average value of labour force participation is found to be as 57.35 per cent of female and 69.07 per cent in case of male participation. From the above analysis, it can also be seen that average value of population with at least secondary education is 90.79 per cent for female and 91.79 per cent for men. Along with the life expectancy, education and labour force participation, the above table also reveals that the mortality rate for infant is 3.88 per cent and 4.64 per cent for under-five age. But interesting fact is found that average mortality rate for due to lack of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is just 0.53 per which is very less as compare to developing countries.

Table-3 shows the status of health, labour force participation as well as education in selected developing countries. It is clearly evident that in 2015, the life expectancy at birth was the highest in China (76 years) and the lowest in Afghanistan (60.70 years). Infant mortality rate as well as mortality rate of children aged under five is the lowest in Malaysia (6per thousand and 7 per thousand) and the highest in Afghanistan where these are found to be as high as 66.30 and 91.10 per1000 live births, respectively. The mortality rate due to unsafe WASH services is the lowest in case of Malaysia and China that is (0.40) and the highest in Afghanistan (34.60 per 1000 live births), followed by India (27.40) and then Pakistan (20.70). As far as the employment status is concerned, from a comparison of Table 3.2 and 3.3, we can observe that the gender differences in the labour force participation rate of the females, is much higher in the developing countries than the developed ones. The highest male as well as female labour force participation has been found in Nepal (79.70 per cent for females and 86.80 per cent for the males).

Table-3 : Health, Education and Labour Force Participation Rate in Developing Countries

Developing Countries								
Country Name	**Water Coverage of Total population, 2015**	**Life Expectancy at birth (2015)**	**Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 2015**		**Labour Force participation (% ages 15 and older 2015)**		**Population with at least some secondary education (% ages 25 and older) 2005**	
	%	**Years**	**Infant**	**Under -5**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**
Afghanistan	55.3	60.7	66.3	91.1	19.1	83.6	8.8	35.4
Bangladesh	86.9	72.00	30.7	7.6	43.1	81	42	44.3
Bhutan	100	69.9	27.2	32.9	58.7	72.8	5.8	13.4
China	95.5	76	9.2	10.7	63.6	77.9	69.8	79.4
India	94.1	68.3	37.9	47.7	26.8	79.1	35.3	61.4
Indonesia	87.4	69.1	22.8	27.2	50.9	83.9	42.9	51.7
Malaysia	98.2	74.9	6	7	49.3	77.6	75.4	79.1
Nepal	91.6	70	29.4	35.8	79.7	86.8	21.4	41.2
Pakistan	91.4	66.4	65.8	81.1	24.3	82.2	26.5	46.1
Sri Lanka	95.6	75	8.4	9.8	30.2	75.6	80.2	80.6
Average	**89.6**	**70.03**	**30.37**	**35.09**	**44.57**	**80.05**	**40.81**	**53.26**

Source : Human Development Report, 2016 & Health Statics, 2017

The male-female differences in the labour force participation rate have been found to be the widest in case of Afghanistan which has registered the lowest female labour force participation rate (only19.10 per cent) while in case of males, the lowest labour force participation has been found in Bhutan (72.80 per cent). On the other hand, in case of the educational outcomes, we can observe that the highest proportion of those with secondary education is reported by

Sri Lanka where for the population older than 25 years, 80.6 per cent of the males and 80.20 per cent of the females have attained at least secondary level of education. But these proportions are only13.40 per cent for males and 5.80 per cent for the females in the same age group in Bhutan.

On the other hand, with the average coverage of 89.60 per cent of water, the average value of life expectancy at birth is 70.03 years in developing countries. The average value of labour force participation is found to be as 44.57 per cent of female and 80.05 per cent in case of male participation. From the above analysis, it can also be seen that average value of population with at least secondary education is just 40.51 per cent for female and 53.26 per cent for men. Along with the life expectancy, education and labour force participation, the above table also reveals that due to lack of safe drinking water and other basic facilities there is very high rate of mortality rate. The average value of mortality rate for infant and under-five is 30.37 per cent and 35.09 per cent respectively.

We know that the access to safe drinking water as well as sanitation facilities greatly influence the health outcomes, education status as well as labour force participation rate, especially that of the women. Hence, it is important to examine the links between the access to water and these outcomes. For this purpose, the correlation matrix is used to explain the relationship between these variables.

Correlation matrix is used to show the impact of access to safe drinking water on different indicators of economic development such as life expectancy rate at birth, Infant mortality rate, female labour force participation rate and secondary education. The correlation matrix among the different variables is present in Table-4. The results of correlation matrix shows that there is a strong and positive correlation between water coverage of total population and life expectancy at birth (0.759) and it is also significant at 1 per cent level. It means life expectancy rate at birth increases with the water coverage of total population. Whereas, the value of correlation coefficients is - 0.758 for the infant mortality rate which clearly indicates that infant mortality rate is negatively correlated with the water coverage. These results are also statistically significant at one percent level. It simply means that an increase in water coverage of total population will reduce the infant mortality rate.

Table-4 : Correlation Matrix of the Variables

Variables	WCTP	LE	IMR	< 5 MR	FLFP	FPSE
Water Coverage of Total Pop. (WCTP)	1					
Life Expectancy rate at Birth (LE)	.759** (0.000)	1				
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	-.758** (0.000)	-.911** (0.000)	1			
Mortality Rate Under 5 (<5 MR)	-.750** (0.000)	-.876** (0.000)	.962** (0.000)	1		
female Labour Force participation (FLFP)	.565** (0.009)	.582** (0.007)	-.653** (0.002)	-.636** (0.003)	1	
Female Population with at least some secondary Education (FPSE)	.623** (0.003)	.915** (0.000)	-.859** (0.000)	-.807** (0.000)	0.389 (0.09)	1
N	20	20	20	20	20	20

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

In case of mortality rate under 5, the value of correlation coefficient found to be -0.750. There is significant and negative correlation had been observed between mortality rate under 5 years of age and water coverage. Further results of the correlation matrix point out that there is moderate and positive correlation between the female labour force participation rate and water coverage of total population (0.565) among the selected countries of the world. In nutshell, it is concluded from the above analysis that the life expectancy at birth, female labour force participation rate and female population with at least secondary education are directly associated with water coverage of total population whereas, infant mortality rate and mortality rate under 5 years of age are inversely related to the total population with water coverage.

5. Conclusion and Policy Implications

Economic development is impossible without any improvement in health, education and female labour force participation rate. Improvement in health, education and female labour force participation rate is not possible without increasing the access of water in developing and developed countries. In nutshell, it is concluded from the overall analysis that the highest proportion of

population without improved water facilities is still living in the present world, particularly in developing countries. On the one hand, Australia, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands and United States have already achieved the universal access to water with 100 per cent safe water coverage in 2015. These countries also have a higher rank in terms of human development index and value of living standards of life. On the extreme side, developing countries have greater proportion of people with inadequate water coverage. It has been found that among the developing countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India have the maximum number of people in the world without access to safe water facilities. The study highlighted the interesting fact that the life expectancy at birth, female labour force participation rate and female population with at least secondary education is positively related with access to safe drinking water. The overall status of coverage of water and sanitation services appears to be unsatisfactory in developing countries. Outbreak of water-borne and water-related disease are very common among children. Lack of safe drinking water leads to not only poor health and lesser education achievement but it also affects the living standard of people, per person earnings, GDP growth and overall development of any economy. Access to safe drinking water is most likely a stronger driving force behind improving the health and education related variables. In developing countries, the budget allocations devoted to provide safe drinking water is inadequate hence; there is a need to allocate more funds to water projects so that the fixed targets to achieve the SDGs can be successfully accomplished. The importance of water, sanitation and hygiene services greatly affect the health standards and quality of life of people. Access to these services is significant for economic development. But to make all round development of the economy and for welfare of the communities, holistic approach is needed and no partial or half-hearted effort can make any improvement. To ensure the access to safe drinking water in the developing countries there is need to increase public and private investments in water related projects.

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9

Protection of Women under Indian Constitution and Criminal Law : Impact Assessment

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Indian Constitution emphasizes that all citizens (including women) are equal in the eyes of the law. They are also entitled for the equal protection of laws. It signifies that all people, irrespective of their sex, should be treated equally in similar circumstances. Not only this, the principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble. To achieve this goal, a number of measures have been taken not only to protect women from all forms of social discrimination, violence and atrocities, but also provide them all opportunities to women as equal to men so that they can contribute to the development of the nation. The present paper is an impact assessment study of protection of women under Indian Constitution and Criminal Law. Secondary sources have been used to demonstrate that women still are victim of various types of atrocities and discrimination within family, workplaces and the society at large. It is true that there have been many significant changes in the status of women in Indian society after seven decades of attaining independence, still the goal of gender equality is a distant goal there is need to change the patriarchal mind-set of people.

[**Keywords :** Indian Constitution, Criminal law, Indian Penal Code, Violence against women]

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1. Introduction

For comprehensive and holistic advancement of any nation, all-round development of the personality of its citizens is very important. The discrimination between women and men works to damage national development. Women are the axis of the family and the family being an important social unit is the basis of the society. The contribution of Indian women in the fight for independence resulted in the new type of social awareness and they did not have to fight for the franchise, while in spite of immense progress in many countries of Europe, women have got equality and voting rights much later. In our vast country, despite the proportion of women being almost equal to men, both are unequal in many areas of life. Even though the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and stresses equality for all in India, in reality it is common practice for women to suffer abusive behaviour, sexual harassment by high officials and male colleagues at workplaces. Today's independent women have many problems at every step like abortion in case of a girl child in the womb, murder of infants, neglect in treatment of girls during illness, aversion in educating adolescent girls, rape and harassment of women, immoral trafficking, and are struggling with many problems at a young age. Not only has the government made many efforts to address these problems, but women have also been provided protection under the Indian Constitution and criminal law. The present paper attempts to explain these protective measures in detail on the basis of secondary data.

2. Protection of Women under Indian Constitution

In India, women are included in the weaker sections of society because their place in terms of education, employment and power is much lower than men. Therefore, after independence, the government has adopted a clear policy to provide all opportunities to women as equal to men and to emphasize gender equality under which women welfare is clearly given priority. A national scheme for women has been started in the entire country since 1976. This scheme gives instructions for framing policies and programmes for women's welfare and development. The Bureau of Women in the Department of Women and Child Development is the national institution for the implementation and coordination of policies and programmes. Keeping in mind that improving economic status of

women helps in raising their normal status, emphasis has been laid on programmes to increase women's income. In order to revive the ongoing development programmes for women and children, a separate department for women and child development has been set up in the Ministry of Human Resource Development in September 1985. Government departments formulate policies to protect women by keeping women in front of the provisions available under the Indian Constitution.

The principle of gender parity (equality) is enshrined in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution not only gives equal rights to women, but also mandates states to adopt protective discrimination in favour of women. Under the framework of democratic polity, our laws, developmental policies, schemes and programmes are aimed at the advancement of women in various fields. India has ratified from time to time the international conventions and human rights provisions to give equal rights to women. The most important of these is the 'Conference on Prevention of All Kinds of Discrimination against Women' (SIDA) held in 1993. SIDA is an international agreement to remove all forms of discrimination against women. Along with this, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act (PCPNDT Act), 2003 is a new legal measure by the government to improve the status of women.

The rights available to women have been mentioned in many articles of the Indian Constitution and provisions have also been put in place. In these articles 14, 15(1), 15(3), 16, 16(2), 23(1), 39(a), 39 (d), 39(e), 42, 46, 47, 51-A(e), 243-D(3), 243-D(4), 243-T(3) and 243-T(4) are the main ones. The following are the provisions made in these articles :

1. Equality of women before law [Article 14],
2. State shall not discriminate against any citizen of India on the basis of gender [Article 15(1)],
3. The state will be empowered to make any specific provision for women. In other words, the state can make provision for positive discrimination for women [Article 15(3)],

4. Equal opportunities will be available to all citizens for the employment under the state or for appointment to any post [Article 16],
5. There shall not be any discrimination or disqualification on the basis of gender for employment or post with any citizen [Article 16(2)],
6. Human trafficking and forced labour will be prohibited [Article 23(1)],
7. On the right to adequate means of living, there will be equality between men and women [Article 39(a)],
8. The state will have to provide equal pay to Indian men and women for equal work [Article 39(d)],
9. The state shall ensure that there is no misconduct with the health and strength of women employees and they will not be compelled to undertake such an occupation on the basis of economic necessity which may be inappropriate in terms of their strength [Article 39(e)],
10. Government will make provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief [Article 42],
11. The state will take special care of the educational and economic interests of the people of weaker sections and encourage them to be protected from social injustice and all forms of exploitation [Article 46],
12. State will raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people [Article 47],
13. It will be the duty of all Indian citizens that they will condemn the practices which are about to dishonour the dignity of women [Article 51-A(e)],
14. In the panchayat, one-third of the total seats scheduled for direct election will be reserved for women [Article 243-D(3)],
15. The posts of one-third of the chairpersons of all level of panchayats will be reserved for women [Article 243-D(4)],
16. One-third of the seats to be filled by direct election for each municipality will be reserved for women [Article 243-T(3)] and
17. One-third of the posts of chairpersons of municipalities will be reserved for women [Article 243-T(4)].

Therefore, it is clear that many provisions have been made in the Indian Constitution for the protection of rights of women.

3. Protection of Women under Criminal Laws

In order to fulfill the constitutional mandate, the state has also taken several statutory measures to provide respect, rights to women, counteract all forms of social discrimination, violence and atrocities, and provide support services to working women. Crimes against women such as murder, robbery, fraud, sexual harassment, immoral trafficking etc. have been divided into two categories—the Indian Penal Code and the offence under specific and local law.

The main offences under the Indian Penal Code are as follows :

1. Rape (Section 375-377),
2. Kidnapping and abduction of women for various purposes (Sections 363-373),
3. Homicide for dowry, dowry killing or attempt to kill (Sections 302/304-B),
4. Mental or physical torture of women (Section 498-A)
5. Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty (Section 354),
6. Sexual harassment (Section 509) and
7. Importation of girls up to 21 years (Section 366-B).

Following are the Acts related to major crimes against women under specific and local laws :

1. Minimum Wages Act, 1948;
2. The Special Marriage Act, 1954;
3. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;
4. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (Amended in 2005);
5. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956;
6. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1995);
7. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (Amended in 1986);
8. The Indian Divorce Act, 1969;
9. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970;
10. The Act relating to abolition of pregnancy on medical grounds (Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act), 1971;
11. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976;
12. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983;

13. Family Courts Act, 1984;
14. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986;
15. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act,1987 (3 of 1988);
16. Legal Services Authorities Act,1987;
17. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act,1994;
18. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005;
19. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006;
20. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and
21. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013.

4. Special Provisions for Women

In addition to the measures taken for the protection of women under the Indian Constitution and criminal law, the government has also made the following four special provisions :

1. **National Commission for Women :** In January 1992, the Government constituted this Commission as a statutory body with the objective of monitoring matters related to constitutional and legal safeguards provided to women and to revise and give suggestions for amending the current laws.
2. **Reservation for women in local self-government :** One-third of the seats in all elected posts of rural and urban local bodies (from the village level to the intermediary block committee, i.e., *Panchayat Samiti* to the district level *i.e.*, *Zilha Parishad* have been reserved for women by the 73rd and 74rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 passed by Parliament and enacted on April 24, 1993. The provisions of the these Amendment had far reaching consequences for the empowerment of women. The act has been the most significant for the reservation for women as well as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.
3. **National Action Plan for Girl Child, 1991-2000 :** The National Scheme for Children is meant for their survival, protection and development so as to ensure a good future for them by seeking to prevent female foeticide and infanticide,

eliminating gender discrimination, providing safe drinking water and fodder near homes, rehabilitating and protecting girls from exploitation, assault and abuse. This plan provides relief for those girls who are economically and socially deprived and who belong to special groups. Emphasis is also given to educate and sensitize male members of the family to the special needs of the girl child.

4. **National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 :** The National Policy for Empowerment of Women was implemented in 2001 by the government. The objective of this national policy is to ensure the progress, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and ensure that they participate in every sphere of life and activity. Under this policy, there is a provision to end discrimination against women, strengthen law and order for their rights and provide better health facilities to them. In this direction, the development of women has been kept in mind in all policies and programmes of the government.

Although the above four special measures for women are important, the National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 is considered to be the most paramount. A national action plan has been prepared to achieve the goal of this policy. To achieve the goal of gender equality, the government has taken several steps towards total empowerment of women. The government's plan has moved beyond the purely welfare measures of women to an effort to bring them to the center of development and mainstream. Efforts are being made to create a society for women where they feel empowered, self-reliant, healthy and safe.

A new programme of 'National Women's Empowerment Mission' (NMEW) has been launched on March 7, 2010 with the objective of socio-economic and educational empowerment of women by combining the programmes of various ministries and state governments. This mission sets the policy guidelines for women empowerment at the national level. In order to make this scheme successful, NMEW has been empowered to hold inter-regional conferences of various ministries/departments to identify institutional and structural barriers affecting women. Expert in areas such as poverty alleviation, social empowerment, health and nutrition, gender budgeting, gender rights and law implementation,

empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable women, media awareness, mass communication and information technology have been made the Executive Director and member of the Mission. State Women Resource Centers have been set up in the states.

National Women Empowerment Mission prepared an action plan for 2012 to 2015 for giving priority to women empowerment for their all-round development. The mission has made a unique beginning for women in a new model of convention centers called 'Poorna Shakti Kendra'. These centers are dedicated to assisting women through various government programmes in selected districts of the country. The village coordinator in the centers reaches out to women with the goal of *'hum sunenge nari ki baat*' (we will listen to the woman's talk). The following works are being done at full power centers :

1. Information on all government schemes/services/programmes for women.
2. Preparation of database of target population.
3. Raising awareness of constitutional rights.
4. To make available the government's schemes/services/programmes on health, education and livelihood and make it easy for people to access them.
5. Training and capacity building on various matters like leadership and constitutional rights.
6. Organizing women to access various resources.
7. Co-ordination for obtaining the services provided by various departments.

The major areas of priority of the mission are as follows :

1. The declining sex ratio of children.
2. Increasing crime against women.
3. Child marriage.
4. Gender budget and gender mainstreaming.
5. To get girls enrolled in school under the right to education.
6. To bring the exploited and marginalized people (including women and girls) into the mainstream.
7. Buying of minor girls and women.

The Mission is making considerable efforts to address the declining sex ratio in children. In this regard, efforts are being made by the government to raise awareness with the help of media towards making the Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Gender Selection) Act, 1994 at the national, state and district levels. Not only this, in 2016, efforts were being made to make this policy more useful.

It is clear from the above discussion that not only adequate constitutional provisions have been made, but a number of measures have also been included in criminal laws to protect women in India.

5. Impact Assessment of Constitutional Provisions and Criminal Laws for Protection of Women

After seven decades of attaining independence, there have been many significant changes in the status of women in Indian society. Education and employment opportunities have increased for them. Their involvement in politics has increased due to a policy of protective discrimination. Today they are working together with men in all fields of life. In this context, the question arises whether the provisions of constitutional and criminal laws made for women have been successful in providing security to them, in protecting their rights or not? Are they safe within the family, outside the family and at the workplace or not? Are they able to leave the house at any time without any fear or not? These are questions related to the assessment of protective discrimination provisions made for women as well as constitutional provisions and criminal laws for protection of women.

If we evaluate these provisions objectively, we find that the desired results have not been achieved. Today, the crimes against women are increasing continuously. This can be confirmed by the statistics of the last three years of the Crime Records Bureau, the organization that compiles crime related data under the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 2014, a total of 3,39,457 cases related to crimes against women were registered.[1] In 2015 and 2016, this number was 3,29,243 and 3,38,954 respectively.[2,3] Most of the cases reported in 2016 were related to atrocities committed by husband or his relatives (1,10,378). West Bengal (19,302), Rajasthan (13,811) and Uttar Pradesh (11,156) were the three states in which the highest number of such cases were reported.

In 2016 alone, a total of 84,746 cases were registered for assaulting women with the intention of insulting their decency. Maharashtra (11,396), Uttar Pradesh (11,335) and Madhya Pradesh (8,717) are the three states in which the highest number of crimes were recorded in this category. In the same year, a total of 64,519 cases of kidnapping and abduction were registered, of which the most were reported from Uttar Pradesh (12,994), Maharashtra (6,170) and Bihar (5,496). A total of 38,947 incidents of rape were reported, of which maximum occurred in Madhya Pradesh (4,882), Uttar Pradesh (4,816) and Maharashtra (4,189). Delhi (2,155) was paramount among the Union Territories. Many scholars have even called Delhi the rape capital. The sad thing is that even 4-5 year old girls are being made victims of rape.

Picture is not good if we look at data released for the years 2017 and 2018 under the head 'crimes against women' as a total of 359849 cases were registered in 2017 under both IPC and SLL, which showed an increase in 2018 with a total of 378277 cases.[4,5] The ranking of states in 2018 showed that Uttar Pradesh was on top (59445 cases), followed by Maharashtra (35497 cases), West Bengal (30394 cases) and Madhya Pradesh (28942 cases). Among union territories, Delhi with 13640 cases was on top as usual. Majority of cases under crimes against women out of total IPC crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (31.9%) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (27.6%), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (22.5%) and 'Rape' (10.3%). The crime rate per lakh women population is 58.8 in 2018 in comparison with 57.9 in 2017.

So far as kidnapping and abduction is concerned, a total of 1,05,734 cases of were registered during 2018, which showed an increase of 10.3% over 2017 (95,893 cases). Not only this, a total of 1,05,536 (24,665 male and 80,871 female) victims were reported kidnapped or abducted, out of which 63,356 (15,250 male and 48,106 female) victims were children and 42,180 (9,415 male and 32,765 female) victims were adult during 2018. The recovery rate was not as bad during 2018, when a total of 92,137 kidnapped or abducted persons (22,755 male and 69,382 female) were found out by the police. Of these cases, 91,709 persons were recovered alive and 428 persons were dead.

Other IPC crimes against women also show very dismal picture with a total of 294 cases of most heinous crime of Murder with

Rape/Gang Rape in 2018. Assam with 66 cases was on top, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 46 cases and Uttar Pradesh with 41 cases. The situation regarding Dowry Deaths (Sec. 304B IPC) goes on unabated with a total of 7166 cases in 2018 with Uttar Pradesh on the top (2444 cases), followed by Bihar (1107 cases) and Madhya Pradesh (547 cases). 5037 cases were registered for Abetment to Suicide of Women under Sec. 305/306 IPC in 2018. Maharashtra was on top with (881 cases), followed by Madhya Pradesh (584 cases), Telangana and West Bengal (both 445 cases each).

Some of the other crimes against women reported under IPC in 2018 are as follows :

- Miscarriage (Sec. 313 & 314 IPC) : 213 cases;
- Acid Attack (Sec. 326A IPC) : 131 cases;
- Attempt to Acid Attack (Sec. 326B IPC) : 32 cases;
- Cruelty by Husband or his relatives (Sec. 498 A IPC) : 1,03,272 cases;
- Kidnapping & Abduction of Women (total) : 72,751 cases:
- Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 336 IPC) : 30,026 cases;
- Kidnapping & Abduction in order to Murder (Sec. 364 IPC) : 195 cases;
- Kidnapping for Ransom (Sec. 364A IPC) : 82 cases;
- Kidnapping & Abduction of Women to compel her for marriage (Sec. 366 IPC) : 33,354 cases :
  - Women (18 years and above) : 19,832 cases and
  - Girls below 18 years : 13,522 cases.
- Kidnapping and Abduction of Women – Others (Secs.363A, 365, 367, 368, 369 IPC) : 6,051 cases.
- Procuration of Minor Girls (Sec. 366A IPC) : 3,039 cases;
- Importation of Girls from Foreign Country (Sec. 366B IPC) : 4 cases;
- Human Trafficking (Sec. 370 & 370A IPC) : 854 cases;
- Selling of Minor Girls (Sec. 372 IPC) : 40 cases;
- Buying of Minor Girls (Sec. 373 IPC) : 8 cases;
- Rape (Sec. 376 IPC) : Total cases : 33,356 :
  - Women (18 years and above) : 24,044 cases and
  - Girls below 18 years : 9,312 cases.

- Attempt to Commit Rape (Sec. 376/511 IPC) : Total cases : 4,097 :
  - Women (18 years and above : 3,652 cases and
  - Girls below 18 years : 445 cases.
- Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty (Sec. 354 IPC) : Total cases : 89,097
  - 18 years and above : 81,067 cases and
  - Girls below 18 years : 8,030 cases.
- Insult to the Modesty of Women (Sec. 509 IPC) : Total cases : 6,992 :
  - 18 years and above : 6,820 cases and
  - Girls below 18 years : 172 cases.

A total 3,78,277 cases concerning crimes against women were reported under SLL in 2018. They are as follows :

- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 : 12,826 cases;
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (Total) : Total 1,459 cases :
  - Procuring, inducing Children for the sake of prostitution (Section 5) : 253 cases,
  - Detaining a person in premises where prostitution is carried on (Section 6) : 143 cases,
  - Prostitution in or in the vicinity of public places (Section 7) : 172 cases,
  - Seducing or soliciting for purpose of prostitution (Section 8) : 120 cases and
  - Other Sections under ITP Act : 771 cases;
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 : 771 cases;
- Cyber Crimes/Information Technology Act (Women Centric Crimes only) : Total 1,244 cases :
  - Publishing or Transmitting of Sexually Explicit Material (Sec. 67A/67B (Girls) IT Act) : 862 cases and
  - Other Women Centric Cyber Crimes (Ex. Blackmailing/ Defamation/Morphing/Fake Profile) : 388 cases;
- Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Act (Girl Child Victims only) : Total 38,802 cases :

- Child Rape (Sec. 4 & 6 of POCSO Act)/ Sec. 376 IPC) : 21,401 cases,
- Sexual Assault of Children (Sec. 8 & 10 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 354 IPC) : 14,124 cases,
- Sexual Harassment (Sec. 12 of POCSO Act) / Sec. 509 IPC) : 1,651 cases,
- Use of Child for Pornography/Storing Child Pornography Material (Sec. 14 & 15 of POCSO Act) : 781 cases,
- POCSO Act (Sections 17 to 22) / Other offences of POCSO Act : 804 cases and
- POCSO Act r/w Section 377 IPC / Unnatural Offences : 41 cases; and

⏩ Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 : 22 cases.

If we look at state-wise distribution of total cases concerning crimes against women reported under SLL in 2018, it may be noticed that Uttar Pradesh tops the list (9,807 cases) and is followed by Maharashtra (6,430 cases), Bihar (4,228 cases) and Karnataka (3,782 cases). As in the case of crimes against women under IPC, Delhi (1,772 cases) was at top among union territories. Uttar Pradesh is on top so far as Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Tamil Nadu in Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956; Madhya Pradesh in Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Assam in Cyber Crimes/Information Technology Act (Women Centric Crimes only), Maharashtra in Protection of Children from Sexual Violence Act (Girl Child Victims only) and Rajasthan in Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

Some of the above statistics clearly confirm the fact that despite development in every field, women are not safe in Indian society. These figures are those which are in the police records. In fact, there are many more cases, which are not recorded due to fear or insult to the family. It is in this context that it is said that the protective provisions and measures made for women are safe in sacred documents and they have failed to actually provide protection to women. What could be the reason for this? If we analyze the crimes and various kinds of atrocities on women, then it becomes clear that the male-dominated mind-set is still the biggest obstacle in giving women equal rights as men and giving them equal status. This is the

kind of mentality that makes even educated girls tolerate domestic violence. It has been clear from many international and indigenous surveys that educated girls also believe that their husbands have the right to beat them. If women are not safe inside the house, outside the home and at the workplace, then measures taken under such constitutional and criminal laws cannot be said to be sufficient.

The need is that women should be aware of their rights, they should be able to raise their voice against all kinds of atrocities and in case of any kind of atrocities or crimes, and they can get justice by the courts in a very short time. It is true that thousands of years of male-dominated mind-set considers women as weak, considers them as objects of enjoyment, they are not afraid of violating laws and even if they are caught then due to lack of evidence they escape punishment. The provisions of the laws related to rape have been made very stringent, but these incidents of rape have not been reduced. This male dominated mind-set is not going to change easily. Women themselves and the government will have to work together in this direction. Women need to begin promoting gender equality through the process of socialization in the family. Gender sensitization at childhood could be very useful in achieving the goal of gender equality. Men also have to understand that times have changed and women too have the right to live on their own. Priyanka Kapoor[6] has rightly stated that the patriarchal values are deep-rooted in society and they are not likely to crumble within few decades. No doubt, theses values are losing their importance slowly but steadily in Indian Society. This gender equality will definitely help in containing crime against them. We are likely to have much more gender equality and change in patriarchal mind-set in 21st century. Online abuse, which has the power to belittle, demean, intimidate and eventually silence women, has also to be checked to make women more safe and secure. Let us hope that India will be able to create an environment in which women will be safe in times to come.

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10

Education Policies of Nepal : A Socialist Perspective

Madhab Prasad Dhungel*

Socialist education system is the education model that adjoins education with productive labour, provides equal opportunities of personality development to all, respects the labour and labourer, disapproves oppression upon mankind by mankind. Constitution in Nepal, 2015 has mention to being committed to socialism based on democratic norms and values including the people's competitive multiparty democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press, and independent, impartial and competent judiciary and concept of the rule of law, and build a prosperous nation. In simple language socialism can be regarded as a movement against the inequality existing in the present social order. It is a plan for a new social order based on justice, equality, free from exploitation of man by man, a co-operative commonwealth of mankind. Though socialists differ among themselves on several points, there are certain basic principles, on which every socialist agrees. This article tries to explore the history of education policies of Nepal through socialist perspective.

[**Keywords :** Education, Socialist education, Education policies, Constitution in Nepal]

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1. Introduction

Nepal has short and unique history of formal education. While analyzing the education policies through the socialist perspective the historical development of policies cannot be ignored. The Constitution in Nepal, 2015 has mention to being committed to socialism based on democratic norms and values including the people's competitive multiparty democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, full freedom of the press, and independent, impartial and competent judiciary and concept of the rule of law, and build a prosperous nation. In simple language socialism can be regarded as a movement against the inequality existing in the present social order. It is a plan for a new social order based on justice, equality, free from exploitation of man by man, a co-operative commonwealth of mankind. Though socialists differ among themselves on several points, there are certain basic principles, on which every socialist agrees.

In this short paper, I shall attempt a quick and preliminary discussion and analysis of the historical development of the education policies through the lens of socialist education model. The research was conducted over a period of two months April to May 2020. The research methods employed were content analysis and a review of relevant literature.

2. Education Policies before 2007 BS

As all the countries have their own history of development of education, Nepal also has a golden and illustrious history of education. The formal education in Nepal had started after the establishment of the Durbar School in 1910 BS. Before that, Gurukul, Madarasa, Gumba education systems were there but these were informally carried out. According to Bista (1996), in Lichhavi period, people of Nepal were highly skilled and even China used to hire the Nepali skilled human resources to design and fabricate buildings and other architectural constructions. Similarly, the so-called Dalit and Janajaties had their own types of indigenous skills and technology. The parents used to transfer these skills and technology to their new generations. They were independent. According to MundakaUpanishad, that system was considered as the Aparabidya (Acharya, 2072). Thus we can say that, that system was

a kind of informal technical and vocational education. The children, in this system, used to learn and earn together that is called now apprenticeship model in technical and vocational education. During the Rana period traditional skill transfer system was neither recognized nor promoted and certainly for that reason indigenous skills did not flourish. Moreover, the bitter fact is that those who had skills transferred from there forefather were considered as Dalit and treated as untouchable (Bist, 1996 BS). They had to work for the ruler and so-called upper caste (Brahmin) and they would get nominal wages for their livelihood. There was a huge gap in between the recognition of physical labour and mental labour.

The First Rana Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana, after visiting Britain and France, realized the importance of education. After returning back from there hee established a school, Durbar High School in 1910 BS for teaching the offspring of Rana family. He had temptation of English language, thus, Mr. Rose and Mr. Canning from Britain had come to Nepal with him to establish the school. Mr. Rose and Mr. Canning became inspector and head teacher of Durbar School respectively.Unfortunately that school was not for public (Sharma, 2060 BS).

Very few Sanskrit schools, in the individual initiation, were established in various parts of the country but all types of people (social cultural background) did not have access in these schools too. Bir Sumsher, seemed to be liberal to some extent, than Junga Bahadur. He initiated to establish more schools in the country. He is also considered as the initiator of education for women in Nepal. Dev Sumsherwas more liberal to public education and initiated to establish more than 300 schools. He could not gave continuity for a long because t he was soon dethroned by his own brother Chandra Sumsher in 1957. In 1963, Jaya Prithivi Bahadur Singh established a 'Satyabadi School'. The children from Dalit community also could attend that school. He initiated the education for working class people but the Rana Regime did not entertain that initiation (Rana, 2066). To catch the public sentiment, Chandra Sumsher apathetically established The Tri-chandra College in 1975 BS for higher education. Although that college was open for all but very few people from the upper class had passed the secondary level to become eligible. In the tenure of Chandra Sumsher, the first formal technical school was established at Basantapur, Kathmandu in 1987.

Similarly, in the initiation of Juddha Shamsher, the Agriculture School was established in 1989 (Sharma, 2060 BS). These two schools were also for the public. It can be said that The Rana Regime needed some skills human resources to sustain their economy; so, they initiated establishing technical schools to produce the skilled human resources. The idea of Lanin implies here, as he had said 'capitalists do not want to train the brain of the people but train their hands to increase the production'.

3. Education Policies from 2007 BS to 2063 BS

It is believed that the modern education system in Nepal had commenced after the establishment of Democracy in 2007 BS. The autocratic Rana regime was dethroned by public movement and the democracy was established in 2007 BS. The ministry of education was established in the same year. There was only 2% of literacy rate in Nepal when the democracy was established. The democratic government started expanding the education for all. In the mean time, Nepal as a member of United Nations Organization singed in the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 AD. Article 26 of that declaration spells out that the education shall be the fundamental right of the people. Further, in this article, it has been clearly articulated that the basic education shall be free and compulsory, secondary education shall be free, higher education shall be accessible to all on the basis of aptitude and capacity of the students and technical and vocational education shall be made affordable to all. According to that declaration, the member countries have been given the entire responsibilities for securing rights mentioned in the declaration (UN, 1948 AD). Unfortunately, Nepalese people did not get a chance to enjoy these rights in equitable manner.

In 2009 BS, the democratic government had formed a National Education Plan Commission in the leadership of Saradar Rudraraj Pande, to suggest government regarding education policies in the changing context. The commission submitted its report in 2011 BS. The main essences of that reports (NEPC, 2011 BS) were :

a. Education shall be expanded countrywide,
b. Education shall be national in nature,
c. Education shall be free to all,
d. The terms of education shall be different as per the nature,

e. Education shall respect the human being,
f. Education shall address diversity of the country,
g. Secondary education shall have multi-purpose,
h. Higher education shall be managed under the national university,
i. Adult education shall be accessible to all and
j. Education shall be decentralized.

Taking advantages from this liberal policy of government on education, the schools were established in community level. Some schools were also established in individual effort. During the period of 2007 to 2017 BS, the majority of the schools were managed by community and private level. Most interesting fact is that the privately managed schools were service oriented and not profit oriented. These schools were not entirely free to all, consequently, children from economically poor family could not attend those schools. Women, Dalit and other children from marginalized community were left far behind.

King Mahendra dismissed the elected parliament and banded the political party in 2017 BS. As he started autocratic rule, he strived to make such policies which would safeguard his autocratic rule. He had realized that the education could be the means of indoctrinating people to accept the Panchayat System. In doing so, King Mahendra Formed a high level commission named All Round National Education Commission 2018. Bisshowbandhu Thapa was the head of that commission. The commission had suggested the following policies (ARNEC, 2018) :

a. National education system should be implemented,
b. the means of education should be same all over the country,
c. the education should be pragmatic for nation, society and individual,
d. primary education should be made free and compulsory,
e. especial focus should be given to technical and vocational education,
f. priority should be given to Sanskrit education, this should be integrated in general education, and this Sanskrit education should be made free and

g. the whole education system should be controlled by the government.

In order to implement these policies into practice, one education act called 'Byabharbidhi' became effective in 2019BS. Outwardly, that policy seems quite nationalistic but its vested interest was different. That policy was no longer effective.

2028 BS is considered as a milestone of Nepali education system. King Mahendra enforced the National Education System in 2028 BS. The first education act became effective in 2028 BS and is being effective till now. Before that policy, the schools were run by government, community as well as private level. Following the new policy these all types of schools were brought under the government. Private sector was not allowed to run schools at all. The salient features of that policy (NES, 2028 BS) were :

a. Nationalization of education,
b. Centralized system,
c. Focused on technical and vocational education,
d. National development service,
e. Focused on mass education,
f. Comprehensive and specific programs,
g. Establishment of scientific examination system,
h. Focused in teacher training,
i. Self terminating higher education,
j. Entrance exam for higher education and
k. Focused on adult education.

That education system was seemingly nationalistic and patriotic but the King Mahendra wanted to produce human resources who would be subservient to the Panchayat regime. Piere Bourdue's (1986) idea of cultural capitalism implies here. Few positive aspect of that policy were; that the technical and vocational education had been taken into consideration as an integral part of the total education system. 34 different areas in vocational education had been identified and the program in these areas had been lunched to produce skilled and productive human resources. These programs were believed to be developed as per the need of the country. These programs were for the people of basic class (economically poor). National development service was another popular program. In this

program, graduates were supposed to go to the community to serve the community people. Unfortunately, both of these programs could not withstand for long time. National development service program was dismissed by the government itself suspecting that the graduates had spread the awareness of democracy in community. They were also blamed for provoking people against the system and consequently promoting public outrage against the government.

The autocratic Panchayat regime could not resist the public outrage as a result Multi Party Democracy was reestablished through public movement in 2046 BS. The new democratic constitution was promulgated in 2047 BS. The new democratic government formed the National Education Commission led by KesharJung Rayamajhi, to suggest the new education policy that suits in the changed context. The commission submitted its comprehensive reports to the government in 2049. The salient features of that report (NEC, 2049 BS) were :

a. Adjustment of technical and vocational education in the main stream of the education,
b. Given the national definition of literacy,
c. Paved the way for education in mother tongue,
d. Open the door for private sector running the schools,
e. Atleast one woman teacher in a school,
f. Concept of multi-university,
g. Focused on open and distance learning,
h. Massification of education,
i. Establishment of production unit in every schools and
j. Priority given to special education, etc.

The primary education had been made free to all. Schools were massively established throughout the country. These schools were for all the children regardless of their caste, ethnicity, religion, sex, geography, etc. That policy helped to significantly increase the access of children to basic education. Taking advantages of this liberal policy of the government, private sector started to establish schools particularly in rural areas. These schools were profit oriented. Most of the private school had used English language as a medium of instruction. Due to the parent's temptation of English language, upper class family started sending their children to the private

schools. The liberal policy of education gradually and eventually created classes in education. Looking at the private school from Marxist perspective, it can be seen that these schools were not for working class people. Private schools backed up the capitalism. According to Gramsci, using foreign language like English as medium of instruction in school is to create space fora kind of hegemony. In long run, it would provide a room for the new type of colonization of imperialist such as America.

High Level National Education Commission had been formed by the government in 2054 BS to suggest government on education policy. The commission submitted its report to government in 2055 BS. The main suggested policies measures by commission as following national objectives were :

- Pre primary education to be brought into school structure,
- Free and compulsory primary education would be ensured within ten years,
- Secondary education would be affordable to all,
- Free and qualitative education should be ensured,
- Priority should be given to mother tongue,
- Schools should be open on the basis of zoning,
- Women teacher should be appointed for pre primary school and
- Local level should be more responsible for education, etc.

That policy also helped in expanding the access to education but the quality education still remained questionable on the one hand. Poor and marginalized family did not become able to send their children to school on the other. The policy was unable to squeeze the gap between rich and poor through education. This is the prominent challenge for the developing countries like Nepal. The main aim of socialist education is to narrow down the gap between poor and rich. On the contrary, these policies are further expanding the gap.

A high level task force which was formed in 2058 BS by the government, identified the three main problems in education-quality of public education has been stunt, free secondary education has not been implemented in a right manner, the private schools have not been monitored as per the law. That task force suggested some policies on education which are as follows :

- All types of schools (private and public) should use the curriculum and text book developed by the government,
- Formation of teacher parents association,
- At least 17% of the total national budget should be allocated in education,
- There should be a provision of social audit in school,
- School should be classified as per the standard norms and
- Fee system should be based on formula, etc.

These policies had been implemented into practice to some extent but could not create justifiable environment for working class children. Due to the privatization in higher education, most of the SLC graduates from middle class students could not attend higher education. Same case had also been applied in technical and vocational education. Outwardly, technical and vocational education seemed to be designed for the working class people but in reality most of the technical and vocational education institutions were managed by private sector and as they were profit oriented by nature, socially, economically, and culturally excluded communities could not be benefitted as were expected to be. The seventh amendment of Education Act, 2028 BS provisioned the formation of school management committee in every school to manage school from the public level. That provision essentially promoted public involvement in school governance. Similarly, the special education policy came into force in 2053BS which paved the way for expanding the special education for children with disabilities. It also helped in creating public awareness about the importance of special need education.

4. Education Policies : From 2063 BS till Now

After the establishment of the Democratic Republic system, Nepal politically turned to progressive stage. Some Marxists of Nepal have argued that the people's movement in 2062/63 BS was a kind of Janabadi movement (people's revolution) (Bhusal, 2013 AD). They further argue that Nepal has entered into the capitalism. The political reports and manifestos of Nepal communist Party have stated that Nepal has already gone through the Janabadi stage and now entered into the capitalism and the main responsibility of the party now onwards is to develop national capital and prepare the basis for socialism. Some other communist parties in Nepal disagree

with this argument and give stress on Janabadi revolution. They argue that Nepal is still in semi feudal and semi colonial phase

The interim constitution of Nepal was promulgated in 2063BS. This was the first constitution of Nepal which ensured the education as a fundamental right of the people. Article 17 in the constitution stated that "basic education shall be free and compulsory, secondary education shall be free and higher education shall be affordable to all". The constitution also introduced inclusive education. Unfortunately, education act 2028 could not be amended for a long time as per the spirit of the constitution. However, other education policies were made in line with the constitution. Distance learning policy came into force in 2063 BS which paved the way for open learning to the students those who are not able to attend school regularly. In the vision of that policy (Distance Learning Policy, 2063 BS) it has been stated that,

Creating supplementary/alternative open and distance learning system to benefit with all the possible opportunities for the citizens belonging to diverse need contexts to give access to education and opportunities to acquire formal education and overall personality development especially to the deprived community, women and working people through distance mode.

This policy seems to be useful for expanding full access to school and higher education. Learners having diverse and special needs such as out of school children, deprived groups, working people, housewives and so on can learn through open and distance learning system as supplementary to the existing system of education. It is helpful for improving the quality of conventional education through different kind of support mechanism on the one hand and promoting the lifelong learning on the other. But in reality, this policy also supported the people from middle class compared to the working class because the working class has less access to the devices of information technology and other modern materials.

Technical and Vocational Education Policy became effective in 2064BS. It has given stress on expansion of opportunity to the children from marginalized and deprived community in technical and vocational education. In addition, this policy focuses on inclusive and equitable access in TVET. Relevancy, structural development and sustainable investment are the core themes of this policy (TVET Policy, 2064 BS). But the TVET policy failed to ensure the free quality

technical and vocational education to the children from working class. The policy opened the room for private sector running the TVET institutions which eventually became profit oriented. For this reason, economically poor family could not get benefits from this policy.

Nepal had made a commitment in the 'Education for All' convention in 2000AD. After that Nepal adopted various policies such as Basic and Primary Education Project-II, 1999-2004, School Sector Reform Plan 2066 BS, etc. to successfully achieve the target set in EFA. These all policies essentially focused on achieving equitable access by all in school education. In 2015 AD, Nepal as a member country of United Nations Organization had signed in the common commitment of sustainable development goals. Goal 4 of SDG stated that "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (UNESCO, 2015 AD). In order to achieve the targets set in the SDGs 4,in Inchon Declaration, Nepal has made a plan called 'Education 2032 : A framework for action'. This framework has been developed in line with constitution.

On the basis of sector wide approach, the school sector development plan has been implemented in 2072 BS. This program has basically five broad areas- equitable access, quality education, efficiency, good governance and resilience. Nine different pulling development partners have been closely working with Nepal to implement this program effectively. In addition, numerous other non pulling partners have been supporting directly and indirectly in SSDP. Even though only less than 12 % of the total education budget comes from the developments partners but their influence in the planning as well as implementing phase is high. It shows that we are still not independent. This type of dependency would further degrade Nepalese potentialities.

Following the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal (2015 AD), the country has transitioned to a federal state. This is a very new experience for Nepal. In the preamble of the constitution,it has been stated that "expressing commitment to create the bases of socialism by adopting democratic norms and values..." (Constitution, 2015). It depicts that now Nepal has to move towards the socialism and bases for socialism should be laid out through education. The constitution is a mother policy of all sorts of policies including education policies. According to Constitution, education has been

assured as fundamental right of the citizens. Article 31 in the constitution stated that :

1. Every citizen shall have the right to access to basic education,
2. Every citizen shall have right to compulsory and free basic education, and free education up to the secondary level,
3. The physically impaired and citizens who are financially poor shall have the right to free higher education as provided in law,
4. The visually impaired person shall have the right to free education with medium of brail script,
5. Every Nepali community living in Nepal shall have the right to acquire education in its mother tongue up to the secondary level, and the right to open and sun schools and educational institutions as provided for by law.

According to Constitution, the school level education (up to 12 class) is the jurisdiction of local government. The province governments are responsible for managing province level universities and province level libraries. National universities and national libraries are the jurisdiction of federal government. Moreover, education is a concurrent responsibility of the local, provincial and federal governments. The constitution has clearly provided room for socialist education but its implementation largely depends on the subsidiary policies.

Following the constitution, The Free and Compulsory Education Act (2075 BS) came into force. This act has tried to assure the basic education (0-8 class) free and compulsory to all. But the act failed to precisely spell out the way of compulsorily bringing the children into school those who are breadwinner in the family. Moreover, the act failed to assure the way forward for the children who are studying in private schools. As private schools are profit making institutions, how can they provide education in free? More than 20 % students of age of 3 to 13 years are in private schools. Is the Free and Compulsory Education Act not for these children? If not then how can it be the concurrent to constitution? How can we achieve the dream of socialist education? and many questions like this are aroused.

The government of Nepal has envisioned Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali to be achieved by 2043 AD. The approach paper of 15th Periodic Plan has included short-term, mid-term and long-term plan in line with the vision set by government. Furthermore, the

government has announced that 2020 to 2030 will be the decade of public sector education reform, with a huge effort on increasing the quality of education offered by community schools across the country.

The comprehensive education policy came into force in 2076 BS. This policy abrogated previous five policies - teacher training policy 2062, non-formal education policy 2063, technical and vocational education policy 2069, higher education policy 2072 and inclusive education policy for children with disabilities. It is claimed that, this policy is formulated in line with the spirit of the constitution. The aim of this policy is to develop human resources needed for the country by making education competitive, technology friendly, employable and productive. The salient features of this policy are :

- Coverall level of education in line with federalism,
- Focus on STEM education,
- Technical and vocational education has to be given given high priority,
- Envision of developing knowledge based society through higher education,
- Free and compulsory basic education,
- Development of national qualification framework,
- Continuous professional development,
- Priority given to eastern philosophies,
- Mobilization of graduates as national development service,
- Inclusive education,
- Corporate social responsibility of private institutions and
- Development of TVET fugit has found that among the developing countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India have the maximum number of people in the world without access to safe water facilities, provision of formal, non-formal, informal, equivalency, mobility and permeability, value based education, open learning, etc.

Apparently, this policy is comprehensive and progressive. It would help to revamp and re-energize the education system in Nepal. However, this policy also failed to give the precise way out for settling down the issue of private institutions and ensure the free and compulsory basic education. Moreover, this policy is not able to provide socialist flavour in education to develop the bases for socialism.

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11

The Paradoxical Status of Women across India in comparison to other Asian Countries : An Umbilical Cord Relationship

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The status of women in India when contrasted and compared to their counterparts in other Asian countries is reflective of persistent constraints despite their progress in recent years. Gender Equality and empowerment stories are engulfed in the tentacles of social norms and patriarchal values. The discriminatory practices across West Asia as compared to India seem to be painted with the same brush and the quantitative indicators of women's progress established by international organizations offer somewhat incomplete stories which are divorced from the ground reality. It is unfair to make cross national comparisons between India and other Asian countries because socio economic disparities amongst countries is so wide that such generalized equations lead to contradictory implications. The paradoxical nature of what is- and what appears to be- comes to the forefront not by the few elitist minds that represent the country on international forums, but through a visit to ground zero where feminism is still groping in ignorance and darkness and subjected still to the wrath of Man. While India may fair well in comparison to some Asian countries, a lot needs to be done in the health sector, education as a tool of

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empowerment and socio- economic development through proper policy planning and implementation so that bottlenecks and barriers that fuel gender differences can be overcome.

[**Keywords :** Asian women, Gender, Inequality, Status, Violence, Vulnerability, Index, Gender gap, Development]

1. Introduction

"Shradha" The Indian woman is a paradox. She poses a pathetic figure in Indian history. Barring the early Aryan Period, where she enjoyed due respect and status, her position has undergone a steady deterioration that has impaired her identity and relegated her to an inhuman, inferior and loathsome place in the Indian society.

Even today her smiles are crushed-her dreams usurped. When she is born she brings ill luck to her family. Her innocence is kept under parental subjugation her adolescence ravenously stared at and her youthful pliancy and beauty duly gifted to her husband. The ever increasing graph of female infanticide and feticide clearly reveals the Indian psyche which hates the frail daughters and longs for brave sons. Even today in some unreported corner of India, she screams in a paroxysm of fear and excruciating agony as the ravenous flames leap up to devour her tortured body. She yells, beseeches, but her heart rendering entreaties for mercy with all their anguish are too feeble to wake a callous, sleeping society. She screams one last time, and then, a liberation from a life of misery by a final torture at the hands of a tormentors- And mind you all this happens in a nation which believes in the maxim that a nation that worships women is the abode of GOD! I quote Manusmriti (para 3/46) "yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Ramante tatra Devata".

2. Indicators of Women's Status : A Rosy Canvas or Blinkered View

If I were to compare the status of women in India with those in the other Asian countries, the findings are equally paradoxical. The women in Asian countries too, are clothed in a veneer of equality but under the façade lies the appalling reality. The myriad of legislations that embellish the pages of law books are like the scintillating jewels that adorn a woman – their extrinsic charm is belied by their intrinsic hollowness. With all their refulgent splendor they serve no practical purpose. Justice remain as alien to the women of the other

Asian countries, as to the women in India. This, by no means indicates that women in these countries are not progressing.

The opinion of experts is divided on whether the condition of women in India and other Asian countries is actually improving or deteriorating. Those favouring the path of progression argue that access to better resources, be it in the health sector or education has increased their autonomy and power. It has immensely benefitted their general well being. But the condition can neither be generalized for India as a country nor for all countries that constitute Asia. The expansion in education opportunities, vocational training programs and enhancement of academic qualification has brightened the prospects of women across many South Asian countries. Similarly, programs like right to education in India have been a silver lining amidst dismal darkness in Indian villages where even today such access is denied. We also have countries like Cambodia and Laos where the women folk pose a pathetic figure in the struggle for women's liberation. But again there are countries like Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines where there are more female graduates than males and the rates for Vietnam and Indonesia are almost equal. This however this cannot lead us to generalise the overall scenario and overlook the gap in development between rural and urban India or in countries across Asia. We have to bear in mind that any apparent advances in women's situation in the name of development can be illusory or offset by a deterioration in other aspects of women's status.

3. Political Liberation : Reasons to Cheer or Veneer of Deception

The lack of women in political power is also indicative of status of women in relation to men. This is as true for India as in other Asian countries. The political ideologies are wrought with discrimination, intimidation and oppression. The progressive thinking may talk of rights, entitlements, freedom and equality –but the fact remains that the gender bias and patriarchal roots have rendered our politics as rotten as a termite stricken piece of wood. Talks of political mainstreaming coupled with tall claims of 33% mandatory reservation for women in politics in India guaranteed by the 73 and 74th amendments of the constitution are nothing but a façade. The condition of stubborn gender inequality is indicated by women

representation in parliament from a high 30% in Nepal to a dismal 6% in Sri Lanka which is definitely not substantive enough for decision making and challenging the patriarchal backlash in Asian countries. What is even more demoralizing is that the careers of women aspiring to carve a niche in the political area is cut short by the male dominated society. Institution like the "Khap Panchayat" in India is an absolute challenge and spells doom of any claims of development. Talks of political reawakening, stream of consciousness of political right are off-shots of conflicting reports that offer a blinkered view. It questions the very notion of political empowerment.

In the political context if we specifically focus on gulf countries- the status of women in gulf countries witnessed a whiff of fresh air as these countries ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women. Two Gulf women already appointed in the UN, Ms. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid from Saudi Arabia, is the UNFPA Executive Director, UN Under-Secretary General.

In most Gulf countries women held ministerial position, SheikhaLubnaal Qasimi, as an economics and planning minister. Dr. Masuma Al Mubarak was appointed as minister of planning and administrative development. Sheikha Ahmad Al-Mahmoud, took office as the Minister of Education. Dr. Nada Haffadh the Health Minister in Dr. Fatima Al Balooshi, In Saudi Arabia, Six women are advisors to Majlis Al-Shura, a 150 member national consultative council appointed by the King. This is a step towards women's public participation that could serve as the basis for appointing women as members of Majlis Al-Shura and more appointment in public positions. King Abdullah, has made public statements in support of increasing women's role in public life and many legislations were created to open more economic opportunity for women in the last four years.

The higher political leaderships in the Gulf play a major role in supporting women to attain their rights and improve their status and role in the society. The Constitutions of all the six Gulf countries, states lays down all the Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles for women. Women are primarily employed

in education, health care, and civil service jobs. However, with the enlargement of private sector and with more chance for employment in that sector, changes in status of women has been developing, where more and more women working in that sector. In Saudi Arabia, the kingdom's labor ministry recently set up a working group to study how more private sector jobs could be created for women. Female in Gulf States compete not only with citizen male but with Non Citizen male who constitute a large percentage of labor force in these countries.

So progress on bridging the gender gap in social indicators has been impressive in Gulf Countries, mainly because of heavy public sector investments in education and health sectors, from which women have benefited significantly. The status of women varies from nation to nation and has evolved differently in many countries, but it is fair to say that in recent years, achievement is evident and sustained in the Gulf countries. Though traditions keeps Gulf women at times away from the "focal point" of cultural, political and financial circles, but step-by-step, women of all ages have been playing a greater role in all aspects of society, enabling the creation of further opportunities for the younger female generation. The past three decades have witnessed steady progression and development. According to ministry of commerce, approximately 29.734 businesses are owned by women, an increase from 29.453 in 2003. In addition, females own more that 10% of the bank mutual funds.

4. Economic Liberation : A Silver Lining or Grounds for Germination of Untold Woes?

If we talk of the impact of economic development on the autonomy, resources and well being of women across Asian countries, the picture again offers shades of grey in some area while some countries are rainbow bright. There is a stark contrast in status of women as compared with men. One view regards our species' ancestral way of life-hunting and gathering as an Eden for women. In that setting women's economic and social contributions typically were as important for survival and as highly valued as mens' and the genders often lived harmoniously as equals (Draper 1975, English 1972, Friedl 1973, but compare with Collier and Rosaldo 1981).

In the last three decades, there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. In recent

years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women for their participation in labor force and economic activities.

The women's liberation movement in Asia was a feminist movement that took off in 1960's with aim to seek economic liberation for the women in Asia. The objective was to redefine women's relation to family However, there were particular challenges that made the economic liberation different for different countries across Asia.

Economic development, however, does appear to affect the situation of women in many Asian countries, or at least is contemporaneous with changes in their status. For example, the enormous disparities in education and employment between the northerly countries of South Asia and the other countries can be attributed at least in part to the disparity in incomes between sub regions. A majority of the changes in women's status associated with development have been positive. Both in comparisons between richer and poorer countries within the region and in comparisons over time within a single country, development goes along with an improved educational status for women, both absolutely and relative to men; with a movement of women out of unpaid family employment into remunerative work; with an older age at marriage for women and a narrowing age difference between spouses; and with improvements in women's health and longevity improvements that in some instances are suggestive of decreasing nutritional or medical discrimination against girls.

Development, however, especially during its early stages, is no guarantee that women's position will improve. Studies show much slower improvement in most of South Asia than in most of Southeast and East Asia, where incomes have risen more substantially (Karen Oppenheim Mason's Report-Is the situation of women in Asia improving or deteriorating SEPT 1995).

It is said that times have changed and so has the status of women across Asia. Economic, social and political developments in India and West Asia have brought with them profound changes in the position of women. In general the condition of women has improved with social and political change that favours equality and individual rights. At the same time cultural tradition, especially

those related to family life continue to have a strong influence on the status of women in India as well as West Asia.

5. Education : A Tool of Empowerment or Gimmick

Until recently, in most West Asian countries and in India , few women attended secondary school or university, and even fewer worked outside the home .Over the past 50 years, the number of women who complete primary and secondary school has improved drastically. The proportion of women attending university, although much smaller, is also growing. More recently, women have started taking up paid employment in greater numbers, particularly in the manufacturing, clerical and service sectors. Over the past 50 years, women's life expectancy has improved across West Asia and India, overtaking men's life expectancy in nearly all West Asian countries .Yet, sadly, during early childhood, girls are still more likely to die than boys in these regions. They also point to the prevalence of sex selective abortion.

Primary school education is nearly universal in most countries of Asia as in India – both for boys and girls. Women's enrollment in secondary schools has increased manifold since the 1960's throughout the region and the gender gap in secondary school enrollment is gradually disappearing.

In spite of these advancements in the field of education women in West Asian countries, Iraq for example, continue to be threatened and attacked for not complying with strict codes of behavior ,including dress codes. Authorities have failed to accord women adequate protection against violence, including violence by family members. Iraq ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in August 1986.Still, Women's rights abuses remain common across West Asia with the threat to women and minority groups looming large. The unstable security situation in West Asia has made women particularly vulnerable. As violence spreads across the region women's mobility and access to public sphere has drastically reduced.

An interesting study hints that an extra year of primary education encourages girls to marry later, have fewer children, are less likely to experience violence and increases eventual wages by 10-20% (Source : Council of foreign relations). Hence be it India or

other Asian countries what is needed is a high state budget for secondary education to combat high dropout rate.

6. Development and Progression : Reality or Facade

It should also be kept in mind that as societies become wealthy and demographically modern, new problems for women arise to replace the old ones. Increasing women participation through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, through improvements in, work and education may pave the way to improving the situation on ground.

According to the data, the average percentage of female participation in all six south Asian countries is 19.2% which means one fifth of total labor force are female. However it varies from one country to another- where the highest is in Qatar and the lowest in Oman. Also, women are concentrated in government jobs which represent more of job security and higher income.

The scene back home in India is quite the same. It has said that times have changed and so has the status of women in India. She's dreaming a new world. There is Kiran Bedi the bold intrepid police officer, Bachendri Pal the audacious adventurist, Radhika Nanda, Indira Gandhi, P.T. Usha, Kalpana Chawla ,Sushma Swaraj, Pratibha Patil and a host of others. But can a handful of kiran's and Kalpana's boast of changing the whole scenario ? No, definitely not. If you really wish to see the position of women in society, go into the heart of Indian villages and it is there that you will see suppressed femininity groping in ignorance and darkness and subjected still to the wrath of man. The fact of the matter is that women -be they from West Asia on India - are like the moon - they shine but depend on MAN their sun for life.

Among the most prevalent western stereotypes about Muslim countries are those concerning Muslim women – doe eyed, veiled, and submissive, exotically silent, gauzy inhabitants of imagined harem closeted behind, rigid gender roles.

Many Americans have a certain image of the average middle east woman- she is subdued, covered from head to foot, keeps her head bowed and knows her (lowly) place. But times are changing. Media coverage of the recent uprisings in the region has shown women who don't look particularly subservient. They have been on

the frontline in the protests against the corrupt government in Egypt, Tunisia and now in Libya .

In spite of all these scintillating facts, the actual scene is not as rosy-Neither for India nor for the women in West Asia.

7. The Road Ahead : Matching Missions and Visions with Reality

The sad and sorry story tracing the status of women across Asia, India being no different, is that the rights of existence and survival are not accorded voluntarily. Women have reached their present position after much force and struggle. It took the shortage of manpower during wars and pressure of economic needs and requirements of industrial developments that forced women to get out of their homes- to work, to learn and to struggle for livelihood- to run her race of course side by side with man. Despite the swelling mantra of Women Empowerment and proliferation of gender sensitive approaches in India and most other Asian countries the advancement in the status of women has been snail paced and deceptive.

There are a raft of development activities, micro finance programmes, mandatory reservations for women in all these countries, yet there is a lack of durable progress. What is needed is fresh thinking, fresher strategies and a total revamping of the patriarchal mindsets that has clipped the wings of the creator. The plagued and prejudiced mentalities need to shed off the paradoxical garb of equality till it becomes a reality and ceases to be a facade.

In most parts of India and Asia as a whole, development appears to have a salutary effect on the situation and status of woman. Women tend to seek solace in the fact that their condition is a shade better than what it was twenty-thirty years ago. We can only hope the rural India and countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan and most other South Asian countries with strong patriarchal traditions experience further economic growth, modernization, better education, employment and health opportunities.

The conclusion is that women across the globe constitute half of humanity and if half of humanity to suffering and if sufficient and concrete measures are not being taken to solve this problem we have not only failed but failed miserably in our concern for women.

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12

The Rising Tide of Chinese Youth Literature and its Gender Representations

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The paper mainly focuses on three types of Chinese women's youth literature, resistant narratives, sentimental or narcissist novels, and Time-travel fiction. Compared with Chinese traditional literature, women's youth literature reflects certain new feminist features and their attitudes to male-dominated culture are more open, free and confidential, which suggests the cultural shift in recent Chinese society.

[**Keywords :** Gender, Chinese youth literature, New feminist tide]

1. Introduction

The current cultural tide of youth literature began at the end of the 20th century in China, and rapidly became popular in the 21st century. The concept of "youth literature" has three main characteristics : (1) focusing on people's adolescent life; (2) written and read by young people (China's post-80s or post-90s generation,

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who are born after the Great Cultural Revolution); and (3) closely connected with the Internet and various media formats, such as films, movies, cartoons, magazine, etc.

As a part of popular culture, youth literature has exceeded classical works to become the main literary best-sellers in contemporary China. Compared with traditional Chinese literature, it offers many new qualities and styles: adolescent rebellion (cynical, angry, or satirical expressions regarding the adult world and the main ideology); commercialism and materialism (commodity fetishism or full of prosperous and luxurious details); individualism and narcissism (strong attitudes of being self-centered, self-conceited, and self-infatuated); sexual complexity and diversity (body-changing and Time-travel fictions dealing with homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender, inter-sexuality, etc); and stories favoring in fantasies (Time-travel, swordsman, or military tales among others). There is much debate about the literary quality of such works, and it is still undervalued in academia. However, it is a remarkable tool for reflecting on the nation's social culture, and current situations and problems of the main "literary circle."

2. Representative Characteristics

Youth literature is extremely popular in contemporary China (According to the statistics, literary books totally generated ¥500 billion in the market since the 21st century, among which youth literature occupies ¥5 billion and is growing by 5% every year), and evidently displays China's current social characteristics, such as flaunting wealth, following desire, self-indulgence, and both adoring and detesting the West.

Youth literature, as opposed to China's traditional literature, seems to be more inclined to the world's (especially the West's) cultural trend, rather than China's traditional ideology (self-sacrifice, self-reliance, self-control) or political propaganda ("socialist core values"). Of course, just like China's own characteristics, due to its late-development and rapid-development or its socialist system, the cosmopolitanism of China's youth literature inevitably has its own characteristics. The nation and this literature mirror each other politically and culturally.

Unlike traditional literature, as seen in China's Mainland academic circle or overseas sinology, youth literature is not given its

full and necessary consideration. Yet youth literature's complicated and diversified texts may provide the best reference materials to explain cosmopolitanism with Chinese characteristics. However, its rise and development have become the targets of various critics in contemporary China. The first example is the debate between Han Han and Bai Ye (a famous literary critic) on whether youth literature is a part of "true Chinese literature" in 2006. Another example would be the round of debate that occurred in 2007, resulting from the article about the decline of literature by Tao Dongfeng (a well-known professor). This has led to a fierce debate about the value of fantasy literature between some youth literary writers and the main critics. Both Bai Ye and Tao Dongfeng doubt the value of youth literature and consider it superficial, hyped and commercialized. Meanwhile, with the further development of youth literature, an increasing number of researchers have begun to notice the growing literary phenomenon and initiated studies on the appearance, popularity and significance of youth literature.

Commercialism and materialism in Chinese youth literature point to China's transition from moralism to desire, which is an important sign of Chinese cosmopolitanism. Related themes in novels include: Narcissism and self-centered figures in Chinese youth literature, and China's self-identification in the world; Queer texts dealing with homosexuality, bisexuality, trans-sexuality, inter-sexuality in youth literature, or gender representations in youth literature and the new image of the nation; Imagined figures of the West in youth literature and cosmopolitanism with Chinese characteristics; Continuance, development, and adoption of China's traditional ideology within youth literature (such as patriotism, nationalism, or collectivism), and their effects on cosmopolitanism with Chinese characteristics; Case studies of detailed readings of works by Han Han, Guo Jingming and Zhang Yueran, the most three most popular youth literary writers, and explains of how their works reflect the notion of cosmopolitanism with Chinese characteristics.

Generally speaking, studies on Chinese youth literature are still relatively weak. The research achievements referring to youth literature or literature of the "post-80s" generation have certain interpretations on its rise, popularity, divergence, and changes. Its types and features are also concerned. In China, members of the "post-80s" generation are born after the Great Cultural Revolution

and they are also the main writers and readers of youth literature, so their literary works are usually the designations of youth literature. Meanwhile, compared with studies on traditional and classical Chinese literature, studies on youth literature are quite insufficient. Especially, no deep ideological and feminist analysis has been performed.

This brief article aims to highlight some of the popular categories of youth literature, and suggests their link to China today: what they can reveal and also how they are shaping a generation. On basis of the full introduction of Chinese youth literature's specific types, it mainly focuses on women's youth literature and its special gender consciousness. It is particularly significant in that very few of these texts have been translated or recognized outside of China.

3. Three Types of Women's Youth Literature

There is a well-known sub-genre of Chinese youth literature: resistant narratives or stories of "bad guys", and the representative works are Han Han's San Chong Men (Three Dimensional Gates), Sun Rui's Caoyang Nianhua (Grass-like Years), etc. The heroes are usually busy fleeing various tests, skillfully cheating, peeping at girls' dormitories, falling into love, playing in bands, drinking alcohol, fighting and quarreling, etc. And they usually displays a kind of totally alternative lives of the young-casual, decadent, cynical, and skeptical-which is quite the opposite of Chinese traditional literature. Among them, Beijing Wawa (Beijing Doll) by Chun Shu tells the story of "bad girls": a group of school dropouts, with sexes, parties, drinks, drugs, rock and roll, and other messy odds throwing their lives into chaos. Moreover, the main character and narrator is a girl, who shows nonchalance to all traditional moral values required of females: "Actually I want to make love with Zhang Yang, which is a big pleasure in my life and he is the best of my lovers", "Tanyi begins to kiss me and when we make love the poet from Tanjin is still on his bed". Such casual and random descriptions of sex frequently appear in the novel, which greatly aggravates the public, especially concerned parents of teenagers, who are shocked and admonish their children to "never follow the path of the Beijing Doll". On the other hand, according to researcher Shao Yanjun, it was labeled a Chinese model of "cruel" youth literary works and typical sub-cultural texts by some critics and was a big sensation in

the beginning of 2000s (Shao 2005, 57-82). Chun Shu is a typical writer offering radical theme and forms of women's youth literature, and in her Chang Da Bantian De Huanle (Happiness Lasting for Half A Day) she refers to feminism openly and directly, "no feminism in circles of rock and roll", "I ever expected to search for love in this vanguard but narrow circle, however, boys only treat me as a plaything. Since they can make love with many 'playthings', as an insulted and hurt girl, why can't I do the same thing as how they hurt me?" She resists the pervasive male-dominated culture with her angry and radical action, especially by casual and confused sexes.

The second type of Chinese youth literature is sentimental and narcissist novels, which are full of plots of self-love and self-pity. Guo Jingming's Beishang Ni liu Chenghe (Grieves Flowing Upstream Like A River), Xiao Shidai (Tiny Times) are the typical works, which seems to create an intentionally sad, gloomy atmosphere. The woman writer, Zhang Yueran, is on a par with Guo Jingming, and her famous works include Shi Ni Lai Jianyue Wo De Youshang Ma (Are You Checking up my Sadness), Shuixian yi Cheng Liyu Qu (Narcissus' Gone by Carp), Shi Niao (Pledging Birds), Hongxie (Red Shoes) etc. For example, her Shi Niao (Pledging Birds) is full of mysterious and sad contrivances, although its background is placed in ancient times and the remote South Sea. Distorted and disturbing love images flood the story: Chun Chi blinds her own eyes for her lover Luo Tuo, never suspecting that Luo Tuo is not her real lover and no one tells her the truth; tragic sacrifices follow. Additional heartbreaking love includes Cong Cong's homosexual desire for Chun Chi, Eunuch Zhong Qian's emotional self-repression when facing Chun Chi and Cong Cong because of his identity of being castrated, etc. The theme of the story can be concluded as one can't get his or her lover forever, which makes it full of sadness, sorrow and despair, and creates a special and strange aesthetic style, gloomy and beautiful. That's the saying on its title page, "so strong is memorial beauty, worthy of soul being crushed into pieces". And the story also seems to just make readers' hearts "crushed into pieces". As for her gender consciousness, she is not as radical and angry as Chun Shu. Firstly, in her stories, there are no evident oppressed and oppressor between men and women, boys and girls. The strong one may be males or females, and the weaker can also be males or females similarly. Sadomasochism between heroes and heroines seem to be

the main theme of Zhang Yueran's novels. And secondly, her gender images usually do not accord to rules of reality and worldly laws, but just relate with her individual idea or desire. She is remarked as a writer "easily to fly over the ground", who is only interested in her own imaged world. In this sense, relationship of her figures can't be described realistically, including the relationship between men and women, boys and girls. Discriminations and inequalities of gender are not clear and evident, let along feminist thoughts, which reflects the special groundless feature of Chinese youth literature, compared with traditional women's literature.

Time-travel fiction is another kind of women's literature, which belongs to type of fantasy (Xuan Huan玄幻) among youth literature. Professor Tao Dongfeng defines fantasy as such, "key words of fantasy literature are Xuan玄and Huan幻, among which Xuan means marvelous, unconventional and incomprehensible, while Huan referring to illusory, miraculous and unreal. Xuan and Huan both underline the great differences from real world. People usually define what fantasy constructs as castle in the air which is utterly different from worldly realities. No impossibility in the castle. Fantasy is not only beyond rules of natural, social and daily laws, but on the contrary, it just goes to overthrow and subvert them." (Tao 2008, 25-39) Women writers are fond of Time-travel fantasies, especially body-changed fictions. In this type, the protagonists are usually modern urban residents at the beginning and most of them belong to ordinary people with busy, hard work or unsatisfied love and marriage. They will unintentionally travel to Chinese ancient time, usually Qing, Ming or Tang dynasty. The ways of travelling are many and varied, including an accident, falling off water or cliff, taking an elevator, walking on the street, sleeping in bed, or directly running into some enchanters, etc. Then, in a moment, the protagonists will inexplicably and unwittingly travel to ancient time, which ultimately leads to total changes of their lives. If the traveler is a man, he will suddenly throw away his mediocre and colorless image to transform into a conspicuous, prominent and ambitious figure, even change his gender, that is to say, to become a women. And again, "she" will take advantage of "her" modern technology and wisdom to achieve great political, commercial success and personal love as well. These plots are reflected in novels as Bianshen Qingyuan(Love Story of Body-change), Bianzhuang Qiao Jiaren (Love of Phoenix), Bianshen

Nv'er Xing (A Woman's Travel in Body-change), etc. Meanwhile there are also female-to-male travelers, which means the heroine travels to an ancient time and finds she has been a man herself in the new world. This type contains texts as Datang Nv Fuma(Emperor's Son-in-Law in Great Tang Dynasty), Luo QI Wusheng (Silent Fallen Chess Pieces), Hongyan Taizi (Beauty as a Prince), Nangong Jiushi(Reminiscence in South Place), Xieyang Ruo Ying (Setting Sun like Shadow), etc. In this type, although "he" generally still uses modern technology and wisdom to be an independent person, love and marriage are the main issues of "his" travel experiences in most such fictions, because the "hero", with a man's body, still maintains a "women's" heart or soul. Naturally, there are also female-to female fictions. The heroine who suffers from little affection in current society abruptly becomes the idol of love affairs. She usually travels to be a queen, princess, chief consort or other noble woman with beautiful appearance, and is admired by more than one pursuer as well. Professional success leaves her more love opportunities and in some Nuzun (女尊) fiction she even leads a life with several quiet and peaceful husbands, which leads to polyandry, not Chinese traditional polygamy. The representative works are Chuanyue Dao Nvquan Guo (Travel to Feminist Kingdom), Chuanyue Gudai Zuo NVquan Zhuyi Zhe (Transcend to the Ancient Time to be a Feminist), etc.

4. New Feminist Tide

Compared with Chinese traditional literature, women's youth literature which I mentioned above reflects certain new feminist features. From the last decade of 20th century, Chinese women's literature developed rapidly with the great influences of western feminist theories, and they usually have various intellectual features (such as autobiographic narratives, discursive rhetoric, reminiscent perspectives, and poetic styles, etc). Some writers even search for their writing resources from western feminist theorists directly. For example, as researcher Xu Kun claimed, Lin Bai's famous novel Yige Ren de Zhanzheng (A War of One Women Only) just follow the rule of "Body-writing", proposed by French feminist scholar Helene Cixous, which explains a women's self-consciousness by "description of body....masturbation....self-consolation....narcissism....flying....textu aldestroy--recovering women's identities" (Xu 1999, 75). Meanwhile, compared with them, women's youth literature has no such deep

theoretical traces and their attitudes to male-dominated culture are more open, free and confidential. The following is Chun Shu's idea in Happiness Lasting for Half a Day :

> "The predecessor's desperate resistance and subversion have their achievements which we can inherit for us. And as a matter of course, we are facing gender issues and sexual equalities in our time....So our rebellion is natural and usual....because the world is just for us."

Her words are relaxed and her sexual attitudes in her novels are also casual and confused, and we can say she stands for the demoralized generation in post-80s. Her youth literature was involved in heat arguments in Chinese cultural circle at the beginning of 21st century and more details can be seen from Diversified Expressions on Gender: Discourses on Chinese Women's Literature (Sun, 2011: 317-364). Meanwhile, Zhang Yueran's works represent the cultural impulse to fly out of the world among Chinese youth literature. Under high study or professional competitions, many ordinary young people would rather treat them as what Dick Hebdige calls "a slight distraction", "a bit of light relieve", which are a little similar to the popular computer games or hallucinogens among youngsters (Dick Hebdige, 2003: 122). So they are fond of sentimental romances, not realistic conflicts, which naturally have great influences on their ideas on gender. So their tendencies on male-dominated culture can't be fully interpreted from their own real feelings, and in most cases they just belong to the school of "art for art's sake". As for Time-travel fictions, they are oblique references to women's realities and desires, in my opinion. Different from Zhang Yueran's sad and sentimental stories, Time-travel fictions describe women's marginalized positions in the real world, because the heroines are usually common small roles and suffer various difficulties before their magic time-travel journeys, which are just reflection of women's identities of "the second sex"; meanwhile, in their second travelling lives, they usually receive their self-fulfillment and social respect, some of them even become men directly, which imply that they will never suffer women's mean positions in a male-dominated society. Their stories are queer fantasies, but have their own feminist meanings.

In Postmodernism and Popular Culture, British feminist A. McRobbie proposes an idea of "women's mobile identities", which means that "gender practice and symbol construct are mobile……we can not only focus on developments and progresses of women at this time, and again, even if in disadvantaged situations we still can't simply affirm that women's status declined" (A. McRobbie 2001, 185-186) . In my view, women's Chinese youth literature just reflects such "women's mobile identities". Chinese young women's self-identities are facing various difficulties, but having more types of self-expressions at the same time. Different youth literary works are just their cultural representations, which reflect new feminist tide, and simultaneously may also create new gender troubles. For example, dose Chun Shu's pattern really reflect feminist ideas in the long run? How can we search for deep stand points on interpreting Zhang Yueran's types on the perspective of women's interests? Why are Time-travel fictions so popular and what are the differences between popular feminism and traditional academic feminism? All these require further studies in the future.

Briefly, all such youth literary works suggest a shift in Chinese society, with an unprecedented set of new values based on a new kind of individual, both self-absorbed, in search of something more, and perhaps critical of society and traditions, while nonetheless intricately connected to Chinese history and culture.

Footnote

1. This paper excerpts from Studies on ***Youth Literature of "post-80s" Generation in the New Century*** by Sun Guirong, published in People's Publishing House, China, Sept.2016, pp. 333-342.

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Book Review

Surabhi Mahajan, *COVID-19: Changing Social Fabric in India*, New Delhi : Nation Press, 2020.

S. K. Gupta, Panjab University, Chandigarh

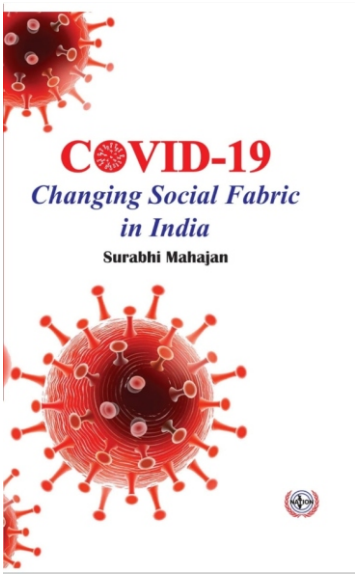
Surabhi Mahajan's book ***COVID-19: Changing Social Fabric in India***, is written effulgently and is packed with statistical data in the form of tables. It is a great reading for all those concerned with COVID-19 globally and its impact on individuals, families and society at large in India during first three phases of lockdown in particular. This book is very well timed at this hour when the coronavirus has taken a death toll of more than 8 lakh globally with 2 crore plus positive cases (more than 50,000 deaths in India with 30 lakh plus positive cases) and there seems to be no end to this unforeseen pandemic in near future.

The cover illustration of structure of coronavirus is just as captivating as the book itself. The book has a preface and is divided into seven chapters. The foreword has been written by Prof. Sandeep Bains, Dean of College of Community Science, PAU, Ludhiana. Three chapters (4, 5 and 6) are devoted to presentation and analysis of data. Interestingly, as one glances through the references, one notices that most references are of online articles of 2020 understandably in accordance with the topic under study. With barely any book in the reference list, the references reveal the fact that for this pertinent issue, not much has been documented or written. This huge gap is what the book tries to fill.

The book under review attempts to investigate the impact of lockdown due to COVID-19 on various sections of Indian society at three different levels : individuals, families and society. Its importance increases manifold as it also attempts to suggest possible measures to cope with such pandemic in future. The responses of a sample of 750 from 19 states and union territories of India (Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) well illustrate the impact at these three levels.

The authoress categorically mentions that the lockdown has been a tough period, but the overall, majority of the respondents are

appreciative of the government's decision taken for the welfare of the country men amidst this pandemic, irrespective of their age, sex, profession, type and financial position of the family. She has concluded on the basis of empirical evidence that our life at individual level is not going to be the same as before the global spread of COVID-19. Social distancing, use of masks, sanitization and washing hands repeatedly are going to be part of our life in during journey by bus or train, morning and evening walk, shopping in market places and malls and going out for dinning in hotels and restaurants, joining marriage (wedding) or birthday parties, any religious or political gathering and so on. This problem is going to be more severe when the authorities allow school/ colleges/universities to reopen shortly. Only time to come will validate as to how each and every one shall be able to learn this new way of life and customize themselves with new situation.



The study has revealed that overall the lockdown had more of a positive impact on families in terms of building sound relationship amongst each other and providing a moral support to handle the hard time of crisis. It gave a chance to the family members for not only staying together but also spending quality time with each other for better understanding. But, the negative implications especially for those families who were not able to earn two meals for themselves due to the lockdown or those families whose one or two members were struck anywhere else and so all were not together was painful and cannot be ignored. What one can do in this sensitive hour is to pray for one and all so that all families remain safe and comfortable to face global crisis spread due to COVID-19.

Her study has concluded that undoubtedly lockdown had a brighter side relating to self-realization and up-gradation of people, well-being of the community and healing of Mother Nature, new role of police and para- military forces, positive impact of increased use of technology as well as simple weddings without huge gatherings. However, the darker side also covers painful pictures of lower

sections striving for essential commodities, difficult & very painful exodus of migrant labourers to their homes in native states, loss of income and jobs for so many people due to the slowdown of economy, more problems like heated arguments, quarrels, divorce, depression etc. due to social isolation and an adverse effect on social relations due to social/physical distancing in the lockdown. Hence, it has to be ensured that a secondary epidemic of burnouts and stress- related diseases may not pop up in the end of latter half of 2020 or early 2021. The pandemic has left an indelible impression on many of us, making us to maintain cleanliness habits and follow good discipline in our life.

Every private or public library should have this book on its stacks for the simple reason that it provides an intensive narrative about the coronavirus, both at the global level as well as India, its impact at various level and the suggestions it renders to cope with such pandemic. The effectiveness of lockdown as a means to control the spread of coronavirus and the views of cross-section of society included in the book are also revealing and helpful for the authorities in the ongoing unlock periods. Not only this, Surabhi Mahajan comes up with some viable suggestions in last chapter to cope this as well as any other such pandemic in future. These suggestions are definitely going to prove very useful.

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