

ISSN 0302-9298

Contemporary SOCIAL SCIENCES

Global Impact Factor : 0.765; General Impact Factor : 2.495
Index Copernicus ICV : 62.45; NAAS Rating : 2.88; InfoBase Index : 3.64

Founder
S. S. Shashi

Chief Editor
Dharam Vir

Volume 30, Number 1 (January-March), 2021



Research Foundation International, New Delhi

Affiliated to United Nations Organization (UNO)

**(Autonomous, Regd. Recognized Charitable Organization of
Social Scientists, Authors, Journalists & Social Activists)**

Contemporary Social Sciences

Double-blind Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed Quarterly International Journal

Index Copernicus ICV : 62.45; General Impact Factor : 2.495

Global Impact Factor : 0.765; NAAS Rating : 2.88; InfoBase Index : 3.64

Founder

Padma Shri S. S. Shashi

Chief Editor

Dharam Vir

Volume 30, Number 1 (January-March), 2021



RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL (INDIA)

Affiliated to United Nations Organization (UNO)

**(An Autonomous, Registered (1972), Recognized Charitable Organization
of Social Scientists, Authors, Journalists and Social Activists)**

< Visit us at : <https://www.jndmeerut.org> >

< e-mail : managingeditor@jndmeerut.org >

Editorial Board

Contemporary Social Sciences (CSS) is a quarterly peer reviewed & refereed international journal published since 1972 under the auspicious of Research Foundation (an autonomous, registered (1972), recognized charitable organization of social scientists, authors, journalists and social activists). The journal is published regularly in the months of March, June, September and December. The annual subscription is ₹ 2000 in India and US \$ 80 abroad, including postage by Registered Post/ Airmail. All the subscriptions must be prepaid in favour of M/S Saksham Computers, payable at Meerut.

FOUNDER

Padma Shri S. S. Shashi, Executive Chairman, Research Foundation International (India) and Former Director General, Publications Division, Government of India, 'Anusandhan', B-4/245, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110 029, India.

CHIEF EDITOR

Dharam Vir, Former Head, Department of Post-graduate Studies and Research in Sociology, Nanakchand Anglo Sanskrit College, CCS University, Meerut-250 004, India.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Sanjeev Mahajan, Department of Post-graduate Studies and Research in Sociology, Nanakchand Anglo Sanskrit College, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut-250 004, India.

Richa Singh, Secretary (Academics), Social Science Division, Research Foundation International (India), Delhi-110 029, India.

MANAGING EDITOR

Kamlesh Mahajan, Former Head, Department of Sociology, Ismail National Mahila Post-graduate College, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut-250 004, India.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

S. K. Gupta, Professor of Sociology (Retired), Panjab University, Chandigarh-160 014, India.

CONSULTING EDITORS

Dr. A. K. Singh (Assistant Coordinator, IGNOU Centre, Rohini, Delhi); **Prof. B. K. Nagla** (M. D. University, Rohtak); **Prof. Bhoumik Deshmukh** (University of Pune, Pune); **Prof. D. P. Singh** (NIILM-CMS, Noida, India); **Prof. Ho Chin Siong** (Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia); **Prof. I. S. Chauhan** (Former Vice-Chancellor, Barakatulla University, Bhopal); **Dr. László Vasa**, (Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Szent István University, Hungary); **Dr. Mamta Singh** (Academic Counsellor, IGNOU Centre, Rohini, Delhi); **Prof. Neelam Grewal** (Dean Postgraduate Studies, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana); **Dr. R. W. Sherman**, (Adjunct Associate Professor, Silberman School of Social Work, New York); **Prof. S. S. Sharma** (CCS University, Meerut); **Prof. S. K. Gupta** (Panjab University, Chandigarh); **Prof. Satya Prakash** (Department of Law, N. A. S. College, Meerut); **Prof. Wang Xiaoyi** (Director, Rural and Industrial Sociology, Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academic of Social Sciences, Beijing, China).

ISSN 0302-9298

World Copyrights of articles published in CSS are controlled by **Contemporary Social Sciences**, 1972. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the Editor.

Contents

1. Causes and Consequences of Foreign Labour Migration in Nepal <i>Arjun K. C.</i>	1
2. Covid-19: Origin, Development and Impact <i>Richard Pais</i>	16
3. The Rise of Islamic State (ISIS) <i>Abidullah Baba</i>	37
4. Changing Face of Indian Party System : Emergence of BJP - A New Party System or A New Political System <i>Archana Sawshilya</i>	43
5. Digital Learning in the Era of Global Covid-19 Pandemic : With special reference to IGNOU <i>Amit Chaturvedi, Avinash Mohan Saklani and Anjana</i>	52
6. Applying Marxist Perspective on Particular Social Institutions and Processes in the Context of Nepal <i>Bilakshan Kasula</i>	73
7. Constitutional Proclamations pertaining to the Welfare of the Informal Sector Workers in India <i>Dipa Gautalair</i>	81
8. Foreign Labour Migration and Utilization of Remittance in Nepal : A Case Study of Golanjor Rural Municipality-3, Sindhuli District, Bagmati Province <i>Ramesh Bahadur Thapa</i>	90
9. Suicide in India : An Overview <i>Shweta Yadav and Rangoli Chandra</i>	104
10. Maoist Armed Conflict in Nepal: Exploring the Motivating Factors for the Involvement of Kham Magar People of Thabang Village in Rolpa District <i>Netra Kumar Ojha</i>	112
11. Significance of Life Skills among B.Ed. Students : Gender Perspective Discourse <i>Pramod Kumar Gupta and Deepa Awasthi</i>	128
12. Third Gender : Connections with the Past <i>Bharti Mohan</i>	139
<i>Book Review :</i> Sun Guirong, <i>Studies on Youth Literature of "the Post-80s Generation" in the New Century</i> , China : The People's Publishing House, 2016. <i>Zhang Qinfeng</i>	146

Journal of National Development

Aims and Scope

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.

Publication Schedule

The Journal of National Development is published in volumes of approximately 250-300 pages, divided into two bi-annual issues—summer and winter. Besides, a special issue in Hindi is also published every year to meet the demand of social scientists, both research scholars and teachers of Hindi speaking states of India.

Subscription and Business Correspondence

The annual subscription is ₹ 1500 in India and US\$ 80 abroad, including postage by Speed-Post/Airmail. Special issue in Hindi is free with annual subscription. All the subscriptions must be prepaid in favour of *The Journal of National Development*, payable at Meerut.

ISSN 0972-8309

All correspondence pertaining to subscription, change of address, purchase of back numbers, books for review and advertisements should be addressed to :

The Managing Editor
Journal of National Development
D-59, Shastri Nagar, Meerut-250 004 (India)
Tel : 91+121-2763765; Mobile : 91+99997771669, 91+9412200765
<e-mail : managingeditor@jndmeerut.org>
Website : www.jndmeerut.org

Causes and Consequences of Foreign Labour Migration in Nepal

*Arjun K. C.**

Foreign migration refers to the movement of persons away from their place of usual residence and across an international border to a country. Foreign labour as the form of the relationship of an employee on an employer outside the territory of the country where the employee pursues activity according to employer's instructions for the remuneration agreed upon in advance. Remittance to Nepal has a strong hold in the national economy and they have also transformed the lives of a large number of rural people. The objectives of the study are: to find the social background of the foreign labour migrants, to explore the causes of foreign labour migration in the study area and to describe the effects of foreign labour migration. This study overall uses quantitative method as core methodological analysis to substantiate its argument. The research method is survey with interview schedule as the tool. The study shows that there are different causes and consequences of foreign labour migration and most of the remittance is utilized to fulfill the livelihood, education and health. The implication of the study is to enhance the knowledge on causes and consequences of foreign labour migration in Nepal.

[Keywords : Migration, Foreign Labour, Causes, Consequences]

* Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu (Nepal) E-mail: <arjunkc946@gmail.com>

1. Background of the Study

Migration being one of the factors of population change, may affect socio-economic condition at both the place of origin and place of destination. It influences the size, composition and others characteristics of population (Subedi, 1993). Migration for employment means a person who migrates from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise then on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment (Wickramasekera, 2002). Migration in general refers to geographical or spatial mobility from "one geographical unit to another. It involves a change of place/residence from the place of origin to the place of destination. One who migrates is called a migrant" (CBS Nepal, 2011).

Remittance from Nepali migrant workers in foreign countries is an important contribution to the national economy. Its contribution is not only the cash income and other goods and commodities that come to Nepal, but also the foreign exchange which has others positive contributions in terms of social and human development (Gurung et.al., 2011). Remittance is a strong source of foreign exchange earnings for Nepal. Workers remittance is now consider as a backbone of our economy. The value of foreign remittance from migrant labourers could be equivalent to 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Since last few years remittance income is playing a vital role for the foreign currency earnings and favorable impact on balance of payment situation to reduce the number of people in the country below poverty line and ultimately to the economic growth of the nation (Panthee, 2012).

I choose to conduct a research on socio-economic effects of foreign labour migration in Nepal in Sahid Lakhani Municipality Ward No. 7 and 8, Bungkot, Gorkha. It is a sociological study of causes and consequences of foreign Labour Migration conducted in Sahid Lakhani Rural Municipality Ward No. 7 and 8, Bungkot, Gorkha.

2. Statement of the Problem

The foreign employment has to some extent, reduced the state of poverty and unemployment. The lifestyle of the household who seceded in going for foreign employment was changed. But where and how people utilized and invested the remittances remained still less explored which was a major problem of this study. So, this study

was designed to address the following research questions related to causes and consequences of overseas foreign labour migration :

- » What are the causes of foreign labour migration?
- » What are the sources of money that made achievable for foreign labour migration?
- » How has the foreign labour migration been affected the socioeconomic life of people?

3. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this research will be to analyze the overall causes, process and effects of foreign migration in Sahid Lakhan Rural Municipality Ward No. 7 and 8, Bungkot, Gorkha. Though, the specific objectives will be :

- » To find the social background of the foreign labour migrants.
- » To explore the causes of foreign labour migration in the study area.
- » To describe the effects of foreign labour migration.

4. Significance of the Study

The research is significant because it expects, to some extent, to contribute the theoretical knowledge regarding how to understand the foreign labour migration from the sociological perspectives and also provides the empirical knowledge about causes and its effects as well as the reality of social background of foreign labour migration of the study area.

Those person who, by knitting the golden dreams, involved in foreign labour migration pay out a lot of money to go foreign so this research helps to find out the sources of money that made achievable for foreign labour migration as well as the labour migration , who go to foreign labour market, send a lot of money as a remittance so this research also help to investigate the trend of remittance received and used especially in which area or the field the foreign employee or their households members spend this remittance; whether they are utilizing it in the creative and productive work or not.

5. Limitation of the Study

Although there is a need of analyzing overall trend, impact of remittance on the whole economy, due to lack of time resource,

money availability of data constraints, this study has confined within limited things, which is known as the limitations of the study. Every research has its own limitation so the research was no exception either. The research was based only on quantitative analysis on foreign labour migration in study area. The finding of the research may or may not be equally generalized to the other area or whole part of Nepal. The purpose of this study will to fulfill the academic dissertation so it is based on limited objectives under limited time and resources in which only one data collection tool i.e. interview schedule was used to collect the primary information.

6. Literature Review

6.1 Theoretical Review

Developmentalist “migration optimists” tend to think that migration leads to a North-South transfer of investment capital and accelerate the exposure of traditional communities to liberal, rational and democratic ideas, modern knowledge and education. From this prospective, migrants are perceived as important agents of change, innovators and investor. The general expectation was that the flow of remittances-as well as the experience, skill and knowledge and migrants would acquire foreign before returning-would greatly help developing countries in their economic take-off. Return migrants were expected to invest large sum of money in enterprises in the country of origin. Neoclassical economists also tend to see migration in the positive light. However, it is important to note that neoclassical migration theory has no place for remittances. Neoclassical advocates of the theoretical model of balanced growth perceive migration as a process that contributes to the optimal allocation of production factors for the benefit of all in which the process of factors price equalization. From this perspective, the re-allocation of labour from rural, agricultural areas, (within and across national boundaries) to urban, industrial sectors is considered as an essential prerequisite for economic growth and hence, as an integral components of the whole development process. The free movement of labour - in an increasing wage levels in migrant - sending societies. Capital flows are expected to go in exactly the opposite direction as labour migration (Haas, 2007).

6.2 National Context

Gurung and Adhikari (2004), concluded in their article that “The New Lahures”, after democratic movement in 1990, it has become

easier to obtain travel documents and passport. The increasing flow of information and the liberalization in travel led to a surge in the migration of Nepali citizens for employment. Again, because of the political conflict since 1995, the trend of foreign employment has dramatically increased. This situation has compelled Nepalese youths to look for overseas employment. This conflict has also resulted in increased flow of migrants from the mid-west to India. As per the information from Department of Foreign Employment, a total of 58710 Nepali workers are found to have gone to different countries for foreign employment by second trimester of FY 2011/12. Large number of people is estimated to have gone to third countries via India through unauthorized means taking advantage of open boarder with India. A separate Foreign Employment Department was established on 31 December 2008, which has been carrying out foreign employment related activities. An Employment Permit System (EPS), Korea Section 22 is established in the Department while a separate Japan International Trading Corporation Organization (JITCO) unit has been formed in fiscal year 2009/10, for sending workers to Japan. A total of 250829 are male while this number stood at 354716 until the end of previous fiscal year of which 344310 are male and 10416 are female. Economic Survey (2011/12) states that the Nepali youth groups are attracted to foreign employment due to dearth of adequate employment opportunity in the country. The number of Nepali workers going for foreign employment is growing every year.

6.3 Global Context

World Bank (2008) states that, Remittance constitute workers remittance, compensation of employees and migrant transfer, migrant remittances are defined broadly as the monetary transfer that a migrant makes to the country of origin. International migrant remittances are the second largest source of external finance in developing economics, next to foreign direct investment international migrant remittances received by developing countries are estimated to be approximately us & 167 billion in 2005 and have doubled in last five years. Monaranjan Mohanty in his article "Globalization, New Labour Migration and Development in Fiji" (2006), shows the links between globalization, migration and remittance. He says, Globalization as a social and economic process prompts a "proliferation of cross-border flows and transnational social networks" (Castles, 2001) that connects migrants across transnational space. In a rapidly globalized world, the patterns of migration and the migrants' social

relationships are changing fast. The migrants move in what are called 'transnational social spaces', which are the preconditions for and also the products of globalizing processes" (Mohanthy, 2006 : 108).

6.4 History of Foreign Migration in Nepal

The history of foreign employment in Nepal dates back to the early 19th century when Nepalese soldiers began to work for the British army. Many Nepalese have worked in British and Indian Army. Currently over 60 thousand Nepalese are working in Indian army and other government institution in India (Panthee, 2012). Nepal has long history of foreign employment in India, dating back to the beginning of the 19th century, when men from the hill areas of what was then known as Gorkha migrated westwards to the city of Lahure in the northern region of Punjab. There they joined up as soldiers in the army of the Sikh Rajah, Ranjit Singh. Even today, those who are working in foreign are popularly known as Lahure (Seddon, 2005).

Literally the nickname 'Lahure' is given to the people who join the armed force of India, Hong Kong, US, and so on but is also designates people living foreign particularly having the working class job. The destination here is essential because people living foreign for study or working in the universities and big organization like UN, FAO and ADB are not necessarily called Lahures. The Labourers working in the class jobs are recently termed as 'New Lahure' (Gurung et al., 2002).

The census of 1942 seems to have not recorded the Nepali troops sent from Nepal in different fronts to assist the allied forces and might have been included only those who went foreign for livelihood. Nepal's international border with India and China remained almost open for the movement of people from both of her neighbors. With China, it became closed one after 1950, while it has remained open with India to date with no restriction on the movement of people of both countries. Hence, because of open border, cultural similarities, and no need of documentary evidence to show migration to and from India is pre-historic and even unaccounted. Throughout the 19th century and well into 20th century, Nepalese men served in India, often accompanied by their wives and other family members. As the Gurkha settlements increased in number and size, they also attracted Nepali workers seeking civilian employment in India. The brothels developed in

these new centers may well have included women from Nepal and from the surrounding areas (Seddon, 2005).

7. Methodology

7.1 Selection of the Study Area

To grab the objectives of this research, Sahid Lakhan Rural Municipality Ward No. 7 and 8, Bungkot, Gorkha district was selected the study area through multi-stage sampling method. Most of the researches on foreign labour migration were concentrated in the national level. That's why; I choose to study the foreign labour migration in this particular area.

7.2 Research Design

This research based on quantitative data with both descriptive and explorative of the study. The major purpose of the descriptive research design is to describe the social background like age, sex, caste, ethnicity, education, marital status, family structure etc. of the foreign labour migrants in Bungkot. It tried to explore the causes and consequences of foreign labour migration. As per the research, data related with social phenomenon, demographic calculation etc. would be collected on the base of existing situation. This study was exploratory in the sense that its analysis was focused on exploration of the fact on the causes and consequences of foreign labour migration research area before they were presented.

7.3 Nature and Source of Data

As per the nature of the research was concerned, this study was based on quantitative primary data as the sources of data, as well as secondary data also used to make this study more effective and authentic. In household survey, especially interview schedule tool was used to collect the primary information.

7.4 Sampling

The total universe of the study area was 398, among them 120 respondents were selected by using multi-stage sampling method. After using sampling method, the head of the households and returned migrants were the respondents to collect the objective oriented information of the study.

7.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

Interview schedule, was taken as the major tool of collecting quantitative primary data in survey method. The schedule was based

on a full set of questions on household characteristic, income, expenditure, employment, labour migration, and remittance and so on. Probability questions, therefore, were prepared to ask which was result oriented according to the objectives. The interview schedule was prepared containing questions, concerning foreign labour migration, at both household and individual level.

8. Results and Discussions

For the study, the data were collected through survey methods. When the field survey and data collection completed, the gathered data and information was analyzed using both descriptive and statistical method. The MS excel and MS word were used for assigning codes to data, creating appropriate field structure and entering data. Descriptive analytical tool such as tables should be presented wherever necessary. It attempted to shed light on some of the background and status of the respondents on the causes and consequences of foreign labour migration.

8.1 Age Composition

Age is an important demographic factor, which makes difference. All of the interviewed people were from the age group 15-65. The average age of the respondents were from 25 to 40. Here, the people who have gone abroad for foreign work have been discussed. The way of migration was differ from one age group to another. Some were migrated due to poverty and some by family pressure, unemployment and so on. The table below represents the respondents according to the age group :

Table-1 : Distributions of Respondents by Age Groups

S. No.	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	15-19	45	37.50
2.	20-24	35	29.17
3.	25-29	23	19.17
4.	30-34	15	12.50
5.	35 above	7	5.83
Total		120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

The age of the respondents of the sampled households ranges from age group 15 to 35 and above years. On total respondents,

majorities of the respondents were in the age group 15-19 and the least were above 35.

8-2 Caste/Ethnicity

According to the national census 2011, there are 125 different caste and ethnic groups identified so far. Whereas, the samples consists of following castes and ethnic groups :

Table-2 : Distributions of Respondents by Castes/Ethnicity

Castes/Ethnicity	No of respondents	Percentage
Brahmin	25	20.83
Chhetri	30	25.00
Magar	20	16.67
Newar	35	29.17
Dalit	10	8.33
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-2 shows that the highest percentage (29.17%) were Newars then Chhetri had 25.00%, Brahmin are 19.05%, Magars were 16.67% and the least were dalit with 8.33 percentage.

8-3 Education

One of the main reasons for foreign migration is illiteracy, ignorance and poor standard of living. Similarly educated people also migrated because of unemployment, low salary, and low quality of education and so on. The table given below shows the literacy rate of respondents of the study area.

Table-3 : Distribution of Respondents According to their Educational Status

S. No.	Educational Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	4	3.33
2.	Literate	50	41.67
3.	Primary	35	29.17
4.	Secondary	25	20.83
5.	University	6	5.00
Total		120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-3 shows that the highest percentage (41.67%) were literate, 29.17 percentage had primary education, 20.83 percentage had secondary education, 5.00 percentage had University education and the least 3.33 percentage were illiterate.

8-4 Causes of Foreign Labour Migration

Different factors such as high rate of unemployment and poverty in source countries search of curiosity and exploration, fleeing from persecution and arm conflict, low agricultural production, in debt and family pressures as the causes of foreign labour migration, which numbers and corresponding percentage, were found in the following way :

Table-4 : Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondent by Causes of Foreign Employment

Causes of foreign Employment	No of respondents	Percentage
Unemployment	57	47.50
Poverty	20	16.67
Family pressure	16	13.33
Political Instability	10	8.33
Indebt	12	10.00
Lack of Education	5	4.17
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-4 shows 47.50 percent individuals were migrated because of unemployment. This is followed by poverty, political instability, family pressure, indebt, lack of education were gradually 16.67 percent, 13.33 percent, 8.33 percent, 10.00 percent and 4.17 percent role which compelled the individuals to migrate into hostile country.

The figure of table 4 reveals that most of the individual push into the foreign country due to the high rate of unemployment, family pressure, poverty, indebt, political instability in the source country as push-pull model of foreign labour migration.

8-5 Sources of Foreign Employment

Individuals were gone into foreign employment through manpower agency, friend and relatives and self-attempt as well.

Table-5 : Sources of Foreign Employment of Migrants

Source of Employment	No of respondents	Percentage
Manpower Agencies	95	79.17
Friends	20	16.67
Self	5	4.17
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-5 shows that only few number of individuals use to go to foreign by their self-attempt but most of them depend on manpower agency and friend to go to foreign employment. It indicates that most of the individual are unknown with the process of going to destination country for employment that may cause problem of cheating while in the processing.

Destination of individual to go to foreign employment and corresponding country were found in the given table :

Table-6 : Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Migrant Workers of their Destination Country

Destination Country	No of respondents	Percentage
Qatar	30	25.00
Malaysia	25	20.83
UAE	15	12.50
Kuwait	12	10.00
Israel	2	1.67
Saudi Arab	29	24.17
Bahrain	4	3.33
South Korea	2	1.67
Iraq	1	0.83
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-6 shows there were nine different countries where Qatar, Malaysia, UAE and Saudi Arab were the main countries where 25.00, 20.83, 12.50 and 24.17 percent individuals made their destination. Kuwait and Bahrain were the other destination countries where 10.00 and 3.33 percent respondent migrant workers made their destination. This was followed by the number of migrant went to Israel, South Korea and Iraq were 1.67, 1.67, and 0.83 percent. All

individuals are migrant to Asian countries and most of them were gone to Gulf Countries. Some of the factors such as higher wage, easy available of unskilled work, easy to entry and exit act significant role to select the destination country.

Table-7 : Salary Distribution by Migrant Worker Distribution by their Per Month Salary

Amount of Money	No of respondents	Percentage
Less than 20000	5	4.17
20000-40000	25	20.83
40000-60000	40	33.33
60000-80000	45	37.50
80000-100000	3	2.50
Above 100000	2	1.67
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

Table-7 shows that 4.17 percent migrant workers received less than rupees 20000 in a month as their earning. Similarly 20.83 percent migrant workers received rupees 20000 to 40000 as their monthly salary followed by 33.33 percent received 40000 to 60000, 37.50 percent received 60000 to 80000, 2.50 percent migrant workers received rupees 80000 to 100000 as their per monthly salary and above 100000 is 1.67 percent.

8.6 Utilized Area of Remittances

The choices of utilized area of the remittance of the individuals/Households depend on their own needs and income levels. As per the objective of this study, only the annual utilized amount from foreign employment was presented here but other sources of money were excluded. The list of utilized areas of remittance and their respective percentage with annual amount of expenditure is analyzed in the table below :

Table-8 : Utilized Areas of Remittances

Utilized Area of Remittances	No of respondents	Percentage
Buying Land	35	29.17
Education	25	20.83
Payment Debt	20	16.67
Housing	5	4.17

Health	14	11.67
Food and clothes	14	11.67
Saving Amount	7	5.83
Total	120	100.00

Source : Field Survey, 2020

The earning remittance from foreign employment was not used in single area by the households but they used it in multiple area of expenditure. Table-8 shows that the amount from remittance was utilized in different areas. On total received remittance 29.17 percent was utilized in buying land. 20.83 percent was utilized in education sectors, 16.67 percent in the payment of debt. This was followed by 4.17 percent in housing, 11.67 percent in health and 11.67 utilized in food and clothes and saving percent is 5.83 percent respectively.

9. Conclusion

The purpose of the study was to understand the causes and consequences of foreign Labour migration and how to manage their remittance and the knowledge on family financial planning of migrant households. Due to pull and push factors like socio cultural, occupational opportunities, political, social, economy etc. people are migrated to foreign countries. Similarly due to unemployment, poverty, lacks of education are also the reasons behind the migration. To find out the social background, causes and consequences of foreign labour migration and trend of remittance are the objectives while doing research. The study reveals that the foreign labour migration is a growing sector in terms of volume of labour migrants going overseas and its contribution to the national economy. The contribution of foreign labour migration industry has not been of much concern, but it seems that it has also contributed greatly in terms of employment opportunities for others and in generating economic activities within the country. The contribution of Recruitment Agencies and Money Transfer Agencies in terms of employment to people within the country is huge. The contribution in terms of hotel accommodation, transport, and other services used by labour migrants is also significant.

Foreign labour migration is a social process which trend is being increasing day by day. In the present context of Nepal, unemployment is the burning issues so foreign labour migration has been seen as the best choice for Nepalese, even for educated or non-

educated, as the alternative strategy for livelihood adoption which provides employment to those who are deprived from the right of employment. Individual related to different social background are being migrated because of unable to fulfill the household's requirement for daily life, lack of better employment opportunities within nation, unable to complete the level of education, lack of security and earn much more in short time period. The different social, political, economic and personal factors such as unemployment, poverty, political instability, debt, family pressure, family conflict, low agricultural production and so on compel the individuals to migrate to foreign for employment and some of the pull factors in the destination countries such as easy available of unskilled work, higher wage rate, easy to entry and exit etc. pull the individuals from the source countries.

In the case of sending remittance most of the migrant workers sent less amount of earning and only few migrants sent high amount from foreign employment at home reveals that there is inequality in earning of individuals which create inequality among the individuals in the society. On total sending remittance some portion utilize in productive enterprises indicates migrant workers are to some extent, perceived as important agents of investors who invest some sum of money, experience, skill, and knowledge in the country of origin as per the developmentalists perspective. Huge portion of remittances earning by them are mainly spent on conspicuous consumption and consummative investment such as building houses, buying land and rarely invested in productive works.

References

- Adhikari Jaganath., Ghimire Anita, Gurung Ganesh, Rajbanshi Ashok and Shakya Puja, Thieme Susan & Upreti, Raj Bishnu, *Nepal Migration Year Book 2010*, Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS), Kathmandu, Nepal, 2011.
- Adhikari, Jaganath, Gurung Ganesh and Seddon David, "Foreign labor migration and the Remittance Economy of Nepal", *Critical Asian Studies*, 34(1), 2002, 19-40.
- Adhikari, Jagannath and Gurung Ganesh, *Migration, Security and Livelihoods: A Case of Migration between Nepal and India*, Kathmandu : NIDS, NCCR North-South. 2009.
- Bhattarai, Premprakash, *Study of Foreign Employment and Remittance*, Unpublished Thesis of M.A. Economics, Kathmandu : Tribhuvan University Central Department, 2010.

- Bista, Raghu Bir, *Nepalese Economy and Development*, Kathmandu : Prativa Prakashan, 2008, CBS (2058).
- Castles Stephen, "Studying Social Transformation", *International Political Science Review*, 22(1), 2001, 13-32.
- CBS, Nepal, *National Census*, National Planning Commission, Kathmandu Nepal. 2011.
- CBS, Nepal, *Nepal Living Standard Survey 2003/04 : Statistical Report*, Volume One, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2004.
- Gurung, Ganesh and Adhikari, Jaganath, "The New Lahures : Foreign Employment and Remittance Economy of Nepal", *Kathmandu Balance of Payment Manual*, Fifth Edition, International Monetary Fund. 2004.
- Haas, Hein de, *Remittances, Migration and social Development : A Conceptual Review of the Literature*, Geneva : United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISDA), 2007. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192512101221002>
- Hugo, Graeme, *Migration and Development Perspective from Asia. (IOM Migration Research Series No.14)*, Geneva : International Organization for Migration, 2003.
- International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report : The Future of Migration Building Capacities for Change*, Geneva : IOM, 2010.
- Kansakar, Vidya Bir Singh. *International Migration and Citizenship in Nepal: Population Monograph on Nepal*, Vol. II, Kathmandu, 2003, 85-119.
- Kothari, Uma, "Introduction : Migration, Staying Put and Livelihoods", *Journal of International Development*, Policy Arena, 2003, 607-609.
- Mohanty, Monoranjan, "Globalisation, New Labor Migration and Development in Fiji", Stewart Firth (ed.), *Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands: State, Society and Governance in Melanesia*, ANU Press, 2006, 107-120.
- Nepal Foreign Employment Act, 2064, p. 1. (available at : https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_isn=78259&p_lang=en)
- Panther, Sundar, *Remittance to Nepal : Option and Modality*, 2012.
- Piyasiri, Wickramasekera, "Asian labour migration : issues and challenges in an era of globalization", Working Paper, *ILO*, V. 48 p. 01 August 2002.
- Sharma Dipak, *Labor Migration to the Arabs Countries from Jaidi VDC of Baglung*, published Dissertation Submitted to Central Department of Economics, Kathmandu : Tribhuvan University, 2005, 5.
- Subedi, Bhim Prasad, "International Migration in Nepal. Towards an Analytical Framework", *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*, 18(1), 1991, 83-102. ★

Covid-19: Origin, Development and Impact

Richard Pais*

The world has seen many epidemics but Corona virus disease (Covid) which started in the end of 2019 is still with us. Though Covid-19 started in China in December 19, it spread to other countries very fast. From February 2020, it spread to India. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded to it by calling for nationwide lockdowns which resulted in mass migration of workers going back to their native places. Due to lack of transport facilities, some of them had to go walking which increased their misery. Lockdowns not only brought about joblessness but Covid-19 became a big health concern. The economic impact was felt by all sections of Indian society. Outbreak of Covid-19 had also socio-cultural impact on the family and other social institutions. As there is a second wave of the pandemic in the US and in European countries, the number of affected and the deaths are reducing in India.

[**Keywords:** Covid-19, Lockdown, Migration, Health concern, Economic impact, Second wave]

* Retired as Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru-575003, Mangalore University, Karnataka. He is the Managing Editor of Samaja Shodhana and Social Science Gazetteer and Editor of Sulabh Journal of Action Sociology (India) E-mail: <richardpais123@gmail.com>

1. Introduction

The world has seen many epidemics but Corona virus disease (Covid) which started in the end of 2019 is still with us. It has affected the Indians in many ways and they are trying to cope with it. The governments all over the world and in India (both the Central and State) have tried to minimize its effect by imposing lockdowns and now unlocking the lockdowns. Due to lockdown and due to other factors most of the people in the world and in India have suffered. This article tries to understand the origin and development of Covid-19 and the response by the governments nay Indian government and society.

2. Major Epidemics in the World

Though Covid-19 is new to us, the world has seen many epidemics, minor and major. However, major epidemics have ravaged humanity throughout its existence, often changing the course of history and, at times, signalling the end of entire civilizations. The first recorded epidemic took place in China in 3000 BC where an entire village was wiped out. The archaeological site is now called "Hamin Mangha" and is one of the best-preserved prehistoric sites in north-eastern China and the site was not inhabited again. Another epidemic in the form of plague took place in Athens in 430 B.C. which lasted for five years. It also spread to Libya, Egypt and Ethiopia. The death toll was as high as 100,000 people. The Greek historian Thucydides (460-400 B.C.) wrote that "people in good health were all of a sudden attacked by violent heats in the head, and redness and inflammation in the eyes, the inward parts, such as the throat or tongue, becoming bloody and emitting an unnatural and fetid breath" (quoted by Jarus, 2020).

The Antonine Plague, which may have been smallpox, started in the year 165 A.D. in the Roman Empire and killed over 5 million people. The epidemic was said to have been brought into the Roman Empire by soldiers returning home after a war against Parthia. The epidemic lasted for 15 years and ended in 180 A.D. after which there began instability in the Roman Empire. But, Christianity became increasingly popular after the plague. With the plague of Cyprian¹ (251-271 A.D.), people thought that the end of the world had come. This plague was so severe that it was estimated to have killed 5,000 people a day in Rome alone. The plague of Justinian² was active in

Europe and West Asia and lasted for ten years i.e. from 542 to 552 A.D. It is estimated that 30-50 million people died as a result of this epidemic which is 10 percent of world's populations and 40-50 percent of population of Europe. There were recurring incidents of plague in Europe and West Asia after this.

Another terrible pandemic was Black Death which lasted for eight long years (1346-1353) in Europe, Asia and North Africa. 75 to 200 million people perished due to this plague. In fact, it wiped out over half of Europe's population. As a result, the course of Europe's history was changed. With so many dead, labour became harder to find, bringing about better pay for workers and the end of Europe's system of serfdom. Another epidemic, *cocoliztli*³ epidemic was a form of viral hemorrhagic fever that killed 15 million inhabitants of Mexico and Central America between 1545 and 1548. In the 16th century, there were many American plagues which are a cluster of Eurasian diseases brought to the Americas by European explorers. As a result, around 90 percent of the indigenous population in the Western Hemisphere was killed. The diseases helped Spanish forces to conquer the Aztec (Mexico) capital of Tenochtitlán in 1519 and Incas (Columbia) in 1532.

The Great Plague of London started in 1665 caused a mass exodus from London. By the time the plague ended in 1666, about 100,000 people, including 15 percent of the population of London, had died. Adding to the misery of London, on Sept. 2, 1666, the Great Fire of London started lasting for four days and burning down a large portion of the city. In the Great Plague of Marseille⁴ (1720-1723) as many as 100,000 people died in Marseille and surrounding areas. It's estimated that up to 30 percent of the population of Marseille may have perished.

In the Russian plague of 1970-72 the terror of quarantined citizens erupted into violence. Riots spread through the city and culminated in the murder of Archbishop Ambrosius, who was encouraging crowds not to gather for worship. By the time the plague ended, as many as 100,000 people may have died. Yet, restoration of law and order was a big problem. The Flu pandemic which started in Russia in 1889 killed around a million people around the globe. In the Spanish Flue⁵, an estimated 500 million people from the South Seas to the North Pole fell victim. One-fifth of those died, with some indigenous communities pushed to the brink

of extinction. Asian Flu (1957-1958) started in China claimed more than 1.1 million worldwide, with 116,000 deaths occurring in the United States.

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the recent pandemic which started in 1981, is still with us. It has claimed an estimated 35 million lives since it was first identified. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS. Now, about 64 percent of the estimated 40 million living with (HIV) live in sub-Saharan Africa. H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic (2009-2010) is the recent pandemic originated in Mexico and in one year, the virus infected as many as 1.4 billion people across the globe and killed between 151,700 and 575,400 people.

3. Origin of Covid-19

Covid-19 emerged in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province of China in December 2019 and spread around the world. It is said that it started with the bats being sold in Wuhan market and got transferred to humans. Further, it spread rapidly due to human to human contact. However, it remains unclear exactly how the virus first spread to humans. Corona viruses are common in certain species of animals, such as cattle and camels. In fact, the transmission of corona viruses from animals to humans is rare. Corona (in Latin corona refers to crown) virus represents crown-like spikes on the outer surface; thus, it was named as corona virus.

SARS-CoV-2 spreads from person to person through close communities. When people with Covid-19 breathe out or cough, they expel tiny droplets that contain the virus. These droplets can enter the mouth or nose of someone without the virus, causing an infection to occur. The disease is most contagious when a person's symptoms are at their peak. Droplets containing the virus can also land on nearby surfaces or objects. Other people can pick up the virus by touching these surfaces or objects. Infection is likely if the person then touches their nose, eyes, or mouth.

Common symptoms of Covid-19 include fever, breathlessness, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle pain, chills and loss of taste or smell. These symptoms are likely to occur 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. So, 14 days of quarantine is recommended when one travels from one place to another. Older adults are most at risk of severe illness, as are people with the chronic health conditions such

as serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), obesity, which occurs in people with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or higher, sickle cell disease⁶, a weakened immune system from a solid organ transplant and type 2 diabetes. Covid-19 has SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) like symptoms. Clinically approved antiviral drug or vaccines are available for Covid-19 in many countries, including India.

4. Development of Covid-19

On December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organization of an outbreak of a novel strain of corona virus causing severe illness, which was subsequently named SARS-CoV-2. Several of those infected worked at the city's Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, which was shut down on January 1, 2020. Soon China's aggressive action of shutting down transportation in some cities and suspending public gatherings began. Officials isolated sick people and aggressively tracked their contacts, and had a dedicated network of hospitals to test for the virus. On January 11, 2020 China announced its first death from the virus, a 61-year-old man who had purchased goods from the Huanan seafood market. People travelling from China spread the disease to Thailand, US, Nepal, France, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan.

On January 30, the WHO declared the corona virus a global emergency as the death toll in China jumped to 170, with 7,711 cases reported in the country, where the virus had spread to all 31 provinces. On February 7, Li Wenliang, a doctor who was among the first to sound the alarm over the corona virus in China, died. By the end of February, countries as Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Norway, Romania, Greece, Georgia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Macedonia, Brazil, Estonia, Denmark, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands confirmed the first cases in these countries. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic. On March 20, corona virus related deaths surged past 10,000 globally. During this time, Europe remained the epicentre of the pandemic, with Italy reporting 4,825 fatalities and 53,578 cases. On March 31, the number of deaths due to corona virus in the US surpassed those reported by China and the US reported more than 4,000 deaths with more than 300,000 cases.

On April 6, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was moved into intensive care as his condition worsened after being hospitalized in London with persistent Covid-19 symptoms. He was released from intensive care on April 9 and was discharged from hospital on April 12. On April 21, President Donald Trump announced on Twitter that he 'will be signing an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!' On May 5, the United Kingdom recorded the highest official Covid-19 death toll in Europe, with more than 30,000 people dead. On May 27, the United States became the first country to reach a six-figure death toll, as the number of people killed from the corona virus surpassed 100,000. On August 2, the death toll in Latin America from the novel corona virus had surpassed 200,000. The United States on August 9 surpassed five million corona virus cases, the highest in the world.

On November 7, the world saw 50 million cases and on November 12, there were 661,612, the highest number of daily cases. On November 6, the U.S. reached the 10 million cases and on November 13 there were highest daily cases of 190,428. Till September 9, Brazil stood in the second position after the U.S. with 4.11 million. After the middle of August U.S. and the major countries of Europe as U.K. France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Poland and Belgium saw a second wave of corona virus. With the US elections, there was a surge of corona virus cases not only in the US but the world as a whole. The highest daily cases in the world were 687,427 on November 19 and highest daily deaths of 13,129 on November 24, 2020. US had its highest number of daily cases i.e. 223,799 on November 4 and highest number of daily deaths i.e. 2,914 on November 3, 2020. Table-1 gives the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths of 30 countries on February 5, 2021 :

Table-1 : Number of Covid-19 Cases and Deaths as on February 5, 2021

No.	Country	Cases	Deaths	Recovered	Active
0	World	105,920,041	2,309,093	77,681,490	25,929,458
1.	USA	27,407,324	470,705	17,146,169	9,790,450
2.	India	10,815,222	154,956	10,509,790	150,476
3.	Brazil	9,449,088	230,127	8,326,798	892,163
4.	Russia	3,934,606	75,732	3,413,495	445,379

5.	UK	3,911,573	111,264	1,862,645	1,937,664
6.	France	3,296,747	78,603	231,549	2,986,595
7.	Spain	2,971,914	61,386	N/A	N/A
8.	Italy	2,611,659	90,618	2,091,923	429,118
9.	Turkey	2,516,889	26,577	2,404,416	85,896
10.	Germany	2,276,371	61,661	2,008,200	206,510
11.	Colombia	2,142,660	55,403	2,010,941	76,316
12.	Argentina	1,970,009	48,985	1,763,762	157,262
13.	Mexico	1,912,871	164,290	1,472,151	276,430
14.	Poland	1,539,564	38,712	1,294,687	206,165
15.	South Africa	1,470,516	45,902	1,335,618	88,996
16.	Iran	1,452,380	58,336	1,241,320	152,724
17.	Ukraine	1,237,169	23,387	1,063,591	150,191
18.	Peru	1,173,045	41,933	1,086,643	44,469
19.	Indonesia	1,134,854	31,202	926,980	176,672
20.	Czechia	1,021,477	16,976	909,305	95,196
21.	Netherlands	997,751	14,294	N/A	N/A
22.	Canada	797,756	20,609	730,730	46,417
23.	Portugal	755,774	13,740	585,276	156,758
24.	Chile	744,019	18,808	701,315	23,896
25.	Romania	740,732	18,748	686,692	35,292
26.	Belgium	721,432	21,295	49,587	650,550
27.	Israel	680,856	5,020	591,052	84,784
28.	Iraq	625,756	13,103	598,147	14,506
29.	Sweden	588,062	12,115	N/A	N/A
30.	Pakistan	551,842	11,886	507,502	32,454

Source : <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

5. Covid-19 in India

India's first Covid-19 case was a 20-year-old medical student from Kerala's Thrissur district who came back from Wuhan in China

on January 30, 2020. The first Covid-19 death took place on March, 12 where a 76-year-old man from Kalburgi, Karnataka, died. Total number of Covid-19 cases touches 100 on March 15 and Maharashtra overtakes Kerala with maximum infections.

On March, 22, as a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 14-hour voluntary lockdown called 'Janata Curfew' was observed. On March 25, a nationwide lockdown was imposed till April 14, with only essential services kept out of its purview. Factories, restaurants, pubs, markets, flights, super markets, malls, universities and colleges etc. were shut down. On the second day of the lockdown, India saw caravans of migrant labourers walking hundreds of kilometres along highways to reach their native villages. Finance Minister *Nirmala Sitharaman* announces Rs 1.7 lakh crore package under a new scheme called the *Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana* (PMGKBY) to address the economic distress. The package includes free food to the 'poorest of the poor', income support to farmers and unorganised sector workers.

On April 14, Prime Minister Modi extends the 21-day lockdown to May 3. 10,000 confirmed cases were recorded. Ministry of Home Affairs issues "National Directives" for Covid-19 management, makes wearing a face cover mandatory in work and public spaces. On April 29, India records 1,000 confirmed deaths. On May 1, Home Ministry extends lockdown for two weeks starting May 4 with zone-wise restrictions dividing districts into red, orange and green zones on the basis of cases. Shramik Special trains started for stranded migrant workers. On May 4, liquor shops reopen across the country, with people making a beeline for outlets, throwing social distancing rules to the wind. On May 7, Phase 1 of Vande Bharat mission to evacuate nearly 15,000 Indians stranded abroad begins. 50,000 confirmed cases reported in India. On May 12, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi announces Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar package, says size is 10 percent of GDP, including announcements made by RBI earlier.

On May 16, India's Corona virus cases surpassed China's with the health ministry reporting 85,940 infections and 2,752 deaths. The worst-hit Indian state was Maharashtra with 29,100 cases. On May 17, MHA extends lockdown till May 31, allows inter-state movement of passenger vehicles, buses with mutual consent of states. Unlike other countries such as Germany, Italy and Thailand, the lockdown

in India did not help in containing the spread of the corona virus. Infection cases kept on increasing despite India being in lockdown. The abrupt nationwide lockdown imposed across India was the biggest in the world, forcing 1.3 billion Indians to stay indoors. The lockdown restrictions were imposed without any preparation or coordination with States. It was also one of the most stringent lockdowns enforced in the world. Except for some essential services and activities, the rest of India's \$2.9 trillion economy remained shuttered during the lockdown period. Economic activity came to a grinding halt in the country. The lockdown had devastating impacts on an already slowing economy and people's livelihoods as shops, eateries, factories, transport, services and business establishments were shuttered (Singh, 2020).

Table-2 : Rank of India over the Months

Rank	Till Date	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
50	20-3-2020	194	5
40	31-3-2020	1,251	35
30	5-4-2020	3,082	86
25	8-4-2020	5,360	150
20	15-4-2020	11,556	393
15	4-5-2020	42,670	1,391
10	25-5-2020	1,41,794	4,024
9	29-5-2020	1,60,666	4,711
8	2-6- 2020	1,65,386	5,577
7	5-6- 2020	1,89,963	6,363
6	11-6-2020	2,36,184	8,107
5	25-6-2020	4,72,985	14,907
4	5-7-2020	6,73,904	19,279
3	6-9-2020	41,10,839	70,679

Source : <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

The spread of corona virus in India has been very fast. As shown in table-2, its rank which was 50 on March 20, 2020 jumped to 10th position on May 25. From this period spread has been very rapid. From September 7 it is in 2nd position. Table-3 and 4 show the crossing by India different mile stores in terms of Covid-19 cases and deaths.

On May 19, total Covid-19 cases in India cross 1 lakh and on May 25, domestic flight services resume in a calibrated manner, with only 30 percent of regular schedules. On June 12, India overtakes UK to become 4th worst corona virus hit country, with over 3 lakh cases. Corona virus spreads rapidly and within 15 days cases cross 5 lakh. On July 6, India overtook Russia with the world's third-highest number of novel corona virus cases, at nearly 700,000. On August 30, India reports a worldwide record for daily new cases, with 78,761 infections. The tally exceeds the one-day increase of 77,299 reported by the United States in mid-July. Covid-19 cases cross 25-million mark globally.

Table-3 : Time taken by India to cross different Stages (Cases)

Dates		Duration	Cases
January 30, 2020	First case	-----	1
January 30, 2020	February 3, 2020	4 days	10
January 30, 2020	March 17, 2020	18 days	100
January 30, 2020	March 30, 2020	58 days	1,000
January 30, 2020	April 14, 2020	65 days	10,000
January 30, 2020	May 18, 2020	109 days	1,00,000
January 30, 2020	July 17, 2020	168 days	10,00,000
January 30, 2020	December 18, 2020	322 days	1,00,00,000

Table-4 : Time taken by India to cross different Stages (Deaths)

Dates		Duration	Cases
March 12, 2020	First death	1
March 12, 2020	March 23, 2020	11 days	10
March 12, 2020 to	April 17, 2020 -	35 days -	100
March 12, 2020 to	April 29, 2020 -	48 days -	1,000
March 12, 2020	June 16, 2020 -	96 days -	10,000
March 12, 2020	October 3, 2020	205 days -	1,00,000
March 12, 2020	January 05, 2021	299 days	1,50,000

On August 31, with economic activity suspended due to lockdown, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth contracts to 23.9 percent in the April-June quarter. On September 7, India overtakes Brazil to emerge as the country with the second largest

number of people infected with novel corona virus, recording 41.13 lakh confirmed infections. On September 14, the 18-day monsoon session of Parliament kicks off under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, with Loka Sabha and Rajya Sabha members occupying seats in both Houses to ensure social distancing. More than two dozen MPs belonging to various parties tested positive (Abhishek De). Further, on September 17, the number of active cases of corona virus in the country crossed the one million (ten lakh) mark and on the same day India peaked one day cases at 97,859.

On September 23, Minister of State for Railways Suresh Chanabasappa Angadi became the first Union minister to succumb to the corona virus. Angadi, 65, passed away less than two weeks after he was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on September 11 with symptoms of Covid-19.

6. Impact on Indian Society

Though Covid-19 started in the end of 2019 by the beginning of 2020, the pandemic overwhelmed the entire world, and India also has borne the brunt of it. To effectively control the epidemic, the entire country had to be shut, and all activities had to be stopped with minimal human interaction. Hence, inevitably the country had to be brought under lockdown. In this regard, the Indian government started taking a strong stand against this pandemic attack in the mid of March. By the last week of March, India sealed all internal and external borders. From March 22, the whole country was under lockdown (Kannur and Javadekar, 2020). The impact of corona virus on Indian society is discussed below.

6.1 Mass Migration

India is a vast country, and every year a substantial number of people migrate to larger cities of different states for seeking employment opportunities to earn bread and butter for their family. According to the Census of India (2011), Maharashtra State and Delhi saw the maximum number of flow of migrants from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Assam with around 54.3 million migrating out of their origin state (Mukhra et al., 2020).

As Covid-19 was spreading, on March 25, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi imposed a nationwide lockdown till April 14. The

migrant workers were requested to stay in their place of work. But, the scenario among these workers was grim. These workers constituting the informal sector, total to a staggering 139 million and are about 93 percent of the workforce. While interviewed about 50 percent of migrant workers stated that they had rations for less than a day. Further, the study showed that 89 percent of the stranded workers had not been paid wages by their employers during the first 21 days of lockdown and that 74 percent had less than half their daily wages to live on. According to a report by World Bank, more than 40 million internal migrants have been affected due to Covid-19 and around 50,000-60,000 individuals migrated from urban to rural areas of origin in a period of few days (Mukhra et al., 2020).

This set off a reverse migration⁷ in India. This migration is considered to be the second largest mass migration in India's history after the Partition of India in 1947. With India coming to a standstill due to lockdown with limited employment opportunities, impending fear of unknown future and financial crisis, thousands of underprivileged people and labourers started to march back to their native places and home states. In the absence of transport facilities, the panic stricken labourers and their families including infants, pregnant women and the elderly walked thousands of kilometres barefoot without food and money to reach their native places. Many of these migrants were left stranded mid-way, facing starvation and misery, and some even died before they could reach their destination. Indian Railway operated 145 Shramik special trains from across India to send the migrants back to their native places. During this crisis even the best of the efforts of the Government of India, could not match the crisis. Some of the NGOs and the individuals extended their helping hand to some of the migrants to reach their homes.

Prime Minister Modi launched Rs. 50,000 crore Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan to provide employment to returned migrant workers. The scheme will be implemented in 116 districts in six states, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

With the unlock period migrant labourers who had left for their native places after corona virus lockdowns are either returning themselves or being brought back by their employers to project sites in cities. Secure job contracts, limited use of acquired skills in rural

areas, and higher remuneration in places where they worked are some of the reasons for the desire for the migrants to return. According to the study of Manjula and Rajashekhar (2020), 77 percent of migrants plan to return to work in cities. Yet a few migrants, mostly labourers in the urban informal sector, have decided to stay back because of safety concerns and the perception that their livelihood opportunities in urban India are destroyed by the pandemic and associated lockdown. In some cases, the decision was also influenced by the ownership of landed assets, school going children in villages and possession of multiple skills that can be used in villages.

6.2 Public Health Concern

Covid-19 pandemic caused unprecedented public health concern not only globally but also in India. To combat the disease, the Government of India imposed lockdowns many times and afterwards when situation improved there were unlock downs. The Government of India has claimed success in the fight against the corona virus pandemic, stating that the number of cases would have been more if the nationwide lockdown had not been imposed. The healthcare sector, the fourth-largest employer in the country suffered 90 percent losses due to decreases in out-patient attendance, elective surgeries and international patients. However, after the lockdowns, the wards were full of Covid-19 patients and the many hospitals could not cope with Covid-19 patients.

Morbidity and mortality due to Covid-19 in India are largely attributable to co-morbid conditions i.e. non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension or cardiovascular disease. Further, early onset of non-communicable diseases is likely to put even younger individuals at risk for Covid-19. The lockdown could also be a cause of weight gain during the Covid-19 pandemic, because of poor physical activity, increased snacking and consumption of calorie-dense foods. As a result, weight gain and obesity could increase the severity of Covid-19 and may increase the risk of development of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in the future. Other diseases as HIV infection, TB and malaria, the control of some of which had shown an encouraging trend until now, could also surge.

Because of lock downs there would be loss of daily wage earnings or joblessness can make it difficult to buy even basic food

items in people belonging to low socio-economic status. This may lead to malnutrition among the children, pregnant women and elderly population. Another important upcoming health issue is mental health. Increase in chronic stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol dependence, self-harm and heightened domestic violence has been reported as a consequence of the lockdown.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted healthcare workers not only physically but also psychologically. Healthcare workers are more vulnerable to Covid-19 infection than the general population due to frequent contact with infected individuals. Healthcare workers have been required to work under stressful conditions without proper protective equipment, and make difficult decisions involving ethical implications. There have been several reported incidences of violence against them during this pandemic time. Doctors attribute the surge in violence against healthcare workers to a mix of ignorance and fear, which is amplified by the pandemic.

Another important contribution of Covid-19 is that telemedicine is being encouraged now. Patients can connect with medical professionals without leaving their homes, thereby ensuring the avoidance of non-essential travel to healthcare facilities. Guidelines for practising telemedicine have been issued. It has given 'a boost to the business of health-tech start-ups operating in the segment'.

6.3 The Economic Impact

Even before the onset of Covid-19 pandemic, India was witnessing a slowdown. The growth rate had fallen from 8 percent in Q4 of the financial year 18 to 4.5 percent in Q2 of the financial year 20. The demonetisation of 2016 and goods and services tax (GST) introduced in 2017 led to severe dent in the economy. On top of this there had been numerous banking crises such as the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services crisis and government scheme failures such as that of 'Make in India'. There was also a significant "income crunch" for both rural and urban sectors in the year prior to the lockdown (Wikipedia, 2020).

During the lockdown various economic activities such as exports and imports, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, travel and tourism, transport, entertainment, health etc were affected. The Small and Medium Enterprises market ratings projected that the

nationwide lockdown expected to incur losses of over Rs 35,000 crores every day during the lockdown period. India's exports fell by -36.65 percent and imports fell by -47.36 percent in April 2020 compared to the same period of previous year. Because of the closure of industries, places of entertainment, business establishments and other activities, India's fuel demand fell by 46 percent in April 2020 as compared to the same period of previous year. Consumption of fuel was the lowest since 2007. By the first half of June 2020, India's fuel demand was 80-85 percent of what it was before the lockdown. Oil prices dropped sharply in 2020 following the Covid-19 pandemic and demand also fell sharply. By mid-May India had already filled its strategic storage including storing oil in ships across the world.

It was reported that 10 percent of farmers could not harvest their crop during lock down and 60 percent of those who did harvest reported a yield loss. Similarly, tea estates could not harvest the tea leaves as a result; tea exports fell by 33 percent in May 2020. Other activities as dairy, coffee, and rubber plantations, as well as associated shops and industries were affected.

Major companies in India temporarily suspended or significantly reduced operations in a number of manufacturing facilities and factories across the country. iPhone producing companies in India also suspended a majority of operations. Nearly all two-wheeler and four-wheeler companies put a stop to production which have reopened after the lock down was lifted.

Due to closure of industries and stoppage of night life and entertainment, power consumption was reduced and economic activity got disconnected. In Delhi, night light radiance fell 37.2 percent, Bangalore fell 32 percent while Mumbai dropped by 29 percent compared to 1-31 March 2019. India's fuel demand in April 2020 fell nearly 46 percent as compared to the previous year due to stoppage of transport. Consumption of fuel was the lowest since 2007. Cooking gas (LPG) sales rose by 12 percent as most of the people stayed indoors.

One of the important segments which were affected by Covid-19 was hospitality industry. The Travel and Tourism industry in India accounts for 9.2 percent of the country's GDP and employs 8.1 percent of the population, with our total contribution to forex approximately US\$ 28 billion. The significance of the industry to the Nation's economic wellbeing need not be emphasised as it provides

employment and livelihood to very large sections of the population. The corona virus pandemic has given a crippling blow to the Indian travel and tourism industry. This is the one of the worst crises ever to hit the Indian tourism industry impacting all its geographical segments - inbound, outbound and domestic, almost all tourism verticals - leisure, adventure, heritage, MICE, cruise, corporate and niche segments. The shut down and slow down which was initially expected to affect revenue streams till October have now indicated otherwise. Trends are currently indicating only 30 percent of occupancy in hotels till the start of next year, with hotels seeing 80 to 85 percent erosion in revenue streams. The entire value chain linked to Travel & Tourism is likely to lose around 5 lakh crore or US\$ 65.57 billion, with the organized sector alone likely to lose US\$ 25 billion. The figures are quite alarming and the industry needs immediate measures for survival (Bhatia, 2020).

Another important area affected by Covid-19 was media and entertainment industry. The Indian media and entertainment industry was worth Rs. 1.82 trillion in 2019. As with other industries, migrant workers and daily wagers have been the worst affected in India. Since Bollywood movies stopped shooting mid-March, there have been numerous stories of daily wage earners who have nothing but their savings to turn to. With theatre releases postponed, shooting on hold, and cinema halls closed, absolutely nothing is certain. Though now some theatres are open, social distancing norms and weakened livelihoods have prevented people from thronging to watch movies. During the lockdown, TV viewing has actually increased, with so many people being homebound. Viewers regularly watch news to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the mid of the crisis. The problem is that advertising has come down, as companies providing channels revenue are facing trouble themselves. Event management sector too suffered as award shows, meetings, conferences, exhibitions, competitions, music festivals, wedding etc. were curtailed.

Due to closure of industry and other business establishments, stock markets in India posted worst losses in history. SENSEX fell 4000 points (13.15%) and NSE NIFTY fell 1150 points (12.98%). However now, they have bounced back.

India has a large migrant population in Gulf and in other countries. The disruption caused by Covid-19 has had a significant

impact on these remittance flows from the migrants. Importantly, remittances fell by about 23 percent in India in 2020. The World Economic Forum states that in the current pandemic situation, migrants stuck abroad trying to cope with the exigencies will compromise to the adverse circumstances, by taking up low wage jobs, live in poor working conditions, restrict spending and thus, risk exposure to infections like the corona virus (Gopalan and Misra, 2020).

The economic impact of this pandemic will result in increase in poverty i.e. pushing more people below poverty line, worsening of socio-economic inequalities and compromise in health-related precautions such as use of masks, social distancing, seeking medical advice in case of cough and fever etc.

6.4 Socio-cultural Impact

Though India's health infrastructure is inadequate and needs considerable improvements, the real success of dealing with a crisis of this magnitude and scale depends to a large extent upon dealing with certain other socio-cultural factors that go beyond the physical infrastructure of health centers, dispensaries, hospitals, and so on. Beyond the over-stretched public healthcare apparatus, social practices, public attitudes and behaviour are factors that have a strong bearing on the spread of the virus and therefore require considerable attention in framing policy measures to tackle the crisis.

The social fabric of India depends on close relationships within families, relatives and friends. Though Covid-19 has forced us to keep distance, it is very difficult to people who live in crowded houses and areas as slums. Despite the lockdown, crowding has been observed in religious places, during travel, in markets and in shopping malls. As a result of the lockdown, there is increased possibility of malnutrition among the low socio-economic groups.

Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in lock downs had its impact on the family. Due to strict stay-at-home orders, members of households were confined to their houses with no support received from outside people. Cooking, cleaning and childcare responsibilities began to be shared. There are media reports about husbands cooking and cleaning utensils. Thus, gender roles in the household are being tweaked in favour of greater sharing of domestic responsibilities. Care giving roles are gendered in the family with

women being primarily responsible for taking care of the sick. Their traditional role as caregivers in the family put them at particular risk of exposure to Covid-19.

Staying at home has other evil effects specially on women. Women are often trapped with abusers with little recourse to help. Violence against women and children has been observed to increase during crises and pandemics. Men have increased drinking which has social effects on the family. The pandemic is also causing stress among people. Social distancing can be particularly stressful for older adults because their physical dependency increases with age-induced debility.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, work from home was recommended for employees who could do so. In fact, as the disease spread in the country, work from home became a preferred practice for employers, even for those who had not exercised this choice earlier. The lockdowns made this unavoidable. As the Indian economy faces a crisis, organisations may look to rationalise their operations in order to be efficient and survive in the difficult times.

One of the positive aspects of Covid-19 is the use of digital technology. Digital technology is being widely used and is likely to continue beyond the current spurt. Online learning platforms are being used by educational institutes ranging from primary schools to higher education centres such as universities. The purpose of such virtual classrooms is not only to transact curriculum but also to 'exhibit care and build an effective relationship with the students'. Though educational institutes were to remain closed during the lockdown period, they were 'expected to maintain the academic schedule through online teaching'. Such a shift to online learning could mark a turning point for the industry, ushering in an increased usage of this format and changing habits in terms of how teachers teach and students learn (Mishra and Majumdar 2020).

7. Road to Recovery

Tables-2 to 4 indicate the progress of Covid-19 in India. Though USA, Brazil and European nations face second phase of Covid-19, in India and other Asian countries it is declining. As Covid-19 is declining all over the world, there is some recovery in economic activities. Though there are currently more than 50 Covid-19 vaccine companies in trials a handful of vaccines now have been authorized

around the globe. Moderna in the US, CoronaVac in China, AstraZeneca in the UK, Sputnik V in Russia and Covaxin in India are some of the important authorised vaccines. Many countries have implemented phased distribution plans that prioritize those at highest risk of complications, such as the elderly, and those at high risk of exposure and transmission, such as healthcare workers. As of 1 February 2021, 101.31 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered worldwide based on official reports from national health agencies. At present, Israel is way ahead of other countries in the vaccinations which has vaccinated 62.1 percent of its population followed by UK (16.1%) and US (11%) and India has vaccinated only 0.4 percent of its population.

India has approved two vaccines - Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech and Covishield from the Oxford/AstraZeneca stable being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India - for emergency use in the country. On Saturday, January 16, 2021 India began the world's largest immunisation exercise against Covid-19, which has so far infected more than a crore people and killed more than 1.5 lakh in the country. The first day of Covid-19 vaccination in India saw 1.91 lakh people take the shot against the target of 3 lakh. As on February 6, 2021 India has vaccinated 54 lakhs people. India has leveraged its manufacturing capacity to pre-order 600 million doses of potential Covid-19 vaccine which is enough for half of its population. India has gifted Covid-19 vaccines to 15 countries including the Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh and 15 more countries are looking forward to receive them.

8. Conclusion

It is full one year since Covid-19 started in the world. The governments, health workers, NGOs and others are trying their best to reduce the impact of Covid-19. The US and the European countries as U.K. Italy, France, Spain and Germany are facing a second wave of the pandemic. A new study from the UN development programme (UNDP) has found that an additional 207 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030 due to the corona virus pandemic, bringing the total number of the world's extremely poor to more than a billion. The study further states that the 'High Damage' scenario anticipates the 80 percent of the Covid-induced economic crisis would persist in 10 years' time due to loss in productivity, preventing a full recovery to the growth trajectory seen

before the pandemic (Times of India). As India has crossed one crore Covid-19 cases and 1.5 lakh deaths, the pandemic is far from over. It is high time that India takes note of the above UNDP study and try to minimise the effects of the pandemic. At the time of sending this article to the press, there has been a spurt in cases and deaths of Covid-19 in India. On April 11, 2021 India occupied second position in the world after the USA with daily increase of 169,914 cases and 904 deaths which is a cause of concern.

Notes

1. The plague of Cyprian was named after St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (a city in Tunisia) who described the epidemic as signalling the end of the world.
2. The plague is named after the Byzantine Emperor Justinian (reigned 527-565 A.D.). Under his reign, the Byzantine Empire reached its greatest extent, controlling territory that stretched from the Middle East to Western Europe.
3. Cocoliztli is the Aztec (Central Mexican) word for pest.
4. Marseille is the second biggest city in France.
5. Spanish Flu did not start in Spain. Spain was a neutral nation during the war and did not enforce strict censorship of its press, which could therefore freely publish early accounts of the illness. As a result, people falsely believed the illness was specific to Spain, and the name Spanish Flu stuck.
6. Sickle cell disease (refers to Anaemia) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affects haemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body. Normally, red blood cells are disc shaped and flexible to move easily through the blood vessels. If you have sickle cell disease, your red blood cells are crescent or 'sickle' shaped. These cells do not bend and move easily and can block blood flow to the rest of your body.
7. Reverse migration refers to movement of people from place of employment to their native places.

References

- Bhatia, Neerja, "Impact of COVID-19 on Hospitality Sector - Estimated Revenue Losses". 2020. <https://www.cii.in/PublicationDetail.aspx?enc=6/lnlra7c1XIKPU0O5MvJtWcrtv6LPYFaLazELIKJ5I=> Accessed on December 7, 2020.
- De, Abhishek, "Coronavirus India timeline : Tracking crucial moments of Covid-19 pandemic in the country". 2020. <https://indianexpress.com/>

article/ india/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-india-timeline - 6596832/
Accessed on November 21, 2020.

Gopalan, Hema S. and Misra, Anoop, "COVID-19 pandemic and challenges for socio-economic issues, healthcare and National Health Programs in India". 2020. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7261093/> Accessed on November 24, 2020.

Jarus, Owen, "20 of the worst epidemics and pandemics in history". 2020. <https://www.livescience.com/worst-epidemics-and-pandemics-in-history.htm> Accessed on November 12, 2020.

Kannur, Harshada Vaidya and Javadekar, Prachee, "The social impact of COVID-19 on India". 2020. <https://www.thebridgechronicle.com/opinion/social-impact-covid-19-india-49313> Accessed on November 21, 2020.

Manjula, R. and Rajasekhar, D., "77% of migrants plan to return to work in cities". 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/77-of-migrants-plan-to-return-to-work-in-cities-study/article31609690.ece> Accessed on November 28, 2020.

Mishra, Manasee and Majumdar, Piyusha, "Social Distancing During COVID-19 : Will it Change the Indian Society?" 2020. <https://journals.sagepub.com/action/doSearch?target=default&ContributorStored=Majumdar%2C+Piyusha> Accessed on December 7, 2020.

Mukhra, Richa, Krishan, Kewal and Kanchan, Tanuj, "COVID-19 Sets off Mass Migration in India". 2020. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0188440920309401> Accessed on November 21, 2020.

Singh, Kavaljit, "COVID-19 Has Pushed the Indian Economy Into a Tailspin. But There's a Way Out". 2020. <https://thewire.in/economy/covid-19-india-economic-recovery> Accessed on December 7, 2020.

Times of India, December 7, 2020. "Pandemic may push more than 1 billion to extreme poverty by 2030: UN" (Mangalore Edition).

Wikipedia. 2020, "Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in India". Accessed on November 24, 2020. ★

The Rise of Islamic State (ISIS)

*Abidullah Baba**

The rise of Islamic State (ISIS) quintessentially represents a unique movement in the global jihadist movement. Islamic State's emergence can be traced back to the region's (Middle East) violent conflicts such as Syrian crisis and political instability in Iraq. The paper argues that the overarching goal of this organization is to carve a global state called 'Caliphate.' The Islamic State has emerged as the most successful terrorist group as no other terrorist group in the modern history was able to manipulate the chaos. The paper further goes on to address the ideological background of the Islamic State, and in doing so it delves deep into the Islamism and global jihad. The emergence of this group is a serious challenge to the global security and peace, therefore its demise is must.

[**Keywords** : ISIS, Da'esh, Islamic state, Global jihad, Al-Qaeda, Levant, Caliphate, Ideology, Terrorism]

1. Introduction

The Islamic State known by its myriad names (ISIS/ISIL/IS/Da'esh) represents a unique episode within the global jihadist movement. It was for the first time in the modern history that a

* Ph.D Scholar, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110025 (India) E-mail: <abidabdullahbaba@gmail.com>

terrorist group was successful in conquering a territory as large as the size of present day United Kingdom, with several million inhabitants, transformed itself into a quasi-state, and established a unique political system matching the key characteristics of a typical totalitarian regime.¹ The rise of ISIS shows that there is an urgent need to understand what transpired in Arab societies and politics of the Middle East. The emergence of Islamic State manifests a symptom of broken politics of Middle East and delegitimization of state institutions as well as of the spreading of civil wars in Iraq, Syria, and beyond. The cause of the group's development and its rise thereof is located in the severe social and political conditions in Arab societies as well as in regional and global rivalries.² Four key factors in ISIS's birth are: First ISIS can be seen as the extension of AQI (Al-Qaeda in Iraq), which in turn was the creation of US invasion of Iraq 2003. Second the incapacity to articulate policies emphasising national identity in post-Saddam era further nourished inter-communal distrust, thus deepening and widening the Sunni-Shia divide. Third the breakdown of state system in Syria and the descent in a full-blown war is a significant factor in giving birth to ISIS. Fourth, the derailment of the Arab Spring uprisings and the spill-over effect attached with it was again an important factor in consolidating the gains made during the course of Syrian civil war.³ Since its emergence the Islamic State asserts and tries to possess itself as possessing many of the necessary virtues of modern state, including governance and legal structures, a viable economy, and the ability to provide basic and complex public services. This terror group invests heavily in religious rhetoric, adding another layer to the group's appeal and overall legitimacy. The argument they advance is that they are not driven primarily by some grand sectarian war or anti-western sentiment, but by a desire to restore the Islamic Caliphate.⁴ The Islamic State has not only emerged as the most ruthless of all the Sunni jihadist organizations but also the most successful militant group globally and far better advanced in its combat missions and battles. ISIS is so extreme and brute that many other well-known radical jihadist groups have not only distanced themselves from this group, but have also publicly condemned its actions and even fought it directly at times. The Islamic State jihadists often commit violence against fellow Muslims, routinely violate human rights and international law, and also threaten and kill apostates, Christians and Jews and many other religious

communities and sects who generally do not subscribe to its ideology. In short, the group is composed of religiously motivated psychopaths. Not only are the ISIS fighters ruthless, but also have attained sufficient material assets in order to raise and support a standing military force. They are no longer a terrorist gang, rather an organization possessing greater striking power than any other terrorist force in the Middle East, surpassing the striking power of al-Qaeda. They possess the will to use the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to carry out its fanatical agenda and aims.⁵ ISIS is possibly the best equipped, richest terrorist force in the world at present, and what makes it more dangerous is its possession of both means and will to carry out its threats. The group possess a huge war chest of money, military equipment, and materials available to carry out its threats. It has captured significant amounts of high-tech U.S. military equipment abandoned by the Iraqi army. If this group somehow obtains increasing amounts of weapons of mass destruction, the global danger of this group would only increase exponentially thereby risking world peace and stability.⁶

2. Manipulating the Instability in the Levant

The emergence of Islamic State has its roots in the political and social instability in both Iraq and Syria. There were some objective factors that gave birth to this terrorist group. The most important among these factors was the US invasion of Iraq. Even though US repeatedly declared Iraq war as a linchpin to the global war on terror, but it proved opposite and gave birth to terrorism. The US invasion of Afghanistan and its toppling of the Taliban regime had denied jihadists the safe havens, but very soon penetrated into Iraq, when the instability became rife.⁷ The outbreak of a civil war in Syria provided ISIS with a golden opportunity to expand its influence and gain strategic depth in the region. The civil war in Syria in a lot of ways aided the emergence of ISIS, which then was successful to manipulate the breakdown of State institutions and the country's descent into chaos after 2011. The Syrian civil war reflected a clear case of political and economic vulnerabilities rather than any substantial sectarian and parochial concern. It was only during the later part of the uprising, that it took a sectarian façade.⁸ The expansion of the Islamic State militants into Syria, provided it with a strategic depth and significant economic resources, and after its takeover it dissolved the international border that separated Iraq

from Syria. and by doing so, it affirmed its supremacy as a supreme non-state actor.⁹

The Islamic State is not a mere assembly of psychopaths rather a religious group with a quintessential belief following a distinct variety of Islam (puritanical Islam) as opposed to traditional belief or conventionally accepted one. Through its appeals it hopes to build a complete society.¹⁰ The Islamic State represents both a movement and an organization that commands a disproportionate share of the world's attention, while sitting on the cusp of rapidly changing regional dynamics (socio-political) and world order. This outfit has pushed a new understanding of the radical Islamism, terrorism, and an extreme fanaticism writ large.¹¹

The Islamic State routinely tortures its enemies and those masses who do not bow to its ideals, which is totally in contravention against the norms of international law. The organization operates a number of detention facilities (some of which are known and some other totally unknown) within its jurisdiction. The group has used many techniques of torture which are nothing but brutal and egregious.¹²

3. Jihadism

The broader phenomenon associated with the rise of the Islamic State can be traced back to the ideals of global jihad. Islamism as a socio-politico movement emerged in the 20th century as an anti-thesis to the problems of the modern nation-states.¹³ Since the emergence of Al-Qaeda there have been there have been four different waves of global jihad. The first wave began in 1990s and reached its peak with 9/11 events. The second wave began with the US invasion of Iraq. The third wave started in 2007 and continued till 2009, following Al-Qaeda's footprint in Arabian Peninsula. The fourth wave started in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, subsequently witnessing the expansion of Al-Qaeda and its various factions and affiliates in the Levant region.¹⁴ Even though there has been a concerted effort by the US and its allies to address the challenges of counter-terrorism, still there has been a four-fold increase in Jihadist fighters as per the latest figures. The movement still continues to be in a decent shape.¹⁵ The period between 2012-2018 turned out to be an important transitional phase for the global jihadist movement, mainly because of the ability of Jihadists to expand and manipulate the atmosphere created by the

events of the Syrian civil war. The effect was such that a hybridized current gave birth to the militant Islamic movement known as ISIS. No other militant or extremist group was able run a twin campaign of terror attacks globally, and waging military struggle against local regimes hitherto.¹⁶

The idea this outfit tries to promote or sell is envisioned to be a unified and a transnational government called Caliphate. The Caliph will rule over the state as he is the vicegerent of God, to enforce the commandments of God. The type will be the highest political organization on earth with absolute obedience to the commands of God.¹⁷

Islamic State a newly created and rapidly expanding quasi-political entity remains a challenging international threat. The group seeks recognition as an Islamic Caliphate, the only legitimate political authority. In fact, it is a theocratic proto-state like entity, with self-asserted state like qualities, but rendered illegitimate by international community.¹⁸ By conquering territory, the Islamic State established its own institutions and hence started to fulfil its goals by means of its ideology. It started to eliminate its enemies through of its military might it maintained. One of the central characteristics of this regime is the use of its violence against various religious groups and also massive human rights violation. In a sense, the violence seems to be institutionalized.¹⁹ It controls and runs a huge economy running in billions of dollars, which is very essential for its survival and hence provides it a reason as well as might to expand its territory.

The rise and existence of the Islamic State poses a substantial and a realistic threat to the global peace and security, and therefore, it must be confronted and engaged by international community. The demise of the group will to large extent will depend upon the reconstruction of the fragile state institutions and the genuine political reconciliation among various warring factions (ethnic and religious) of the Middle East.

References

1. Ondrej Filipec, *The Islamic State : From Terrorism to Totalitarian Insurgency*, London : Routledge, 2020, 1.
2. Fawaz A. Gerges, *ISIS : A History*, Princeton : Princeton University Press, 2016, 7-8.
3. Fawaz A. Gerges, *Ibid*, 8.

4. Dana Hardra, "ISIS : Past, Present and Future?: Pro-ISIS Media and State Formation", Boston College Universities Libraries, 2015, <http://hdl.handle.net/2345/bc-ir:104188>.
5. Jay Sekulow, *Rise of ISIS : A Threat We Can't Ignore*, New York : Howard Books, 2014, 27-28.
6. Jay Sekulow, *Ibid*, 40-41.
7. Mohd Shahzad, *The Problems of Refugee in South Asia : A Comparative Study of Afghan and Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in India*, New Delhi : Manka Publications, 2020, 184-192.
8. Fawaz A. Gerges, *Ibid*, 15.
9. Fawaz A. Gerges, *Ibid*, 17-18.
10. Grame Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants", *The Atlantic*, March 2015. Accessed February 4, 2021, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>.
11. Jessica Stern and J. M. Berger, *ISIS : The State of Terror*, London : William Collins, 2015, 11.
12. For a detailed discussion, see Amnesty International Report, "Rule of Fear: ISIS Abuses in Detention in Northern Syria", December 19, 2013, 1-10. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE24/063/2013/n/32d380a3-cc47-4cb6-869f2628ca44cb99/mde240632013en.pdf>.
13. Glenn E. Robinson, "The Four Waves of Global Jihad, 1979-2017", *Middle East Policy*, XXIV(3), September 2017, 70-71.
14. Seth G. Jones, *Rebuilding the Base: How Al-Qaeda Could Resurge*, Rand Corporation, July 2017, 2.
15. Colin P. Clark, *The Future of Global Jihadist Movement After the Collapse of the Caliphate*, Santa Monica, California : Rand Corporation, 2018.
16. Tore Refslund Hamming, "Global Jihadism after the Syrian Civil War", *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 13(3), June 2019, 1-3.
17. Jay Alan Sekulow and Robert Weston Ash, *The Dangers ISIS And Its Progeny Pose To Regional and Global Peace*, Oxford Centre for the Study of Law & Public Policy, 3.
18. Adele Belanger-McMurdo, "A Fight for Statehood? ISIS and its Quest for Political Domination", *E-International Relations*, October 2015, 1-8. <https://www.e.ir.info/2015/10/05/a-fight-for-statehood-isis-and-its-quest-for-political-domination/>.
19. Ondrej Filipec, *Ibid*, 60. ★

Changing Face of Indian Party System : Emergence of BJP - A New Party System or A New Political System

*Archana Sawshilya**

The seed for the new political play field had been sown in the 2014 elections when the whole nation voted unanimously not for their caste or region but for a cause - say no to corruption. After the 2014 General Elections, the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, with the help of a well-structured digital media team and a strong party cadre network, picked up the battle for the 2019 election. In 2019, we witnessed the BJP making substantial inroads into the states . The narrative of the Congress did not appeal to the electorate and they failed to connect with the voters

[**Keywords** : Indian party system, BJP, New political system, Congress, Electorate]

1. Introduction

The 2019 elections has been a landmark election in several ways and one of them has been the dramatic change in the playing field of

* Associate Professor, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, Delhi-10039 (India) E-mail: <sawshilyadehury@gmail.com>

the new political system for all the political parties. The country witnessed the rise of a political battleground which was more focused on centralization rather than decentralization, i.e. focus was on the Rashtra, the nation and not regions. Focus was on a national identity rather than caste or region based identity.

The seed for the new political playfield had been sown in the 2014 elections when the whole nation voted unanimously not for their caste or region but for a cause- say no to corruption, and to bring a clean party to the center to redeem the national pride. The BJP never let go of this strength and despite the disastrous showing in terms of economic growth and development during its tenure from 2014-2019, it came back to power with a resounding victory because the duo of Amit Shah and Narendra Modi had carefully planned the rules of the new political battlefield one step at a time.

Immediately after the 2014 General Elections, the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, with the help of a well-structured digital media team and a strong party cadre network, picked up the battle for the 2019 election, one state at a time to expand its territorial reach. After the loss in the Assembly polls on 2013 in Kerala, there was no time to be lost and the BJP got into election mode and they did not lose any assembly election and by the end of 2014 post the general elections, they had 8 Chief Ministers in India across the northern spectrum and they had made inroads into even the traditional Left dominated state of West Bengal where they emerged as the main opposition party which was unheard of. In a state where Ram was recognized a Hindu God of North Indians and not of the Bengali population, the state saw Ram Navmi being celebrated in a big way and a culture of Hindutva rather than a North Indian or a Bengali culture being the prominent culture in the state.

2. Approach Adopted by the BJP to Mobilize the Voters in 2014 General Elections

During my research the following pattern emerged as the approach adopted by the BJP to achieve this resounding victory had to tackle its opponents on 4 fronts:

- The Congress Party as in Karnataka,
- The State based parties as in Telengana, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal,

- The alliance between Congress and the state based parties as in Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra and others and lastly,
- The alliance between the state based parties as in Uttar Pradesh.

The first opponent, the states where Congress was in power, was an easy target for BJP as the nation after 2014 was ready for a Congress Muktabharat and the strategy of the BJP was to ensure a complete erasure of the Congress party. But the tougher states were the ones with state based parties being present and also performing well.

The strategy of the BJP was to mobilise the votes of the electorate in such states by targeting the non partisan voters and the voters who were affiliated to the small state parties and also those who were not affiliated to closed parties but to open parties

During my research the factor which emerged as a major contributor in decision making for voting for a government at the center amongst such voters was the choice of the Prime Minister and it was actually Brand Modi and national pride which he promised to deliver were factors which helped steer the victory of the BJP and lay down a new political system in our country.

3. BJP and the 2019 Scenario

In 2019, we witnessed the BJP making substantial inroads into the states which were not erstwhile BJP dominated states and this was a result of the mobilization of these voters in these states. During this election BJP not merely increased its seats but also made inroads into areas where they had no presence before as West Bengal, Assam, Tripura. In almost 20 states the BJP received more than 40% of the valid votes in the seats that it contested.

In Uttar Pradesh, BJP faced the Mahagathbandhan where state parties aligned to put a united front for BJP but BJP managed to increase its vote share and win the state. In states where the Congress entered into an alliance with state parties as Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra, BJP scored comprehensive wins in all states except for Maharashtra. In states where the BJP faced state based parties as West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana the BJP could not post a win but even in these states BJP emerged as the second largest party. It was only in states as Kerala, TamilNadu and Andhra

Pradesh which have closed party systems that BJP drew a blank and did not get even a single seat.

In Lok Sabha elections, factors that move the voters and who are not aligned to any party and in states where there are no closed party systems, is the voter satisfaction with the incumbent Central government and the rise of BJP in 2019 showed that despite the economic disasters of the BJP government, the voters were still satisfied with the performance of the government. This clearly showed that a new political system was forming in India and was being woven by the BJP under the leadership of Modi.

There were several factors which were responsible for the BJP creating the new political system. One major factor was the introduction of the Electoral Bond scheme by the BJP just before the 2019 elections. This new policy "opened the floodgates to unlimited corporate donations to political parties and anonymous financing by Indian as well as foreign companies, which can have serious repercussions on the Indian democracy". According to audit reports and income tax reports submitted by parties to the Election Commission, the BJP has been the biggest beneficiary of electoral bonds, garnering 94.5% of the bonds worth around Rs. 210 crore. But merely receiving funding is not enough if it is not used for furthering its gain and BJP did not fail in doing this. In Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu had no shortage of funds, but he did not know how to use it. The BJP however, used the funding very effectively to build a strong digital media team and a strong cadre of dedicated party workers focused on building Brand Modi and Brand Hindu Rashtriyata. Such strong organizational strength was missing amongst the other political parties and the availability of funds made this task much easier for the BJP. The dedication and commitment of their human resources right up to the grassroots level was unparalleled.

Another factor that helped BJP was the concept of Hindutva and Rashtriyata. Hindutva was very much a part of this election. But for the elitist population that was not seduced by the concept of Hindutva, the team BJP seduced them with the concept of Rashtriyata. The media team of BJP ran a very successful campaign presenting BJP as the party that would regain the lost national prestige, the national interest, national security, and national honor and used every opportunity as Modi's visits abroad, his mass appeal

in international arena, the Pulwama attack and the retaliatory action of the BJP, to build the image of Modi as the only strong leader who could deliver this to a country who wanted something to be proud of. Brand Modi emerged as a decisive and aggressive leader who could take the bull by its horn and who could place India on a global pedestal with world leaders and no longer the underdog as a third world country.

In my conversation with the voters especially in the rural belts another narrative that played a major role and which was projected as big factor was the popular welfare schemes of the BJP government which impacted the life of ordinary people by entering their homes. Schemes as Ujjwala, SBM, roads, and money in bank accounts were all schemes aimed at the common man and while it did reach a large population though not reaching all, the BJP campaign fund was well utilized in ensuring that the narrative of the schemes was communicated in a dominant manner by the party cadre at the lowest levels. If the scheme impacted one person, immediately a picture would be taken and posted on the social media and the narrative communicated to the voters was that if it has reached one it would reach them sooner or later. The promise of *Acche din* and the impact that it would have on their daily lives was magnified to such an extent by the Media cell of the BJP that it totally eclipsed the disastrous economic situation that the Indian economy was going through as an impact of introduction of GST and demonetization. As one respondent said the individual was being looked at as a beneficiary, a *labharthi*, and if he received a *labh* or a benefit or was sure and hopeful that he would soon receive a direct benefit of all other government schemes, he would convert into a voter.

The concept of *labharthi* was a major vote generator for the BJP. There were several social welfare schemes introduced by the Congress too but the money did not reach the people directly and was always routed through government distribution systems and to a large extent the beneficiary could not receive the money without doling out something to the distribution system managers. But with the introduction of the Jan Dhan Plan, the Aadhar Card and the Mudra Loans, or as they are called - The JAM trinity, direct transfer of public goods and benefits was suddenly possible from the government directly to the *labharthi*. This gave a sense of financial independence and belief in the government which nothing could

parallel. Under the Ujjwala scheme Gas cylinders were delivered to people and they felt empowered but no one asked the question, where the second cylinder would come from. The fact is these people had never seen the delivery of anything, and even if they got a delivery, they had not seen the delivery of anything without having to pay bribes for it, including NREGA wages in most cases.

One cannot deny the fact that as compared to the opposition, the BJP organization structure and strategy for reaching out to the voters was way ahead by leaps and bounds. The Congress and other state based parties stood no chance in front of the strong and organized BJP party cadre down till the lowest level, the use of social media and digitization in managing the party cadre and the voters. The opposition was still using the old rules of contesting the election, not realizing that in a digital India there as a new language that was influencing the electorate and failed to reach out to the masses.

The narrative of the Congress did not appeal to the electorate and they failed to connect with the voters. The focus of the Congress was to find faults with Modi and on secularism which was not people wanted to hear. They never once talked about the economic and developmental contribution made by the UPA II as the Delhi and Mumbai airports and their successful economic policies. The only glory they talked of was the time of Indira Gandhi and how their family had laid down their lives for the nation. They had forgotten that most of the voters in 2019 were not even born when Indira Gandhi died and they failed to connect with the narrative. Also, people felt that they had been loyal to Congress for their sacrifice for long and did not owe them anymore. Further, though the legend of the Congress party was great but its current leader did not inspire any sense of confidence in the masses.

Last but not the least, the most important factor that contributed to the new system was the powerful tool of communication using the social media platforms to narrate the stories of BJP ideology and Brand Modi while at the same time totally destroying the image of the leader of the opposition as a weak, indecisive leader. The media team of Modi very clearly diverted the attention of the masses from the economic disaster that India was going through with Make in India not going anywhere, Demonetization and GST having severely impacted the GDP of the country, unemployment being at its highest. The focus was on Modi

as a leader who had the guts to rise up against Pakistan in Balakot and was therefore the only leader who could bring back the lost glory of the country. Further, Modi wore Hindutva on his sleeve when his visit to Kedarnath temple before elections were televised and this played a huge role in the electoral verdict when the people voted not for caste or regionalism lines but on religion and nationalism.

The outcome of the carefully designed strategy by the duo of Modi and Amit Shah using the new digital language understood by the new generation, was the creation of a new party system and in fact a new political system in the country. Since the 2019 election, the second Modi-led government has pushed the transition from a de facto Hindu majoritarian state towards a de jure Hindu majoritarian state through the adoption of controversial policies affecting some of the basic normative tenets of India's old constitutional order, so much so that the BJP's rise to power has transformed not only the party system, but also the political system itself.

Never before had we seen a party spread its geographical presence across the length and breadth of the country as BJP managed to do in 2019 elections. As one respondent said It was almost like laying down the foundation for a single party system in India with one major player and the others being small state players. Even in these states, BJP was the second largest party having effectively expanded its base in states as West Bengal and Orissa. Barring a few states as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, BJP was a success in all states. The political playfield is today witnessing the decline of the Congress party with no credible leader at the helm of affairs, while the BJP with a strong leader and core team has succeeded to create a voter base who view themselves through the lens of religion rather than caste and state and with the largest majority of Indians being Hindu they are finding it very easy to align with the vision of the BJP which during and after the 2019 elections has worn Hindutva on its sleeve with pride. It looks like as if the political playfield in the future will be dominated by one single party with one vision, one voice and the only challenge they may face would be from state based small parties. It remains to be seen if this is good or bad for the Indian democracy. While several people argue that this is good as it makes it easy for decision to be made and good governance but others argue that it will be the very basis of an authoritarian government.

The 2019 elections also saw a new feature emerging in the Indian political system. For the first time, the Indian election was compared to the Presidential form of election in the United States. Brand Modi was the dominant factor in these elections and the media team of BJP highlighted the leadership and performance of Modi and compared him to Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party leader and their Prime Ministerial Candidate. This was clearly a presidential election, in which the opposition did not have a presidential candidate and that became a huge disadvantage. The BJP had personified their campaign in the figure of Modi, but the opposition, for various reasons, couldn't come up with a candidate who could personify their appeal. Even if the opposition could have come up with a united candidate, it could have created a big difference to voters who were confused, 'If not Modi, then who?' Was there no alternative to Modi jee,? If yes then there is a big question mark that whether we are becoming a managed democracy, like Russia is. In a managed democracy, there is an electoral majority, which can be also called as authoritarian populism, a danger people are looking at as we move forward.

A dominant factor that impacted the voting pattern during the 2019 election was Brand Modi and the absence of Brand Rahul Gandhi. In the absence of any credible leadership in any other party, voters across party lines and affiliations voted for Brand Modi and strong central leadership.

4. Emergence of BJP - A New Party System or A New Political System

The new political party and system emerging with a strong centralized leadership and concept of Hindu Rashtriyata the task for the BJP electoral machinery for the next 5 years is very clear. The focus till the next elections would be to maintain the stronghold that BJP has gained and to keep its opposition in check in the states and work on making inroads in states as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Till 2019 politicians had different electoral maths to follow -Minorities to vote on religious lines, and Hindus were comfortable in their religion. And that is why Ayodhya card of Mr. Advani was not played by BJP and it projected Mr . Vajpayee as a secular face for Prime Minister. But during 2019, BJP did not give any thought to it

and wore Hindutava on its sleeves without bothering for Minority votes. BJP was confident of getting votes of 80% of the Hindu population,. The verdict on the Ram janam Bhumi(Post Election) convinced the Hindu voters of their right decision to vote for Modi. But some serious questions are before the voters who voted for Modi led BJP - Will BJP work always as Pro Hindu ? Others questions - Why no serious actions are taken against offenders who lynched Muslims in the name of cow protection ? Laws on love Jihad in UP and other states will lead to which direction? Last but not the least why BJP not coming ahead to settle scores with the Farmers ,who are also named as separatists, Khalistanis ? Is it because BJP feels they are in majority with Hindu votes. It is a clear signal or sign that We are moving towards a Hindu majoritarian state and a one party system.

References

- Heath, O. and A. Ziegfeld, "Electoral Volatility and Turnout: Party Entry and Exit in Indian Elections", *The Journal of Politics*, 80(2), 2018, pp. 570-584.
- Kailash, K. K., "The Last Posts: The BJP in 'Non-BJP' States", SuhasPalshikar, Sanjay Kumar and Sanjay Lodha (eds.), *Electoral Politics in India : The Resurgence of the BharatiyaJanata Party*, New Delhi : Routledge, 2017, 69-89.
- Mair, Peter, *Party System Change : Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford : Clarendon Press, 1997.
- Palshikar, S., "The Defeat of the Congress", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 49(39), 2014, pp. 57-63.
- Upadhyay, S., "Elections 2019 : Breaking Down Election Campaigns of PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi in Numbers", <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/elections-2019-breaking-down-election-campaigns-of-pm-modi-and-rahul-gandhi-in-numbers-2039438> (accessed 17 July 2019).
- Verma, R., "What Determines Electoral Outcomes in India? Caste, Class, or Voters' Satisfaction with Government Performance?", *Asian Survey*, 52(2), 2012, pp. 270-297. ★

Digital Learning in the Era of Global Covid-19 Pandemic : With special reference to IGNOU

***Amit Chaturvedi**, *Avinash Mohan
Saklani** and Anjana******

The Corona Global pandemic has thrown in challenges for educational delivery and curriculum transaction in view of the predicament of various socio-economic constraints and the social distancing being observed in educational institutions. In the present paper an attempt has been made to study the patterns of online teaching-learning in Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) since the lockdown for facilitating the studies of the learners from their homes. The nationwide e-Counselling organized for the learners through the use of ICT tools in place of the established face-to-face Counselling at the Learner Support Centres

* Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Noida, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <amitchaturvedi@ignou.ac.in>

** Deputy Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Noida, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <amsaklani@ignou.ac.in>

*** Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Noida, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <anjana.virbhan@gmail.com>

**CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January-March), 2021
Peer Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed International Research Journal**

(LSCs) has been a unique learning experience for the heterogeneous learners as well as the Academic Counsellors across the country. The region wise trends in e-Counselling are reflective of gradual popularization and acceptance of this shift in paradigm from face-to-face classroom teaching-learning to technology-mediated learning as also the accompanying limitations because of various factors. Over and above the e-assignments have also played a significant role for the distance learners during the pandemic period. The learners were given an option to submit their assignments through digital mode. The study brings home the significance of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) as a vibrant education system ready to adapt to situations such as Covid-19 where teaching and learning has to be carried out in new circumstances.

[**Keywords** : e-counseling, ODL, LSCs, Gyan Darshan, UGC, Covid-19, Blended Learning, Digital Learning]

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is a great challenge for education systems at all levels-Primary, Secondary and Higher education across the world. During this pandemic, digital learning is a growing and emergent area which is mainly concerned with teaching-learning process using digital medium. It has developed from the activities such as sharing of text resources and curriculum transaction through videoconferencing and social media platforms and students submitting online assignments for evaluation. The developments in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and the internet have made multiple methods of digital Education possible. Eight steps such as Plan, Review, Arrange Guide, Yak (Talk), Assign, Track, Appreciate (PRAGYATA) have been suggested for accomplishment of digital and online learning by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) of Government of India renamed as Ministry of Education (MOE). In addition the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Ministry of Education Government of India has also introduced two educational apps namely Diksha and Nishtha for the online digital learning and upliftment of Teachers' education programme respectively. Up to 10+2 level these apps were made compulsory for the teachers to enhance their knowledge through digital mode. Diksha is digital infrastructure for knowledge share. This national digital infrastructure for teachers has been developed with latest advanced digital technology. This educational app is free educational platform which offers the digital learning material for both teachers and

students. Nishtha (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement) is another capacity building digital programme. The basic objective of the programme is to train teachers across the country. In the present scenario the online and digital learning offers seamless possibilities of imparting education by bridging physical and social distancing. Online learning is an education which takes place through the Internet and sometimes is also known as e-learning. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions provide education through off campus where the face to face interaction between distance educators and learners takes place in the form of Academic Counselling unlike the conventional classroom teaching technique. It helps to remove restrictions and barriers, both social and physical. Using the Online mode of academic interaction in ODL to meet the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic can provide the distance learners with high-quality education in synchronous or asynchronous method at their own place and time at their work place or at home.

Information and Communication technologies (ICT) are playing a vital role in imparting online education. The online education has numerous advantages though there are limitations and constraints as well depending upon the context and learning environments particularly in developing countries.

In the Indian context, the ODL institutions such as Indira Gandhi National Open University with a nationwide presence initiated the use of technology in education more than two decades back with the multiple mode of delivery of instructional system through the blending of face-to-face Academic Counselling and use of educational TV, radio, EDUSAT and audio-video packages. With this background the emerging use of web-based Counselling and use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook for educational delivery has enabled the University to make use of online platforms for facilitating teaching-learning nationwide in a big way during the lockdown and the continuing Covid-19 situation. Adapting to this new paradigm of teaching-learning through web-enabled technologies presents a challenge as well as unique experience for both teachers (Academic Counsellors in ODL) as well as learners.

New educational technologies have been introduced in providing education to all segments of society. Online education and

ODL system of education have proved a boon in the present situation of Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Objectives of Study

The main objective of the present study is to highlight the trends and patterns of digital learning in ODL through the study of Indira Gandhi National Open University during the lockdown period of Covid -19 pandemic. Through this study an attempt has been made :

- To find out the usefulness and efficacy of e-counselling through digital mode in different regions of the country as compared to face to face counselling which was used in ODL before lockdown period
- To explore the effectiveness for submission of e-assignment through digital mode specially during pandemic period

3. Methodology

The present study makes use of data on online Counselling sessions organized by various Regional Centres (RCs) of IGNOU divided into different categories such as North, East, West, South and North-East regions and posted on IGNOU social media platforms Face book and Twitter regularly on the IGNOU website. The efforts have been made to collect the data of e-counselling/digital counselling conducted by the various Regional Centres of IGNOU across the country and also analyze the volume of online submission of e-assignments by the learners and its online evaluation by the Academic Counsellors during Covid-19 pandemic period upto 31.07.2020.

4. Role of Online Education in ODL in Higher Education

Distance learning concept has been introduced with a view to democratize education to all segments of population. The primary emphasis of Open and distance learning (ODL) mode is on innovation and easy accessibility to the learners of higher education. The globalization of ODL provides many opportunities for countries during this Covid-19 pandemic where physical presence of distance educators is not required which serves the purpose of social distancing. As mentioned earlier, Blended Learning has been used in

IGNOU since its inception. As of now, apart from digital self instructional material for learners multiple modes of technology-enabled learning such as the use of GyanVani FM educational radio channels, Gyan Darshan TV channels, Interactive Radio Counseling, web conferencing, two way teleconferencing, Face book live sessions and videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom, Ciscowebex, and Google meet etc. are being actively utilized for imparting teaching and learning during Covid-19 pandemic situation. The ODL through Gyan Darshan and GyanVani educational media has successfully established its effectiveness in delivery of quality and affordable higher education to all disciplines of education such as Management, Social Sciences, Computer Sciences, medical education etc. In the light of pandemic experiences, ODL can prove to be viable provider of equitable opportunities to people as the Government plans to utilize the promotion of higher education as an instrument of socio-economic transformation. On 10th May 2020 the Indian University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a public notice regarding the redressal of grievances related to Covid-19 pandemic. The UGC has advised to plan their academic activities keeping in view of safety of all stakeholders giving the highest priority to the health of all concerned while adopting and implementing the guidelines. UGC has also requested to establish a cell at educational institutions for handling grievances of the students. Further on 20th April 2020 Principal Secretary Higher Education Government of Uttar Pradesh issued the directions to all Higher education institutions of State of Uttar Pradesh to watch the Gyan Darshan educational programmes of higher education. This is reflective of the growing acceptability and role of ODL in reaching out to vast segments of populace.

In the present scenario around 24% population of our country is getting opportunities of higher education through the Open Universities of the country. Presently IGNOU, a Central University, 14 state Universities and some institutions are offering open education through distance mode which is a really viable mode of education in the present scenario. The nationwide e-counseling method of imparting education is a novel and effective way of teaching-learning in the era of global pandemic which holds seamless possibilities of synchronous, asynchronous as well as collaborative learning.

Therefore, benefits of using e-counseling will also be analysed. Attempt will also be made to suggest suitable strategies to enhance

access and equity of quality higher education through ODL mode. The paper will chalk out a detailed strategy to make wide spread use of e-counselling in the LSCs to make higher education accessible through ODL intervention in order to bridge the existing gap so that knowledge and skill of the youth can be enhanced and this will have cascading effects on the living standards of this unreached section of populace.

The steady adoption and promotion of ICT Tools in teaching-learning in IGNOU over the past few years - web-enabled Counselling (School of Agriculture Programmes and Post Graduate Diploma in Food Safety and Quality Management online Counselling since 2012), Twitter (School of Computer and Information Sciences twitter handles since BCA Twitter in 2012), promotion of Facebook page of University Hqrs (launched in August 2018 Source Annual Report 2018-19/Profile 2018) and social media platforms of Regional Centres have laid the path for the wide use of these web-enabled tools in the online education during Covid-19 pandemic situation. The nationwide e-counseling conducted for learners not only utilises the videoconferencing platforms such as Zoom, Cisco, webex, Google Meets etc. but also effectively makes use of social media in online learning such as Facebook Live, YouTube etc. The Counseling schedules of Regional Centres displayed regularly on the Face book page of the University have reflected the volume and diverse use of these tools in online teaching-learning over the last few months (Source-IGNOU Face book page). Apart from these the learners have been motivated to use e-resources - eGyankosh and e-content app of the University for consulting digital materials during the pandemic. The offer of 14 Academic Programmes by the University in online mode during the Covid scenario notably the launching of Masters in Hindi (MHD) and other Certificate Programmes in online mode by Minister for Human Resource Development on 20th May 2020 has come as a feather in the cap in the University's initiatives in effective use of online education in ODL. This is also in conformity with the expectations and objectives of policy framework envisaged in New Education Policy 2020 on Online and Digital education in the country (Source : NEP 2020).

5. Usefulness of Online Education

Online education and ODL system of education are proving to be a boon in the present situation of Covid-19 pandemic. There are

numerous advantages of online education as has been observed in the era of covid-19 pandemic. The primary benefit of online education on the one hand is that it is able to provide education to all segments of society and on the other hand, it makes wide use of New educational technologies which have been introduced in providing education. The online courses are convenient and flexible as they can be accessed as per the requirement of learner. Studies suggest that the online courses are also economical and cost effective not only for learners but for educational institutions as well. Introduction of online courses is very beneficial for those students who are residing far away from the educational institutions and where the opportunity of education is very minimal. IGNOU is a pioneer in ODL system in imparting online education. In Covid -19 Pandemic the educators of University have changed their methodology of curriculum delivery and introduced e-counselling in place of face to face Counseling. It has been observed that extensive use of ICT Enabled/Online Learner Support Measures were introduced by Various Regional Centres of IGNOU. During this lock-down period up to 31.07.2020, in addition to Face book live sessions and e-counselling sessions through Gyanvani, Gyan Darshan taken by Teachers of IGNOU at Hqrs, around 35,513 e-Counselling sessions were taken by Academic Counsellors across the country which is a great achievement in education. The UNESCO Report 2020 released during Covid predicament, in its overall survey of global educational scenario, points out that online modes of education have been adopted by India and other countries across the world during the global pandemic. It makes the observation that online education during this phase has become a solution to secure uninterrupted learning, and more significantly, the fact that distance education has increased communities' involvement in creating a favorable learning environment possible during pandemic situation (Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 UNESCO).

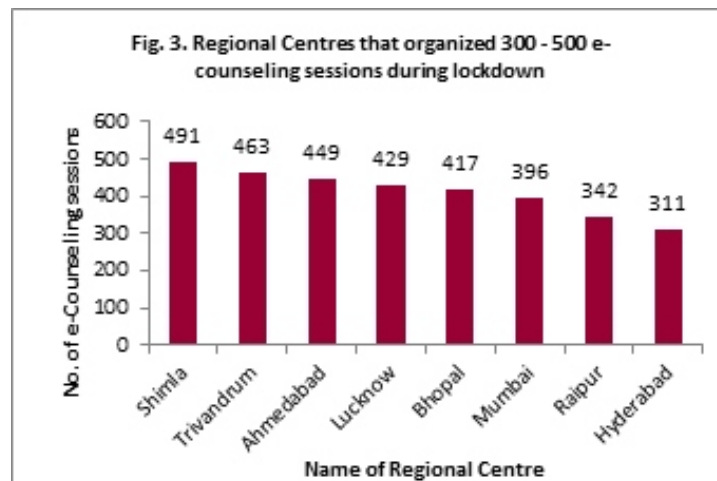
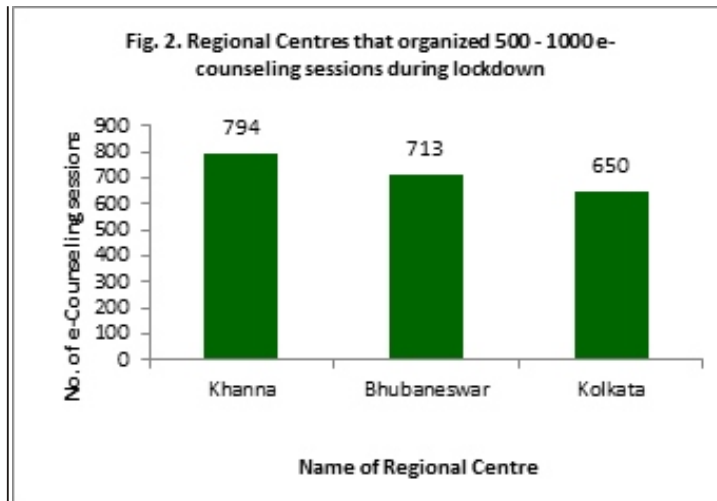
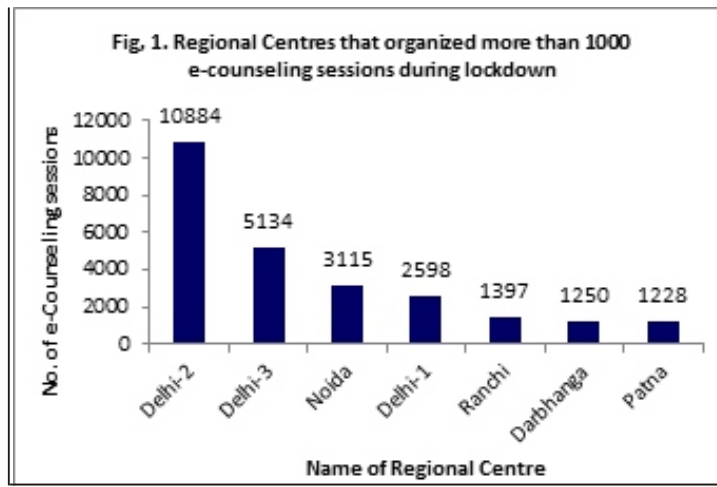
A Report of Commonwealth of Learning (COL) submitted to Commonwealth Education Ministers in June 2020 in its listing of use of technologies by Commonwealth governments during Covid-19 referred to use of radio & TV channels, e-learning portals, YouTube and online learning in India (Kanwar & Daniel, 2020 : 3). All these tools are being effectively utilised by IGNOU in teaching-learning during the pandemic. The Report maintained that Distance learning contributes to a resilient education system ready to adapt to

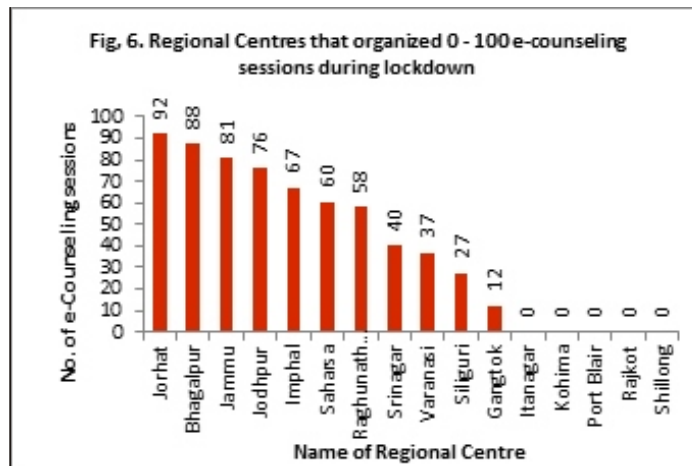
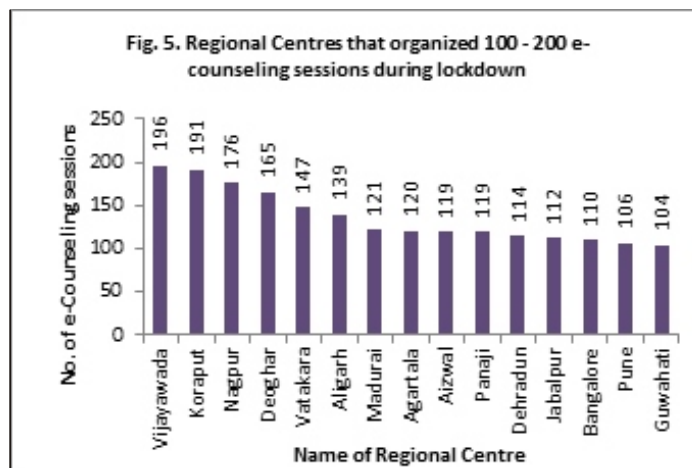
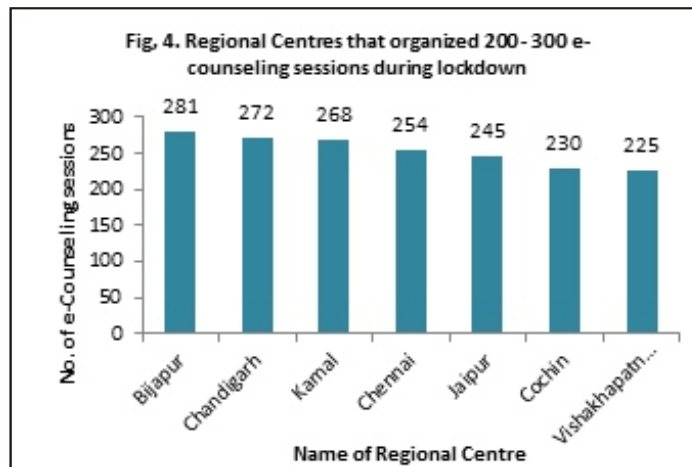
situations such as Covid-19 where teaching and learning has to be carried out in new circumstances, through its elements of access, cost, quality, inclusion and environmental impact (ibid, 7-8).

In the present study IGNOU Regional Centres (RCs) have been divided into six categories depending upon the number of web counseling sessions organized during the lockdown period as shown in Figures 1 to 6. The first category is that of the Regional Centres which have conducted more than 1000 e-counseling sessions and the data has been presented in Fig. 1. As can be seen from the figure, there are seven RCs in category-1 which is led by RC Delhi-2 with 10884 e-counseling sessions followed by Delhi-3 (5134), Noida (3115), Delhi-1 (2598), Ranchi (1397), Darbhanga (1250) and Patna (1228). The second category is that of the RCs which organized 500 to 1000 e-counseling sessions and there are only three RCs falling under this category namely Khanna, Bhubaneswar and Kolkata (Fig. 2). Next to this category is that of the RCs with 300 to 500 web counseling sessions and the number of RCs pertaining to this category is eight, which is led by Shimla with 491 sessions closely followed by Trivandrum, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Bhopal (Fig. 3). The next category comprises of seven such RCs that have organized 200 to 300 e-counseling sessions during the period under investigation with Bijapur being the one with highest number of sessions i.e. 281 and Vishakhapatnam being the one with the least number of sessions in this category of RCs i.e. 225 sessions (Fig. 4). The RCs in the second largest category with 100 to 200 e-counseling sessions are fifteen in number with the highest number of sessions by RC Vijayawada (196) and the one with the lowest number of sessions being 104 by RC Guwahati (Fig. 5). The category with the maximum number of RCs has been found to be that of zero to 100 e-counseling sessions with sixteen RCs including Itanagar, Kohima, Port Blair, Rajkot and Shillong where no e-counseling session have been conducted during the lockdown period (Fig. 6).

It is interesting to note that there has been found a very broad range in terms of number of e-counseling sessions conducted by different Regional Centres across the country i.e. from zero sessions by five RCs to 10884 sessions by RC Delhi-2, which is also the largest Regional Centre in terms of the number of learners enrolled in any particular academic session.

Number of e-counseling Sessions organized during the lockdown Period



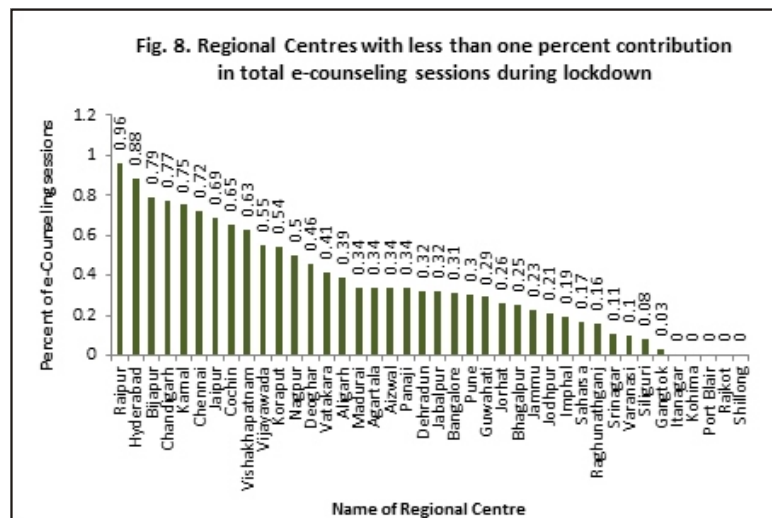
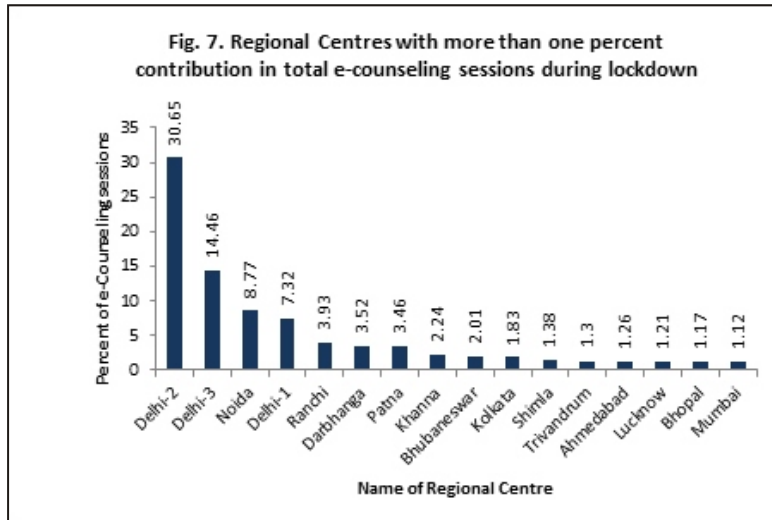


If we look at the percent contribution of different Regional Centres towards the total number of e-counseling sessions organized during the lockdown period as shown in Figures 7 and 8, it has been found that more than fifty percent of the sessions have been

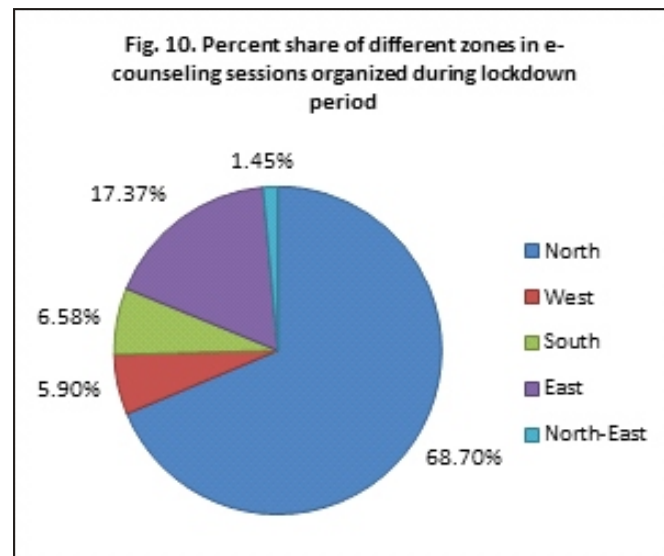
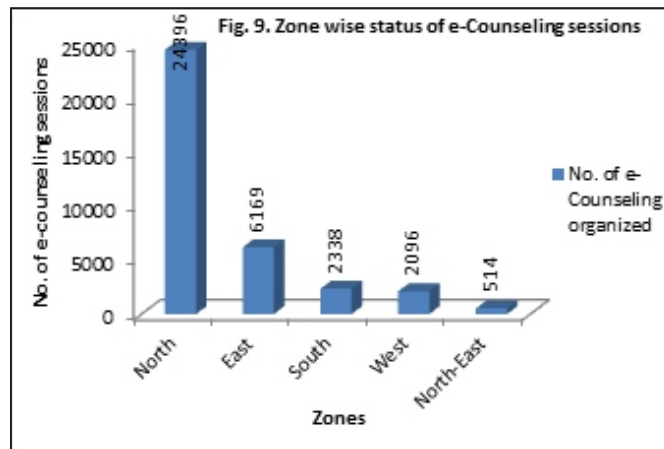
conducted by three RCs namely Delhi-2, Delhi-3 and Noida. In the group of RCs that have contributed more than one percent of the total number of e-sessions, there are sixteen Regional Centres with the highest contribution by Delhi-2 i.e. 30.65 percent and the lowest being 1.12 percent by RC Mumbai. The cumulative contribution of these 16 RCs has been found to be 85.63 percent.

Remaining 40 Regional Centres are such that have contributed less than one percent towards total number of e-counseling sessions during the lockdown period and the cumulative percent contribution of such 40 RCs towards total number of e-sessions has been found to be 14.37 percent.

Percent Contribution of Regional Centres towards total no. of Counseling Sessions conducted during Lockdown Period



On analysis of the zone-wise status of the Regional Centres in terms of number and percent of web counseling sessions organized during the lockdown period as shown in Fig. 9 and 10, it has been found that the RCs of North Zone (14 RCs) have conducted the highest number of sessions i.e. 24396 e-sessions which is 68.7 percent of the total number. It is followed by East Zone which comprises of 12 RCs and has organized 6169 e-counseling sessions (17.37 percent) which is far behind the North Zone. Next to the East Zone in terms of e-counseling sessions is South Zone with 11 RCs (2338, 6.58 percent), which is closely followed by West Zone having 10 RCs (2096, 5.90 percent) and the last being North-East Zone comprising of 9 RCs that has made a contribution of 514 e-counseling sessions i.e. 1.45 percent of the total e-counseling sessions conducted by RCs across the country during the lockdown period till 31st July, 2020.



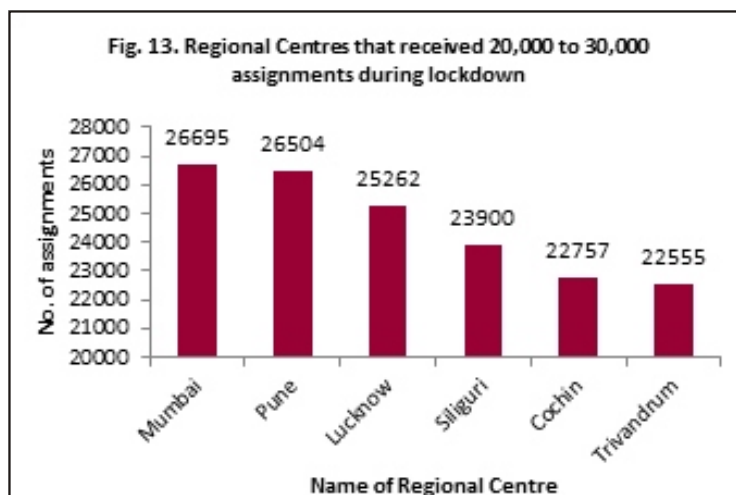
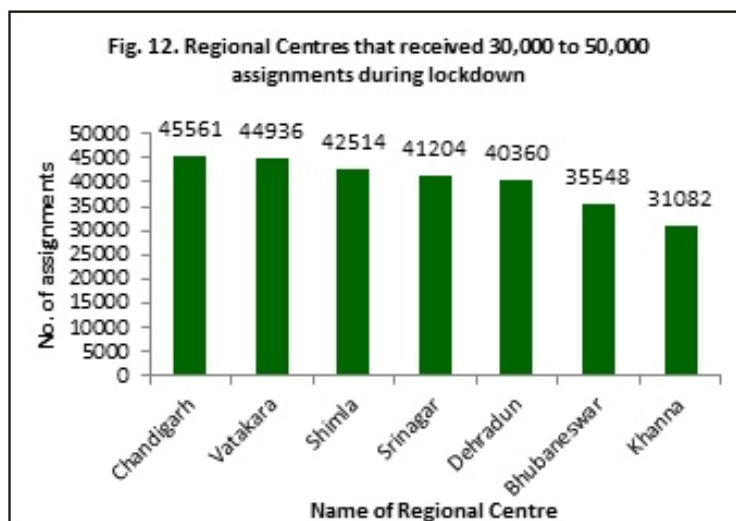
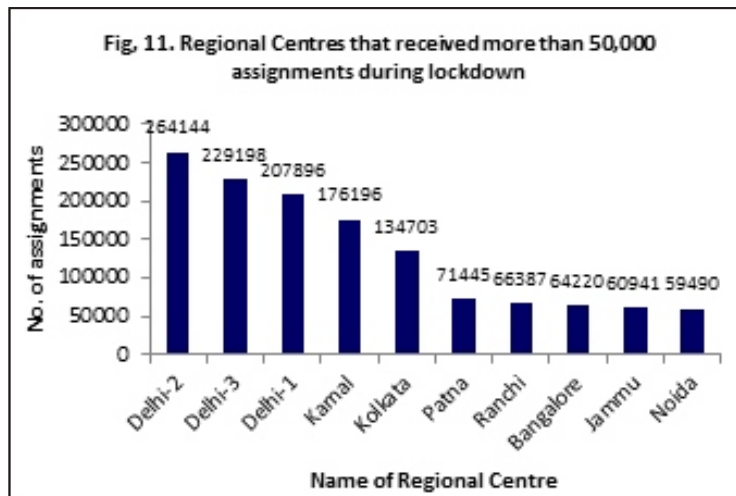
On the basis of the number of assignments received during the lockdown period, Regional Centres (RCs) have been categorized into six groups as depicted through Fig. 11 to 16. The first category consists of 10 RCs which have received more than 50000 assignments (Fig. 11). The RC that has received the highest number of assignments has been found to be Delhi-2 with more than 2.64 lakh assignments received till 31st July, 2020 followed very closely by Delhi-3 and Delhi-1 with 2.29 lakh and 2.08 lakh, respectively. The RCs that fall in the range of 1 to 2 lakh assignments are Karnal (1.76 lakh) and Kolkata (1.35 lakh). Remaining five RCs in this category i.e. Patna, Ranchi, Bangalore, Jammu and Noida have received 0.71, 0.66, 0.64, 0.61 and 0.59 lakh assignments, respectively.

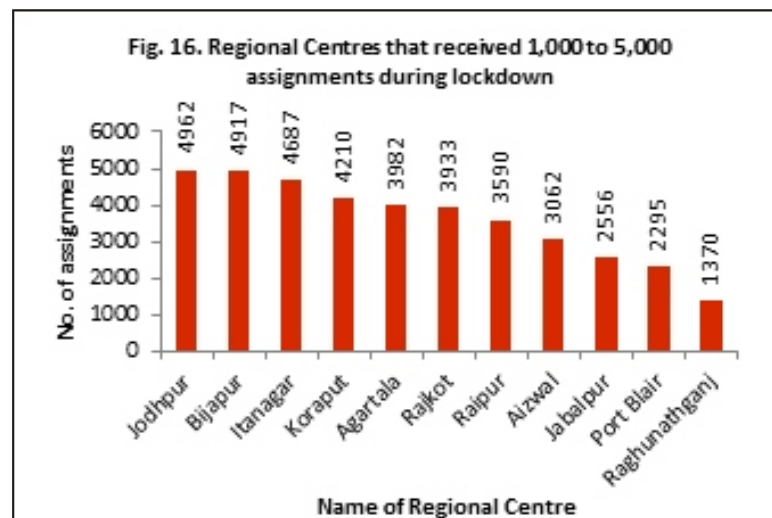
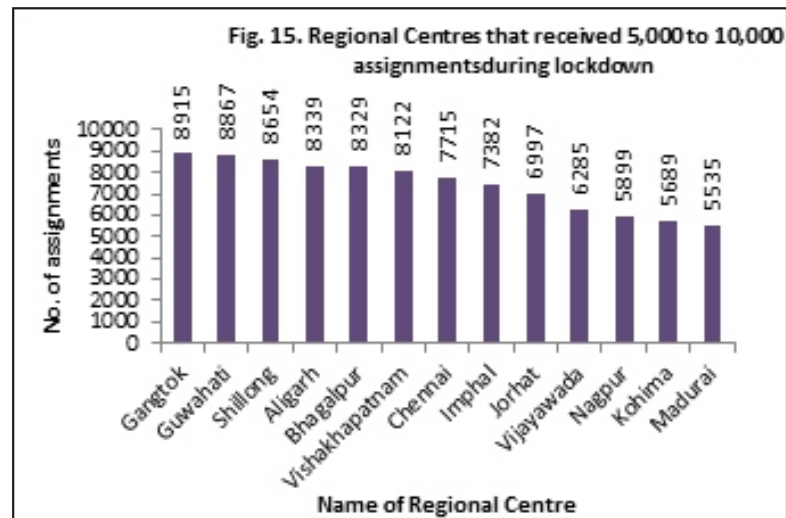
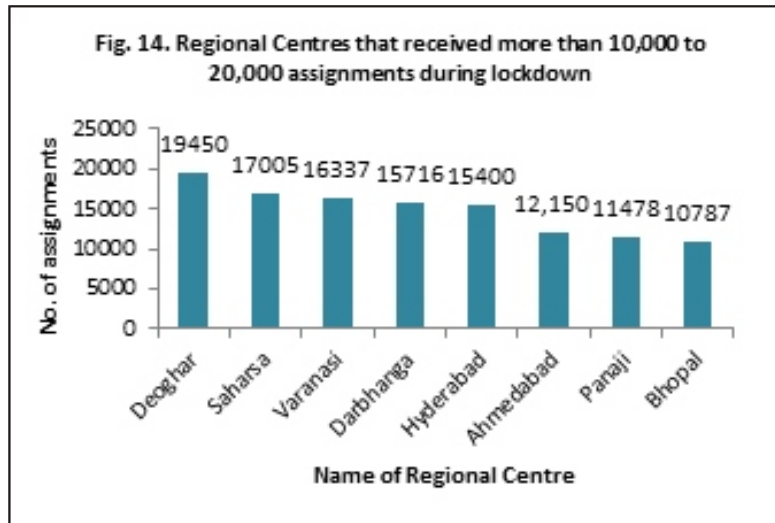
The second category is that of the RCs which have received 30000 to 50000 assignments and there are seven RCs falling under this category with Chandigarh being the one with the maximum number of received assignments i.e. approximately 45.6 thousand followed closely by Vatakara, Shimla, Srinagar and Dehradun (Fig. 12). Two RCs in this category namely Bhubaneswar and Khanna have received less than 40 thousand assignments i.e. 35.5 and 31 thousand, respectively. Next to this category is that of the RCs with 20000 to 30000 assignments received during the lockdown period and the number of RCs pertaining to this category is six, which is led by Mumbai with 26.7 thousand assignments followed very closely by Pune (26.5 thousand) and Luckow (25.3 thousand) (Fig. 13). These RCs are followed by Siliguri, Cochin and Trivandrum.

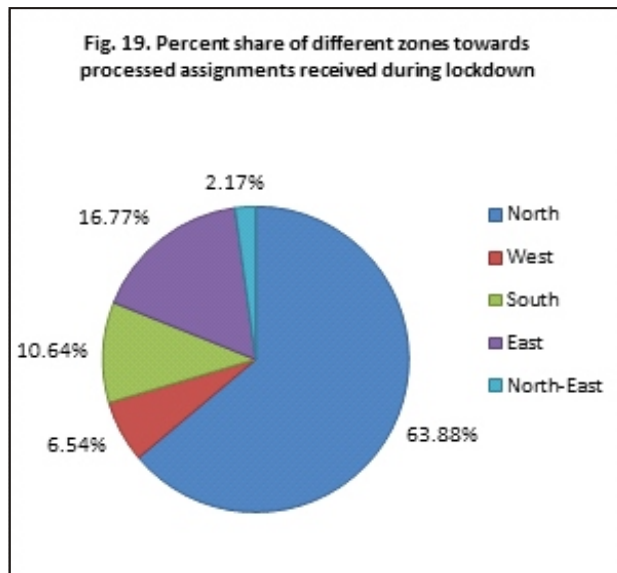
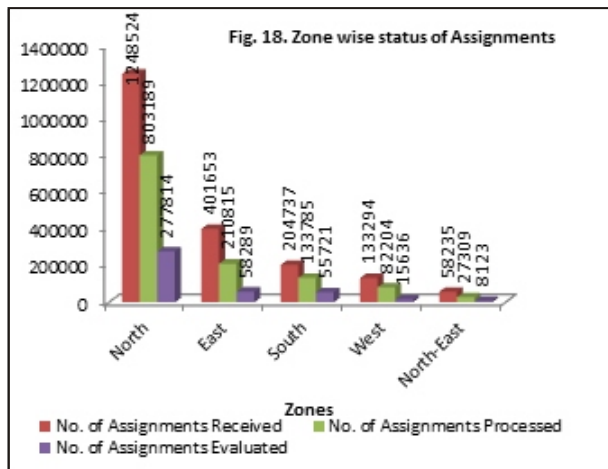
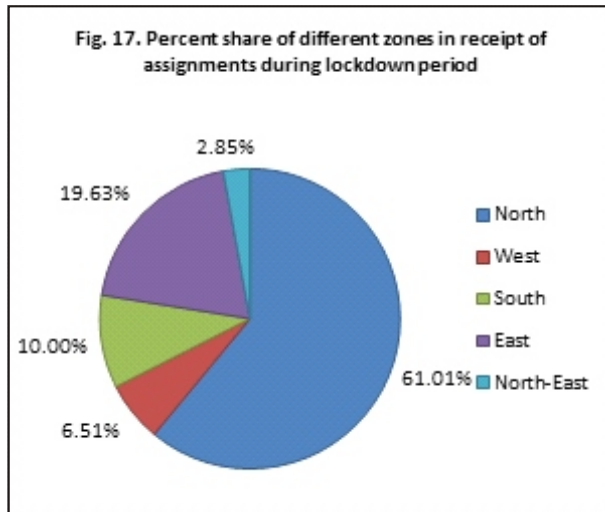
The fourth category of RCs is that of the ones with the receipt of 10000 to 20000 assignments and this category comprises of eight RCs (Fig. 14). In this category, Deoghar is the Regional Centre that has received the maximum number of assignments i.e. 19.5 thousand. The RC under this category with the least number of received assignments is Bhopal with 10.8 thousand.

Fifth in the sequence are the RCs that have received 5000 to 10000 assignments and there are 13 RCs in this group with Gangtok as the one with highest number of received assignments i.e. 8915 and Madurai being the one with the lowest number i.e. 5535 (Fig. 15). The last category is that of such 11 RCs where the number of received assignments during the lockdown period till 31st July, 2020 has been found to be between 1000 and 5000 only (Fig. 16). Amongst all the 56 RCs spread across the country, Raghunathganj is the one where minimum number of assignments (1370) have been received.

Assignments received during the lock down period







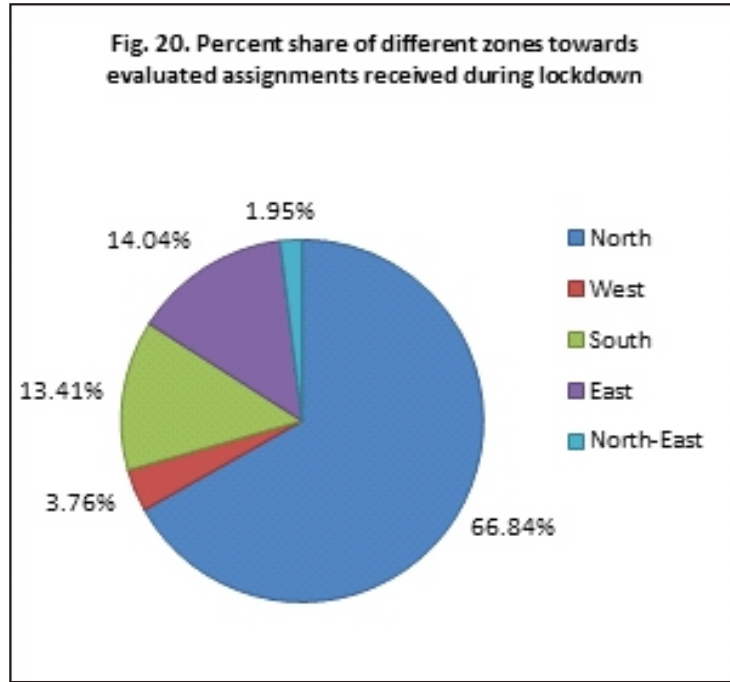


Table-1 : Zone wise Details of ICT Enabled/Online Learner Support Measures Adopted as on 31.07.2020

Sr. No.	Name	No of E-counselling organised	Percentage Share of RC in total	No of assignment Submitted	%
1.	North Zone	24396	68.70	1248524	61.000
2.	West Zone	2096	05.90	133294	06.51
3.	South Zone	2338	06.60	204737	10.00
4.	East Zone	6169	17.36	401653	19.64
5.	North East Zone	514	01.44	58235	02.85
Total		35513	100.00	2046443	100.00

Looking at the zone wise status of assignments received, it is evident from Fig. 17 and 18, and Table 1 that the Regional Centres of North Zone have received the highest number and percentage of assignments during the lockdown period with the number being 1248524 which is 61.01 percent of the total assignments received by 56 Regional Centres. Next to the North Zone is East Zone in terms of receipt of assignments i.e. 401653 in number and 19.63 in percent. It is followed by South (204737, 10 percent), West (133294, 6.51 percent) and North-East (58235, 2.85 percent) zones, respectively.

It can also be seen from Fig. 18 that the zone wise patterns of assignments processed and evaluated are similar to that of the receipt of assignments i.e. North Zone is followed by East, South, West and North-East Zones respectively in terms of processing and evaluation of assignments received during the lockdown period (Fig. 19 and 20, Table-1).

It is interesting to note that the zone wise trend of receipt of assignments is also similar to the zone wise conduct of e-counseling sessions (Table-1).

6. Challenges of Covid-19 for Higher Education

COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge for the educators for imparting the education not only in India but also across the world. The University Grant Commission (UGC), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India now renamed as Ministry of Education and many state governments have issued the notifications for using online education rather than conventional and face to face contact sessions. As per the directives of MHRD, all State and Central Universities have directed to its constituents colleges and institutions to cease face-to-face instruction to the students and requiring them to switch to online teaching and e-learning. In mid of March 2020, the Central government declared the nationwide lockdown of all establishments and services including educational institutions. As per the directions of the MHRD, Government of India has issued the circular for closing the schools and colleges temporarily as a measure to contain the spread of the novel corona virus. The higher educational institutions have been reflecting on the ways and means of continuing the education through alternative methods. It has been a critical period for the education system to conduct the entrance tests of various Universities. The teaching/learning, including assessment methodologies have been badly affected due to the closure of colleges and institutes of higher learning. Only a few Higher education institutions including Open Universities could adopt online and e-learning teaching/learning methods. Some private and government schools where there is a scarcity of funds on the other hand, have entirely shut down for not having access to e-learning resources and infrastructure. The enrolled students of such institutions have missed the opportunities for learning through online mode. The pandemic has extensively interrupted the higher education system. India is the second largest country of the world

following China where a large number of students are enrolled in higher education. Out of them a significant number of the students are studying in the countries which are adversely affected by the pandemic. If the condition of pandemic continues in long run, it will be seen that there will be extreme decline in the international higher education.

- It is a critical period for the education system to conduct face to face teaching sessions, examinations and conduct of entrance tests for admission in various Universities.
- The teaching/learning, including assessment methodologies have been adversely impacted due to the closure of colleges and institutes of higher learning.
- Only a few Higher education institutions including Open Universities could adopt online and e-learning teaching/learning methods.

But on the other hand the Online Education has some limitations and constraints as well.

- Online courses require more time than on-campus classes.
- Online courses require good time-management skills.
- Online courses have complete dependency on technology and internet .
- Online Courses require the good infrastructure like computer, smart phone with internet connectivity
- Such infrastructure is not adequately available in rural, remote and far flung areas.
- The teachers and students are not adequately friendly with online education.
- Online course may create a sense of isolation as there is no opportunity for learners to interact face to face with peer group.

7. Conclusion and Suggestions

The discussion and results analysis in the foregoing pages of the data of the ICT-enabled learner support - e-Counselling and online submission of assignments by IGNOU learners during Covid-19 as well as survey findings are indicative of the emerging trends in the digital teaching-learning propelled by the pandemic situation. The sheer nationwide volume of the online sessions

conducted (35513) and online assignments submitted (2046443) during the period under review points to the growing acceptance of adopting ICT tools in education among both teachers (Academic Counsellors) and the learners. The role of Academic Counsellor as facilitator of learning in ODL has got reinforced through the online teaching platforms. As revealed from survey findings the initial hitches and adjustment issues of the teachers as well as learners towards adopting the online mode has given way to gradual popularisation and acceptance of this shift in paradigm from face-to-face classroom teaching-learning to technology-mediated learning. Further the regular updates of nationwide Counselling schedules of Regional Centres on the Facebook page and Twitter account of IGNOU Hqrs have enabled learners from various parts of the country to attend e-Counselling sessions pertaining to their courses at any Regional Centre/Learner Support Centre across the country. This has resulted in a broadening of horizon and reach of learners as well as Academic Counsellors in collaboration and sharing of educational resources. This collaboration has also fostered the creation of a community of inquiry framework in technology-mediated learning which highlights social presence, teaching presence and cognitive presence as key elements in facilitating successful educational experiences in online distance learning environments (Bektashi, 2018).

The data used in the study pertains to online Counselling and assignments submission of one million-odd learners registered in July 2019 and January 2020 sessions of the University. The patterns observed in participation in e-Counselling and online submission of assignments in different regions of India as reflected in the results can be attributed to various factors. Firstly, it is the enrolment factor which is highest in the northern region followed by eastern region as compared to other regions of the country. The shifting graph of Corona in different parts of the country has also impacted the levels of participation. The local factors such as floods in some states as well as other socio-economic factors such as the availability of the basic wherewithal for online education - mobile phones, computers etc. with the teachers as well as learners have also impacted upon the conduct and participation level of e-Counselling in many states during lockdown period. Above all, it is the connectivity factor which has contributed to the successful, moderately successful or limited participation in online Counselling in different regions as is evident

from the various tables and graphs in this study. These challenges in the online education have been discussed in detail. The overall inferences drawn from this study while on the one hand establish adoption of ICT tools in teaching-learning as a distinct feature which shall endure in the ODL, on the other hand make a strong case for hybrid or blended learning wherein online education practices during Covid-19 will contribute significantly to the future educational scenario along with face-to-face teaching-learning. The blended learning model shall overcome some of the limitations of online education and invariably strengthen the new role of teacher as facilitator of learning. It will also address the issues of equity, access, learning styles of learners as well as technology integration in the Indian context.

References

- Annual Report 2018-19*, IGNOU.
- Bektashi, L., *Community of Inquiry Framework in Online Learning : Use of Technology in Technology and the Curriculum Summer 2018*, Ontario <https://techandcurriculum.pressbooks.com/chapter/coi-and-online-learning/> accessed 2/9/20
- Diksha platform for School education*, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) <https://www.diksha.gov.in>
- Global Education Monitoring Report 2020* UNESCO <https://en.unesco.org/news/global-education-monitoring-gem-report-2020> accessed 31/8/20.
- IGNOU Facebook*
- IGNOU Twitter*
- Kanwar, Asha & Daniel, John, *From Response to Resilience Report to Commonwealth Education Ministers June 2020* <http://oasis.col.org/handle/11599/3592> accessed 6/9/20
- National Education Policy 2020*, GOI. https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English.pdf accessed on 30/8/20
Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of Education renamed as Ministry of Education.
- Nishtha Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, renamed as Ministry of Education <https://itpd.ncert.gov.in/>
- PRAGYATA Guidelines for Digital Education*, Department of School Education & literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development Government of India renamed as Ministry of Education.
- Weekly Action Taken Report of IGNOU RSD* as on 31.07.2020. ★

Applying Marxist Perspective on Particular Social Institutions and Processes in the Context of Nepal

Bilakshan Kasula*

The main purpose of this study is to concentrate on the discourse of applying Marxist perspective on particular social institutions and processes in the context of Nepal. To fulfill the goal, this paper has divided into different sections. It begins with the introduction, main premises, logic, and arguments of the Marxist perspective. Moreover, the focus is also given to explain and illustrate how that perspective can be applied to explain phenomena from Nepalese society with concrete examples of social institutions and processes. So, the body part of this paper tries to link Marxist perspective particularly on social institutions like marriage and family, and social process like birth rate. Finally, the recapitulation section of the paper presents the overall argument of the whole paper.

[**Keywords** : Marxist perspective, Nepali society, Marriage, Family, Fertility rate]

* Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur (Nepal) E-mail: <okasulaaditriya@gmail.com>

1. Introduction

Marxist perspective originally is related to the philosophy and ideas of the prominent German philosophers Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. It has often been said that the Marx fashioned his doctrine out of three major elements: German idealism, especially in its Hegelian version, French socialist tradition, and British political economy. Though not incorrect, this is hardly the whole truth. In fact, other streams of thought, primarily the German and French Enlightenment, were equally important to him. The genesis of this perspective is based on the inversion of German idealism, particularly the idealistic conception of the German philosopher G. F. Hegel. Moreover, by distinguishing itself from Feuerbach's materialism, the Marxist perspective depicts that Feuerbach's materialism is abstract, which only posits "'man' instead of real 'historical man'" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 39). Unlike Hegel and Feuerbach, the Marxist perspective neither accepts any forms of idealistic conceptions nor follows the "abstract" materialism rather it treats the phenomena with their own historical specificity.

Marxist perspective believes that society comprised a moving balance of antithetical forces that generate social change and transformation in a progressive way. Basically, such progressive epochs in the economic formation of society can be designated as Asiatic, ancient, feudal and capitalist modes of production (Marx & Engels, 1845-46). According to the Marx, the motivating force in history was the manner in which men relate to one another in their continuous struggle to extract their livelihood from nature. Therefore, for Marxist perspective "the first premise of all human history is, of course, the existence of living human individuals" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 31).

The second premise is that "the satisfaction of the first need, the action of satisfying and the instrument of satisfaction which has been acquired, leads to new needs; and this creation of new needs is the first historical act" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 43). In other words, the production of material life itself was the first historical act and a fundamental condition of all history. The continuous quest for sufficiency in eating, drinking, habitation, and clothing were man's primary goals at the beginning of the race as is even found in the complex anatomy of modern society. In the effort to fulfill basic needs, people engage in antagonistic cooperation as soon as they leave the

primitive communal stage of development. Moreover, as soon as a division of labour emerges in human society, that division leads to the formation of antagonistic classes as the prime actors in the historical drama. According to the materialist conception of history, the ultimately determining element in history is the production and reproduction of real life. More than this neither Marx nor I have ever asserted. Hence if somebody twists this into saying that the economic element is the only determining one, he transforms that proposition into meaningless, abstract, senseless phrase (Engels, 1890-94).

Marxist perspective believes that all social relations between men and the systems of ideas are specifically rooted in historically distinctive periods. So, ideas and categories are no more eternal than relations which they express. They are historical and transitory products (Coser, 2002). Historical specificity is the hallmark of Marx's approach. This means that all previous historical periods were marked by class struggles and these class struggles differed according to historical stages. Unlike Hegel, Marx took as his point of departure the evolution in man's material conditions. For Marx, neither the change of social systems could be explained by extra-social factors such as geography or climate nor can such change be explained by reference to the emergence of novel ideas. Moreover, ideas themselves are not prime movers but are the reflection of the material interests of men in their dealing with others.

According to Marx, "the ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas: i.e., the class which is the ruling material force of society is at the same time its ruling intellectual force" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 59). In other words, the class which has the control of means of material production at the same time has control over the means of mental production too.

Marx adopted the dialectical mode of logic from Hegel. However, whereas Hegel focused on dialectic of ideas, Marx tried to embed his dialectical approach in the material world. As a dialectical thinker, Marx was interested in the structures of society and the actors within society, as well as with the dialectical relationships between actors and the social structures. But the dialectical method is even more complex than this because the dialectician considers past, present, and future circumstances, and this applies to both actors and structures (Ritzer, 1992). Marx was adapted to the ongoing interplay among the major levels of social analysis. The heart of Marx's thought

lies in the relationship between people and the large-scale structures they create.

Marxist perspective does not rest on the arbitrary premises, dogmas, and imaginary abstraction rather is based on the real individuals, their activity and the material bases under which they live. The premises it follows can be verified in a purely empirical way. In direct contrast to idealism, materialism believes that morality, religion, metaphysics, all the rest of ideology, and their corresponding forms of consciousness do not retain the semblance of independence (Marx & Engels, 1845-46. It views that "life is not determined by consciousness rather than vice-versa" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 37). In other word, the mode of production of material life conditions the other aspects of social, political and intellectual entities of life. One of the gist points of the Marxist perspective is that "circumstances make men just as much as men make circumstances" (Marx & Engels, 1845-46 : 54). Therefore, to interpret the different facets of Nepalese society from the angle of materialistic perspective focus should be given to the material bases or conditions of the society under which they prevailed.

2. Marriage in Changing Mode of Production

We can take some examples of social institutions and processes to apply the Marxist perspective in Nepalese society. Let us consider marriage. There are/were different forms of marriage that existed in the long history of Nepalese society. Broadly, among them, captured marriage, polygamy, polyandry, child, widowhood, and monogamy are/were dominant forms. These different forms of marriage can be analyzed by linking with a specific mode of production or material existence. In recent decades, arranged and love marriage is in practice in Nepalese society. Moreover, in recent years the form of love marriage is increasingly dominant one. It is because this form of marriage is compatible with the capitalist mode of production.

The nature of Nepalese society/economy is primarily capitalist now (Mishra, 2007). In a capitalist society, marriage as a social institution is transformed or modified and adapted to the exigencies of the capitalist frame or mode of production. When Nepal was primarily a feudal form of production arranged marriage was dominant. In the feudal form of production, land was the main means of production. Traditional agriculture had a major form of subsistence. Individual mobility was very low. Individuals were

more dependent on parental property. Such a material condition had favored and sustained arranged marriage. In an arranged marriage, parental consent was obligatory. Moreover, marriages become possible between landlord family with landlord and peasants with peasants. No one of the landlord family could ready to marry their sons and daughters with the sons and daughters of peasants. The fear of the fragmentation of land could be the responsible factor to sustain arranged marriage in a feudal form of ownership.

Unlike the feudal form of ownership, in the capitalist form people left farms for industrial occupation. Industries or factories became the major means of production. Parental property is no more valuable for their children than in the form of feudal society. Factors like separate occupation, individual freedom, self-reliance, and self-responsibility create a situation that is compatible to love marriage. Thus, the ownership of the means of production, the nature of the society, and the material conditions are prime forces responsible to create and sustain the specific forms of marriage.

3. Formation of Family in Changing Material Condition

Let us take the formation of a family in Nepal. Family defines rights and obligations that the members of the group have to one another, both economically and socially. Broadly, there are two major types of family in Nepalese society. One is a nuclear family comprised of married partners and their offspring. Another is extended or joint family which comprised at least three generations: grandparents, married offspring, and grandchildren. What constitutes a family varies depending on a variety of factors including subsistence practices, economic behaviors, and mode of production. The joint family is compatible with material conditions that prevailed in the feudal mode of production. But, the nuclear family is common to be found in the capitalist mode of production.

In the context of Nepal, if we go back at least three generations we found joint families with more than thirty members. Moreover, this was more common in Tharu community in Tarai but equally applicable to almost all caste and ethnic people in Nepal. In the past, Tharu people normally had an extended family system, with up to a hundred members in a family (Khadka, 2016). There were different material conditions responsible to the formation of extended family. First, it had only been possible to sustain such a large family that the housed hold head himself used to be a feudal or landlord. The

Landlord needed a lot of labourers which was possible within the family if the size of the family is large. Second, to fulfill the need for labourers, the priority of the landlord used to be the family of a tenant with large members which was not possible by the members of a small family. Therefore, in such a situation both landlord and tenant had to need a large family which ultimately had created the basis of joint or extended family in feudalism.

But, this situation is changed with the onset of the capitalist mode of production. The land is no more remain the main means of production as in feudalism had. Industries and factories became the major means of production. On the one hand, with the creation of different jobs in factories, people left agricultural works for industrial occupations. On the other hand, industrial occupations have created the situation of individuals' mobility far from their birthplace. Moreover, income opportunities have made the individuals self-dependent and end the family restrictions as found in an extended family in feudalism. In such a material condition things like individual freedom, independence, and individual choices have prevailed which ultimately created the basis of the nuclear family in all Nepalese caste and ethnic groups including the Tharu people.

4. Changing Mode of Production and Fertility Rate

Let me consider the example of the fertility rate in the context of Nepal. In recent five decades, the fertility rate in Nepal is gradually or in some sense intensely decreasing. The fertility rate for Nepal in 1950 was 5.959 births per woman. For 1980, 1990, and 2000 the fertility rate was 5.725, 5.185, and 4.039 births respectively. But the current fertility rate for Nepal in 2020 is 1.880 births per woman (United Nations, 2020).

Table-1 : Nepal - Historical Fertility Rate Data

S. No.	Year	Fertility Rate
1.	1950	5.959
2.	1980	5.725
3.	1990	5.185
4.	2000	4.039
5.	2020	1.880

Source : United Nations, 2020

The above table shows that the fertility rate in Nepal is decreasing since 1950 but in the recent few decades, the decreasing rate is very intensive. The question raised here is why the fertility rate in Nepal is intensively decreasing in the last decades? What are the things that interfere with these biological processes? Are today's women anatomically weak than the women in previous periods? Whereas the life expectancy for Nepal in 1950 was 34.20 years and the current life expectancy for Nepal in 2020 is 70.88 years (United Nations, 2020).

Some people argue that this is because the government announces the policy of "sano parivar sukhi parivar". Others believe that it is due to the provision of family planning. Moreover, few others believe that the main factors for decreasing fertility rate are literacy, income, etc. Of course! These are the factors responsible for decreasing the fertility rate in Nepal but they are not the major ones. Marxist perspective believes that to interpret for such a situation focus should be given to the material bases of the society under which they live. The ownership of the means of production, the nature of the society, and the material conditions are prime forces responsible for decreasing the fertility rate.

The major cause for the decreasing fertility rate in Nepal is the transformation of the feudalistic mode of production into capitalist ones. Basically, last four to five decades people began to move as foreign employees in different countries in general, and the gulf and Malaysia in particular. This trend has become more intensive in recent years. A large number of people of their reproductive age left the country for foreign employment. Almost each and every family in the countryside either husband or wife or both has gone for foreign employment. This situation creates the context that now husband and wife have no opportunity to live together in twenty-four by seven as in the agricultural or feudalist mode of production had. On the one hand, in an agricultural society, the husband and wife live together for almost all the time and which was favorable for reproduction. On the other, in agricultural society due to the manual labour high fertility rate had mattered. But in capitalist or industrial society people become busy with their job and such a busy schedule do not create the situation for husband and wife to be live together. Therefore, this busy schedule definitely brings restriction on birth rate. The same material conditions can be found in the decreasing fertility rate in recent years in Nepal.

5. Conclusion

Marxist perspective believes that to understand or interpret contemporary phenomena like social institutions and processes their historical and material roots should be studied. This is only possible when the focus is given on the transformation from one mode of production to another mode of production. In recent decades in Nepalese history, there are different forms of social institutions and processes that came into existence, sustained, and changed. In the feudal mode of production, institutions like marriage and family were in arranged and extended forms. But, with the transformation of the feudal mode of production into the capitalist ones the form of marriage and family also transformed into love and the nuclear family. Similarly, even the biological-looking process of birth rate changed with the transformation of feudal to capitalist modes in Nepal. The transformation of these social institutions and process was not due to an extra-human agency or other consciousness, ideas, a supernatural entity, and so on rather was very material conditions that prevailed.

References

- Coser, L. A., *Master of Sociological Thought* (2nd ed.), Jaipur : Rawat Publications, 2002.39-78.
- Engles. F., *Letters on Historical Materialism*, Moscow : Progress Publishers, 1890-1894.
- Khadka, N. B., *Tharu Barghar-Mukhiya Indigenous Model : A Case Study of Tharu Community of Nepal*, An unpublished dissertation presented to the college of arts, humanities, and social sciences of Nova Southeastern University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy at Nova Southeastern University, 2016.
- Marx, K. & Engels, F., *The German Ideology : Critique of Modern German Philosophy according to its representatives Feuerbach, B. Bauer and Stirner, and of German Socialism according to its various prophets*, The Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. in Marx/Engels, Gesamtausgabe, Erste Abteilung, 1845-1846.
- Mishra, C., *Essays on the Sociology of Nepal*, Fine Print, 2007.
- Ritzer, G., *Sociological Theory* (3rd ed.), New York : McGraw-Hill,1992.
- United Nations, "Nepal fertility rate 1950-2020", *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, 2020. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NPL/nepal/fertility-rate>'>Nepal Fertility Rate 1950-2020.
- United Nations, "Nepal life expectancy 1950-2020", *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, 2020. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/NPL/nepal/life-expectancy>'>Nepal Life Expectancy 1950-2020. ★

Constitutional Proclamations pertaining to the Welfare of the Informal Sector Workers in India

*Dipa Gautalair**

The informal sector comprises of workers who are vulnerable, oppressed and socially and economically exploited. The nature of the work makes the workers to toil day and night in order to secure their livelihood under exploited conditions of employment which include more number of hours of work, lack of basic amenities such as facilities for drinking water, leisure, rest rooms and weekly rest. In the developing economy of the State like India with large informal segment of labour force, the State is required to strictly adhere to the ideologies of social-economic justice enshrined in the Constitution of India in order to ensure welfare of the informal workers. Hence, this paper is an attempt to analyze the concept of welfare and identify welfare provisions as enumerated in the Indian Constitution which are more relevantly pertaining to the informal sector workers with the help of judicial pronouncements.

[Keywords : Welfare, Social justice, Constitution of India and Informal sector workers]

* Research Scholar, P. G. Department of Studies in Law, Karnatak University, Dharwad-580003, Karnataka (India) E-mail: <dipag1987@gmail.com>

**CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January-March), 2021
Peer Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed International Research Journal**

1. Introduction

India is the second largest populous country in the World with an estimated labour force enumerating 3.492 billion persons.¹ Overall the labour force has increased from around 2.322 billion in the year 1990 to 3.492 billion by the year 2020.² There is tremendous expansion of labour force in India in 30 years. In this humongous size of the labour force 80.8 per cent of the work force belongs to informal sector.³ The era of Globalization and urbanization has contributed to the remarkable growth of informal sector and informal workers. The process of globalization lead to the integration of the domestic market with the larger world market this resulted in system of outsourcing and sub-contracting of the workers as an alternative to the full-time employees to perform certain jobs such as cleaning, catering and watch and ward. These workers fall under the category of casual workers and are excluded from the definition of “worker” or “workman” and thus fail to comply with the requisite minimum eligibility period for securing social security benefit as a result although they have become part of larger world market but have become vulnerable due to the of absence of protections or security in their work as they do not fall under the direct contract of employment.⁴ Hence, the transitional direction is not from informal to formal but it is from formal to informal.

The informal sector comprises of workers who are skilled, semiskilled and unskilled, illiterate, vulnerable, oppressed, socially and economically exploited. The nature of the work makes workers to toil day and night in order to secure their livelihood under exploited conditions of employment which include more number of hours of work, lack of basic amenities such as facilities for drinking water, leisure, rest, rest rooms and weekly rest. Hence, in the developing economy of the State with large informal segment of labour force, the State is required to strictly adhere to the ideologies of social-economic justice enshrined in the Constitution of India in order to ensure welfare of the informal workers.⁵ Therefore, the purpose of this research paper is to discuss and identify the relevant provisions under the Constitution of India ensuring welfare to the workers of the informal sector in the light of judicial pronouncements.

2. The Informal Sector Workers : Definition and Characteristics

The Second National Commission on Labour in its Report (2002) defined Informal Sector as “The term ‘informal’ per se, denotes the informal nature of work in the activity concerned, irrespective of the actual number of workers employed, and irrespective of whether it is within the purview of the requirements for registration.”⁶

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) in its Report (2007) (hereinafter referred as ‘the Commission’) defined informal sector workers as “all those who are working in the unorganized sector and the workers employed without any employment security and social security to be provided by the employers.”⁷ Further, the Commission has identified certain characteristics of the informal sector, firstly, absence of employment security i.e. there is no safeguard against arbitrary dismissal; secondly, lack of work security i.e. there is no protection against illness and accidents at the place of work; and thirdly, absence of social security such as health care, maternity benefits employment injury benefits, invalidity and pension benefits etc.⁸ The presence of any one or more these characteristics in an employment can be identified as informal sector.

3. The Concept of Welfare under the Constitution of India

The concept of welfare suggests the state of well-being and wholesomeness of a mankind. The workers in India are protected under various ideologies enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution namely, socialist (socialism) and justice - social and economic. The idea of welfare has been embodied in various provisions of the Indian Constitution. There are implicit and explicit welfare obligations on part of the State in the Constitution. The Preamble embodies the ideals and philosophy of Social and Economic Justice in order to involve State in social welfare activity actively.

In India, workers are protected under the socialist⁹ ideology which envisages providing social and economic justice for its

citizens. The object of the Indian conception of socialism with democratic governance is to promote life with human dignity by creating opportunities for the development of each individual.¹⁰ Social justice ensures the maintaining balance between individual's right and social control. It involves in ensuring the accomplishment of the legitimate expectations of an individual under the existing law of the land and also ensuring the benefits there under and further, guarantying the reasonable protection for the encroachment or violation of the right conferred under the law of the land.¹¹

The concept of social justice is said to be a very wide term covering within its sphere everything ranging from the general interests of the minorities to the eradication of poverty and illiteracy. It is not just related to the observation of the principle of equality before law and the independence of judiciary but also related to the eradication of massive social evils like pauperism, unemployment and starvation and focus on the welfare of the people at large.¹² Economic justice indicates absence of discrimination among the people on the basis of economic factors. It means observing equality principle of reward of equal pay. As observed by Lownstein the economic justice will be of no value if the Constitution does not promise 'bread and economic security the man yearns for'.¹³

Hence, the social and the economic justice demands employment, substantial minimum wage in accordance with prevailing law on Minimum Wages, co-operation and harmony between labour and the capital, just and human conditions of employment and other incidental benefits with an object to improve the standard of living of the labour and people in general of the country.

The concept of welfare in the matter of labour indicates faring and doing well for a labour community. Welfare is a broad concept when it comes to the workers, "it connotes a condition of well-being, happiness, satisfaction, conservation and development of human resources".¹⁴ It is "the process of improving the health, safety, general well-being and the development of skills and efficiency of the workers than the minimum set standards".¹⁵ Labour welfare includes all those facilities that has been enumerated by the ILO in its Resolution of 1947 which has been cited by the Committee on Labour Welfare, "such facilities and amenities as adequate canteens, rest and

recreation facilities, sanitary and medical facilities arrangements for travel to and from and for accommodation of workers employed at a distance from their homes, and such other services, amenities and facilities including social security measures as contribute to conditions under which workers are employed.”¹⁶

4. Welfare Provisions relating to Informal Sector Workers under the Constitution of India

The protection afforded and welfare measures guaranteed to the labour in the Constitution of India is the basis of labour jurisprudence in India. Directive Principles of State Policy and the ideologies in the Preamble promote socio-economic justice and welfare of the workers of informal sector. This is necessary to make their life meaningful and enable them to live with human dignity. The principles of Policy have been set forth in Part IV of the Constitution for the guidance of the State in promoting welfare of the people.¹⁷

The State can promote the welfare and secure social order by cherishing the ideologies of Social, economic and political justice.¹⁸ The Apex Court in the case of *Consumer Education and Research Centre v. Union of India*¹⁹, expanding the theme of social justice under Article 38 of the Constitution concluded that provision of medical aid is essential to ensure life of the workman meaningful, purposeful and dignified. The State is bound to provide opportunities and facilities to ensure the growth of children in a healthy manner and to protect youth from exploitation.²⁰ Therefore the Supreme Court directed the State to employ every adult member of the house in a mine, factory or in any hazardous employment.²¹

The State is required to secure the health and strength of workers and protect from abuse of the same due to economic necessity under Article 39(e) of the Constitution. In *CESE Ltd. v. Subhash Chandra Bose*²², the Supreme Court held that, health and strength of the workers is integral part of right to life. Under Article 39(d) the State has to ensure equal pay for equal work for men and women as a result the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 has been enacted by the Parliament to implement Article 39(d). Under the Act the provision has been made for payment of equal remuneration to women and men for the same work or work of similar nature. The

principle of “equal pay for equal work” under Article 39(d) has assumed the status of Fundamental Right having regard to the equality principle in Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution.²³ The Act is equally applicable to informal sector workers. In *Daily RC Labour, P and T Dept. v. Union of India*²⁴ the apex Court held that, the state cannot deny the minimum pay in pay scales to casual labourers and such denial amounts to exploitation of labour.

Article 42 of the Constitution requires the State to secure just and humane conditions of work and maternity benefits. Further, Article 43 requires the State to endeavour to secure work, a living wage, and conditions of work to all the workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, by suitable legislation or economic organization in order to ensure a decent standard of life and employment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities. ‘Conditions of Employment’ is a significant aspect in the contract of employment as it covers the whole aspects of terms and conditions of employment namely the tenure, wages, hours of work, leave, holidays, rest, over time wages and other social security and welfare amenities. In the industrialized employment the right to decent working conditions is the outcome of the right to work and the right to adequate wages.²⁵ This right enables a worker as said by H. J. Laski in his book entitled ‘An Introduction to Politics’, “towards attaining significance for himself beyond then getting of his livelihood”²⁶. Hence, reasonable working hours, holidays with pay, rest and leisure, and some other necessary facilities are important elements for living a decent life in a society. Apart from above significance of leisure which reduces fatigue, it aids in maintaining good health and further leading to development of individual’s personality.²⁷ In *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India*²⁸ the Supreme Court held that, right to live with human dignity read in Article 21 of the Constitution derives its life breath from the Directive Principles of State Policy and particularly from Articles 39 clause (e) and (f) and Articles 41 and 42 of the Constitution.

5. Conclusion

The Directive Principles of State Policy run as subsidiary to the Fundamental Rights²⁹ under Part III of the Constitution. The Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV of the Constitution also

indicate the basic principles of governance. The above discussed Articles clearly demonstrate that the aim of a welfare State in securing the social justice and social welfare to the working class has been achieved. Article enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution aid the State in achieving Social and Economic Justice promised in the Preamble to the Constitution by working for the promotion of the welfare of the people. Provision for living wage for workers, just and humane conditions of work, raising the level of nutrition, standard of living and improvement of health of workers etc., are specific duties imposed on the State to formulate its policy of governance which in turn promote the concept of social justice. Article 37 lays down that the Directive Principles in Part IV are not enforceable through court of law, however these provisions have been used to enlarge the scope of the fundamental rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution particularly Right to equality and right to life and personal liberty.

The Directive Principles pertaining to the informal sector workers will merely remain a pious hope if it's not translated into action and this will in turn adversely affect the rights and living standards of informal sector workers. It is evident that the judiciary over the years in its various decisions incorporated the spirit that the essence of Part IV in the Constitution can be realized or achieved within the framework of scope of the fundamental right spelt out in Part III. More relevantly the Supreme Court in *Francis Coralie v. Delhi* (AIR 1981 SC 746) right to life enshrined in Article 21 does not imply the bare animal existence but needs certain minimum requirement to live a life as a human being in a Democratic Welfare Country like ours. Thus the rights guaranteed under Part IV of the Constitution for labour in India are vital for a dignified life of labour as read under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Footnotes

1. *World Bank Data on Total Labour Force*, retrieved from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN> last accessed on 13.01.2021.
2. *World Bank Data on Overall Labour Force*, retrieved from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN> last accessed on 13.01.2021.
3. *Economic Survey 2019-2020*, Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs, New-Delhi, 287.

4. Tzehainesh Tekle, "Labour law and worker protection in the South: An evolving tension between models and reality", Tzehainesh Tekle (ed.), *Labour Law And Worker Protection In Developing Countries*, Geneva : ILO, 2010, 3-4.
5. Jeemoi Unni and Uma Rani, "Social Protection for Informal Workers: Insecurities, Instruments and Institutional Mechanisms", *Development and Change*, March 2003, 1.
6. *The Report of II National Commission on Labour*, 2002, 599.
7. *The Report of the Task Force on Definitions and Statistical Issues by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) in the Year 2007*, 13.
8. Ibid.
9. The ideology of 'socialist' was introduced into the constitution through the Forty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1976.
10. Justice R. C., "Words and Phrases in the Preamble Judicially Defined", Rohan Thawani (ed.), *Lahoti, Anundoram Borooh Law Lecture, Preamble - The Spirit and Backbone of The Constitution of India*, 1st ed., Lucknow: Eastern Book Company, 2004, 80.
11. Bakhshish Sing, *The Supreme Court as an Instrument of Social Justice*, New Delhi : Stirling Publication Pvt. Ltd., 1976, 17.
12. Alan Watson, *The Digest of Justinian*, Vol. 1, Philadelphia : University Of Pennsylvania Press, 1998, 183.
13. Dr. D. C. Jain, *Economic Justice and Indian Constitution*, (1971) 2 S.C.J. 26.
14. *Report of the Committee on Labour Welfare*, Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Rehabilitation, Government of India, 1969, 5.
15. Bhatnagar, S. C., "Improving the Effectiveness of a Multipurpose Worker", *Journal of Family Welfare*, 1982, 98.
16. *Report of the Committee on Labour Welfare*, Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Rehabilitation, Government of India, 1969, 8.
17. Shiva Rao, *Framing of the Indian Constitution, Select Documents*, New Delhi : Government of India Press, 1967, Vol. II, 175.
18. See Article 38 of the Constitution of India, 1950.
19. AIR 1995 SC 923.
20. See Article 38 Clause (e) and (f) of the Constitution of India, 1950.
21. M.C. Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu AIR 1997 SC 699.
22. AIR 1992 SC 990.
23. Grih Kalyan Kendra v. Union of India AIR 1991 SC 1173.
24. AIR 1987 SC 2342.

25. See Article 21 of United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 1948.
26. H. J. Laski, *An Introduction to Politics*, London : George Allen and Unwin Ltd, 1939, 37.
27. International Labour Organization, "Repercussions of a reduction in hours of work", *International Labour Review*, 1956, 4.
28. AIR 1984 SC 802.
29. State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan, 1951 AIR 226, para 10. ★

**Foreign Labour Migration and
Utilization of Remittance in Nepal :
A Case Study of Golanjor Rural
Municipality-3, Sindhuli District,
Bagmati Province**

Ramesh Bahadur Thapa*

Migration refers to geographical or spatial mobility from one geographical area to another. If this mobility is from one state to another, this is called foreign migration or abroad migration. This study explores causes of foreign labour migration and the utilization of remittance in Nepal in general and Golanjor Rural Municipality-3 of Sindhuli district in particular. I used a quantitative research design by taking 58 respondents for data collection and analysis. I found that unemployment was the main cause or push factor of foreign labour migration. In addition, inspiration is another motivating factor for the foreign employment. Similarly, the earning remittance from foreign employment was used in multiple areas of expenditure.

[**Keyword** : Foreign labour migration, Utilization, Remittance, Economy, Nepal]

* Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur (Nepal)
E-mail: <rameshthapa230@gmail.com>

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January-March), 2021
Peer Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed International Research Journal

1. Introduction

Migration in general refers to geographical or spatial mobility between “one geographical unit and another”. It involves a change of place of residence from the “place of origin” to the “place of destination”. Migration for employment means a person who migrates from one country to another with a view to being employed (Wickramasekera, 2002). Moreover, the term “foreign employment” indicates the employment which a worker gets abroad. Migration being one of the factors of population change may affect socio-economic condition at both the place of origin and place of destination. It influences the size, composition and other characteristics of population (Subedi, 1993).

In general, remittance is a small amount of money which is sent by the migrants who involved in foreign employment. The main aim of labour migration is to send money back home. “Remittance from Nepali migrant workers in foreign countries is an important component of Nepali economy. Its contribution is not only the cash income and other goods and commodities that come to Nepal, but also the foreign exchange which has other positive contributions in terms of social and human development” (Gurung et al., 2011).

Migrant workers’ remittance is a strong source of foreign exchange earnings for Nepal. Workers remittance is now consider as a backbone of our economy. The value of foreign remittance from migrant labourers could be equivalent to 25 percent of official gross domestic product. Since last few years remittance income is playing a vital role for the foreign currency earnings and favorable impact on balance of payment situation, to reduce the number of people in the country below poverty line and ultimately to the economic growth of the nation (Panthee, 2012).

In general, Migration refers to geographical or spatial mobility from one geographical area to another. If this mobility is from one state to another, this is called foreign migration or abroad migration. Foreign labour migration is defined as the cross-border movement or geographical mobility or spatial mobility of people from one state to another for the purpose of employment or when unemployed labour force of one area or country goes to another area or country for employment such condition creates foreign employment. Thus, when the labour force of a labour market of one state systematically

goes to work to labour market of another state such is known as foreign labour migration. However, there is no universally accepted definition of labour migration.

If we read the history of migration of Nepal, migration continued in various forms in every period of history such as people used to migrate in search of suitable lands for cultivation in the Farming Age but in modern times people migrate in search of better living opportunities. We get Nepalese, traditionally, started to migrate in Burma (Myanmar) and Lhasa in north for employment and closed trade. After the Sugauli Treaty (1816 A.D.), Nepalese got opportunity to recruit in British Army during First World War. But only the recruitment in British Indian Army couldn't control the increasing flow of Nepalese migrants. So, Nepalese started to migrate around the world for employment and study. At present, migration is taken a world-wide phenomenon.

At present, foreign labour migration has become an important sector in Nepal. Numbers of foreign labour migrants in Nepal have rapidly increased due to the high increased of population and lack of industrialization, lack of employment, political insurgencies and unrest, and so on. Lack of employment or opportunities has made most of the rural migrants go for foreign labour migration. So this research is based on the foreign labour migration of Golanjor Rural Municipality-3 Gwaltar, Sindhuli District, Bagmati Province of Nepal. The purpose of this study is to explore the overall causes, processes and impacts of foreign labour migration and use of remittances in the study area.

2. Theories Related to Migration

2.1 The Migration Optimists : Developmentalist and Neo-classical Views

Developmentalist 'migration optimists' tend to think that migration leads to a North-South transfer of investment capital and accelerates the exposure of traditional communities to liberal, rational and democratic ideas, modern knowledge and education. From this perspective, (return) migrants are perceived as important agents of change, innovators and investors. The general expectation was that the flow of remittances-as well as the experience, skills and knowledge and migrants would acquire foreign before returning-would greatly help developing countries in their economic take-off.

Return migrants were expected to invest large sums of money in enterprises in the country of origin.

Neoclassical economists also tend to see migration in a positive light. However, it is important to note that neoclassical migration theory has no place for remittances. Neoclassical advocates of the theoretical model of balanced growth perceive migration as a process that contributes to the optimal allocation of production factors for the benefit of all, in which the process of factor price equalization. From this perspective, the re-allocation of labour from rural, agricultural areas (within and across national boundaries) to urban, industrial sectors is considered as an essential prerequisite for economic growth and, hence, as an integral component of the whole development process. The free movement of labour in an unconstrained market environment is eventually expected to lead to the increasing scarcity of labour, which will then lead to a higher marginal productivity of labour and increasing wage levels in migrant-sending societies. Capital flows are expected to go in exactly the opposite direction as labour migration (Haas, 2007).

2.2 The Migration Pessimists : Historical, Structural and Dependency Views

“Migration pessimists” have argued that migration provokes the withdrawal of human capital and the breakdown of traditional, stable communities and their economies. This would then lead to the development of passive, non-productive and remittance-dependent communities. Besides the “brain drain”, a “brawn drain” - the massive departure of young able-bodied men and women from rural areas - is typically blamed for causing a critical shortage of agricultural and other labour, depriving areas of their most valuable work force. Because it is generally not the poorest migrate the most, migration and remittances were also believed to increase inequality in communities of origin.

Migration pessimists have also argued that remittances were mainly spent on conspicuous consumption and “consumptive” investments (such as houses), and rarely invested in productive enterprises. Skepticism about the use of migrant remittances for productive investments became the common thread of the migration and development debate. Besides weakening local economies and increasing dependency, increased consumption and land purchases by migrants were also reported to provoke inflationary pressures

and soaring land prices. In particular, the dependency school of development thinking viewed capitalist penetration and its concomitant phenomena such as migration not only as detrimental to the economies of underdeveloped countries, but also as the very causes of the “development of underdevelopment”. In a process known as cumulative causation, increasing prosperity in the economic core areas of the Western world was causally linked to the draining of capital and labour from peripheral areas (Haas, 2007).

2.3 Pluralist Perspectives : New Economics of Labour Migration and Livelihood Approaches

Better than individuals, households seem able to diversify resources such as labour in order to minimize income risks. Migration is perceived as a household response to income risks since migrant remittances serve as income insurance for households of origin. Migration plays a vital role in providing a potential source of investment capital, which is especially important in the context of the imperfect credit (capital) and risk (insurance) markets that prevail in most developing countries. Such markets are often weakly developed and inaccessible to non-elite groups. Hence, migration can be considered as a livelihood strategy to overcome various market constraints, potentially enabling households to invest in productive activities and improve their livelihoods. Migration is seen as part of a broader household livelihood strategy to diversify income sources and overcome social, economic, and institutional development constraints in places of origin.

Structuration theory, sought to harmonize actor- and structure-oriented approaches. Recognition of the interaction between structure and agency seems essential for the migration and development debate, as this also enables a clearer understanding of the heterogeneity of migration impacts. In “pluralist” views on migration and development such as New Economics Labour Migration and the livelihoods approach, the results of the structure-actor interactions allow for a greater variety of outcome than would have been allowed from either the aggregation of individual decision making or from the unidirectional imperatives of structure (Haas, 2007).

Different perspectives have been developed to view the migration and remittance out of which the migration optimist perspective explains or views the foreign migration as the positive

process of the development. Similarly, migration pessimist perspective explains or sees the foreign labour migration from the negative perspective. But the pluralist perspective explain or views the foreign labour migration as the parallel way which claims that labour migration to foreign country has both positive and negative aspect.

3. History of Foreign Migration in Nepal

Nepal has become one of the major labourers exporting country in recent years. The history of foreign employment in Nepal dates back to the early nineteenth century when Nepalese soldiers began to work for the British army. In the ensuing decades, hundreds of thousands of Nepalese have worked in British and Indian army. Currently, over 60 thousand Nepalese are working in the Indian Army and other government institutions in India (Panthee, 2012).

Nepal has a long history of foreign employment in India, dating back to the beginning of the 19th century, when men from the hill areas of what was then known as Gorkha migrated westwards to the city of Lahore in the northern region of Punjab. There they joined up as soldiers in the army of the Sikh Rajah, Ranjit Singh. Even today, those working foreign are popularly known as 'lahures' (Seddon, 2005).

Literally, the nickname lahure is given to the people who join the armed force of India, Hong Kong, Singapore, United Kingdom, and so on; but it also designates people living foreign particularly having the working class jobs. The distinction here is essential because people living foreign for study or working in the universities and 'big' organizations like UN, FAO, and ADB are not necessarily called lahures. The labourers working in the working class jobs are recently termed as 'New Lahures' (Gurung et al., 2002).

The census of 1942 seems to have not recorded the Nepali troops sent from Nepal in different fronts to assist the allied forces and might have been included only those who went foreign for livelihood. Nepal's international border with India and China remained almost open for the movement of people from both of her neighbors. With China, it became closed one after 1950, while it has remained open with India to date with no restriction on the movement of people of both countries. Hence, because of open border, cultural similarities, and no need of documentary evidence to

show migration to and from India is pre-historic and even unaccounted. Throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th, Nepalese men served in India, often accompanied by their wives and other family members. As the Gurkha settlements increased in number and size, they also attracted Nepali workers seeking civilian employment in India. The brothels developed in these new centers may well have included women from Nepal and from the surrounding areas (Seddon, 2005).

The migration of Nepalese people for other employment purposes, such as working in the tea states of Darjeeling and the forest of Assam, began in the second half of the 19th century. Economic migration to the Middle East from South Asia and other parts of the world was spurred-on by the oil boom in the early 1970s. International labour migration, mostly to Gulf States, Malaysia and other South East Asian countries is a new phenomenon of migration in the Nepalese context with about a 30 year long history. Unexpectedly, foreign labour migration has developed in such a way that it has shifted the agricultural based economy towards remittance based economy (Aryal, 2006).

The pace of the foreign employment increased dramatically after 1996 and the consequent of shrinking economic opportunities back home compelled Nepalese youths to look for alternatives elsewhere. The massive unemployment inside the country is the main reason behind this upsurge in venturing out to distant lands. Nepal entered into the open-market of economy after 1950 and then the trend of going into foreign migration is found to be started rapidly.

4. Research Methodology

This study is based on quantitative data with both descriptive and explorative research design to fulfill the specific objectives of the study. The universe of this was the households who were involved in foreign employment in Golanjor Rural Municipality-3 Gwaltar, Sindhuli District. Out of the universe I have selected 58 respondents by using purposive sampling design. The required information as per the objectives of the study was collected through the household survey where interview schedule of data collection method was used. When the field survey and data collection had been completed, the gathered data and information was analyzed using both descriptive way and statistical method.

5. Data Presentation and Analysis

Table-1 : Causes of Foreign Employment

Causes of Foreign Employment	Numbers	Percent
Unemployment	21	36.2
Poverty	11	19.0
Political Instability	9	15.5
Indebt	8	13.8
Family Pressure	3	5.2
Family Conflict	3	5.2
Low Agricultural Production	2	3.4
Others	1	1.7
Total	58	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-2 : Source of Information about Foreign Employment

Sources of Information	Numbers	Percent
Friends and Relatives	25	43.1
Local Broker	13	22.4
Newspaper	11	19.0
Manpower Agency	7	12.1
Radio/TV	2	3.4
Total	58	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-3 : Sources of Afforded Amount

Sources of Afforded Amount	Number of Respondents	
	Yes (N/%)	No (N/%)
Self	22 (37.9)	36 (62.1)
Mortgaging Land	03 (5.2)	55 (94.8)
Taking Loans with Interest	31 (53.4)	27 (46.6)
Mortgaging Jewelry	09 (15.5)	49 (84.5)
Borrowing without Interest	19 (32.8)	39 (67.2)

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-4 : Migrant Workers and Afforded Amount

Destination Countries	Afforded Amount (In Thousands)					Total (%)
	Less 25	25 - 50	50 - 75	75 - 100	Above 100	
Qatar	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)	6 (10.3)	10 (17.2)	1(1.7)	19 (32.8)
Malaysia	-	-	-	11 (19.0)	-	11 (19.0)
Saudi Arab	2 (3.4)	1 (1.7)	2 (3.4)	6 (10.3)	-	11 (19.0)
Kuwait	6 (10.3)	-	-	-	-	6 (10.3)
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	3 (5.2)	3 (5.2)
Israel	-	-	-	-	2 (3.4)	2 (3.4)
Oman	-	1 (1.7)	-	1 (1.7)	-	2 (3.4)
Dubai	-	-	-	1 (1.7)	-	1 (1.7)
South Korea	-	-	1 (1.7)	-	-	1 (1.7)
Bahrain	-	1 (1.7)	-	-	-	1 (1.7)
Iraq	-	-	-	-	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)
Total	9 (15.5)	4 (6.9)	9 (15.5)	29 (50.0)	7 (12.1)	58 (100)

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-5 : Marital Status of Migrants and Money Sent/Received at Home

Money Received by at Home	Marital Status of the Migrant Workers			Total (%)
Wife	28 (48.3)	-	-	28 (48.3)
Father	09 (15.5)	04 (6.9)	-	13 (22.4)
Mother	01 (1.7)	04 (6.9)	-	05 (8.6)
Son	02 (3.4)	-	-	02 (3.4)
Brother	02 (3.4)	03 (5.2)	-	05 (8.6)
Sister	-	01 (1.7)	01 (1.7)	02 (3.4)
Husband	03 (5.2)	-	-	03 (5.2)
Total	45 (77.6)	12 (20.7)	01 (1.7)	58 (100.0)

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-6 : Utilized Areas of Remittance

Utilized Area of Remittances	Involved Households (%) (N=58)	Total mount	Percent
Buying Land	12.1	4145000	20.1
Housing	17.2	2090000	10.1
Education	62.1	7530000	03.6
Health	91.4	627600	03.0
Food and Clothes	81.0	1465000	07.1
Payment Debt	22.4	1354000	06.6
Providing Loan	05.2	550000	02.7
Invest	12.1	1325000	06.4
Buying Luxurious Goods	31.0	1146650	05.6
Miscellaneous Area	96.6	495900	02.4
Saving Amount	70.7	6687850	32.4
Total Utilized Amount	100.0	20640000	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-7 : Benefits/Advantages of Foreign Labour Migration

Benefits/Advantages	Numbers of Respondents	Percent
Alleviation of Unemployment	20	34.5
Earn Foreign Currency	16	27.6
Standard Maintain	10	17.2
Maintain Harmony in Society	07	12.1
Reduction Poverty	04	06.9
Import New Technology	01	01.7
Total	58	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

Table-8 : Harms/Disadvantages of Foreign Labour Migration

Harms/Disadvantages	Number of Respondents	Percent
Insecurity of the Family	18	31.0
Brawn Drain	18	31.0
Brain Drain	17	29.3

Unsecured of the Migrants	04	06.9
Temporary Job	01	01.7
Total	58	100.0

Source : Field Survey, 2020.

6. Major Findings of the Study

Major findings of the study are summarized as under :

- » A little more than one-third (36.2 percent) individuals were found migrated because of unemployment which was the main cause or push factor of foreign labour migration. This is followed by poverty (19.0 percent), political instability (15.5 percent), indebt (13.8 percent), family pressure (5.2 percent), family conflict (5.2 percent), low agricultural production (3.4 percent) and other (1.7 percent).
- » More than half (62.1 percent) individuals involved in foreign employment were inspired by others and less than half of them (37.9 percent) were decided self to go foreign employment. Out of 62.1 percent inspired by others, 30.6 were inspired by parents following with 30.6 percent by wives, 25.0 percent by relatives, 8.3 percent by husband and 5.6 percent were inspired by friends. Out of total migrant workers, 43.1 percent of them were found got information from friends and relatives, followed by 22.4 percent from local broker, 19.0 percent from newspaper, 12.1 percent from manpower agency and 3.4 percent got information from radio/FM. Most of the migrant workers (94.8 percent) were gone through different means viz., manpower agency followed (65.5 percent), friends and relatives (29.3 percent) and only 5.2 percent individuals were found to be gone self.
- » Less than half (37.9 percent) individuals were found managed the afforded amount of money by self, mortgaging their land (5.2 percent), taking loans with interest (53.4 percent), mortgaging jewelry in interest (15.5 percent) and borrowing with relatives without any percent of interest (32.8 percent).
- » Qatar was found main destination country where 32.8 percent individuals were made their destination. Malaysia and Saudi Arab were the second destination countries where 19.0 percent

(in each country) migrant workers made their destination followed by Kuwait (10.3 percent), Afghanistan (5.2 percent), Oman (3.4 percent), Israel (3.4 percent) and 1.7 percent were found gone to each in Bahrain, United Arabs Emirates, South Korea and Iraq. Different causes or pull factors were come across selecting the destination country viz., easy available of unskilled work (41.4 percent), higher wage rate (17.2 percent), pressure of friends and relatives (17.2 percent), less costly (13.8 percent), and easy to entry/exit (10.3 percent).

- ▶ The earning remittance from foreign employment was not used in single area by the households but they were found used the remittance in multiple areas of expenditure as presented in table 5.17 i.e. housing (17.2 percent), buying land (12.1 percent), foods and clothes (81.0 percent), health (91.4 percent), education (62.1 percent), payment of debt (22.4 percent), buying luxurious goods (31.0), providing loan (5.2 percent), invest in productive fields (12.1 percent) and miscellaneous (96.6 percent). Similarly, Out of total received remittance, 20.1 percent was utilized in buying land in nearest municipality (57.1 percent), nearest market area (28.6 percent) and local place (14.3 percent), followed by 10.1 percent was utilized in housing in local place (60.0 percent), nearest market area (30.0 percent) and nearest municipality (10.0 percent). This is followed by 7.1 percent received remittance was utilized in food and clothes, 3.0 percent in health, 3.6 percent in education, 6.6 percent in payment debt, 2.7 percent was utilized in providing loan, 6.4 percent invested in productive areas and 5.6 percent received remittance was utilized in buying luxurious goods.
- ▶ Out of total, 34.5 percent respondents were found taken the foreign labour migration as the means of alleviating of unemployment following with means of earning foreign currency (27.6 percent), standard maintained (17.2 percent), maintaining harmony in the society (12.1 percent), reduction poverty (6.9 percent) and means of importing new technology (1.7 percent).
- ▶ Out of the respondents, 31.0 percent individuals had taken the foreign labour migration as the brawn drain, insecurity of the family (31.0 percent), brain drain (29.3 percent), unsecured of the migrant (6.9 percent), and temporary job (1.7 percent).

7. Conclusion

Foreign labour migration is a social process which trend is being increasing day by day. In the present context of Nepal, unemployment is the burning issues so foreign labour migration has been seen as the best choice for Nepalese, even for educated or non-educated, as the alternative strategy for livelihood adoption which provides employment to those who are deprived from the right of employment. In the case of sending remittance, most of the migrant workers send low earning and only few of them sent high earnings from foreign employment at home reveals that there is inequality in earnings of individuals which creates inequality among the individuals in the society as per the explanation of pessimist perspective about foreign labour migration.

Out of total sending remittance some portion utilize in productive enterprises indicates migrant workers are, to some extent, perceived as important agents of investors who invest some sums of money, experience, skills and knowledge in enterprises in the country of origin as per the developmentalists perspective. But on the contrary as per the migration pessimists perspective, migrant workers lock themselves into a semi-permanent role of supplying labour for the dirty, difficult, and dangerous (3D) jobs such as cleaner, plumber, house worker, security guard, factory worker and so on in the receiving countries and huge portion of remittances earning by them are mainly spent on conspicuous consumption and consumptive investments (such as houses, buying land), and rarely invested in productive enterprises. Although, they all are temporary which creates dependency would remain no longer so it might be harmful for Nepal.

References

- Aryal, Sudip, *A Very Serious Issue of Nepal*, Kathmandu, 2006. www.insightonconflict.org/Nepal.
- Gurung et al., *The New Lahures: Foreign Employment and Remittance Economy of Nepal*, Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS), Kathmandu, 2002.
- Gurung, G, et al., *Nepal Migration Year Book 2010*, Nepal Institute of Development Studies (NIDS), Kathmandu, Nepal, 2011.
- Haas, H. de., *Remittances, Migration and Social Development : A Conceptual Review of the Literature*, Geneva : United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISDA), 2007.

Panthee, Sundar, *Remittance to Nepal : Option and Modality*, Kathmandu, 2012.

Seddon, D., *Nepal's Dependence on Exporting Labor*, Kathmandu, 2005. www.migrationinformation.org/Profilesdisplay.cfmID=277

Subedi, B. P., *Continuity and Change in Population Movement from Inside of Rural Nepali Community, USA* : University of Hawali, 1993.

Wickramasekera, P., *International Migration Programme*, Geneva : International Labor Office, 2002, 2. ★

Suicide in India : An Overview

Shweta Yadav* and Rangoli Chandra**

Suicide has become one of leading cause for death all around the world. It is a tragic incidence affecting not only families and loved ones but eventually to society. According to WHO survey around 800,000 people die due to suicide every year globally. NCRB data shows that an average of 100,000 deaths occurs per year in India. This research paper broadly discusses the history of suicide in India, current status of suicide and factors responsible for the suicide among different age groups. Family problems, illness, drug addiction, love affairs, marriage related issues, bankruptcy, unemployment were found to be important factors affecting millions of lives. The most used methods for committing suicide were by hanging and taking poison. Suicide rates were found to be relatively higher among males compared to females, and more among average and low-income group people. It has affected all sections whether salaried, self-employed, daily wage workers, farmers, students or housewives.

[**Keywords** : Suicide, History, Factors, Status, Family, India]

* Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Arya Kanya Degree College, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <30.shwetayadav1992@gmail.com>

** Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Lucknow University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <rangoli.dr@gmail.com>

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January-March), 2021
Peer Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed International Research Journal

1. Introduction

Suicide refers to deliberate termination of life. It includes an unnatural death by the victim himself with a desire to die. Emile Durkheim in his book "Le Suicide" defines "suicide as any death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he knows will produce this result". For Durkheim suicide is a social phenomenon that can only be explained sociologically means only social causes can explain it. Durkheim has discussed four types of suicide. His classification of suicide is based on the degree of integration individual attach to the society and degree of regulation found in society. Egoistic Suicide occurs due to individual's lack of integration with society. Altruistic suicide occurs due to over integration of individual with society. Anomic suicide occurs due to lack of regulation in society that leads to a condition of normlessness. According to Durkheim economic fluctuations affect anomic suicide. It can be acute and chronic. Acute anomic suicide happens during sudden economic crisis whereas chronic anomic suicide is found in the modern societies where social existence is no longer ruled by customs and tradition and hence increasing individualism leads people to fully engrossed in their lives and think primarily about their own interests. They demand more than they have at a given time. This situation imbalances the level of aspirations and satisfaction and leads to dissatisfaction, ultimately resulting in increasing the rates of suicides. Last, Fatalistic suicide occurs due to excessive regulation or control. Suicide committed by slaves can be termed as fatalistic suicide.

2. History of Suicide in India

Suicide has been a general practice in India since ancient times and hence not regarded a sinful activity. Instead, people who take their own lives were considered more spiritual and received recognition for their deeds. Ancient Indian texts present large number of evidences regarding suicide. The oldest evidence regarding suicide is found in Vedas where self-sacrifice was considered the best form of worship towards God. Upanishads discloses that life of a person is waste if he does not utilize it for the purpose of self-realization. Incidences of suicide are also present in great epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. In Ramayana, Laxman, Ram, Bharata and Satrughna lost their lives one by one, by drowning

in the Sarayu river. In Mahabharat's the sage Dadhichi sacrificed his life so that his bones could be used by God against demons. Holy scripture Smriti consider suicide a sinful activity. However, Manu has accepted suicide a meritorious act in certain cases like mahapataka, refers to a sin when no other punishment is adequate enough except suicide.

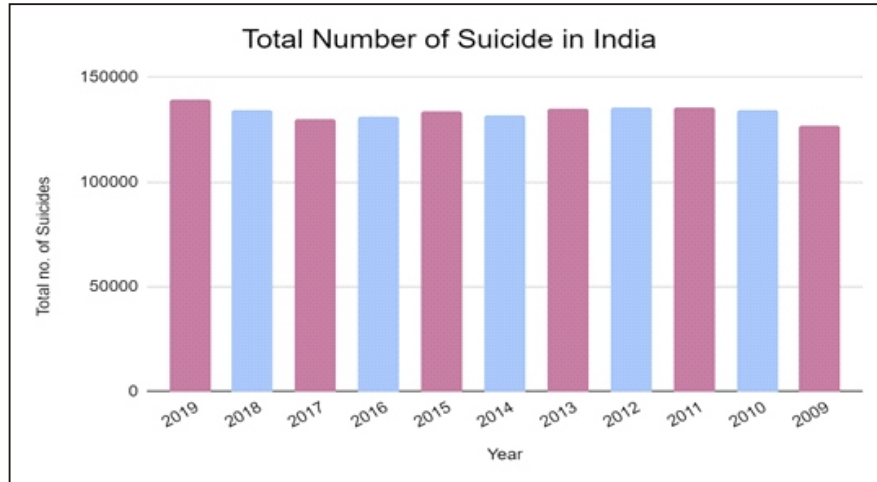
Practice of Sati and Jahur has been a prevalent practice in India till the 20th century. Sati Pratha, is practice where Indian women immolate themselves on the pyre of their husbands. Jahur, as a form of suicide was popular among Rajput's women, when Rajput women commit suicide by jumping in fire walls in order to save themselves from enslavement, rape by foreign invaders during wars.

Santhara, as a religious practice, has been practiced till the 21st century. Santhara is also known as Sallekhana is an old religious practice of attaining moksha in Jain religion. Santhara is a ritual of purification of the body where the devotees voluntarily stop taking food and water (practice starvation) till their death in order to purify themselves from all sins and thus attaining the highest state of transcendental wellbeing. However, this was banned on 10th August 2015 by the Jaipur bench of Rajasthan High Court. Hence, centuries old Jain practice Santhara declared unconstitutional and is punishable under section 309 (Attempt to commit suicide) and 306 (Abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code. Along with Santhara, sitting dharna is another form of suicide where a person tries to establish a direct contact with supernatural powers for receiving divine aids without taking food and water.

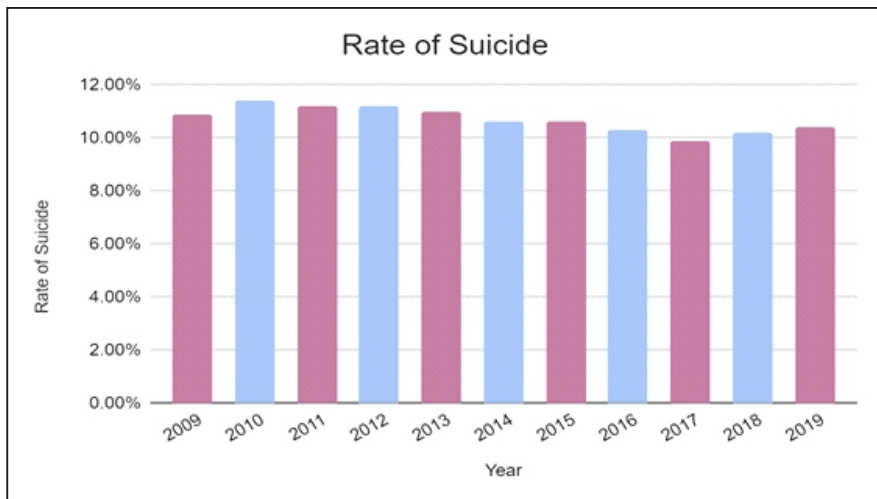
3. Status of Suicide in India

Suicide is a global phenomenon that occurs in all societies of the world. Suicide rates in India are increasing day by day and proving to be an emerging threat to society. National Crime Records Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs) data (2019) shows that more than 100 000 people lost their lives per year in India. During 2019, total 139123 cases of suicide were reported all over the India. Around 50% cases of suicide were reported in only five States of India i.e. Maharashtra (13.6%), Tamil Nadu (9.7%) West Bengal (9.1%) Madhya Pradesh (8.1%). Most cases of suicides happened due to family relations (32.4%) and illness (17.1%). Suicide rates are gradually increasing in mega cities (having population more than 1,000,000). A total of 2461

incidents were observed in Chennai followed by Delhi (2423), Bengaluru (2081) and Mumbai. These states constitute 36.6 % of total suicide incidences reported during the year 2019. Suicidal incidences are higher among less educated or illiterate people than highly educated people. The report discloses a huge number of mass family suicides where 72 families having 180 members, lost their lives. Maximum number of family suicides were reported in Tamil Nadu followed by Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan.



Source : National Crime Records Bureau - 2019.



Source : National Crime Records Bureau - 2019.

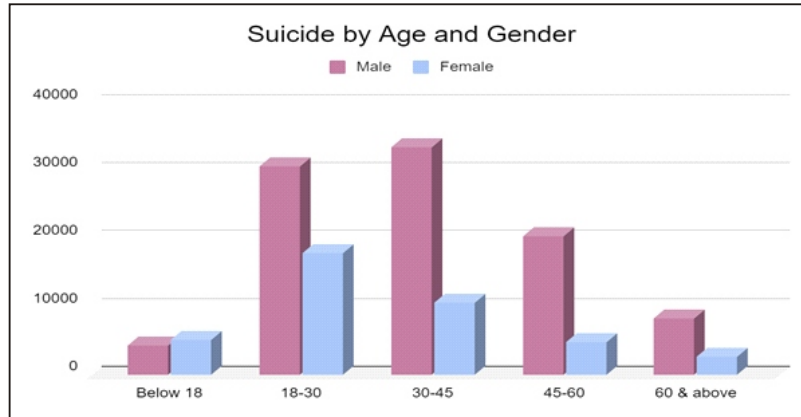
Suicide is an emerging global issue, affecting millions of people. Ratio of suicide is significantly higher among low- and middle-income countries that constitute 79% of the global suicides. According to World Health Organization (WHO) suicide is one of

leading cause responsible for death all around the world. Approximately 800,000 people die due to suicide every year globally. In every 40 second a person dies due to suicide in the world. It discloses suicide as second leading cause responsible for death for the age group 15-19. In India alone a total of 215872 incidences of suicide were reported in 2016 where 93878 were females and 121994 were males. In order to reduce global suicide mortality rates various initiatives have been taken at global level. It has been included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and WHO has prepared action plans like WHO 13th General Programme of Work 1919-2023 and WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030.

4. Facts about Suicide

- ▶ NCRB data shows that a total of 97619 males and 41493 females lost their lives by committing suicide in 2019, comprising 70.2% and 29.8% of total suicide. family problems and illness were major cause responsible for suicide in India. However different causes were responsible for suicide among different age groups.
- ▶ Data regarding suicide among children shows that total of 5208 girls and 4405 boys ended their lives by committing suicide in India. The major reasons behind committing suicide were family problems, failure in examinations and love affairs.
- ▶ Suicide rates are found to be significantly higher for the age group belonging to 18-30 years and 30-45 years that accounted for 35.1% and 31.8% of suicides respectively. A total of 48774 young people belonging to the age group 18-30 years committed suicide. The major factors responsible for suicide were primarily related with family matters and illness. Other major causes were love affairs, drug abuse/ alcoholic addiction and unemployment. A total of 44287 people belonging to the age group 30-45 ended their lives by committing suicide in 2019. Most people ended their lives due to family issues, mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction, marriage related issues such as non-settlement of marriage, extra marital affairs, dowry related issues, divorce, bankruptcy and unemployment.
- ▶ A total 11013 older persons ended their lives by killing themselves. Illness (in the form of paralysis and cancer, insanity and other prolonged diseases) comprises first place in case of

older people suicide. A total of 4369 lives were lost due to illness. Other major reasons responsible for suicide for older people were family problems, drug abuse and bankruptcy.



Source : National Crime Records Bureau.

- » As Durkheim has illustrated in his book “Le Suicide” that married people have low suicide rates than unmarried but today’s scenario has completely changed. NCRB report on Suicide discloses that suicide rates were relatively higher among married persons than unmarried. Married people accounted 66.7% of total suicides where it was 23.6% in case of unmarried people. Widowed (1.8%) divorcees (0.7%) and separated (0.7%) constituted a very small percentage.

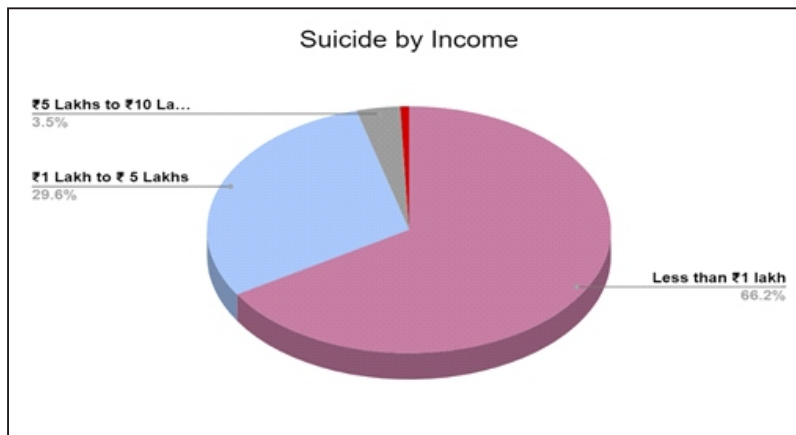
Table-1 : Distribution of Suicide according to Marital Status and Gender

Marital Status	Gender			Total Number of people	%age
	Male	Female	Trans-gender		
Married	66815	25941	12	92757	66.7
Unmarried	21638	11202	01	32852	23.6
Widow	1378	1094	00	2472	1.8
Divorcee	595	402	00	997	0.7
Separated	672	290	01	693	0.7

Source : National Crime Records Bureau.

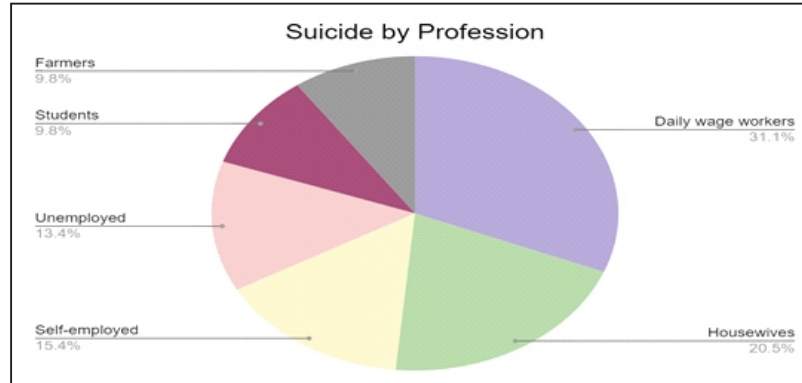
- » NCRB report discloses higher rate of suicide among poor and low-income group people. Out of total incidences of suicide committed during 2019, 66.2% suicide victims had annual

income less than 100 000 whereas 29.6% had annual income between 100 000- 500 000.



Source : National Crime Records Bureau.

- » Daily wage workers alone constitute 23.4% of total suicide whereas proportion of housewives committing suicide is much more than other females. They constitute 51.5% (21,359) of total female suicide. A total of 16098 self-employed and 14019 unemployed people ended their lives. 10,335 students and 10,281 farmers committed suicide.



Source : National Crime Records Bureau.

- » The means adopted for committing suicide slightly varied from easily available, effective and more or less painful method. The most used methods of suicide were by hanging (53.6%) followed by taking poison (25.8%), drowning (5.2%), self-immolation etc. The ratio of males committing suicide through different modes was higher than females adopting the same method of suicide. However, female's proportion was relatively higher in case of suicide by self-immolation.

5. Conclusion

Suicide has become one of leading cause for death all around the world. Rates of suicides are increasing among all age group people. Family as being a universal and most important institution for development of human beings has proved to be a major threat as well. Suicide due to family problems were common among all age group people. Individual suicide as well as mass family suicide are increasing day by day. Family problems, illness, drug/alcoholic addiction, marriage related issues, bankruptcy and unemployment are some major factors responsible for suicide in India. The most used method for committed suicide was by hanging and taking poison. Suicide is common for all profession whether students, unemployed, salaried, self-employed or farmers rates.

References

- National Crime Records Bureau, *Accidental Death and Suicides in India*, New Delhi : Government of India, 2019.
- Peter, M., Clare Bradley, Della Steen and Tehereh Ziaian, *Suicide and Society in India*, USA : Routledge South Asian Publication Series, 2011.
- Pridmore, Saxby and Pridmore, William, "Is suicide prevention possible?", *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, 150, 2019, 321. 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR_1452_19.
- Radhakrishnan, R., and Andrade, C., "Suicide : An Indian Perspective", *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 54(4), 2012, 304-319. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0019-5545.104793>.
- Rane, Anil and Nadkarni, Abhijit, "Suicide in India : A Systematic Review", *Shanghai Archives of Psychiatry*, 26, 2014, 69-80. 10.3969/j.issn.1002-0829.2014.02.003.
- Snowdon, John, "Indian suicide data : What do they mean?", *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, 150. 2019, 315. 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR_1367_19.
- Taylor, S., *Durkheim and the Study of Suicide*, New York : Macmillan Education, 1982.
- Thippaiah, S. M., Muralidhara Shankarapura Nanjappa and Suresh Bada Math, "Suicide in India : A preventable epidemic", *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, 150, 2019, 324-327.
- World Health Organization, *Preventing Suicide : A global Imperative*, Geneva : WHO, 2014. ★

**Maoist Armed Conflict in Nepal :
Exploring the Motivating Factors for
the Involvement of Kham Magar
People of Thabang Village in Rolpa
District**

Netra Kumar Ojha*

Armed conflict denotes conflict in which at least two parties resort to the use of armed force against each other. Looking into the conflicts taking all over the world, Nepal has also faced an internal conflict in the name of the People's War in February 1996. The Maoist armed conflict had spread all over the country and had not only taken the lives of more than 17,000 people and billions of rupees of the property but also challenged a centuries-old authoritarian political regime. This study explores the motivating factors for the involvement of the Kham Magar people of Thabang village in the Maoist armed conflict. I used an exploratory ethnographic framework of qualitative research design by taking five participants and few key informants, and conducted an in-depth interview. I found that economic, social, cultural, religious, psychological, historical, and geopolitical

* Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Padmakanya Multiple Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur (Nepal) E-mail: <netraojha@gmail.com>

factors are responsible for the involvement of the Magar people of Thabang Village in the Maoist armed conflict. Among them, social exclusion, oppression, and geopolitics are the major motivating factors. Moreover, ethnic collective conscience and collective action are also responsible factors in the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area.

[**Keywords** : Motivation, Maoist, Armed conflict, Kham Magar, Ethnography]

1. Introduction

Armed conflict denotes conflict in which at least two parties resort to the use of armed force against each other. It is difficult to define since several different thresholds and rules can be applied for deciding which conflict can be categorized as armed conflict (Kusum, 2001). The Most of 110-armed conflict “between” 1989-1999 were internal, with most of the fatalities being civilian-84 percent according to one count. Among the 110 conflicts, 60 reached the level of war (1,000 battle-related deaths in a year) at a time during the period 1989 to 1999. Only 7 were interstate wars with foreign intervention. Some cases like Afghanistan, Sudan, and Sri-lanka remained at war for all or most of the period (Shrestha, 2004).

Looking into the conflicts taking all over the world, Nepal has also faced an internal conflict in the name of the People’s War. The communist party of Nepal Maoist (CPN-M) had been started an armed struggle in February 1996, three days before the given deadline, attacking police post at Holeri (Rolpa) and Thibsikot (Rukum), (Upreti, 2006; Chamlagai, 2006; Sales, 2000; Thapa and Sijapati, 2003). The Maoist armed conflict, over the last ten years, had spread all over the country, except two districts- Manag and Mustang- out of the 75 districts of the country (Adhikari, 2006). It had not only taken the lives of more than 17,000 people and billions of rupees of the property but also challenged a centuries-old authoritarian political regime. The cost of reconstruction of development infrastructure that was destroyed by the Maoists is estimated at NRS 200 billion (Adhikari, 2006; Upreti, 2006). Talk programs in different stages were launched during the armed conflict period to resolve the conflict but they became unsuccessful. On 22nd November 2005, the Seven “Parties’ Alliance” and Maoists reached the 12-point understanding which has given a good basis to start the political process of settling the ongoing armed conflict. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and Maoist Supremo Puspa

Kamal Dahal (Prachand) signed the peace agreement by announcing the end of the armed conflict of Nepal. Now, Nepal is declared as a federal democratic republic state.

Nepal was a monolithic, feudalistic, autocratic, authoritarian, centralized, and closed state for centuries (Thapa, 2003; Karki and Seddon, 2003; Mishra, 2004; Kumar, 2004; Upreti, 2006). The state governing system in the entire history of modern Nepal was orchestrated by cajoling, the threat of suppression, and the use of coercive power by the state (Hutt, 2004; Kumar, 2004; Upreti, 2006). Such characteristics of the state consequently excluded a vast majority of Nepalese people from the nation-building process (Thapa, 2003; Raj, 2004). This became virtually a breeding ground of armed conflict in Nepal.

The Maoist armed conflict was not only the cause of the failure of the 12 years of democracy in Nepal. Rather it was the manifestation of the failure of 238 years of the governance system of modern Nepal. The feudal, exclusionary, 'top-down' and elitist ruling system was the fundamental cause of the problem. Rampant poverty, structural inequality, political oppression, social discrimination against certain groups like ethnic groups, kamaiya, Women, Dalit, etc. failure of the public administration, widespread corruption, and continuous failure of successive governments to address these structural problems were the root causes of the Maoist armed conflict. Besides, another plausible explanation for the emergence of the Maoist armed conflict in a particular time was the growing awareness of the Nepalese people during the period of multiparty democracy. They were becoming more aware of poverty, inequality, discrimination, corruption, and lack of employment opportunities. Destruction of indigenous social networks in Nepal has also contributed to the conflict (Pandey, 1999; Kushum, 2001; Ananda, 2001; Gurung, 2003; Karki and Seddon, 2003; Onesto, 2003; Muni, 2003; Mishra, 2004; Mahat, 2005; Pandey, 2005; Parwez, 2006 and Do and Iyer, 2007).

In a context of complex conflict like the Maoist armed conflict in Nepal, it is very hard to identify and separate causes and consequences as causes become consequences and consequences turn into causes. There is a fairly large amount of publications and documents available about the analysis of the armed conflict in Nepal. Some books have been written by Nepalese and foreign

scholars covering conflict situations. Many research papers have been prepared by various researchers and several conflict assessment documents are produced by donor agencies and NGOs/INGOs (Kushum, 2001; Ananda, 2001; DFID, 2003 and Mishra, 2004). However, there is a dearth of authentic research of the motivating factors of Maoist Armed Conflict which was launched from the Kham Magar Community of Rolpa district, Nepal. The life of the Kham Magar has been turned upside-down during this conflict and many of them have died (Onesto, 2003).

Numerous sources and newspaper articles have attempted to explain why this community has become a Maoist-stronghold. Three factors are usually cited: the presence of the forest which offers a natural opportunity for guerilla operations, the particularly poor economic conditions, and finally a local population, mostly Magars. My argument here is on the fact that poverty and the presence of the forest have certainly played their part in the rise of the Maoists, although the same conditions are of course found in many other regions and communities in Nepal. The third factor - the presence of Magar requires some commentary. So, the above-presented causes can play a vital role in the origin of Maoist armed conflict in the Kham Magar community but they need further clarification which is only possible by using anthropological analysis.

So, the purpose of the study is to explore the motivating factors for the involvement of the Kham Magar people of Thabang village in the Maoist armed conflict. Thus, the key research questions of this study are, why were the Kham Magar people have chosen as a breeding ground of conflict by the Maoists? What types of social and cultural conditions prevailing among the local people? And how is it that they have found themselves to be dragged into fatal combat?

2. Theoretical Approaches of Armed Conflict

Many studies of various scholars have indicated that there is a significant correlation between landlessness and the number of fatalities in armed conflict. Moreover, Some others found armed conflict mostly related to poverty and underdevelopment of country, and that caste and ethnic divisions are not a major contributor to conflict (Thapa and Sijapati, 2004 and Gersony, 2003 as cited in Do and Iyer, 2007). Besides, government repression might have also the possibility to generated further grievances, which led to greater

support for rebels (Do and Iyer, 2007). On the one hand, Collier and Hoeffler (1999) developed a conceptual framework based on grievances and loot approaches. On the other, Mahat (2005) developed a framework that acknowledges the relevance of grievance theory for the study of people's war. Unlike the above scholars, Karki and Bhattarai (2004) observe that conflict is an outcome of complex social and economic demands, intertwined with ideology and a history of discrimination on which the rebels might be able to capitalize.

Murshed and Gates (2003) examine the root motivating factors of armed conflict. They suggest that grievances rather than greed are the main motivating force. Gurung (2004) concluded that no correlation exists between the density of socially excluded population and intensity of insurgency, but that there is a correspondence between the area of insurgency and level of poverty. Zartman (2005 cited in Tiwari, 2007) has argued that while initiation of conflicts requires the presence of political entrepreneur, the continuation of conflict requires successful mobilization of population subgroup. Moreover, other analysts point out the factors like social injustice, unemployment, underdevelopment, problems of exclusion, lack of good governance, etc. as contributing to the escalation of the activities (Karki and Seddon, 2003; Hutt, 2004; and Thapa and Sijapati, 2003).

Developmentalists see that the conflict is a social and economic issue and is produced and sustained by failed development (Pandey, 1999). Sociologists and ethnic activists see the armed conflict mainly from an ethnic angle. One argues that the People's war has blended class-based and caste/ethnic-based insurgency in the country (Bhattachan, 2000). Political scientists analyze the failed governance as the main reason behind the constant weakening of the state and strengthening of the rebels (Baral, 1993; Hutt, 1994; Hoftun, Raeper and Whelpton, 1999; Kumar, 2000 and Hachhethu, 2002).

The point of view of different people to analyze the armed conflict is the basis of their disciplinary background. Developmentalists see Maoist armed conflict as a social and economic issue and is produced and sustained by failed development. Social and ethnic activists analyze it mainly from the ethnic angle. Analyzing the Maoist armed conflict, a social anthropologist argues, Maoist armed conflict has blended

class-based and caste/ethnic-based armed conflict in the country. Political scientists' analyses that the failure of governance is the main factor for weakening the state and strengthening the Maoist armed conflict. Economists focus on economic factors such as poverty or lack of economic opportunity is significantly correlated with the intensity of the conflict. Some sociologists focus on the structural causes and others on ethnic issues are the motivating factors for the involvement of people in armed conflict.

3. Kham Magar and Maoist Armed Conflict

The Kham-speaking Magar people are spread along the Sani Bheri, the Bheri, Uttar Ganga, and their tributaries in the district of Rolpa, Rukum, and the western part of Dhaulagiri along the Bhuji and Nishi Khola (river). Kham is the Tibeto-Burman language not to be confused with the Tibetan dialect spoken in the Kham province of Tibet. These people claim a common origin and consider themselves as a single country entity. They are distinct culturally from the Magar in Palpa and Gandaki to the east, which speaks a separate language, Magarkura, and are made up of a different set of clans (Hitchcock 1965 cited in Molnar, 1981).

The Kham Magars (as they are hereafter referred to for convenience) are divided into five broad clans (thar) : Buda, Roka, Gharti, Pun, and Jhankri. They are patrilineal and practice a system of preferential matrilineal cross-cousin marriage (Molnar, 1978 and Sales, 2000 cited in Thapa, 2003). The clans are divided into aforesaid sub-groups which are exogamous. Marriages are contracted locally between these sub-groups. The Magar practice polygyny to a limited extent and residence is neolocal. The elder sons divide the family estate within a few years after marriage, while the youngest son remains in the family house to care for his parents in their old age. The property, both movable and immovable, is divided equally among all sons regardless of whether or not their mother is divorced from their father or whether their mother is the later wife in a polygynous marriage (Molnar, 1978).

The Kham Magar has a mixed economy based on hill agriculture and animal husbandry. They raise cattle and sheep and goats; Pastoralism is a major economic strategy. They live in dense settlements above a river valley and exploit the lands along this valley and the surrounding ridges. These settlements range in

altitude from 6500 to 8000 feet and the ridges range from 10,000 to 13,000 feet (Molnar 1981). Kham Magars, who are seen as a native people easily, swayed but, who, if they can be enlisted for a task, continue in it or die in the attempt. There is irony in the fact that as many Magars have been killed by the Maoists as by the police (Sales, 2000).

4. Methodology

The topic of this study is related to exploring the motivating factor of the involvement of the Kham Magar people in the Maoist armed conflict. For digging out the knowledge about the research problem, I used the design of study depending on the ontological and epistemological stand of the subjective or qualitative way of generating knowledge from the research field. So, this study followed an exploratory ethnographic framework of qualitative research design. I took the Kham Magar people of Thabang village and followed the purposive sampling procedure for the selection of participants in this study. Thus, in this study, I took five participants for ethnographic data collection.

Similarly, in this study, the data is collected using both primary and secondary sources. The primary data is collected through an in-depth interview with the participants. Moreover, this study also used a key informant informal interview as a data collection technique. The fieldwork had conducted from September 18 to December 10, 2008. Finally, in this study, I analyzed all the collected data thematically and developing generalizations.

5. Data Presentation and Findings

After the restoration of the multi-party system in 1990, the government of Nepal has been facing several internal problems including the Maoist armed conflict. These arose when the CPN (Maoist) launched what they declared to be a 'People's War' in Nepal in 1996. It is said that factors like political, economic, socio-ethnic, lack of governance, and regional and international influences have been playing a major role in the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in Nepal. At the same time, factors such as rampant corruption, nepotism, injustice, unemployment, inequality, discrimination, exclusion, and poverty were helping to the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict. But, in the context

of complex conflict like the Maoist armed conflict in Nepal, it is very hard to identify and separate the independent and dependent variables, as independent variables become dependent and dependent turn into independent. The Maoist armed conflict-affected mostly the Magar, especially in Rolpa and Rukum which are the Magar dominant districts; and it is supposed that Magar has greater numbers of militia in Maoists' force.

The study conducted in Thabang Village revealed the fact that many motivating factors had contributed to the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area. The research conducted in the study area revealed the fact that most of the people were motivated into the armed conflict due to social exclusion. The Maoist party took the policy to mobilize the socially excluded people for the armed conflict in the name of their emancipation. As one of the informants had put it :

We were not only excluded from being indigenous people as Magar but also excluded by blaming as adopting illegal livelihood strategy from the government. One of the cash crops of our community had hemp and its products once upon a time. We used to plant hemp, not for illegal purposes like opium. The hemp had multi-dimensional usefulness to us. We used to get jute from the hemp plant and used to make clothes. And, also by making the thread from jute we used to sell it and bought everyday necessities. When the government declared hemp illegal we lost one of our livelihood strategies. Hemp for us was like a Paddy for the people of Terai. Police had destroyed the plantation of hemp and we became rebellious against the police.

Nepal depends heavily on agriculture and more than 80% of people are associated with agriculture for their subsistence. Due to the inappropriate management of land and lack of a scientific agricultural system the production is very minimal. It is directly related to the economy of the country. Economic factors play a crucial role in the development of the country. Without economic development and poverty reduction, the expectations and livelihood of people can neither be fulfilled nor managed. When people became economically excluded there begins conflicts with the groups or country.

The study conducted by the researcher in the study area revealed the facts that, it was Mohan Bikram who had played a

significant role in the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict by cultivating the communist ideological seed in the study area. Regan (Political name), an inhabitant of Thabang Village, a pro-head of local people government and an active member of Maoist party, claimed that :

Mohan Bikram was the greatest hero not only in Thabang but also within the whole Rapti zone, once upon a time. He was the first person who had met Barman Budha and Krishna Jhankri in Pyuthan jail and made them communist. The credit also goes to Mohan Bikram for planting the seed of communist ideology in Thabang. "Thabang had become Thabang because Mohan Bikram was there", says Regan. After breaking off with Nirmal Lama, Mohan Bikram Singh set up his party in November 1983 called CPN (Masal). In 1985, after its fifth Congress, Masal broke up once more, this time into CPN (Masal) and CPN (Mashal) with the former Mohan Bikram and the latter led by Mohan Baidya. The camp of Mohan Baidya, CPN (Mashal) is now called Maoist Party. "But, we decided to involve in Mohan Baidya's camp by leaving the Mohan Bikram", says Regan. Due to the massive oppression of administration and the marginalization from the state to the people, it became inevitable of armed people's war for emancipation. Mohan Bikram had trained us, and we had also collected local weapons like guns, spears, etc., for the people's war. During the training, he always said us to be ready for war but he never declared war and we decided to leave him. People's War will begin but when? It had never begun. All hopes were turned into dust. After the Army operation in 1981 in Thabang, some villagers had gone to meet Mohan Bikram, at that time Mohan Bikram used to live in India. People had shared their pains and sorrows with him and had requested to return to the village. But, Mohan Bikram advised them to live in India by doing the job. He had also added that his idea was the best one for their safety. They have known his intention and returned home by blaming him as Gaddar (Unfaithful).

The study conducted in Thabang Village in 2008 also revealed the fact that oppression was the main motivating factor for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area. It is said that the armed conflict which was launched by CPN (Maoist) in 1996 had started in this area. Before and during the Maoist armed conflict people were oppressed in many ways. In between 1996 to

2005 total of 31 persons were lost their lives in the armed conflict. Police and army had done joint operation in Thabang Village more than 15 times during the Maoist armed conflict. Even no single individual can found safe from oppression, more or less all were suppressed by the administration. Lali Roka, an inhabitant of Thabang Village was brutally killed by the police. Such types of brutal and inhuman oppression initiated people to involve Maoist armed conflict to take revenge. As another respondent had put it as :

A 33-year-old community health worker, Lali Roka of Thabang Village, while administrating polio vaccination at the health post on January 18, 1997, on polio day, was arrested by the police and taken into custody. She was brutally tortured during interrogation. When she became unconscious, she was set to fire after pulling down one side roof or the cowshed at Chaubang Khola, nearby the police post. While she was being set on fire by the security forces, her loud screaming was heard around the village. Indeed, she had just been unconscious because of cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment. The following morning villagers gathered at the site and saw the unburnt leg and later identified that she was Lali.

The Major Army Operation which was held in Thabang Village in 1981 was the first Operation. In that operation, many villagers were arrested and kept in Jail by blaming them as anti-nationalist and anti-people forces. It had contributed to creating true consciousness to the local Kham Magar people to revolt against their enemy. After the restoration of democracy, people were also exploited by the democratic government. Operation Romeo and kilo Sierra Two were launched by the democratic government to suppress the people in the name of a terrorist. When security forces entered the village all villagers used to made shelter in the jungle. They lived there until the security forces left their village. To live in peaceful conditions was almost impossible during the armed conflict. Comrade Syaula presents his story about how he became a revolutionary as :

Comrade Syaula, 41 years old, an inhabitant of Thabang Village, had met Badal (political name) in his village, at the age of 15. "Badal used to train us in the upper site jungle of the village", says Syula. During the training, he used to encourage us to prepare for the People's War, but, I did not know what actually about it. People also had doubts to win the war without

reliable weapons. Badal used to convince us by saying that weapons themselves would come into the village. But, how is it possible? We didn't believe it at first. When the war began to start, we gradually got success to seize the weapons from the police in our village. Badal's speech about weapons came true and in reality, we got the weapons in our village.

I used to work a road construction labour before launching the armed conflict in Achham district. I had returned home one month later the declaration of the People's war and used to work as a cowherd. But some wily people of the village blamed me as a Maoist criminal and police did start to search for me. I became underground to save my life and joined with Maoist party. I did for Maoist by taking different roles assigned by the party. During wartime, I lost my right hand by blasting a grenade accidentally. I think oppression is the main motivating factor for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict. Police and Army oppressed many times in the village by charging fake issues to the villagers. They also took the life of Lali Roka, a health volunteer by raping in the group which also encouraged me for revenge. "I believed with Maoist leaders' speech about the establishment of a just society." "We captured weapons and would government too then why would not possible for the establishment of communism?" But, it takes more time, so to establish Magars' autonomous state is our current goal" Syula concluded.

Nepal's importance, seen from the international perspective, lies not in its size or its natural resources, but its strategic location between two Asian powers, China and India. Both have been competing for leadership in Asia since the mid-1950s. Both China and India want to use Nepal as their wishes, due to the geographical situation of Nepal. For India, Nepal is the strong keystone for northern side safety and China; Nepal must be fully independent, without any tension from India. For this sake, there must be stability in Nepal from the view of China. So, the research conducted in the Thabang Village also revealed the fact that China and the Maoist armed conflict were somewhere related. As another informant put it :

Comrade Gore, 60 years old, an inhabitant of Thabang Village had involved Barman Budha's camp when Thabang Village had divided into two camps due to the conflict between Ram Kumar Budha and Barman Budha. "I had become a communist party

member in 1976", says Gore. At that time China-Nepal Maitri Sangh used to send magazines in the village. Our elders like Suryalal Budha and Barman Budha also used to talk about the successful communist revolution in China. During that time, Police administration charged us by blaming us as anti-nationalist, anti-people, anti-King, and criminal elements, only because we were being communist. But I don't think that we were wrong. Administration severely charged us at different times, although the Major Army Operation was major ones. We planned to take revenge against the administration. In between the years of armed conflict, the administration charged many operations frequently in the Thabang Village. During the time of armed conflict, I lost my sister Lali Roka. Police arrested her at that time she was involving in the Polio Drop program as a volunteer in the village health post. They raped her in the group and brutally killed her. So, oppression is the main factor that motivated me to involve in the Maoist armed conflict.

It was due to the Kham Magars' social and cultural conditions which helped to the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area. Kham Magars were communal in social and cultural respects which helped them to adopt the communist ideology and later they became Maoist activists.

The ideology of the Maoist Party was favorable for the Kham Magar people to take revenge against the state. Maoists took religion as the opium of society. The Kham Magars also decided to clean their stigma by adopting Maoist ideology. The commonality of the Kham Magars culture was favorable for the Maoists. The severe oppressions before and during the Maoist armed conflict also helped them to motivate the armed struggle. In Kham culture, people face individual problems collectively. To sacrifice themselves for the sake of their community is common practice. Durkheim's collective conscience and Marx's material interpretation of history are appropriate here to find out the motivating factors for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area.

6. Conclusion

The study conducted in Thabang Village revealed the fact that many motivating factors had contributed to the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area. Among them were mainly economic, social, cultural, religious, psychological, historical,

and geopolitical factors. Social exclusion was one of the motivating factors for the emergence and growth of the Maoist armed conflict. Kham Magar had excluded from economical, social, cultural, geographical, educational, developmental, religious, and political spheres. They had demanded to study in their languages. But the government didn't allow it. They were also excluded by blaming as adopting illegal livelihood strategy. Religious and ethnic communities have been drawn to the Maoist cause by the promise of autonomy of religions and culture. Poverty was another motivating factor for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict.

Mohan Bikram had played a significant role in the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict by cultivating the communist seed in the Study Area. Oppression was another main motivating factor for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict. Analyzing the geopolitical situation, Maoists adopts both Mao and Che Guevara's Military science. The geopolitical situation of Nepal, especially western hills was more suitable to adopt those military tactics. Maoist fully utilized this situation by guiding the ideology of MLM. Thus, ideology and philosophy had played the role of motivating factor for the emergence and development of Maoist conflict in the study area. quality of leadership had also one of the motivating factors.

Psychological factors had also played a great role in the emergence of the armed conflict in the study area. The frustration of youth, unemployed mass and students failed in SLC and those who were expecting more from the political change of 1990 and getting nothing. So, they have no choice left only to join Maoist armed conflict. Another motivating factor for the emergence and growth of the Maoist armed conflict was the history of Kham Magar itself. The geopolitical situation had played as another motivating factor for the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict. Both China and India want to use Nepal as their wishes, due to the geographical situation of Nepal. For India, Nepal is a strong keystone for northern side safety, and for China, Nepal must be fully independent, without any tension from India. For this sake, China-Nepal Maitri Sangh used to send the magazines to the village before launching the Maoist armed conflict. The social and cultural conditions of Kham Magars are based on collective conscience and collective action. This had played as the main dominating factor in the emergence and growth of Maoist armed conflict in the study area.

References

- Adhikari, Indra, "Women in Conflict : The Gender Perspective in Maoist Insurgency", Lok Raj Baral (ed.), *Nepal Facets of Maoist Insurgency*, New Delhi : Adroit Publishers, 2006.
- Baral, Lok Raj, *Nepal : Problems of Governance*, New Delhi : Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 1993.
- Bhattachan, Krishna Bahadur, "Possible Ethnic Revolution or Insurgency in a Predatory Unitary Hindu State", Dhruva Kumar (ed.), *Domestic Conflict and Crisis of Governability in Nepal*, Kathmandu : Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, 2000.
- Chamlagai, Abi Narayan, "Maoist Insurgency: An Ideological Diagnosis", Lok Raj Baral (ed.), *Nepal Facets of Maoist Insurgency*, Delhi : Adroit Publishers, 2006.
- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler, "Justice-Seeking and Loot Seeking in Civil War", Draft Paper, 17 February 1999.
- DFID, *Economic Aspects of Insurgency in Nepal*, Report 57/02, United Kingdom : Department for International Development, 2003.
- Do, Quy-Toan and Lakshmi Iyer, "Poverty, Social Divisions and Conflict in Nepal", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper-4228, May 2007.
- Gurung, Harka, "Nepal: Maoist Insurgency and Indigenous People", *Nepali Journal of Contemporary Studies*, III(2), September 2003.
- Gurung, Harka, "Social Exclusion and Maoist Insurgency", Paper presented at National Dialogue on the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal People, Kathmandu, Nepal, 19-20 January 2004.
- Hachhethu, Krishna, *Party Building in Nepal : Organization, Leadership and People : A comparative Study of the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)*, Kathmandu : Mandala Book Point, 2002.
- Hoftun, Martin, William Raeper and John Whelpton, *People, Politics and Ideology: Democracy and Social Change in Nepal*, Kathmandu : Mandala Book Point, 1999.
- Hutt, Michael (ed.), *Himalayan People's War : Nepal's Maoist Rebellion*, London : C.Hurst and Co. Ltd, 2004.
- Hutt, Michael, (ed.), *Nepal in the Nineties*, Delhi : Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Karki, Arjun and Binod Bhattarai (eds.), *Whose War? : Economic and Socio-Cultural Impacts of Nepal's Maoist-Government Nepal*, NGO Federation of Nepal, 2004.
- Karki, Arjun and David Seddon (eds.), *The People's War in Nepal : Left Perspectives*, New Delhi : Adroit Publishers, 2003.
- Kumar, Dhruva (ed.), *Domestic Conflict and Crisis of Governability in Nepal*, Kathmandu : Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, 2000.

- Kumar, Dhruva, *Yuddha Ko Artha Shaashtra* (in Nepali) *in Nepal*, 28-31, February 2004.
- Kushum, Govinda, "Nepal In-Country Workshop on preventive Action", *Workshop : Participant's Manual*, United Nations Staff Collage Project, 2001.
- Mahat, Ram Sharan, *In Defense of Democracy : Dynamics, and Fault Lines of Nepal's Political Economy*, India: Adroit Publishers, 2005.
- Mishra, C., "Locating the 'Causes' of the Maoist Struggle", A Paper presented at the International Workshop on 'Causes of Internal Conflicts and Means to Resolve Them : Case Study of Nepal', Organized in 22-24 February, 2004.
- Molnar, Augusta, "Economic Strategies and Ecological Constraints: Case of the Kham Magar of North West Nepal", C. Von Furer-Haimendorf (ed.), *Asian Highland Societies : In Anthropological Perspective*, New Delhi : Sterling Publisher Pvt. Ltd 1981.
- Muni, S. D., *The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal : The Challenge and the Response*, New Delhi : Rupa and Co, 2003.
- Murshed, S. M., and S. Gates, *Spatial-Horizontal Inequality and the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal*, Washington, DC : World Bank, February 2003.
- Onesto, Li, Report from the People's War in Nepal, Deepak Thapa (ed.), *Understanding the Maoist Movement in Nepal*, Nepal : Martin Chautari, 2003.
- Panday, Devendra Raj, *Nepal's Failed Development : Reflections on the Mission and the Maladies*, Kathmandu : Nepal South Asia Study Centre, 1999.
- Pandey, Nishchal Nath, *Nepal's Maoist Movement and Implications for India and China*, New Delhi : Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2005.
- Parwez, Shahid Md, "An Empirical Analysis of the Conflict in Nepal", NRM Working Paper Series No. 7, Asian Development Bank, July 2006.
- Raj, Prakash A., *Maoist in the Land of Buddha : An Analytical Study of the Study of Maoist Insurgency in Nepal*, Delhi : Nirala Publications, 2004.
- Sales, Anne de, "The Kham Magar Country, Nepal; Between Ethnic Claims and Maoism" (Translated by David N. Gellner), *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research*, 19, Autumn 2000.
- Shrestha, Chunda Bahadur, *Nepal : Coping with Maoist Insurgency*, Nepal : Chetana Lokshum, 2004.
- Thapa, Deepak (ed.), *Understanding the Maoist Movement of Nepal*, Kathmandu : Martin Chautari 2003.
- Thapa, Deepak and Bandana Sijapati, *A Kingdom under Seize : Nepal's Maoist Insurgency, 1996 to 2003*, Kathmandu : The Print House, 2003.
- Tiwari, Bishow Nath, "An Assessment of the Causes of Conflict in Nepal", A Paper to be presented at the Second Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference Nepal Study Centre, Madison 11 October 2007.

Upreti, Bishnu Raj, *Armed Conflict and Peace Process in Nepal : The Maoist Insurgency, Past Negotiations, and Opportunities for Conflict Transformation*, New Delhi : Adroit Publishers, 2006.

Upreti, Bishnu Raj, *The Price of Neglect; From Resource Conflict to Maoist Insurgency in the Himalayan Kingdom*, Kathmandu : Bhrikuti Academic Publications, 2004a.

Whelpton, John, "Political Identity in Nepal : State, Nation, and Community", D. N. Gellner, J. Pfaff-Czarnecka & J. Whelpton (eds.), *Nationalism and Ethnicity in a Hindu Kingdom : The Politics of Culture in Contemporary Nepal*, Amsterdam : Harwood Academic Publishers, 1997, 39-78. ★

Significance of Life Skills among B.Ed. Students : Gender Perspective Discourse

Pramod Kumar Gupta* and Deepa Awasthi**

The aim of this study was to compare the life skills of B.Ed. students of Sitapur city on gender basis. The sample was comprised of 203 students. Data has been collected with the help of Life skills assessment scale (2010) and personal data schedule (to gather personal information from the respondents). T-test has been used to analyse data statistically. Results indicated : 1. Male B.Ed. students of science background have shown better life skills than that of Female B.Ed. students. 2 Male and female B.Ed. students of Arts background have shown almost same level of life skills. 3 Female B.Ed. students of commerce background have shown better life skills than that of Male B.Ed. students. 4 Male B.Ed. students have shown better life skills than female B.Ed. students.

[Keywords : Life skills, Gender, Socio emotional skills]

* Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Lucknow University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <pkguptalu@gmail.com>

** Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow and Assistant Professor, A.N.D.T.T.(P.G.) College, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh (India) E-mail: <dawasthi.india@gmail.com>

**CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January-March), 2021
Peer Reviewed, Indexed & Refereed International Research Journal**

1. Introduction

21st century is full of opportunities as well as challenges. To avail the opportunities and to tackle the challenges we need some life skills which help us to attain success in every sphere of life and deal effectively with day to day situations. Every individual faces various problems and issues in his/her day to day life. Some people tackle those challenges very well and some face difficulty in doing so. To tackle these issues we need certain skills which are known as life skills. Life skills are the abilities which help an individual to maintain his/her mental well being as well as help him/her to maintain congenial relationships with his/her known ones. WHO has defined life skills as “the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life”. WHO has considered life skills comprising of personal, interpersonal, physical and cognitive skills. These skills make an individual capable of living efficiently. UNESCO has defined life skills as “a behaviour change or behaviour development approach designed to address a balance of three areas: knowledge, attitude and skills”. Life skills are very important for any individual as they help in positive development and orientation of one's life goals as well as make them cognitively, emotionally and socially sound. There are ten generic life skills have been defined by World Health Organization (WHO) which must be possessed by a human being. These are- Self awareness, Empathy, Effective Communication, Interpersonal Relationships, Creative thinking, Critical thinking, Decision making, Problem solving, Coping with emotions and Coping with stress.

Packer investigated that gender did not significantly influence life skills development, racial/ethnic identity, self esteem or self efficacy. Race/ ethnicity were found to have an impact on life skills development, racial/ethnic identity and self esteem. Ndirangu et al. (2013) in their study emphasized on gender factors related with life skills education in secondary school, they found that female teachers teaching life skills are not feeling comfortable to teach sensitive issues to opposite gender and unable to complete their syllabus. Female students are not comfortable to share their problems with boys rather they feel comfort to share with girls of their class. Administration's role was also not found very supportive as they do not provide opportunities to their teachers to attend life skills

development programme and improve their skills. Sharma & Nidhi Bala (2015) discussed the role of life skills education in gender equality. They considered men and women as complimentary to each other and thus each and every right and opportunity must be for everyone without any discrimination. They discussed various classroom practices which knowingly or unknowingly play an important role in gender inequality. They also discussed various measures to be taken in classroom to ensure development of life skills in boys as well as girls.

To inculcate these skills in proper manner life skill education is very necessary. In India various organizations are working in field of life skills education. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) works on life skills education and focuses on community health care through this. NCERT with HRD ministry is focusing on training of adolescent about life skills to prevent diseases like AIDS. National Curriculum Framework (NCF-2005) emphasized on the need and importance of life skills education. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced life skills as a part of their curriculum in 2005. In a report titled 'Mapping Life Skills in India: Research, Policy and Practice', NCERT discussed benefits of life skills education. According to them life skills education may be helpful in peace education, health and physical education, adolescence education programme etc.

YUVA School Life Skill Program was centered in Delhi and focused on training of teachers and students about life skills. Public Private Teacher Training venture was launched in 2012 which was planned for teacher's training of life skills. NCERT has formed a teacher suggestion packet in 2016. CBSE also formulated teacher manual on life skills. Indian Association of Life Skill Education (IALSE) is a registered society in Tamilnadu, working very well in field of life skill education throughout India. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan also focused on importance of life skills. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development in Tamilnadu is also working on training of teachers since 2008. This institute focuses on all arenas of society to develop life skills.

Life skills education is demand of contemporary society. Any individual having various technical skills cannot even survive in absence of these life skills. As teachers we must focus on inculcation of these life skills in our students at every educational level whether it is primary, secondary or higher or professional education. B.Ed.

students are and future teachers of society. They must be skilled with life skills so that they can uplift themselves from gender biases and can utilize their full potential in the favour of their students as well as their nation's growth.

2. Need and Justification

This is important from above discussion that life skills are one of the most important needs to survive in this mortal world with full potential. Various researches have been conducted to study life skills in number of dimensions. But no study has been conducted with reference to gender perspective of pupil teachers of this region. Teachers are torch bearers and they must be free from any biases. They must be efficient in that manner so they can guide and help their students to realize the importance and use of these life skills. So there is great need of this study.

3. Statement of the Problem and Objectives

The focus of this study is on the significance of life skills among B.Ed. students (gender perspective discourse). Its specific objectives are as under :

1. To compare the life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of science background.
2. To compare the life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of Arts background.
3. To compare the life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of commerce background.
4. To compare the life skills of Male and Female B.Ed. Students.

4. Hypothesis

An attempt has been made to test the following hypotheses :

1. There will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of science background.
2. There will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of Arts background.
3. There will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of commerce background.

4. There will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B.Ed. students.

5. Research Methodology

This study is descriptive in nature. Survey method has been used to collect data.

5-1 Population and Sample

All B.Ed. students of Sitapur city have constituted the population of the study. Sampling has been done in two stages. At stage one two teacher's training institutions have been selected randomly from Sitapur city. At stage two: sample has been selected through incidental sampling. Thus sample was comprised of 203 students studying in teacher's training institutions.

5-2 Tools

1. **Life Skills Assessment Scale** : Life Skills Assessment Scale has been prepared and standardized by A. Radhakrishnan Nair, R. Subasree and Sunitha Ranjan. This scale is based on ten core life skills suggested by WHO. This multi dimensional life skills assessment scale consists of 100 items in the form of statements in-built with a 5 point scale (Always true of me, very true of me, sometimes true of me, occasionally true of me and not at all true of me). This scale has both positive and negative items.
2. **Personal data Schedule** : A self developed personal data schedule was conducted to collect detailed information about the respondents such as name, age, sex, educational qualification, and educational background

5-3 Procedure

After sampling, students were requested to fill life skill assessment scale (LSAS) and personal data schedule (PDS).

5-4 Statistical Analysis

Mean, SD and t-test were used to analyse the data.

6. Results

Results are presented in tabular form on next pages :

Table-1 : Showing difference in Life Skills of Male and Female B.Ed. Students having Science Background

Groups	N	M	SD	t-value	significance
Male	36	353.88	57.28	0.28	Not Significant at 0.05 level
Female	38	341.26	40.84		

The above table indicated the mean scores and SD values for male and female B.Ed. students having Science background in life skill assessment scale. Mean score and SD value for the male students having science background were 353.88 and 57.28 respectively. Same values for the female students having science background were 341.26 and 40.84 respectively. T-value in the table-1 is 0.28 which is not significant at 0.05 level. . Thus the hypothesis 1 i.e. there will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of science background has been accepted.

Above findings can be represented graphically as below :

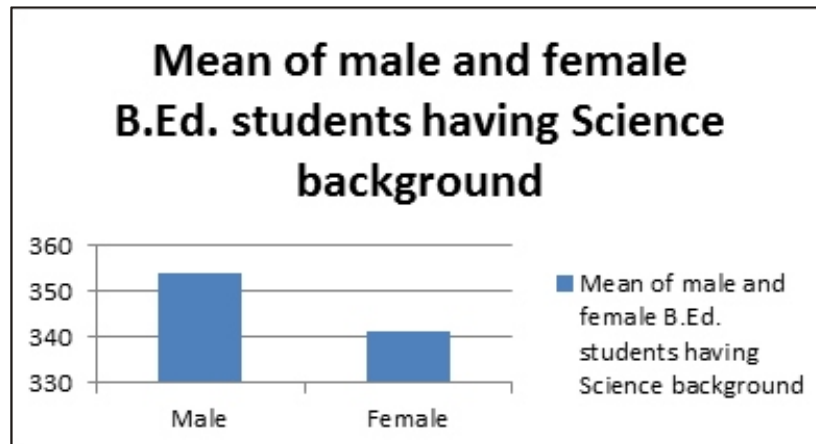


Figure-1 : Showing difference in life skills of male and female B.Ed. students having Science background

Table-2 : Showing difference in Life Skills of Male and Female B.Ed. students having Arts Background

Groups	N	M	SD	t-value	significance
Male	32	371.68	29.66	0.90	Not Significant at 0.05 level
Female	30	370.61	37.91		

The above table indicated the mean scores and SD values for male and female B.Ed. students having Arts background in life skill

assessment scale. Mean score and SD value for the male students having science background were 371.68 and 29.66 respectively. Same values for the female students having Arts background were 370.61 and 37.91 respectively. T-value in the table-2 is 0.90 which is not significant at 0.05 level. Thus the hypothesis 2 i.e. there will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of Arts background has been accepted.

Above findings can be represented graphically as below :

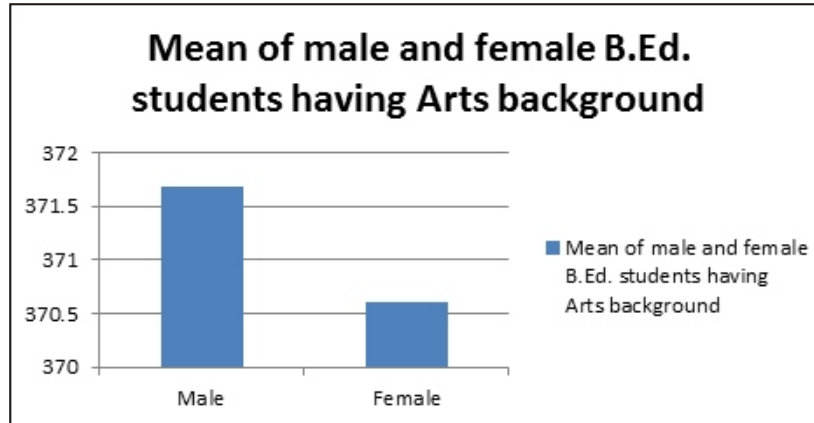


Figure-2 : Showing difference in life skills of male and female B.Ed. students having Arts background

Table-3 : Showing difference in Life Skills of Male and Female B.Ed. students having Commerce Background

Groups	N	M	SD	t-value	significance
Male	33	355.24	37.44	0.24	Not Significant at 0.05 level
Female	34	366.06	36.88		

The above table indicated the mean scores and SD values for male and female B.Ed. students having commerce background in life skill assessment scale. Mean score and SD value for the male students having commerce background were 355.24 and 37.44 respectively. Same values for the female students having commerce background were 366.06 and 36.88 respectively. T-value in the table-3 is 0.24 which is not significant at 0.05 level. Thus the hypothesis 3 i.e. there will be no significant difference in life skills of male and female B. Ed. Students of commerce background has been accepted.

Above findings can be represented graphically as shown on next page :

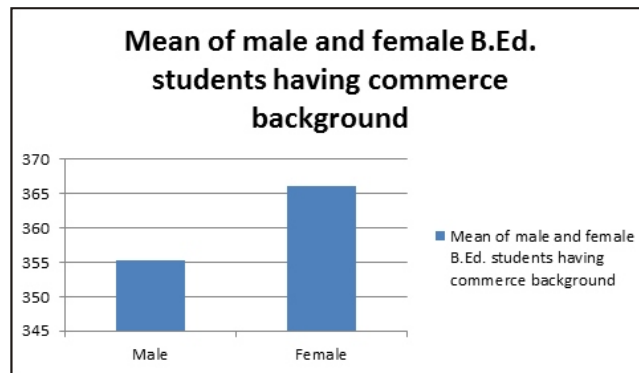


Figure-3 : Showing difference in life skills of male and female B.Ed. students having commerce background

Table-4 : Showing difference in Life Skills of Male and Female B.Ed. Students

Groups	N	M	SD	t-value	significance
Male	101	359.96	43.99	0.38	Not Significant at 0.05 level
Female	102	358.16	40.52		

The above table indicated the mean scores and SD values for male and female B.Ed. students in life skill assessment scale. Mean score and SD value for the male students having were 359.96 and 43.99 respectively. Same values for the female students were 358.16 and 40.52 respectively. T-value in the table -10 is 0.38 which is not significant at 0.05 level. . Thus the hypothesis 10 i.e. there will be no significant difference in life skills of male B.Ed. students having Arts and Commerce background has been accepted.

Above findings can be represented graphically as below :

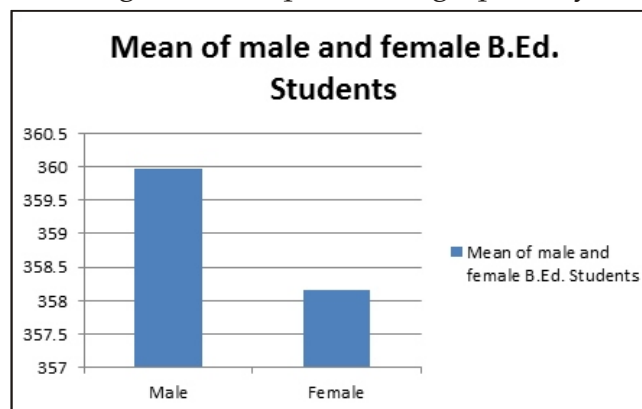


Figure-4 : Showing difference in life skills of male and female B.Ed. students

7. Discussion

Life skills play vital role in overall development of an individual. Life skills are 'the abilities individuals can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive and satisfying life (Hendricks, 1996). These skills are essential for everyone and can be inculcated in child through education. Teachers are the source of knowledge, values and skills for their students. So required life skills in students must be carried by the teachers as well. Teachers are the leaders in classroom who motivate and lead the students towards better society and nation. Miller (1976) accepted 'development of life skills is necessary to perform leadership functions in real life'. Overall male B.Ed. students have shown better life skills than female B.Ed. students. We belong to a patriarchal society where males are considered more important in family. Males are the decision makers and females are generally in role of followers. Each and every decision of their life has been affected with male counterpart in the family. Alam (2011) found in his study that men play role of decision makers in the family. This could be the reason behind low scores of female students in life skill assessment. Life skill approach is an interactive educational methodology that focuses on boys and girls acquiring gender specific skills as among them communication and assertiveness, decision making, critical thinking and negotiations, coping emotionally, stress management and self awareness (Ndirangu et al., 2013).

8. Conclusions

Participants have shown 'Average' level of life skills. No significant difference has been found in their life skills. But on the basis of differences in mean scores it can be concluded that :

1. Male B.Ed. students of science background have shown better life skills than that of Female B.Ed. students.
2. Male B.Ed. students of arts background have shown slightly better life skills than that of Female B.Ed. students.
3. Female B.Ed. students of commerce background have shown better life skills than that of Male B.Ed. students.
4. Male B.Ed. students have shown better life skills than female B.Ed. students.

9. Implications

Life skills are one of the most important requirements for successful living. So there must be provision to train each student in these life skills for this purpose life skill education must be incorporated with in curriculum itself. As this study has discussed the life skills status of pupil teachers, it is clear that proper life skills training must be given to these trainees as well so that they would be able to incorporate these skills in their students in future. Kwauk et al. (2017) focused on the necessity of teaching 21ST century life skills to teachers, to eliminate their unconscious gender biases and stereotypes. This stereotypical behaviour is a hindrance to achieve gender equality which is one of the goal for sustainable development. They emphasized on the importance of socio emotional skills along with cognitive skills.

References

- Alam, A., "Impact of Gender Discrimination on Gender Development and Poverty Alleviation", *Sarhad Journal of Agriculture*, 27(2), 2011, 329-339.
- CBSE, *Life Skills Education*, Central Board of Secondary Education. www.cbse.nic.in. Retrieved on 12/12/2016.
- Hendricks, P., Targeting life skills model, (1996). www.researchgate.net retrieved on 18/12/2020.
- Kwauk, C., Braga, A. & Kim, H., "Skills for a 'gendered' world : Adding a gender perspective to the skills debate", (2017). <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2017/04/03/skills-for-a-gendered-world-adding-a-gender-perspective-to-the-skills-debate/> retrieved on 19/01/2021.
- Life Skill Education and CCE*, retrieved from http://www.cbse.in/cce/life_skills_cce.pdf
- Miller, R. A., *Leader/Agents Guide : Leadership Life Skills*, Stillwater : Oklahoma state university, 1976.
- Module 7 Life skills*. www.unodc.org. retrieved on 12/5/20.
- Morfad, S., K. F. Chee, A. E. Koh & I. Uba, 2013. "Investigating Life Skills among Young Students In Malaysia", *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*, 3(3), 210-213.
- Ndirangu, A. N., Ngare, G. W. & Wango, G. (2013). "Gender factors in implementation of life skills education in secondary schools in Nairobi, Kenya", *International Journal of Education and Research*, 1(5), 1-18. www.ijern.com. Retrieved on 17/05/2020.

- Packer, C. L., "An investigation of life skills development, racial/ethnic identity, self esteem and self efficacy in high achieving undergraduates of Color". Retrieved from https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/packer_catherine_1_200608_phd.pdf
- Sharma, M. & Nidhi Bala, "Gender Equality through Life Skills Education", *Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika*, II(XI), 2015, 21-24, www.socialresearchfoundation.com. retrieved on 19/05/2020.
- Smith, R., Nesbakken, Wirak, A. & Sonn, B., "The Link Between Health, Social Issues, and Secondary Education : Life skills, Health, and Civic Education", World Bank Working Paper No. 100, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2007.
- UNESCO, *Gender Responsive Life Skills-based Education*, Bangkok UNESCO, 2008. www.unesdoc.unesco.org
- What are the life skills and why teach them? www.britishcouncil.gr. Retrieved on 17/05/2020. ★

Third Gender : Connections with the Past

Bharti Mohan*

Transgender community in India has recently been into more limelight after the abolition of section 377. They are proving themselves in every walk of life. However, they have their roots in the past. The paper aims to study the historical status of the third gender in India. In studying the same, we will take examples from both the mythology as well as the Indian history. The paper will walk through the different roles played by the transgender community in past and their position in the present day society to conclude that the third gender is excelling in all walks of life and is setting an example, that irrespective of the circumstances, they too can shine and build an identity of their own.

[**Keyword** : Transgender, Eunuch, Khwajasara, Mughal Harem]

1. Introduction

Transgender community has recently gained more popularity in India. With the revoking of Section 377 in India, which was earlier deemed criminal offence in the British Era laws, the LGBTQ society

* Associate Professor, Department of History, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi University, Delhi (India) E-mail: <bhartimhn@gmail.com>

as a whole came into the limelight. We have now third gender centric films like “Laxmii” in Bollywood and “Kanchana” in South Indian film industry where the commercially and critically acclaimed actors like Akshay Kumar and Raghawa Lawrence have played the role of a transgender. We also have famous transgender celebrities like Saisha Shinde who is a transgender designer, Madhu Kinnar who was the first trans-woman to be elected as a Mayor in the state of Chhattisgarh, Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi who is a famous transgender activist and also raised her voice against the discriminatory Section 377 of the Indian constitution. Naaz Joshi is India’s first transgender international beauty queen and has made India proud in the international stage by winning Miss World Diversity three times in the in a row. Manabi Bandhopadhyay is the first transgender principal of a college in West Bengal.

The list is endless. The key takeaway is that this community is excelling in all walks of life be it politics, education, entertainment etc. However, little do people know that the community also forms an integral part of our historical past. Not only do we find their contribution in historical India but they have relevant roles to play in the Hindu Mythology as well. The paper will aim to highlight the role of transgender community in both the historical past as well as the mythological past connecting the broken links of the past and the present.

2. Glimpses in Mythology

Before moving to the mythological text, let us focus on the language in which these are written, that is, Sanskrit.

Sanskrit is the mother of all languages and is also known as the “Dev Bhasha” or “God’s language”. It is one of the oldest language in the world. Many Hindu holy texts are written in Sanskrit. There are three genders in Sanskrit-masculine, feminine, and the neutral gender. This means that the recognition to the third gender started way back when the oldest language of the world was developed-let alone the references in text that we will further discuss.

2.1 Instances in the Ramayana

The third gender holds a special relevance when we talk about the Ramayana. Very few people know that when Lord Ram along with Goddess Sita and Lord Lakshman were going for 14 years of

exile, their countrymen followed them. They requested all the males and females to go back to their homes. When they returned back after 14 years of exile, they found a group of *hijras* (transgender) waiting outside the gates of Ayodhya. They were out of Ayodhya ever since Lord Ram left for exile because the Lord had not given any instruction for their return. Lord Ram was deeply moved and blessed them with a promise that their place will always be auspicious. And till date, it is indeed considered an auspicious thing to seek blessings from a eunuch at ceremonial occasions like childbirth, marriages, etc.

2.2 Instances from Mahabharata

Mahabharata is another major epic of the Hindus. There are many instances in the epic highlighting the presence of third gender as enumerated below :

1. **Arjun as Brihannala** : Arjun was one of the five Pandavas who fought the war of Kurukshetra against the Kauravas. He was one of the main protagonists in the epic who was known for his skills in archery and was considered one of the greatest warriors of all time. Arjun disguised himself as a eunuch-Brihannala for one year during the 14 years of exile of the Pandavas. This was a result of the Curse given by Urvashi to Arjun. Arjun considered Urvashi as her mother as she was related to Kurus. However, she fell in love with him and came up with the marriage proposal. Rejected by Arjun, she felt insulted and cursed him to be a eunuch for life. When Lord Indra intervened, the duration of the curse was reduced to one year. During that one year, the mighty warrior lived the life of a eunuch as a dancer, teaching dance to princess of Virat Nagar-princess Uttara.
2. **Shikhandi** : Shikhandi is another strong character of Mahabharata who was a eunuch and was the eldest child of king Drupad and fought the war of Kurukshetra from the Pandavas side. Shikhandi was the rebirth of Amba, one of the three daughters of the king of Kashi, who wanted to seek revenge from the mighty warrior and son of Goddess Ganga-Bhishm, for ruining her life. Reborn as Shikhandi, she became the reason for the death of Bhishm in the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

2.3 Instances from our Historical Past

Eunuchs have been an important part of our historical past as they were not only the guardian of the Mughal Harems but have also played an important role in giving advisory services to the kings and participation in wars owing to their strong physical strength.

Below are a few instances to put things in perspective :

1. **References in Travelogues** : Accounts of eunuch lives have often been quoted by the foreign travellers who saw them not just as guards and aides to the queen but also as influential people of the kingdom specially the 'Zanana Khana'.

One such account was by a Dutch merchant - Francisco Pelsaert who during his visit to the Mughal court in the 17th century described that the eunuchs could get whatever they wanted, be it, horses or slaves. Not just in India, the presence of the third gender at Prophet tomb in Medina, had been noted by the British Traveller - Eldon Rutter in 1925.

2. **Eunuch in the Position of Power** : There were some eunuchs that were so influential in the court and were the holders of the most prominent positions :

Malik Sarwar : Malik Sarwar, a Khawaja Sara, a eunuch, was the governor of Jaunpur in 1394. He was also known as Malik -us-Sharq (ruler of the east). He was the first ruler of the Sharqi dynasty and was a former minister under Sultan Mohammed Shah IV Tughlaq.

Malik Kafur : In the recent movie by Sanjay Leela Bhansali-Padmaavat, we saw that Malik Kafur was a close aide to Alauddin Khilji. Some historians suggest that Malik Kafur was a gay while others suggest that he was a eunuch. He was the General of the Delhi sultanate under ruler Alauddin Khilji. He had led several series of expeditions and also served as a Governor of Devagiri.

3. **Presence in Mughal Period** : Eunuchs played an important role in medieval era, where they were usually linked to the Mughal Harem. They were not only responsible for guarding the Harem but also had significant involvement in political matters and armed forces. They were considered so trustworthy that in some instances they also acted as king's messengers and in other, they were responsible for guarding the treasury.

Historian Shadab Bano in her article, "Eunuchs in Mughal households and courts", mentioned about Ambar who was a eunuch during the reign of Babar. Babar's daughter Gulbadan Begum mentioned about her acts of bravery in guarding the royal woman and also about her role as a royal agent.

It was in Akbar's time that the eunuchs came into more focus. Abul Fazl in Akbarnama mentions about Niamat, a eunuch who tried to stop Adham Khan, the General in Akbar's court, who had come to seek revenge from him. There are paintings from Akbar's time showing males in women-like attire in Zanana Khana, most probably depicting the Khwaja Saras. Itimad Khan was a eunuch officer in the court of Akbar, responsible for managing finances. Eunuchs in Akbar's Empire held high stature and wealth. Many others were commanders in the army or served as the governors of provinces.

From Akbar to Jahangir the relevance of eunuch did not reduce. Professor Ruby Lal notes that Khwaja Talib, the head eunuch was one of the most prominent person in Jahangir's Court. Jahangirnama or "Tuzk-e-Jahangir" has references of eunuchs. Eunuch Jawahir Khan was one of the supervisors of the Harem. The presence of eunuch were more important because of the prevailing 'Purdah system' where the females could not come in direct contact with any male other than their husbands. In such a case, the presence of the third gender became all the more necessary for the protection and safety of the Harem.

Shajahan's Khwaja Sara, Feroz Khan constructed his tomb in Agra. During the reign of Shah Jahan, eunuchs were so wealthy that they wanted magnificent tombs for themselves. During this period, there was a lot of construction of monuments as well. Since the eunuchs were having higher stature in Mughal Empire, several men and boys emasculated so that they could also serve the Haram and get wealthy. This episode in Jahangir-Nama is titled as "The Eunuch of the Bengal".

- 4. During the Colonial Period :** It was during the colonial period that the third gender lost its shine and stature and became a vulnerable community. The land inherited by them was taken back since it was not inherited through blood relation. They were denied of all civil rights. In 1871, the 'Criminal Tribes Act' included a list of communities and declared them as criminals.

The part 2 of the act had special emphasis on the eunuchs or hijras.

3. Conclusion

As we walk through the pathways of our history, we see that the third gender community enjoyed a special stature and recognition - both in terms of position and wealth. They served as governors, ministers and were a close aide to the throne. However, their position became vulnerable in the British Era. Even today, the third gender is excelling in all walks of life and is setting an example, conveying to us that, irrespective of the circumstances, they too can shine and build an identity of their own.

References

- Adrija Roychowdhury, "When eunuchs were the mid-rung of power in the Mughal empire", *The Indian Express*, published on July 19, 2018, retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/research/eunuch-security-guards-bihar-mughal-empire-history-5266102/>
- Ajantha Rao, "On the contrasting conditions of eunuchs under Emperor Jahangir and his successor Shah Jahan", *The MCH Blog*, retrieved on 27 March, 2021, retrieved from <https://themchblog.wordpress.com/2018/10/26/on-the-contrasting-conditions-of-eunuchs-under-emperor-jahangir-and-his-successor-shah-jahan/>
- Arpita Raghuwanshi, ShadabBano, "Eunuchs in Mughal Establishment", *Academia*, retrieved on 26 March, 2021, retrieved from https://www.academia.edu/36705567/Eunuchs_in_Mughal_Establishment.
- Kanuka Ramesh, "Eunuchs during Medieval Period", *New International Reliable Research Journal*, I(XVII), August 2014, retrieved from <https://www.nlginform.com/life-of-eunuchs-hijras-in-medieval-indian-history/>
- Michelraj, M., "Historical Evolution of Transgender Communities in India", *Asian Review of Social Sciences*, 4(1), Jan-June 2015, 17-19, retrieved from <https://www.trp.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ARSS-Vol.4-No.1-Jan-June-2015-pp.17-19.pdf>.
- Piu Roy, "India's third gender : A journey of Hijra community from mythology to harsh reality", *My Voice*, published on 20 June 2020, retrieved from <https://myvoice.opindia.com/2020/06/indias-third-gender-a-journey-of-hijra-community-from-mythology-to-harsh-reality/>
- Rana Safvi, "Awed by Sharqi architecture", *The Hindu*, published on November 11, 2018, retrieved from <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/awed-by-sharqi-architecture/article25464562.ece>.

Sonia Mariam Thomas, "16 Transgender Indians We Absolutely Need To Know About", *BuzzFeed*, published on 17 Nov 2017, Retrieved from <https://www.buzzfeed.com/soniathomas/15-transgender-indians-we-absolutely-need-to-know-about>.

Wikipedia, Jaunpur Sultanate, retrieved on 27 March 2021, retrieved from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaunpur_Sultanate.

Wikipedia, Malik Kafur, retrieved on 28th March, 2021, retrieved from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_Kafur#:~:text=Kafur%20is%20described%20as%20of,original%20master%20for%201%2C000%20dinars

Wikipedia, Naaz Joshi, retrieved on 26 March 2021, retrieved from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naaz_Joshi. ★

Book Review

Sun Guirong, *Studies on Youth Literature of "the Post-80s Generation" in the New Century*, China : The People's Publishing House, 2016.

Zhang Qinfeng, Associate Professor of International Institute of Education in Shandong Normal University, China

This is a book of comprehensive and profound studies on China's youth literature by the so-called "post-80s generation".....the first generation in China's New Period after the Great Cultural Revolution. It is published by the People's Publishing House, China. The author is professor Sun Guirong, and it is the result of her completed project "studies on germination, dissemination, differentiation and deformation of youth literature by the post-80s generation" subsidized by Ministry of Education, China (2014JXZ2818). It has won the Sixteen Outstanding Achievement Award directed by Chinese Contemporary Literature Association, and has been considered as a "specialized research on youth literature of post-80s generation" to improve study standard of Chinese youth literature by Wu Jun, a famous Scholar and professor of Nan Jing University. All those indicate it has good social influences and deserves more introductions to the world.

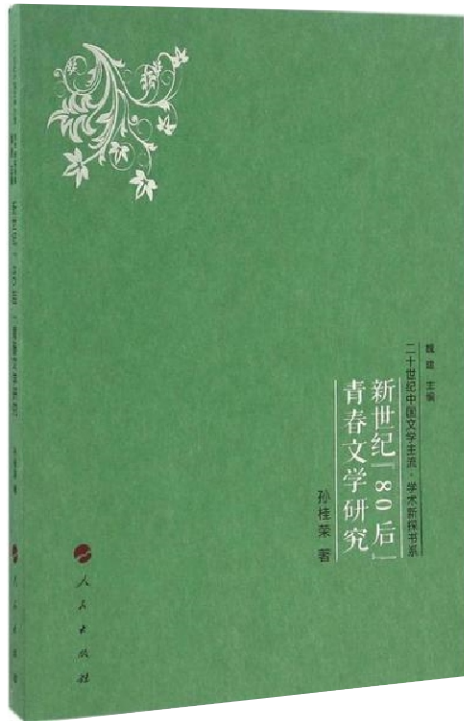
The book contains eleven chapters and one appendix, which studies youth literature of Chinese post-80s generation entirely and meticulously. It comprises both comprehensive explanation of youth literature, and its particular sub-fields as well, such as resistant narratives, sentimental or narcissist novels, and Time-travel fiction in Chinese youth literature, etc. What's more, it has elaborate research on the famous representative writers of Chinese post-80s generation among youth literature, including Han Han, Guo Jingming, Zhang Yueran and Chun Shu. Its publication displays that Chinese literary study begins to pay close attention to youth literature, which is usually despised and marginalized in research circle, because many scholars have been considering youth literature is not so touching and meaningful as classic works.

The book also proposes several valuable viewpoints. For example, "commercialism and materialism in Chinese youth literature point to China's transition from moralism to desire", "women's Chinese youth literature reflect women's new identities.....more open, free and confidential", "youth literary works suggest a shift in Chinese society,

with an unprecedented set of new values based on a new kind of individual, while nonetheless intricately connected to Chinese history and culture". All those highly reflect the new features of youth literature and deserve more concerns of current literary circle.

In China, youth literature is a highly controversial topic. Many young readers, especially the young, crazily love it. Nevertheless, lots of researchers criticize it violently, because it is not so thoughtful and informative as the main stream of literature. This book considers, as a kind of popular literary tide, youth literature can not be just valued by their literary texts themselves as the classic works. Instead, we can carry out new evaluation criteria to appraise them, which can be cultural studies or synthetical studies "engaging in varies aspects of youth literature----propagating mechanism, cultural system, capital operation, or even fans behaviour" (P. 325). This is a new study method to look into youth literature of Chinese post-80s generation, and the book actually carry out its study by the new method. For example, its interpretations on Han Han (an author of young cynic) in chapters 9 contains not only his works, but also his heated debates with the main literary circle, his blog on social problems, differences between him and other young cynics, etc. Some of its chapters have been published in *Literature Review*, *Contends of Literature and Art*, *Southern Literary World*, or other famous academic journal of China. All those display the pioneering value of the book.

Professor Sun Guirong is Head of Teaching and Research Section on Contemporary Literature at Shandong Normal University, 88 Wenhua E Rd, Lixia District, Jinan, Shandong (China). Her Email ID for any further query is <sunny72gr@aliyun.com>



Form 4 (See Rule 8)

Place of Publication : Delhi, India

Periodicity : Quarterly (English)

Printer's Name : Dr. Priyanka Mahajan
M/S Saksham Computers

Nationality : Indian

Address : D-59, Shastri Nagar
Meerut-250 004 (INDIA)

Editor's Name : Dr. Dharam Vir

Nationality : Indian

Address : D-59, Shastri Nagar
Meerut-250 004 (INDIA)

Names and addresses of : Dr. S. S. Shashi
the individuals who own B-4/245, Safdarjung Enclave
the journal and of the New Delhi-110 029
partners or share-holders Dr. Dharam Vir
holdings more than one per D-59, Shastri Nagar
cent of the total capital Meerut-250 004 (INDIA)

I, Dr. Dharam Vir, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dharam Vir

ISSN 0302-9298

Regd. No. RN 23807172

*Double-blind Reviewed, Indexed and
Refereed Quarterly International Journal*

For enquiry, please contact :

The Managing Editor

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL SCIENCES

D-59, Shastri Nagar, Meerut - 250 004 (INDIA)

Ph. : 0121-2763765, +919997771669, +919219658788

Visit us at www.cssdelhi.org <email : editor@cssdelhi.org; papersubmission@cssdelhi.org>