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Editorial

The Indian knowledge tradition is a rich and vast heritage that has been guiding humanity for millennia. This tradition is not only religious or spiritual, but also provides deep understanding in many fields like science, mathematics, Ayurveda, Vastushastra, philosophy, yoga and social behavior. In today's era of globalization and technological development, when man is struggling with mental stress, environmental crisis and social disintegration, the relevance of the Indian knowledge tradition has increased more than ever. The global acceptance of Yoga and Ayurveda is proof that the Indian knowledge tradition was not limited to the Indian borders. Yoga has become a global solution for mental and physical health today, while Ayurveda offers a sustainable alternative to natural medicine. This science looks at the body from a holistic perspective, which makes it possible to prevent lifestyle-based diseases.

Re-formulation of education and morality is also the need of the hour. Principles like 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', 'Satyam Vad, Dharmam Chara' inherent in Indian philosophy nourish the spirit of tolerance, co-existence and truthfulness in modern society. When the world is moving towards consumerism and personal selfishness, the Indian knowledge tradition shows the path of a balanced, coexistent and ethical lifestyle.

In the field of environmental conservation too, the Indian tradition emphasizes on symbiosis with nature. Panchtatva, tree worship, considering rivers as life-giving- all these reflect a deep understanding of the conservation of nature, which can become a guide in solving today's climate crisis. This issue provides useful material for researchers, students, professors and aware citizens of the society.

The subject Indian Knowledge Tradition and Sociological Context focuses on the development of knowledge in Indian society and its social forms. The ancient civilization of India has given the world deep philosophical thoughts, ethical teachings, models of social organization and a unique vision of living. The Indian knowledge tradition is spread in various fields like Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, epics (Ramayana and Mahabharata), philosophies, Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology and Vastu. This tradition does not consider knowledge as a mere intellectual exercise, but connects it with every aspect of life- a means of personal, family, social and spiritual development. From a sociological point of view, the Indian knowledge tradition presented principles for organizing society. The varna system (divisions based on merit and karma), the ashram system (four stages of life), and the concept of the joint family promoted social stability and morality. Institutions like the panchayat system and gram swaraj are examples of ancient democratic systems. Dharma and duty have had a very important place in Indian society. Dharma does not only mean worship, but also the fulfillment of social, familial and personal responsibilities. It enhanced the sense of balance, cooperation and coexistence in society. The Indian knowledge tradition is also being re-

evaluated in contemporary sociology. The relevance of the Indian approach to solving social crises arising out of globalization, consumerism and modern lifestyles is being recognized. Values like collective interest, tolerance, non-violence, equality, and harmony with the environment are still very important today. Thus, the Indian knowledge tradition is not only a glory of the past but also a rich source for social structure, morality and human welfare in today's times. From its sociological study, it becomes clear that Indian thinking has been holistic and balanced in all aspects of life.

We believe that this research journal will prove useful for the readers' thinking, contemplation and study and will provide new inspiration in the direction of research. In the end, I heartily thank all the authors, researchers and colleagues, whose active cooperation has made the publication of this issue possible on time.



Professor Akhilesh Shukla
Chief Editor

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Art and Culture of the Pala Dynasty: A Legacy of Creativity and Influence

• Amol Kumar

Abstract- *The Pala Dynasty (8th–12th century CE) was one of the most significant ruling dynasties of medieval India, known for its patronage of art, architecture, and culture. Flourishing primarily in Bengal and Bihar, the dynasty contributed immensely to the development of Buddhist art, literature, and sculpture, influencing artistic traditions in India, Nepal, and Tibet. The Palas established renowned centers of learning, such as Nalanda and Vikramashila Universities, which became hubs of intellectual and artistic activity. Their architectural style, characterized by intricate terracotta decorations, well-planned monasteries, and large stupas, played a vital role in the evolution of Buddhist religious structures across South and Southeast Asia. The artistic legacy of the Pala Dynasty is evident in its sculptures, which showcase refined craftsmanship, delicate ornamentation, and a strong influence of Buddhist iconography. The Pala School of Art, with its polished black basalt sculptures and elegant depictions of deities, left an indelible mark on later art traditions, particularly in Tibet and Nepal. Additionally, the dynasty played a crucial role in preserving and promoting Buddhist manuscript painting, with vibrant palm-leaf illustrations that enriched Buddhist literature and spread its teachings across Asia. This research paper explores the artistic and cultural achievements of the Pala Dynasty, analyzing its impact on temple architecture, painting, sculpture, and religious practices. By examining historical records and archaeological findings, this study highlights the dynasty's role in shaping the artistic heritage of South Asia and beyond. Furthermore, it delves into the enduring influence of Pala art and culture on the artistic traditions of neighboring regions, tracing its evolution and adaptation through centuries. The study underscores the significance of the Pala Dynasty as a patron of artistic expression and intellectual growth, whose contributions continue to be recognized as integral to the rich cultural tapestry of South Asia.*

Keywords- *Art, Culture, Pala Dynasty, Nalanda and Vikramashila*

Introduction- The Pala Dynasty, which ruled over Bengal and Bihar from the 8th to the 12th century CE, was a golden era for art and culture in medieval India. The dynasty was a great patron of Buddhism, leading to the development of exquisite Buddhist sculptures, paintings, and monumental architecture. The artistic style that emerged during this period, known as the Pala School of Art, influenced religious and cultural developments not only in India but also in Southeast Asia and Tibet. This paper delves into the rich

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artistic and cultural contributions of the Pala rulers, exploring their architecture, sculpture, painting, and literary advancements.

Architecture of the Pala Dynasty- The Pala rulers were staunch patrons of Buddhism, which led to the construction of grand monasteries, stupas, and temples. Some of the most significant Buddhist monasteries built during this time include Nalanda University in Bihar, one of the greatest centers of learning in ancient India, which flourished under Pala patronage, with numerous temples, stupas, and monastic structures built in the distinctive Pala style. Another major Buddhist learning center was Vikramashila University in Bihar, which housed elaborate monasteries and stupas adorned with intricate carvings. Somapura Mahavihara in present-day Bangladesh, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most significant surviving examples of Pala architecture, showcasing symmetrical designs and intricate terracotta ornamentation.

Although primarily associated with Buddhism, the Pala Dynasty also supported Hindu temple construction. Pala temples typically followed a simple cruciform plan with a central shrine and surrounding halls. They featured ornate doorways, sculpted panels, and decorative motifs influenced by Buddhist iconography. The temples of Bindhyabasini and the Shiva temples of Bangladesh exemplify this architectural tradition.

Sculpture and Iconography- The Pala School of Sculpture was characterized by detailed iconography, elegant body postures, and intricate ornamentation. These sculptures were made from black basalt, bronze, and terracotta. Some key features of Pala sculptures include smooth, polished surfaces with refined detailing, elaborate jewelry and drapery in statues, graceful, elongated figures with meditative expressions, and intricate halos and backdrops, often depicting lotus motifs and celestial beings. Major examples of Pala sculptures include seated Buddha statues found in Nalanda and Vikramashila, depicting the Buddha in deep meditation, symbolizing wisdom and enlightenment. Other notable works include images of Avalokiteshvara and Tara, widely sculpted and later influencing Tibetan Buddhist art, and Hindu deities like Vishnu and Shiva, showcasing a blend of Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions.

Painting and Manuscript Art- The Pala period saw the development of miniature paintings and manuscript illustrations. The most prominent form of Pala painting was found in illuminated Buddhist manuscripts, which were created on palm leaves and decorated with vibrant colors and gold accents. Pala miniature paintings were dominated by Buddhist themes, particularly depictions of the life of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas. The use of natural colors like red, blue, and gold, figures depicted with elegant curves and elongated eyes, and intricate floral and geometric border designs were characteristic of this art form. Notable examples include the illustrated manuscripts of the *Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita* and the *Dharanisamgraha*, which have influenced later Tibetan and Nepalese art traditions.

Cultural and Literary Achievements- The Pala period was a time of literary flourishing, with Sanskrit and Pali texts gaining prominence.

Scholars at Nalanda and Vikramashila universities produced important works on philosophy, medicine, and logic. The Pala rulers patronized the translation and preservation of Buddhist scriptures, many of which were taken to Tibet, contributing to the spread of Vajrayana Buddhism. Despite their Buddhist leanings, the Palas also supported Hindu scholars, leading to the creation of significant Sanskrit literature on grammar, poetry, and theology. Notable scholars from this period include Atisha Dipankara (982–1054 CE), a Buddhist scholar from Bengal who played a crucial role in reviving Buddhism in Tibet, and Shantarakshita, a key Buddhist philosopher and teacher who helped establish Buddhist teachings in Nepal and Tibet.

The Pala rulers encouraged various forms of performing arts, including dance, music, and drama. Buddhist chanting, devotional music, and classical dance forms flourished under their patronage, influencing later traditions in Bengal and Southeast Asia.

Legacy and Influence of Pala Art and Culture- The artistic and cultural contributions of the Pala Dynasty had far-reaching effects beyond India. Pala art and architectural styles spread to Nepal, Tibet, and Southeast Asia, shaping Buddhist iconography and temple construction in these regions. The fusion of Pala artistic traditions with Tibetan and Nepalese influences led to the creation of the distinctive Himalayan Buddhist art style seen today. Additionally, the manuscript traditions and learning centers established during the Pala era played a crucial role in preserving Buddhist philosophy and Indian scholasticism. Even after the decline of the Pala Dynasty, its artistic and cultural heritage continued to inspire generations of artists and scholars.

The Pala Dynasty was a period of immense artistic and cultural achievement, leaving behind a legacy that shaped the artistic and intellectual traditions of India and beyond. Through their patronage of monumental architecture, exquisite sculpture, manuscript painting, and literary works, the Pala rulers significantly contributed to the preservation and propagation of Buddhist and Hindu art. Their influence remains evident in modern Buddhist art and South Asian cultural traditions, underscoring the lasting impact of the Pala era on world heritage. This study reaffirms the importance of the Pala Dynasty in the history of Indian art and culture, highlighting its contributions as one of the greatest cultural renaissances in medieval South Asia.

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Emotional Manipulation Against Women in Patriarchal Upbringing in The Movie Thappad

• Archita Pandey

.. Sadhana Singh Yadav

... M. K Yadav

Abstract- Emotional manipulation is a form of psychological abuse where a person uses various tactics to control, influence, or exploit other person's emotions, thoughts or behavior. It includes any attempt to sway your emotions to try to get you to act or feel a certain way. Abuse isn't always loud. It can be subtle, calculated game of manipulation. Emotional manipulation in relationships exists on a spectrum and it doesn't always have malicious intent. It's a self-serving behavior that can cause stress, anxiety, and depression in the person being manipulated. The term 'patriarchy' refers to a social system where men hold power and authority and women are subordinate and marginalized. Patriarchy affects not only women but also men, limiting their emotional expression and reinforcing harmful masculinity norms. Patriarchal upbringing refers to the socialization process where individuals, especially women and girls, are raised in a society dominated by patriarchal values, norms and expectations. Patriarchal upbringing can have lasting effects, but recognizing and challenging these norms can lead to positive change. This paper explores the pervasive and insidious form of emotional manipulation employed against women in patriarchal upbringing, reinforcing gender-based oppression. Emotional manipulation targeting women constitutes a widespread and insidious pattern of exploitation, causing profound and enduring damage. The subtle yet destructive tactics of emotional manipulation against women continues a pervasive and harmful dynamics. The prevalence of emotional manipulation against women is frequently minimized or ignored. Physical violence can be healed with time but emotional violence continues our whole life. Patriarchal influence can lead to a higher incidence of emotional abuse among women and girls. The covert nature of emotional abuse, distinct from emotional manipulation, renders it difficult to detect, entrapping victims.

Keywords- Emotional abuse, Patriarchal upbringing, mental health, Dignity

Introduction- Emotional manipulation, a subtle yet potent form of psychological abuse, has long been entrenched in patriarchal societies,

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perpetuating the subjugation of women. Within patriarchal families, women are socialized to prioritize other's need over their own, fostering a culture of self-sacrifice and silence. This phenomenon is particularly insidious, as emotional manipulation can be masked as love, care or protection, rendering it difficult to recognize and challenge. Research has consistently shown that women raised in patriarchal environments are excessively vulnerable to emotional manipulation, leading to devastating consequences, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The internalized oppression resulting from emotional manipulation can compromise woman's autonomy, agency and self-esteem. Patriarchal societies perpetuate gender-based oppression, reinforcing harmful norms and power dynamics. Emotional manipulation is a critical tool in maintaining these dynamics, allowing perpetrators to control and dominate women. The World Health Organization recognizes emotional manipulation as a significant public health concern, affecting millions of women worldwide. According to the WHO, approximately 1 in 3 women experience emotional abuse globally. Emotional manipulation is defined as the use of emotional tactics to control or dominate another person. Patriarchal upbringing refers to the socialization of women within patriarchal families and societies, while internalized oppression denotes the internalization of harmful norms and beliefs perpetuating oppression.

Anubhav Sinha is a renowned Indian film director and producer and screenwriter known for his thought provoking and socially relevant films. He is notable for movies like *RaOne* (2011), *Tum Bin* (2001), *Dus* (2005), *Mulk* (2018), *Article 15* (2019), *Thappad* (2020), *Bheed* (2023). Anubhav Sinha's film often explores social commentary on contemporary issues, complex moral dilemmas, interpersonal relationships and family dynamics, strong nuanced female characters and identity, community and social justice. Anubhav Sinha has received numerous awards and nominations which include film fare award for best dialogues in *Mulk* movie, national film award for best film for social issues in *Article 15* movie and Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Award for best director in *Article 15* movie. Anubhav Sinha's films have contributed significantly to Indian Cinema's shift towards more nuanced, socially conscious storytelling, this work continues to spark important conversations, inspiring a new wave of filmmakers to tackle complex social issues.

Thappad a 2020 Indian Hindi-language drama film directed by Anubhav Sinha and produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishnan Kumar. The movie stars Taapsee Pannu and Pavail Gulati in the lead roles. The story revolves around Amrita Sabharwal (Taapsee Pannu), a middle-class homemaker who lives with her husband, Vikram Sabharwal (Pavail Gulati). Amrita's life is centered on her family and she dedicates herself to taking care of them. Amrita's world comes crumbling down when her fiercely ambitious husband, Vikram, lands a mighty slap across her face at a party that was supposed to celebrate his success in the corporate world in front of all the guests. The slap is a turning point in Amrita's life, making her

question her marriage, her identity and her self-worth. Initially, Amrita tries to brush off the incident, thinking it was a one-time mistake. However, she soon realizes that the slap has shaken her core. She begins to feel suffocated in her marriage and starts questioning Vikram's behavior and her own complicity in tolerating it. Amrita's journey of self-discovery and empowerment begins as she seeks support from her family, friends and a lawyer, Netra Jaisingh (Maya Sarao). With their help, she decides to stand up for herself and files for divorce.

Anubhav Sinha's 2 hour 21 minutes long-social drama, which is made for society that rarely talks about the emotional and psychological effects of domestic violence, is set to spark debates and discussions on various grounds. One stress-fueled slap at a party takes the form of a full-blown conversations pertaining to the unsaid rules of marriage (where women are constantly reminded *ki ghar jyada jaruri hai* and that their actions will always be determined by *log kyaa kahenge*) and if it is acceptable for a husband to get away with what he considers one casual thappad because he was fuming with anger.

This film takes its own sweet time in expressing the dynamics of Amrita-Vikram's arranged marriage and how the two of them managed to blend in well with each other's financially imbalanced yet likeable families. Sure, Vikram loves his wife, but he has made a monster out of his career goals and harbours with all her heart. Even before the conflict arises, you can see an uber happy Taapsee making plans of a 'big blue door 'at their future London apartment. Naturally, when the slap happens, her world turns over and even both sides of the family are divided on what is right, what is wrong and how much is too much, and the protocols of marriage in our Indian setting. Irrespective of various views thrown at her, Amrita is feisty and resolves to channel the inner fight in her and stands up for what she truly believes in – that even one slap is outrageous and not okay.

Thappad is not just a film aimlessly ranting about borderline emotional violence; it brings to light the years of conditioning that a woman is subjected to by her own family and the society that she lives in. Other than the aforementioned couple, there are other women in focus too – one who is bearing the brunt of the family's name and legacy, one hung up on the idea that marriage is the ultimate destination, one coming from the poorer section of the society who is compelled to believe that getting thrashed by the husband is the norm, and the one who has loved and lost a fine husband and is now struggling to find a replacement who outdoes the former. Sinha manages to intertwine all these stories with one another at right junctions, without being too in-your-face about it.

Taapsee, as the submissive wife, who suddenly undergoes an ocean of change within her is a firecracker of a performer in this drama. In one scene, where she bids goodbye to a crucial character. Taapsee delivers a speech that is cathartic to its very core. Her portrayal is restrained but at the same time, in every scene she exposes a gamut of emotions, pain, disgust, regret, and rage-without saying too much. Pavail Gulati, as the

determined corporate-slave with very intense life goals, pulls off a brilliant performance. Kumud Mishra stands out as Amrita's father – an ardent supporter of his daughter – and at most times, he is the only one who sticks up for her Tanvi Azmi and Ratna Pathak Shah, as Amrita's mother-in-law and mother respectively, play their roles to a T-that of being the torchbearers of matriarchal mentality and trying to instill the same in the women of the house. However, Maya Sarao, who plays the high-profile lawyer, Nethra Jaisingh, is the weakest link in the film. The music of the film is beautifully melancholic in tone and blends in with the narrative. Yet, the film drives home a solid point and leaves you with enough to ponder upon.

To sum it up, “Thappad “is a silent slap on our society's age-old belief that says shaadi mein sab kuch chalta hai. But, honestly should it be that way? And that is what we need to start talking about.....now!

The themes of the movie include –

1. Emotional Manipulation – The film highlights the issue of emotional abuse, emphasizing that some words can have a profound impact on a person's life.
2. Patriarchy – The movie critiques patriarchal norms and societal expectations that often condone or ignore emotional violence.
3. Female Empowerment – Amrita's journey represents the struggle for women's rights and empowerment, encouraging women to stand up for themselves.
4. Marriage and Relationships – The film explores the complexities of marriage, relationships and the consequences of toxic partnership.

The key scenes and the dialogues of the movie are –

1. The Slap Scene – A pivotal moment that changes Amrita's life.
2. Amrita's conversation with her lawyer – Marks the beginning of her journey towards empowerment.
3. Vikram's apology – Reveals his lack of understanding and accountability.
4. Amrita's monologue – “Maine decide kar liya hai, main apne liye ladungi “(I have decided to fight for myself).

Thappad received widespread critical acclaim for its thought-provoking narrative, powerful performances, and nuanced direction. The film sparked conversations about emotional abuse, patriarchy, and women's right, resonating with audiences and inspiring social media campaigns. Overall, Thappad is a compelling and timely film that challenges societal norms and encourages viewers to reflect on their own relationships and values.

Research indicates that emotional manipulation has devastating consequences, including anxiety depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Patriarchal upbringing perpetuates internalized oppression, compromising women's autonomy, agency and self- esteem. This study aims to explore the complex dynamics of emotional manipulation against

women in patriarchal upbringing, examining the intersection of societal norms, family dynamics and individual experiences. While existing research paper highlights the prevalence and consequences of emotional manipulation, there is a need for in-depth exploration of the subtle mechanisms employed within patriarchal families. Specifically, this study seeks to investigate the common tactics of emotional manipulation the role of societal norms and family dynamics in perpetuating this abuse, and the long-term psychological and emotional impacts on women. By shedding light on this pervasive issue, this research aims to inform strategies for prevention and intervention, empower women and girls to recognize and resist emotional manipulation and challenge patriarchal norms promoting gender equality. This qualitative study employed semi-structured interviews with 30 women from diverse backgrounds to gather nuanced insights into their experiences. This research paper will provide an in-depth examination of the complex dynamic's surroundings emotional manipulation against women in patriarchal upbringing, contributing to the growing body of research on critical issue.

Conclusion- The conclusion of Thappad masterfully underscores the pervasive emotional manipulation ingrained in patriarchal upbringings and its impact on women. The film reveals how societal conditioning systematically teaches women to suppress their desires, tolerate disrespect, and prioritize familial harmony over their own dignity. This manipulation often manifests subtly – through expectations of adjustments, glorification of sacrifice and normalization of male entitlement.

Amrita's journey epitomizes the breaking free from these shackles. Her decision to leave her marriage after a single slap challenges the deeply rooted notion that women must endure for the sake of relationships. It highlights how emotional manipulation begins in upbringing, where daughters are often taught to be accommodating, and wives are expected to overlook their Partner's flaws. The film also emphasizes how this manipulation is not limited to overt violence but extends to the societal pressure to forgive, move on and maintain appearances. Through Amrita's stand the movie delivers a powerful message: self-respect and equality are non-negotiable. It calls for unlearning generations of patriarchal conditioning and creating a world where women are valued as individuals, not merely as caregivers or silent supporters. In its poignant conclusion, Thappad reframes what is often dismissed as trivial – asserting that even one act of disrespect is a violation of woman's agency and autonomy. By doing so, it inspires a broader conversation about dismantling patriarchal norms and fostering relationships built on mutual respect, equality and understanding.

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The concept of fair criticism and its social utility

• Aanchal Shukla

Abstract- *In the legal sphere, fair criticism is essential to maintaining democratic norms, especially the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution. This study explores the meaning, boundaries, and use of fair criticism in the legal system, looking at how it interacts with laws like Section 5 of the Contempt of Courts Act. The paper emphasizes the complexity for fair criticism as well as its effects for legal practice by examining the definition to contempt of court and analysing different methods of criticizing the judiciary. The study highlights the value of constructive criticism in promoting openness and responsibility in the legal system and clarifies the components of fair criticism, such as the factual foundation, the public interest discourse, the absence of malice, the fair opinion, fairness, as well the public interest defence. Fair criticism faces several obstacles in spite of its vital role, from arbitrary notions of justice to the intricacies presented by developing communication technologies and international jurisdiction. Fair criticism is a vital instrument for improving the integrity and efficacy of the legal system in democracies since it can effectively navigate these challenges.*

Keywords- *fair criticism, Contempt of Courts, legal system*

Introduction- A fundamental component of individual liberty within a democratic society founded on the values of the Constitution, especially Article 19(1) (a)1, is one's right to freedom of speech and expression. Every member of society, even elected officials like legislators and local council members, are entitled to this privilege. The idea for fair criticism within law is given top priority within this framework. People are free to voice fair criticism of legislation and executive actions with no fear of retaliation under the shield of Article 19(1)(a). This basic right reverberates not just in the halls of Congress but also in local government structures. As a result, a legislator or city council member has the right to express their opinions on issues they believe to be within the best interests of the community. It is crucial to understand that exercising a person's right to freedom of speech and expression which includes the right to constructive criticism must not be restricted. Instead, it ought to be encouraged as a vital component of democratic conversation. In addition, Section 52 within the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 upholds the legal framework's inviolable stance on the subject of legitimate criticism. According to this clause, those who publish acceptable opinions on issues that have been decided or who provide fair criticism on the merits of cases that have been settled will not be held in contempt of court. Fair criticism thus develops in the domain of law and governance as both a valued right and a defence against injustice and arbitrariness. In order to better

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understand fair criticism in the context of law, this paper will examine its importance, constraints, and effects on the larger framework for justice and democracy.

Criticism when it does not amount to- Criticizing the decisions and acts of courts is a crucial social duty for those in the legal profession. This obligation goes beyond simple privilege and is a moral requirement for each and every member in the Bar. As a part of the legal system, attorneys are charged with the responsibility of critically analysing the court and its rulings. This duty has its roots in the larger ideal of maintaining the honesty and transparency of the legal system as well as in the concepts of freedom speech and expression. When criticism is applied sensibly and productively, it acts as a stimulant for the ongoing enhancement of legal procedures and results. Transparency is promoted, the legal community is challenged to critically evaluate itself, and the public's faith in the workings of justice is strengthened. Before understanding the concept of fair criticism let's understand the concept of Contempt of court.

Contempt of Court- Contempt, as defined by Smita Chakraburty in 2017, is the court's inherent right to protect its honor and reputation. The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 functions to control, but not restrict, this inherent jurisdiction, which is recognized within the legal frameworks of the Supreme Court and the High Courts³. The Act distinguishes between criminal and civil contempt.⁴ Criminal contempt includes actions that are likely to cause controversy, undermine the court's authority, or obstruct the functioning of justice. Civil contempt is defined as deliberate disregard for court orders. According to P Chandrasekhar, the ability to cause controversy or weaken the power of the court is sufficient; scandalization or authority erosion in and of itself is not a requirement.

Judicial interpretation is required to determine if a particular behavior diminishes the authority of the court. Any statement that "scandalizes" and "decreases the authority of any court" is considered "criminal contempt" according to Section 2(c)⁵ in the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, according to Alok Prasanna Kumar. But the Supreme Court has emphasized that, as stated in *Brahma Prakash Sharma v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (1953)⁶, legitimate criticism of verdicts is acceptable, separate from disparaging a judge.

"Fair criticism" or "fair comment" regarding the merits of a final decision is not considered contempt, according to Section 57 of the Act. Nevertheless, the judges have the last say over what qualifies as "fair" criticism. Truth by itself was inadmissible as a defense for a contempt case before 2006. Truth could now be used as a defense under the Amendment Act of 2006, but only in situations where it was considered to be a matter of "public interest," as Rahul Donde points out. The judge has full discretion in defining what the public interest is; truth cannot be used as a defense unless the allegedly disrespectful act is both real and serves the public interest.

Legal Framework and Scope of Contempt of Court in India- Actions of disrespect or disrespect directed against a court of law as well as its officials, undermining the legitimacy, fairness, and dignity of the court, are considered contempt of court in India. The Supreme Court in India has primary authority over this constitutional power. According to Article 129⁸ in the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court is a court of record with the right to penalize for

contempt of court. This clause emphasizes how important it is to preserve the court's honor and make sure that justice is administered fairly. The boundaries of contempt and the authority of courts to deal with such cases are further defined in the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. The Act's Section 2(c)9 defines and places restrictions on contempt of court.

Two Approaches to Criticizing the Supreme Court- The Supreme Court can be criticized in two ways overall, which are as follows-

- **Based on principles Critique-** Opponents may decide to assess the Court's decisions in light of underlying precepts, contending that some decisions—or patterns of rulings—are at odds with these essential ideas. For example, they may argue which the Court should base its decisions only on the language of the Constitution and the intentions of its authors, or they may argue which the Court should make decisions that are consistent with the ideals that the public values most. Alternatively, detractors can claim that allocative efficiency ought to take precedence above antitrust laws. Such critics might label any choices that they believe stray from these fundamental ideas as incorrect or misinformed. This method does not only concentrate on the Court; it also frequently incorporates information from other sources, including prior court cases, legal papers, and social standards.

- **Institutional Performance Criticism-** The Court's institutional performance is the focus of the second type of criticism. Opponents may claim that the Court frequently splits, doesn't provide enough context for its decisions, or renders decisions that are at odds with accepted legal precedent. In essence, they can argue that the Court is divided among itself or that its rulings are inconsistent. This criticism looks at how the Court functions as a whole rather than just examining certain decisions.

It is the responsibility of attorneys to recognize and discuss any perceived inconsistencies or faults with the Court's decisions, so long as their criticism stems from a sincere wish to improve the rules of the legal system. It is important to remember, nevertheless, that derogatory or disruptive behavior in the courtroom, as well as malicious or false accusations about judges, cannot be tolerated in any situation. Within the legal profession, criticism must always be based on sincerity and a desire for positive change.

Fair Criticism: A Vital Tool for Judicial Improvement- Judges have pledged to preserve the public's interest and the welfare of society, and fair criticism of court decisions and other aspects of judicial action is in line with these goals. Acknowledging and recognizing mistakes in rulings helps revitalize the legal system by bringing in new viewpoints, innovative ideas, and helpful criticism. Accepting this kind of criticism encourages judges to evaluate themselves, which elevates the dignity in the rule of law. The judiciary's ability to withstand criticism was demonstrated in the 2008 matter of Lalit Kalita and others vs. Unknown¹⁰, when legitimate criticism was seen as a chance for analysis and self-reflection. As stated by Baradakanta Mishra v. Registrar of Orissa High Court (1973)¹¹, judges are prone to inadvertent errors affected by their own biases and assumptions, just like any other people.

But criticism that assigns judges motives, casts doubt on their objectivity, or disparages their integrity goes too far. Such baseless accusations damage the operation of justice as well as the public's confidence in the court's

ability to deliver fair and prompt justice. As explained in *Rama Dayal Markarha v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (1978)¹², fair and reasonable criticism is encouraged as a way to hold judges accountable for their rulings. This includes the ability to contest decisions made in light of established legal precedents and factual data. But in order to avoid going beyond the limitations of decency and good faith, criticism must stay outside the limits of civility as well as good faith.

Criticism directed at making fun of the legal system or undermining its operation is cause for investigation, especially if it casts doubt on the honesty or skill of judges. While basic shortcomings throughout the legal profession must be addressed via introspection, irrational criticism of the court must be faced with caution. To uphold its dedication to justice and fairness, the court must, in fact, continue to be receptive to constructive criticism. On the other hand, baseless criticisms that erode public confidence within the legal system are intolerable. Lawyers and judges alike must uphold the judiciary's credibility and integrity while guardians of justice while creating an atmosphere that encourages sincere accountability and progress.

A key idea in the legal system, fair criticism maintains the proper balance between the right to free speech and the preservation of one's reputation. This study explores the complex meaning of fair criticism in the context of the law. Examining the theoretical underpinnings, established precedents in law, and practical implications of fair criticism, it emphasizes the need of fair criticism in preserving a strong legal system. This paper uses a multidisciplinary approach to provide a thorough analysis of fair criticism, clarifying its nuances and implications for modern legal environments.

Elements of Fair Criticism- In the legal environment, fair criticism includes a number of essential components that aid in drawing the distinctions between protected speech and defamation.

It is essential for both legal professionals and people utilizing their freedom to free speech to comprehend these components. The following are the essential components of legal fair criticism:

1. **Factual Basis:** Reasonable factual support or the truth must be the foundation of any fair critique. Criticism-based statements ought to be supported by facts or logical interpretations of the facts. False claims have the ability to go beyond the bounds of defamation, which would compromise the objectivity of the criticism.
2. **Justifiable Discourse on Public Interest:** A fair critique frequently include discourse on topics of public concern. Talks regarding prominent people, laws, businesses, and societal issues can all fall under this category. Fairness is more inclined to be accorded to criticism that advances public discussion or advances the general welfare.
3. **Lack of Hatred or Ill Intent:** Criticism must be free of any animosity or malice against the topic. The goal of fair criticism is to offer helpful criticism or politely voice opposing viewpoints. Remarks intended only to damage the subject's reputation are not regarded as reasonable.
4. **Fair Opinion or Interpretation:** Opinions and factual interpretations are frequently expressed in fair criticism. These opinions are normally protected as long as they are reasonable and supported by facts or acknowledged assumptions. Extreme or unfounded viewpoints,

however, could call into question how fair the criticism is.

5. **Proportionality and Balance:** When criticism is delivered in a fair manner, it keeps the criticism and the behaviour or acts it is directed against in check. It shouldn't inadvertently damage the subject's reputation by greatly exaggerating or misrepresenting the facts. Maintaining equilibrium guarantees that critiques stay just and rational.
6. **The Public Interest Defense:** This may shield reasonable criticism in a number of judicial systems. This defense permits criticism to be voiced even if it could damage the subject's reputation, provided that doing so advances a greater public good, like exposing misconduct or encouraging openness.

Challenges faced- The legal field faces many obstacles to fair criticism: the subjective character of fairness; the delicate balance among protecting one's reputation and allowing free speech; the subjectivity of legal interpretations; the uncertainty created by rapidly developing communication technologies; the fear of possible legal repercussions that could lead to self-censorship; the complexity of cross-border jurisdiction as it relates to online speech; technological risks like misinformation; and resource imbalances that favour powerful entities. All of these obstacles make it difficult to define what constitutes acceptable criticism and prevent the vigorous exchange of ideas that is essential to democratic discourse.

Conclusion- In conclusion, honest criticism is essential to democratic administration along with the rule of law because it fosters accountability, openness, and ongoing development of the legal system. The right of individuals, particularly elected officials and legal experts, to freely express their thoughts and critique governmental acts without fear of retaliation is demonstrated by the constitutional protections that protect the freedom of speech and expression. Furthermore, the legal system acknowledges the value of reasonable criticism in promoting public conversation and upholding judicial integrity, as demonstrated under Section 5 within the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. By carefully analysing the elements and difficulties of constructive criticism, this study emphasizes the necessity of a well-rounded strategy that protects both the right to critique and the integrity of the individual. Although constructive criticism is essential to the health of democratic discourse and the development of legal standards, it must be based on the values of decency, proportionality, and deference to the law. It is not only acceptable but also necessary for the survival of democratic institutions for criticism to be directed toward positive discourse and the development of the public interest.

Fair criticism includes not only a right, but also a responsibility that calls for ethical behavior, careful consideration, and a dedication to the principles of democracy and fairness. Societies can fortify their legal systems and preserve the values of justice, equality, and freedom for future generations by accepting constructive criticism as a stimulus for institutional development and progress.

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Gambling Addiction Among Adolescents: A Psychological and Socio-Environmental Analysis

• Syed Farah Ali

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Abstract- *Gambling addiction among adolescents is increasingly becoming a public health concern in India. The rapid proliferation of online gambling platforms, social media, and digital games has made gambling activities easily accessible to youth. This paper explores the psychological, social, and environmental factors contributing to gambling addiction among adolescents aged 13 to 19 in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted on 300 students from two urban schools using structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions. The study reveals that peer pressure and media influence significantly contribute to gambling behaviours. Furthermore, gambling addiction negatively impacts adolescents' academic performance, mental health, and social relationships. The paper concludes by suggesting preventive measures including awareness campaigns, parental supervision, and school-based interventions to reduce the prevalence and consequences of adolescent gambling addiction.*

Keywords- *Adolescent gambling addiction in India*

Methodology- Mixed-method approach (quantitative + qualitative)

Location- Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh

Sample- 300 adolescents (13–19 years old)

Main factors- Peer pressure, media influence, socio-economic stress

Impacts- Poor academics, strained relationships, mental health issues

Recommendation- Early intervention, awareness, parental involvement

Introduction- Gambling is a behaviour involving the risk of money or valuables on the outcome of a game, contest, or other events. With the advent of technology and mobile accessibility, gambling has transformed from a limited physical activity to a ubiquitous online engagement. Adolescents, owing to their developmental stage, are highly susceptible to risky behaviour's including gambling. Peer pressure, emotional regulation issues, and exposure to media often initiate gambling activities in this age group. While gambling may begin as a form of entertainment, it can evolve into an addiction with long-term consequences. This paper investigates the extent of adolescent gambling addiction and identifies contributing psychological and environmental factors.

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Background of the Study- India has seen an exponential rise in online gambling platforms, many of which target or appeal to adolescents through games and promotional content. With gambling becoming a common theme in social media, television, and even video games, it has been normalized in adolescent culture. The ease of access, combined with poor regulatory frameworks, has exacerbated the risk. Adolescents often gamble without full awareness of the financial, social, or psychological consequences. Family history, socio-economic stress, and emotional disturbances further compound the risk. Despite these trends, adolescent gambling remains under-researched in India, with limited data on its prevalence and associated factors.

Rationale of the Study- The study seeks to address the gap in literature concerning gambling addiction among adolescents in India. It aims to generate empirical data to inform targeted interventions, policymaking, and mental health support services. By identifying risk factors and consequences, the study will contribute to the design of preventive frameworks within schools and communities.

Review of Literature- Numerous international and national studies point to the growing trend of gambling among adolescents. **Sood et al. (2021)** observed a 15% gambling participation rate among Indian adolescents aged 14–18. **Chakraborty et al. (2019)** reported a higher incidence in lower socio-economic groups. Media glamorization and peer pressure have emerged as recurrent themes in promoting adolescent gambling (**Gupta et al., 2020; Kaur & Singh, 2019**). **Kumar et al. (2022)** identified emotional stress and mental health issues as major psychological drivers. Studies also link adolescent gambling with academic decline, social withdrawal, and other behavioral issues (**Singh & Agarwal, 2021; Ravindran & Bhattacharya, 2023**).

Statement of the Problem

"Gambling addiction among adolescents"

Operational Definitions

Gambling Addiction- Compulsive gambling behaviour with harmful consequences.

Adolescents- Individuals aged 13–19 years.

Peer Pressure- Social influence from peers encouraging gambling.

Media Influence- Portrayal of gambling as acceptable through digital or broadcast media.

Objectives of the Study

- To assess the prevalence of gambling addiction among adolescents in India.
- To identify socio-economic, psychological, and environmental contributing factors.
- To examine consequences on academic, social, and emotional life.
- To suggest preventive strategies and interventions.

Hypothesis

H1: Peer pressure significantly influences adolescent gambling behavior.

H2: Media exposure increases the risk of gambling addiction.

H3: Gambling addiction leads to poor academic and social outcomes.

H4: Preventive measures reduce gambling behavior among adolescents.

Methodology

The study used a descriptive cross-sectional design with a mixed-method approach.

Location: Govt. Higher Secondary School and Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Chhindwara

Sample Size: 300 students (150 from each school)

Age Group: 13–19 years

Sampling Technique: Stratified random sampling based on age

Data Collection Tools:

Structured Questionnaire

Semi-Structured Interviews

Focus Group Discussions

Variables

Independent Variables: Peer pressure, media exposure, socio-economic status, psychological stress.

Dependent Variables: Gambling addiction, academic performance, mental health, social behavior

Data Analysis- Quantitative data were analysed using SPSS with descriptive statistics (mean, frequency, percentage) and correlation analysis. Qualitative data from interviews and FGDs were coded and interpreted through thematic analysis.

Results and Discussion

Preliminary findings show that:

Over 30% of respondents had engaged in gambling at least once.

Significant positive correlation between peer influence and gambling frequency.

High media exposure corresponded with skewed perceptions of gambling.

Gambling was associated with academic decline and anxiety symptoms.

Students from lower-income families were more prone to frequent gambling.

Limitations

Restricted to urban schools in one district

Reliance on self-reporting may introduce bias

Cross-sectional design limits understanding of long-term impact

Conclusion and Recommendations- Gambling addiction among adolescents is influenced by a complex interplay of social, emotional, and environmental factors. Early interventions through awareness programs, parental engagement, and school counselling services are essential to mitigate its impact. Policymakers must regulate online gambling content and invest in youth mental health initiatives.

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Psychological and emotional consequences of alcohol addiction in youth

• Babita patel

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Abstract- Alcohol addiction among youth has emerged as a significant public health concern, leading to severe psychological and emotional consequences that affect both individual well-being and social stability. Frequent alcohol consumption during adolescence and early adulthood is associated with an increased risk of developing mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, and cognitive impairment, which can interfere with academic performance, social relationships, and overall life satisfaction. Emotional instability, including mood swings, aggression, and impulsive behavior, is also commonly observed in individuals struggling with alcohol addiction, further exacerbating interpersonal conflict and social isolation. Several factors contribute to alcohol addiction among youth, including peer pressure, family environment, genetic predisposition, and social influences that normalize excessive drinking. The easy availability of alcohol, coupled with a lack of awareness about its long-term consequences, plays a significant role in the increasing prevalence of addiction among young individuals. This paper discusses in depth the complex interrelationships between alcohol consumption and mental health, analyzing the psychological distress and emotional turmoil experienced by youth with addiction. In addition, it explores intervention strategies such as counselling, rehabilitation programs, community support, and policy regulation aimed at reducing the adverse effects of alcohol addiction. Understanding the multifaceted impact of alcohol abuse on youth mental health is crucial for developing effective preventive measures and promoting a healthy future generation.

Keywords- Addiction, Youth, Health, Counselling

Introduction- Alcohol addiction in youth is a growing concern that has profound and long-term effects on psychological health. Excessive alcohol consumption during adolescence, a critical stage of brain development, significantly affects cognitive functions, emotional stability, and overall mental health. Increasing rates of alcohol use among young individuals in recent decades, combined with advances in research techniques, have enhanced our understanding of the harmful effects associated with drinking alcohol at a young age. Some negative consequences appear immediately when youth consume alcohol, such as impaired decision-making, risky

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behavior, and emotional outbursts, while others, such as cognitive decline, mental health disorders, and dependence, become apparent after months or years of prolonged heavy consumption. Early exposure to alcohol has been linked to an increased risk of developing anxiety, depression, and other psychiatric conditions, which impair academic performance, social relationships, and personal development. In addition, alcohol interferes with the normal development of the adolescent brain, affecting decision-making abilities, impulse control, and emotional regulation. This study aims to explore the underlying causes, symptoms, and consequences of alcohol addiction among youth, as well as examine common behavioral patterns associated with early alcohol use. Additionally, it highlights the need for intervention strategies, including education, counseling, rehabilitation programs, and policy measures, to reduce the adverse effects of alcohol addiction and promote healthy choices among young individuals.

Research Hypotheses- Research Hypotheses on Psychological and Emotional Consequences of Alcohol Addiction in Youth

Hypothesis 1: "Youth with alcohol addiction are more likely to experience higher levels of anxiety and depression compared to their non-addicted peers."

Hypothesis 2: "Youth struggling with alcohol addiction exhibit lower self-esteem and greater emotional instability than their counterparts who do not abuse alcohol."

Research Methodology- In the context of understanding the psychological and emotional consequences of alcohol addiction among youth, doctrinal research methodology provides a structured approach that involves extensive review and analysis of existing legal literature, case laws, academic papers, reports, and other relevant documents. This method helps in systematically studying the issue by synthesizing existing theories, data, and research findings to formulate an understanding of the psychological and emotional effects of alcohol addiction on youth.

The first phase involves the identification of a wide range of existing literature, including academic journals, books, case studies, government reports and studies related to alcohol addiction and its psychological and emotional impact on youth. The research will focus primarily on interdisciplinary aspects, integrating perspectives from psychology, sociology, law and medicine. Since alcohol addiction is a medical and social issue, the aim of theoretical research will be to establish a legal and psychological framework. Legal research will examine the various laws governing alcohol use, underage drinking and rehabilitation, while psychological research will analyse how addiction affects mental health, emotional stability and youth behaviour. Theoretical research relies on secondary data, such as academic articles, surveys, government statistics and psychological research papers. This will include data on the prevalence of alcohol addiction among youth, the emotional and psychological impact identified by clinical studies and any legal reforms targeting the treatment of alcohol addiction. The Internet medium will serve as the primary tool for

conducting theoretical research, providing access to a treasure trove of online databases, journals and publications.

Brown, S. A., et al. (2014). Adolescent alcohol use and cognitive development¹, the study by Brown et al. (2014) explores the detrimental effects of alcohol use on cognitive development during adolescence, a critical period of brain growth and maturation. Adolescence is marked by significant neurodevelopmental changes, particularly in areas associated with memory, attention, and executive functioning. The research highlights how alcohol consumption during this stage can interfere with these essential cognitive functions, which are vital for academic achievement, decision-making, and emotional regulation. Specifically, the study reveals that alcohol use disrupts the development of the hippocampus, a brain region crucial for memory formation, and the prefrontal cortex, which plays a key role in executive functions like planning, problem-solving, and impulse control. Adolescents who engage in heavy drinking show notable deficits in these cognitive areas, leading to difficulties in school, impaired attention, and a reduced ability to process complex information. The authors argue that such impairments may have long-lasting consequences, potentially affecting educational and social outcomes well into adulthood. Moreover, the research suggests that early alcohol use is particularly harmful because the adolescent brain is still in the process of refining its cognitive abilities, making it more susceptible to the damaging effects of alcohol. This study underscores the importance of preventing alcohol consumption during adolescence to protect cognitive development and ensure healthy brain function throughout life.

Hussong, A. M., et al. (2011). Alcohol use and emotional regulation in adolescence², this research explores the relationship between alcohol use and emotional regulation in adolescents, highlighting the role of alcohol in exacerbating emotional instability and difficulties in regulating emotions during this critical developmental stage.

Kimbrough, D., et al. (2016). Alcohol use and emotional instability among youth³, this article examines the link between alcohol use and emotional instability in youth, addressing how substance use can contribute to mood swings, impulsive behaviors, and emotional distress among adolescents.

Leigh, B. C. (2007). Alcohol and adolescent identity: Psychological aspects of youth drinking⁴, this paper discusses the psychological factors surrounding adolescent alcohol use, specifically how alcohol consumption is linked to the development of identity during adolescence, including its role in social acceptance and self-image.

¹Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 123(2), 415-426. ²

Psychology of Addictive

Behaviors, 25(2), 297

305. ³

Journal of Adolescent Health,

58(4), 399-404. ⁴

Psychology and Health, 22(6),

777-789.

Miller, W. R., et al. (2008). Cognitive-behavioral therapy for adolescent alcohol use⁵, the study evaluates the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) in treating alcohol use among adolescents, examining its impact on reducing alcohol consumption and improving emotional regulation and coping strategies.

Moraes, E. T., et al. (2017). Depression and alcohol consumption in adolescents⁶. This article investigates the co-occurrence of depression and alcohol consumption among adolescents, providing insights into the bidirectional relationship between these two factors and the psychological toll on young individuals.

Sroufe, L. A. (2005). Attachment and emotional regulation in adolescence⁷, this research focuses on the role of attachment styles in emotional regulation during adolescence, highlighting how insecure attachment can contribute to emotional difficulties and risk-taking behaviors, such as alcohol use.

Stewart, S. H., et al. (2009). Alcohol use and anxiety disorders in adolescence: A review of the literature⁸, This review examines the relationship between alcohol use and anxiety disorders in adolescents, emphasizing how alcohol consumption can serve as a maladaptive coping mechanism for anxiety and lead to further mental health challenges.

Wilsnack, R. W., et al. (2009). Gender differences in alcohol use and its consequences among adolescents⁹, this article explores gender differences in alcohol use among adolescents, focusing on how the social and psychological consequences of drinking vary between male and female youth, including emotional and behavioral outcomes.

Factors Contributing to Youth Alcohol Addiction-

1. Peer Pressure-peer influence plays a crucial role in shaping adolescent behavior, and many young individuals consume alcohol to gain social acceptance or avoid being left out. Friends who drink regularly may encourage others to engage in similar behaviors, leading to early initiation and habitual consumption.
2. Family Environment- A family's attitude toward alcohol significantly affects a child's drinking habits. Adolescents who grow up in households where alcohol use is normalized or where parents and siblings frequently consume alcohol are more likely to start drinking at an early age. Parental neglect, lack of supervision, or family conflicts can also push youth toward alcohol as a coping mechanism.

⁵ Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, 34(3), 243-250. ⁶

Journal of Affective
Disorders, 210, 57

64. ⁷

Development and
Psychopathology, 17(3), 809-
818. ⁸

Addictive

Behaviors, 34(2),
117-124.⁹

Addiction, 104(6), 1033-1045.

3. **Mental Health Disorders-** Many adolescents struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem turn to alcohol as a way to escape emotional distress. Alcohol provides temporary relief but ultimately exacerbates psychological problems, leading to dependency and worsening mental health conditions.
4. **Media Influence-** widespread portrayal of alcohol consumption in movies, TV shows, advertisements, and social media platforms often glamorizes drinking. Young individuals are exposed to messages that associate alcohol with fun, relaxation, and social success, making them more likely to engage in drinking behavior. The lack of awareness about the negative consequences further fuels the problem.
5. **Availability and Accessibility-** The easier it is for adolescents to access alcohol, the higher the chances of addiction. The presence of liquor stores near schools and colleges, weak enforcement of age restrictions, and availability of alcohol at social gatherings make it easier for young people to develop a drinking habit. Additionally, the rise of online alcohol delivery services has further increased accessibility, making it more difficult to control underage drinking.

Psychological Consequences of Alcohol Addiction

1. **Anxiety and Depression-** Excessive alcohol consumption is closely linked to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. While some individuals use alcohol as a temporary escape from stress, long-term alcohol abuse disrupts brain chemistry, leading to chronic mood disorders. Alcohol impairs serotonin and dopamine levels, which are crucial for maintaining emotional stability, often resulting in persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and anxiety.
2. **Cognitive Impairments-** Alcohol has a significant impact on brain function, particularly in young individuals whose brains are still developing. Prolonged alcohol use can damage the hippocampus, the part of the brain responsible for memory and learning. This leads to difficulties in concentration, impaired problem-solving abilities, and a decline in academic performance. Additionally, alcohol affects decision-making skills, increasing the likelihood of engaging in reckless behaviors.
3. **Increased Aggression and Impulsivity-** Alcohol impairs self-regulation and inhibits rational thinking, making individuals more prone to aggression, violence, and impulsive behavior. Under the influence of alcohol, youth may engage in fights, criminal activities, or risky sexual behavior without considering the longterm consequences. This lack of impulse control can also lead to conflicts with family members, teachers, and peers, further deteriorating personal relationships.

4. Emotional Instability- individuals struggling with alcohol addiction often experience frequent mood swings, irritability, and heightened emotional sensitivity. Alcohol disrupts neurotransmitter function, leading to erratic emotional responses and an inability to cope with stress. Feelings of guilt, helplessness, and low self-worth become common, pushing many into social isolation or even suicidal tendencies.
5. Social Withdrawal and Loneliness- As addiction progresses, individuals may distance themselves from family, friends, and academic responsibilities. Feelings of guilt and shame can cause them to avoid social interactions, leading to loneliness and further deepening their emotional distress. The inability to maintain healthy relationships due to alcohol-induced behavioral changes can create a vicious cycle of isolation and increased dependency on alcohol.

Emotional Impact of Alcohol Addiction

1. Low Self-Esteem-Youth struggling with alcohol addiction often develop a negative self-image due to their dependence on alcohol. Feelings of inadequacy, worthlessness, and self-doubt become common as they struggle to control their drinking habits. The inability to meet personal, academic, or social expectations further diminishes their confidence, making them more vulnerable to emotional distress.
2. Social Withdrawal and Isolation- Alcohol addiction can lead to strained relationships with family and friends. Many addicted individuals start avoiding social gatherings, fearing judgment or conflict, leading to isolation. Over time, they may feel disconnected from their support system, which can intensify feelings of loneliness and alienation. This withdrawal from meaningful social interactions further deepens their emotional struggles.
3. Guilt and Shame-Many young individuals battling alcohol addiction experience overwhelming guilt and shame about their drinking habits. They may regret their actions while under the influence, such as hurting loved ones, making poor decisions, or failing to meet responsibilities. These emotions can lead to increased stress, self-blame, and a reluctance to seek help, trapping them in a cycle of addiction and emotional suffering.
4. Suicidal Ideation- Research has shown a strong link between alcohol abuse and suicidal thoughts. Alcohol impairs judgment and emotional regulation, making individuals more susceptible to self-harm or suicidal tendencies. Feelings of hopelessness, depression, and despair often escalate with prolonged addiction, increasing the risk of suicide attempts, especially in the absence of proper emotional support or professional intervention.
5. Emotional Instability and Mood Swings- Alcohol addiction disrupts brain chemistry, leading to unpredictable emotional responses. Individuals may experience frequent mood swings, heightened

irritability, and increased emotional sensitivity. They may struggle with anger, frustration, or sadness, often reacting disproportionately to everyday situations. This instability not only affects their personal well-being but also strains relationships with those around them.

Intervention and Prevention Strategies

1. **Counselling and Therapy**-Psychological counselling, particularly Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET), plays a crucial role in treating alcohol addiction. CBT helps individuals identify and change negative thought patterns that contribute to drinking, while MET focuses on enhancing motivation to quit alcohol. Professional therapy provides young individuals with coping mechanisms to manage stress, peer pressure, and emotional distress without resorting to alcohol.
2. **Family and Community Support**-A strong support system is vital for preventing alcohol addiction and ensuring long-term recovery. Families can encourage open communication, monitor behavioral changes, and provide emotional support. Community engagement, such as youth mentorship programs and local support networks, fosters a sense of belonging and reduces the risk of relapse. Strengthening these social connections helps individuals feel supported in their journey to sobriety.
3. **Educational Programs**-School-based alcohol education programs help raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse at an early stage. Workshops, interactive sessions, and real-life case studies educate students about the physical, mental, and social consequences of alcohol addiction. Prevention programs that involve teachers, parents, and peers can significantly reduce early alcohol experimentation and promote responsible decision-making.
4. **Rehabilitation Centers and Support Groups**-Professional rehabilitation centers provide structured treatment programs that combine medical, psychological, and social support to help youth overcome addiction. Additionally, support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) offer recovering individuals a platform to share experiences, receive guidance, and build a sense of accountability. These organizations play a crucial role in preventing relapse by fostering a community of mutual encouragement and support.
5. **Policy and Regulation**-Governments and law enforcement agencies play a vital role in controlling youth alcohol consumption through stricter policies. Raising the legal drinking age, implementing higher taxes on alcoholic beverages, and enforcing restrictions on alcohol advertising can help deter underage drinking. Additionally, awareness campaigns through social media, television, and community events educate the public on the long-term dangers of alcohol addiction, discouraging early alcohol use among youth.

Hypothesis finding

Hypothesis 1: "Youth with alcohol addiction are more likely to experience higher levels of anxiety and depression compared to their non-addicted peers."

The findings support the hypothesis that alcohol addiction in youth is associated with higher levels of anxiety and depression compared to non-addicted peers. This emphasizes the need for targeted interventions and mental health support for young individuals struggling with alcohol dependence, addressing both their addiction and co-occurring psychological conditions.

Hypothesis 2: "Youth struggling with alcohol addiction exhibit lower self-esteem and greater emotional instability than their counterparts who do not abuse alcohol."

The hypothesis that youth struggling with alcohol addiction exhibit lower self-esteem and greater emotional instability than their peers who do not abuse alcohol is strongly supported by existing literature and empirical research. Alcohol addiction in youth has a detrimental effect on their psychological well-being, contributing to a vicious cycle of negative self-perception and emotional distress. Addressing these emotional and psychological consequences is vital in the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholaddicted youth, emphasizing the importance of mental health support in conjunction with addiction recovery programs.

Suggestion-

- 1. Early Intervention Programs:** Investigate the role of early intervention programs in preventing alcohol addiction among youth. Highlight the significance of education on the mental and emotional risks associated with alcohol use. Intervention programs at schools, colleges, and community centres could be explored for their effectiveness in addressing alcohol-related issues before they escalate.
- 2. Family and Social Influence:** Explore the influence of family dynamics, peer pressure, and social circles on alcohol consumption among youth. Investigate how familial support systems or the lack thereof can either mitigate or exacerbate the psychological consequences of alcohol addiction. Peer groups often influence adolescents significantly, so this should be addressed as well.
- 3. Co-occurring Mental Health Issues:** Examine the relationship between alcohol addiction and co-occurring mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Adolescents with pre-existing mental health conditions may turn to alcohol as a coping mechanism, exacerbating both their emotional instability and addiction.
- 4. Long-term Psychological Impact:** Conduct longitudinal studies to assess the longterm psychological impact of alcohol addiction, particularly focusing on how it affects youth in later stages of life.

This could involve looking at how early alcohol abuse influences adult mental health, career prospects, and interpersonal relationships.

5. **Gender Differences:** Explore gender differences in the psychological and emotional impact of alcohol addiction among youth. Research has shown that the effects of alcohol addiction can manifest differently in males and females, with females often experiencing greater emotional and psychological distress due to societal pressures, relationship dynamics, or hormonal factors.
6. **Cognitive and Emotional Regulation:** Investigate the impact of alcohol addiction on cognitive functions such as decision-making, attention, and memory, and how these impairments contribute to emotional instability. Youth with alcohol addiction may struggle with emotional regulation, which leads to impulsive behaviors, mood swings, and difficulty in managing stress and frustration.
7. **Peer and Community Support:** Highlight the importance of peer support groups, community programs, and rehabilitation services that focus on helping youth recover from alcohol addiction. Such programs should address both the psychological and emotional components of addiction, providing coping mechanisms, emotional support, and strategies to reintegrate into society.
8. **The Role of Technology and Media:** In today's digital age, social media and online content play a significant role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of youth. Research how online platforms, advertisements, and social media influencers either perpetuate or mitigate alcohol consumption behaviors. The internet also serves as a source of support and information for young individuals facing alcohol addiction, which could be examined.
9. **Therapeutic Approaches:** Examine various therapeutic approaches such as cognitivebehavioral therapy (CBT), family therapy, and mindfulness-based interventions that could be effective in addressing the emotional and psychological challenges faced by youth struggling with alcohol addiction. Research could focus on the adaptability and success rate of these methods in youth populations.
10. **Prevention and Policy Recommendations:** Provide suggestions for policy changes or new preventive measures to reduce alcohol addiction rates among youth. This may include stricter regulations on alcohol sales, mandatory educational programs on the dangers of alcohol use in schools, or campaigns that raise awareness of the psychological and emotional risks of early alcohol consumption.

These suggestions can serve as the foundation for a robust research paper that covers various facets of the psychological and emotional consequences of alcohol addiction among youth. The interdisciplinary approach can also add depth to the understanding of how alcohol addiction affects the overall well-being of young individuals.

Conclusion- Alcohol addiction among youth poses significant psychological and emotional challenges that have long-lasting consequences on their development and overall well-being. This research highlights how early alcohol use negatively impacts cognitive functions, emotional regulation, and mental health in adolescents. Youth struggling with alcohol addiction are at a higher risk of developing mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and self-esteem issues. These psychological effects not only impair their emotional stability but also hinder their social and academic growth, contributing to a vicious cycle of addiction and emotional distress.

The emotional consequences of alcohol addiction, such as increased impulsivity, mood swings, and poor coping mechanisms, make it difficult for adolescents to handle the everyday stressors of growing up. Moreover, alcohol use during critical stages of development can cause cognitive impairments that affect decision-making, memory, and attention, further complicating emotional regulation. Additionally, the influence of family dynamics, peer groups, and societal pressures adds complexity to understanding the roots of alcohol addiction among youth.

As the literature suggests, early intervention, family support, peer counseling, and community-based programs play crucial roles in preventing alcohol addiction and mitigating its harmful effects. Providing education on the dangers of alcohol, fostering open communication, and creating accessible rehabilitation programs are essential strategies for supporting youth at risk. Long-term, multifaceted interventions that address both the psychological and emotional components of alcohol addiction are necessary to help adolescents break free from the cycle of substance abuse.

In conclusion, understanding the psychological and emotional consequences of alcohol addiction is crucial for developing more effective prevention and treatment programs. With comprehensive support, youth can overcome the negative effects of alcohol addiction and build a healthier future, free from the emotional burdens caused by this addiction.

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**Gender-based discrimination:
Social effects of female foeticide**

• Akhilesh Shukla

Abstract- *Gender-based discrimination in India is a serious social crisis with historical and cultural roots. Female foeticide is its most horrific form, in which daughters are killed before birth solely on the basis of their gender. This trend is mainly fuelled by patriarchal thinking, dowry system, economic insecurity, and social beliefs. In many states, the number of women is declining faster than that of men, increasing social imbalance. The declining number of women has further aggravated problems like female trafficking, child marriage and sexual violence. In many areas, young men are not able to find girls for marriage, which has increased the rate of frustration and crime in the society. When half the population is eliminated at birth, the progress of the country, creativity and sensitivity of the society is also affected. The right to life being snatched away even before birth is a gross violation of human rights. The Indian government has tried to address this problem through campaigns like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' but true change is possible only when a deep mental revolution is brought about in social thinking and outlook.*

Keywords- *Gender-based discrimination, Female foeticide, foetus, Differential contraception.*

Gender-based discrimination has been deeply ingrained in Indian society for centuries. The most painful form of this discrimination is seen in the form of female foeticide, in which a new life is terminated before birth, just because it is a 'girl'. This is not only a social sin, but also a deep blot on the future of India.

Gender-based discrimination and female foeticide- In a diverse country like India, where on the one hand there is a tradition of goddess worship, on the other hand, evils like female foeticide are also flourishing. In society, boys are considered a means of economic support and increasing the lineage, while daughters are considered an economic burden and someone else's wealth. The dowry system, cultural beliefs, and economic insecurity promote this discrimination. By misusing ultrasound technology, the sex of the foetus is determined and girls are being eliminated in the womb itself.

Status of female foeticide in India- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Census reports, direct evidence of discrimination against girls in India is found in the gender ratio. In some states like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, the number of girls per 1000 boys is alarmingly low. The child sex ratio (0-6 years of age) in the 2011 census was recorded to be only

919 girls per 1000 boys, which is a serious warning for the social health of India.

The imbalance in the sex ratio has caused serious problems in the society. The lack of marriageable women has led to increased female trafficking, forced marriages, and sexual crimes. When women are less in number, they become more vulnerable. This leads to an increase in domestic violence, sexual abuse, and crimes against women. In many areas, it has become difficult for boys to find brides for marriage. This has led to increased social tension, crime, and mental disorders. When half of the population is deprived of education, employment and leadership, it hampers the economic progress and social harmony of the entire nation. Female foeticide reflects the irony of a civilization that considers 'daughter as goddess', but does not give her the right to live. The Government of India has taken several steps from time to time: By implementing the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994, foetal testing was banned. An attempt was made to increase public awareness by starting the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign. Initiatives like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Kanya Shiksha Yojana are encouraging daughters. But government efforts cannot be fully successful unless there is a change in social consciousness, value system and mindset.

Female foeticide is not just a crime, but a serious crime against humanity. If India really has to progress, then equality between boys and girls has to be ensured. An attitude of looking at daughters not as a burden but as an asset and pride has to be developed. Only a change in the mindset of the society can eradicate this curse from its roots. We should remember - "Where women are respected, there Gods reside." Female foeticide is the act of aborting a foetus because it is female. This is a major social problem in India and has cultural connections with the dowry system that is ingrained in Indian culture, despite the fact that it has been prohibited by law since 1961. In India a strong preference for sons over daughters exists, unlike in Western cultures. People realise smaller family sizes with relatively greater number of sons through the use of medical technologies. Pregnancies are planned by resorting to 'differential contraception' - contraception is used based on the number of surviving sons irrespective of family size. Following conception, foetal sex is determined by prenatal diagnostic techniques after which female foetuses are aborted. Foetal sex determination and sex-selective abortion by medical professionals has grown into a 1,000 crore industry (US\$244 million). Social discrimination against women and a preference for sons have been promoted. Since 1991, 80% of districts in India have recorded an increasingly masculine sex ratio with the state of Punjab having the most masculine sex ratio. According to the decennial Indian census, the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group in India went from 104.0 males per 100 females in 1981, to 105.8 in 1991, to 107.8 in 2001, to 109.4 in 2011. The ratio is significantly higher in certain states such as Punjab and Haryana (126.1 and 122.0, as of 2001).

It is estimated that more than 10 million female foetuses have been

illegally aborted in India. Researchers for the *Lancet* journal based in Canada and India stated that 500,000 girls were being lost annually through sex-selective abortions. Pre-natal sex-determination was banned in India in 1994, under the *Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act*. The act aims to prevent sex-selective abortion, which, according to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has its roots in India's long history of strong patriarchal influence in all spheres of life. It is most prominent in Gujarat and the North Indian states, which according to census data have an alarmingly low ratio of female children. Certain castes regularly practiced female infanticide and later female foeticide. The castes with a much lower proportion of female children to male children included lewa patidars and the rajputs in Gujarat; jats, rajputs, khutris and royal brahmins in undivided Punjab, rajputs and gujars in the Uttar Pradesh. This process began in the early 1990s when ultrasound techniques gained widespread use in India. There was a tendency for families to continuously produce children until a male child was born. This was primarily due to the large sexist culture that exists in India against women. This is reflected by literacy rates among women as well as economic participation, which are both particularly low in states where female foeticide is prominent and an unequal population ratio exists alongside. The government initially supported the practice to control population growth. The Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act was passed in 1994, making sex-selective abortion illegal. It was then modified in 2003 holding medical professionals legally responsible. However, the PCPNDT Act has been poorly enforced by authorities.

Social Effects- Female foeticide has led to an increase in human trafficking. In 2011, 15,000 Indian women were bought and sold as brides in areas where foeticide has led to a lack of women. Government response to the problem has been known to not have stopped female foeticide from occurring. Although several acts have been passed to combat the situation, many of them are not enforced strongly enough. This and the existence of several loopholes in the system means the practice of sex-selective abortion continues. An example of one of these loopholes would be on the pretext of checking for genetic disorders in the fetus, who can stop a doctor from examining the sex of the unborn child and informing the parents in secret. In 2001, the Supreme Court in India gave orders to five multi-national companies- Philips, Symonds, Toshiba, Larsen and Toubro and Wipro to give them the names and addresses of all the clinics and persons in India to whom they have sold ultrasound machines in the last five years to enable the state government to find out if these machines were registered. Unfortunately, not much happened after this directive, although the companies were reported to have supplied all the information that was required. *The Statesman*, a leading newspaper reported on February 3, 2002 that not a single illegal ultrasound machine has been impounded in Delhi. Banning pre-conception sex-determination tests calls for new legislation. But the fact is that even the present PNDT Act is full of loopholes and cannot

be effectively implemented. Law certainly empowers the government to act but the fundamental question is whether the government or Supreme Court can alone usher in social transformation in Indian society. India's prime minister acknowledges gendercide as a national shame, however, the police and judiciaries do not implement the law because they believe in the same thing. Authorities often let the unlawful parents and doctors off with light punishment. Often, when the mothers disobey the husband's family decision to abort the female foetus and report it to the authorities, the suits are ignored or given a light sentence: The mother is targeted for bearing girls and disobeying the family's decision to abort the child. She may even lose her job, be exposed to constant death threats, and be left with unresolved cases. In addition, others who give birth to girls are prone to violence. Even if she is able to give birth to the baby girls, the family is likely to not report the births and even murder them.^[12] Increasing awareness of the problem has led to multiple campaigns by celebrities and journalists to combat sex-selective abortions. Aamir Khan devoted the first episode "Daughters Are Precious" of his show *Satyamev Jayate* to raise awareness of this widespread practice, focusing primarily on Western Rajasthan, which is known to be one of the areas where this practice is common. Its sex ratio dropped to 883 girls per 1,000 boys in 2011 from 901 girls to 1000 boys in 2001. Rapid response was shown by local government in Rajasthan after the airing of this show, showing the affect of media and nationwide awareness on the issue. A vow was made by officials to set up fast-track courts to punish those who practice sex-based abortion. They cancelled the licences of six sonography centres and issued notices to over 20 others. The first season of *Satyamev Jayate* was premiered from 6 May 2012 on various channels within Star Network along with Doordarshan's DD National. It marked the television debut of Indian Bollywood actor and filmmaker Aamir Khan. His works are remarkable and are given below in the table. While Hindi is the primary language of the show, it is also dubbed and simulcast in several other Indian languages such as Bengali, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu.

This has been done on the smaller scale. Cultural intervention has been addressed through theatre. Plays such as 'Pacha Mannu', which is about female infanticide/foeticide, has been produced by a women's theatre group in Tamil Nadu. This play was showing mostly in communities that practice female infanticide/foeticide and has led to a redefinition of a methodology of consciousness raising, opening up varied ways of understanding and subverting cultural expressions. In a recent landmark judgement the Bombay High Court upheld an amendment to the PCPNDT Act banning sex-selection treatment. The Court pronounced that "pre natal sex determination would be as good as female foeticide. Pre-conception sex determination violated a woman's right to live and was against the Constitution." The *Beti Bachao*, or Save girls campaign, has been underway in many Indian communities since the early 2000s. The campaign uses the media to raise awareness of the gender disparities creating, and resulting from, sex-selective abortion. *Beti Bachao* activities include rallies, posters,

short videos and television commercials, some of which are sponsored by state and local governments and other organisations. Many celebrities in India have publicly supported the Beti Bachao campaign. Save girls, save the girl child, is a campaign in India to end the gender-selective abortion of female fetuses, which has skewed the population towards a significant under-representation of girls in some Indian states. The “Beti Bachao” campaign is supported by human rights groups, non-governmental organizations, and state and local government in India. Alka Gupta reporter of UNICEF has published in her report that Eligible Jat boys from Haryana travel 3,000 km across the country to find themselves a bride. With increasingly fewer girls in Haryana, they are seeking brides from as far away as Kerala as the only way to change their single status. The girls have not vanished overnight. Decades of sex determination tests and female foeticide that has acquired genocide proportions are finally catching up with states in India. This is only the tip of the demographic and social problems confronting India in the coming years. Skewed sex ratios have moved beyond the states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. With news of increasing number of female foetuses being aborted from Orissa to Bangalore there is ample evidence to suggest that the next census will reveal a further fall in child sex ratios throughout the country.

The decline in child sex ratio in India is evident by comparing the census figures. In 1991, the figure was 947 girls to 1000 boys. Ten years later it had fallen to 927 girls for 1000 boys. Since 1991, 80% of districts in India have recorded a declining sex ratio with the state of Punjab being the worst. States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have recorded a more than 50 point decline in the child sex ratio in this period. Despite these horrific numbers, foetal sex determination and sex selective abortion by unethical medical professionals has today grown into a Rs. 1,000 crore industry (US\$ 244 million). Social discrimination against women, already entrenched in Indian society, has been spurred on by technological developments that today allow mobile sex selection clinics to drive into almost any village or neighbourhood unchecked. The PCPNDT Act 1994 (Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act) was modified in 2003 to target the medical profession - the 'supply side' of the practice of sex selection. However non implementation of the Act has been the biggest failing of the campaign against sex selection. According to the latest data available till May 2006, as many as 22 out of 35 states in India had not reported a single case of violation of the act since it came into force. Delhi reported the largest number of violations – 76 out of which 69 were cases of non registration of birth! Punjab had 67 cases and Gujarat 57 cases. But the battle rages on. In a recent landmark judgment, the Mumbai High Court upheld an amendment to the PCPNDT Act banning sex selection treatment. The Court pronounced that pre natal sex determination would be as good as female foeticide. Pre-conception sex determination violated a woman's right to live and was against the Constitution, it said. While the boys from Haryana may have found a temporary solution to the problem of

missing brides, experts warn that the demographic crisis will lead to increasing sexual violence and abuse against women and female children, trafficking, increasing number of child marriages, increasing maternal deaths due to abortions and early marriages and increase in practices like polyandry. There have been only two convictions — a fine of 300 rupees (\$7) and another fine of 4,000 rupees (\$98) — from over 400 cases lodged under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act. Bringing about changes in the demand for sex determination is a long process and has to be tackled through women's education and empowerment including the right to property and land rights. States in the North East and in Kerala where women have these rights show a comparatively better sex ratio. The battle against sex selection has proved to be long drawn out. But some signs are visible that demonstrate that the fight can be won. Lakhnopal, a small village in Punjab has turned the tide of male births for the first time. In a state that has the lowest sex ratio in the country, the village boasts of 1,400 girls for every 1000 boys. Arvind Kumar, the collector of Hyderabad district has illustrated the power of the Act. Hyderabad had the lowest child sex ratio (0-6 years) in Andhra Pradesh. After taking over in 2004 he tracked down all 389 diagnostic clinics in the city and took action. 361 ultrasound scan centres were issued notices for non compliance with the PNDT Act. Licenses of 91 centres were cancelled. 83 machines were seized and 71 released after an undertaking and fine. Three suppliers were prosecuted for supplying machines to clinics with no registration licenses.

The Women's UN Report Program & Network (WUNRN) is a non-governmental organization to implement the conclusions and recommendations of a United Nations Study on Freedom of Religion of Belief and the Status of Women from the Viewpoint of Religion and Traditions (E/CN.4/2002/73/Add.2). This study is a major, universal, comprehensive U.N. approach to intolerance and discrimination against women based on religion and traditions. To strengthen the nexus between women's rights and freedom of religion or belief, it is important to build on the Juridical and Factual Aspects of this study by research, plans of action and practical projects. WUNRN, together with The Tandem Project, is committed to this objective through support for the dignity and fundamental rights of women everywhere, and by the promotion of tolerance and the end of discrimination against women based on religion and traditions. The WUNRN reports of 23 May 2011 says that India's 2011 census shows a serious decline in the number of girls under the age of seven - activists fear eight million female foetuses may have been aborted in the past decade. The BBC's Geeta Pandey in Delhi explores what has led to this crisis. Kulwant has three daughters aged 24, 23 and 20 and a son who is 16. In the years between the birth of her third daughter and her son, Kulwant became pregnant three times. My mother-in-law said if I had a daughter, my husband would leave me. Thankfully, I had a son.” Each time, she says, she was forced to abort the foetus by her family after ultrasound tests confirmed that they were girls.” My mother-in-law taunted me for giving birth to girls.

She said her son would divorce me if I didn't bear a son." Kulwant still has vivid memories of the first abortion. "The baby was nearly five months old. She was beautiful. I miss her, and the others we killed," she says, breaking down, wiping away her tears. Until her son was born, Kulwant's daily life consisted of beatings and abuse from her husband, mother-in-law and brother-in-law. Once, she says, they even attempted to set her on fire." They were angry. They didn't want girls in the family. They wanted boys so they could get fat dowries," she says. India outlawed dowries in 1961, but the practice remains rampant and the value of dowries is constantly growing, affecting rich and poor alike. Kulwant's husband died three years after the birth of their son. "It was the curse of the daughters we killed. That's why he died so young," she says.

How girls are valued varies widely across India. Over the years, most states in the south and north-east have been kind to their girls, and sex ratios are above the national average. In the matrilineal societies of Kerala and Karnataka in the south and Meghalaya in the north-east, women have enjoyed high status and commanded respect. But the latest census figures show the good news even in these areas could be turning bad. A minor decline in the number of girls has begun in the three states which, campaigners worry, might be indicative of a trend. What is seen as most distressing is the steep decline in the number of girls under seven in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and in Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura in the north-east. Even though these states have registered numbers much higher than the national average, the decline is too substantial to ignore. But all is not lost. Some states, such as Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh - which saw the gap between numbers of boys and girls widen in 2001 - have shown an improvement. That is cause for some cheer, campaigners say. Her neighbor Rekha is mother of a chubby three-year-old girl. Last September, when she became pregnant again, her mother-in-law forced her to undergo an abortion after an ultrasound showed that she was pregnant with twin girls." I said there's no difference between girls and boys. But here they think differently. There's no happiness when a girl is born. They say the son will carry forward our lineage, but the daughter will get married and go off to another family." Kulwant and Rekha live in Sagarpur, a lower middle-class area in south-west Delhi. Here, narrow minds live in homes separated by narrow lanes. The women's story is common and repeated in millions of homes across India, and it has been getting worse. In 1961, for every 1,000 boys under the age of seven, there were 976 girls. Today, the figure has dropped to a dismal 914 girls. Although the number of women overall is improving (due to factors such as life expectancy), India's ratio of young girls to boys is one of the worst in the world after China. Many factors come into play to explain this: infanticide, abuse and neglect of girl children. But campaigners say the decline is largely due to the increased availability of antenatal sex screening, and they talk of genocide.

The government has been forced to admit that its strategy has failed to put an end to female foeticide. In 1994, the Pre-Natal Determination Test

(PNDT) Act outlawed sex-selective abortion. In 2004, it was amended to include gender selection even at the pre-conception stage. Abortion is generally legal up to 12 weeks' gestation. Sex can be determined by a scan from about 14 weeks." What is needed is a strict implementation of the law," says Varsha Joshi, director of census operations for Delhi. "I find there's absolutely no will on the part of the government to stop this." Today, there are 40,000 registered ultrasound clinics in the country, and many more exist without any record. Ms Joshi, a former district commissioner of south-west Delhi, says there are dozens of ultrasound clinics in the area. It has the worst child sex ratio in the capital - 836 girls under seven for every 1,000 boys. Delhi's overall ratio is not much better at 866 girls under seven for every 1,000 boys."It's really sad. We are the capital of the country and we have such a poor ratio," Ms Joshi says. The south-west district shares its boundary with Punjab and Haryana, the two Indian states with the worst sex ratios. Since the last census, Punjab and Haryana have shown a slight improvement. But Delhi has registered a decline." Something's really wrong here and something has to be done to put things right," Ms Joshi says. Almost all the ultrasound clinics in the area have the mandatory board outside, proclaiming that they do not carry out illegal sex-determination tests. But the women in Sagarapur say most people here know where to go when they need an ultrasound or an abortion. They say anyone who wants to get a foetal ultrasound done, gets it done. In the five-star clinics of south Delhi it costs 10,000-plus rupees (\$222; £135), In the remote peripheral areas of Delhi's border, it costs a few hundred rupees. Similarly, the costs vary for those wanting an illegal abortion. Delhi is not alone in its anti-girl bias. Sex ratios have declined in 17 states in the past decade, with the biggest falls registered in Jammu and Kashmir. Ms Joshi says most offenders are members of the growing middle-class and affluent Indians - they are aware that the technology exists and have the means to pay to find out the sex of their baby and abort if they choose." We have to take effective steps to control the promotion of sex determination by the medical community. And file cases against doctors who do it," Mr George says. "Otherwise by 2021, we are frightened to think what it will be like."

Female foeticide is now more widespread in the country than ever before. The practice was restricted to few states a few years ago has now spread all over the country. Girls and women not only face inequity and inequality, they are even denied the right to born if their families do not wish so. In fact many families do not wish their women folk to deliver baby daughters. The Declining Sex Ratio: one of the sensitive indicators of boy preference is the sex ratio. The record shows that the sex ratio or the number of females for each thousand males has gone down consistently over the past decades. In this study I took the interview of 100 people of Rewa city and found that the following factors are responsible for female foeticide- Female foeticide is now more widespread in the country than ever before. The practice was restricted to few states a few years ago has now spread all over the country. Girls and women not only face inequity and inequality,

they are even denied the right to born if their families do not wish so. In fact, many families do not wish their women folk to deliver baby daughters. The Declining Sex Ratio: one of the sensitive indicators of boy preference is the sex ratio. The record shows that the sex ratio or the number of females for each thousand males has gone down consistently over the past decades. In this study I took the interview of 100 people of Rewa city and found that the following factors are resopnsible for female foeticide-

1. Social Security- Consequent upon the advances in medical science, the termination of unwanted children especially female foetuses through abortion has become common in families to satisfy their preference for sons.

2. Evil of Dowry- Some people think, a girl means accumulation of sufficient resources for the dowry the parents have to give away, when the girl gets married. Therefore, the parents think that the girl is a financial burden for them, where as the boy is an asset who fetches a fabulous dowry for the parents.

3. Financial Dependence of Females on Husband or in laws- In India socio-economic background has been the villain behind the tragic female foeticide. Certain communities want to get rid of female child compelled by the circumstances of dehumanizing poverty, unemployment, superstition and illiteracy.

4. Cultural Factors- the concept of 'Vanshodharak' a male child to perform last rites in Hindus and carry forward Measures to Reduce Female Foeticide.

However, the national law against prenatal diagnostic technique (regulation and misuse) Act of 1994 is a positive step which enabled the National Human Rights Commission to direct the Medical Council of India to take action against doctors found abusing prenatal diagnostic techniques. There is a need for sustained campaigning and active monitoring of the act. State Governments should realize the importance and priority of the law and not merely treat it with their usual complacency. Structures for implementation of the 1994 law need to be created at the District level. Volunteers have to be actively mobilized to monitor registration and functioning of sex determination clinics at different districts. Cases have to be filed against the violators and social consciousness has to be raised against the crime. Members of the society and the religious leaders have a positive role in creating a morally reformed society.

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against the crime. Members of the society and the religious leaders have a positive role in creating a morally reformed society.

The long-term task is to foster a culture of goodness and human dignity which inoculates individuals and institutions against the infection of this despicable human practice. The role of the Akal Takht in Punjab is worth mentioning. The apex religious organization of the Sikhs has issued directives to the community not to indulge in the inhuman and immoral practice of female foeticide and to take stern action against those who would violate this direction i.e. offenders would be ex-communicated. Almost all communities have organizations similar to the Akal Takht, if they made a concerted effort to educate their flock, and if need be, boycott those guilty of this crime. a radical social change could come about.

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Impact of Expatriation on Socio-Economic Changes: A Case Study of Kishanganj District in Seemanchal Region

• Moharram Ansari

Abstract- Cultivation is still observed as the major source to earn livelihood in Kishanganj district. There are a small number of industries in the district; total industrial unit-556, registered medium & large unit-3, estimated average no. of daily worker employed in small scale industries-2400 (MoMSME, 2012). There are units which are producing agricultural products in Azad Nagar and Besarbati. The rice industry is a booming pursuit in these areas. The industry to this place is predominantly agro-based. The main cash crops sown in the district are tea, pineapple and jute. The district has 11 tea factories. One of the farm-based industries to join the group is fox nut (Makhana). Places where edible makhana are cultivated from raw makhana are expanding swiftly. The apparel market here bartering cotton and sarees is very stimulating and serves to adjacent districts and the adjoining countries of Bangladesh and Nepal. Few old cycle trading companies and pharmaceuticals chemists dealing with huge gross revenue can be found here. The main crops are rice, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, potato, jute, and tea while banana, dragon fruit, arhar, and masoor are also grown in Kishanganj district. The district is the only tea producing in Bihar state.

Keywords- Expatriation, Kishanganj, Socio-economic, Fox nut, Labour

Introduction- Kishanganj came into existence as an autonomous district from Purnia district in January 1990 and became part of Seemanchal region. Earlier Kishanganj district was dominated by Mohammed Fakiruddin, Khagada Nawab, who was held most of the land of the region. Kishanganj possesses a particular heritage in Indian history. The district has a lavish Hindu religious heritage, specifically in the area link to the Mithila realm and its connection with the deity Krishna (kishanganj.dcourts, 2025). The name "Kishanganj" is taken from a tale of a Hindu saint who toured the region during the ruler Mohammed Fakiruddin, Nawab of Khagada, to name a piece of land as "Krishna-Kunj" (a grove of Krishna). The saint, exhausted from travel, wished to relax but denied to go into the territory, the then known as Alamganj, due to its name and the jurisdiction of Fakiruddin. Gradually, this area was later recognized as Kishanganj (Thakur, 2015 & kishanganj.nic.in, 2025). Kishanganj was undeniably segment of Purnia district. The latter was set up in the year 1813 close by Malda district (renowned for its mango cultivation). In the time of Indo-Timurid dynasty, Kishanganj in Bihar was

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segment of Nepal, known as Nepalgarh. Mughal autarch Shah Alam designated Md. Raza at Surjapur to exercise control over the region. Mohammed Raza seized the fort of Nepalgarh and renamed it as Alamganj along with the administration was relocated to Khagada (kishanganj.dcourts, 2025). The state of Bihar was controlled by Islamic rule after Mohammed-bin-Bakhtiar Khalji triumphed over Bihar town, then the capital of Bihar, in 1200. His inheritor Ghiyas-ud-din Iwaz Khalji expanded the margins of the frontier to comprise almost the entire of Bihar (Amod, 2016); it is credible that Kishanganj experienced Islamic rule in the early 13th century. The region was segment of the mega Mithila area, which was segment of the Videhas dynasty. The area was governed by Indo-Aryans, and it would have been bound by the administrative and cultural changes effected by the rise of Islamic rule (Nadia, 2024). The Kishanganj district came under an English dominion in 1765. Mohammed Ali Khan was the last Governor of Purnia who was succeeded by Mr. Ducarrel in 1770. The district was transferred from the Bihar and Banaras Board of Commissioners to the Calcutta Board of Revenue in 1787. In its initial phase, British rule was principally concerned with the establishment of law and order and the development of a robust revenue administration. The region that constitutes present-day Kishanganj was historically part of the Anga and Magadha kingdoms during the Mahajanapada period of ancient India. Anga, a significant Mahajanapada with its capital at Champa, was situated across parts of Bihar and West Bengal. The Magadha kingdom's influence in this area grew substantially after its ruler, Bimbisara, annexed Anga (Altekar, 1955, Makhan Lal, 2002 & B.B. Lal, 2020). With the rise of Muslim power in North India, Ikhtiyar-ud-din Bakhtiyar Khilazi brought this area under his control, and it later came under the sphere of indirect Mughal rule. Under the aegis of British rule, the administration of Kishanganj was handed over to Indian Zamindars and Nawabs who played a key role in assisting the English in their governance over the agrarian and labouring populations. Prior to the Bengal partition in 1905, Kishanganj was segment of Bengal's Purnia district. While the partition resulted into Eastern Bengal and Assam, comprised areas now in Bangladesh and some of old Bengal, Kishanganj remained in Bihar before being shifted to West Bengal in 1956 (Chahalacademy, 2025). The people of Kishanganj tirelessly confronted British rule in India. Succeeding India's freedom, they got independence together with the entire nation. Kishanganj, which had been a sub-divisional town in under the Purnia district, was uplifted to the stature of a sovereign district on 14th January, 1990, continuing an abundant heritage as well as a close relationship with its parent district of Purnea. Kishanganj's name comes from Krishna-Kunj, an area named by the Khagada Nawab, Mohammed Fakiruddin. This renaming occurred because a Hindu saint, seeking rest, refused to enter the former Alamganj due to its name, the Ramazan River, and the ruler's name. In reverence for the saint, the Nawab designated the land from his resting spot to the Ramazan River as Krishna-Kunj, which later became Kishanganj (Thakur, 2015 & kishanganj.nic.in, 2025).

Review of Literature

Khan, Imran, (2024), Impoverished Seemanchal region – Kishanganj, Katihar, Purnia, and Araria districts – is a major source of migrant labour. Low wages make the cost of returning home prohibitive, forcing a choice between livelihood and family visits. Economic hardship compels these workers to seek distant jobs, often without official return assistance.

Ranjan, Rahul, (2024), Bihar's migration, fueled by economic need and socio-economic conditions, provides crucial financial support to families but also creates challenges requiring thorough policy responses. The state's migration patterns underscore the necessity for policies fostering sustainable development and social inclusion in both rural and urban settings. By analyzing the features, causes, and effects of migration, policymakers can more effectively support migrant workers and their families, leading to a fairer and more thriving society.

PIB report, (2023), The “Migration in India, 2020-21” report, based on the PLFS 2020-21, indicated a total migration rate of 28.9% in India, with a rural migration rate of 26.5%. Approximately 10.8% of all migrants cited employment-related reasons, encompassing job seeking, pursuing better employment, taking up work (including business and proximity to workplace/transfer), and displacement due to job loss or lack of opportunities.

Farhat, Nilu, (2022), Women's participation is key to Bihar's and especially Kishanganj's progress, boosting the economy, reducing poverty, improving skills, and fostering gender equality. Empowering women through education, jobs, and financial independence challenges norms, increases their agency, and leads to a more inclusive society. To achieve this, Bihar needs to tackle barriers, enhance skills, support entrepreneurship, and ensure financial inclusion for women, ultimately unlocking their potential for a more prosperous future.

Kumar, Uttam, (2021), Key drivers of labor migration from Bihar are low per capita income, limited job opportunities due to a smaller secondary and tertiary sector compared to other states, and low education/skill levels among workers. While remittances sent home boost Bihar's economy, the state also loses skilled and productive individuals. Migrant workers from Bihar face challenges like exploitation, poor living/working conditions, and limited access to basic services.

Ahmad, Wali, (2020), Kishanganj, among India's poorest districts, compels numerous young men to migrate for work in the unorganized sector nationwide, earning meager daily wages of Rs 300-400. This is seen as an improvement over the sporadic local jobs available due to the lack of consistent livelihood opportunities at home.

Bureau, Aajeevika, (2017), Bihar's long-standing labor migration, fueled by rural job scarcity and external demand, often leads to short-term, insecure work in poor conditions for migrants. Their families face low remittances, limited social support, and political exclusion, with women

bearing extra household responsibilities. Collaborative action from governments and worker groups is essential to tackle these issues.

Moazzam, Safder, (2014), Bihar sees significant out-migration of laborers and poor farmers, impacting its socio-economy. Flood/drought-prone and less developed areas have higher out-migration. Kishanganj, a less developed, flood/drought-prone northeastern district, is part of this trend. This paper analyzes the socio-economic changes due to this out-migration, examining economic and social benefits for families with migrant members using primary and secondary data, focusing on different parts of Kishanganj.

Study Area- Kishanganj district is the part of Seemanchal region in Bihar. It is located in the north-eastern part of Bihar; it acts the major access point to the north-eastern region of India. The district shares borderlines with Nepal to the north, West Bengal to the south and east, and the Araria district to the west. Kishanganj district, enclosing an area of 727 square miles, had a citizenry of 1,690,400 (2011 Census). This district has witnessed significant expatriation, probably steered by its high population density of 898 persons per km², intensifying burden on land caused by a high yearly population growth rate of 3.04% (2011 Census), a majority of labourers involved in agriculture and allied sector, and other imparting issues.

Objectives- The objective of this study is to observe the socio-economic causes behind the expatriation of people from Kishanganj and the socio-economic reasons for their expatriation to developed cities and towns across India.

Methodology- The methodology embraced in the current study comprises getting of published and unpublished data. Secondary data has been used and have picked up from census report and various articles. The current section enquires into shifts in workload within emigrant households utilising secondary data, with particular emphasis on primary sector.

Kishanganj: Economic Perspectives- Agriculture forms the primary means of livelihood in the district, although a limited number of industries are also found. Notable among these industries are rice, jute, flour, and oil mills, as well as food product manufacturers. The local cloth market, specializing in cotton and sarees, is a significant commercial hub, serving not only the surrounding districts but also the border towns of Nepal and Bangladesh. In addition to these, Kishanganj is home to a few of age-old cycle trading companies with ample turnovers. Impressively, Paper Mart is a well-regarded historic establishment that deals in paper, printing inks, office supply and school stationery stores, serves as legalized government suppliers, and furnishes marriage cards. While the economy of Kishanganj is flourishing, its commercial sector is predominantly localized within the city, where a multitude of retail outlets, shopping malls, showrooms, and eateries can be found that supplies goods and services to the local inhabitants and visitors. Bringing about considerable revenue in all seasons, the Railway station considerably contributes to Kishanganj's economic growth. Besides, the district is a smaller city with cosmopolitan influences with a

diverse population pulled out from diverse communities and states. It is this diverse cosmopolitan environment that makes the lifestyle of the people in Kishanganj apparently distinct from the rest of the Seemanchal region. Well-regarded malls in Kishanganj district include M Baazar Kishanganj and Daftari Mega Mart, V Bazar Shopping Mall, Star Mall, and Jyoti Metal Store are also noted as top shopping destinations in the area (yappe.in, 2024 & justdial.com, 2025). Kishanganj town furnishes a selection of pizza options with different outlets. Besides, the town features showrooms for diverse automobiles manufacturers, comprising Eicher and Mahindra tractor & harvester showrooms, Bajaj, Hero & Honda, TVS, Yamaha two wheelers. Kishanganj has also witnessed to have new branches of several private banks. Despite some shops being closed on Sundays, Kishanganj's significance as a major market in the Seemanchal region means that some important shops remain open on Sundays, attracting shoppers and visitors from adjacent districts, states, and even countries.

Migration in Kishanganj District- The conception that economic growth is essentially driven by inflationary measures, interest rate limitation, and governed credit programs is fallacious and contradicts the evidence. Whereas monetary policy of the country singly may not be thoroughly capable of stabilizing the economy, it is observed a crucial tool for stabilization in various developing economies. Central bankers in these economies have understandably stated that their main attainable objective is price stability, rather than other targets like growth and employment. The perspective of the author gives the impression that monetary policy has been pushing for something. Various social scientists have enquired into internal expatriation in India. These social scientists comprise economists, demographers, sociologists, historians, and geographers. They have intensified our perception of internal expatriation. They attained this by exercising the approaches and methodologies of their respective disciplines to the analysis of expatriation.

Internal Circular Expatriation Dynamics in Kishanganj, Bihar- Labor surveys in Kishanganj district of Bihar, expose significant expatriation because of economic reasons, particularly the lure of better job prospects and higher pay in other regions. These surveys stipulate that a substantial portion of the population, particularly laborers and lower-income individuals, are leaving Kishanganj district in search of employment (Moazzam, 2014 & Uttam, 2021). A current labor survey in Kishanganj observes a further decline in the number of workers departing from Bihar for work. This reduction, now lesser than the preceding estimate of around 1/3rd, is credited to occurring development projects within Bihar province (PIB report, 2025). Initial findings from the survey indicate a notable slowdown in the departure of workers, especially from Seemanchal districts like Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, and Purnia in the state. Previously, these districts witnessed considerable numbers of workers expatriating to other states. "This spells a substantial decline in labor expatriation from the state of Bihar for work," stated Labour Minister of Bihar to PTI. The Minister also

noted that while a preceding government survey revealed an around 1/3rd reduction in laborers leaving Kishanganj district, current appraisals put forward an even greater reduction.

Transformations in Workload- In the financial year 2023-2024, 40.3 percent of women aged 15 years and above in Bihar province were eagerly participating in the labour force, either through employment or by firmly looking for it. For the whole population of the state across all cohorts during the same period, the overall workforce participation rate (WPR) remained at 58.2% (PIB report, 2023-24). The Bihar's low documented women WPR rate undercounts the considerable contributions of adult females, who are almost universally involved in household work not classified as employment by the Census of India. In the study areas of Seemanchal region, deprived females much extensively contribute to household tasks, crop production, and livestock activities, giving rise to daily workdays of 10-15 hours combining economic and household chores. The emigration of young and economically industrious males could have implications for the distribution of labour, unimaginably intensifying the workload borne by females in the research locations within the Seemanchal region. This notable attribute has not been satisfactorily studied by researchers, signifying there is a gap in reports regarding the shift in workload for females left behind in their households because of the expatriation of male family members.

Conclusion- Emigrant households in the state of Bihar make money notably from remittances, which are assigned towards fundamental expenditure; livelihood modernizes, intensifying educational opportunities for children, and quality healthcare access, resulting in a comprehensive betterment in their living conditions. In addition to other benefits, they are inclined to save hard-earned money to address future uncertainties. This indicates that expatriation acts as a master plan for managing risks for vulnerable groups and has also encouraged saving habits within migrant households. If better infrastructure were available in rural areas of Kishanganj district to ease the quicker spread of modern agricultural technology aimed at increasing yield, migrant families might have allocated more of their remittances to farm inputs. Employment among females has surged in expatriate households, particularly poor ones, but this has brought about a heavier workload for them. The role of females in expatriate households has evolved from being predominantly unpaid labourers to becoming domestic managers. Even with this shift, they confront serious challenges in areas like financial management, discriminatory social norms, digital adoption, and the marketing of farm inputs and outputs. It is imperative to initiate a program/scheme aimed at imparting them with instructing and training to enhance their proficiency in financial, digital, and marketing management.

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Spatial Variations in In-Migration and Out-Migration Patterns in Bihar, India

• Suman Lata
.. Ayesha Jamal
... Ganesh Kumar Sharma

Abstract- *The present study tries to analyze spatial variations in the patterns of in-migration and out-migration flows in the state of Bihar during the period of 2001 and 2011. The decadal changes in the flows were examined using the place of birth data. The present study is based on the secondary sources of data taken from the Census of India for two previous censuses viz., 2001 and 2011. For the detailed study of in-migration patterns in the districts of Bihar, top-5 origin states for each district were ranked in terms of their corresponding proportion in total in-migration for the year 2011. The overall analysis of the study reveals that out of total migrants in the state in 2011, the highest migration (~68 per cent) is taking place within the same district in the form of intra-district migration whereas inter-district migration accounted for nearly 27 per cent. Inter-state migration declined during this period from 7.9 per cent in 2001 to 4 per cent in 2011. Whereas the number of total out-migrants of Bihar observed increase from 5.5 million in 2001 to 7.9 million in 2011 with a positive growth (~44 per cent), and the states namely Jharkhand, West Bengal, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were top destinations for the migrants of Bihar accounting for nearly 69 per cent share in total out-migrants. Whereas the total in-migrants decreased during this period from 1.5 million in 2001 to 1.0 million in 2011 showing a negative growth of -23.5 per cent. The states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and NCT of Delhi were major origin states sending migrants to Bihar comprising about 95 per cent share in total in-migrants. The study revealed that in terms of ranking, the highest in-migration in Bihar occurred from three neighbouring states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.*

Keywords- *Total Migrants, Inter-state, Intra-district, Inter-district, In-migration, Out-migration*

Introduction- Migration has been taking place in various forms since the history of mankind started on earth. Migration basically is a change of residence from one village/town to another village/town. Together with fertility and death, migration is the third-factor influencing population

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change since it has a major impact on the social, economic, and demographic makeup of a nation or region's population (White & Woods, 1980). Migration is the result of imbalances that arose during the development process and has historically been intimately linked to social and economic growth in India (Sorensen et al., 2002). As a result, the people of less affluent areas migrate to the most affluent areas for better employment opportunities, improving living standard, health and educational facilities (Kumari et al., 2022). The relationship of migration with that of development can be traced from the fact that after moving out from their native place, migrants send remittances to their families, to meet the expenses on food, healthcare, education and other basic needs. These remittances play an important role in increasing income of migrants' households and in helping them come out of poverty (Bhaskaran & Mehta, 2010; Kumar & Bhagat, 2019). Moreover, migration affects the economies of origin and destination regions by transforming the lives of people of both regions during this process (Oberai, 1980; Deshpande, 1998). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reaffirmed the connection between migration and development and acknowledged the potential role of urbanization in sustainable development, further reinforced this strategy. However, the relationship between migration and development has never been linear. It depends on different types of migration, such as voluntary versus forced migration, seasonal/temporary versus permanent/semi-permanent migration, and other social forms of migration, such as affluent versus poor, privileged versus deprived, non-scheduled versus scheduled castes/tribes, male versus female migration, and so forth (Bhagat et al., 2020).

One of India's most backward states, Bihar continues to have high rates of unemployment and poverty, which drives people to migrate to more developed areas in quest of work and a better life (Sharma, 2005). As per the Planning Commission data for the year 2011-12, in Bihar, the highest percentage of people (33.7 per cent) lived below the poverty line. Bihar has the lowest per capita income among the major Indian states and the lowest literacy rate (61.8%) in the nation, according to the 2011 Census. In the state, 90 percent of residents live in rural areas, where the poverty rate is comparatively high at 34.1 per cent. Bihar's unemployment issue is a result of the uneven distribution of land in rural areas, which leaves a large number of agricultural laborers and marginal farmers in need of extra work possibilities in order to make ends meet. The unemployment rate of rural male population in Bihar was 27 per thousand in 2011 as against national average of 17. Hence, this leads to high rural-urban migration. Bihar is the second largest state after Uttar Pradesh in terms of volume of out-migration. According to recent research, almost 60 percent of families in Bihar report that they have sent migrants abroad to improve their living conditions, and 53 per cent of households have sent migrants abroad in search of work or business (Roy et al., 2020). Kumar and Bhagat (2012) opined that poverty and under-development in the state are the main reasons for out-migration along with the heavy reliance on agriculture, institutional conditions, lack

of industrialization, and other socio-economic conditions. Rural residents are also migrating to urban areas as a result of declining agricultural returns over time as a result of low yields, rising rates of landlessness, and a lack of state funding (Sharma, 2005). Another significant work by Parganiha et al. (2009) found that a higher rate of out-migration exists among landless farmers and in less developed agricultural areas. However, in a recent study on North Bihar, Kumari et al. (2022) observed that migration from landowning households increased during last few decades due to stagnant agricultural production, crop losses due to frequent occurrence of floods and poor infrastructure for agricultural production and unavailability of non-farm activities are also pushing youngster of even large size household to outside of Bihar.

Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study aimed to examine district-wise patterns of in-migration and out-migration flows among top-10 States and UTs during 2001 and 2011 in the state of Bihar of India during the period of 2001 and 2011. The changes in total migrants, intra-district, inter-district, and inter-state migration were also examined for the state during this period. For detailed study of in-migration patterns in the state, top-5 origin States and UTs of in-migrants to Bihar were ranked for each district for the recent census of 2011.

The Study Area- Bihar lies in the most fertile Indo-Gangetic plains of India. Jharkhand was created as a separate state following the division of Bihar in 2000. Its geographical coordinates are 24°20'10" to 27°31'15" North latitudes and 83°19'50" to 88°17'40" East longitudes. There are 38 districts in the current state of Bihar, up from 37 in the 2001 census. After Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar is the third most populous and eleventh largest state in India by area. With just 2.8 per cent of the nation's land area, it sustains 8.8 per cent of its inhabitants. According to data from the 2011 Census, the population of Bihar is estimated to be 104 million, increased by 25.1 per cent between 2001 and 2011. The census 2011 saw the state's greatest population density (1,106 people/square km). In 2011, the state's level of urbanization was only 11.3 per cent, far less than the 31.2 per cent national average. Seventy percent of the working population in rural areas is employed in agriculture, which accounts for sixteen percent of the state's GDP. Flood has been the recurring phenomenon of north Bihar which leads to submergence of fertile lands and affects human and animal lives, physical assets and livelihoods of people (Kumari et al., 2022).

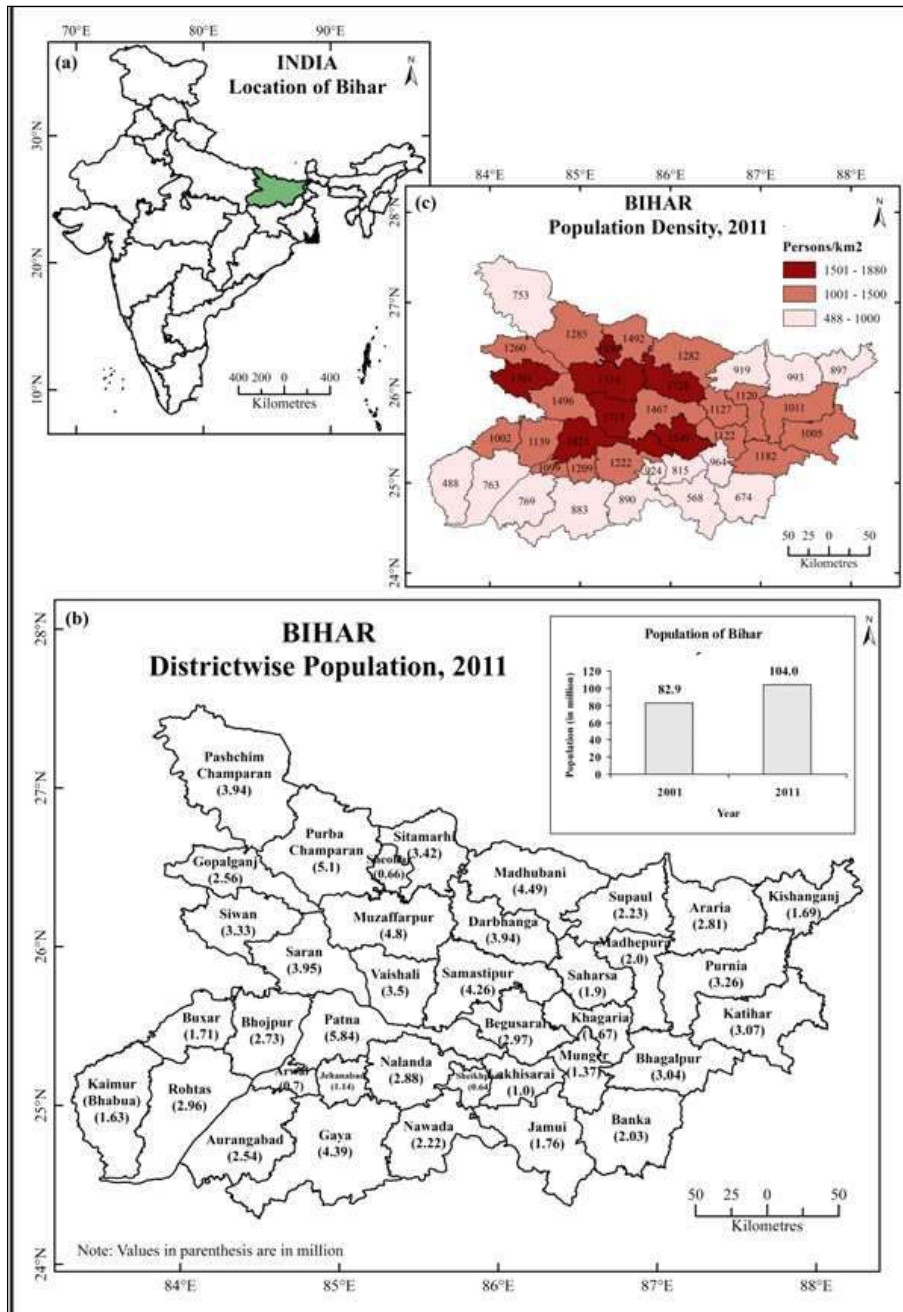


Figure 1: Location map of Bihar: **a.** Location of Bihar in India, **b.** Districtwise population of Bihar (in million), 2011, **c.** Population density of Bihar (persons/sq.km.), 2011

Data Sources and Methodology- The present study is based on the secondary sources of data taken from the Census of India. The study is based on the previous two censuses i.e., 2001 and 2011. The census provides

migration data in the form of tables (D-Series) based on two basic criteria i.e., place of birth and place of last residence. If a person is counted in a census location other than their birthplace, they are regarded as migrants by birthplace. However, if a person's place of enumeration during a census is different from their place of immediate last habitation, they are classified as migrants by place of last residence. Since place of birth data is the easiest to classify in terms of in-migration and out-migration and is also the most comprehensible, it is chosen as the appropriate criterion for this study. The population statistics used in this study came from the respective years' Primary Census Abstracts. Additional information was obtained from numerous additional government publications.

Total migrants are those who were born elsewhere from the place of enumeration during the census period. Total migrants can be calculated by subtracting the population born at the place of enumeration from the total population of that place. Migration within the periphery of a district is termed as intra-district migration and out-side the periphery in the same state is called as inter-district migration. Both intra and inter-district migration is considered as intra-state migration. Whereas, inter-state migration is that in which people migrate to other states of the country. International migrants are the ones who were born outside the country and counted at the place of enumeration. For the analysis, the district-wise in-migration and out-migration patterns in Bihar were examined. *In-migration* refers to the movement into a particular area, while *out-migration* refers to the movement out of a particular area, both referring to the movements within a country termed as *internal migration*. For further analysis, the data of the top-10 Origin and Destination states of migrants in Bihar were computed from migration tables (D-1 series).

For the computation of top-five origin States and UTs in each district of Bihar during 2011, *Ranking Method* was used. The states were arranged in descending order of their share of migrants in corresponding district and top five of them were listed in order of their ranks, this procedure was followed for all 38 districts of Bihar and abbreviations were used to illustrate them (see Fig. 3). In a similar way the districts (top-10) of Origin and Destination States and UTs were ranked according to their percentage share in in-migration and out-migration of Bihar, respectively (see Table 3 & 4).

For the computation and analysis of data, Microsoft Excel software was used. Simple statistical techniques like percentages, and growth/change were used to represent the data in the forms of tables and figures. ArcMap 10.x software was used for data visualization through maps.

Result and Discussions

Patterns of Migration in India- In India "mobile" population, those who were enumerated at a place other than their place of birth, were 145 million in 1961, this has increased to 167 million and 204 million in 1971 and 1981 while its share in the total population was 33.0 per cent, 30.4 per cent and 30.2 per cent, respectively in corresponding years (Kundu, 1986; Kundu & Gupta, 1996). According to the census 2011, India recorded a total of 447

million migrants which were about 37 per cent of its total population. This showed an increase of 140 million migrants to its previous census 2001 figure of 307 million (29.9 per cent) recording a growth rate of 45.6 per cent during this period (Table 1). It is evident from the table that urban areas recorded a high growth rate in migration as compared to rural areas because urban areas received more migrants than their rural counterparts during this period. After the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, the migration of people from rural to urban areas accelerated which pushed more numbers of rural people to metropolitan areas to seek better employment opportunities (Kundu & Gupta, 1996).

Table 01
Population classified by place
of birth in India, 2001 and 2011

(in millions)

Migration by distance	2001			2011			Growth rate (2001-2011)		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Total Population	1,028.6	742.5	286.1	1,210.9	833.7	377.1	17.7	12.3	31.8
Total Migrants	307.2 (29.9)	204.8 (27.6)	102.3 (35.8)	447.3 (36.9)	273.2 (32.8)	174.1 (46.2)	45.6	33.4	70.2
Intra-district or short distance	181.8 (59.2)	147.0 (71.8)	34.8 (34.0)	264.1 (59.0)	194.0 (71.0)	70.1 (40.3)	45.3	32.0	101.4
Inter-district or medium distance	76.8 (25.0)	40.8 (19.9)	36.1 (35.3)	121.2 (27.1)	60.5 (22.2)	60.7 (34.9)	57.8	48.5	68.2
Inter-state or long distance	42.3 (13.8)	14.0 (6.8)	28.3 (27.7)	56.3 (12.6)	16.1 (5.9)	40.2 (23.1)	33.0	14.7	42.0
International/From abroad	6.2 (2.0)	3.1 (1.5)	3.1 (3.0)	5.4 (1.2)	2.5 (0.9)	2.9 (1.7)	-13.0	-20.4	-5.7

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2001 & 2011

Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent; T=Total, R=Rural, U=Urban

Distance is an important variable of migration study. The laws of migration as propounded by Ravenstein (1885) states that the volume of migration is inversely proportional to the distance of the absorption centre. As the distance of destination region increases the volume of migration decreases (Singh, 1984). Internal migration can be classified into short, medium, and long-distance migrations as per the distance travelled by the people (Khan et al., 2011). In 2011, out of the total migrants; those who were born elsewhere from their place of enumeration, nearly 59 per cent were the intra-district (born in the same district but outside the place of enumeration) or short-distance migration, about 27 per cent were inter-district (born outside of the district of enumeration but within the state of enumeration) or medium distance migration, and 12.6 per cent were the inter-state (born in other states of India) or long-distance migration. As depicted in Table 1, the maximum numbers of people migrate over short distances within the same district and showed high positive growth in urban areas (101.4 per cent) as compared to rural areas (32 per cent) during this period. As far as international migrants are concerned, those who were

born outside India, the number of international migrants were 6.2 million (2 per cent of total migrants) in 2001 decreased to 5.4 million (1.2 per cent) in 2011, this showed a decrease of -13 per cent during this period. Rural areas recorded high negative growth (-20.4 per cent) as compared to urban areas (-5.7 per cent).

As shown in Fig. 2, out of total inter-state migrants (56.3 million) in the country in 2011, two states namely, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar contributed the major share with 23.1 and 14.1 per cent, respectively followed by Rajasthan (7 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (5.5 per cent) and Maharashtra (5.3 per cent). Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the most populous states of India, and agriculture is the major occupation of people in rural areas. Secondary and tertiary sectors are not well developed to absorb rural labour force. Hence, lack of employment opportunities in these states pushes people to migrate from these states to other developed states (Das & Saha, 2013). The study by Saha and Bahal (2014) revealed that, another reason of migration of people might be the constraints related with agriculture of these states like decreasing land-man ratio, poor socio-economic condition of the farmers, vagaries of nature in agriculture, new risks from environmental deterioration, etc. Recent migration trend in the country is mostly to shift from rural to urban area. According to Satapathy and Mishra (2014), mostly the people of working age group of 25 to 50 years move out of villages to cities for better job opportunities because village-based jobs are not sufficient enough to meet their family requirements. Also, to have a dignified employment devoid of caste-based repercussions is the reason for migration (Roy, 2016).

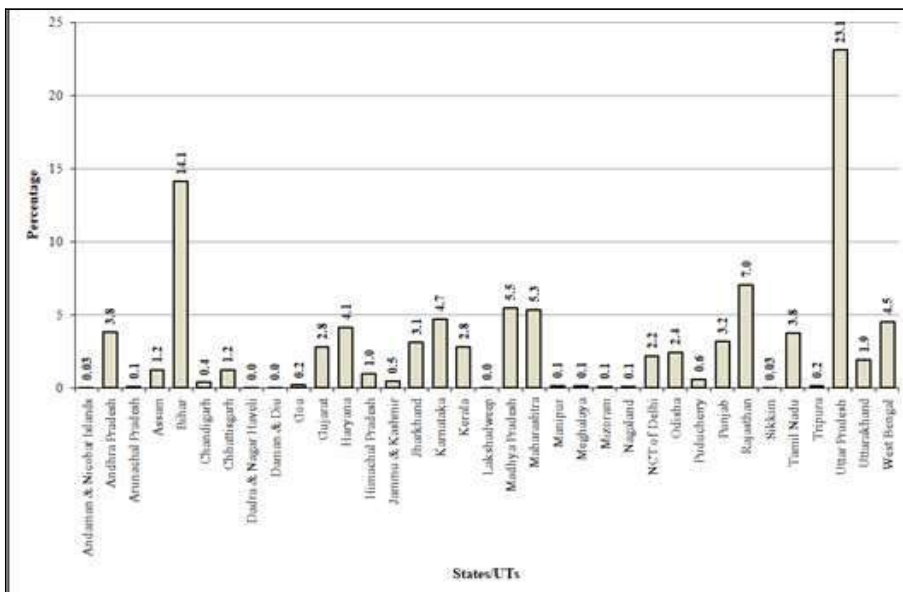


Figure 2: State-wise percentage of inter-state migration in India, 2011
Patterns of Migration in Bihar- Based on place of birth, there were in total

26.7 million migrants in Bihar as per 2011 census which makes 25.7 per cent of the total population (Table 2). This showed an increase of 33.7 per cent from the previous census figure of 19.9 million (24.1 per cent). Urban areas recorded the highest growth (65.2 per cent) in the migrant population during this period (2001-2011). Out of the total migrants in 2011, 68.2 per cent were reported as intra-district migrants and 26.6 per cent were inter-district migrants. Inter-state migration recorded a sharp decline from 1.58 million to 1.07 million during the last decade recording a negative growth of -32.6 per cent. A close examination of census data revealed that out of 34 states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar, 26 of them showed a decreasing trend during the last decade, with as much as 6,07,558 persons were excluded from the migration flow. Of which, the major states like Assam, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab showed a decline of 5,74,740 persons. However, the states namely, Himachal Pradesh, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, and Lakshadweep showed a growth of 91,745 persons during this period. Migrants from abroad showed a positive growth (43.6 per cent) during this period, most of the growth occurred in the rural areas (52.5 per cent).

Table 02
Population classified by
place of birth in Bihar, 2001 and 2011
(in millions)

Migration by distance	2001			2011			Growth rate (2001-2011)		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Total Population	82.9	74.3	8.6	104.1	92.3	11.8	25.4	24.3	35.4
Total Migrants	19.9 (24.1)	17.6 (23.7)	2.36 (27.2)	26.7 (25.7)	22.8 (24.7)	3.9 (33.2)	33.7	29.5	65.2
Intra-district or short distance	13.66 (68.4)	12.55 (71.2)	1.11 (47.0)	18.23 (68.2)	16.0 (70.1)	2.23 (57.1)	33.4	27.5	100.6
Inter-district or medium distance	4.53 (22.7)	3.59 (20.3)	0.95 (40.1)	7.12 (26.6)	5.74 (25.2)	1.38 (35.3)	57.1	60.1	45.7
Inter-state or long distance	1.58 (7.9)	1.31 (7.4)	0.28 (11.7)	1.07 (4.0)	0.8 (3.5)	0.26 (6.7)	-32.6	-38.4	-5.1
International	0.21 (1.1)	0.18 (1.0)	0.03 (1.1)	0.31 (1.1)	0.28 (1.2)	0.03 (0.8)	44.1	48.8	11.8
Total in-migrants	1.79 (9.0)	1.49 (8.50)	0.3 (12.9)	1.37 (5.1)	1.08 (4.7)	0.29 (7.5)	-23.5	-27.6	-3.6
Total out-migrants	5.5 (6.7)	1.5 (2.0)	4.0 (46.4)	7.9 (7.6)	1.8 (2.0)	6.1 (52.0)	43.6	20.0	52.5

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2001 & 2011,

Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent, T=Total, R=Rural, U=Urban

As illustrated in Table 2, Bihar is the recipient of a total of 1.37 million in-migrants (5.1 per cent of total migrants) in the year 2011 who were born in other states and UTs of the country and from abroad, this figure was 1.8 million in 2001 which accounted for 9 per cent of total

migrant's population of the state showed a decrease of -23.5 per cent between 2001 and 2011. The highest decline (-27.6 per cent) was recorded in rural areas. In 2001, the total out-migrants of Bihar (those who were born in Bihar but enumerated in other states) were 5.5 million (6.7 per cent of the total population) which showed an increase of 43.6 per cent, and in 2011 about 8 million people (7.6 per cent) were out-migrated to other states and UTs of India. Most of the out-migrants were enumerated in urban areas (52 per cent) of their destination states while rural areas accounted for only 2 per cent migrants (Table 2). This indicates that during this period urban areas have been the major destination of out-migrants. The studies indicated that during 1960s and 1970s, most of the out-migration from Bihar occurred in rural areas of agriculturally developed states like Punjab and Haryana as seasonal workers but the recent movements towards urban centres like Delhi, Mumbai, Surat, Kolkata, Hyderabad etc. are more permanent (Karan, 2003; Kumar and Bhagat, 2012). It has been found that high poverty and unemployment in their places of origin, wage differences, and attraction towards urban lifestyle are the major factors for their migration to the cities. Recent studies found that for the first time in Indian Census history, the volume of urban-urban migration overtook the rural-urban migration in the last intercensal period. Also, the addition of 2,700 new Census Towns in the 2011 Census may be the real driving force for this staggering increase (Sethi, et al., 2010; Ansary, 2018). Increasing job opportunities in a variety of occupations in major cities as compared to small towns gave rise to the urban-urban migration stream in India (Kundu and Sarangi, 2007; Srivastava, 2012).

In-migration patterns- Data of in-migrants in Bihar from top 10 states and UTs for 2001 and 2011 is given in Table 3. It also depicts the share of in-migrants from the corresponding states to the top 10 migrants receiving districts of Bihar. It is evident from the table that in 2011 the highest in-migration in Bihar state was received from Jharkhand (40.6 per cent of total in-migrants from states and UTs); it was followed by Uttar Pradesh (29.9 per cent) and West Bengal (21.1 per cent), other states were in order of Assam, NCT of Delhi, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. In 2001, this order was like Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal, Nagaland, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Uttranchal, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa (Table 3).

Table 03
In-migrants of Bihar from Top-10
Origin States & UTs of India, 2001 and 2011

S. No.	Origin States/UTs		Top-10 migrant receiving districts of Bihar, 2011
	No. of persons, 2001	No. of persons, 2011	
1.	Uttar Pradesh 4,34,051 (27.4)	Jharkhand 4,32,808 (40.6)	Banka (14.1), Aurangabad (12.9), Bhagalpur (12.7), Gaya (11.4), Jamui (8.7), Patna (7.5), Rohtas (7.3), Nawada (4.6), Katihar (2.8), Munger (1.9), Other districts (16.2)
2.	Jharkhand 3,39,297 (21.4)	Uttar Pradesh 3,18,803 (29.9)	Gopalganj (23.6), Kaimur (Bhabua) (16.1), Siwan (13.2), Buxar (12.0), Pashchim Champaran (10.6), Patna (4.1), Bhojpur (4.0), Saran (3.5), Rohtas (3.3), Muzaffarpur (1.1), Other districts (8.6)
3.	Assam 1,33,758 (8.5)	West Bengal 2,24,901 (21.1)	Katihar (26.3), Kishanganj (18.6), Patna (6.5), Purnia (5.9), Bhagalpur (3.4), Jamui (2.7), Begusarai (2.5), Munger (2.3), Samastipur (2.2), Muzaffarpur (2.2), Other districts (27.5)
4.	West Bengal 1,26,499 (8.0)	Assam 14,156 (1.3)	Muzaffarpur (14.1), Purba Champaran (11.0), Gopalganj (7.3), Vaishali (6.5), Sitamarhi (5.5), Saran (5.4), Patna (5.4), Siwan (5.4), Katihar (4.6), Kishanganj (4.0), Other districts (30.7)
5.	Nagaland 1,01,267 (6.4)	NCT of Delhi 14,099 (1.3)	Patna (13.1), Muzaffarpur (6.3), Madhubani (5.5), Darbhanga (5.2), Sitamarhi (5.0), Samastipur (4.7), Purba Champaran (4.1), Begusarai (3.4), Purnia (3.2), Katihar (3.0), Other districts (46.3)
6.	Chhattisgarh 90,469 (5.7)	Maharashtra 8,261 (0.8)	Patna (11.4), Darbhanga (6.1), Muzaffarpur (6.0), Sitamarhi (5.5), Madhubani (4.9), Gaya (4.2), Purba Champaran (3.7), Rohtas (3.4), Siwan (3.1), Gopalganj (3.0), Other districts (48.7)
7.	Gujarat 65,996 (4.2)	Jammu & Kashmir 7,797 (0.7)	Begusarai (5.9), Nalanda (5.3), Patna (5.1), Aurangabad (4.9), Bhagalpur (4.8), Gopalganj (4.4), Saharsa (4.4), Supaul (4.4), Bhojpur (4.2), Kishanganj (4.1), Other districts (52.5)
8.	Uttanchal 63,527 (4.0)	Rajasthan 7,288 (0.7)	Patna (15.2), Kishanganj (11.3), Araria (10.5), Purnia (9.8), Muzaffarpur (6.1), Katihar (4.7), Bhagalpur (4.1), Gaya (2.9), Samastipur (2.6), Darbhanga (2.4), Other districts (30.3)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir 43,737 (2.8)	Odisha 5,799 (0.5)	Patna (18.7), Gaya (8.3), Muzaffarpur (4.4), Bhagalpur (4.1), Aurangabad (4.1), Nalanda (3.9), Begusarai (3.8), Samastipur (3.6), Bhojpur (3.5), Saran (3.5), Other districts (42.1)
10.	Orissa 42,215 (2.7)	Madhya Pradesh 5,607 (0.5)	Patna (16.3), Rohtas (9.6), Gopalganj (4.8), Bhojpur (4.8), Aurangabad (4.6), Gaya (4.3), Siwan (4.0), Kaimur (Bhabua) (3.8), Muzaffarpur (3.6), Saran (3.5), Other districts (40.5)
11.	Total 15,82,339 (100.0)	Total 10,66,526 (100.0)	-

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2011

Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent of total in-migrants

There is almost 20 per cent increase in in-migrants from Jharkhand between 2001 and 2011, which is basically due to the fact that Jharkhand and Bihar were united before 2000. It was only after 2001 that population of these two states were being considered as migrants with respect to each other. The districts of Bihar that received high in-migration from Jharkhand were namely, Banka, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Patna, Rohtas,

Nawada, Katihar and Munger (Table 3). Except for Patna and Munger, all the districts are lying at the borders of both the states (Fig. 1 & 3). In-migration from Uttar Pradesh showed a decline during this period (from 4,34,051 persons in 2001 to 3,18,803 persons in 2011) placing it at the second rank. From UP, high in-migration was noticed in the districts of Gopalganj, Kaimur (Bhabua), Siwan, Buxer, and Pashchim Champaran of Bihar with a significant share of 23.6 per cent, 16.1 per cent, 13.2 per cent, 12 per cent and 10.6 per cent, respectively. High male migration was noticed in four districts namely, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Rohtas, and Saran, the remaining districts showed high female migration. From West Bengal, out of total 2,24,901 in-migrants (21.1 per cent), a significant share of about 26 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively moved to the bordering districts of Katihar and Kishanganj. Only four districts namely, Kishanganj, Muzaffarpur, Patna and Purnia showed the dominance of male migration. It is interesting to note that in-migration from Assam showed a significant decline from 8.5 per cent in 2001 to 1.3 per cent in 2011. The district of Muzaffarpur, Purba Champaran, Gopalganj, Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Saran and Patna received above 5 per cent share of in-migrants from Assam. Though the share of in-migrants from NCT of Delhi is small but the state shows positive growth from 0.2 per cent in 2001 to 1.3 per cent in 2011. The high inflow from NCT of Delhi was seen in Patna, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi districts. The states of Nagaland, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Uttranchal and Jammu and Kashmir which were having a significant share of 6.4 per cent, 5.7 per cent, 4.2 per cent, 4.0 per cent, and 2.8 per cent, respectively in 2001 has shown reduction in their percentage share. Other states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar during 2011 were namely, Maharashtra (0.8 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (0.7 per cent), Rajasthan (0.7 per cent), Odisha (0.5 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (0.5 per cent).

The patterns of in-migration in Bihar from the top-five migrants sending states and UTs in order of their ranks in all 38 districts of the state for 2011 is depicted in Fig. 3. It has been noticed from the figure that there has been a total of 13 states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar amongst top five ranks. It is seen that there have been three states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh ranked at first place in 16, 15, and 7 districts, respectively. This shows that the highest in-migration in Bihar took place from the neighbouring states. All the southern districts making border with Jharkhand had high in-migration from respective state. The districts lying north bordering Nepal and in east making border with West Bengal had high in-migration from the latter, and the westernmost districts registered largest in-migration from Uttar Pradesh. Nearly four states namely, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam secured second rank in 19, 15, 3, and 1 district, respectively. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal secured third rank in nearly 27, 7, and 4 districts, respectively, and as fourth rank by seven states namely, NCT of Delhi, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh secured their respective ranks in 14, 9, 8, 3, 2, 1, 1 district, respectively. As fifth rank,

the states of NCT of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh were in order of 16, 7, 5, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 district, respectively.

Out-migration patterns- The share of out-migrants of Bihar to top-10 States and UTs during 2001 and 2011 is shown in Table 4. It also depicts the top-10 destination districts of the out-migrants to corresponding states for the year 2011. It can be seen that most of the out-migration from Bihar was towards five states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra altogether contributing about 69 per cent of the total out-migration in 2011.

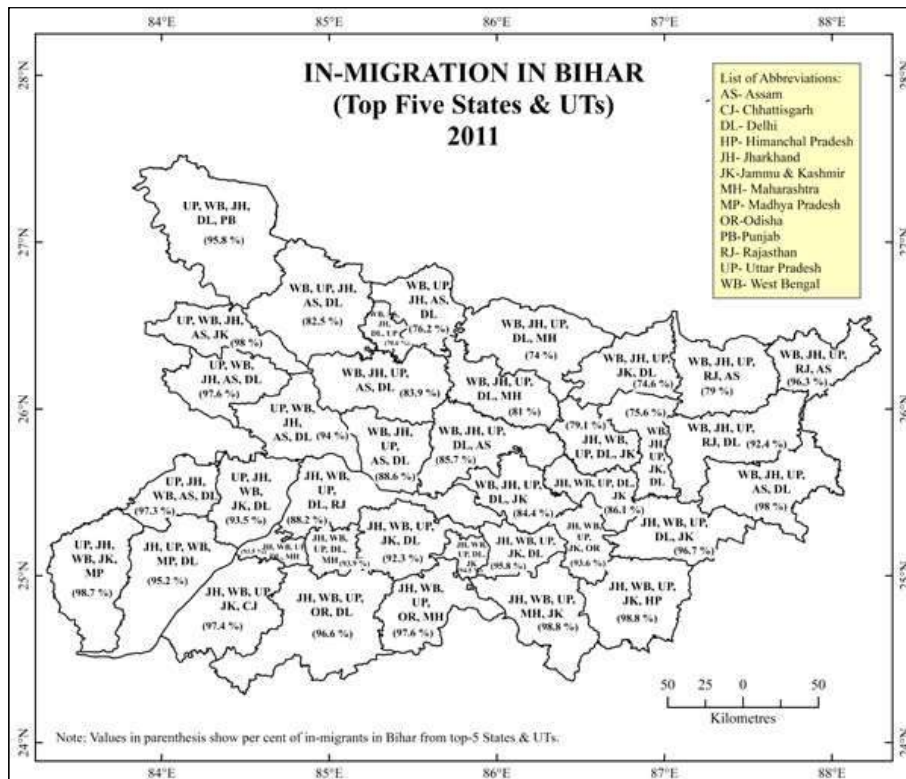


Figure 3: District-wise ranking of top-5 origin States & UTs sending migrants to Bihar, 2011

The significant shares of out-migrants were also reported in Haryana (5.3 per cent), Gujarat (5.1 per cent), Punjab (4.7 per cent), Assam (2.2 per cent), and Chhattisgarh (2 per cent). If we compare these figures with 2001, it is clear that in 2011, Jharkhand and West Bengal were the top destinations of migrants but their share in total out-migrants has decreased in the year 2011. Out-migrants to Assam also showed a decline from 3.1 per cent in 2001 to 2.2 per cent in 2011. In contrast, the shares of other states like NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, and Punjab showed an increasing trend. It is worth mentioning that after the bifurcation of

Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh in 2000, the movements of migrants were entirely towards Chhattisgarh in 2011. The districts of Jharkhand which received above 10 per cent share of in-migration from Bihar were namely, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum. In West Bengal high in-migration was noticed in Kolkata, Barddhaman, North Twenty-Four Parganas, Hugli and Haora. A significant share of migrants towards NCT of Delhi was seen in North West, South, South West and West Delhi. The districts of Ghaziabad, Kushinagar, Deoria, Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh received high percentage of migrants from Bihar. In Mumbai, the districts which received significant share were namely, Thane, Mumbai Suburban, Pune and Mumbai.

Table 04
Out-migrants of Bihar to
Top-10 Destination States & UTs of India, 2001 and 2011

S. No.	Destination States/UTs		Top-10 Districts Receiving Migrants from Bihar, 2011
	Persons, 2001	Persons, 2011	
1.	West Bengal 11,60,593 (20.9)	Jharkhand 14,00,858 (17.6)	Dhanbad (18.1), Ranchi (14.6), Bokaro (12.9), Purbi Singhbhum (12.0), Godda (6.0), Deoghar (5.2), Palamu (4.7), Saraikela-Kharsawan (3.3), Ramgarh (3.2), Hazaribagh (2.8), Other districts (17.3)
2.	Jharkhand 11,23,383 (20.3)	West Bengal 11,49,023 (14.5)	Kolkata (17.9), Barddhaman (16.4), North Twenty Four Parganas (14.4), Hugli (10.4), Haora (10.1), Uttar Dinajpur (6.3), Darjiling (5.4), Jalpaiguri (4.7), Maldah (4.3), South Twenty Four Parganas (4.2), Other districts (5.9)
3.	Delhi 7,37,867 (13.3)	NCT of Delhi 11,47,717 (14.4)	North West (24.5), South (20.3), South West (19.2), West (15.7), East (8.0), North East (5.7), North (4.5), Central (1.4), New Delhi (0.8)
4.	Uttar Pradesh 6,47,858 (11.7)	Uttar Pradesh 11,21,436 (14.1)	Ghaziabad (12.1), Kushinagar (10.4), Deoria (8.9), Gautam Buddha Nagar (8.0), Ballia (6.2), Chandauli (5.5), Ghazipur (5.0), Varanasi (4.5), Lucknow (4.0), Sonbhadra (3.1), Other districts (32.3)
5.	Maharashtra 3,86,799 (7.0)	Maharashtra 6,31,269 (7.9)	Thane (33.1), Mumbai Suburban (24.6), Pune (11.2), Mumbai (10.3), Nagpur (4.8), Nashik (4.4), Raigarh (4.3), Chandrapur (1.4), Kolhapur (0.8), Aurangabad (0.7), Other districts (4.5)
6.	Haryana 2,46,245 (4.4)	Haryana 4,24,539 (5.3)	Faridabad (28.5), Gurgaon (18.6), Panipat (9.1), Karnal (7.9), Sonapat (5.3), Yamunanagar (4.6), Kurukshetra (3.5), Ambala (3.0), Panchkula (2.9), Hisar (2.8), Other districts (13.7)
7.	Punjab 2,45,445 (4.4)	Gujarat 4,02,876 (5.1)	Surat (50.2), Ahmadabad (9.8), Valsad (9.5), Kachchh (7.8), Vadodara (4.4), Bharuch (4.2), Rajkot (3.8), Jamnagar (2.3), Gandhinagar (1.4), Bhavnagar (1.3), Other districts (5.4)
8.	Assam 1,72,825 (3.1)	Punjab 3,75,507 (4.7)	Ludhiana (35.0), Jalandhar (12.5), Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (6.8), Kapurthala (5.7), Bathinda (5.1), Amritsar (4.7), Patiala (4.7), Hoshiarpur (4.5), Fatehgarh Sahib (3.6), Sangrur (3.3), Other districts (14.2)
9.	Gujarat 1,72,357 (3.1)	Assam 1,72,542 (2.2)	Kamrup Metropolitan (22.3), Tinsukia (15.7), Dibrugarh (9.4), Sonitpur (7.0), Nagaon (5.9), Sivasagar (5.6), Jorhat (5.2), Karbi Anglong (4.6), Golaghat (3.2), Bongaigaon (2.8), Other districts (18.2)
10.	Madhya Pradesh 1,02,203 (1.8)	Chhattisgarh 1,58,581 (2.0)	Durg (25.4), Raipur (20.0), Korba (12.2), Surguja (10.5), Raigarh (9.0), Bilaspur (6.1), Koriya (4.8), Bastar (2.5),
11.	Total 55,43,124 (100.0)	Total 79,49,853 (100.0)	-

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2011

Note: Values in parenthesis represent percentages share of out-migrants.

A detailed study of district-wise patterns of out-migration showed that, of the total 14,00,858 out-migrants to Jharkhand in 2011, high male migration has been reported in the urban areas of Dhanbad, Ranchi, Bokaro, Purbi Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh districts. In West Bengal, males outnumber females in the districts of Kolkata, North Twenty-Four Parganas, Hugli, Haora, Darjiling, South Twenty-Four Parganas. Except for South Twenty-Four Parganas district, all males migrated to urban areas of these districts. Haan (1997) in a study stated that before 1980s rural people of north Bihar and Uttar Pradesh used to migrate to Kolkata city for working in Jute mills whereas, people of south Bihar migrated to coal mines or tea plantations. After jute mill closures reduced employment possibilities, people from these states moved from the jute mills of Kolkata to Punjab's agricultural fields between 1980 and 1990 (Roy & Samanta (2020). Towards NCT of Delhi, most of the migration is reported in urban areas (97.4 per cent). Except for the East, all areas of Delhi reported almost equal migration of both sexes. In Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Varanasi, Lucknow, and Sonbhadra showed high male migration in urban areas, whereas female migration was high in the remaining districts.

Conclusions- The overall analysis of the study reveals that there are substantial variations in migration patterns (in-migration and out-migration) in Bihar during 2001 and 2011. The results showed that out of total migration in the state, the highest migration (~68 per cent) in 2011 is taking place within the same district in the form of intra-district migration whereas inter-district migration accounted for nearly 27 per cent. Inter-state migration declined from 7.9 per cent in 2001 to 4 per cent in 2011. This indicates that migrants of other states do not prefer Bihar as profitable destination because of lack of employment opportunities. The number of total out-migrants of Bihar observed positive growth (~44 per cent) during this period and increased from 5.5 million in 2001 to 7.9 million in 2011, high growth (~ 53 cent) was recorded in urban areas as compared to their rural (20 per cent) counterparts. This indicates that urban areas have been the major destinations of out-migrants of Bihar. The states namely Jharkhand, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were major destinations for the migrants of Bihar accounting for nearly 69 per cent share in total out-migrants in 2011. Whereas the total in-migrants decreased during this period from 1.5 million in 2001 to 1.0 million in 2011 showing a negative growth of -23.5 per cent. The highest decline (-27.6 per cent) was recorded in rural areas. During the study period, amongst top-10 list of destination states and UTs of out-migrants of Bihar, positive growth was seen in Jharkhand, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat whereas the states like West Bengal, Assam and Madhya Pradesh showed a negative growth. Being newly formed, the state of Chhattisgarh showed positive growth of migrants during this period and was

included in this list in 2011. In contrast to this, amongst top-10 origin states and UTs, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and NCT of Delhi were major migrants sending states to Bihar constituted about 95 per cent share in 2011. The study revealed that in terms of ranking, the highest in-migration in Bihar took place from three neighbouring states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh observing first place in 16, 15, and 7 districts, respectively in 2011. The states which showed positive growth in sending migrants to Bihar were namely, Jharkhand and West Bengal whereas negative growth was viewed in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa. The states like NCT of Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh made their position in top 10-list in 2011 replacing Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttaranchal. Both in-migration and out-migration in Bihar from Assam has decreased in this decade. In-migration from Maharashtra has decreased while out-migration has increased. Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha showed decrease in in-migration but improved in their rankings.

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Declaration of conflicting interests

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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Exploration of Tribal Heritage through the study of select tribal festivals

• Shreya Singh

Abstract- *This study delves into the exploration of tribal heritage through a focused examination of select festivals celebrated by tribes residing in the Chotanagpur plateau of Northern India. Historically, tribal societies emerged as a transitional phase between hunter-gatherer lifestyles and settled agricultural communities, fostering unique cultural identities rooted in collective living and shared leadership. These societies developed distinct ways of life, including specific rituals and festivals that reflected their deep connection to nature and their spiritual beliefs. However, the encroachment of modern civilization, characterized by capitalist values and mainstream cultural influences, has posed a significant threat to the preservation of tribal traditions. Factors like political assimilation agendas, cosmopolitan allure for tribal youth, and environmental degradation have contributed to the erosion of these age-old practices. This research aims to counter this trend by examining four pivotal festivals: Sarhul, Kathori, Karam, and Hariari. These festivals serve as windows into the rich cultural heritage of the Chotanagpur tribes, highlighting their reverence for nature and their enduring spiritual practices. By analyzing these rituals, the study seeks to illuminate the values and worldview of these communities, offering a glimpse into a lifestyle that prioritizes harmony with the natural world. Ultimately, this exploration aims to inspire a renewed appreciation for tribal heritage and its potential to inform a more sustainable and spiritually grounded future.*

Keywords- *Tribal, Chotanagpur, Festivals, Encroachment, Modern, Heritage, Civilization*

Introduction- Human civilization in its sophisticated form, traces its genesis from the naïve apparatus of society and culture developed by Palaeolithic men. From hunter gatherers, men began to live a settled life of agriculturists. However, there was a transitory phase in between the period of vagabondism and urban settlement which introduced the concept of tribalism. Tribal societies were constructed to support survival of human beings into a hostile world¹. It facilitated the convergence of different minds and varied perspectives guided by the monochrome vision of an elected tribal chief. Synonymous concepts of togetherness, unity and common leader blended the entire flock of humans living collectively into a culture. In due course of time these small societies developed its own way of living,

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eating, hunting and worshipping. Increase in population provided a larger canvas for such tribal societies to expand and get bifurcated into multiple branches, each having its own identity with major or minor variations.

Neolithic revolution restricted the spread of tribal societies and cradled the huge republics of sixteen Mahajanpadas². However, the capitalist societies of twentieth century proved detrimental for the cultural heritage of age-old tribal societies. Political agenda of connecting the tribals with main stream population, cosmopolitan culture alluring the tribal youth, ruthless destruction of wildlife and forests by companies are some of the factors causing depletion of traditional values of tribal life. Nevertheless, a peep into the sober and chaste lives of tribal communities through the study of their festivals could help and motivate one to imagine a green world without the squalid hues of capitalism, where human beings can establish selfless communion with God. The present research work would focus on the select festivals celebrated by tribes inhabiting the Chhotanagpur plateau of Northern Indian. This study will focus on the four rituals, Sarhul, Kathori, Karam and Hariari, celebrated by the tribals with the motive to felicitate their priceless natural heritage.

Sarhul Festival- Sarhul, a tribal festival eulogizing the significance of Sal trees, is the biggest annual spring festival of Chhotanagpur region³. It can be perceived as a day of remembering the ancestors because on this auspicious day all the spirits are called together at the sacred grove. This propitiation is followed by the symbolic marriage ritual of the earth and the sky, which is performed by the village priest and his wife. It is believed by the members of the community that this spiritual marriage would ensure fertility of the land. There is a tradition associated with Sarhul in which each family of the village contributes some rice for the brewing of rice beer by the wife of Priest. This beer is used for the liberation of spirits. From the eve of the feast till its completion, the priest has to be on fast. The village pond is cleansed and covered with fresh foliage of trees in order to prevent any bird or animal from drinking the spring water. The village's sacred pond or spring is called Dari and it contains collection of all the produce of the country, such as rice, pulse, oil seeds, vegetables and many more. These eatables are kept in small earthen pots, hollow bamboos and Sal leaves. In the morning of Sarhul festival, the young men of the village are supposed to trap chickens for the sacrifice. These sacrificial victims are either collected in a basket or in a fish bag covered with a piece of cloth. At noon, the village Priest and his wife take ceremonial bath at the Dari. At many places as has been observed, the priest and his wife are made to sit in their courtyard and the village headman hues their foreheads with vermilion to signify the holy marriage of the earth and the sky. Several gallons of water are poured over the couple by the people reciting the word, "*bariso*" repeatedly, which means "let it rain". After the ceremony, a huge procession of men accompanied by drum beats head from the village towards the Sal tree. The boisterous procession is followed by the Priest who carries all the necessary articles for the sacrifice and pours water all along his journey. He is accompanied by his

wife who carries the saran *sup* (a winnowing fan). At the foot of Sal tree all the prayer articles are kept carefully. The priest starts the procedure of worship by clearing the ground and smearing it with fresh cow-dung⁴. A handful of *arwa* rice (non-steamed rice) is placed for each spirit on the clearing. The priest offers the sacrifice by beheading the chosen chickens and drops some blood on the rice heaps and on the *sup* and then tosses them on the ground in front of him. The sacrificed chicken is later cooked and their heads are eaten only by the priest. The vital parts are offered to the spirits, while the rest of the meat is boiled with rice and distributed to all men present. After the conclusion of the sacrificial meal, the priest is ceremonially lifted by the village elder and applies *sindur* (vermilion) on the Sal tree and winds three strands of unbleached thread round it. On the next day of the festival, the priest visits each house and distributes sal flowers and rice from the *sup* along with the *sarna* water (sacred water Dhari) from a pot. This holy water is sprinkled on the seeds which have been kept for the coming New Year⁵.

Sarhul festival is not an ordinary affair involving recreational activities for personal amusement rather it is a sanguine gesture of the tribal communities inhabiting the chhotanagpur plateau through which they offer their gratitude in bounty for the generous endowments bestowed upon them by Mother Nature.

Kathori Festival- Kathori is an agricultural festival which is celebrated on the very first day of the new moon of Baisakh i.e. usually in the months of April and May. It is generally celebrated by the Adivasi group of Surguja district of Madhya Pradesh. Like Sarhul, Kathori too is celebrated with great pomp and show by the villagers and announcement of the festival is made in advance. After the commencement of the festival day, all womenfolk of the village fetch water from the well because they willn't be permitted to use well water on the Kathori day⁶. On Kathori day it is said, villagers take their meal at around 10a.m. Then they take a measuring flask from each house and fill it with paddy grains. The mouths of these vessels are sealed with cow-dung. The villagers plant some *Dubba* grass (*cynodon dactylon*) in those measuring flasks. Men folk then go the sacred place of worship also called *Sarna*, in huge procession along with their ploughshares. The *Dubba* grass used in the Kathori festival depicts the green and rich crop of the coming agricultural year. The cow-dung used to seal the mouths of the measuring vessels represents cattle and its importance in the lives of the villagers. The fire that is provoked by the menfolk after reaching the *sarna* together signifies the first fire human beings ever made as has been inscribed in the Oraon creation myth. The young menfolk digging the field before the sacred groove with ploughshares represents the significance of sowing the crop seeds during the busy agricultural year. The water that is sprinkled on young men while they are digging symbolizes good and plentiful rain during the year. Thus, each and every episode of the festival ends with the same note and that is communion with nature for she is the one who nourishes us to survive on earth.

Later on, Kathori day, after returning from the *Sarna*, rice cakes which have been prepared earlier before leaving for the sacrifice are distributed in each house along with the Sal flowers. These flowers are placed on the ears or in the hair of the household members. Accommodating flowers with the Prasad of the worship helps us to analyze the affectionate socio-religious bonding these tribal men and women share with nature. On the next day of Kathori, the village council holds a meeting to finalize the day for sowing the first seeds of the year. So, the following day, the heads of all households go to their fields to sow a little number of seed and come back. This is called the ritual of inauguration of sowing. Also, this day is generously celebrated by the villagers with a good meal and good drink of rice beer. Sacrifice of live chickens are also offered to the ancestors, may be with the intention to seek their blessings for the coming agricultural year. Thus, the festival comes to an end. Sarhul and Kathori both exemplify the sanguine relationship shared in between the tribal folks and nature. On one hand where the mainstream population of the country make out new plans to uproot forests and plant more industries, these tribal communities are providing a safe haven to these natural resources to survive by celebrating their significance through their festivals.

Karam- The Karam festival, also known as Bhado Ekadashi, is popularly celebrated by the Oraon tribes on the eleventh day of the lunar month of August and September⁷. It is primarily celebrated by the unmarried girls who are recently been engaged. Another reason attached to the festival is related to the protection of the standing crops. However, it is usually celebrated as the feast for young girls who pray to seek blessings of healthy children. Eight days before the *Karam* day the unmarried take their freshly prepared bamboo baskets and go to the river to bring sand. This sand is heaped in the house having the *Karam* tree (*Nauclea Parvifolia*)⁸. These young girls sing and dance around that heap. Some maize seeds are mixed with the heap. Each one of them fills her basket with that mixture and takes it home. This mixture is regularly watered by the young girls in their respective houses with turmeric water. After the eight day, the seeds get richly germinated and their tender and beautiful greenish and yellow blades appear eye-captivating. In the afternoon of the Karam day the girls go for flower plucking by putting on their traditional dress i.e. saris with red borders. Also, they fix the young *jawa* (sprouts) in their hair buns. Young boys also dress themselves nicely. They usually wear long Dhotis, shirts and turbans. The whole group of young girls and boys assembles in the Karam courtyard and sing and dance for some time before cutting of the Karam branches. Three branches are selected which are straight and not damaged in any way either by worms or by pests. One of the young boys cuts them. According to the tradition, the boy who cuts the branches must ensure that it don't fall on the ground. He is supposed to hand over the dismantled branch with care and reverence to the girls, who carry them on their shoulders while dancing and singing. At the sound of the music and singing of the party, the rest of the village folks come out to meet the dance party at that house having the

Karam tree. The wife of the head of the karma household stands at the threshold of the courtyard to receive the Karam branches from young girls. These branches are planted by the lady of the household in her courtyard. She simply digs a hole in the center of the courtyard with the ploughshare and plants the branches in the ground. She applies some oil and vermilion on the lower part of the branches. This ritual represents the spiritual marriage ceremony in between the deity residing on the karam- tree and the unmarried girls of the village. Following it, the girls pay their homage to the Karam branches and sit in a circle around the planted Karam branches to listen to the narration of Karam story. The Karam story is a mythological story which eulogizes the importance of Karam tree and may have been fabricated by ancestors to invoke respect towards trees in general folks. After the narration of the story ends, the girls give jawa to their brothers and other visitors present to put it behind their ears or in their hairs. Thus, the festivals end with young girls getting generous blessings for having a healthy baby.

Hariari- Hariari is celebrated as the festival of green paddy plants and takes place in the month of July. Like Sarhul and Kathori, day for Hariari is decided by the village council and is usually announced in advance. The festival begins in the morning and all the villagers accompanied by the village head gather at the festival ground. The ground is smeared with fresh cow dung. The officiant's winnowing fan is kept on the spot along with the sacrificial knife resting on it. Arwa rice (unsteamed rice) is placed by its side in a leaf cup. According to the number of animals to be sacrificed, arwa rice is arranged⁹. The assistant of the priest washes the hoofs of each animal and the feet of each fowl before handing it over to the priest. The priest offers the sacrifice of animals to the village deity and asks him to bring luck and prosperity for all young, old and children of the village. When each victim is fed a handful of arwa rice, the priest holds each one of them and repeats similar prayers for good health and fortune of man and cattle, for good rain and crop. He cuts off the head of each victim one by one and a little blood is dropped on the leftover of the handful of rice on which it was fed. Livers of the victims are packed in Sal leaf and boiled in water. Portions of the boiled livers are scraped off using the fingers and then offered to the deities by keeping them on the ground next to the handfuls of rice. Simultaneously, rice beer is also offered to the deity. The rest of the meat is either fried or cooked with rice and distributed to all villagers present there. Hariari is the festival which only accommodates menfolk within its circumference¹⁰. Even the meat cooked after the sacrifice cannot be consumed by a woman except by little girls at home.

Conclusion- Festivals are occasions which highlight the socio-cultural configuration of a particular society. Rituals followed, deities worshipped, variety of cuisines prepared, types of clothes worn and meanings attached to the ceremonies performed during the festival provide one with a lucid character sketch of the society. A detailed analysis of the festivals celebrated by the tribal communities residing in Chhotanagpur plateau region helps one to draw two concrete conclusions. A comprehensive study of the rituals

practiced during these festivals helps one to understand the intrinsic bond shared between the nature and these indigenous people. The cosmopolitan culture of urban cities has made one slaves of gazettes such as mobile phones, laptops and video games. However, the traditional culture of these aboriginals is still beaming with the age-old ideology of living in peace with nature. Secondly, the items of prayer, also called puja samagri, used in festivals like Sarhul, Kathori and Hariari find similarity with those used in Puja of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. The use of Dubba grass is considered important in Kathori festival to seal the mouth of measuring flask. Similarly, in Satyanarayan pooja, conducted in Hindu families, the same Dubba grass, also called Dubbhi, is considered as an important ingredient to complete the pooja rituals. One can find the use of arwa rice (unboiled rice) in Sarhul festival celebrated by Oraons of Jharkhand. The unsteamed rice is used to prepare pinds used as an offering for ancestors during pind daan and Antyeshti (funeral rites) ceremonies conducted in almost every Hindu family.

Hence, it can be well speculated that the ceremonies, rituals and festivals we celebrate in different corners of India have evolved from the same primitive religion once followed by the traditional tribal societies of India.

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Exploring The "Sacred Economy": A Historical Outlook on The Cultural Economy of The Umananda Temple in Assam

• Raeesah Amin

Abstract- *Umananda Island, which is also known as the Peacock Island, is the world's smallest inhabited river island that is situated in the Brahmaputra River near Guwahati, Assam. On this very island, we have the Umananda Devaloi, which is a Shiva Temple situated at the hillock named Bhasmachala. As we know, the religious places of India are of immense importance and have a history of their own. In this paper, we will see how the Umananda temple has a lot of historical and cultural value for which many tourists and devotees pay a visit there, which has certainly enabled it to develop a 'sacred economy' involving the livelihoods of the locals inhabiting in the island. The paper will try to look into how history and culture is linked with economy. It is however important to know that the economy of a place can only develop when the tourism sector is being developed, so there are still some prospects and challenges regarding the tourism sector which needs to be tackled in order to utilize the utmost potential of the Umananda island.*

Keywords- *Peacock Island, Umananda, Historical, Economy, Tourism*

Introduction- Assam is a state located in the northeastern part of India, known for its biodiversity and rich culture. It is bordered by Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan to the north, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, and Bangladesh to the south, Nagaland and Manipur to the east, and West Bengal to the west. The mighty Brahmaputra River which is considered as a "male" river in India for its name which translates to "son of Brahma" and because of its powerful nature, flows through the state, making the plains fertile. The Brahmaputra river is revered by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. The Brahmaputra is home to the world's largest river island, Majuli and the smallest inhabited river island, Umananda and it is observed that both these islands attract tourists and spiritual seekers alike. The Umananda temple is situated in the Umananda Island which was named the "Peacock Island" by the Britishers because of its shape. The Umananda shrine is a captivating and serene destination in the city of Guwahati, in Assam. This ancient temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is of immense spiritual significance that offers breathtaking views of the landscape of its surrounding.

Methodology & This paper is based on the descriptive and analytical method of historical studies based on secondary sources like books by different authors and various articles from newspapers and the internet.

Objectives-

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- To understand the historical significance of the Umananda Temple in Assam.
- To study the local livelihoods and emerging economy around the Umananda Temple and know about its prospects and challenges.

Discussion-

Cultural and Historical Context- The Umananda temple was built by King Gadadhar Singha of the Ahom dynasty in the 17th century, Umananda Temple has long been a revered Shaivite site. The history of Umananda Temple is rich and deeply intertwined with local legends and mythology. Legend has it that Lord Shiva lived here much to the ananda or joy of his consort Uma, another name for Parvati. Hence the name 'Umananda'. 'Bhasmachal' is another name for this island and the story behind it goes thus: Kamdev, the God of love in Indian mythology was burned to ashes here when he interrupted Shiva who was deep in meditation; 'bhasma' – destroy, 'chal' – place. The temple's historical relevance dates back to the Ahom dynasty, particularly during the rule of King Gadadhar Singha (Guha, 1991,45). According to local folklore, the king, constructed the temple to honor the goddess Uma, a form of Parvati and the consort of Lord Shiva. The temple has undergone various renovations over the centuries, with significant contributions from different rulers, adding layers to its historical narrative. The island's mythology ties it to Hindu cosmology, where Lord Shiva is believed to have meditated and where, according to local folklore, Kamadeva was burnt to ashes. The temple's festivals, particularly Shivaratri, attract thousands of devotees, amplifying its cultural significance. The location of the temple on an island imbues it with mysticism, reinforcing its spiritual appeal. The symbolic economy here is generated through rituals, pilgrimages, and sacred narratives. The physical act of crossing the Brahmaputra to reach the temple reinforces a spiritual transition and heightens the devotional experience, which in turn sustains local economic circuits. Cultural heritage sites such as Umananda Temple are not just spiritual centers but also contested economic spaces of utmost importance for developing the economy of state, and of India as a whole (Basu, 2017, 130). The Shiva temple that was built by the Ahom king however suffered massive devastation in the earthquake of 1897. The temple had to witness damage during the earthquake of 1897 but was subsequently built by a local merchant, preserving elements of its traditional design and blending Vaishnavite inscriptions, thus indicating the evolving religious landscape of the area (Bhuyan, 2011,178). It is believed that pilgrims used to first come to the Umananda temple before offering prayers at the famous Kamakhya Temple. There are five more temples on the island - the Ganesha, Hara Gauri, Chalantika, Chandrashekhar and Vaidyanath temples. The architecture of the Umananda Temple is a hallmark of the Nagara style, with intricate designs and carvings consisting depictions of various mythological motifs and Hindu deities. The use of locally available stone and the merging of sculptural detailing mirrors the indigenous Assamese craftsmanship and

the influence of the tantric traditions prevalent in the region (Neog,1980,225). The temple's picturesque setting on a river island enhances its architectural and cultural value.

Sacred Economy and Local Livelihoods- A religious center can play a prominent role in the growth of a local economy both by attracting pilgrims and tourists alike, which helps in generating revenue for local ventures of business and by creating avenues for employment. Umananda Island, which is also known as the Peacock Island, located in the Brahmaputra river near Guwahati, Assam possesses immense religious importance due to the Umananda Temple, which is a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and which has developed into a notable site of religious tourism (India Today NE, Jan, 2024). The fusion of sacred importance and vision engagement has led to the creation of a unique local economy that has helped in the upliftment of the livelihoods of the local people upto some extent.

The sacred economy of the island is centered around the temple. During festivals like Mahashivratri, which is an annual festival that is being celebrated here, a dramatic increase in the number of visitors is being witnessed, which supports activities that are income generating such as ferry services, guided tours and street vending (Times of India, Nov, 2014). Local boatmen ferry pilgrims from the city's riverbanks, forms a vital part of the island's access system (Gogoi, 2024, 4).

Indian temple towns embody the intersection of sacred geography and local economic system (Thakur, 2015, 26). Religious centers can promote a sense of community, encourage inter-cultural interaction and engage in charitable activities, eventually leading to the social and economic well being of the area. Cultural heritage sites like Umananda Temple are not just spiritual centers but also contested economic spaces which in a way present heritage both as an identity and commodity (Basu, 2017, 130). In this island, the vendors sell offerings like flowers, incense sticks and food items that are particularly profitable during the high traffic days and additionally local youths often serve as informal guides who narrate the mythological history of Umananda to tourists, thus combining oral tradition with economic profit (Chourasia, 2020, 62). The resident community of the island is small, consisting mainly of the temple priests and a few fishing families. The priests are responsible to carry out rituals and daily maintenance of the temple, and this is one of the roles that are typically being passed down through generations (Chourasia, 2020, 61). It seems that the fisherfolk are gradually shifting towards tourism related services, reinforcing their traditional income with selling fish or boating and refreshments near the landing ghats (Gogoi, 2024, 5). The island is home to the endangered golden langur and this fact has added to the island's ecological feature, which has significantly begun attracting interest of ecotourism (Dutta et al., 2019, 25). It could possibly become another stream of livelihood if developed properly.

Challenges and Opportunities- The Umananda Temple situated on the

Peacock Island in the Brahmaputra River, presents major potential within Assam's rising cultural economy. Being one of the oldest Shaivite temples in the region, its historical prominence and religious symbolism offer robust prospects for heritage based economic growth. The temple has been increasingly integrated into Assam's tourism development strategy with a steady rise in flow of visitors - particularly during major festivals that are celebrated annually - such as Mahashivratri (Assam Tourism Development Corporation, 2022, para 4). This very fact corresponds with the more extensive movement of commodifying cultural heritage as a vehicle for regional economic revival (Basu, 2017, 130). One of the most immediate economic benefits generated by the temple is its role in sustaining livelihoods that are community centric. Local boatmen ferry tourists and devotees to the island daily, while vendors selling snacks, souvenirs and offerings earn a seasonal livelihood that intensifies during peak pilgrimage periods (Baruah, 2019, 23-24). These micro-economies are vital in a state like Assam, where informal employment plays a leading role in the urban and semi-urban workforce. It is very essential to promote inclusive, community led tourism that would redistribute income on an equitable basis among the stakeholders which can further strengthen these systems (Gogoi, 2020, 12-13). In addition, the island lends itself well to ecotourism because of its unique spiritual and geographical setting. The prospect of integrating digital tours such as virtual walkthroughs, QR-based temple guides and interpretive panels can modernize the pilgrimage experience while reducing ecological strain (UNESCO, 2021, 18). These digitalization does only a tech savvy and younger demographic but also offer long term perks in terms of visitor education and management of resources. In this context, Umananda Temple could serve as a pilot model for smart and sustainable spiritual tourism in the North Eastern part of India.

However, despite these possibilities, several challenges threaten the sustainability of Umananda Temple's cultural economy. One of such important challenges is environmental degradation, as it is observed that the increased volume of visitors has placed immense pressure on the ecosystem of this small island. Lack of proper sanitation, and unregulated waste disposal have started to impact both the natural environment and the sanctity of the site (The Sentinel Assam, n.d, para 3). The temple is vulnerable to ecological stress upto some extent due to its location on a river island, demanding immediate strategies for conservation.

The temple's capacity to accommodate growing tourism is limited due to the inadequacies in its infrastructure. Internal facilities on the island - including waste disposal units, resting spaces and potable water remain rudimentary although ferry connectivity has improved (Assam Tourism Development Corporation, 2022, para 7). This may eventually deter high value cultural tourism as the visitor experience is being affected by this gap. Another challenge that is a pressing concern in relation to the cultural economy of the island is the commodification of heritage and rituals. As spiritual performances become increasingly crafted to the expectations of

the tourists, there is an added risk of eroding the sanctity and authenticity of religious practices (Thakur, 2015, 30-31). The intangible cultural value of the site could be compromised while transforming sacred rites into consumable experiences. This issue is further amplified by the absence of an extensive management of culture that balances development of economy with preservation of heritage (Ministry of Culture, 2020, para 6).

Finally, and most importantly, the geographical vulnerability of the site cannot be ignored. As a small riverine island in the Brahmaputra - a river known for its dynamic and often destructive flow - Umananda faces long term risks from erosion, flooding and shifting water channels (Gogoi, 2020, 12-13). Hence, these uncertainties of the environment not only threaten the temple's physical structure but also endangers its feasibility as a sustainable destination for tourists.

Conclusion- India's temple economy has a long and diversified history that spans many religious traditions across different regions. There is a combination of social, historical, cultural and political variables that had led to transformations in the dynamics of temple's economy over time. It was seen that the temples, throughout the major part of history stood as platforms to create urbanisation through their influence on economy. The temples act as a bridge to build both direct and indirect employment.

The Umananda Temple located on the Peacock Island rightly exemplifies the junction of history, economy, spirituality and environment. Its transition from an Ahom era temple to a hub of urban pilgrimage and cultural tourism reflects the broader transformation of sacred and heritage sites in India. The tourists go to the Umananda Temple for religious and heritage tourism throughout the years. It is important to know that in order to increase the number of tourists in a specific place, we cannot expect that the population would multiply and hence gradually the number of tourists would also increase. It is essential to enhance the scope of a place so that the place can attract a greater number of tourists. Optimization of the potential of the place to be able to attract more number of tourists, that too, other than purposes of religious tourism is the main catalyst along with the identification of other types of tourism like Aesthetic Tourism, Adventure Tourism and Nature Tourism which can be attached to this place so as to offer package tours having multiples types of tourism experience instilled along with the religious experience at the Umananda Temple. Despite several challenges, the future of Umananda Temple within the cultural economy of Assam remains promising. The site can be reimagined as a model for sustainable sacred tourism according to the UNESCO with thoughtful integration of ecotourism principles, community led conservation and digital heritage tools as such an approach would not only preserve the spiritual and historical integrity of Umananda but also amplify its role as a driving force for inclusive development. Hence, it is important to understand that in order to honour Umananda Temple's past and secure its future, an interdisciplinary and balanced strategy is required - one that harmonizes development with tradition, and innovation with conservation

and in doing so, Umananda can continue to be a living heritage site- rooted in history yet adaptive to the challenging world and its aspirations.

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**Portrayal of Women's Mental States in the
fictions of Dinanath Sharma: An Analytical Study**

• Dulumani Deka

***Abstract-** Analytical method has been adopted while discussing the subject of social status of women in the stories of Dinanath Sharma. The storytellers of Abahan era have given importance to showing the equal status of women as men in the society. Many stories and novels have been written considering the solution to these problems. Dinanath Sharma and his work are no exception to this. In this discussion, the author will discuss the subject in more detail on the basis of Dinanath Sharma's story 'Seema Jetya Par Hoi Jaai'. Portrayal of mental state of women in the stories of Dinanath Sharma: Dinanath Sharma's story 'Seema Jetya Par Hoi Jaai' gives a wonderful depiction of the psychological journey of women.*

***Keywords-** Mental States, Woman's, Life*

Introduction- Among the Short story writers of the Abahan age, Dinanath Sharma is prominent. Compared to other story tellers the subject matter of his stories is unique, special and resourceful. However, despite not being exceptionally beautiful in composition, his stories failed to achieve excellence. He was a doctor by profession, though he participated in India's independence movement instead of pursuing wealth. In society, exploring various cultural rituals and dispelling superstitions, he wandered between villages and towns. Feeling the need of a standard magazine in Assamese language in 1929 giving birth to a magazine entitled *Abahan* he himself took the responsibility of the editorship. His contribution to the field of literature is significant. In addition to novels, he enriched the pages of the magazine *Abahan* with his short stories. The fundamental problems of human life are fully expressed in his stories. Reading each of his stories feels like encountering a person made of flesh and blood, and the reader becomes one with the character. He has taken care to realistically portray the financial problems, conflicts, and value crises faced by the middle class in society. In addition, his stories also reveal deep human emotions and psychological insights. He is ever conscious about women's liberation and their social status. The stories he wrote focusing on women's issues are clear examples of this. For example, in this study, not all of Sharma's stories are included; the discussion is based on the

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story 'SeemaJetia Par Hoi Jai,' (When Boundaries are crossed) which depicts the deteriorating condition of women's lives. For the convenience of discussion, both primary and secondary materials have been collected to advance discussion of the topic.

Purpose and Importance of the Subject- Women's issues are one of the most important issues among the various topics published in literature. Already, there have been various discussions and criticisms centered around women's issues. Stories and literature have been written as a strong protest against various injustices and wrongdoings seen in society. The main purpose of our article is to discuss how Sharma has realistically portrayed the picture of women's painful lives. Through this, he made every possible effort to challenge the social evils and exploitation. Therefore, it is very important to discuss such topics.

Method and Scope- In discussing the topic of women's social status in Dinanath Sharma's stories, an analytical method has been adopted.

Storytellers of the Abahan age have given importance to depicting women's status equal to men in society. Many stories and novels have been written contemplating solutions to these problems. There is no exception to Dinanath Sharma and his work. In this discussion, the author will further elaborate on the subject matter based on Dinanath Sharma's story 'SeemaJetia Par Hoi Jai,' (When Boundaries are crossed).

Depiction of women's mental state in Dinanath Sharma's stories-

Dinanath Sharma's story 'SeemaJetia Par Hoi Jai,' (When Boundaries are crossed) portrays an excellent depiction of women's psychological journey. In the story, it vividly portrays the melancholic aspects of a Nurse's life, depicting it in a lively manner. Maichana is an extremely distressed worker in the medical hospital. A joyful life full of laughter may be turned into a life of distress and melancholy all at once. Because at the very young age of 20 or 22 years of age Maichana had to carry the burdens of life. Even while in ninth or tenth grade, Maichana was married into a wealthy family of the Jorhat region. Despite having wealth and possessions like elephants, the person lacked modern education, refinement, cleanliness, and common decency, which are far more valuable. Maichana's curiosity was in abundance and that was strongly attracted by plenty of modern age elegance, decency and beautiful objects. Due to the extreme hardships faced in her previous life, Maichana found such an environment unbearable as if living like an animal. She felt like an encaged tigress. Yet, Maichana longs for a thin light of hope. Even though compelled, gradually within, the spark of rebellion continues to burn brightly.

In reality, the story presents Maichana's life's hardships in a deeply moving, poignant and realistic manner. As time passed, the portrayal of Maichana's inner torment seems to have become more

intense. Because in her married life, she has not obtained true love from her husband as well as her in-laws. There is in the story- The story vividly portrays the life of a conservative family. Since marriage, she had to live like a tigress in a cage. Maichana, who once lived in a rural environment, longed to wander freely. However, after marriage, Maichana did not receive any care or attention from her in-laws. Even though her elder brother came to take her home two or three times, her mother-in-law never allowed her to meet him.

The text says: “Tathapi, Tai thake, kaam kare, khai aar suya. Majemaje Tai asahaniyo anubhav hoi. Rati Tai kande. Usarot xuihoka manuh took Tai giriye, ko eko anumaan hoi - rakshas buli. Tai atixoighree nare tar falesai. E din jano ei manuh toye Tai r bhitoror kiba katha bujilaise. Tai r antor khon buji bo sesta karise ne? Era giriye ko sakaloredare imaichenar prati udasin. Tai kdarkar kebol te or triptir samayot.” (Ramdhenu, 1st Edition, 3rd Year, 4th Sangsha, Page: 211) This excerpt illustrates the emotional and psychological neglect she faced in her marital home. It reflects her alienation, isolation, and emotional suppression.

Further, the story mentions: “Tini bar ko kaye k phiri jaboloi g a hol. Tai k ghoraloi no p othiy a. Sei toe bule si hotor niyom or bahir. Bowari ghar sumaihe ula i nejai. Aanki ko kaye kor lagat Tai r dekha-sakhat o noho l.” (Ramdhenu, 1st Edition, 3rd Year, 4th Sangsha, Page: 211) This portion reveals how deeply embedded patriarchal norms restricted her autonomy. Despite repeated attempts by her brother to reconnect, the domestic restrictions imposed on her prevented even a simple meeting.

According to nature's law, after marriage, Maichana experienced the joy of motherhood. Maichana endured great pain during childbirth. Because she was helped to give birth to her child by a local midwife or nurse instead of calling a doctor. Her mother in law never appears afraid of being untouchable (*Chua joa*). Instead she calls names and her language is full of rudeness and obscene words against her. Maichana's heart was burning with the fire of rebellion. Still she spends her time bearing all these.

In the story, the author has emphasized the importance of women's own thoughts and rights. The storyteller has portrayed a rebellious character through Maichana and is striving for justice. The child is the new hope in Maichana's life is the fruit of inspiration. With her son she thought about finding newness in settling down in her home. However, that hope seems to have been disappointed by her mother-in-law. Because -'seisantansahasihotorbongxhadhar.taikelbolmaak ha' .((Ramdhenu 1st edition. 3rd year 4thsangsha Page:211)

Once when the boy had a common cold he was kept asleep

covered with a blanket after massaging with mustard oil. But her mother-in-law later took the boy with her to attend a ritual program in a nearby home. Maichana searched for the boy here and there and later went to that family and discovered-the boy without lothes was kept on the bare soil. She hugged the child against her neck and carried her back home without telling anyone. It seems that this has brought hell like pain in Maichana's life.

At that time, Mr. Sarma put emphasis on women's own dignity. Life was severely covered with unbearable agony since Maichana's marriage. There is no care Maichana received from any relative nor from her mother-in-law at home. Rather than that no expression of love she received from her husband as well. She was applied as a plaything, an object of entertainment. She lived her life speechless enduring the pain inflicted upon her by all the family members. The pain caused by these have been arrested by the joy received from the child. However, getting unbearable torture from her mother-in-law one day she decided to go away and to live in her mother's home along with her child. But the mother-in-law drove her away, snatching the child from her. Maichana's rebellious mind became more intense and she came back to her mother's home. Thereto she faced negligence from her elder brother and sister-in-law and then she came to the hospital to work as a nurse. Although she has obtained employment still there is no inherent happiness she could feel if she remained unhappy. However, she has started to live the life with the happiness she obtains serving the people. Storyteller Sharma had long ago conveyed that a woman can find the essence of life by being self-reliant.

Conclusion- Socially conscious storyteller Dinanath Sharma has vividly depicted the fragility of a woman's life in the opening pages. Perhaps the storyteller had observed such issues in society. in order to address such issues, he was able to create a rebellious character from his heart. Mychena is just one example of this.

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The Depths of Symbolism in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*

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Abstract- Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) stands as a monumental narrative of human resilience and dignity. This paper explores the complex web of symbolism woven into the novella, revealing how Hemingway employs symbolic figures such as the marlin, the sea, the sharks, and Santiago himself to reflect broader themes of heroism, struggle, and the human condition. By analyzing these symbols, this study uncovers the philosophical and existential underpinnings that define the novella's enduring significance in American literature.

Keywords- Hemingway, symbolism, marlin, sea, sharks, Santiago, existentialism, struggle, dignity.

Introduction- Ernest Hemingway's minimalist prose style and his “iceberg theory” of writing have left a profound impact on modern literature. *The Old Man and the Sea*, his last major work of fiction, is an exemplary narrative that demonstrates the power of understated symbolism. At its core, the novella is a simple tale of a fisherman and a marlin, yet its depth lies in the symbolic dimensions that resonate with universal human experiences. This paper delves into the layers of symbolism embedded in the story to highlight how Hemingway crafts a powerful allegory of human endurance, pride, and existential struggle.

Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952) stands as one of the most symbolic literary works of the 20th century. While outwardly a simple story of an aging fisherman's epic battle with a marlin, the novella transcends its plot through layered symbolism that resonates with themes of heroism, faith, nature, and existential struggle. Hemingway's sparse, yet profound prose style allows for deep symbolic interpretations without abandoning the story's grounded realism. This paper delves into the key symbols in the novel and demonstrates how they convey the complex interplay between man, nature, and the metaphysical.

Marlin as the Noble Opponent and Nature's Majesty- The marlin in *The Old Man and the Sea* is not merely a fish- it is the embodiment of Santiago's dreams, challenges, and his ultimate test. The fish is described with reverence, symbolizing both the goal of Santiago's personal quest and the dignity of a worthy adversary. Santiago admires the marlin's strength and beauty, viewing the struggle as one between equals. This mutual respect

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elevates the marlin to a symbol of idealism—something worth fighting for, even at great personal cost.

The marlin functions as more than a prize catch. It represents Santiago's ideal adversary, a creature of great beauty, strength, and nobility. The fisherman's admiration for the marlin—whom he refers to as his “brother”—complicates the dynamic between hunter and prey. The marlin symbolizes not only the challenge that gives Santiago purpose but also an aesthetic and spiritual ideal. In battling the marlin, Santiago is not merely fishing; he is engaging in a moral and existential quest for meaning, identity, and redemption.

The Sea as a Feminine Force of Nature- Hemingway personifies the sea as a woman, “la mar,” reflecting its dual nature of beauty and unpredictability. The sea symbolizes the broader natural world—vast, mysterious, nurturing, yet indifferent. It is Santiago's constant companion and adversary, representing the environment in which he must prove his strength and resilience. The sea's symbolism extends to ideas of fate and the uncontrollable forces that shape human lives.

The sea in Hemingway's novella is a living, breathing entity—both nurturing and destructive. As a symbol, the sea embodies nature's vastness and mystery, functioning as a metaphor for life itself—unpredictable, beautiful, and indifferent. Santiago's voyage into the deep parallels a spiritual journey, one that mirrors the human confrontation with the unknown.

The Sharks: Destruction and the Inevitable Loss- The sharks that attack Santiago's hard-won marlin are emblematic of inevitable loss and the destructive forces of reality. They are not portrayed with the nobility afforded to the marlin; instead, they are greedy, mindless, and relentless. This dichotomy between the noble marlin and the ignoble sharks underlines the theme that even the greatest triumphs are vulnerable to decay and destruction. The sharks symbolize the world's tendency to erode the value of personal victories.

After Santiago's triumph over the marlin, the arrival of the sharks represents the intrusion of inevitable loss and decay. Despite his valiant efforts to defend his prize, Santiago ultimately loses the marlin to these scavengers. The sharks symbolize the indifferent forces that erode human achievement—time, mortality, and society's misunderstanding. However, even in defeat, Santiago maintains his dignity. His journey becomes a meditation on the nobility of effort rather than the permanence of success. The skeletal remains of the marlin serve as a testament to his greatness, even in failure.

Santiago: The Christ-like Hero and Human Archetype- Santiago is portrayed as a figure of suffering and redemption. His wounds, perseverance, and isolation evoke parallels to Christ's passion. Carrying his mast up the hill upon his return, he mirrors Christ bearing the cross. Through Santiago, Hemingway constructs a narrative of spiritual endurance, where failure in material terms becomes victory in moral and existential terms. Santiago's journey is a spiritual trial—he loses the fish, but regains a sense of purpose and dignity.

Santiago, the protagonist, embodies a blend of stoic endurance, humility, and quiet nobility. His physical suffering and perseverance evoke Christian imagery, particularly the figure of Christ. The cuts on his hands, his isolation, and his burden-bearing trek home after the battle with the marlin recall the Passion of Christ. Yet Santiago is not a religious icon but a representation of the everyman- one who continues to fight in the face of defeat, embodying Hemingway's code of the 'grace under pressure.'

Moreover, Santiago's struggle highlights the Hemingway hero archetype: a man who faces inevitable defeat with dignity and courage. His fight is not just against the marlin, but against time, old age, and existential meaninglessness. Santiago, the old fisherman, represents the archetype of the suffering hero and carries strong Christ-like symbolism. His physical suffering- his hands torn and bleeding, his back hunched under the mast- evokes the Passion of Christ. He accepts suffering with grace and humility, a reflection of spiritual stoicism. As Jobes (1959) points out, "Santiago emerges as a crucified figure, bearing the burden of his fate with saintly patience." His struggle with the marlin becomes a symbolic pilgrimage- one of faith, sacrifice, and transcendence.

Lions on the Beach: Lost Youth and Inner Vitality- Santiago's recurring dream of lions on an African beach is a striking symbol of lost youth, strength, and vitality. These dreams, which contrast with his harsh reality, are the only source of true joy for Santiago. The lions symbolize an inner fire that remains alive despite physical decline. They also suggest a subconscious hope- an affirmation of life and a resistance to despair.

The image of the lions playing on the African beach appears in Santiago's dreams and symbolizes youth, strength, and eternal return. These dreams connect Santiago to a time of vitality and adventure. Their recurrence at the end of the novella suggests that Santiago's spirit, though physically diminished, remains undefeated. For Waldhorn (1972), "The lions are Santiago's soul animals- symbols of his enduring identity beyond physical decline."

Conclusion- The symbolic richness of *The Old Man and the Sea* transforms a simple story into a profound meditation on life, struggle, and human dignity. Through layered symbols—the marlin, the sea, the sharks, and the old man himself- Hemingway addresses universal themes of resilience, loss, and redemption. The novella endures not only as a tale of individual heroism but as an allegory of the human condition, making it a timeless piece of literary art.

Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* operates on multiple symbolic levels, transforming a tale of an old fisherman into a profound exploration of human endurance, existential struggle, and the search for meaning. Through Santiago's epic journey, Hemingway constructs a narrative of universal significance, where every element- man, fish, sea, lions, and sharks- reflects the broader human condition. The novella's enduring appeal lies in its ability to elevate ordinary events into a mythic and

symbolic tapestry, inviting readers to contemplate the quiet heroism embedded in everyday life.

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A Sociological Study of The Role of Parents in Encouraging Girls in Higher Education

• Priyanka Sharma

•• Chandni Markam

Abstract- *The educational aspirations and results of their children are significantly influenced by their parents, particularly in the case of young women who are interested in attending college. The purpose of this sociological study is to investigate the myriads of factors that influence the academic courses of young women, including gender stereotypes, social standards, parental support, financial situation, and cultural traditions. Even though there have been advancements in gender equality, many women continue to face challenges in the form of traditional gender roles that put a higher value on marriage and family responsibilities than on education. Additionally, cultural expectations and financial constraints continue to be other impediments. Taking into consideration the fact that parents are the primary influences in their daughters' socialisation, this research investigates the ways in which parents may either exacerbate these challenges or bring about change by pushing their daughters to seek higher education. The purpose of this study is to investigate the ways in which the perspectives of parents, educational backgrounds, and economic situations influence the academic aspirations of young women. Through the use of positive reinforcement, financial investment, and emotional support, it highlights the need of establishing a learning environment that is helpful towards students. This also takes into consideration the manner in which fathers and mothers support their daughters, analysing the ways in which cultural norms impact the methods in which they exercise this encouragement. The purpose of this research is to uncover the factors that either promote or discourage parental support for girls' education by collection of data from google forms. When it comes to the struggle against gender prejudice and for equal opportunity, it emphasises the significance of community engagement, awareness campaigns, and legislative reforms.*

Keyword- *Parental encouragement, higher education, gender equality, socio-economic background.*

Introduction- A fundamental human right that every kid has is the right to get an education. The need of providing primary education to all children in India has been emphasised by a great number of political and philosophical leaders in the country. The establishment of a strong educational foundation

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was their belief that it would contribute to the creation of circumstances that would facilitate constructive social change and economic progress.¹

All individuals, regardless of their gender, colour, religious affiliation, or social standing, should have equal access to educational opportunities. In Article 45 of the Constitution, which specifies that all children up to the fourteenth year of life shall have access to a primary education that is both free and mandatory within 10 years of the document's establishment, this objective was expressed in a clear and concise manner.²

The combined five-year plans of the national government and the state governments have made steady progress towards achieving this objective. The right to get an education is guaranteed to each and every kid, irrespective of their gender, caste, or financial situation, via a variety of different educational efforts.³

In spite of this, the objectives of the UEE program have not been accomplished even after many decades have passed since its inception.⁴

If India is serious about raising its level of life, it must make investments in the education of its female population. One strategy for enhancing both the internal and exterior quality of life is to raise the percentage of women who are literate by encouraging and providing financial support for the education of children, particularly the education of girls. On the other hand, there are a variety of obstacles that impede Indian women from finishing their secondary education.⁵

As a result, the government of India has taken the initiative to initiate a revolutionary program known as the National Program for Girls' Education (NPEGEL), which is designed to provide assistance to girls' education in areas that are considered to be educationally disadvantaged and tribal. This program is implemented at the primary level and is a component of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, also known as the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan programs.⁶

Constitutional Provisions for Education of Girls- The Constitution of India guarantee that all citizens, including women and girls, are afforded equal rights, but it also forbids discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, caste, and place of birth. Furthermore, it gives the state the authority to implement protected discrimination measures that are beneficial to children and girls in terms of their social and educational development. There are subordinate classes that are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.⁷

The state of our country has passed a variety of laws and developed specialised programs and schemes in line with the Protected Discrimination Regulations in order to guarantee the safety, well-being, and advancement of young women. In conformity with the objectives of state policy, Article 45 of our Constitution mandates that all children up to the age of fourteen are required to attend school within a ten-year period commencing on the day that the Constitution is adopted. As a strict interpretation of the Constitution, our policy planner has interpreted the Universal Elementary Education (UEE) program as a constitutional provision. All pupils between the ages of

six and fourteen are required to complete a full seven years of elementary education and three years of secondary school as part of this obligation.⁸

Objective:-

1. To find out that how parents support their daughters' pursuit of higher education.
2. To find out to learn about the parents plans and goals for their daughters' education in the future.
3. To find out how parents encourage their daughters in higher education.

Methodology:-

Area of Study- The present investigation was carried out, which is a locality inside Bhilai, a city in Chhattisgarh. The vast majority of the inhabitants are landless workers, which places them in a socio-economic situation that is exceedingly challenging to maintain. This area is not only falling behind everywhere else, but the majority of its people also has a very low level of education. This place is lagging behind everyone else. The bulk of the population is comprised of people who adhere to various religions and are members of low-castes. However, despite their support for their girls' education, the majority of parents struggle to send their daughters to school due to regulations imposed by the government. Both men and females are responsible for the care of the young members of the family.

Girls are often neglected in a variety of fields, especially when it comes to having access to educational opportunities. Parents went to considerable measures to ensure that their boys attended school and were well-positioned in society, in contrast to the actions that they took with regard to their daughters. In days gone by, it was considered a total and utter waste of resources to send females to school. A number of parents were of the opinion that their daughters should remain at home and take care of the household chores. Immediately after their wedding, they become so preoccupied with their new home and family that they fail to pay attention to their parents. The members of a man's family possess a great level of respect for him. In the absence of a male child, a household is not considered to be complete. In this part of Bhilai, it is not uncommon for young girls to be married against their will.

Sample- In order for the study to be successful in achieving all of its objectives, the emphasis of the investigation was on the residents of Bhilai. In order to have a better understanding of the perspectives of parents on the education of their daughters, total fifty respondents were selected as parents, both male and female and daughters. Purposive sampling method has been used for the collection of data.

Results & Discussion- The results that pertain to the present study project titled "Parental attitude towards girl's primary education" are arranged in accordance with the following tables.

Table 1
Monthly income of Respondents

S. No.	Monthly Income range (Rs.)	Respondent (Number)	Percentage
1.	1001 - 10000	20	40
2.	10001 - 20000	10	20
3.	20001 - 30000	10	20
4.	30001 - 40000	10	20
	Total	50	100

In accordance with the information presented in Table 1, the percentage of parents whose monthly income falls within the range of 1,000 to 10,000 rupees was 40 % with the highest percentage, and the percentage of parents whose monthly income falls within the range of 10001 to 20,000 rupees was found to be 20 %. Based on the findings, it was found that the monthly income of the remaining 20 % of parents was between 20001 to 30000 .One of the factors that impacts the educational attainment of children is the socioeconomic status of the parents, which can be evaluated by analysing the average income of the household and the level of education of the parents.

Table 2
Occupation of parents
(male and female) of 50 selected girls

S. No.	Occupation	Parent			
		Father		Mother	
		Respondent (No's)	%age	Respondent (No's)	%age
1.	Govt. Service	30	60	10	20
2.	Private job	10	20	10	20
3.	Business	05	10	10	20
4.	Household work	05	10	20	40
	Total	50	100	50	100

The findings are shown in Table 2 demonstrate that around 30 percent of the male parents were employed in the Government Service, whereas only 10 percent were employed by the Private job. In addition, 5% of males were belongs to business category and 5% of fathers belongs to household work. In a similar vein, when looking at the female parents, the statistics revealed that the vast majority of them were housewives (40 percent), with 20 percent of them working for the government. In the private sector, the proportion of working moms was 20% and rest of the 20 % women doing business.

Table 3
Education level of parents
(male and female) of 50 selected girls.S.

S. No.	Education	Parent			
		Father		Mother	
		Respondent (No's)	%age	Respondent (No's)	%age
1.	Illiterate	15	30	10	20
2.	Middle	10	20	20	40
3.	Secondary	05	10	10	20
4.	Sr. Secondary	10	20	05	10
5.	Graduation	10	20	05	10
	Total	50	100	50	100

The data shown in Table 3 demonstrates that out of the total number of male parents, 30% were illiterate, while the lowest number had completed secondary education (5%). 20% of the parents belongs to middle school education, 20% had a high school diploma, and 20% had a bachelor's degree.

As can be seen in Table 3, the biggest number of female parents had just finished their middle-class education, while the lowest percentage had completed their higher secondary and graduation degrees. In addition, 20% women were illiterate and 20 percent were belongs to secondary education. It has been said that the extent to which a woman has finished her education has a substantial influence on the educational opportunities and achievements that her children have. Most notably, studies conducted all around the globe have shown that the level of education that a girl's mother possesses has a significant impact on the quality of education that the girl receives. Furthermore, it was said that when mothers get an education, their daughters are more likely to register in school and achieve higher levels of education.

Table 4
Parents Encouraging
Daughters for Higher Education

S. No.	Parents Encouraging Daughters for Education	Respondent (Number)	Percentage
1.	Agree	10	20
2.	Disagree	25	50
3.	Not Interested	15	30
	Total	50	100

Analysis of data revealed that 50% of parents disagreed the daughters for higher education, 30% of parents were not interested to educate their daughter and 20% of parents agreed the daughters to be educated for higher education.

Conclusion- The findings of a study that investigated the attitudes of parents towards the education of their daughters, there is a complex interplay between socio- economic, cultural, and traditional factors that influence the educational opportunities available to young women. Despite the fact that there are parents who have complete faith in their

daughters' capabilities and want them to pursue higher education, there are a great number of parents who are unable to do so due to financial worries, cultural expectations, and long-standing gender stereotypes. According to research, households that are more traditional and economically challenged tend to put a greater emphasis on marriage and domestic responsibilities than they do on education. On the other hand, families that have higher levels of education and financial stability are more likely to encourage their daughters' pursuit of higher education. In order to achieve outcomes that are sustainable over time, it is required to implement a complete approach that includes modifications to existing policies, participation from the community, and education of parents. The encouragement of parents to recognise the importance of educating their daughters for the purpose of achieving personal empowerment and societal progression is one strategy that may be used to break down old barriers and make progress towards greater gender equality in school and beyond.

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**Reviving Tradition, Driving Growth:
MSMEs and the Role of Khadi and Village Industries in India**

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Abstract- Indian economy is the fastest growing economy in the world, which has immense potential to utilize the demographic dividend. In this, micro, small and medium enterprises can play an important role. The unemployment growth rate is increasing at a rapid pace. The solution to this problem. To do this, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act 1956 was established. At present, Khadi Gram Udyog has provided more than 4.7 lakh jobs. In which 70% are women. There is immense potential for employment in this enterprise, but due to lack of modernization this enterprise is affected by high costs. And is failing to supply as per the current market demand. Rural economy influences the Indian economy. Which out of the population of 121 crores, 69 percent (83.49 crores) population lives in villages in which more than 49% population works directly in agriculture and related sectors. Khadi village industry provides opportunities to many enterprises. Under Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act The Khadi and Village Industries Commission established is a statutory organization under the aegis of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Whose GDP is 3.27 percent, Khadi village industry had production of 1626.6% in the year 2017-18 and sales were Rs 2510.21 crore. This production increased to 2617.56 crores in 2022 and sales to 4632 crores. In terms of employment, it was 4.65 lakh in 2017-18, which has increased to 4.97 lakh in 2022 along with normal growth. According to the report of The Center for Monitoring Indian, currently the unemployment rate in India is 8.3%, 7.44% in rural areas and 10.96% in urban areas. The estimated number of micro and small industries in India is 633.88 lakh, in which 1109.89 lakh people are getting employment and it has contributed 29 percent in the gross domestic product, under which more than 6000 products are produced. The specialty of this industry is that it provides more employment with less capital investment. And walk with the help of family members, Ministry of

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Micro, Small and Medium According to the data of Government of India, micro, small and medium industries in India The value of the concerned products is Rs 147390.08 million and the total during 2017-18 48.56 percent contribution has been made in exports and to strengthen its growth Some important institutional arrangements at micro, small and medium level are as follows-Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act 2006, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, National Small Industries Corporation Limited, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization, National Board for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and National Institute Have been. In the present research paper, Micro, Small and Medium Industries and Khadi and Village Industries To study the problems arising in the implementation and to study the government and policy efforts.

Keywords- *Micro- Small and Medium Industries, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, GDP, Employment, and Economic Growth, Demographic dividend (15 to 64 Years working population)*

Introduction- Micro, small and medium enterprises hold an important place in India. It has been known as the cornerstone of the Indian economy. Since the British rule, efforts have been made to target it and harm it, because the quality of their products was much better than the goods manufactured during the British rule. Due to which it was not possible to demand the products made by them without causing harm to them. Even after independence, special attention has not been paid to the development of micro, small and medium industries. In a situation like the global pandemic Covid-19, where import and export has been disrupted across the world, the Government of India has tried to find a solution to the current supply problems by linking small and medium industries with the concept of "Local with Vocal". Micro and medium small-scale enterprises in India are the second largest sector providing employment after agriculture, the estimated number of micro and small-scale industries in India is 633.88 lakh, in which 1109.89 lakh people are getting employment and it accounts for 29% of the gross domestic product. percent contribution, more than 6000 products are produced under it.

The specialty of this industry is that it provides more employment with less capital investment and is run with the help of family members. According to the data of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, the value of products related to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in India is 147390.08 million and has contributed 48.56 percent in the total exports during 2017-18 and to strengthen its development, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) And some important institutional arrangements at the medium level are as follows Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act 2006, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, National Small Industries Corporation Limited, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization, National Board for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and National Institute of Are. In the present research paper, the aim is to study the

problems arising during the implementation of micro, small and medium industries and to study the government and policy efforts.

Table-1
Revision in classification criteria for MSMES

Rs. in Crore	Investment		Turnover	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
Micro Enterprises	1	2.5	5	10
Small Enterprises	10	25	50	100
Medium Enterprises	50	125	250	500

Source-Ministry of Finance Union Budget-2025-26

Research objective-

1. Study of the contribution of micro, small and medium enterprises to the gross domestic product.
2. Study of the impact of micro, small and medium enterprises on employment.
3. Study of inclusive development through micro, small and medium enterprises.

Research Method and Technique- The presented research paper is based on secondary data. Analytical research method has been used in this research paper. For compilation of data, information has been collected from various published reports like books, journals, small and medium industries annual reports. The data has been presented in the form of tables and also interpreted in the context of the above-mentioned research objective.

literature overview-

Ghatak, Shambhu (2010): In his research paper titled Micro Small and Medium Enterprises in India. The assessment highlighted that the situation of Indian micro, small and medium enterprises is worse than that of Pakistan. Told better. About 36 percent of Pakistan's micro and small medium enterprises have bank accounts. Are. About 46 Bangladeshi micro, small and medium enterprises have bank accounts compared to About 95 percent of India's micro, small and medium enterprises have bank accounts. They Further said that the Government of India should accelerate its initiatives to provide support to the industries of these people. have bank accounts. Are. About 46 Bangladeshi micro, small and medium enterprises have bank accounts compared to About 95 percent of India's micro, small and medium enterprises have bank accounts. They Further said that the Government of India should accelerate its initiatives to provide support to the industries of these people.

Shri Niwas KT (2013) In his research titled Role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Inclusive Development concluded that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have been said to be the engine for the development of the country. Over the past few years, much change has been done at the national and state level to strengthen this sector. Their condition in India has been quite pathetic due to poor infrastructure and lack of marketing linkage. The assistance provided by the state as well as the central government is not enough for the upliftment of the development of micro small and medium in India. therefore not only the government of India but also the entrepreneurs

should come forward for their development.

UK Sinha Committee (2019) Reserve Bank of India Expert Committee: In their report, they found that a Distressed Asset Fund of the size of Rs 5000 crore in respect of micro, small and enterprise sector is being implemented due to demonetization, implementation of GST and ongoing This should be created to provide relief to these units which are hurt by the unavailability of liquidity. This will also provide relief to a large number of enterprises which have today turned into units with non-performing assets due to the plastic ban and dumping.

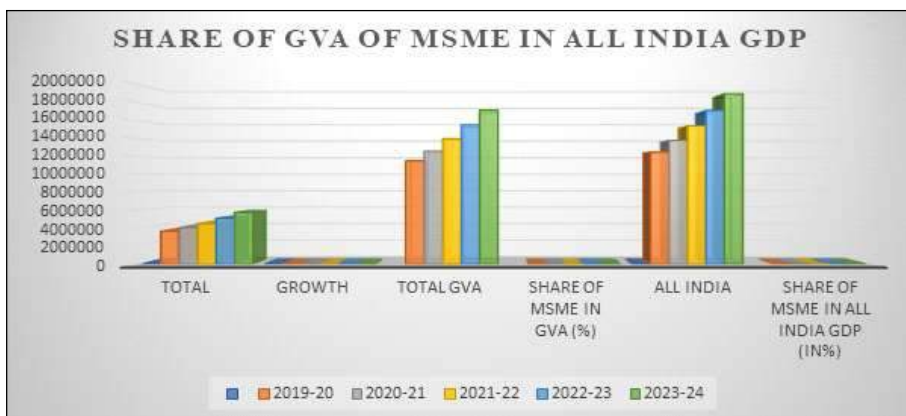
Data analysis- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are paying significant attention to the field of entrepreneurship through business promotion. Today micro and small medium industries are expanding their domain in all sectors of the economy. Producing a variety of products and services to meet the demands of domestic and world markets. According to the data available with the Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, the contribution of micro, small and medium sector in the gross value added (GVA) and gross domestic product (GDP) of the country at current prices from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as follows-

Table-1.1

Gross value added (GVA) and gross domestic product (GDP) of the country at current prices from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as follows

YEAR	Total MSME GVA	Growth (%)	Total GVA	Share of MSME in GVA (%)	All India GDP	Share of MSME in All India GDP (in%)
2019-20	3658196	-	11504279	31.80	12467959	29.34
2020-21	4059660	10.97	12574499	32.28	13771874	29.48
2021-22	4502129	10.90	13965200	32.24	15391669	29.25
2022-23	5086493	12.98	15513122	32.79	17098304	29.75
2023-24	5741765	12.88	17139962	33.50	18971237	30.27

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation



Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

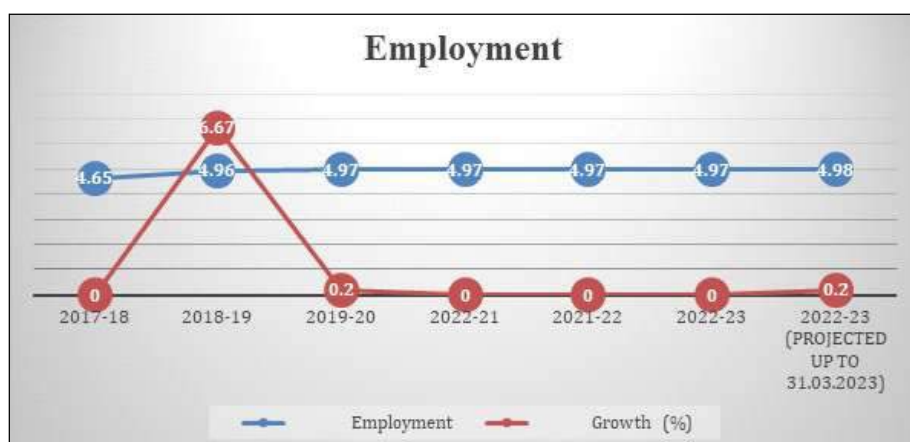
In Table 1, the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises increased from 10.97 percent in 2019-20 to 12.88 percent in 2023-24, while the share of micro, small and medium enterprises in gross value added increased from 21.80 percent in 2019-20 to 2023-24. In the same sequence, their share in India's GDP has increased from 29.34 percent in 2019-20 to 30.27 percent in 2023-24. Therefore, we can say that the share of micro, small and medium industries in both Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Method and GDP is increasing, which indicates that the significant contribution of these enterprises in the Indian economy is increasing day by day. The day is increasing day by day. 5 lakh jobs were provided in 2023-24, hence we can say that micro small enterprises have been helpful in achieving the goal of inclusive development in any economy.

Table-1.2
Khadi sector's employment
during last 5 years and current year 2022 are given below:-
Khadi Sector: Employment

(Artisan in Lakh)

Year	Growth (%)	Employment
2017-18	-	4.65
2018-19	6.67	4.96
2019-20	0.20	4.97
2022-21	00	4.97
2021-22	00	4.97
2022-23	00	4.97
2022-23 (Projected up to 31.03.2023)	0.20	4.98

Source: Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Report-2022-23



Source: Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Report-2022-23

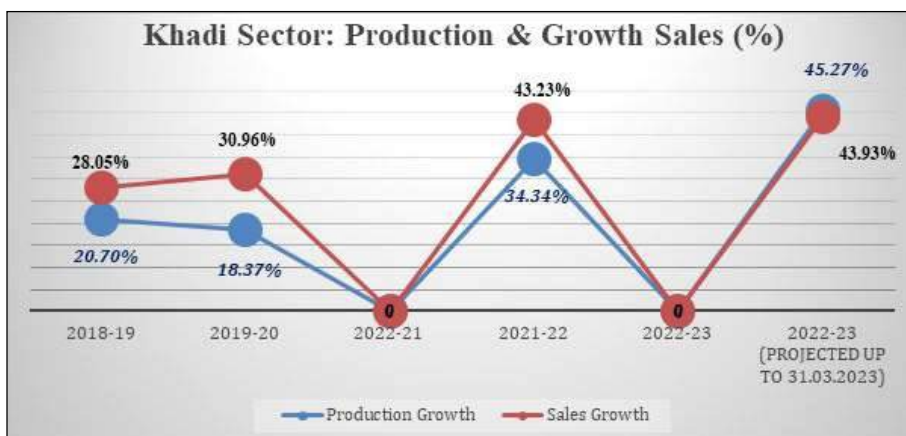
In Table 1.2, The Khadi sector's employment numbers have been steady over the past few years. In 2017-18, there were 4.65 lakh artisans employed. This number grew by 6.67% to 4.96 lakh in 2018-19. The growth slowed down in 2019-20 with a small increase of 0.20% to 4.97 lakh artisans. From 2020-21 to 2022-23, the employment numbers remained the same at 4.97 lakh artisans. However, the projected numbers for 2022-23 show a slight increase to 4.98 lakh artisans. Overall, the employment growth in the Khadi sector has been slow and steady over the past few years.

Table-1.3

Khadi sector production and sales have increased during previous year. Production and sale of Khadi sector during last 5 years and current year 2022-23 ((up to December, 2022) & anticipated up to 31.03.2023) are given below:-Khadi Sector: Production & Sales (Rs. in Crore)

Year	Production Growth (%)	Production	Sales	Sales Growth (%)
2017-18	-	1626.66	2510.21	-
2018-19	20.70%	1963.30	3215.13	28.05%
2019-20	18.37%	2324.24	4211.26	30.96%
2022-21	-18.05%	1904.49	3527.71	-16.24%
2021-22	34.34%	2558.31	5051.72	43.23%
2022-23	-25.99%	1893.29	3822.85	-24.32%
2022-23 (Projected up to 31.03.2023)	45.27%	2750.00	5500.00	43.93%

Source: Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Report-2022-23



Source: Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Annual Report-2022-23

In Table 1.3, The Khadi sector's production and sales have experienced fluctuations over the years. Initially, the sector saw steady growth from 2017-18 to 2019-20, with production and sales increasing consistently. However, this trend was disrupted in 2020-21 and again in 2022-23, when production and sales declined. Despite these setbacks, the projected numbers for 2022-23 indicate a significant turnaround, with production expected to reach Rs. 2750 crore and sales anticipated to reach Rs. 5500 crores. This suggests that the Khadi

sector is poised for a strong recovery and is expected to perform well in the coming year.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Inclusive Development- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have been successful in achieving the goal of inclusive development in any economy. Their contribution to the GDP in the year 2019-20 was 29.75%. It increased to 30.27 in the year 2023-24 and employment in Khadi enterprises increased from 4.56 lakh to 5 lakh in 2023-24. Therefore, we can say that the goal of inclusive development in any economy can be achieved through micro small enterprises. Have been helpful in doing.

Challenges before Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- The subsistence level of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is very low. Every three years, old Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are coming to an end, but at the same speed with which they come to an end, they also enter the industrial sector. Is happening in the area. In most of the areas in the country, there are micro and small medium industries whose scope is limited to a certain extent. Most of them are not registered and are also out of the scope of GST bill, due to which big industrialists avoid buying any item from them and in the absence of registration, they do not get any special benefit from the schemes. Financial assistance is also less available from commercial banks. According to the report released by the International Finance Corporation in the year 2018, one third of the total requirement in this sector of about Rs 11,00,000 crore has been received through the formal banking system in the micro, small and medium enterprise sector. Thus, most of the loans in this sector are received from the informal sectors, which is why whatever efforts were made by the Reserve Bank of India to increase liquidity for these enterprises. could not be effective.

Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) hold a unique place in India's socio-economic fabric, blending tradition with entrepreneurship. These industries, primarily driven by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), have the potential to generate employment, empower rural communities, and promote sustainable development. By reviving traditional crafts and local resources, KVIs not only preserve India's cultural heritage but also contribute significantly to rural income and self-reliance.

However, despite government support through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and various schemes, KVIs face challenges such as outdated technology, limited market access, and lack of innovation. Strengthening this sector is essential for inclusive economic growth. To enhance the impact of KVIs, the following suggestions are crucial:

1. **Technology Integration:** Encourage the adoption of modern tools while preserving traditional methods.
2. **Skill Development:** Provide regular training and capacity-building programs to artisans.
3. **Market Expansion:** Improve branding, e-commerce access, and global outreach for khadi products.
4. **Financial Support:** Simplify credit access and ensure timely subsidies for MSMEs.
5. **Policy Reforms:** Streamline regulatory frameworks and ensure consistent implementation of support schemes.

Revitalizing KVIs through targeted support can make them a powerful engine of

rural development and sustainable economic growth in India.

Conclusion- The Indian economy, whose economic problems have been capital-related during the country's first five-year the plan was based on rural development and agriculture, while the second five-year plan was based on industrial development. It was drawn keeping development in mind, the planners of that time understood that We do not have enough capital to develop all the sectors simultaneously. Was not possible. Therefore, an attempt was made to bring economic development from surface to surface by implementing the trickle-down concept, but such an effort had to be made due to lack of capital and if we focus on the development of micro and small-scale industries, then the less capital and untrained labor classes will be affected. They will be successful in providing a huge amount of employment, which can help in getting rid of the problem of increasing population and unemployment and can also solve the demand related problems in the present economy. The concept of self-reliant India can be fulfilled through micro, small and medium enterprises. This may prove to be a successful effort.

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Potential of Rural India in 21st Century Socio-Economic Study of Western Region of India

• Vinayaka Tripathi
•• Madhusoodan Tripathi

Abstract- *Western Region of India (WERI) is the inclusion of Three states namely – Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. It has 55745 villages with a vast quantity of rural population. It also includes several tribes in various areas. Important source of livelihood in WERI is agriculture and allied activities. Grain crops, vegetables, fruits and flowers are main Agro products. WERI also has forest resource with several products namely - fuelwood, fodder, edible nuts, herbs, flowers, seeds, leaves, bark, roots, tubers, lichen, honey etc. It has tradition of non-veg and veg cuisines. It is known for hand woven clothes. Jewellery, furniture, baskets, etc. handicraft products have attraction for people of rest India. WERI is sea cost rich region. Its own much from marine activities. WERI has rich cultural tradition with festivals, dances, songs and music. It has hills, sea and specific climate. It has forest cover and tribes. It has also several forest reserves and sanctuaries with wild animals, sea creatures. It has thousands of villages. For the socio-economic development of RURAL WERI, 4 Regional Rural Banks are established. These RRBs are the joint venture of central government, state government and scheduled banks. Main aim of these RRBs is rural development. These RRBs are shaping their aim with commitment. In the WERI, deposits, advances of RRBs are increasing continuously, NPA is lessening. RRBs in WERI are earning profit. WERI has several unexplored traditional and untraditional dimensions. Eco-tourism, cultural tourism, tribal tourism wild tourism and sea tourism. have enough potential to explore. WERI cuisine has potential in rest India and abroad. WERI handwoven clothes, and handicrafts have enough space to expand in WORLD WIDE WEB. Dances, songs and music of WERI are the unexposed folio. WERI-RRBs are trying best to achieve the aim. This fact is certified by balance sheets, annual reports, documents of RRBs, NABARD, RBI and State Governments. Primary cum secondary data and tools are used. Research provides useful conclusion and suggestions for the insight of policy makers. WERI scenario will change completely if conclusions and suggestions of research are implemented according to spirit.*

Keywords- *WERI, WERI-RRBs, Rural Region, Socio-Economic Upliftment*

Methodology- Primary as well as secondary data is used. Conversation with Nominee of Government of India in Board of Directors of RRB, regional

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manager in RRB conducted. Their experiences regarding regional rural banks were taken. Ideas of Members of SHGs were taken. Reality on earth was examined. Facts and information's taken from annual reports and balance sheets of RRBs, Reports of NABARD, RBI, State Government, and Central Government were used. Insight and guidance were also taken from researches and study related to RRBs and rural development. Documents of UN were also used. Several statistical tools were used for conclusion i.e. interpolation, correlation, percentage, average and approximation etc.

Objective

- To study the Potential of Western Region of India (WERI).
- To study the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in WERI.
- To study the financial services promoted by RRBs in WERI.
- To study the deposits, advances, NPA, and profit in RRBs in WERI.
- To study the financial performance of RRBs in WERI.
- To provide necessary conclusions and suggestions.

Review of Related Literature

[Padmasai Arora](#)

- , [Hitesh Arora](#) (2025) in research article “Inception, growth and efficiency of small finance banks in India: an empirical study” focuses on working of Indian SFBs. These are regressed on four bank-specific variables to examine their impact on efficiency scores. Results show that small finance banks are operating at extremely low efficiency levels. Regression analysis shows a significant and negative influence of cost of funds on efficiency. The high cost of funds puts the SFBs at a competitive disadvantage. Also, increase in size of SFBs is an important source of inefficiency. Reserve Bank of India's initiative to set up these differentiated banks for greater financial inclusion shall prove futile if their efficiency is not improved on an urgent basis.*1
- AnuragKumar Srivastava, Bhavya Logar, Surbhi Sanghvi, Avani Vaghela, Manish Adwani (2025) in research article “Vocational training and employability: A study in reference to skill development program from Gujarat, India” focuses on vocational training and employment potential. Study examines Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).*2

[Ashwani Bishnoi](#)

- , [Satbir Singh](#) (2025) in article “Comparative analysis of macro-performance of Indian states: meaningful lessons” focus on macro level economic results in provinces of India. The study concludes that Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat are resilient states while Punjab, Bihar, Kerala, Punjab and WB are ranked low.*3
- Dr. K. Kaleeswari (2024) in research article “A Study on Farmers Perception towards Agricultural Credit Provided by Public Sectors Banks in Erode City” focuses on farmers' conception regarding agro-finances by PSBs in a city of Tamil Nadu (TN). Long term

agricultural credits are provided for land improvement, digging of wells, buying farm animals, purchase of machinery. Most of the expenses are relating to agriculture and other allied land development activities. Study is based on data collection from both primary and secondary sources. *4

- Dr Suneet S Kopra (2024) in research article “A Study on Net Non-Performing Assets Management of Regional Rural Banks with Special Reference to Maharashtra Gramin Bank (MGB) and Vidarbha Konkan Gramin Bank (VKGB)” focuses on NNPA of specific RRBs of Maharashtra. Study examines MGB and VKGB. *5
- G. Rajesh, Sundara Pandiyan Natarajan, S. Neelima, Bandaru Srinivasa Rao (2024) in research article “Financial Performance Analysis of Private Sector Banks in India: An Eagle Model Approach” focuses on financial attainment of specific PvSBs. Study examines Axis bank, DCB Bank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, RBL Bank and South Indian Bank. *6
- Mr. Pratik Haribhajan Shinde, Dr. Manoj Murlidhar Pandkar (2023) in research article “Regional Imbalance in The State of Maharashtra-Special Reference: Marathwada Region” focuses on multifaceted features of Marathwada Region. It analyses regional disparity. This study is based on various committee reports formed by the Government of Maharashtra, District Social and Economic Review, Reports on Regional Imbalance, and the Population Census Abstract 2011. *7
- Sudhindra Bhat and other (2022) in research article “Comparative Study on Selected Regional Rural Banks of South India” focuses on performance of specific RRBs of the southern India. Study is based on financial statements of 2 years. CAMEL Model is used for drawing conclusion. *8
- Rahul Singh Gautam and others (2022) in their article “Study on Regional Rural Banks and their Impact on Poverty Reduction in India” focuses on influence of regional rural banks on poverty alleviation and role of RRBs. Secondary Data is used. Article suggests increased efforts regarding financial inclusion through RRBs. *9
- Atmaram M. Tarpe and others (2020) in the research article “A Study of Banks Lending Facilities to MSMEs in Goa” focuses on lending performance of banks. Article examines Goa State. It studies specifically MSMEs. *10
- Dr. Sanjeet Singh (2017) in the research article “Regional Disparities of Commercial Banking Development in India” identifies the backward states to banking development. The level of banking development in different states have been measured with the help of branch expansion, deposit mobilization and credit

deployment-based indicators, with the help of compound growth rate, co-efficient of variation and Herfindahl Index and the composite indices have been constructed with the help of z-sum technique.*11

- Ms. Reshma Udhani (2016) in article “Financial Inclusion in India – An Analysis” focuses on current status of financial inclusion. It also analysis different initiatives taken by RBI and Government of India. The study proposes some suggestion to achieve Financial Inclusion and to face the challenges to achieve the same. The relevant data for this study are taken from Articles, Reports along with online sources.*12

[Raghav Gaiha](#)

- (2006) in book “Reducing Rural Poverty in Asia” focuses on MRC Project. The project was for rural poors of Maharashtra.*13

Introduction- Western Region of India (WERI) is the inclusion of states namely - Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa.*14 It has 55745 villages with vast quantity of rural population. It also includes several tribes residing in various areas of WERI.*15

Western Region Of India*16

States	Creation	Capital	Rural Population	Villages
Maharashtra	1 May 1960	Mumbai	54.78 per cent	38026
Gujarat	1 May 1960	Gandhinagar	57.40 per cent	17428
Goa	30 May 1987	Panaji	37.83 per cent	291

Western Region of India (WERI) Tribes*17

State	Tribes
Maharashtra	Bhil, Gond, Kolam, Korku, Warli , Mahadeo Koli , Katkari , Thakar , Varli , Dhangar
Gujarat	Barda, Bavacha , Bamcha , Bhil, Bhagalia , Bhilala , Pawra , Vasava , Vasave
Goa	Gowdas , Kumbis , Velips , Dhangars



Western Region Of India – Livelihood- The Important Livelihood in Western Region of India is agriculture and allied activities.

Other sources of livelihood in rural areas include - animal husbandry, dairy produce, etc.*18

Western Region of India Agro Products*19

Agro Products	Particulars
Grain Crops	Paddy, Ragi, Sugarcane, Groundnut, pulses, cotton, peanuts, dates, Black Pepper, Nutmeg, Kokum, Turmeric, Cinnamon, Gram, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Rice, Millets, Urad, Tur, Moong, Soyabean, Groundnut, Sunflower, Jowar
Vegetables	Sweet Potato, Onion, Tomato, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Okra, Carrot, Radish, Peas, Cucumber, Pumpkin, Bitter Melon, Green Beans, Spinach, Bottle Gourd
Fruits	Mango, Cashew, Coconut, Banana, Pineapple, Jackfruit, Guava, Citrus, Pomegranate, Sapota
Flowers	Red jasmine, Marigold, Jarul, Rose, Dahlia, Hibiscus, Orchids, Gerbera, Anthuriums, Gladiolus

Marigold**



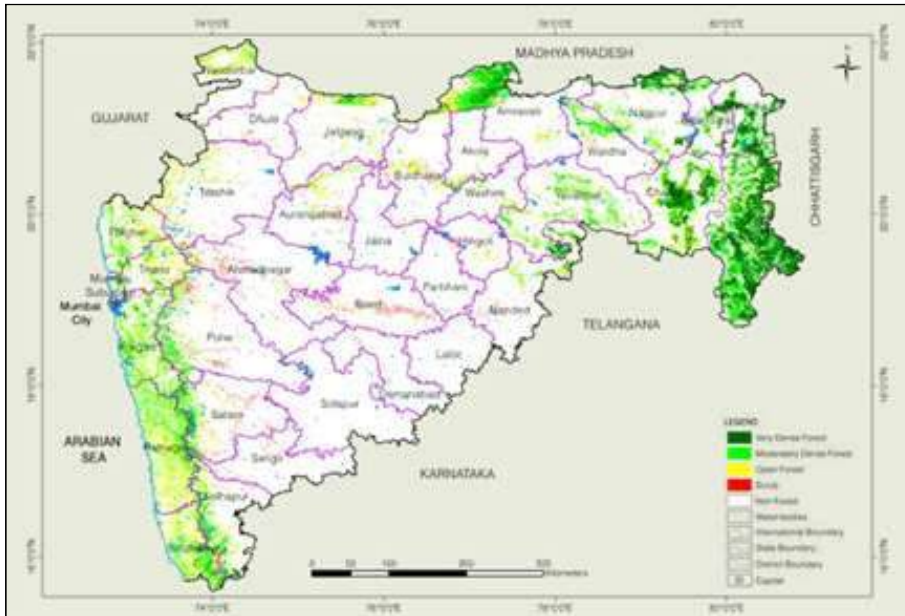
Forest

WERI has sufficient forest. It is the source of several forest products.

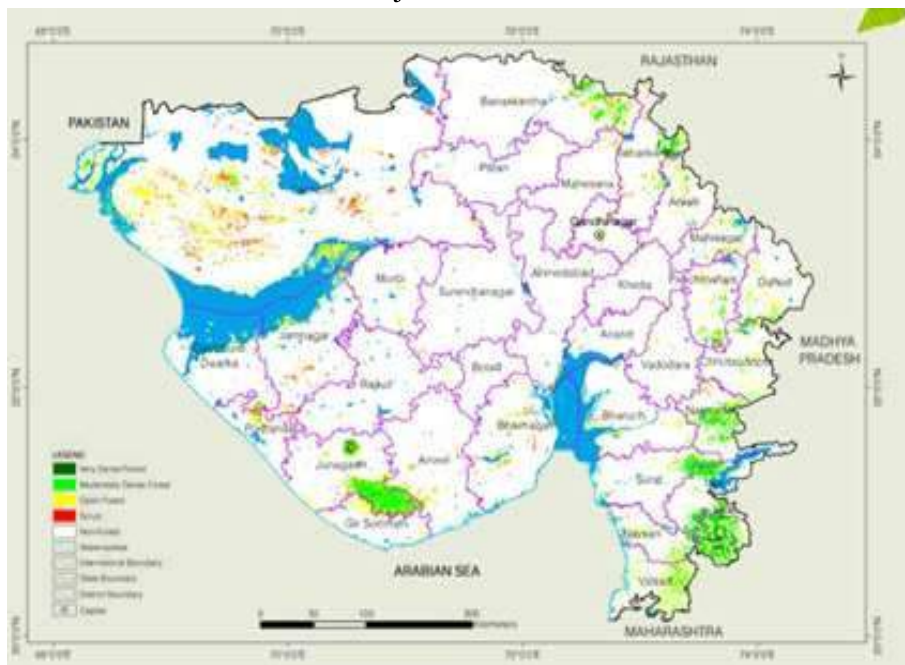
Western Region of India Forest*20

STATE	FOREST COVER
Maharashtra	16.94
Gujarat	10.91
Goa	34.75

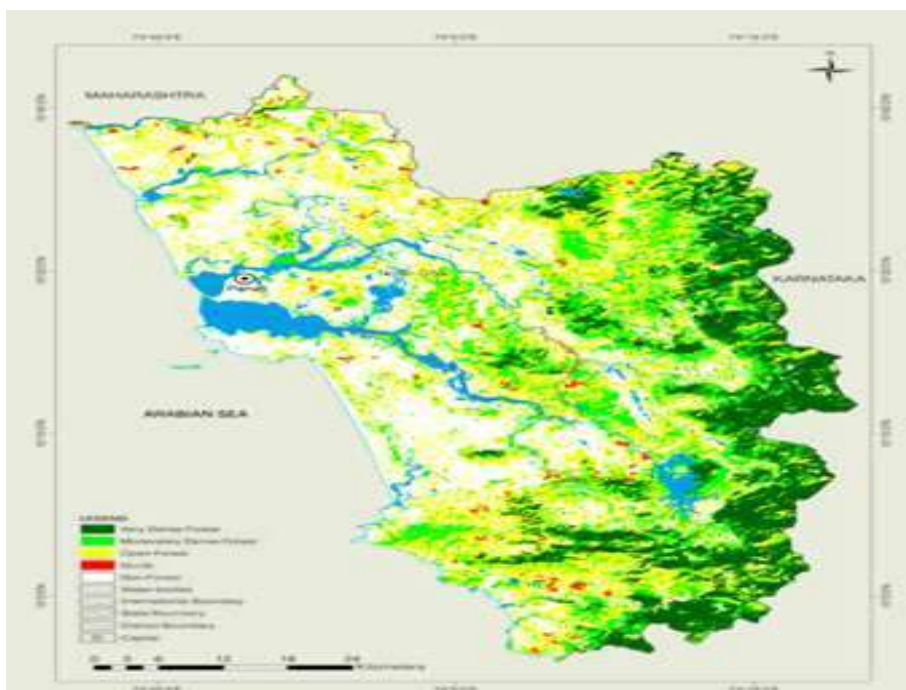
Maharashtra Forest**



Gujarat Forest**



Goa Forest**



Western Region of India Products From Forest*21

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	Teak, Sal, Bamboo, Tendu Leaf, Gum, Harra, Lakh, <u>Khair</u> , <u>Amla</u> , <u>Mahua</u> , <u>Bhilawa</u> , Medicinal Plants, Timber, Fuelwood, Fodder
Gujarat	Timber, Lakh, Honey, Tendu Leaves, Mahua Flowers, Sal Seed, <u>Harra</u> , Gums, Tamarind, <u>Chironji</u> , Bark, <u>Myrobalans</u> , Wood Oil, Resin, Natural Varnish, Peat, Surface Soil, Rocks, Minerals. <u>Neem</u> , <u>Deshi Babool</u> , <u>Ardusa</u>
Goa	Bamboo Canes, Maratha Barks, <u>Chillar Barks</u> , <u>Bhirand</u>

Katkari Tribe**





Western Region Of India Cuisines*22

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Kadhi</u> , <u>Aamti</u> , <u>Basundi</u> , <u>Panha</u> , <u>Karhi</u> , <u>Puran Poli</u> , <u>Vada Pav</u> , <u>Sabudana khichdi</u> , <u>Bhakri</u> , <u>Modak</u> , <u>Bharli Vangi</u> , <u>Rassa</u> , <u>Aamrus</u>
Gujarat	<u>Khaman</u> , <u>Thepla</u> , <u>Khandvi</u> , <u>Undhiyu</u> , <u>Muthiya</u> , <u>Handvo</u> , <u>Sev Tameta nu Shak</u> , <u>Kadhi</u> , <u>Khichu</u> , <u>Ghari</u> , <u>Khakhra</u> , <u>Doodhpak</u> , <u>Dabeli</u> , <u>Ghughra</u> , <u>Gathiya</u>
Goa	<u>Sorpotel</u> , <u>feijoada</u> , <u>sorak</u> , <u>Samarachi Kodi</u> , <u>Patolea</u> , <u>Goan Khatkhate</u> , <u>Sannas</u>

CUISINE**



Western Region of India Specific Hand-Woven Clothes*23

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Paithani</u> , <u>Himru</u> , <u>Ghongadi</u> , <u>Chindi</u>
Gujarat	<u>Bandhani</u> , <u>Kachchh</u> , <u>Tangaliya</u> , <u>Tanchoi Silk</u> , <u>Patola</u>
Goa	<u>Kunbi</u>

Handwoven**



Western Region Of India Handicraft*24

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	Warli Painting, Paithani Sarees, Bidriware
Gujarat	Kutch embroidery, Bandhani Dye, Rogan Art, Patola Sarees
Goa	Coconut Shell Craft, Azulejos Tile Painting

Kutch Embroidery**





Western Region of India Festivals*25

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	Ganesh Chaturthi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, Ellora Festival, Gudi Padwa, Narali Poomima, Diwali, Holi, Makar Sankranti, Nag Panchami, Pola, Janmashtami, <u>Shayani Ekadashi</u> , <u>Bhai Dooj</u> , <u>Dahi Handi</u> , <u>Kala Ghoda Arts Festival</u> , <u>Kojagiri Purnima</u> , Pune Festival, Padwa, Kumbh Mela, Maha Shivaratri, Maharashtra Day, <u>Mangala Gauri</u> , <u>Banganga festival</u>
Gujarat	<u>Navratri Mahotsav</u> , <u>Deepawali</u> , <u>Rathiyatra</u> , Kite festival, <u>Shamlaji Melo</u> , Bhadra Purnima Fair, Mahadev Fair
Goa	Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, <u>Samvatsar Padvo</u> , Christmas,

Ganpati**



Western Region of India Dance*26

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Lavani</u> , <u>Powada</u> , <u>Tamasha</u> , <u>Koli</u> , <u>Bala Dindi</u>
Gujarat	<u>Garba</u> , <u>Matukadi</u> , <u>Dandiya Rass</u> , <u>Padhar</u> , <u>Siddi Dhamal</u>
Goa	<u>Dhalo</u> , <u>Dhangar</u> , <u>Mussoll</u> , <u>Dashavatra</u> , <u>Dulpod</u>

GARBA**



Western Region of India Music*27

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Lavani</u> , <u>Powada</u> , <u>Tamasha</u>
Gujarat	<u>Gujaqri Todi</u> , <u>Bilaval</u> , <u>Sorathi</u> , <u>Khambavati</u> , <u>Ahiri</u> , <u>Lati</u>
Goa	<u>Banvarh</u> , <u>Deknni</u> , <u>Dhalo</u>

Music**



Western Region Of India Songs*28

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Lavani</u> , <u>Powada</u> and <u>Tamasha</u>
Gujarat	<u>Garba</u> , <u>Dandiya Raas</u> , <u>Padhar</u> , <u>Dangi</u> , <u>Tippani</u>
Goa	<u>Mando</u> , <u>Launim</u> , <u>Ovi</u> , <u>Palnnam</u> , <u>Talgarhji</u> , theatre songs, <u>Zagor</u> , <u>Zoti</u>

Songs**



Western Region of India Eco-Tourism*29

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Pench Tiger Reserve</u> , <u>Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve</u> , <u>Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve</u> , <u>Melghat Tiger Reserve</u> , <u>Baner-Pashan Biodiversity Park</u> , <u>Taljai Forest</u>
Gujarat	<u>Kevdi Eco Tourism Site</u> , <u>Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Centre</u> , <u>Padam Dungri Eco Tourism</u> , <u>Siddhpur Matrugaya Tirth</u> , <u>Wild Voyages</u>
Goa	<u>Dudhsagar Waterfalls</u> , <u>Arvalem Waterfalls</u> , <u>Mollem National Park</u>

Dudhsagar Falls**



Western Region of India Cultural Tourism*30

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	Ajanta and Ellora Caves, Shaniwar Wada Fort, Trimbakeshwar Jyotirling
Gujarat	Dwarkadhish Temple, Rani ki Vav, Ahmedabad, Modhera Sun Temple, Somnath Temple
Goa	Aguada Fort, Chapora Fort, Big Foot Museum

Trimbakeshwar Jyotirling**



Ajanta Ellora Caves**



Western Region of India Wild-Tourism*31

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Bhimashankar</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Nagzira</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Radhanagari</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Koyna</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Sagareshwar</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Sudhagad</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Tansa</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Pandulena</u> Wildlife Garden, <u>Tungareshwar</u> Wildlife Sanctuary
Gujarat	Gir National Park, Wild Ass Sanctuary, <u>Nalsarovar</u> Bird Sanctuary, <u>Jessore</u> Sloth Bear Sanctuary
Goa	Bhagwan <u>Mahavir</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Cotigao</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Bondla</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, <u>Netravali</u> Wildlife Sanctuary, <u>Cotigao</u> Wildlife Sanctuary

Wild Tourism**



Gir Forest



Western Region of India Tribal-Tourism*32

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Walvanda</u> , <u>Prushwadi</u> , and <u>Henna</u> , <u>Warli</u> villages
Gujarat	<u>Chhota udepur</u> , <u>Poshina</u> , <u>dang</u> district, <u>kutch</u> , <u>surendranagar</u> , <u>saputara</u>
Goa	<u>Cotigao</u>

Tribal Tour**



Western Region of India Sea Tourism*33

State	Particulars
Maharashtra	<u>Tarkarli Beach</u> , <u>Harihareshwar Beach</u> , <u>Juhu Beach</u> , <u>Ganpatipule Beach</u> , <u>Murud Beach</u> , <u>Guhagar Beach</u> , <u>Malvan Beaches</u>
Gujarat	<u>Mandvi Beach</u> , <u>Nagoa Beach</u> , <u>Dwarka Beach</u> , <u>Gopnath Beach</u> , <u>Tithal Beach</u> , <u>Dandi Beach</u> , <u>Madhavpur</u> , <u>Somnath Beach</u> , <u>Sivrajpur Beach</u> , <u>Dumas Beach</u> , <u>Ubharat Beach</u> , <u>Porbandar Beach</u>
Goa	<u>Anjuna Beach</u> , <u>Baga Beach</u> , <u>Vagator Beach</u> , <u>Calangute Beach</u> , <u>Arambol Beach</u> , <u>Morjim Beach</u> , <u>Palolem Beach</u> , <u>Colva Beach</u> , <u>Agonda Beach</u> , <u>Benaulim Beach</u> , <u>Majorda Beach</u> , <u>Butterfly Beach</u> , <u>Cavelossim Beach</u> , <u>Miramar Beach</u>

Calangute Beach**



Western Region of India Regional Rural Banks (Rrbs)*34
Name, Sponsors, Command Area and Network

State	RRB Name	Sponsor Bank	Head Office	Branch Network
Maharashtra	Maharashtra Gramin Bank MGB	Bank of Maharashtra BOM	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	391
	Vidarbha Konkan Gramin Bank VKGB	Bank of India BOI	Nagpur, Maharashtra	318
Gujarat	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGI	Bank of Baroda BOB	Vadodara, Gujarat	488
	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB	State Bank of India SBI	Rajkot, Gujarat	260
Goa	No RRBS only commercial banks			

Western Region Of India
Regional Rural Banks (Rrbs) Moto with Logo**

Maharashtra	Maharashtra Gramin Bank MGB Developing The Rural Economy	
	Vidarbha Konkan Gramin Bank VKGB Dedicated to Rural Development	
Gujarat	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGB Reaching too Unreached	
	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB Safety Security Growth	

Western Region of India Rrbs-Deposits*35 (Rs In Cr)

Year	Maharashtra MGB	Maharashtra VKGB	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGI	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB	Total Deposits
2020	11425	3812	9147	6185	30569
2021	13540	4513	9952	7090	35095
2022	14677	5310	10757	7749	38493
2023	15578	5455	11825	8637	41495
2024	12703	6363	12859	9840	41765



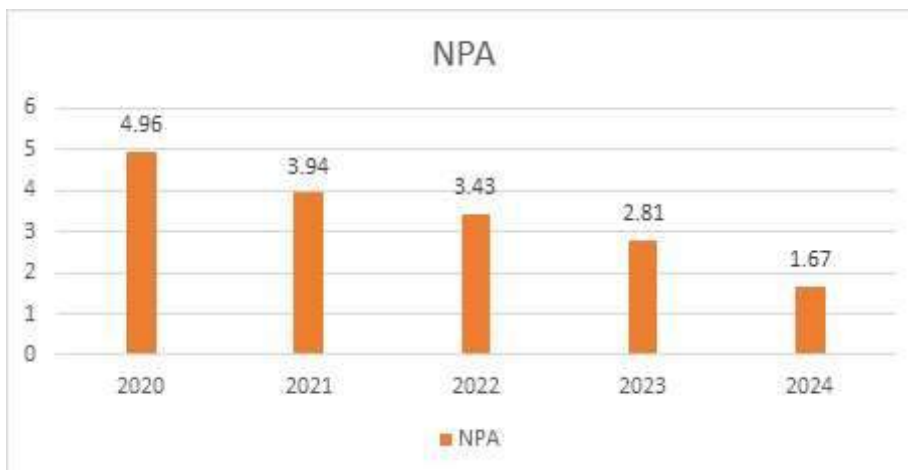
Western Region of India Rrbs-Advances*36 (Rs In Cr)

Year	Maharashtra MGB	Maharashtra VKGB	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGI	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB	Total Advances
2020	4855	1817	4593	4640	15905
2021	6731	2245	4947	5307	19230
2022	5827	3470	4908	5544	19749
2023	9410	3502	6646	6286	25844
2024	11014	3802	7853	7131	29800



Western Region of India RRBs-NPA*37 (Per cent)

Year	Maharashtra MGB	Maharashtra VKGB	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGI	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB	Average NPA
2020	6.23	6.36	3.56	3.67	4.96
2021	6.38	6.02	1.63	1.74	3.94
2022	5.72	5.79	1.01	1.20	3.43
2023	4.64	5.22	0.35	1.04	2.81
2024	2.36	3.35	0	0.95	1.67



Western Region of India RRBs-PROFIT*38 (Rs. In Cr)

Year	Maharashtra MGB	Maharashtra VKGB	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank BGGI	Saurashtra Gramin Bank SGB	Average Profit
2020	27	11	237	235	127.5
2021	53	14	261	243	142.8
2022	5	-22	276	259	129.5
2023	6	8	293	284	147.8
2024	45	30	483	319	219.2



Conclusions-

1. Western Region of India (WERI) has 55745 villages with vast quantity of rural population. It is also several tribes in various areas.
2. The important livelihood of WERI is agriculture and allied activities. It produces various grain crops, fruits, vegetables, and flowers.
3. WERI has sufficient forest. It produces several products based on forests such as fuelwood, fodder, resin, barks, seeds, leaves, roots, tubers, lichens, etc.
4. WERI is linked with sea. It also gains from sea related activities and products.
5. WERI is known for specific hand-woven clothes. These clothes have different varieties.
6. WERI has a tradition of Cuisines. These eatables are veg. and non-veg both. These eatables have enough potential.
7. WERI has forest, hills, and inviting climate. This eco system has tourism potential.
8. WERI has rich tradition of cultural festivals. This festivity has tourism potential.
9. WERI is the home of several tribes. Different Life Style of tribes has potential in tribal tourism.
10. WERI is the habitat of wild animals and birds. Government has declared a specific area as sanctuary or protected area. These parks and sanctuaries have potential as wild tourism.
11. WERI has a tradition of dance, music, and songs. These arts and fine activities have potential as Boredom Buster.
12. For the socio-economic development of RURAL WERI, Indian government with state government and sponsor banks has formed Regional Rural Banks. WERI has such type of 4 banks with network of 1457 branches.
13. Goa is the partner state of the WERI. It is notable that goa has not any RRB. Rural financial needs are fulfilled by other types of banks.
14. In WERI, total deposits (Rs. In Cr) of RRBs in 2020 were 30569, in 2021 were 35095, in 2022 were 38493, in 2023 were 41495, and in 2024 were 41765. It indicates deposits are increasing continuously.
15. In WERI, total advances (Rs. In Cr) of RRBs in 2020 were 15905, in 2021 were 19230, in 2022 were 19749, in 2023 were 25844, and in 2024 were 29800. It indicates advances are increasing continuously.
16. In WERI, the average NPA (percentage) of RRBs in 2020 was 4.96, in 2021 was 3.94, in 2022 was 3.43, in 2023 was 2.81, and in 2024 was 1.67. It indicates NPA is decreasing continuously.
17. In WERI, the average profit (Rs. In Cr) of RRBs in 2020 was 127.5, in 2021 was 142.8, in 2022 was 129.5, in 2023 was 147.8, and in 2024 was 219.2. It indicates that RRBs are earning profits with a dive in the year 2022.

Suggestions-

1. Western Region of India (WERI) has thousands of villages with rural population. It is also the home of various tribes. RRBs have great potential to gain. Banks should prepare specific schemes for WERI with cooperation of state government. Deep research should be done in this regard.
2. The important livelihood of WERI is agriculture and allied activities. RRBs should launch specific schemes to promote organic agro eatables of region in rest India and abroad.
3. WERI has sufficient forest cover. Diverse products are collected from forest such as - bark, seeds, leaves, roots, tubers, lichens, etc. Bank should launch specific schemes to promote these eatables in rest India and abroad.
4. WERI has sea line to explore specific schemes must be launched to explore sea activities and products.
5. Specific hand-woven clothes of WERI are liked by people. Bank should launch specific schemes to promote such clothing with cooperation of tribal and rural development departments of state governments.
6. WERI has a rich tradition of cuisines. Bank should provide financial assistance to idea holders related to WERI cuisines. A food chain named 'WERI - CUISINE' can be launched as Punjabi Dhaba.
7. WERI has forests, hills, and pleasing climate. It has enough eco-tourism potential. Bank should launch Tourist Hut Schemes for villagers. It will increase tourism infrastructure, also increase income of villagers as well as business for bank.
8. WERI has festive tradition. This tradition has also tourism potential. Bank should launch specific schemes with coordination of tourism département of state.
9. WERI has several forest reserve and sanctuaries. Bank with coordination of government should promote Jungle Tourism. Tourists can experience adventure in such wild areas.
10. WERI is the home of several tribes. These tribes have different way of living. Tribal areas have enough tourism potential. Joining the tribal families, tourist can experience tribal way of living. Bank should launch specific schemes for the development of tribal tourism with corporation of tribal development department of state government.
11. WERI has rich tradition of dance, song and music. RRBs should provide financial assistance to event organizers and academies dedicated for such arts of the region.
12. In the WERI, deposits of RRBs are increasing, but it is not enough. RRBs should invite governmental departments, educational organizations, commercial institutions, for their wages, salary and other accounts.

13. In the WERI, advances of RRBs are increasing, but it is not enough. RRBs should provide advances to entrepreneurial idea holders such as hand Loomers, craft creators and tribal cloth weavers etc.
14. In the WERI, average NPA of RRBs are decreasing, but it is not enough. RRBs must implement a work plan to achieve zero NPA target.
15. In the WERI, RRBs are gaining profit. To increase the quantity of profit, RRBs should explore non-traditional dimensions and work in a professional manner.
16. WERI has four Regional Rural Banks. Central Government should amalgamate these RRBs. Sole Regional Rural Bank should be formed for Socio Economic Entrepreneurial Upliftment (SEEUP) of WERI.

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Spatial Variations in In-Migration and Out-migration Patterns in Bihar, India

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Abstract- *The present study tries to analyze spatial variations in the patterns of in-migration and out-migration flows in the state of Bihar during the period of 2001 and 2011. The decadal changes in the flows were examined using the place of birth data. The present study is based on the secondary sources of data taken from the Census of India for two previous censuses viz., 2001 and 2011. For the detailed study of in-migration patterns in the districts of Bihar, top-5 origin states for each district were ranked in terms of their corresponding proportion in total in-migration for the year 2011. The overall analysis of the study reveals that out of total migrants in the state in 2011, the highest migration (~68 per cent) is taking place within the same district in the form of intra-district migration whereas inter-district migration accounted for nearly 27 per cent. Inter-state migration declined during this period from 7.9 per cent in 2001 to 4 per cent in 2011. Whereas the number of total out-migrants of Bihar observed increase from 5.5 million in 2001 to 7.9 million in 2011 with a positive growth (~44 per cent), and the states namely Jharkhand, West Bengal, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were top destinations for the migrants of Bihar accounting for nearly 69 per cent share in total out-migrants. Whereas the total in-migrants decreased during this period from 1.5 million in 2001 to 1.0 million in 2011 showing a negative growth of -23.5 per cent. The states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and NCT of Delhi were major origin states sending migrants to Bihar comprising about 95 per cent share in total in-migrants. The study revealed that in terms of ranking, the highest in-migration in Bihar occurred from three neighbouring states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.*

Keywords: *Total Migrants, Inter-state, Intra-district, Inter-district, In-migration, Out-migration*

Introduction- Migration has been taking place in various forms since the history of mankind started on earth. Migration basically is a change of

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residence from one village/town to another village/town. Together with fertility and death, migration is the third-factor influencing population change since it has a major impact on the social, economic, and demographic makeup of a nation or region's population (White & Woods, 1980). Migration is the result of imbalances that arose during the development process and has historically been intimately linked to social and economic growth in India (Sorensen et al., 2002). As a result, the people of less affluent areas migrate to the most affluent areas for better employment opportunities, improving living standard, health and educational facilities (Kumari et al., 2022). The relationship of migration with that of development can be traced from the fact that after moving out from their native place, migrants send remittances to their families, to meet the expenses on food, healthcare, education and other basic needs. These remittances play an important role in increasing income of migrants' households and in helping them come out of poverty (Bhaskaran & Mehta, 2010; Kumar & Bhagat, 2019). Moreover, migration affects the economies of origin and destination regions by transforming the lives of people of both regions during this process (Oberai, 1980; Deshpande, 1998). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reaffirmed the connection between migration and development and acknowledged the potential role of urbanization in sustainable development, further reinforced this strategy. However, the relationship between migration and development has never been linear. It depends on different types of migration, such as voluntary versus forced migration, seasonal/temporary versus permanent/semi-permanent migration, and other social forms of migration, such as affluent versus poor, privileged versus deprived, non-scheduled versus scheduled castes/tribes, male versus female migration, and so forth (Bhagat et al., 2020).

One of India's most backward states, Bihar continues to have high rates of unemployment and poverty, which drives people to migrate to more developed areas in quest of work and a better life (Sharma, 2005). As per the Planning Commission data for the year 2011-12, in Bihar, the highest percentage of people (33.7 per cent) lived below the poverty line. Bihar has the lowest per capita income among the major Indian states and the lowest literacy rate (61.8%) in the nation, according to the 2011 Census. In the state, 90 percent of residents live in rural areas, where the poverty rate is comparatively high at 34.1 per cent. Bihar's unemployment issue is a result of the uneven distribution of land in rural areas, which leaves a large number of agricultural laborers and marginal farmers in need of extra work possibilities in order to make ends meet. The unemployment rate of rural male population in Bihar was 27 per thousand in 2011 as against national average of 17. Hence, this leads to high rural-urban migration. Bihar is the second largest state after Uttar Pradesh in terms of volume of out-migration. According to recent research, almost 60 percent of families in Bihar report that they have sent migrants abroad to improve their living conditions, and 53 per cent of households have sent migrants abroad in search of work or business (Roy et al., 2020). Kumar and Bhagat (2012) opined that poverty

and under-development in the state are the main reasons for out-migration along with the heavy reliance on agriculture, institutional conditions, lack of industrialization, and other socio-economic conditions. Rural residents are also migrating to urban areas as a result of declining agricultural returns over time as a result of low yields, rising rates of landlessness, and a lack of state funding (Sharma, 2005). Another significant work by Parganiha et al. (2009) found that a higher rate of out-migration exists among landless farmers and in less developed agricultural areas. However, in a recent study on North Bihar, Kumari et al. (2022) observed that migration from landowning households increased during last few decades due to stagnant agricultural production, crop losses due to frequent occurrence of floods and poor infrastructure for agricultural production and unavailability of non-farm activities are also pushing youngster of even large size household to outside of Bihar.

Keeping the above facts in mind, the present study aimed to examine district-wise patterns of in-migration and out-migration flows among top-10 States and UTs during 2001 and 2011 in the state of Bihar of India during the period of 2001 and 2011. The changes in total migrants, intra-district, inter-district, and inter-state migration were also examined for the state during this period. For detailed study of in-migration patterns in the state, top-5 origin States and UTs of in-migrants to Bihar were ranked for each district for the recent census of 2011.

The Study Area- Bihar lies in the most fertile Indo-Gangetic plains of India. Jharkhand was created as a separate state following the division of Bihar in 2000. Its geographical coordinates are 24°20'10" to 27°31'15" North latitudes and 83°19'50" to 88°17'40" East longitudes. There are 38 districts in the current state of Bihar, up from 37 in the 2001 census. After Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar is the third most populous and eleventh largest state in India by area. With just 2.8 per cent of the nation's land area, it sustains 8.8 per cent of its inhabitants. According to data from the 2011 Census, the population of Bihar is estimated to be 104 million, increased by 25.1 per cent between 2001 and 2011. The census 2011 saw the state's greatest population density (1,106 people/square km). In 2011, the state's level of urbanization was only 11.3 per cent, far less than the 31.2 per cent national average. Seventy percent of the working population in rural areas is employed in agriculture, which accounts for sixteen percent of the state's GDP. Flood has been the recurring phenomenon of north Bihar which leads to submergence of fertile lands and affects human and animal lives, physical assets and livelihoods of people (Kumari et al., 2022).

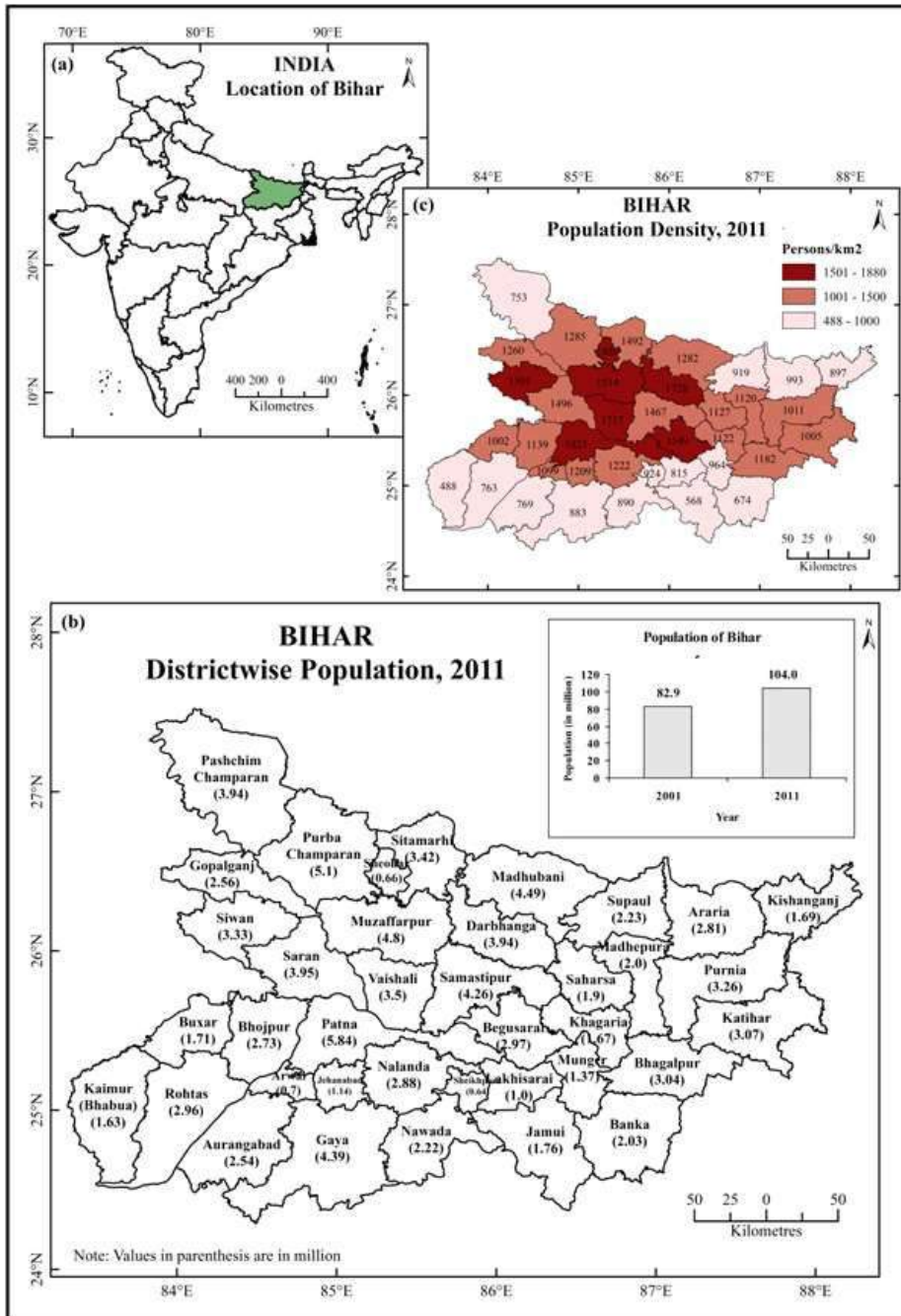


Figure 1: Location map of Bihar: **a.** Location of Bihar in India, **b.** District-wise population of Bihar (in million), 2011, **c.** Population density of Bihar (persons/sq.km.), 2011

Data Sources and Methodology- The present study is based on the secondary sources of data taken from the Census of India. The study is based on the previous two censuses i.e., 2001 and 2011. The census provides

migration data in the form of tables (D-Series) based on two basic criteria i.e., place of birth and place of last residence. If a person is counted in a census location other than their birthplace, they are regarded as migrants by birthplace. However, if a person's place of enumeration during a census is different from their place of immediate last habitation, they are classified as migrants by place of last residence. Since place of birth data is the easiest to classify in terms of in-migration and out-migration and is also the most comprehensible, it is chosen as the appropriate criterion for this study. The population statistics used in this study came from the respective years' Primary Census Abstracts. Additional information was obtained from numerous additional government publications.

Total migrants are those who were born elsewhere from the place of enumeration during the census period. Total migrants can be calculated by subtracting the population born at the place of enumeration from the total population of that place. Migration within the periphery of a district is termed as intra-district migration and out-side the periphery in the same state is called as inter-district migration. Both intra and inter-district migration is considered as intra-state migration. Whereas, inter-state migration is that in which people migrate to other states of the country. International migrants are the ones who were born outside the country and counted at the place of enumeration. For the analysis, the district-wise in-migration and out-migration patterns in Bihar were examined. *In-migration* refers to the movement into a particular area, while *out-migration* refers to the movement out of a particular area, both referring to the movements within a country termed as *internal migration*. For further analysis, the data of the top-10 Origin and Destination states of migrants in Bihar were computed from migration tables (D-1 series).

For the computation of top-five origin States and UTs in each district of Bihar during 2011, *Ranking Method* was used. The states were arranged in descending order of their share of migrants in corresponding district and top five of them were listed in order of their ranks, this procedure was followed for all 38 districts of Bihar and abbreviations were used to illustrate them (see Fig. 3). In a similar way the districts (top-10) of Origin and Destination States and UTs were ranked according to their percentage share in in-migration and out-migration of Bihar, respectively (see Table 3 & 4).

For the computation and analysis of data, Microsoft Excel software was used. Simple statistical techniques like percentages, and growth/change were used to represent the data in the forms of tables and figures. ArcMap 10.x software was used for data visualization through maps.

Result and Discussions

Patterns of Migration in India- In India "mobile" population, those who were enumerated at a place other than their place of birth, were 145 million in 1961, this has increased to 167 million and 204 million in 1971 and 1981 while its share in the total population was 33.0 per cent, 30.4 per cent and 30.2 per cent, respectively in corresponding years (Kundu, 1986; Kundu & Gupta, 1996). According to the census 2011, India recorded a total of 447

million migrants which were about 37 per cent of its total population. This showed an increase of 140 million migrants to its previous census 2001 figure of 307 million (29.9 per cent) recording a growth rate of 45.6 per cent during this period (Table 1). It is evident from the table that urban areas recorded a high growth rate in migration as compared to rural areas because urban areas received more migrants than their rural counterparts during this period. After the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, the migration of people from rural to urban areas accelerated which pushed more numbers of rural people to metropolitan areas to seek better employment opportunities (Kundu & Gupta, 1996).

Table 1
Population classified by place of birth in India, 2001 and 2011
(in millions)

Migration by distance	2001			2011			Growth rate (2001-2011)		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Total Population	1,028.6	742.5	286.1	1,210.9	833.7	377.1	17.7	12.3	31.8
Total Migrants	307.2 (29.9)	204.8 (27.6)	102.3 (35.8)	447.3 (36.9)	273.2 (32.8)	174.1 (46.2)	45.6	33.4	70.2
Intra-district or short distance	181.8 (59.2)	147.0 (71.8)	34.8 (34.0)	264.1 (59.0)	194.0 (71.0)	70.1 (40.3)	45.3	32.0	101.4
Inter-district or medium distance	76.8 (25.0)	40.8 (19.9)	36.1 (35.3)	121.2 (27.1)	60.5 (22.2)	60.7 (34.9)	57.8	48.5	68.2
Inter-state or long distance	42.3 (13.8)	14.0 (6.8)	28.3 (27.7)	56.3 (12.6)	16.1 (5.9)	40.2 (23.1)	33.0	14.7	42.0
International/From abroad	6.2 (2.0)	3.1 (1.5)	3.1 (3.0)	5.4 (1.2)	2.5 (0.9)	2.9 (1.7)	-13.0	-20.4	-5.7

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2001 & 2011

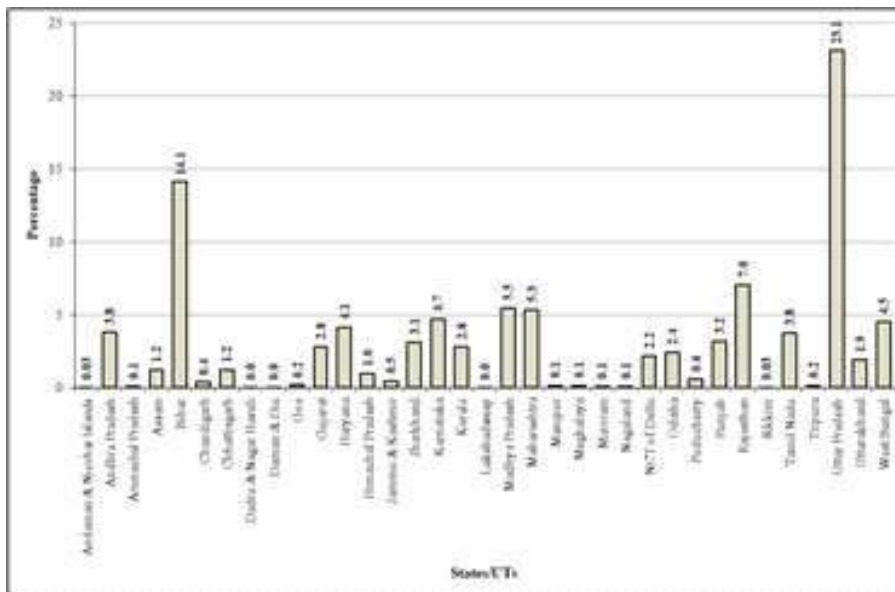
Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent; T=Total, R=Rural, U=Urban

Distance is an important variable of migration study. The laws of migration as propounded by Ravenstein (1885) states that the volume of migration is inversely proportional to the distance of the absorption centre. As the distance of destination region increases the volume of migration decreases (Singh, 1984). Internal migration can be classified into short, medium, and long-distance migrations as per the distance travelled by the people (Khan et al., 2011). In 2011, out of the total migrants; those who were born elsewhere from their place of enumeration, nearly 59 per cent were the intra-district (born in the same district but outside the place of enumeration) or short-distance migration, about 27 per cent were inter-district (born outside of the district of enumeration but within the state of enumeration) or medium distance migration, and 12.6 per cent were the inter-state (born in other states of India) or long-distance migration. As depicted in Table 1, the maximum numbers of people migrate over short distances within the same district and showed high positive growth in urban areas (101.4 per cent) as compared to rural areas (32 per cent) during this period. As far as international migrants are concerned, those who were born outside India, the number of international migrants were 6.2 million (2 per cent of total

migrants) in 2001 decreased to 5.4 million (1.2 per cent) in 2011, this showed a decrease of -13 per cent during this period. Rural areas recorded high negative growth (-20.4 per cent) as compared to urban areas (-5.7 per cent).

As shown in Fig. 2, out of total inter-state migrants (56.3 million) in the country in 2011, two states namely, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar contributed the major share with 23.1 and 14.1 per cent, respectively followed by Rajasthan (7 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (5.5 per cent) and Maharashtra (5.3 per cent). Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the most populous states of India, and agriculture is the major occupation of people in rural areas. Secondary and tertiary sectors are not well developed to absorb rural labour force. Hence, lack of employment opportunities in these states pushes people to migrate from these states to other developed states (Das & Saha, 2013). The study by Saha and Bahal (2014) revealed that, another reason of migration of people might be the constraints related with agriculture of these states like decreasing land-man ratio, poor socio-economic condition of the farmers, vagaries of nature in agriculture, new risks from environmental deterioration, etc. Recent migration trend in the country is mostly to shift from rural to urban area. According to Satapathy and Mishra (2014), mostly the people of working age group of 25 to 50 years move out of villages to cities for better job opportunities because village based jobs are not sufficient enough to meet their family requirements. Also, to have a dignified employment devoid of caste based repercussions is the reason for migration (Roy, 2016).

Figure 2: State-wise percentage of inter-state migration in India, 2011



Patterns of Migration in Bihar- Based on place of birth, there were in total

26.7 million migrants in Bihar as per 2011 census which makes 25.7 per cent of the total population (Table 2). This showed an increase of 33.7 per cent from the previous census figure of 19.9 million (24.1 per cent). Urban areas recorded the highest growth (65.2 per cent) in the migrant population during this period (2001-2011). Out of the total migrants in 2011, 68.2 per cent were reported as intra-district migrants and 26.6 per cent were inter-district migrants. Inter-state migration recorded a sharp decline from 1.58 million to 1.07 million during the last decade recording a negative growth of -32.6 per cent. A close examination of census data revealed that out of 34 states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar, 26 of them showed a decreasing trend during the last decade, with as much as 6,07,558 persons were excluded from the migration flow. Of which, the major states like Assam, Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab showed a decline of 5,74,740 persons. However, the states namely, Himachal Pradesh, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, and Lakshadweep showed a growth of 91,745 persons during this period. Migrants from abroad showed a positive growth (43.6 per cent) during this period, most of the growth occurred in the rural areas (52.5 per cent).

Table 2
Population classified by place of birth in Bihar, 2001 and 2011
(in millions)

Migration by distance	2001			2011			Growth rate (2001-2011)		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Total Population	82.9	74.3	8.6	104.1	92.3	11.8	25.4	24.3	35.4
Total Migrants	19.9 (24.1)	17.6 (23.7)	2.36 (27.2)	26.7 (25.7)	22.8 (24.7)	3.9 (33.2)	33.7	29.5	65.2
Intra-district or short distance	13.66 (68.4)	12.55 (71.2)	1.11 (47.0)	18.23 (68.2)	16.0 (70.1)	2.23 (57.1)	33.4	27.5	100.6
Inter-district or medium distance	4.53 (22.7)	3.59 (20.3)	0.95 (40.1)	7.12 (26.6)	5.74 (25.2)	1.38 (35.3)	57.1	60.1	45.7
Inter-state or long distance	1.58 (7.9)	1.31 (7.4)	0.28 (11.7)	1.07 (4.0)	0.8 (3.5)	0.26 (6.7)	-32.6	-38.4	-5.1
International	0.21 (1.1)	0.18 (1.0)	0.03 (1.1)	0.31 (1.1)	0.28 (1.2)	0.03 (0.8)	44.1	48.8	11.8
Total in-migrants	1.79 (9.0)	1.49 (8.50)	0.3 (12.9)	1.37 (5.1)	1.08 (4.7)	0.29 (7.5)	-23.5	-27.6	-3.6
Total out-migrants	5.5 (6.7)	1.5 (2.0)	4.0 (46.4)	7.9 (7.6)	1.8 (2.0)	6.1 (52.0)	43.6	20.0	52.5

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2001 & 2011,

Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent, T=Total, R=Rural, U=Urban

As illustrated in Table 2, Bihar is the recipient of a total of 1.37 million in-migrants (5.1 per cent of total migrants) in the year 2011 who were born in other states and UTs of the country and from abroad, this figure was 1.8 million in 2001 which accounted for 9 per cent of total migrant's population of the state showed a decrease of -23.5 per cent between 2001 and 2011. The highest decline

(-27.6 per cent) was recorded in rural areas. In 2001, the total out-migrants of Bihar (those who were born in Bihar but enumerated in other states) were 5.5 million (6.7 per cent of the total population) which showed an increase of 43.6 per cent, and in 2011 about 8 million people (7.6 per cent) were out-migrated to other states and UTs of India. Most of the out-migrants were enumerated in urban areas (52 per cent) of their destination states while rural areas accounted for only 2 per cent migrants (Table 2). This indicates that during this period urban areas have been the major destination of out-migrants. The studies indicated that during 1960s and 1970s, most of the out-migration from Bihar occurred in rural areas of agriculturally developed states like Punjab and Haryana as seasonal workers but the recent movements towards urban centres like Delhi, Mumbai, Surat, Kolkata, Hyderabad etc. are more permanent (Karan, 2003; Kumar and Bhagat, 2012). It has been found that high poverty and unemployment in their places of origin, wage differences, and attraction towards urban lifestyle are the major factors for their migration to the cities. Recent studies found that for the first time in Indian Census history, the volume of urban-urban migration overtook the rural-urban migration in the last intercensal period. Also, the addition of 2,700 new Census Towns in the 2011 Census may be the real driving force for this staggering increase (Sethi, et al., 2010; Ansary, 2018). Increasing job opportunities in a variety of occupations in major cities as compared to small towns gave rise to the urban-urban migration stream in India (Kundu and Sarangi, 2007; Srivastava, 2012).

In-migration patterns- Data of in-migrants in Bihar from top 10 states and UTs for 2001 and 2011 is given in Table 3. It also depicts the share of in-migrants from the corresponding states to the top 10 migrants receiving districts of Bihar. It is evident from the table that in 2011 the highest in-migration in Bihar state was received from Jharkhand (40.6 per cent of total in-migrants from states and UTs); it was followed by Uttar Pradesh (29.9 per cent) and West Bengal (21.1 per cent), other states were in order of Assam, NCT of Delhi, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. In 2001, this order was like Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, West Bengal, Nagaland, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Uttranchal, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa (Table 3).

Table 3
In-migrants of Bihar from
Top-10 Origin States & UTs of India, 2001 and 2011

S. No.	Origin States/UTs		Top-10 migrant receiving districts of Bihar, 2011
	No. of persons, 2001	No. of persons, 2011	
1.	Uttar Pradesh 4,34,051 (27.4)	Jharkhand 4,32,808 (40.6)	Banka (14.1), Aurangabad (12.9), Bhagalpur (12.7), Gaya (11.4), Jamui (8.7), Patna (7.5), Rohtas (7.3), Nawada (4.6), Katihar (2.8), Munger (1.9), Other districts (16.2)
2.	Jharkhand 3,39,297 (21.4)	Uttar Pradesh 3,18,803 (29.9)	Gopalganj (23.6), Kaimur (Bhabua) (16.1), Siwan (13.2), Buxar (12.0), Pashchim Champaran (10.6), Patna (4.1), Bhojpur (4.0), Saran (3.5), Rohtas (3.3), Muzaffarpur (1.1), Other districts (8.6)
3.	Assam 1,33,758 (8.5)	West Bengal 2,24,901	Katihar (26.3), Kishanganj (18.6), Patna (6.5), Purnia (5.9), Bhagalpur (3.4), Jamui (2.7), Begusarai (2.5),

		(21.1)	<u>Munger</u> (2.3), <u>Samastipur</u> (2.2), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (2.2), Other districts (27.5)
4.	West Bengal 1,26,499 (8.0)	Assam 14,156 (1.3)	<u>Muzaffarpur</u> (14.1), <u>Purba Champaran</u> (11.0), <u>Gopalganj</u> (7.3), <u>Vaishali</u> (6.5), <u>Sitamarhi</u> (5.5), <u>Saran</u> (5.4), <u>Patna</u> (5.4), <u>Siwan</u> (5.4), <u>Katihar</u> (4.6), <u>Kishanganj</u> (4.0), Other districts (30.7)
5.	Nagaland 1,01,267 (6.4)	NCT of Delhi 14,099 (1.3)	<u>Patna</u> (13.1), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (6.3), <u>Madhubani</u> (5.5), <u>Darbhanga</u> (5.2), <u>Sitamarhi</u> (5.0), <u>Samastipur</u> (4.7), <u>Purba Champaran</u> (4.1), <u>Begusarai</u> (3.4), <u>Purnia</u> (3.2), <u>Katihar</u> (3.0), Other districts (46.3)
6.	Chhattisgarh 90,469 (5.7)	Maharashtra 8,261 (0.8)	<u>Patna</u> (11.4), <u>Darbhanga</u> (6.1), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (6.0), <u>Sitamarhi</u> (5.5), <u>Madhubani</u> (4.9), <u>Gaya</u> (4.2), <u>Purba Champaran</u> (3.7), <u>Rohtas</u> (3.4), <u>Siwan</u> (3.1), <u>Gopalganj</u> (3.0), Other districts (48.7)
7.	Gujarat 65,996 (4.2)	Jammu & Kashmir 7,797 (0.7)	<u>Begusarai</u> (5.9), <u>Nalanda</u> (5.3), <u>Patna</u> (5.1), <u>Aurangabad</u> (4.9), <u>Bhagalpur</u> (4.8), <u>Gopalganj</u> (4.4), <u>Saharsa</u> (4.4), <u>Supaul</u> (4.4), <u>Bhojpur</u> (4.2), <u>Kishanganj</u> (4.1), Other districts (52.5)
8.	Uttaranchal 63,527 (4.0)	Rajasthan 7,288 (0.7)	<u>Patna</u> (15.2), <u>Kishanganj</u> (11.3), <u>Araria</u> (10.5), <u>Purnia</u> (9.8), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (6.1), <u>Katihar</u> (4.7), <u>Bhagalpur</u> (4.1), <u>Gaya</u> (2.9), <u>Samastipur</u> (2.6), <u>Darbhanga</u> (2.4), Other districts (30.3)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir 43,737 (2.8)	Odisha 5,799 (0.5)	<u>Patna</u> (18.7), <u>Gaya</u> (8.3), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (4.4), <u>Bhagalpur</u> (4.1), <u>Aurangabad</u> (4.1), <u>Nalanda</u> (3.9), <u>Begusarai</u> (3.8), <u>Samastipur</u> (3.6), <u>Bhojpur</u> (3.5), <u>Saran</u> (3.5), Other districts (42.1)
10.	Orissa 42,215 (2.7)	Madhya Pradesh 5,607 (0.5)	<u>Patna</u> (16.3), <u>Rohtas</u> (9.6), <u>Gopalganj</u> (4.8), <u>Bhojpur</u> (4.8), <u>Aurangabad</u> (4.6), <u>Gaya</u> (4.3), <u>Siwan</u> (4.0), <u>Kaimur (Bhabua)</u> (3.8), <u>Muzaffarpur</u> (3.6), <u>Saran</u> (3.5), Other districts (40.5)
11.	Total 15,82,339 (100.0)	Total 10,66,526 (100.0)	-

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2011

Note: Values in parenthesis are in per cent of total in-migrants

There is almost 20 per cent increase in in-migrants from Jharkhand between 2001 and 2011, which is basically due to the fact that Jharkhand and Bihar were united before 2000. It was only after 2001 that population of these two states were being considered as migrants with respect to each other. The districts of Bihar that received high in-migration from Jharkhand were namely, Banka, Aurangabad, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Patna, Rohtas, Nawada, Katihar and Munger (Table 3). Except for Patna and Munger, all the districts are lying at the borders of both the states (Fig. 1 & 3). In-migration from Uttar Pradesh showed a decline during this period (from 4,34,051 persons in 2001 to 3,18,803 persons in 2011) placing it at the second rank. From UP, high in-migration was noticed in the districts of Gopalganj, Kaimur (Bhabua), Siwan, Buxer, and Pashchim Champaran of Bihar with a significant share of 23.6 per cent, 16.1 per cent, 13.2 per cent, 12 per cent and 10.6 per cent, respectively. High male migration was noticed in four districts namely, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Rohtas, and Saran, the remaining districts showed high female migration. From West Bengal, out of total 2,24,901 in-migrants (21.1 per cent), a significant share of about 26 per cent

and 18 per cent, respectively moved to the bordering districts of Katihar and Kishanganj. Only four districts namely, Kishanganj, Muzaffarpur, Patna and Purnia showed the dominance of male migration. It is interesting to note that in-migration from Assam showed a significant decline from 8.5 per cent in 2001 to 1.3 per cent in 2011. The district of Muzaffarpur, Purba Champaran, Gopalganj, Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Saran and Patna received above 5 per cent share of in-migrants from Assam. Though the share of in-migrants from NCT of Delhi is small but the state shows positive growth from 0.2 per cent in 2001 to 1.3 per cent in 2011. The high inflow from NCT of Delhi was seen in Patna, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi districts. The states of Nagaland, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Uttranchal and Jammu and Kashmir which were having a significant share of 6.4 per cent, 5.7 per cent, 4.2 per cent, 4.0 per cent, and 2.8 per cent, respectively in 2001 has shown reduction in their percentage share. Other states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar during 2011 were namely, Maharashtra (0.8 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (0.7 per cent), Rajasthan (0.7 per cent), Odisha (0.5 per cent), and Madhya Pradesh (0.5 per cent).

The patterns of in-migration in Bihar from the top-five migrants sending states and UTs in order of their ranks in all 38 districts of the state for 2011 is depicted in Fig. 3. It has been noticed from the figure that there have been a total of 13 states and UTs sending migrants to Bihar amongst top five ranks. It is seen that there have been three states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh ranked at first place in 16, 15, and 7 districts, respectively. This shows that the highest in-migration in Bihar took place from the neighbouring states. All the southern districts making border with Jharkhand had high in-migration from respective state. The districts lying north bordering Nepal and in east making border with West Bengal had high in-migration from the latter, and the westernmost districts registered largest in-migration from Uttar Pradesh. Nearly four states namely, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam secured second rank in 19, 15, 3, and 1 district, respectively. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal secured third rank in nearly 27, 7, and 4 districts, respectively, and as fourth rank by seven states namely, NCT of Delhi, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh secured their respective ranks in 14, 9, 8, 3, 2, 1, 1 districts, respectively. As fifth rank, the states of NCT of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh were in order of 16, 7, 5, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 district, respectively.

Out-migration patterns- The share of out-migrants of Bihar to top-10 States and UTs during 2001 and 2011 is shown in Table 4. It also depicts the top-10 destination districts of the out-migrants to corresponding states for the year 2011. It can be seen that most of the out-migration from Bihar was towards five states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra altogether contributing about 69 per cent of the total out-migration in 2011.

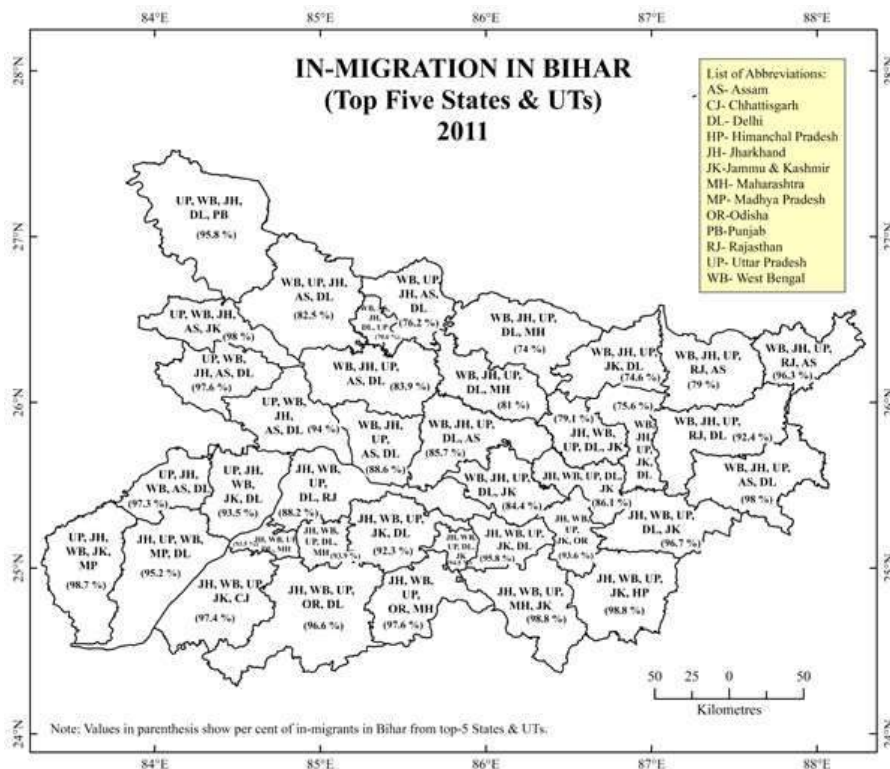


Figure 3: District-wise ranking of top-5 origin States & UTs sending migrants to Bihar, 2011

The significant shares of out-migrants were also reported in Haryana (5.3 per cent), Gujarat (5.1 per cent), Punjab (4.7 per cent), Assam (2.2 per cent), and Chhattisgarh (2 per cent). If we compare these figures with 2001, it is clear that in 2011, Jharkhand and West Bengal were the top destinations of migrants but their share in total out-migrants has decreased in the year 2011. Out-migrants to Assam also showed a decline from 3.1 per cent in 2001 to 2.2 per cent in 2011. In contrast, the shares of other states like NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, and Punjab showed an increasing trend. It is worth mentioning that after the bifurcation of Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh in 2000, the movements of migrants were entirely towards Chhattisgarh in 2011. The districts of Jharkhand which received above 10 per cent share of in-migration from Bihar were namely, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum. In West Bengal high in-migration was noticed in Kolkata, Bardhaman, North Twenty Four Parganas, Hugli and Haora. A significant share of migrants towards NCT of Delhi was seen in North West, South, South West and West Delhi. The districts of Ghaziabad, Kushinagar, Deoria, Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh received high percentage of migrants from Bihar. In Mumbai, the districts which received significant share were namely, Thane, Mumbai

Suburban, Pune and Mumbai.

Table 4
Out-migrants of Bihar to
Top-10 Destination States & UTs of India, 2001 and 2011

S. No.	Destination States/UTs		Top-10 Districts Receiving Migrants from Bihar, 2011
	Persons, 2001	Persons, 2011	
1.	West Bengal 11,60,593 (20.9)	Jharkhand 14,00,858 (17.6)	<u>Dhanbad</u> (18.1), <u>Ranchi</u> (14.6), <u>Bokaro</u> (12.9), <u>Purbi Singhbhum</u> (12.0), <u>Godda</u> (6.0), <u>Deoghhar</u> (5.2), <u>Palamu</u> (4.7), <u>Saraikela-Kharsawan</u> (3.3), <u>Ramgarh</u> (3.2), <u>Hazaribagh</u> (2.8), Other districts (17.3)
2.	Jharkhand 11,23,383 (20.3)	West Bengal 11,49,023 (14.5)	<u>Kolkata</u> (17.9), <u>Bardhaman</u> (16.4), North Twenty Four <u>Parganas</u> (14.4), <u>Hugli</u> (10.4), <u>Haora</u> (10.1), <u>Uttar Dinajpur</u> (6.3), <u>Darjiling</u> (5.4), <u>Jalpaiguri</u> (4.7), <u>Maldah</u> (4.3), South Twenty Four <u>Parganas</u> (4.2), Other districts (5.9)
3.	Delhi 7,37,867 (13.3)	NCT of Delhi 11,47,717 (14.4)	North West (24.5), South (20.3), South West (19.2), West (15.7), East (8.0), North East (5.7), North (4.5), Central (1.4), New Delhi (0.8)
4.	Uttar Pradesh 6,47,858 (11.7)	Uttar Pradesh 11,21,436 (14.1)	<u>Ghaziabad</u> (12.1), <u>Kushinagar</u> (10.4), <u>Deoria</u> (8.9), <u>Gautam Buddha Nagar</u> (8.0), <u>Ballia</u> (6.2), <u>Chandauli</u> (5.5), <u>Ghazipur</u> (5.0), <u>Varanasi</u> (4.5), <u>Lucknow</u> (4.0), <u>Sonbhadra</u> (3.1), Other districts (32.3)
5.	Maharashtra 3,86,799 (7.0)	Maharashtra 6,31,269 (7.9)	<u>Thane</u> (33.1), <u>Mumbai Suburban</u> (24.6), <u>Pune</u> (11.2), <u>Mumbai</u> (10.3), <u>Nagpur</u> (4.8), <u>Nashik</u> (4.4), <u>Raigarh</u> (4.3), <u>Chandrapur</u> (1.4), <u>Kolhapur</u> (0.8), <u>Aurangabad</u> (0.7), Other districts (4.5)
6.	Haryana 2,46,245 (4.4)	Haryana 4,24,539 (5.3)	<u>Faridabad</u> (28.5), <u>Gurgaon</u> (18.6), <u>Panipat</u> (9.1), <u>Karnal</u> (7.9), <u>Sonapat</u> (5.3), <u>Yamunanagar</u> (4.6), <u>Kurukshetra</u> (3.5), <u>Ambala</u> (3.0), <u>Panchkula</u> (2.9), <u>Hisar</u> (2.8), Other districts (13.7)
7.	Punjab 2,45,445 (4.4)	Gujarat 4,02,876 (5.1)	<u>Surat</u> (50.2), <u>Ahmadabad</u> (9.8), <u>Valsad</u> (9.5), <u>Kachchh</u> (7.8), <u>Vadodara</u> (4.4), <u>Bharuch</u> (4.2), <u>Rajkot</u> (3.8), <u>Jamnagar</u> (2.3), <u>Gandhinagar</u> (1.4), <u>Bhavnagar</u> (1.3), Other districts (5.4)
8.	Assam 1,72,825 (3.1)	Punjab 3,75,507 (4.7)	<u>Ludhiana</u> (35.0), <u>Jalandhar</u> (12.5), <u>Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar</u> (6.8), <u>Kapurthala</u> (5.7), <u>Bathinda</u> (5.1), <u>Amritsar</u> (4.7), <u>Patiala</u> (4.7), <u>Hoshiarpur</u> (4.5), <u>Fatehgarh Sahib</u> (3.6), <u>Sangrur</u> (3.3), Other districts (14.2)
9.	Gujarat 1,72,357 (3.1)	Assam 1,72,542 (2.2)	<u>Kamrup Metropolitan</u> (22.3), <u>Tinsukia</u> (15.7), <u>Dibrugarh</u> (9.4), <u>Sonitpur</u> (7.0), <u>Nagaon</u> (5.9), <u>Sivasagar</u> (5.6), <u>Jorhat</u> (5.2), <u>Karbi Anglong</u> (4.6), <u>Golaghat</u> (3.2), <u>Bongaigaon</u> (2.8), Other districts (18.2)
10.	Madhya Pradesh 1,02,203 (1.8)	Chhattisgarh 1,58,581 (2.0)	<u>Durg</u> (25.4), <u>Raipur</u> (20.0), <u>Korba</u> (12.2), <u>Surguja</u> (10.5), <u>Raigarh</u> (9.0), <u>Bilaspur</u> (6.1), <u>Koriya</u> (4.8), <u>Bastar</u> (2.5), <u>Janjgir – Champa</u> (2.2), <u>Rajnandgaon</u> (2.0), Other districts (5.2)
11.	Total 55,43,124 (100.0)	Total 79,49,853 (100.0)	-

Source: Computed from Table: D-1, Census of India, 2011

Note: Values in parenthesis represent percentages share of out-migrants.

A detailed study of district-wise patterns of out-migration showed that, of the total 14,00,858 out-migrants to Jharkhand in 2011, high male migration has been reported in the urban areas of Dhanbad, Ranchi, Bokaro, Purbi Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh districts. In West Bengal, males outnumber females in the districts of Kolkata, North

Twenty Four Parganas, Hugli, Haora, Darjiling, South Twenty Four Parganas. Except for South Twenty Four Parganas district, all males migrated to urban areas of these districts. Haan (1997) in a study stated that before 1980s rural people of north Bihar and Uttar Pradesh used to migrate to Kolkata city for working in Jute mills whereas, people of south Bihar migrated to coal mines or tea plantations. After jute mill closures reduced employment possibilities, people from these states moved from the jute mills of Kolkata to Punjab's agricultural fields between 1980 and 1990 (Roy & Samanta (2020). Towards NCT of Delhi, most of the migration is reported in urban areas (97.4 per cent). Except for the East, all areas of Delhi reported almost equal migration of both sexes. In Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Varanasi, Lucknow, and Sonbhadra showed high male migration in urban areas, whereas female migration was high in the remaining districts.

Conclusions- The overall analysis of the study reveals that there are substantial variations in migration patterns (in-migration and out-migration) in Bihar during 2001 and 2011. The results showed that out of total migration in the state, the highest migration (~68 per cent) in 2011 is taking place within the same district in the form of intra-district migration whereas inter-district migration accounted for nearly 27 per cent. Inter-state migration declined from 7.9 per cent in 2001 to 4 per cent in 2011. This indicates that migrants of other states do not prefer Bihar as profitable destination because of lack of employment opportunities. The number of total out-migrants of Bihar observed positive growth (~44 per cent) during this period and increased from 5.5 million in 2001 to 7.9 million in 2011, high growth (~ 53 per cent) was recorded in urban areas as compared to their rural (20 per cent) counterparts. This indicates that urban areas have been the major destinations of out-migrants of Bihar. The states namely Jharkhand, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra were major destinations for the migrants of Bihar accounting for nearly 69 per cent share in total out-migrants in 2011. Whereas the total in-migrants decreased during this period from 1.5 million in 2001 to 1.0 million in 2011 showing a negative growth of -23.5 per cent. The highest decline (-27.6 per cent) was recorded in rural areas. During the study period, amongst top-10 list of destination states and UTs of out-migrants of Bihar, positive growth was seen in Jharkhand, NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat whereas the states like West Bengal, Assam and Madhya Pradesh showed a negative growth. Being newly formed, the state of Chhattisgarh showed positive growth of migrants during this period and was included in this list in 2011. In contrast to this, amongst top-10 origin states and UTs, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and NCT of Delhi were major migrants sending states to Bihar constituted about 95 per cent share in 2011. The study revealed that in terms of ranking, the highest in-migration in Bihar took place from three neighbouring states namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh observing first place in 16, 15, and 7 districts, respectively in 2011. The states which showed positive

growth in sending migrants to Bihar were namely, Jharkhand and West Bengal whereas negative growth was viewed in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa. The states like NCT of Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh made their position in top 10-list in 2011 replacing Nagaland, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttaranchal. Both in-migration and out-migration in Bihar from Assam has decreased in this decade. In-migration from Maharashtra has decreased while out-migration has increased. Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha showed decrease in in-migration but improved in their rankings.

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Declaration of conflicting interests- The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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Career Decision Making Among Senior Secondary School Students in Durg District

• Astha Sijaria

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Abstract- Abstract- This study aims to focus on the Career Decision Making Among Senior Secondary School Students in Durg District. There are two variables that is High School students, career decision making related to this problem, there in 3 hypotheses to test the significance of the hypothesis, the raw data, collected from different Class X schools of 80-80 (Govt. & Private school students) selected students were tabulated mean, standard deviation and 't' value were calculated for finding the effect of Career decision making scale (CDMS-KS). made by K. Singh. The result found that Significant differences were found in career decision making between government and private school students. The significant difference in career decision-making between students of government and private schools often stems from a combination of socio-economic, infrastructural, and cultural factors. He lack of significant differences in career decision-making between boys from government and private schools can be attributed to several factors. The absence of a significant difference in career decision-making between girls from government and private schools can be attributed to shared socio-cultural influences that tend to override institutional differences.

Keywords- Career decision making, Higher secondary School students

Introduction- Education is an essential tool for developing skills like decision-making, mental agility, problem-solving, and logical thinking. It also breeds creativity and innovation. In other words, Education is the transmission of knowledge, skills, and character traits. Education influences the decision-making process by providing individuals with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities that help them make informed and effective decisions. Education is essential to a successful life. It helps you grow as a person, learns new skills, and develop useful life skills. The more you learn about yourself and the world around you, the better equipped you will be to make good decisions and create a happier, healthier life for yourself and your loved ones. The most important and distinctive aspect of life is to choose right career at the right time and the basis of career development and progress lay down by the career one chooses. Students as an important part of any nation necessarily should go through a process which apprised them with respect to

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the various career options and the process criterion for the selection and recruitment of their chosen career. Career selection is outlined over diverse courses and can be influenced by numerous factors or related with different variables. Education play the important key role to enable the individual to realize one's self ability, skills, competencies, etc., those play important role selection of right career of individual life. Today world is becoming more and more competitive so we can say that quality of the performance of individual is like a key factor of their personal progress because desire of the higher level of personal progress mainly motivates the individual put more efforts in their performance. Mostly information used by the students in deciding their future careers are based on the information they acquire during childhood through their parents or guardians, friends and teachers, the mass media or social interaction. Usually, career choices are made without the consideration of selection and recruitment processes criterion and such career decision making concludes with despair and disappointment due to unawareness about the selection and recruitment process. Successful and effective career decision making requires the comprehensive knowledge of selection and recruitment process of desired profession.

Another important development during adolescence is that school going adolescents of higher secondary level develop the ability to make rational decision-making. The students are able to decide their potential career choices. They try to identify and establish a sense of self, inspired by the ideal self which is characterized by the traits they value. It is a period where adolescents start to think about their prospective career or goals that fit with their personality. The career selection process is complex and it involves a wide range of applications such as knowledge, skills, interest, aptitude and experiences related to career decision-making.

Career Decision Making- Career Decision Making can be defined as a process that describes or explains the choices that a person makes when selecting a particular career. It also helps to identify different factors involved in a person's career decision making and provides an understanding of the way these factors have an impact on their career decisions and choices (Sharf,2002). The concept of career decision making was established in 1909, although the term 'career decision making' did not become accepted terminology until 1979. Frank parsons first introduced the nation of career decision making in 1909 (Patton & McMohan, 1999). Career decision making can be defined as a process that describes or explains the choices that a person makes when selecting a particular career. It also helps to identify different factors involved in a person's career decision making and provides an understanding of the way these factors have an impact on their career decisions and choices (Sharf,2002).

Related Study-

- **Kamalpreet Kaur & Navneet Kumari (2018).** The present study was conducted to compare Career decision making, Achievement motivation and Self efficacy of 200 senior secondary school students from Punjab with respect to their gender and stream.

Results revealed insignificant difference between career decision making of students with respect to gender and stream except only in career indecision dimension. Insignificant differences have also been found in achievement motivation of selected sample with respect to gender and stream; On the other hand, males have reported higher self-efficacy in comparison to females but insignificant differences were found in self-efficacy with respect to different streams of education.

- **Saleem, et al., (2018)** examine study is aimed to evaluate student's perception about career choices, research interests and leadership attitudes towards pharmacy profession and factors involved in the selection. The result showed that the participants wanted to serve their career as a clinical pharmacist upon graduation. Different leadership establishment programs should be conducted to develop hierarchical and leadership skills among students.
- **Priyanka Dani1, Hetvi Desai (2018)** This paper presents the findings of a study conducted to explore the factors affecting the career decision making of secondary school students in Gandhinagar, India. The research was carried out on the random sample of 120 students of class 10th studying in a government school. The results revealed no significant one factor that affected the career decision making of the secondary students but a combination of them.
- **Sangay Jamba & Vijay (2019).** This research was carried out to study the Career Decision making among the Students of School in Bhutan. The investigator selected 300 Senior Secondary School Students through convenient sampling technique. The result showed that, 11.33% Senior Secondary School Students exhibited High level of Career Decision Making, 78% exhibited Average level whereas 10.67% exhibited Low level. Senior secondary school students do not differ in their Career Decision Making on the basis of gender. Urban senior secondary school students are more inclined towards career decision making than their counterpart rural students of Bhutan. Students belonging to commerce stream are more inclined towards career decision making than their counterpart arts senior secondary school students. Science students are more inclined towards career decision making than their counterpart's arts senior secondary school students.
- **Ruseno Arjanggi & et.al (2019).** The objective of this research was to understand the career decision making self-efficacy of college students. The participants were 313 students conveniently selected from Semarang, Indonesia. The study found that there was a difference in career decision making self-efficacy across gender.

Male students had higher confidence in making career decision than female ones.

- **M S Kariyappa & G. Viswanathappa (2021).** The main objective of the study was to measure career decision making of senior secondary students with respect to selection of best suitable occupation after completion of their school. The survey method and convenient sampling was adopted and the size of the sample was 50 of XI and XII standard students. The findings of the study revealed that most of students from Demonstration school, Mysore were uncertain regarding the career decidedness and career indecision.
- **Okafor and Akpochafo (2022)** study revealed that there is no significant relationship between self-esteem and career decision-making difficulties among secondary school students; that there is no significant moderating impact of age and gender in the relationship between self-esteem and career decision-making difficulties among secondary school students. The study recommended that more studies should be carried out to explore the reason why no significant relationship was found between self-esteem and career decision-making difficulties among secondary school students in Delta North Senatorial District.
- **Wilayat Bibi & et.al. (2022).** The purpose of the study was to investigate career decision making self-efficacy among higher secondary school students. The total sample consists of 200 male and female students from 20 schools through simple random sampling technique. The study concluded that male students have slightly higher career decision making self-efficacy than female students. The study also concluded that private school had slightly higher career decision making self-efficacy than government schools. Based on findings the need of gradual career development in school was recommended. School administrators and policy makers should make themselves more aware of how the career decision making develops in young adolescents.
- **Shalu Rani (2021).** The present objective of this study was to understand the career decision making self-efficacy of senior secondary school students. A representative sample of 100 (50 boys and 50 girls) of senior secondary school students. Investigator found there is partially relationship between career decision making self-efficacy among senior secondary school students. In COVID-19 pandemic situation affect the overall performance/personality of the students those affect their career decision making skills and also affect their academic performance.
- **Sandeep & Pushpawati (2022).** The main objectives of the study was A study on career decision making of secondary school

students. This research looked at gender variations in career decisions. Participants were 600 senior secondary students (300 men and 300 women). They were chosen from 24 schools in the districts of Sonipat and Bhiwani. There was no substantial gender difference in professional decision-making, according to the findings. Female and male students indicated similar levels of professional decision-making.

- **Tuyir R. & Kakali G. (2024)**, The purpose of the study was to investigate Career Decision-Making of Adolescents: Role of Self-Awareness and Career Guidance. The results showed high level of self-awareness, career decidedness and low level in career indecision. Higher number of students reported to receive career guidance. Further findings indicated strong positive correlation between self-awareness and career decidedness

Objectives of the Study- The present proposed research study the purpose to find out the following -

1. Comparative study of career decision making between Students of Govt. and Private School.
2. Comparative study of career decision making between boys of Govt. and Private School.
3. Comparative study of career decision making between girls of Govt. and Private School.

Hypothesis of the study- The proposed research study hypotheses are as follows -

H₀₁ There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between students of Govt. and Private School.

H₀₂ There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between boys of Govt. and Private School.

H₀₃ There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between girls of Govt. and Private School.

Limitations of the study- The limitations of the study are determined keeping in mind the limited resources, limited time and economy.

- The presented study will be limited to government and Private schools of Durg district.
- This study will be limited to the Students of Class Xth.
- This study will be limited to the 160 boys' and girls' students of the Govt. and Private schools.
- For this study the standardized test of K. Singh. Career Decision Making Scale (CDMS-KS) English version will be use.

Sample- For the present study that is **Career Decision Making Among Senior Secondary School Students in Durg District** For the sample, 160 students of class 10th from Durg district were selected randomly, including 80 students from government schools (40 boys, 40 girls) and 80 students from Private schools (40 boys, 40 girls).

Tool- In this research the tool used **K. Singh. Career Decision Making Scale (CDMS-KS)**. This scale consists 18 items divided two areas- 1. Career decidedness 2. Career indecision. It was administered on X, XI, XII class students.

Statistical Analysis- Then mean and standard deviation were calculated from the raw score to convert them into standard score by using 't-score norms' all 'T-Value was used to find the difference of career decision making among private and Government School student's

Hypothesis H₀₁

There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between students of Govt. and Private School.

Table 1.1

Mean and standard deviation table of career decision making among students of government and Private schools under Durg district

S. N.	Group	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	t-Value
1	Govt. School	80	29.1	2.5	8.2
2	Private School	80	33.5	2.7	
$N_1+N_2-2= df = 158, (1.96) p < t 0.05$ Significant difference					

From the table 4.1, It is Clear from the appropriate equation that the career decision making among Govt. School students of $N=80$, mean (M) 29.1 and Standard Deviation (SD) 2.5 & the career decision making among Private School students $N=80$, of mean (M) 33.5 and Standard Deviation (SD) 2.7 get and (degree of freedom) $df=158$ the calculated 't'-value is 8.2 which is less than table value at 0.05 hence Significant differences were found in career decision making between government and private school students.

Hence hypothesis H₀₂ is Rejected.

Hypothesis H₀₂. There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between boys of Govt. and Private School.

Table 1.2

Mean and standard deviation table of career decision making among boys' students of government and Private schools under Durg district

S N	Group	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	t- Value
1.	Govt. School	40	30.7	2.12	t.8
2.	Private School	40	31.8	1.9	
$N_1+N_2-2= df =78, (1.99) p > t 0.05$ Not Significant difference					

From the table 4.2, It is Clear from the appropriate equation that the career decision making among Govt School boys students of $N=40$, mean (M) 30.7 and Standard Deviation (SD) 2.12 & the career decision making among Private School boys students $N=40$, of mean (M) 31.8 and Standard Deviation (SD) 1.9 get and (degree of freedom) $df=78$ the calculated 't'-

value is 1.8 which is less than table value at 0.05 hence Not Significant differences were found in career decision making between government and private school boys students.

Hence hypothesis H_{02} is Accepted.

Hypothesis H_{03} . There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between girls of Govt. and Private School.

Table 1.3

Mean and standard deviation table of career decision making among girls' students of government and Private schools under Durg district

S. N.	Group	No. Of Students	Mean	S.D.	t- Value
1.	Govt. School	40	27.6	1.7	3.2
2.	Private School	40	35.3	2.2	
$N_1+N_2-2= df=78, (1.99) \quad p < t \quad 0.05$ Significant difference					

From the table 4.3, It is Clear from the appropriate equation that the career decision making among Govt School girls students of $N=40$, mean (M) 27.6 and Standard Deviation (SD) 1.7 & the career decision making among Private School girls students $N=40$, of mean (M) 35.3 and Standard Deviation (SD) 2.2 get and (degree of freedom) $df=78$ the calculated 't'-value is 3.2 which is less than table value at 0.05 hence Significant differences were found in career decision making between government and private school girls students.

Hence hypothesis H_{03} is Rejected

Result:

H_{01} There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between students of Govt. and Private School.

The results seem to be justified as private schools have better infrastructure and better learning environment as compared to government schools. Such environment motivates the students to aspire high about their careers.

The significant difference in career decision-making between students of government and private schools often stems from a combination of socio-economic, infrastructural, and cultural factors. Here are the main reasons:

1. Access to Resources:

Private schools generally offer better infrastructure, career counselling services, and exposure to diverse career options. Government schools may lack dedicated career guidance, limiting students' awareness.

2. Parental Background and Influence:

Parents of private school students often have higher educational and financial backgrounds, enabling them to guide and support broader career choices. In contrast, students in government schools may

have parents with limited education or exposure.

3. Language and Communication Skills:

Private schools often emphasize English proficiency, which opens up more global career opportunities. Government school students may struggle with communication barriers, affecting confidence and choices.

4. Peer and Social Environment:

In private schools, students are often surrounded by peers with ambitious goals and role models in various professions. This motivates broader aspirations. Government school environments might not provide the same stimulus.

5. Economic Pressures:

Government school students are more likely to face economic hardships, prompting them to choose quick-return or low-cost education paths over passion-based or long-term career investments.

6. Exposure to Technology and Information:

Private school students typically have greater access to internet, workshops, seminars, and educational platforms that inform career decisions, unlike many government school students.

H₀₂ There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between boys of Govt. and Private School.

The lack of significant differences in career decision-making between boys from government and private schools can be attributed to several factors that may level the playing field, such as:

- 1. Access to Similar Information Sources:** With widespread internet access and the use of smartphones, students from both school types often rely on the same online platforms (YouTube, career websites, social media) for career guidance.
- 2. Influence of Family and Society:** Parental expectations, socio-cultural norms, and peer influence tend to shape career decisions similarly across school types, particularly in regions where families prioritize conventional career paths like engineering, medicine, or government jobs.
- 3. Standardized Curriculum and Exams:** In many countries, students from both private and government schools prepare for the same board exams and entrance tests, which shapes their career aspirations similarly.
- 4. Limited Career Counselling:** Both types of schools may lack formal, personalized career guidance programs, leading students to make decisions based on external pressures or limited understanding, reducing any distinction in their approaches.
- 5. Economic Aspirations and Job Market Realities:** Regardless of school type, boys may prioritize careers perceived as stable and lucrative due to similar economic motivations and job market challenges.

H₀₃ There exists no significant difference will be career decision making between girls of Govt. and Private School.

The absence of a significant difference in career decision-making between girls from government and private schools can be attributed to shared socio-cultural influences that tend to override institutional differences. Here are some key reasons:

1. Gender Norms and Societal Expectations:

In many societies, especially in developing regions, girls-regardless of school type-face similar gender-based expectations from families and communities, such as prioritizing marriage, care giving roles, or "safe" professions like teaching or nursing.

2. Parental Control and Protection:

Regardless of school type, girls often experience similar levels of parental involvement or restriction in career choices, especially in conservative or lower-middle-income households.

3. Limited Role Models:

Both government and private school girls may have limited exposure to female professionals in diverse fields, leading to similar career aspirations rooted in what feels familiar or achievable.

4. Equal Lack (or Presence) of Career Guidance for Girls:

Even in private schools, career counselling may not be gender-sensitive or proactive in addressing the unique challenges faced by girls. As a result, their decision-making may not significantly differ from that of government school girls.

5. Safety and Mobility Constraints:

Concerns about travel safety, working in co-ed environments, or relocating for higher education affect girls from both school types similarly, influencing their career choices toward more localized or traditionally "female" professions.

In summary, while school infrastructure may vary, societal gender norms and family influences create a leveling effect that minimizes differences in career decision-making among girls from different school backgrounds.

Suggestion- School administrators and policymakers should become more aware of how young adolescent career decision-making develops, what factors are important in career decision making, and what steps will be taken to facilitate career development among students about to graduate from secondary school and make their first career decision. When we develop self-efficacy through the lens of our young youth's career decision making, there are a few points that the researcher will address: In school, there is a requirement for gradual career growth.

- In government schools, pupils' problem-solving skills may be improved.
- There is necessity of providing proper help to male as well as female teenagers to develop their goal setting
- The influence of parental education and educational aspirations is

needed.

- Good family environment is needed to support for career decision making
- Students should be encouraged time to time to take part in career decision making activities.
- Proper motivation should be given to the students.
- Proper guidance and suggestions must be given to students.
- Good friend cycle is needed for E-Learning environment.

Further Study of Research:

- A similar study may be undertaken with a large sample by including the other facilities also.
- A same type of study may be undertaken at college levels.
- A similar study may be undertaken among the parents and the teachers.
- This study covers only the students of class 10th, A Similar study can be conducted for other degrees like BA, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed., and M.Phil.,
- This study is limited to the students of Durg District of Chhattisgarh. The similar study may be undertaken in different districts or state level.

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**Reclaiming Histories:
Towards an Indigenous Historiography of Indian Science**

• Ayush Jaiwal

Abstract- *The historiography of Indian sciences remains fragmented, underdeveloped, and conceptually dependent on Eurocentric frameworks. Despite possessing one of the world's richest manuscript traditions and a deep civilizational engagement with natural philosophy, India has yet to produce a coherent, indigenous historiography of science. This paper traces the evolution and limitations of early Orientalist and nationalist efforts, evaluates post-independence institutional initiatives, and examines the appeal and insufficiencies of Joseph Needham's comparative model. Drawing from global developments in decolonial epistemology and science and technology studies (STS), the paper argues for a new historiographical framework that is textually rigorous, epistemologically plural, and methodologically reflexive. It calls for a strategic integration of philology, comparative philosophy, and curriculum reform to foster historically grounded, context-sensitive scholarship on Indian sciences. Ultimately, the paper does not seek to merely correct the history of science but to expand its scope by acknowledging India's intellectual traditions as autonomous contributors to global knowledge. The work concludes with a constructive blueprint for reimagining science history in India on its own terms.*

Keywords- *Indigenous Historiography, Indian Science, Joseph Needham, Non-Western Science, Indian Knowledge System, Cognitive Justice*

Introduction- The production and systematization of knowledge is as old as civilization itself. Civilizations across the world have contributed in different ways to the development of sciences, yet some traditions, particularly those outside the Western canon, remain insufficiently acknowledged in global historiographies. India, despite being the repository of one of the most voluminous manuscript cultures in the world,¹ has not been able to articulate a coherent, indigenous historiography of its scientific traditions. It can be plausibly argued that some of the earliest rational attempts to understand the natural world originated in the Indian subcontinent.² However, these intellectual efforts are either misinterpreted, inadequately contextualized, or dismissed in dominant narratives of science history.³ This neglect is not merely accidental; it is intertwined with colonial knowledge hierarchies, institutional inertia, and a persisting disconnect between scientific disciplines and their historical epistemologies.⁴

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The inadequacy of historical representation becomes glaring when contrasted with efforts made by other civilizations. The case of Joseph Needham's monumental *Science and Civilisation in China* stands out as a paradigmatic example of how a civilization's scientific trajectory can be reinterpreted through culturally embedded lenses.⁵ Needham's framework, grounded in a universalist yet pluralist historiographical approach, opened up possibilities for non-Western societies to reclaim intellectual agency. But India has yet to produce a Needham-like synthesis. Scholars like Dhruv Raina and S. Irfan Habib have critically examined this absence, describing it as “the missing picture” in the global project of science historiography.⁶ What complicates the situation further is that even though isolated efforts, especially during the nationalist period, attempted to document proto-scientific activity in India, these lacked a sustained institutional and methodological foundation.⁷ Post-independence initiatives, such as the Indian Journal of History of Science and projects initiated by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), while important, failed to define a rigorous framework for understanding Indian sciences in their socio-historical context.⁸

This paper, therefore, argues for the urgent need to build an indigenous historiography of Indian sciences that neither mimics European linear models nor confines itself to celebratory nativism. Instead, the call is for a pluralist, context-sensitive, interdisciplinary history that recognizes the epistemological structures of India's diverse intellectual traditions. By revisiting both early historiographical efforts and contemporary critiques, the article seeks to uncover what it would mean to reclaim scientific history from within. Crucially, this study departs from prior analyses by proposing a constructive framework that draws from both decolonial methodologies and comparative epistemologies, laying groundwork for a new pedagogy and institutional research agenda.

Historiography of Indian Sciences: A Brief Overview- The earliest attempts to document Indian scientific traditions were made not by indigenous scholars but by Orientalist historians operating under colonial conditions. These writings, emerging in the 18th and 19th centuries, were often philological or antiquarian in nature, lacking a shared historiographical framework.⁹ While Orientalists such as H. T. Colebrooke and Albrecht Weber were among the first to acknowledge Sanskrit scientific texts, their approach was fragmented, often exoticizing the content rather than situating it within indigenous knowledge systems.¹⁰ These colonial scholars emphasized textual retrieval, but rarely interrogated the intellectual contexts in which those texts emerged.

The next significant historiographical phase coincided with the Indian nationalist movement. This period saw the rise of figures like Prafulla Chandra Ray, Brajendranath Seal, B. Datta, and A. N. Singh, who attempted to reclaim Indian scientific traditions through systematic studies. Ray's *History of Hindu Chemistry*¹¹ and Seal's *Positive Sciences of the Ancient Hindus*¹² exemplify efforts to validate India's scientific past using both

textual and empirical lenses. These works aimed not merely at documentation but at establishing the presence of “proto-sciences” within India's historical epistemologies.¹³ They also carried a nationalist impulse, portraying ancient Indian science as continuous with modern developments, thus countering colonial narratives of civilizational decline.¹⁴ These early Indian scholars operated at the intersection of two imperatives: reclaiming intellectual heritage and legitimizing modern science through historical continuity. In doing so, they introduced a hybrid model, partly shaped by European historiography, partly by the drive for cultural self-definition.¹⁵ However, these pioneering efforts were largely individualistic and lacked institutional anchoring.

After independence, the momentum for a national historiography of science was briefly institutionalized. The 1951 UNESCO-INSA symposium, followed by the formation of the National Commission for the Compilation of History of Science (1965) and the Indian Association for History and Philosophy of Science (1974), signalled an ambition to develop a sustained scholarly tradition.¹⁶ The launch of the Indian Journal of History of Science (IJHS) by the Indian National Science Academy in 1966 further reinforced this effort.¹⁷ Yet despite these initiatives, the promise of an integrated historiographical project was not fulfilled. The institutional outputs remained confined to descriptive summaries, bibliographies, and isolated case studies. As Raina and Habib observe, these efforts failed to offer a conceptual or methodological foundation for the discipline.¹⁸ Instead of cultivating a robust analytic tradition, the field became marginalized as mainstream Indian historians increasingly focused on socio-economic or political narratives.¹⁹

Compounding the issue was the prevailing dominance of presentist and Whig historiography during the mid-20th century, which tended to frame science as a linear, European achievement. Indian scientific history was relegated to footnotes in broader civilizational discourse, or celebrated in a vacuum, without critical attention to socio-historical contingencies. In summary, while both Orientalist and nationalist scholars contributed important preliminary studies, their fragmented or instrumental approaches were insufficient for building a rigorous, enduring historiography of Indian science. The post-independence institutional framework, though visionary in intent, lacked methodological coherence and interdisciplinary depth. As a result, India remains without a mature historiographical tradition in science comparable to those established in other non-Western contexts.

Methodological and Epistemological Gaps- Despite early institutional attempts to historicize Indian sciences, India still lacks a robust methodological framework for this task. While the orientation of Orientalists was philological and nationalist scholars emphasized civilizational pride, neither tradition established historiographical parameters or analytical models capable of supporting a sustained research program.²⁰ The result has been a chronic absence of trained scholars who are both technically competent in ancient Indian scientific traditions and

methodologically aware of global historiographical debates. Floris Cohen, in one of his critical interventions, outlines four reasons for the failure to construct a viable Indian history of science: the absence of trained scholars; a scarcity of accessible historical material; unreliable chronological frameworks; and the dominant perception of Indian civilization as more metaphysical than scientific.²¹ While each of these points deserves independent scrutiny, the shortage of trained scholars remains the most pressing. There is a structural deficiency in India's higher education system, where history and philosophy of science are not integrated into the curricula of either science or humanities departments.²² As a consequence, students in the sciences graduate with almost no historical consciousness of their disciplines, while those in the humanities often lack the technical vocabulary to engage with scientific texts. This lacuna results in a curious disjunction. Historians shy away from scientific content, while scientists lack historiographical literacy. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya and Abdur Rahman stand out as rare exceptions, scholars who bridged this divide by grounding their work in materialist readings of ancient texts and embedding them within broader sociocultural frames.²³ But these instances remain isolated and largely unsupported by pedagogical or institutional frameworks.

The lack of epistemological pluralism compounds the problem. Much of India's scientific history is either retrofitted into Western frameworks or dismissed altogether. Even where primary texts are available, the absence of source criticism, language training in Sanskrit, Persian, or regional languages, and philological rigor makes deeper research almost impossible for most scholars.²⁴ The capacity to trace the evolution of ideas within their intellectual traditions, rather than merely cataloging their outcomes, is lacking. There is also a conceptual weakness in how Indian science is historicized. Most narratives attempt to “prove” that Indian civilization had developed scientific ideas, rather than investigating how those ideas were shaped by the epistemological assumptions of the time. This leads to an instrumental historiography, more concerned with validation than inquiry.²⁵ Therefore, the call is not only for better-trained historians but also for a new methodological synthesis. Such a framework must integrate linguistic competence, philosophical depth, and cultural sensitivity, alongside a sophisticated understanding of science as a social process. It is only through such an interdisciplinary lens that a meaningful, indigenous historiography can emerge, one that is not merely reactive to Eurocentric narratives, but proactively frames its own questions and categories.

The Needhamian Framework and Its Limits- In the global history of science, Joseph Needham's *Science and Civilisation in China* stands as a landmark not only for its scale but also for its methodological ambition. Needham proposed a non-Eurocentric historiography that treated Chinese science as an integral part of a global epistemic heritage.²⁶ He argued for an “ecumenical” model of science history, where the scientific achievements of

different civilizations were neither compartmentalized nor subordinated to a singular European trajectory.²⁷ His oft-cited metaphor of “multiple streams merging into a river of knowledge” challenged the idea of a monolithic scientific revolution located exclusively in Europe. The appeal of Needham's approach lay in its integration of science with its social, economic, and environmental contexts, moving beyond narrow internalist or presentist frameworks. His model found widespread admiration and adoption, not least in postcolonial contexts attempting to recover intellectual histories suppressed under colonial regimes. Yet, paradoxically, India, despite being a civilizational peer of China, did not produce a Needhamian equivalent.²⁸

This absence has been the subject of sustained critical reflection by scholars such as Dhruv Raina and S. Irfan Habib, who identify structural, pedagogical, and epistemological reasons for India's failure to generate a similarly comprehensive historiography.²⁹ They argue that while Needham had access to a dedicated research ecosystem and the support of British institutions and Chinese collaborators, Indian historians of science operated in isolation, often without interdisciplinary backing or institutional legitimacy.³⁰ Moreover, the philosophical foundations of Needham's approach, particularly his embrace of Marxist historical materialism and comparative sociology, were not mirrored in India's intellectual climate.³¹ Indian science historians, emerging from nationalist or bureaucratic traditions, were less inclined toward comparative civilizational analysis and more focused on either empirical cataloging or civilizational affirmation. This led to the development of a descriptive, often celebratory narrative, rather than a critical, contextualized one.

Additionally, Needham's project was rooted in a profound philological engagement with Chinese texts, aided by his collaboration with scholars such as Lu Gwei-Djen. No parallel linguistic infrastructure existed for Sanskrit, Persian, or regional Indian scientific texts, either during colonial times or afterward.³² Without such foundations, a rigorous, textual history of Indian science could not take root. Finally, even if Needham's model were hypothetically adopted, it is unclear whether its universalist assumptions would translate effectively into the Indian context. Scholars such as Gyan Prakash and Suman Seth have critiqued the very notion of science as a culturally neutral enterprise.³³ They argue for a pluralist epistemology, in which different civilizations possess not merely different data, but distinct conceptions of what it means to know, test, and explain. Thus, applying the Needhamian template directly to India risks flattening its intellectual heterogeneity. To that end, while Needham's contribution remains an essential inspiration, the historiography of Indian sciences must find its own methodological grammar. This grammar must be simultaneously context-sensitive and globally conversant, attentive to textual nuance yet open to comparative framing. It must treat Indian science not as a series of isolated achievements, but as evolving systems of knowledge embedded in specific cosmologies, institutions, and languages.

Contemporary Issues and Pedagogical Needs- One of the most entrenched obstacles to developing an indigenous historiography of Indian sciences is the absence of integrated education in history and philosophy of science. Despite decades of discourse on interdisciplinary learning, Indian universities rarely offer structured coursework that combines the humanities and natural sciences in a meaningful dialogue.³⁴ This institutional bifurcation has had lasting effects: science graduates emerge with little awareness of the historical trajectories of their disciplines, while students in the humanities are seldom equipped to interpret scientific texts or theories.³⁵ This educational vacuum has created what might be called a double alienation. Scientists are alienated from the epistemological foundations and cultural evolution of their fields, and historians remain disconnected from the technical and conceptual intricacies of scientific inquiry.³⁶ Goethe's well-known statement, "The history of science is the science itself," often quoted in Western curricula, finds little practical application in Indian classrooms.³⁷ Without a sense of scientific historicity, learners are deprived of both context and critique.

Compounding the issue is the absence of pedagogical material grounded in Indian scientific traditions. While some attempts have been made, such as textbooks by Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya or curated content from institutions like NCERT, the scale and ambition of these efforts are limited.³⁸ Moreover, where Indian sciences are mentioned, they are often reduced to nostalgic glorification or abstract symbolism, rather than presented through analytically rigorous narratives. To address this deficit, scholars like Shiv Visvanathan have argued for a "cognitive justice" approach in education, which respects multiple epistemologies and ways of knowing.³⁹ This means recognizing the legitimacy of Indian scientific systems not as precursors to Western models, but as distinct frameworks with their own methodologies, classifications, and theoretical assumptions. Educational reform in this sense must go beyond token inclusion; it must allow for epistemological pluralism within curricular structures.

This vision also aligns with the global decolonial turn in science studies, where the dominance of the Euro-American scientific canon is being challenged by alternative knowledge systems from Africa, Latin America, and Asia.⁴⁰ In India, however, such shifts remain largely academic and have not yet translated into widespread institutional reform. Most Indian universities do not offer specialized graduate programs in the history of science, and only a few research institutions engage with indigenous science studies on a sustained basis.⁴¹

Pedagogical innovation must therefore be strategic and systemic. It should involve:

- Interdisciplinary modules combining textual study, philosophy, and experimental history;
- Language training in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, and regional languages;
- Archive literacy for manuscript-based research;

- Theory courses in postcolonial science and technology studies (STS).

Such an initiative would allow both science and humanities students to think historically, critically, and comparatively. It would also foster a new generation of scholars capable of reconstructing India's scientific past on its own conceptual terms. As science becomes increasingly global, the relevance of diverse scientific traditions becomes not just a question of identity, but of intellectual sustainability.

Toward an Indigenous Historiography- To move beyond critique and stagnation, India must now focus on reconstructing a historiography of science that is both methodologically robust and epistemologically grounded in its own civilizational experience. This does not imply rejecting universalism wholesale, but rather redefining the idea of universality to accommodate difference, dialogue, and simultaneity. As Boaventura de Sousa Santos argued, “There is no global social justice without global cognitive justice.”⁴² This assertion applies equally to the realm of science, where epistemological diversity must be acknowledged not as exception, but as norm. A future-oriented historiography must therefore embrace what scholars have called “pluriversal” science, an understanding that allows for multiple scientific rationalities to coexist.⁴³ In the Indian context, this means engaging seriously with systems such as Ayurveda, Jyotisha, Vaastu, and Ganita, not to mythologize them, but to critically trace their internal logics, techniques of validation, and ontological commitments.

At the core of this reconstruction lies a crucial methodological choice: to develop a historiography that emerges from within the epistemic resources of Indian traditions while remaining critically conversant with global discourses. Such a task requires interweaving philological depth, ethnographic sensitivity, and philosophical precision. It also requires historians to be multilingual, not just in language, but in disciplinary idioms. We can envision three concrete directions for this work:

- Interdisciplinary Knowledge Systems Research: Establish research clusters across universities that bring together historians, Sanskritists, scientists, and philosophers to co-produce historiographies rooted in textual and practical knowledge.⁴⁴
- Epistemological Reflexivity: Encourage historians of science to examine their own categories. Terms like “observation,” “experiment,” or “rationality” carry cultural baggage.⁴⁵ Understanding how these were conceived in Indian traditions may lead to more accurate renderings of indigenous practices.
- Archive and Language Access: Invest in digitization and critical editions of scientific manuscripts, alongside training programs for young scholars in classical languages and manuscriptology.⁴⁶ Without source access, any indigenous historiography will remain derivative.

Furthermore, the act of writing such a history must itself be dialogical rather than declarative. Drawing from thinkers like K.N. Panikkar

and Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, the new historiography must oscillate between civilizational introspection and comparative cosmopolitanism.⁴⁷ It should address not just “what” Indians knew, but how they came to know, why they knew, and how that knowledge traveled, mutated, or stagnated over time. It is also essential to resist the trap of nativist essentialism, which replaces Eurocentrism with cultural exceptionalism. The goal is not to elevate one tradition above others but to map the conditions of knowledge production with due attention to local categories, institutional ecologies, and historical ruptures.⁴⁸

In short, the task is less about “correcting” the Western history of science and more about generating an autonomous framework through which Indian science can be historicized, rigorously, pluralistically, and self-reflexively. Such a historiography would not only enrich our understanding of Indian intellectual traditions but would also expand the very boundaries of what counts as science.

Conclusion- The absence of a coherent, indigenous historiography of Indian sciences is not a matter of scholarly oversight, it reflects deeper structural, institutional, and epistemological dislocations inherited from both colonial legacies and internal academic inertia. As this paper has shown, while early efforts by Orientalists and nationalist thinkers laid important foundations, their methods were fragmented and often lacked conceptual consistency. Post-independence institutional efforts, though ambitious, failed to articulate a unifying historiographical methodology or foster sustained interdisciplinary engagement.⁴⁹

The critical engagement with Joseph Needham's model reveals both the potential and limitations of transposing comparative civilizational frameworks. While Needham's ecumenical vision inspired generations of scholars, the Indian case demands a distinct methodological grammar, one grounded in textual specificity, intercultural theory, and cognitive justice. What is needed is not merely a re-narration of historical achievements, but a reconstruction of India's epistemic past using tools that are at once indigenous in orientation and globally conversant.⁵⁰ Moreover, the historiography of science in India must resist both Eurocentric universalism and nativist exceptionalism. It must instead position itself within a broader pluralist framework that recognizes the multiplicity of rationalities, ontologies, and methods through which science has been practiced across cultures.⁵¹ This calls for systemic curricular reform, interdisciplinary training, and investment in primary research infrastructure, including digitized manuscripts, language education, and methodological literacy. If we are to meaningfully integrate Indian science into the global canon, not as an appendix, but as an equal constituent, then the challenge is not only one of recovery but of redefinition. A mature historiography of Indian sciences can contribute not just to national identity or cultural revival, but to the very reimagining of science as a global, heterogeneous, historically contingent enterprise.

Only when Indian scientific traditions are studied on their own terms, philosophically, linguistically, institutionally, will the full richness of their contribution be realized. That realization is not merely academic; it is intellectual, civilizational, and profoundly human.

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A Study on The Influence of Student Leadership on Well Being

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Abstract- *The current study examines how leadership abilities affect college students' psychological health and sense of self-efficacy in the Indore area. This study examines the ways in which leadership roles and competences support students' mental health and personal growth, acknowledging the growing significance of student leadership in academic institutions. A sample of 180 students from a variety of academic specialties, including both student leaders and non-leaders, were given a standardized questionnaire. The study uses quantitative techniques for data analysis and a comparative research design. Students with stronger leadership skills are more likely to be emotionally resilient, self-assured, and motivated, according to the findings, which show a substantial, statistically significant positive association between psychological well-being and leadership skills. The study also emphasizes how leadership may help students become more capable of handling stress and taking charge in social and academic contexts. These findings highlight how crucial it is to incorporate leadership development initiatives into higher education in order to promote students' overall development. The study ends with suggestions for additional research as well as ramifications for institutional support systems and educational policies.*

Keywords- *Leadership Skills, Psychological Well-being, Self-efficacy, College Students, Mental Health, Higher Education, Student Development, Emotional Resilience.*

Introduction- Those in charge of the establishment, upkeep, and involvement of school-based leadership programs are very interested in the subject of student leadership. As diverse as definitions of leadership itself are the research opportunities surrounding mentorship (*Burgess, 2003; Lavery, 2006*), the role of elected and non-elected leaders (*Lineburg & Gearheart, 2008*), student leader experiences, and deciding which leadership approach to use. Several authors (*Archard, 2009; Bunn et al., 2010*) believe that student leadership is an important area to examine, and recent studies on the subject have highlighted how urgently this area needs to be the focus of future research. Furthermore, research efforts should look into and

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comprehend leadership from a student perspective, according to the body of literature on school-based leadership.

A 2020 study by *Nancy and Prudence (2024)* found that students who participate in leadership activities are more likely to exhibit enhanced self-discipline and interpersonal skills. These results are frequently associated with increased responsibility and improved decision-making, both of which can result in constructive behavioural changes. Thus, the idea of student leadership is viewed as a crucial tool for encouraging behavioural changes in students, especially in secondary education. Additionally, studies have demonstrated that student leadership programs support a healthy school atmosphere, which has a big impact on how students behave (*Micheal et al., 2023*).

Schools with robust student leadership programs show reduced rates of student misbehaviour, higher levels of student involvement, and a more supportive school climate, according to a 2019 study by the Centre for Responsive Schools (*Micheal et al., 2023*). According to these results, students are more likely to display behaviours that demonstrate a feeling of accountability, respect, and dedication to their classmates and the larger school community when they are given the opportunity to assume leadership roles (*Nirandekura & Christopher, 2022*).

Need For Leadership Skills in Students- Students can become proficient communicators, problem solvers, and team players by developing their leadership abilities. It motivates individuals to take charge, make wise choices, and motivate others. Gaining proficiency in these areas opens opportunities to improving oneself as a person, achieving mental and emotional health, and eventually gaining admission to prestigious colleges and sought-after jobs that demonstrate one's capacity for leadership and achievement.

Additionally, the ability increases student involvement as they begin to feel like they can make a difference and have a voice at school, which eventually encourages a greater commitment to their education and school life in general. Students who feel empowered to participate in school decision-making are more motivated and involved. Surprisingly, it has been noted that good student leadership gives kids a forum to express their issues and suggestions, fostering an inclusive and happy learning environment where all students are treated with respect and feel appreciated. Student leaders develop a strong feeling of ownership and responsibility by overcoming obstacles and acknowledging the accomplishments of their decision-making, thereby becoming invested partners in the welfare of their school community.

Importance of Student Leadership- Numerous studies have stressed the value of student leadership. One important result is that students who take on leadership responsibilities typically improve their organizational and interpersonal skills, which are critical for both their academic progress and well-being (*Margaret & Kazaara, 2024*). Head prefects, class monitors, club leaders, and other leadership roles encourage students to take charge of

their education and conduct, which in turn affects the school's overall culture (*Micheal et al., 2023*).

Furthermore, student leaders frequently act as role models for their peers, promoting virtues like self-control, diligence, and commitment to learning. School discipline and general academic performance frequently show a discernible improvement in schools that encourage student leadership (*Christopher et al., 2022*). These results support the idea that effective school leadership helps create a supportive learning environment, which in turn promotes higher student achievement. The sense of accountability and duty that student leaders bring to the school community is another indication of the connection between academic success and student leadership (*Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022*).

Students are introduced to decision-making procedures and given the chance to affect changes in the school environment through their leadership. Better academic outcomes are closely linked to higher levels of student motivation and engagement, which might emerge from this empowerment. Schools that actively support student leadership positions typically have better national exam scores than those that do not (*Ntirandekura et al., 2022*). This is in line with recent data from the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB).

This implies that student leadership helps the school's overall academic performance in addition to encouraging students' personal development. On the other hand, poor student leadership can have a negative impact on academic achievement. Poor discipline, low motivation, and disarray in students' academic endeavours can be caused by a lack of leadership in schools. Lack of student leadership can occasionally result in disengagement, where students don't take responsibility for their education and do worse academically (*Lydia et al., 2023*). The development of critical life skills, such problem-solving, communication, and teamwork, which are critical for academic performance and future professional aspirations, can also be hampered by a lack of leadership chances.

Literature Review- The ability to influence others to achieve a vision or a set of goals is known as leadership. The implementation of instructional innovations and, potentially, the enhancement of student academic achievement may be significantly influenced by leadership. In any event, this simple assertion hides a complicated reality because there are many different leadership philosophies and a variety of school pioneer traits that will impact their suitability. Good leadership is exhibited by students who assume leadership roles while maintaining excellent academic performance while fulfilling their responsibilities. The importance of leadership training for today's youth cannot be overstated. Graduates and undergraduates must contend with the unstable global economy of today's workplaces in their future careers. To succeed, students will require three leadership skills: the capacity to recognize and integrate many knowledge sources, manage oneself, and motivate others. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate theory, training, and experience models with leadership education (*Marcketti &*

Kadolph, 2010).

There are many of chances for students to get involved and develop their leadership skills once they get to college. Participants in the Kellogg Institute's W.K.-funded leadership programs reported improvements in civic, social, and political understanding, service and volunteering, and civic, social, and political effectiveness, among other areas. (*Schuh & Laverty, 1983*) found that college graduates who served as student leaders reported notable gains in a variety of skills, including communication, budgeting, planning, and organizing. In general, leadership has gained a lot of attention on college campuses, thus any thorough assessment of how well colleges and universities do in this area might be very beneficial (*Shertzer & Schuh, 2011*).

In an effort to improve students' academic achievement and personal growth, several of the district's schools have implemented initiatives that support students in assuming leadership roles. The precise effect of student leadership on academic achievement in the area is still not well understood, despite the fact that its significance is widely acknowledged (*Musaibah et al., 2023*).

Although anecdotal evidence points to a beneficial relationship between student leadership and academic success, empirical research explicitly examining the impact of student leadership on students' academic outcomes in the district's secondary schools is needed. By investigating how student leadership shapes academic performance at Makindye Ssabagabo, this study seeks to close this gap. It focuses on different leadership roles and how they affect students' academic success, motivation, and discipline (*Oromo et al., 2023*).

The hedonic and eudaimonic schools of philosophy have historically served as the foundation for the idea of well-being. Proponents of a hedonic perspective emphasize the cognitive and emotive domains and define well-being as the state of feeling happy. While school-related positive (like joy) and negative (like worry) affect are represented by the emotional domain, the cognitive domain represents life and school satisfaction. Proponents of the eudaimonic view emphasize a variety of areas that indicate ideal student performance, such as school engagement, and frequently conceptualize wellbeing as performing well at school (*Thorsteinsen & Vittersø, 2018*). However, the multifaceted nature of student well-being cannot be fully captured or evaluated by either a hedonic or a eudaimonic perspective alone (*Thorsteinsen & Vittersø, 2018*).

Peer impact, family history, and the school environment are some of the elements that are frequently connected to behaviour modification, especially in the setting of secondary school pupils (*Kalikula, 2023*). Nonetheless, there is growing recognition of the impact that student leadership has on these variables. According to research conducted in 2021 by the American Psychological Association (APA), students who take on leadership responsibilities frequently grow more adept at navigating social situations and have a higher sense of self-regulation (*Moses & Nancy, 2024*). Since student leaders are more likely to provide an example of good

behaviour for their peers, this can ultimately result in behavioural improvements.

Through initiatives that promote student involvement and leadership, the government has worked hard to raise the standard of secondary school education. In order to promote student participation in democracy, the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) launched the "School Leadership and Management" initiative, which promotes schools to set up student councils and leadership structures (*Micheal et al., 2023*).

The benefits of student leadership are most noticeable in educational institutions when leadership positions entail active involvement in decision-making and problem-solving procedures in addition to being ceremonial (*Anthony et al., 2023*). According to a 2022 study by the Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB), schools with active student leadership groups outperformed those without in terms of academic achievement, behavioural problems, and dropout rates. According to international research, children who are given leadership responsibilities grow to feel more accountable and have a stronger sense of ownership, which improves their behaviour in and out of the classroom (*Godfrey et al., 2023*).

In the context of school punishment, the relationship between student leadership and behaviour modification has also been investigated. Student leaders who participate in school rule-making and disciplinary procedures are more likely to support and encourage the school's behavioural standards, according to a 2021 study conducted by the Education Development Trust (*Kazaara & Nelson, 2024*). This involvement frequently results in a more uniform implementation of the rules and a general decrease in disciplinary problems. Furthermore, student leaders frequently act as role models for their peers, encouraging good behaviour by exemplifying cooperation, respect, and responsibility. As mediators between the student population and the administration, student leaders play a crucial role in upholding order and encouraging positive behavioural norms (*Mark et al., 2023*).

According to research, there are still few opportunities for secondary school students to develop their leadership skills, and these are mostly determined by the choices made by teachers regarding positions of authority for a chosen few, such as prefects and school captains, or by organized after-school programs that limit student initiative. It has been demonstrated that students who are assigned official leadership roles mature more quickly (*Neumann, Dempster & Skinner, 2009*).

"The individual that possesses the ability to motivate, collaborate with others, having the appropriate skills, knowledge, and attitude to move the organization toward greatness" (p. 93) is how *Hilliard (2010)* defined a leader in reference to students. Part-time or full-time students who occupy a formal leadership role at a university are known as student leaders. Being a floor representative in a resident hall, participating in student government, or holding a leadership position in a club or committee are examples of formal

leadership responsibilities.

Just 3% of poll participants said they had never held a leadership position in high school. This low proportion suggests that the majority of participants had leadership positions in high school, either official or informal. Additionally, this percentage shows that the participants were student leaders. These kids cited traits like perseverance, empathy, and self-assurance as examples of their character characteristics that are typical of student leaders (*Chai, 2015*).

"Leader and follower relationship themes" (collaborate, inspire, influence, and direct), "leader characteristics and behaviours" (support, modelling, and personal qualities), and "leadership outcomes themes" (positive difference, shared goal, and task) are the three categories into which *Haber (2012)* categorized 1,100 undergraduate students' definitions of leadership. In their experiences as leaders or aspirants to be student leaders, participants endorsed each of the ten topics. First, by emphasizing the value of teamwork, participants endorsed the first category, collaborate. Their answers in the leadership sections of the focus group (collaborative and information sharing) and the poll (participating in a community) emphasized this. The second category, inspire, which focuses on motivating others, was highlighted by the students.

Additionally, *Haber (2012)* discovered that student leaders had a typical and hierarchical conception of leadership. Both agreement and disagreement with Haber's findings were expressed in the research study's responses. The participants endorsed this conclusion since, according to the focus group's leadership section, assuming authority was a component of their leadership identities. The participants in this description understood that they were in charge and that having the last word was crucial. However, participants also discussed the value of collaborative leadership (the focus group's leadership section). They wanted to make choices collectively and valued the opinions of their followers. Students were aware of the leadership hierarchy in this sense, but they also realized how crucial it was to modify it in order to accommodate the requirements of their followers.

Research Methodology- This study adopts a **comparative research design** to explore the influence of student leadership on the well-being of students in higher education. The aim is to compare the well-being of student leaders with that of non-leaders to identify differences that may be attributed to leadership experiences.

A **quantitative approach** is used, and data is collected through a **structured questionnaire**. The target population includes undergraduate and postgraduate students from selected institutions. A **stratified random sampling** technique ensures balanced representation of both student leaders and non-leaders, considering factors like academic stream, year of study, and gender. The final sample size is **180 students**, evenly divided between the two groups.

The questionnaire consists of two sections: the first captures demographic information and leadership roles; the second uses a

standardized tool such as **Ryff's Psychological Well-being Scale** or the **WHO-5 Well-being Index** to assess well-being. A **pilot test** involving 20 students helps refine the tool. The instrument's reliability is verified through **Cronbach's alpha**, with a threshold of 0.7.

Research Objectives

- To assess the relationship between leadership experience and psychological well-being.
- To determine if the year of study influences well-being among student leaders.

Research Hypotheses

- H₀: There is no significant relationship between leadership experience and psychological well-being.
- H₀: Year of study has no significant impact on the well-being of student leaders.

Reliability Test

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.854	50

Cronbach's Alpha, a statistical metric used to analyze a scale or instrument's internal consistency, was used to evaluate the questionnaire's reliability. A high degree of dependability was indicated by the study's Cronbach's Alpha rating, which was 0.854 for all 50 items. Generally speaking, a Cronbach's Alpha number of 0.7 is regarded as satisfactory, and a value above 0.8 indicates that the items are internally consistent. Consequently, the questionnaire's items appear to be well-correlated and consistently measure the underlying dimensions of self-efficacy, mental health, and leadership abilities, as indicated by the alpha score of 0.854. This suggests that the study's instrument is reliable and appropriate for gathering data for next investigations.

Objective- To assess the relationship between leadership experience and psychological well-being.

Hypothesis: H There is no significant relationship between leadership experience and psychological well-being.

Tool: Pearson Correlation

Correlations			
		Leadership Skills	Psychological Well Being
Leadership Skills	Pearson Correlation	1	.942**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	180	180
Psychological Well Being	Pearson Correlation	.942**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	180	180

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

With a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.942, the correlation study demonstrates a substantial positive association between psychological well-being and leadership skills. This high rating suggests that students'

psychological well-being considerably increases as their leadership abilities grow. The statistical significance of this association at the 1% level is confirmed by the significance level ($p = 0.000$), indicating that the likelihood of this relationship occurring at random is extremely low. The findings, which are based on data from 180 students, offer compelling proof that improved mental health and leadership abilities are closely related. According to this, developing leadership skills may help college students become more emotionally resilient, experience less stress, and have better psychological health overall. For this reason, student support services should prioritize leadership development.

Objective: To determine if the year of study influences well-being among student leaders.

Hypothesis: H Year of study has no significant impact on the well-being of student leaders.

Tool: One-way ANOVA

ANOVA					
Psychological Well Being					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	8.908	3	2.969	7.150	.000
Within Groups	73.091	176	.415		
Total	81.999	179			

The ANOVA results indicate a significant difference in psychological well-being across different student groups. The between-group sum of squares is 8.908, and the within-group sum is 73.091, with a total of 81.999. The mean square between groups is 2.969, and the F-value is 7.150. The significance level ($p = 0.000$) is below the standard threshold of 0.05, confirming that the variation in psychological well-being between groups is statistically significant. This suggests that group differences—such as leadership roles or other criteria meaningfully impact students' psychological well-being. Therefore, it can be inferred that student leadership or similar experiences play a role in influencing psychological well-being among college students in the sample.

Discussion And Implications- The results of this study demonstrate a strong and favorable correlation between college students' psychological health and leadership abilities in the Indore area. Stronger leadership skills are associated with greater mental health, emotional balance, and resilience, according to the high Pearson correlation value ($r = 0.942$). This shows that leadership development is important for improving students' general well-being in addition to helping them succeed academically and professionally.

The findings are consistent with earlier study that highlights the benefits of leadership positions for enhancing decision-making skills, stress management, emotional control, and self-confidence. Effectively navigating academic pressures, interpersonal issues, and life transitions is more likely for students who possess leadership qualities. Further supporting the statistical significance of the disparities in psychological well-being among leadership levels, the ANOVA results show that

structured leadership programs have the capacity to close the gap in students' mental health.

For educational institutions, legislators, and mental health professionals, these findings have significant ramifications. Academic environments should incorporate leadership development courses, student mentorship initiatives, and extracurricular leadership experiences. By doing this, students can be given the resources they need to advance both personally and professionally and foster holistic development.

The importance of leadership development in psychological support strategies should also be acknowledged by counsellors and mental health professionals who work with young people. It may be possible to prevent mental health problems and promote a culture of emotional resilience, self-efficacy, and positivity among students by encouraging student participation in leadership positions. These insights can be expanded in future studies by investigating intervention-based models and longitudinal effects.

Limitations- This study has limitations even though it offers insightful information about how leadership abilities affect college students' psychological health. First off, only kids from the Indore district were included in the study, which would limit how broadly the results can be applied to other areas or different educational settings. In other regions, cultural, institutional, and environmental influences may vary greatly.

Second, the research only uses self-reported information gathered via standardized questionnaires. Social desirability bias may affect such data, causing respondents to exaggerate their psychological health or leadership skills. This can affect the results' accuracy and genuineness. The study's cross-sectional design, which collects data at a particular moment in time, is another drawback. It is therefore unable to prove causation, i.e., whether better well-being results from having strong leadership qualities or vice versa. Stronger proof of the direction of influence would be provided by an experimental or longitudinal design.

Furthermore, the study mainly employs quantitative metrics and excludes qualitative information, which would have offered a more thorough comprehension of the individual experiences and environmental elements affecting student leadership and wellbeing.

Conclusion- The current study investigated how leadership abilities affected the psychological health and self-efficacy of college students in the Indore district. In order to determine how leadership experiences influence mental health, the study compared student leaders and non-leaders using a comparative research methodology and a structured quantitative technique. Students who exhibit greater leadership qualities are likely to report improved mental health, emotional resilience, and self-confidence, according to the data, which showed a clear positive association between psychological well-being and leadership skills.

The ANOVA results and statistically significant correlation highlight that leadership abilities support emotional stability and personal growth in addition to being advantageous for organizational or academic roles.

Students who have been exposed to leadership roles seem to be better able to handle stress, form deep connections with others, and face obstacles with confidence and control.

For educational institutions, this conclusion has important ramifications. Promoting leadership opportunities via organizations, student councils, and training courses may improve students' self-efficacy and general psychological health. A more harmonious and psychologically sound student body may result from such initiatives.

Future Scope of Research- The current study offers significant new information about the relationship between leadership abilities and college students' psychological health and self-efficacy. It does, however, also point out a number of areas that require more investigation. In order to better understand causal links, longitudinal studies may be useful in examining the long-term effects of leadership activity on students' self-efficacy and mental health. Extending the sample beyond the Indore district would improve the findings' generalizability and aid in examining regional or cultural variations in the influence of leadership. Students' leadership experiences may be better understood by incorporating qualitative techniques like focus groups and interviews.

To learn more about how these characteristics impact the relationship between leadership and well-being, future study may also look into moderating or mediating factors including gender, academic discipline, socioeconomic status, or personality traits. Contextual impacts may also be clarified by contrasting various institution types (public versus private, urban versus rural). Last but not least, intervention-based research evaluating the impact of leadership development initiatives on mental health may help educators and legislators design student support networks based on solid data. These opportunities will deepen our comprehension of the vital role that student leadership plays in both academic and personal development.

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Hormones in Harmony: Yoga During Menopause

• Mamta

Abstract- *Yoga, an ancient Indian discipline, is a holistic practice that integrates body, mind, and spirit. With roots stretching back over 5,000 years, yoga offers a path toward inner peace, physical health, and emotional balance. Today, scientific evidence supports what yogic traditions have long advocated — that regular yoga practice can improve physical fitness, mental well-being, and overall quality of life. This is particularly relevant for women undergoing menopausal transition, a phase marked by physiological and psychological changes that can affect their daily lives.*

This essay explores how yoga serves as a powerful tool to support physical and mental health, especially in managing the challenges associated with menopause.

Keywords- *Hormonal imbalance, Yoga therapy, Menopause, Mood swings*

Yoga And Physical Health

1. Enhancing Flexibility and Strength- One of the most immediate benefits of yoga is improved flexibility. Asanas (yogic postures) stretch the muscles, increase the range of motion, and enhance joint mobility. This is particularly valuable for aging individuals, including menopausal women, whose bodies naturally lose flexibility and bone density. Poses such as Trikonasana (Triangle Pose), Vrikshasana (Tree Pose), and Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose) build core strength, improve posture, and support muscular endurance.

2. Supporting Cardiovascular Health- Yoga's calming effect on the nervous system contributes to reduced heart rate and blood pressure. Studies have shown that consistent yoga practice can lead to improved lipid profiles, lower blood sugar levels, and better cardiovascular outcomes. The integration of breathing exercises (Pranayama) with physical movement increases oxygen supply to the heart and organs, supporting better circulation and heart health.

3. Alleviating Menopausal Symptoms- During menopause, declining estrogen levels can lead to hot flashes, night sweats, fatigue, and joint pain. Specific yoga poses help regulate the endocrine system and soothe the nervous system, thereby reducing the severity of these symptoms. For instance, Supta Baddha Konasana (Reclining Bound Angle Pose) and

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Viparita Karani (Legs-Up-The-Wall Pose) are deeply restorative and help cool the body and calm the mind.

4. Improving Bone Health- Menopause increases the risk of osteoporosis due to reduced estrogen. Weight-bearing yoga poses like Virabhadrasana (Warrior Pose), Tadasana (Mountain Pose), and Plank strengthen bones and improve balance, reducing the risk of falls and fractures.

Yoga And Mental Health

1. Reducing Stress and Anxiety- Yoga's emphasis on breath and mindfulness helps shift the nervous system from a sympathetic (fight-or-flight) to a parasympathetic (rest-and-digest) state. This physiological shift calms the mind, reduces stress hormones like cortisol, and fosters a sense of inner calm. Meditation practices and breathing techniques such as Anulom Vilom and Bhramari are highly effective in managing anxiety.

2. Combating Depression- Depression is a common challenge for menopausal women due to hormonal imbalances and changing life roles. Yoga enhances the production of serotonin, the "feel-good" neurotransmitter. Techniques like guided meditation, chanting, and mindfulness improve self-awareness and emotional resilience. Yoga offers a non-pharmacological option that complements conventional therapies for mild to moderate depression.

3. Enhancing Sleep Quality- Insomnia and disturbed sleep are common during menopause. Yoga Nidra (Yogic Sleep), a deep relaxation technique, has shown significant benefits in improving sleep quality. Restorative yoga helps relax tense muscles and calm the mind, preparing the body for deep rest.

4. Fostering Self-Awareness and Acceptance- Yoga is more than physical exercise; it is a journey of self-discovery. Through regular practice, individuals become more attuned to their body's needs, emotions, and limitations. For menopausal women, who often struggle with changing body image and roles, yoga provides a space of acceptance and empowerment.

Yoga And Menopausal Change- Menopause is a natural biological process that typically occurs between the ages of 45 and 55. It marks the end of menstrual cycles and fertility in women. The decline in estrogen levels can affect nearly every organ system, leading to symptoms such as:

- Hot flashes and night sweats
- Mood swings
- Memory lapses
- Weight gain
- Vaginal dryness
- Decreased libido
- Fatigue

These symptoms can last for months or even years, impacting personal, social, and professional life. Yoga helps manage these symptoms by regulating hormones, enhancing body awareness, and promoting relaxation.

1. Hormonal Balance- Yogic breathing and certain asanas stimulate the hypothalamus and pituitary glands, which regulate hormone production.

Practices like Sarvangasana (Shoulder Stand) and Matsyasana (Fish Pose) support thyroid function, which is crucial during menopause.

2. Weight Management- Due to metabolic slow-down during menopause, many women experience weight gain. Yoga, particularly dynamic forms like Vinyasa and Power Yoga, help burn calories while improving muscle tone and metabolism. Combined with mindful eating promoted in yogic philosophy, this can lead to healthier lifestyle choices.

3. Emotional Stability- Menopause often coincides with life transitions such as children leaving home or aging parents. These emotional stressors can compound menopausal mood changes. Yoga cultivates emotional intelligence and coping skills. The practice of Sankalpa (intention setting) during Yoga Nidra gives women clarity and focus, helping them navigate this life phase with grace.

4. Enhancing Sexual Health- Vaginal dryness and lowered libido are common but seldom-discussed menopausal concerns. Yoga increases blood flow to the pelvic region, improves pelvic floor tone, and boosts body confidence- all of which can enhance sexual health and satisfaction. Poses like Bridge Pose and Happy Baby Pose are particularly beneficial.

Lifestyle Integration- Yoga is not just a physical regimen; it is a lifestyle. The eight limbs of yoga described in Patanjali's Yoga Sutras emphasize ethical living (Yama and Niyama), physical postures (Asana), breath control (Pranayama), and meditation (Dhyana), leading to self-realization.

For menopausal women, integrating yoga into daily life promotes:

- A balanced diet (Sattvic food choices)
- Regular sleep and wake cycles
- Connection with nature
- Non-judgmental self-care
- Community and support

Scientific Evidence- Several studies validate yoga's benefits for menopausal health:

- A 2017 study in *Maturitas* journal showed that 12 weeks of yoga reduced vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes) and improved quality of life in menopausal women.
- Research from Harvard Medical School found that yoga reduced cortisol levels and helped women manage stress-related symptoms.
- A 2020 study in the *Journal of Mid-Life Health* concluded that yoga therapy significantly reduced anxiety and depressive symptoms in postmenopausal women.

These findings strengthen the position of yoga as a complementary therapy in menopausal health management.

Conclusion- Yoga offers a comprehensive, holistic approach to health-integrating physical strength, emotional balance, and spiritual clarity. For menopausal women, it is more than an exercise routine; it is a life-enhancing practice that empowers them to embrace change with dignity and joy.

As women transition through this natural life phase, yoga provides a sanctuary- a sacred space to reconnect with the self, nurture the body, and

calm the mind. With regular practice, menopause can be not a crisis, but a gateway to deeper wisdom, strength, and serenity.

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Digital Parenting Strategies in Indian Households: A Qualitative Study

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.. Neelam Shukla

Abstract- *In recent years, there has been a significant paradigm shift in parenting, particularly in how parents and children connect, spend time together, and interact. The increasing use of digital devices has reshaped family dynamics, often reducing time spent on essential developmental activities such as skill-building, free play, and creative expression. While technology undoubtedly brings remarkable convenience, access to information, and endless opportunities for learning and entertainment, its unregulated use can lead to a range of challenges—including behavioural issues, emotional imbalance, social isolation, and physical health concerns like headaches, eye strain, and obesity. This study recognizes the dual nature of technology in modern parenting and aims to explore the strategies of digital parenting in Indian households. A total of 33 parents were selected using purposive sampling, and qualitative data was gathered through a self-constructed standardised questionnaire. The research seeks to understand how parents manage their children's digital engagement and the impact of such strategies on family well-being and child behaviour.*

Keywords- *digital parenting, technology, unregulated use, behavioural issues, isolation, modern parenting*

Introduction

Digital Parenting in Indian Households: Challenges and Evolving Strategies- The digital revolution has reshaped every aspect of life, including how children are raised and families' function. Parenting today involves not just nurturing and guiding, but also managing children's interaction with digital technology—a domain that has expanded rapidly from workplaces into homes. With the widespread availability of smartphones, tablets, and internet access, children now engage with screens from an early age, often before formal schooling begins. This early and frequent exposure has brought a profound shift in parenting dynamics, giving rise to the term **digital parenting**. Digital parenting refers to the strategies parents use to monitor, guide, and co-engage with their children's digital activities. Unlike traditional parenting that emphasized physical

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environments and direct social interactions, digital parenting deals with invisible risks and subtle effects—ranging from screen addiction and reduced attention to emotional dysregulation and social withdrawal. At the same time, digital platforms offer immense educational and creative potential. The role of the parent is no longer to restrict technology but to **co-navigate** its responsible and mindful use.

The Need for Conscious Digital Parenting Strategies- In Indian households—where parenting is deeply influenced by cultural values and hierarchical norms—balancing screen use is particularly complex. Many parents fluctuate between over-permissiveness and strict control, often without a clear understanding of how to cultivate healthy digital habits. This study seeks to explore the digital parenting strategies used by Indian parents, the challenges they face, and the outcomes of these practices on children's well-being.

Modecki et al. (2022) identified three core digital parenting practices: restrictive mediation (rule-setting), active mediation (content discussion), and co-viewing (shared use). Their review emphasized the lack of tools tailored to younger children, where foundational screen-time behaviours are established. **Tosun and Mihci (2020)** found that many parents equated digital parenting with merely limiting screen time, highlighting the need for integrated education on digital literacy and traditional values.

The COVID-19 pandemic intensified digital exposure. In India, **Joseph et al. (2021)** reported noticeable effects on children's cognition, behaviour, and socialization due to extended screen use. A broader review by **Banić and Orehovački (2023)** shows a shift from restrictive to more engaged forms of parenting—linked closely to the digital literacy of the parents themselves. This aligns with **Milovidov's (2020)** call for "positive digital parenting," where trust, role-modelling, and open communication form the foundation for safer digital engagement.

Neurological concerns also exist. **Sigman (2017)** introduced the concept of "screen dependency disorders," warning that prolonged digital use can impact brain development. He emphasized the need for early awareness and intentional tech use, rather than avoidance.

Parental digital competence plays a crucial role. **Mohapatra and Banerjee (2020)** found that in Indian homes, smartphones were often used as digital pacifiers even for infants, showing how normalized early screen exposure has become. **Siibak (2019)** warns that this reliance on tech has led to the "datafication" of childhood, where surveillance, privacy erosion, and parental anxiety reshape everyday parenting.

Innovative solutions have shown promise. In rural Peru, **Jäggi et al. (2021)** tested *Afinidata*, a chatbot delivering parenting advice via Facebook Messenger. High user engagement suggested that scalable, low-cost digital tools can effectively support parents— even in resource-limited settings—pointing to their potential applicability in India.

Finally, parenting style is a key factor. **Samiullah Sarwar's** study emphasized that authoritative parenting- marked by warmth and structure—was more effective than authoritarian control in shaping positive child behaviour. In digital contexts, this suggests that parents who offer guidance with emotional support are better equipped to manage screen use effectively.

Conclusion- As Indian families grow increasingly connected, parenting must adapt to the psychological, social, and behavioural demands of the digital age. Research points to the need for a **balanced, intentional, and empathetic** approach to digital parenting-where technology is neither demonized nor blindly embraced. This study aims to understand how Indian parents are responding to these challenges and what strategies lead to healthier, safer digital environments for children.

Methodology

Research Design- this study adopts a qualitative exploratory research design to investigate the digital parenting strategies employed by Indian parents for managing their children's use of technology. A qualitative approach is appropriate for gaining in-depth insights into parental perspectives and behaviours. Non participant behaviour was also observed.

Sample Size- A total of 33 parents participated in this qualitative study, selected through purposive sampling. The majority of participants were mothers, reflecting the typically active role they play in day-to-day digital parenting. All participants resided in urban areas, and their ages ranged from 30 to 45 years. This sample was chosen to explore the strategies employed by parents in managing their children's technology use within the Indian urban family context.

Tool for Data Collection- A self-constructed standardized questionnaire was used as the primary tool for data collection. The questionnaire was developed based on a review of existing literature on digital parenting and tailored to the Indian cultural context. It included close-ended questions to capture information on parents' digital parenting strategies, attitudes toward technology, and approaches to managing their children's screen use.

Procedure The study was conducted after obtaining informed consent from all participants. Data was collected either in person or through digital means (e.g., email/Google Forms/WhatsApp, etc.-add as appropriate), depending on the convenience of participants. All participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity, and their responses were used solely for academic purposes. The collected responses were then organized and prepared for analysis using qualitative methods.

Data Analysis- The study was based on a self-constructed standardized questionnaire with close-ended questions and it was analysed using descriptive statistics. Responses from all 33 participants were compiled and organized into categories based on frequency and percentage distributions. This helped identify common patterns and trends in digital parenting strategies among urban Indian parents. The analysis focused on summarizing how parents manage their children's use of technology and what strategies are most commonly adopted.

Table 1
Digital Usage and Monitoring Practices

Variable	Response Option	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Child's Screen Time	Less than 45 minutes	3	9.1%
	45 minutes – 1.5 hours	6	18.2%
	1.5 – 3 hours	11	33.3%
	3 hours or more	13	39.4%
Online Safety Discussions	Regularly	10	30.3%
	Occasionally	14	42.4%
	Rarely	6	18.2%
	Not at all	3	9.1%
Screen Time Limits	Enforced consistently	17	45.9%
	Set but not always enforced	14	37.8%
	Encourage breaks only	3	8.1%
	No control	3	8.1%
Online Monitoring	Use parental control apps	9	27.3%
	Occasionally check/discuss	15	45.5%
	Trust but remind	9	27.3%

Table 2
Teaching Digital Safety and Handling Risks

Variable	Response Option	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Teaching Online Privacy	Regular discussion + rules	10	30.3%
	Real-life examples & consequences	19	57.6%
	Rely on school	0	0.0%
	Haven't discussed	4	12.1%
Responding to Inappropriate Content	Discuss and guide	17	51.5%
	Use parental controls	8	24.2%
	Ask to avoid it	7	21.2%
	Not sure how to handle	1	3.0%

Table 3
Engagement, Preferences, and Parental Confidence

Variable	Response Option	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Co-Viewing / Co-Playing	Yes, regularly	7	21.2%
	Sometimes	14	42.4%
	Rarely	6	18.2%
	Never	6	18.2%
Approach to social media	Set restrictions and monitor	14	42.4%

Variable	Response Option	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
	Allow with guidance	15	45.5%
	Free use, with reminders	3	9.1%
	No regulation	1	3.0%
	Educational + Age-appropriate	22	67.6%
App/Game Selection	Entertainment/popularity	3	9.1%
	Child's preference	6	18.2%
	No monitoring	2	6.1%
	Healthy Balance Encouragement	Routines for balance	21
	Encourage offline activities	11	33.3%
	Allow self-regulation	1	3.0%
	No encouragement	0	0.0%
Confidence in Guiding Digital Habits	Very confident	8	24.2%
	Somewhat confident	24	72.7%
	Not very confident	1	3.0%
	Not confident at all	0	0.0%

Interpretation and discussion- The findings across the study offer a comprehensive view of how urban Indian parents engage in digital parenting. The overall picture indicates a **moderate level of digital parenting competence**, with evident efforts in certain areas, but also significant gaps in consistency, awareness, and proactive strategy.

A substantial proportion of parents reported that they set screen time rules and attempt to monitor their child's digital activity (Tables 3 and 4), but fewer consistently enforce these rules or engage in detailed supervision. While some parents rely on parental control apps, most prefer occasional review or trust-based approaches. This reflects a partially engaged but informal approach to digital parenting, where intent exists, but execution is inconsistent.

In domains like online privacy and responding to inappropriate content (Tables 5 and 6), the responses revealed that many parents either haven't discussed these issues or rely on surface-level strategies such as reminders or avoidance. This suggests a limited understanding or discomfort around addressing sensitive digital issues directly with children. Similarly, practices like co-viewing content, regulating social media use, and choosing digital apps (Tables 7 to 9) varied widely- some parents are intentional and selective, while others give children significant autonomy without structured guidance.

Importantly, while most parents showed interest in encouraging screen-life balance (Table 10), only a few reported doing so through consistent routines. Although most parents in Table 11 reported feeling "somewhat confident" in managing their children's digital habits, only a few expressed strong confidences, indicating a gap between their perceived role and their readiness to handle digital challenges effectively.

Urban Indian parents demonstrate a growing awareness of the need for digital parenting strategies, but their practices are often reactive rather than proactive, and lack consistency or depth. The responses point to a transitional phase, where parents are trying to adapt to the digital age but may not yet possess the tools, confidence, or literacy required for effective digital parenting.

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Legal and Policy Measures to Protect Drugs Abuse in India

•Lakhendra Kumar Chhokar

Abstract- *The problem of drugs abuse is not the problem of India but it is a world-wide problem. Every individual has a right to life and State is under obligation to protect every human being's life, therefor it is the duty of the state to provide a healthy environment for a better life of human being. India is a signatory to three of United Nation's drug conventions. The Indian policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances depends on the Order Standards, contained in Article 47 of the Indian Constitution, which direct the State to attempt to achieve disallowance of the utilization, aside from restorative purposes, of inebriating drugs harmful to wellbeing. The expansive authoritative approach is contained in the three Focal Demonstrations, viz. Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and The Counteraction of Unlawful Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. The obligation of illicit drug use control, which is a focal capability, is helped out through various ministries, Divisions and Associations. These incorporate the Ministry of Finance, Branch of Income which has the nodal co-ordination job as overseer of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Avoidance of Unlawful Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.*

Keyword- *Drugs, International Convention, NDPS Act, 1985 and other Authorities.*

1. Introduction“*Drug abuse is a social evil. It destroys vitals not only of the society but also adversely affects the economic growth of the country.*”¹

Human being is a hyperphysical creature of God. His mind and lifestyle is very different from other living being on the earth. To a better life humans being always is striving to protect life of himself, other living creature and the nature, so that his life may be protected. However, this process of protection and development in itself generate problems to survive of the humans. In this modern stage of the society everybody needs to carry on with a solid life yet want and the truth are unique. Medications and drugs are fundamental parts of medical services framework. The very object of any medication is to treat the patient, whether totally or to some extent. Under

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some appalling circumstances the illness stays hopeless. However, the treatment and getting back to typical life is related with many elements of medications. They incorporate the right medication, right measurement. Right medication implies a medication which is generally reasonable.

The problem of drugs abuse in India is increasing day by day because of ill-treat use of drugs by humans being. Such as drugs are using for enjoyment. However, they can be and are also abused and trafficked.

Drugs abuse means chronic drug use or substance misuse alludes to the utilization of specific synthetics to make pleasurable impacts on the cerebrum. Medications of misuse are typically psychoactive medications that are utilized by individuals for different various reasons which might include: Interest and friend pressure, particularly among younger students and adults, the utilization of physician recommended drugs that were initially expected to target help with discomfort might have transformed into sporting use and become habit-forming, synthetic compounds might be utilized as a component of strict practices or customs, sporting purposes.

Drugs or Medicines are chemicals or compounds used to cure, halt, or prevent disease; ease symptoms; or help in the diagnosis of illnesses. Advances in medicines have enabled doctors to cure many diseases and save lives.²

Definition- The word drugs abuse is nowhere defined under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985. But the 'use of drugs' is defined under the sub-clause (xxviii) of section 2 "*use, in relation to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, means any kind of use except personal consumption*".³

Drug abuse, the over the top, maladaptive, or habit-forming utilization of medications for nonmedical purposes regardless of social, mental, and actual issues that might emerge from such use. Mishandled substances incorporate such specialists as anabolic steroids, which are utilized by certain competitors to speed up solid turn of events and increment strength and which can cause coronary illness, liver harm, and other actual issues; and psychotropic specialists, substances that influence the client's psychological state and are utilized to create changes in temperament, feeling, and discernment. The last class, which has a significantly longer history of misuse, incorporates opium (and such subsidiaries as heroin), stimulants, barbiturates, cocaine, amphetamines, sedatives, the few types of marijuana, and liquor.

2. International Legal Framework to Protect Drugs Abuse- Drugs abuses are a worldwide health issue causing death and injury to human energy of the individuals of advanced age and youngsters. No nation is liberated from this issue. It has tormented developing and developed nations the same. Therefor we are need to know that what efforts have been done at the international level to curb the problem of drugs abuse.

There are a number of international and national initiatives taking place to combat the problem of counterfeit and substandard medicines. INTERPOL, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO)

and WHO, is working with national police forces in combating the illicit trade of medicines, targeting both illicit physical and online outlets.⁴

The UN has organized three international conventions in 1961, 1971 and 1988. The first one sought to eliminate the illicit production and non-medical use of opioids, cannabis and cocaine. The meeting held in 1971 extended the scope to the psychotropic medications or synthetic drugs (*e.g.*, amphetamines, barbiturates and LSD). The third convention against illicit trafficking was targeted at the suppression of the illegal global market, and the restriction was also extended to the precursor chemicals.⁵

The three conventions show quality significant capabilities to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the International Narcotic Control Board: The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, made out of 53 member States chose by the Economics and Social Council for a four-year term, is the focal strategy making body concerning drug-related matters, including the checking of the worldwide patterns of unlawful medication dealing and misuse. This useful commission of the Economics and Social Council adopts and suggests for reception by the Council or to the General Assembly through the Council, goals on new deliberate measures or concurred strategies to more readily address the drug phenomenon. It concludes whether new substances ought to be included in one of the schedules of the conventions and assuming changes or cancellations in the timetables are required.⁶

The Global Narcotics Control Board is a permanent and independent body, comprising of 13 individuals, who are elected for a five-year term by the Economic and Social Council on the basis on their skill and serve in their own ability. The Board monitors the execution of the convention and, where suitable, makes proposals to States. It likewise directs the measurable control of drugs based on information provided by States and evaluates world prerequisites of licit drugs with a view to the transformation of creation to those necessities. It assembles data on unlawful dealing, and presents a yearly report on advancements on the planet circumstance to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the Economic and Social Council.

UNODC plays a significant part in helping these bodies in playing out their deal based capabilities, and in helping States Parties in the execution of their commitments under the global drug control arrangements.

The first International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Dealing was observed by the UN General Assembly on June 26, 1987. Since then, every year, this day denotes the intelligible and consistent worldwide collaboration to accomplish a drug-free society.⁷

Indian Legal Mechanism to Control Drugs Abuse

The Designs of drugs guideline that exist today - drug regulations, drug administrative offices, drug assessment sheets, quality control (QC) research facilities, drug data focuses and so on, have advanced over the long run. During this cycle, the extent of administrative and legislative powers has been slowly extended accordingly both to the ever- expanding intricacy

of an undeniably complex drug area, and to the apparent requirements of society. The target of all drugs regulatory systems is to guarantee that protected, great quality and strong medications arrive at the patients. Drugs assume a critical part in saving lives. Re-establishing wellbeing, and forestalling infections and scourges, yet they should be protected, effectual, of good quality and utilized judiciously. At the point when drugs itself is fake it presents habit-forming risk to the patients and over use of drugs make habitual to the person that create dangerous to the individual. Millions of Indians are dependent on alcohol, cannabis, and opiates, and drug misuse is a pervasive phenomenon in Indian society, says a new report, published jointly by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and India's Ministry of Social Justice.⁸

Chronic drug use is a mind boggling and broad medical problem in India and across the world. Be that as it may, in spite of expanding crackdowns on drug cartels in India by policing, drug use and cases detailed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 are on the rise. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed almost 60,000 cases under the NDPS Act in 2020 - denoting a two-overlap expansion somewhat recently alone.⁹ This brings up issues about the viability of current lawful systems in discouraging chronic drug use and enslavement, and the limitations of exclusively zeroing in on supply-side procedures.

The Indian Policy on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances depends on the Order Standards, contained in Article 47 of the Indian Constitution, which direct the State to attempt to achieve preclusion of the utilization, aside from restorative purposes, of inebriating drugs harmful to wellbeing. As enshrined in its constitution (Article 47) and being one of the signatories of the United Nation's International Conventions, India had the onus act to kill the utilization of illegal drugs, to foster measures to prevent drug use and to guarantee accessibility of treatment for individuals with drug use problems.

Following the 1971's UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Legislature of India, laid out a Specialist Advisory Committee to investigate the issue of drug and liquor use in India.¹⁰ The Committee's report was submitted in 1977, and after endorsement from the Planning Commission, Drug De-addiction Program (DDAP) was carried out in 1985-1986. The essential point of the DDAP was drug request decrease. During similar time, India had ordered the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 1985, which was amended three time, most recent in 2021. The essential point of the NDPS was 'to forestall and battle substance addiction and illegal dealing'¹¹, an evident accentuation on the inventory decrease. The consultative board (an advisory committee shaped by the NDPS Act), which was comprised in 1988, figured out a national level strategy to control illicit drug use. The board made an asset, Public Asset for Control of Chronic drug use and involved several other significant partners - the Ministry of Health (and

Family Welfare) and the Ministry of Welfare (right now Civil rights and strengthening). The Ministry of Health was entrusted with the job of avoidance and treatment of medication reliance, while the Ministry of Welfare was appointed with the obligation of the recovery and social integration of individuals with drug dependence. “The Ministry of Social Justice has additionally distributed its five-year plan, 'National Action Plan Drug Demand Reduction' in 2018. Till date, there are multiple hundred NGOs, spread the nation over and are working as the Incorporated Recovery Place for Addicts. The DDAP has additionally broadened its extension from the past DACs to the recently formed Drug Treatment Centres (DTC). These are portions of general emergency clinics, where a dedicated service with committed staff conveys short term-based care for substance use issues, and meds are administered free of cost”.¹²

The expansive authoritative approach is contained in the three Central Acts, viz. Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. Apart from these three Acts Indian Penal Code 1860, also has provision to deal with the drugs abuse in India, (IPC) does provide penalty for adulteration of drugs, sale of adulterated drugs and sale of drug as a different drugs or preparation. The obligation of chronic drug use control, which is a focal capability, is helped out through various Services, Divisions and Associations. These incorporate the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue which has the nodal co-ordination role as administrator of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which became effective from the fourteenth November, 1985 made an express arrangement for comprising a Focal Expert to practice the powers and elements of the Central Government under the Act.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985- The NDPS Act, places a restriction upon cultivation, production, sale, purchase, possession, use, consumption, import, and export of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances except when they are used for a scientific purpose or medical use.

Narcotic drugs include-

- Coca Plant- Leaf or other derivatives including cocaine. It also includes any preparation which contains 0.1% cocaine.
- Opium- This category includes poppy straw, poppy plant, opium poppy juice, and any preparation having 0.2% morphine. Derivatives of opium include morphine, heroin, thebaine, etc.
- Cannabis- Resin (Charas and Hashish), plant, fruit tops and flowering of the plant (Ganja), or any mixture of Ganja, Charas and Hashish are all included in this category. It is important to note that cannabis leaves i.e. bhang is excluded from this category and is regulated by the state laws.

The NDPS Act lays down the procedure to be followed in case any search or seizure is to be done. Procedure for arresting a person in relation to an offense in the NDPS Act is also provided for. But the norms of investigation and permissibility of evidence are interpreted in such a way that they are prejudicial to the cause of the accused. It can be said that the NDPS Act is essentially a punitive and punishing statute, it also contains a regulatory framework. The Act gives authority to the Central and the State government to frame rules in relation to drug-use activities. The regulatory framework also paves a way for supply of opium, to registered users, for meditative purposes.

NDPS Amendments

1. 1989

The NDPS Act went through its most memorable change in the year 1989. Extremely brutal disciplines were presented, similar to the compulsory least detainment of 10 years, a bar on suspension, limitation on bail, trial by special court, relinquishment of property, and required capital punishment at times of rehashed offense. After these amendments, individuals got even with limited quantity of drugs needed to go through lengthy detainments and exceptionally heavy fines, until and except if the individual could demonstrate that it was for his very own utilization.

2. 2001

Because of the analysis looked by the 1989 revision due to its unpredictable condemning strategies, the 2001 amendment was passed. As indicated by the 2001 change, the corrective arrangements were overhauled, and punishments were forced in view of the amount of the drugs. Three classes with respect to the amount were made-little, business, and intermediate. The limit was given through a Focal Government notice in October 2001.

3. 2014

The NDPS Act was again amended in the year 2014, and from May 2014, the amendments came into force. The main features of the latest amendments are-

- A new category of essential narcotic drugs was created which the Central Government can regulate uniformly throughout the nation.
- The objective of the law was widened with the promotion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance for scientific and medical use but also prohibiting illicit use.
- Including the terms “management” of drug dependence and “recognition and approval” of treatment centres, thus allowing for the establishment of legally binding treatment standards and evidence-based medical interventions.
- Whoever contravenes the provision of section 8A shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.

- The death penalty was made discretionary for repeated offense.

4. 2021

2021 Bill amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985. It seek to rectify a drafting anomaly, which was created by a 2014 amendment to the parent legislation. Amendment comprises of a legislative declaration about what one section refers to. According to it, section 2 clause (viiiia) corresponds to clause (viiiib) in section 27, since 2014. Section 27A of N.D.P.S Act, 1985, provides Punishment for financing illicit traffic and harbouring offenders.¹³

Role Of Judiciary

The Indian judiciary is considered as one of the most proactive adjudicatory wings when it comes to judicial review of the Indian legislations and policies. **In Balley Singh v State of Uttar Pradesh and Ors**,¹⁴ where the Allahabad High Court cites a decision of the Supreme Court of India dated 17/2/1956, where a challenge to the Opium Acts and the Dangerous Drugs Act on the grounds of Article 14 (right to equality before law) and Article 19(1)(g) (right to freedom of trade and occupation) was rejected.

In 2008, a division bench of the Supreme Court of India in the case of '**Michael Raj v Intelligence Bureau**, Narcotics Control Bureau had ruled that discipline under the NDPS Act will rely upon the amount of offending drug present in a consignment seized by the police. Five grams of heroin would characterize as a little amount while 250 grams of a similar stash would be viewed as a business amount drawing in a discipline of as long as 20 years of detainment. Drug merchants would sell heroin blended in with caffeine, chalk powder, zinc oxide, to get around the law and departure with minor sentences. On January 27, 2003, on June 8, 2011 Honourable Supreme Court of India observed and remarked something regarding adequacy of drugs Regulatory Provisions of India- In this country there are two laws that need to be changed or amended to act as a deterrent. They are laws relating to anti – corruption and sale of spurious drugs.¹⁵

It is an indication of Grave Situation. Drug safety Regulatory Authorities act as a guardian that ensures the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs available to the public, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of drug regulation. They also play a vital role to ensure and increase regulatory implementation in non – regulated parts of the world for safety of people residing there. The international regulatory organizations play essential role in all aspects of pharmaceuticals regulations related to drug product registration, manufacturing, distribution, price control marketing, research and development and intellectual property protection.¹⁶

In the case of '**Bachpan Bachao Andolan vs Union of India and Ors**'¹⁷ in this case Dr D Y CHANDRACHUD, J directed to the Union government to complete a national survey on substance abuse and formulate a comprehensive national plan. In this writ proceedings, which have been instituted under [Article 32](#) of the Constitution by Bachpan Bachao Andolan bring focus upon the alarming increase in the use of drugs and alcohol among children in India. The petition has been instituted in the public

interest for enforcing the fundamental rights of children particularly those suffering from and involved in substance use and abuse. The petitioner seeks the intervention of this Court for a mandamus to the Union of India to formulate and implement a national action plan for children on the issue of drugs, alcohol and substance abuse amongst children. This must, according to the petitioner, include in its coverage issues pertaining to identification, investigation, recovery, counselling and rehabilitation.

“The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladhak High Court recently held that the officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau and police officers within the meaning of section 25 of the Evidence Act. Having held so, Justice Mohan Lal noted that a confessional statement recorded under section 67 of the NDPS Act would remain inadmissible in the trial for an offence under the NDPS Act”¹⁸.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court recently laid down that if investigation in illegal possession of commercial quantity of ganja is pending beyond the statutory limit of 180 days by virtue of extension granted under section 36A (4) of the NDPS Act, 1985 well in advance, than default bail under section 167(2) Cr.P.C cannot be granted.

Conclusion

The evil of chronic drug use not just makes shackles on the general concept of a superior life yet it likewise goes about as an obstacle to the development of the country. The lawful structure which is available to counter the maltreatment of drugs depends on a strong groundwork. Taking everything into account, the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) has been ordering insights on seizures, and so on from different State and Focal policing and has been assembling the National Drug Enforcement Statistics (NDES) consistently. These measurements address the medication policing great as the similar execution of different organizations and the aggregation should be finished inside the suitable time to agree with the arrangements of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985.

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***Prosopis cineraria* as traditional uses in local area of jodhpur district of Rajasthan**

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•• Renuka Verma

Abstract- *Prosopis cineraria*, commonly known as the khejri tree, is a drought – resistant species native to arid regions of south asia, particularly India, where it holds significant cultural and medicinal value. Traditional medicinal uses of *prosopis cineraria* span a variety of ailments, owing to its diverse bioactive properties. Various parts of the plant, including the roots, bark, leaves, seeds and gum have been employed in indigenous system od medicinal such as Ayurveda and Unani.

Ethnomedicinally, the plant is utilised for its anti- inflammatory, analgesic, antimicrobial and antioxidant effect. It is commonly used in the treatment of digestive disorders, respiratory diseases, skin conditions, fever and joint pain. The plant's seed and leaves are believed to have potential antidiabetic effects, while its gum serves as a tropical agent for wound healing. Despite of widespread traditional uses, scientific research on the pharmacological properties of prosopis cineraria is still developing with studies highlighting its potential as a natural remedy for various health condition. This review underscores the ethnomedicinal importance of prosopis cineraria and calls for further research to validate and explore its therapeutic potential in modern medicine.

Keywords- *Prosopis cineraria*, ethnomedicinal, anti-inflammatory, alagesic, wound healing, Ayurveda, unani.

Introduction- *Prosopis cineraria*, locally known as “khejri” in Rajasthan, holds significant ethnomedicinal importance among the communities of Jodhpur district. This resilient tree, adapted to the arid conditions of the Thar Desert, serves multiple therapeutic purposes in traditional practices.

The bark of *prosopis cineraria* is utilized for its medicinal properties to address various ailments. It is employed in the treatment of leprosy, dypsentry, bronchitis, asthma, leukoderma, piles, and muscular tremors. Additionally, the bark is considered beneficial for managing rheumatism and is used as a remedy for snakebites and scorpion stings.

The tree's flowers are traditionally pounded and mixed with sugar to be consumed by pregnant woman as a safeguard against miscarriage. The unripe pods, known locally as “Sangari” are a staple in Rajasthan cuisine and

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are valued for their nutritional content, providing protein iron, and vitamins A and C. Beyond their dietary significance, these pods are used in traditional medicinal to treat urinary and genital disorders.

Leaves of *Prosopis cineraria* are applied in various forms to treat skin conditions such as boils and blisters. The smoke from burning leaves is also believed to alleviate eye troubles.

The gum exuded by the tree is considered nutritive and is traditionally consumed by pregnant woman during delivery.

These diverse applications underscore the integral role of *Prosopis cineraria* in the ethnomedicinal practices of Jodhpur's local communities, highlighting its importance in both health and cultural contexts.

Culinary Uses

- **Pods (“Sangari”)**: The green pods are a staple in Rajasthan cuisine. They are boiled, dried, and used year- round in dishes like “Panchkuta”, a traditional mix of five desert vegetables. The dried pods, referred to as “Kho-kha”, are sweet and consumed as a snack. Additionally, pickles made from these pods are popular.

Agricultural and Environmental Benefits

- **Agroforestry**: Farmers cultivate khejri alongside crops such as millet, maize, wheat, and mustard. The tree's deep taproot minimizes competition for water, and its nitrogen – fixing ability enhances soil fertility, leading to improved crop yields.
- **Soil Improvement and Sand Dunes Stabilization**- Khejri plays a crucial role in stabilizing shifting sand dunes and acts as an effective windbreak, protecting farmland from desert winds. Its extensive root system helps in afforestation efforts in arid areas.

Cultural and Religious Significance:

- **Sacred Symbolism**: The khejri tree holds profound religious importance. Historically, members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives to protect these trees from being felled, underscoring its revered status.
- **Mythological References**: In Sanskrit, the tree is known as “Shami” and is associated with various religion texts and practices. It is considered sacred and is often worshipped during festivals.

Fodder and Livestock Support:

- **Leaves (“Loong”)**: High in nutritional value, the leaves serves as vital fodder for livestock, especially during dry seasons when other green forage is scarce. They are fed to animals like camels, goats, and sheep, providing essential nutrients.

Other Uses:

- **Wood**: The hard and durable wood is utilized for construction purposes, including building houses, agricultural implements and well structures. It also serves as an excellent source of firewood and

charcoal.

- **Gum:** During May and June, the tree exudes a nutritive gum consumed by pregnant woman during delivery.
- **Bark:** The bark possesses abortifacient and laxative properties, utilized in traditional medicine for specific effects.
- **Leaves:** known locally as “LOONG” the leaves are highly nutritive and serves as essential fodder for livestock, particularly during dry season.

Medicinal Uses:

- **Treatment of boils and Blisters:** A paste made from the leaves is applied topically to alleviate boils and blisters.
- **Mouth Ulcer Relief:** Applying leaf paste inside the mouth is a traditional remedy for mouth ulcers.
- **Skin Sores:** An infusion of the leaves is used to cleanse and promote healing of open sores on the skin.
- **Eye Care:** The smoke produced by burning dried leaves is believed to be beneficial for treating eye troubles and infections.

Economic and Commercial Uses

- **Timber:** Used in furniture, tools and rural housing.
- **Charcoal and Firewood:** Preferred for cooking due to its slow burning properties.
- **Gum and Resin:** Sold for medicinal and industrial purposes.

This tree is often called the “Kalpavriksha of the Desert” symbolizing its lifeline role in Rajasthan's arid landscape.

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Application of Blue Green Algae on Paddy Plants and Effect Analysed on Sulphur Content

• Anup Kumar Mishra

Abstract- *The use of organic manure as compared to nitrogen fertilizer is very less expensive, besides being quite safer as compared to the chemical fertilizers. Blue green algae as bio-fertilizers may prove efficient tool for boosting green revolution and to overcome food shortage all over the world. The Paddy (*Oryza sativa*, L.var. SAKET) plants were taken in experiment. These plants were raised in soil-pot culture conditions. The different Supply levels of blue green algae, nil (control), 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250g bga/kg soil were applied to plants. The increase in sulphur content of paddy plants was positively correlated with the increase in bga supply level upto 250 gba/kg soil level in tops of 30 days and in grains, and upto 200 g bga/kg soil level in tops of 90 days old plants. However, beyond 200 g bga/kg soil level in tops of 90 days old plants, increase in bga supply showed decrease in sulphur content. As compared to control the increase in sulphur content of tops of both 30 and 90 days and in grains of plants was found to be highly significant ($P = 0.01$) at each level of bga supply.*

Keywords- *Paddy, bga, BNF, controlled condition, DM*

Introduction- With the aim of the utilization of organic amendments or biofertilizers due to very high cost of chemical nutrients, the various attempts have been made with the hydrophytes or with the algae as biofertilizers.

Among the ecosystems in which blue green algae can be found, wet soils provide an ideal environment for blue green algae to grow. Blue green algae represent a small taxonomic group of photosynthetic prokaryotes. Some of them possess ability of nitrogen fixation and also possess a tremendous potential for producing a wide range of secondary metabolites.

The biofertilizers contains beneficial microorganisms which improve plant growth and protect plants from pests and diseases (El-yazeid et al, 2007). The role of soil microorganisms in sustainable development of agriculture has been reviewed (Lee and Pankhurst, 1992). Biofertilizers are important components of integrated nutrients management. These potential biological fertilizers would play key role in productivity and sustainability of soil. They also protect the environment by being eco-friendly. They are cost effective for farmers and are renewable source of plant nutrients to supplement chemical fertilizers in sustainable agricultural system.

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Blue green algae have drawn much attention as prospective and rich sources of biologically active constituents and have been identified as one of the most promising groups of organisms capable of producing bioactive compounds (fish & codd 1994, schlegel et al...1999). De (1939) attributed the natural fertility of flooded rice field soil and its maintenance to the process of biological nitrogen fixation by blue green algae.

In developing countries like India, there is immediate need to rely increasingly on organic fertilization of soil. These bio-fertilizer play a role in minimising dependence on inorganic nitrogenous fertilizers. The bio-fertilizers, otherwise called microbial inoculants are preparations containing live or latent cells of efficient strains of nitrogen fixing micro-organisms used for seed or soil application. The main objective of applying inoculants is to increase the number of such microorganisms in soils or rhizosphere and consequently improve the extent of micro-biologically fixed nitrogen to plant growth. Application of bio-fertilizers in combination with organic nitrogenous fertilizers has a key role to play in the economic management of nitrogen needs of crops. In India, considerable progress has been made in the development of blue green algae-based bio-fertilizer technology. It has also been demonstrated that this technology can be a powerful means of enriching the soil fertility and improving rice crop yields.

Material And Method- Normal water was used during culture work. After the seed's emergence, plants were thinned to a uniform number in each pot. Subsequent thinning was done whenever needed. For the experiment, there were six pots. The pots were arranged in 3 blocks A, B and C. In each block there were two pots, one pot was meant for control treatment and other one with BGA treatment. In each block the treatments were completely randomized.

For studies, the Paddy (*Oryza sativa*, L.var. SAKET) plants were raised in soil pot culture. Soil samples were collected in clean polythene bags after surface scrapping and brought to the laboratory. Calculated amounts of normal water were applied daily to pots to provide as for as possible uniform soil moisture conditions. All samples were drawn at the same time and placed in the shade. The 3 blocks a, b and c were sampled at the same time.

Soil was separately mixed with required amount of blue green algae. There after it was air dried, thoroughly grounded and mixed. For through mixing required amount of BGA were mixed with small amounts of soil, divided and mixed again and again. Then these amended soils were mixed with bigger amounts of soil similarly, and finally these soils were mixed with bigger lots of calculated soils required for experiments. Soil mixing was done on separate clean chart to avoid any contaminations. Mixed soils were filled in pots.

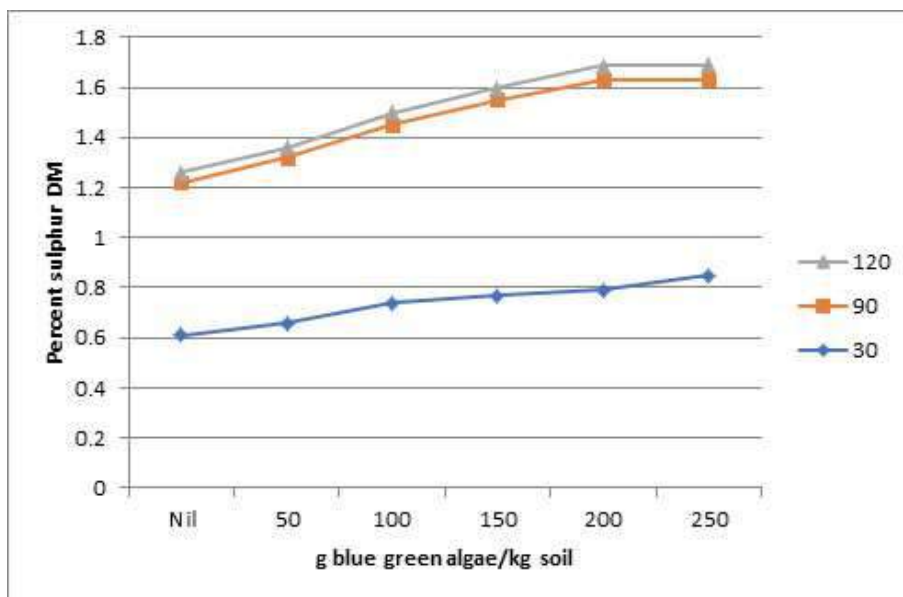
Sulphur was determined turbidimetrically, by an adaptation of the method of Chesnin and Yien (1951) described by Jacson (1958). The turbidity was measured in Elico CL-20A Photoelectric calorimeter using violet filter within half an hour.

Result- The increase in sulphur content in tops of both 30 and 90 days and grains of plants was found to be highly significant ($P = 0.01$) at 100 g bga/kg soil over 50 g bga/kg soil, 150 g bga/kg soil over 100 g bga/kg soil and 200 g bga/kg soil over 150 g bga/kg soil level in tops Of both 30 and 90 days and grains of plants, and at 250 g bga/kg soil over 200 g bga/kg soil in tops of 30 days and grains of paddy plants, however 250 g bga/kg soil over 200 g bga/kg soil level showed a highly significant ($P = 0.01$) decrease in sulphur content in tops of 90 days old plants.

Maximum sulphur content was observed at 250 g bga/Kg soil level in tops of 30 days and grains of paddy plants and at 200 bga/Kg soil level in tops of 90 days old plants.

Effect of the blue green algae as biofertilizers on sulphur content of Paddy (*Oryza sativa*, L.var. SAKET) plants

Plant		g blue green algae/kg soil					
Age (days)	Part	Nil	50	100	150	200	250
Percent sulphur DM							
30	Tops	0.61	0.66	0.74	0.77	0.79	0.85
90	Tops	0.61	0.66	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.78
120	Grains	0.040	0.041	0.049	0.050	0.058	0.062



Discussion- The modern-day intensive crop cultivation requires the use of chemical fertilizers, but fertilizers are not only in short supply but also expensive in developing countries. Therefore, the current trend is to explore

the possibility of supplementing chemical fertilizers with organic ones, more particularly biofertilizers of microbial origin.

Rice is an exclusive crop plant of aquatic habitat, largely raised in anaerobic or partially anaerobic submerged environment. The most important characteristic of a submerged soil is the existence of a layer of standing water, which exercises a profound influence on the physio-chemical and biological conditions of the soil below. The important physical changes brought about by inundation are gaseous exchange, reaction, specific conductance and redox potential. The chemical properties which undergo changes on submergence are essentially the complex transformations of various elements. These depend on factors like the redox potential, pH, nature and quantity of organic matter, base status of the soil and microbiological activity.

The blue green algae have inhabited much of the surface of the earth for billions of years and today they are responsible for a significant amount of biological nitrogen fixation (BNF). The tropic independence of blue green algae made them suitable for use as biofertilizers. Blue green algae are widely distributed organisms all over the world and can be found in extreme habitats, from hot springs to arctic regions. Blue green algae dominate a wide range of diverse environments characterized by extremes of temperature, desiccation, pH, salinity, light intensity and nutrients (Whitton, 2000). Many blue algae tolerate high levels of ultraviolet irradiation (Sinha et al, 1999) permitting them to survive at the soil surface.

In conformity with the results of the present study, Rai et. al., 2000 reported that blue green algae are good colonizers of the nitrogen poor soils, and that through their nitrogen input into the environment they may help to create habitats suitable for other species. Many blue green algae have the capacity to manufacture nitrogenase. Because the enzyme complex is anaerobic, significant fixation by unicellular, colonial and some filamentous species occurs only in the absence of air. Therefore, only heterocystous species are valuable as biofertilizers. Blue green algae i.e. biofertilizers have several advantages over chemical fertilizers. They are non-polluting, inexpensive, utilize renewable resources. In addition to their ability of using free available solar energy, atmospheric nitrogen and water. Besides supplying N_2 to crops, they also supply other nutrients such as vitamins and growth substances (Wagner, 1997). *Anabaena* and *Nostoc* have been recorded among the common nitrogen fixing blue green algae in ricefields. The use of blue green algae as nitrogen based biofertilizers is reported in many rice growing countries of the world. This was because of the increased cost of chemical fertilizers, that cause soil and water pollution, changes soil structure and produce microflora. In comparison, blue green algae is a cheap source of N, which does not cause pollution. It improves the organic matter status and water holding capacity. Venkataraman (1981) reported that open air soil culture is simple, less expensive and easily adaptable by farmers. As mentioned earlier, blue green algae has minimum growth requirements of sunlight, simple inorganic nutrients and moisture.

The modern-day intensive crop cultivation requires the use of chemical fertilizers, but fertilizers are not only in short supply but also expensive in developing countries. Therefore, the current trend is to explore the possibility of supplementing chemical fertilizers with organic ones, more particularly biofertilizers of microbial origin.

So, in the end we can say that use of blue green algae as biofertilizers is important to overcome the adverse effect of chemical fertilizers.

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***Unshackling the Chain of Oppression:
The Quest for Afro-American Women's Empowerment in
Ntozake Shange's Betsey Brown***

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Abstract- *Ntozake Shange's Betsey Brown provides a rich exploration of these themes through the story of a young African-American girl navigating a world deeply divided by racial and societal norms. Set against the backdrop of the 1950s and 1960s, a time of great social upheaval in America, Betsey Brown tells the story of a girl's journey toward self-discovery and empowerment, struggling to define herself outside the oppressive forces of race, class, and gender. Within the larger narrative of Afro-American women's empowerment. By examining Betsey's growth, the themes of identity, and the importance of family and community, we will reveal how Shange's work resonates with the ongoing struggle for agency and self-realization that African-American women continue to confront.*

Keywords- *black women, civil right movement, race, culture, identity.*

Introduction- In the world of African-American literature, the experiences of Black women are often portrayed as intersecting struggles of race, gender, and identity. Ntozake Shange's *Betsey Brown* provides a rich exploration of these themes through the story of a young African-American girl navigating a world deeply divided by racial and societal norms. Within the realm of African-American literature, the narratives of Black women frequently depict intertwined struggles related to race, gender, and identity. Ntozake Shange's *Betsey Brown* offers a comprehensive examination of these themes through the tale of a young African-American girl navigating a society profoundly divided by racial and social conventions. Set against the historical backdrop of the 1950s and 1960s, a period characterized by significant social turmoil in America, *Betsey Brown* narrates the journey of a girl striving for self-discovery and empowerment, as she endeavors to define her identity beyond the oppressive influences of race, class, and gender.

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As Betsey contemplates her place in a society where Black women are often relegated to the margins, she embarks on a transformative journey, driven by both personal and collective forces. Shange uses Betsey's experiences to highlight the struggles African-American women face in a world that attempts to silence their voices. Through Betsey, Shange critiques societal expectations while simultaneously offering a blueprint for empowerment, urging readers to reflect on the necessity of claiming one's own voice in the face of overwhelming oppression. This paper seeks to explore how Shange's *Betsey Brown* is a crucial text in the broader narrative of Afro-American women's empowerment. By analyzing Betsey's development, the themes of identity, and the significance of family and community, we will uncover how Shange's work speaks to the struggle for agency and self-realization that African-American women continue to face.

Historical and Social Context- The context in which *Betsey Brown* is set—the 1950s and early 1960s—was a period marked by profound racial, social, and political changes in America. For African-Americans, this was the time of the Civil Rights Movement, an era that aimed to dismantle institutional racism, segregated schooling, and disenfranchisement. For African-American women, however, the struggle was twofold: they faced not only racial discrimination but also the added burdens of gendered oppression within both the African-American and white communities. Black women were often marginalized in feminist and civil rights movements, with their specific struggles often ignored or minimized by mainstream movements that were primarily driven by men.

Within the African-American community, gender roles were traditionally rigid, with women often expected to adhere to domestic duties while men were seen as the head of the family and the community. At the same time, African-American women were excluded from many of the privileges afforded to white women, resulting in a specific set of challenges that their white counterparts did not face. This intersection of race and gender oppression profoundly shaped the lives of African-American women in the 1950s and 1960s. Writers like Shange, therefore, were instrumental in giving voice to these challenges, both in literature and in the larger political and social sphere.

Betsey Brown engages with this complex historical backdrop. Shange's depiction of the Brown family, with its internal conflicts and external struggles, mirrors the way the African-American community wrestled with its own identity and place in a racially divided nation. The novel is not just a coming-of-age story for Betsey but also a microcosm of the larger movement toward social, political, and cultural empowerment that would define the Black Power Movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Character Analysis: Betsey Brown- Betsey Brown, the protagonist of Ntozake Shange's novel, is a young girl caught in the liminal space between childhood and adolescence, and between the confining roles of race and gender imposed by society. She is a symbol of a new generation of Black women who, while still children, begin to see the injustices that define their

world. The novel follows Betsey's emotional and intellectual growth as she contemplates her place in a world that tells her she is neither fully Black nor fully white, neither fully a child nor an adult. In this context, Betsey's journey is representative of the struggle that many African-American women face: the desire to assert an individual identity while simultaneously contending with the social structures that limit their choices.

Betsey's search for empowerment is influenced by the contrasting figures of her family members. Her mother, a fiercely independent woman, works to secure a better life for Betsey but also struggles with her own limitations in a racist and sexist society. Betsey's father, while loving, is distant and somewhat passive, providing a limited model of masculinity for Betsey. The novel explores how Betsey's relationship with her family plays a critical role in her self-discovery, offering both a sense of strength and a point of contention.

In Betsey's growth, we see an emerging awareness of both her race and her gender. One pivotal moment in the novel occurs when Betsey confronts the limitations imposed upon her by white society. She begins to see that her identity is not determined by what others see in her, but by how she chooses to understand and define herself. This shift marks the beginning of her empowerment. The character of Betsey can be seen as a metaphor for the larger struggle of African-American women in this period: a fight for recognition and agency in a world that consistently tries to define them in reductive and limiting ways.

Themes of Empowerment and Identity- One of the primary themes of *Betsey Brown* is the journey toward self-discovery and empowerment. Throughout the novel, Betsey wrestles with her identity as an African-American girl growing up in a society that continually tries to marginalize her. This struggle is not just an internal one, but one that is influenced by external forces, such as her family, her community, and the larger social structures around her.

Betsey's struggle for empowerment is intertwined with her desire to define herself beyond the roles and stereotypes imposed by society. As a Black girl, she faces the dual oppression of race and gender. Shange uses Betsey's experiences to illustrate the complexity of these intersecting identities. Betsey's search for empowerment is not about rejecting her heritage, but about embracing it in a way that allows her to break free from the restrictive definition's others have placed on her. When Susan Linda states them as "niggah

Veejay scoffed at them [Besty and Charlott Ann], "y" all so dumb .donot You know about prejudice? It's when white folks don't like Nigero. Didn't you hear that gall call us niggah .Now, that there is bad word, My mama tol'me don't ssociate wit nobody calling me no niggah not Even colored what does it. (BB 41) Through these words of veejay besty come to know about fact and reality.

An example of this process can be found in Betsey's experience at the predominantly white school she attends. She is acutely aware of her

"otherness" and the way in which white peers view her as different. Yet, it is through these experiences that Betsey begins to understand the importance of racial pride, embracing her heritage, and learning to challenge the prejudices that shape the world around her.

Through these experiences, Shange presents a model for Afro-American women's empowerment—one that is rooted in self-acceptance, collective pride, and the active reclamation of one's voice in a world that constantly seeks to silence it.

The Role of Family and Community- In *Betsey Brown*, the family is both a source of support and a reflection of the larger societal challenges faced by African-Americans. Betsey's family, especially her mother, represents the strength and resilience of African-American women who, despite facing systemic oppression, continue to fight for a better future. While Betsey's father seems passive and distant, her mother embodies the role of a matriarchal figure who is both nurturing and protective.

However, the family dynamic also reveals tensions that mirror the larger racial and gender struggles. Betsey's mother, while strong, is constrained by societal expectations of women's roles, particularly in the context of the 1950s and 1960s. Her attempts to shield Betsey from the harsh realities of racism and sexism can be seen as both protective and limiting, reflecting the double-edged sword of maternal care in a patriarchal and racist society.

The community also plays a crucial role in Betsey's development. Shange portrays the African-American community as a space of both empowerment and limitation, where ideas of racial pride and Black solidarity coexist with entrenched patriarchal values. Betsey's interactions with her peers, mentors, and teachers within the community shape her understanding of what it means to be a Black woman in America.

Conclusion- In conclusion, Ntozake Shange's *Betsey Brown* serves as a powerful exploration of the quest for empowerment among African-American women in a racially divided America. Through the character of Betsey, Shange illuminates the intersectional nature of oppression and the journey toward self-definition and self-realization. By examining the themes of identity, family, community, and empowerment, this paper has shown how *Betsey Brown* reflects the larger struggles of African-American women in the 20th century and offers a blueprint for resistance against societal forces that seek to suppress their voices. The novel's exploration of Betsey's development emphasizes the importance of reclaiming one's identity and finding strength in the face of adversity, making it a pivotal text in understanding the continuing fight for Afro-American women's empowerment.

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A Study of People Participation and Involvement in River Revival Projects in Central Gujarat

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Abstract- *This study explores the critical role of community participation in river revival projects in Central Gujarat, with a focus on the Vishwamitri River in Vadodara. River revival refers to the restoration of ecological balance, water quality, and flow of rivers degraded due to pollution, encroachment, and overuse. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies, to assess the level, impact, and challenges of public involvement in these projects. Using surveys and interviews, data was collected from local residents, community leaders, government officials, and NGO representatives involved in river restoration. The study analyzes patterns of engagement, socio-economic influences, and institutional support mechanisms that shape participation. Findings highlight both barriers—such as lack of awareness, limited resources, and institutional gaps and motivating factors that encourage citizen involvement. The research emphasizes the importance of inclusive and sustainable strategies for successful river management, offering policy recommendations to enhance public participation. The outcomes are expected to support policymakers, environmental planners, and stakeholders in replicating effective models of community engagement for river conservation in Gujarat and beyond.*

Keywords- *Community participation, Ecological, Pollution*

Introduction of River Revival: Meaning in Detail

River revival refers to a series of coordinated efforts aimed at restoring the health, flow, and ecological balance of a river or water body that has been degraded or polluted over time. Rivers, which serve as vital water sources for drinking, agriculture, industry, and ecosystems, are increasingly facing threats due to human activities such as pollution, over-extraction, encroachment, and urbanization. River revival, therefore, encompasses a comprehensive approach to rehabilitate and rejuvenate rivers, ensuring their sustainability and improving their environmental and social health.

The meaning of river revival can be understood through its key objectives, strategies, and components, which involve the restoration of

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ecological functions, the improvement of water quality, the protection of biodiversity, and the sustainable management of water resources.

River Revival Projects in Vadodara: An In-Depth Overview

Vadodara, a major city in Gujarat, has been actively involved in river revival projects to address the growing challenges of pollution, water scarcity, and ecosystem degradation. The city, which is located on the banks of the **Vishwamitri River**, has seen significant efforts over the years to clean, restore, and sustainably manage its water resources. In addition to Vishwamitri, other local water bodies and rivers also face pollution and over-extraction, making their revival a priority for the city's urban and environmental planning.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for the study titled "**A Study of People Participation and Involvement in River Revival Projects in Central Gujarat**" was designed to address the core objectives of understanding how communities engage in river revival initiatives, the impact of their participation, and the challenges faced during these processes. The research was adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques to provide a comprehensive view of people's participation in river revival projects.

1. Research Design

This study was adopted a **descriptive** and **exploratory** research design. The descriptive design is intended to describe the current state of community involvement and participation in river revival initiatives in Central Gujarat. The exploratory aspect was help in understanding the underlying factors that influence participation and the barriers that people face in being actively involved in such projects.

2. Research Approach

The study was following a **mixed-methods** approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative research methods:

- **Qualitative Approach:** The qualitative approach help in exploring the experiences, attitudes, and perceptions of individuals and communities regarding their participation in river revival efforts. It was particularly useful in understanding the motivations, challenges, and benefits perceived by the community.
- **Quantitative Approach:** The quantitative approach was facilitating the collection of measurable data on the extent of participation, its impacts, and the factors influencing people's involvement. This was be used to supplement qualitative findings and offer a more generalizable view of community participation.

3. Population and Sampling

The study was focus on communities residing in areas Vadodara City and Villagers around rivers in **Central Gujarat**, specifically the **Vishwamitri Rivers**.

- **Local Residents:** People who reside in the vicinity of these rivers and are directly impacted by the river revival initiatives.

- **Community Leaders and Activists:** Individuals who are involved in the planning, execution, or advocacy for river revival projects.
- **Government and NGO Representatives:** Officials from governmental bodies and NGOs working on environmental and river restoration projects.

The sampling technique was **stratified random sampling** for the quantitative data collection to ensure representation from different sections of the community, including gender, age groups, and socioeconomic statuses. The qualitative data was collected using **purposive sampling**, targeting individuals who are either directly involved or have significant knowledge about the river revival initiatives.

4. Data Collection Methods

a. Primary Data Collection

- **Surveys/Questionnaires:** A structured questionnaire was administered to a large number of local residents and community leaders. The survey was designed to collect data on:
 - Awareness of river revival projects
 - Level of participation (e.g., attendance at meetings, involvement in clean-up drives, etc.)
 - Perceived benefits and challenges
 - Motivational factors influencing participation
 - Demographic details for correlation analysis (age, education, income level, etc.)
- **Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews were being conducted with key stakeholders, including government officials, NGO representatives, and community leaders. These interviews were explored:
 - Their role in the river revival projects
 - Their views on public involvement
 - The challenges faced by communities in engaging with river revival projects
 - The strategies they have implemented to encourage public participation
 - Perceived outcomes and impacts of public involvement on the success of the revival initiatives

5. Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis: The collected survey data was analyzed using **statistical software** of SPSS. Descriptive statistics were used to understand the demographic characteristics of respondents and the extent of their participation in river revival initiatives.

Qualitative Data Analysis: Qualitative data collected from interviews was analyzed through **thematic analysis**. This approach involved identifying patterns or themes within the qualitative data, grouping similar responses, and drawing conclusions based on the data. The analysis helped to understand the underlying motivations, barriers, and challenges faced by participants, as well as the success factors for increasing participation.

6. Ethical Considerations

- **Informed Consent:** All participants were being informed about the purpose of the research and the voluntary nature of their participation. Consent was obtained prior to conducting interviews, focus groups, or surveys.
- **Confidentiality:** Participants' identities were being kept confidential, and their responses were being anonymized during data analysis and reporting.
- **Ethical Approval:** The study was adhered to ethical guidelines established by the university and necessary approvals from relevant ethics committees was obtained before data collection begins.

7. Limitations of the Study

- **Geographical Scope:** The study was focus on Central Gujarat and findings may not be generalizable to other regions.
- **Resource Constraints:** Due to time and financial constraints, the number of interviews and focus groups may be limited, which could affect the depth of qualitative data collected.

8. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this study include:

- A comprehensive understanding of the extent and nature of community involvement in river revival projects in Central Gujarat.
- Identification of key barriers and challenges that hinder effective participation.
- Recommendations for enhancing community engagement and participation in future river restoration projects.
- Contribution to policy frameworks on river conservation that incorporate greater community involvement.

The findings were of particular value to policymakers, local government authorities, and NGOs working on river revival and community engagement strategies in Gujarat.

Aims and Objectives of the Study

Aims of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to explore and assess the role of people's participation and involvement in the river revival projects in Central Gujarat, with a specific focus on the **Vishwamitri River** in Vadodara. The study was examined how community engagement in these initiatives influences the success of river restoration efforts, while also identifying the challenges and opportunities associated with local participation in the river revival process. The ultimate goal is to provide recommendations to improve public involvement, foster sustainable practices, and contribute to the long-term success of the Vishwamitri River's restoration.

Specific Objectives of the Study

To achieve the overall aim, the following specific objective was guiding this research:

1. To assess the current level of people's participation and involvement in the Vishwamitri River revival initiatives:

2. To identify the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors influencing people's participation in the Vishwamitri River revival:
3. To explore the barriers and challenges faced by communities in actively participating in river revival projects:
4. To analyze the role of government, NGOs, and local authorities in encouraging or facilitating public participation in the Vishwamitri River revival:
5. To examine the environmental, economic, and social impacts of public participation in the Vishwamitri River revival efforts:
6. To provide recommendations for enhancing community involvement in future river revival projects:
7. To contribute to the theoretical understanding of people's role in environmental conservation and river management:
8. To create a model for replicating successful people participation strategies in other river systems in Gujarat and across India:

These aims and objectives was guiding the study's approach to understanding the dynamics of community participation in river revival projects, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of the factors influencing involvement, the challenges faced, and the potential benefits of active public engagement in sustaining the health of the Vishwamitri River and similar water bodies in Gujarat and beyond.

Variables under Study

In this study, several variables were be explored to understand the dynamics of people's participation and involvement in river revival initiatives for the **Vishwamitri River** in Central Gujarat. These variables were be classified into **independent variables**, **dependent variables**, and **moderating/mediating variables**. Each variable plays a crucial role in assessing the factors that influence participation, the barriers to involvement, and the overall impact of community engagement in river restoration efforts.

1. Independent Variables

- **Socio-Demographic Factors:**
 - **Age:**
 - **Gender:**
- **Awareness and Knowledge of River Issues:**
 - **Environmental Awareness:**
 - **Information Access:**
- **Government and Institutional Support:**
 - **Government Policies and Programs:**
 - **Support from NGOs and Civil Society:**

2. Dependent Variables

Dependent variables are the outcomes that the study aims to measure in relation to people's participation and involvement in the river revival efforts.

- **Level of Participation:** The extent to which people actively engage in the Vishwamitri River revival efforts, which can be measured by:
 - **Frequency of Participation:** How often individuals

- participate in activities like river cleaning, awareness programs, and meetings.
- **Type of Participation:** The nature of involvement, including physical (e.g., volunteering in clean-up drives), intellectual (e.g., awareness campaigns), or financial (e.g., donation for river restoration projects).
 - **Impact of Participation on River Health:** The effect of people's engagement in revival efforts on the environmental health of the Vishwamitri River. This can be assessed through:
 - **Biodiversity Restoration:** Impact on the river's biodiversity, including aquatic species and flora, as a result of local conservation efforts.
 - **Water Quality Improvement:** Changes in parameters such as pollution levels, chemical contaminants, and physical water quality indicators over time as a result of people-led initiatives.
 - **Ecosystem Resilience:** Recovery of ecological balance and the restoration of the river's natural function (e.g., water purification, groundwater recharge).

Hypothesis for the Study- In this study, several hypotheses are formulated to test the relationships between people's participation in the Vishwamitri River revival initiatives and the resulting environmental, social, and economic outcomes. These hypotheses aim to address key factors influencing participation and its impact on the river restoration process.

1. There is a significant positive relationship between the level of community awareness about the environmental issues of the Vishwamitri River and their active participation in river revival efforts.
2. Socio-demographic factors such as age, income, education, and occupation significantly influence the level of people's participation in the Vishwamitri River revival projects.
3. Government and institutional support positively influence the extent of people's participation in the Vishwamitri River revival initiatives.
4. Cultural and social factors, including community norms and religious significance of the Vishwamitri River, significantly influence people's participation in river restoration activities.
5. People's participation in the Vishwamitri River revival efforts leads to significant improvements in river water quality and biodiversity.
6. There is a significant positive relationship between community participation in the Vishwamitri River revival and the socio-economic development of local communities, particularly through ecotourism and sustainable livelihoods.
7. Barriers to participation, such as lack of awareness, insufficient

resources, or socio-political resistance, negatively impact the level of community involvement in the Vishwamitri River revival initiatives.

8. Increased community trust and social capital are positively correlated with greater involvement in river revival activities.
9. Economic incentives, such as the creation of jobs related to river restoration and ecotourism, positively affect people's willingness to participate in the Vishwamitri River revival efforts.
10. The effectiveness of awareness campaigns and community outreach programs positively influences the level of active participation in the Vishwamitri River revival.

Population & Sample for the Study

1. Population of the Study

Total 600 populations for this study refers to the individuals directly or indirectly involved in the river revival efforts for the **Vishwamitri River in Vadodara**, Central Gujarat.

The primary population components include:

- **Residents of Vadodara:**
- **Local Volunteers**
- **Civic and Community Leaders:**

2. Sample for the Study

The sample represents a subset of the population that was being selected to participate in the study. Given the large and diverse population involved in the Vishwamitri River revival, a **stratified random sampling technique** was used to ensure that all key stakeholder groups are appropriately represented. The sample size and selection was also depending on time and resource constraints, aiming for an adequate representation of the population.

2.1 Sampling Criteria

- **Geographical Scope:**
 - The study was focus on individuals and organizations within **Vadodara** city,
- **Stratification Based on Stakeholder Groups:**
 - **Community Participants:** Residents, local volunteers, community leaders, and members of local environmental groups (e.g., local NGOs).
 - **Government Representatives:** Government officials from the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), and local environmental agencies was included to understand the governmental perspective on river revival and the role of public policies.
 - **NGOs and Civil Society Organizations:** Representatives from NGOs actively engaged in environmental

conservation, river cleaning, and community mobilization efforts was be included in the sample.

2.2 Sample Size

Given the diverse and large nature of the population, the sample size was be determined using **statistical sampling techniques** based on the total population size. A representative sample was be selected, ensuring diversity in terms of socio-economic background, occupation, and level of involvement in river conservation. The sample size was also ensure that the data is sufficiently robust to draw meaningful conclusions.

- **Sample Size for Community Participants:** A random sample of approximately **600 local residents** (from both urban and rural areas) along the Vishwamitri River was be selected to participate in surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions.

2.3 Sampling Technique

- **Stratified Random Sampling:** To ensure representation from all stakeholder groups, the sample was be stratified based on different categories (e.g., residents, businesses, NGOs, government). Random sampling was be used within each stratum to select participants for the study.

3. Data Collection Methods

- **Surveys and Questionnaires:** Distributed to residents, local volunteers, and businesses to gather quantitative data on their level of participation, awareness, and perceptions of the river revival project.
- **Interviews:** Conducted with government officials, NGO representatives, and community leaders to gain qualitative insights into the role of institutions, the effectiveness of policies, and challenges faced by stakeholders.

4. Ethical Considerations

- **Informed Consent:** All participants was be informed about the purpose of the study and was provide informed consent before participation.
- **Confidentiality:** Data collected was be kept confidential, and individual identities was not be disclosed without permission.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Participants was be free to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequence.

Research Tools for the Study

The research tools for this study were be designed to collect both **qualitative** and **quantitative** data from different stakeholders involved in the river revival project for **Vishwamitri River**. As the study follows a **survey research methodology**, the tools was focus on understanding the factors influencing people's participation, the barriers they face, and the impact of their involvement on the river's restoration efforts.

Here are the **researches tools** that we are used in the study:

1. Survey Questionnaire

2. In-depth Interviews (Qualitative Research Tool)

Research Design

1. Introduction

The research design for the study titled "**A Study of People's Participation and Involvement in River Revival Project in Central Gujarat (Vishwamitri River)**" aims to examine the level of participation of individuals, communities, and other stakeholders in the river revival project along the Vishwamitri River. The study intends to understand how people are involved in river restoration efforts, their awareness levels, and the factors influencing their participation. The research was adopted a **survey research design** to systematically collect data from various stakeholders and derive generalizable insights on public participation in river revival projects.

6. Data Analysis

6.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

- **Statistical Tools:** The data from the survey questionnaires was analyzed using **SPSS**. Descriptive statistics was used to measure frequencies, averages, and distributions of responses.
- **Inferential Statistics:** The relationships between different variables (e.g., awareness level and participation) were tested using **correlation analysis** or **chi-square tests** to explore patterns of participation across different groups.

Limitations of the Study: A Study of People's Participation and Involvement in River Revival Project in Central Gujarat (Vishwamitri River)

While the study aims to provide valuable insights into people participation and involvement in the Vishwamitri River revival project, there are several limitations that may affect the scope and accuracy of the research findings. These limitations are inherent to the study design and context, and they must be considered when interpreting the results.

1. Limited Geographic Scope

- **Description:** The study focuses on the city of **Vadodara** and surrounding areas along the Vishwamitri River. While this provides valuable insights into the local context, the findings may not be fully applicable to other regions in Gujarat or India. The river revival processes may differ based on geographical, cultural, or socio-economic factors in different areas.

Importance of the Present Study

The revival and conservation of rivers are critical for the sustainability of

ecosystems, socio-economic development, and the overall well-being of communities that depend on them. In India, river rejuvenation efforts have gained significant attention, with a growing recognition that addressing the challenges faced by rivers is vital for ecological balance, water security, and socio-economic prosperity. Central Gujarat, and more specifically the Vishwamitri River in Vadodara, represents a crucial case study for understanding how people's participation and involvement can directly impact the success of river revival initiatives. This study seeks to explore the role of communities in the rejuvenation of the Vishwamitri River and highlights the importance of public engagement in ecological conservation and sustainable water management.

Conclusion - Summary of Key Findings from the River Revival Project Study

Participant Demographics:

- The study had an equal gender split with 600 participants: 300 males (50%) and 300 females (50%).
- Slightly more participants were from rural areas (320, 54%) than urban areas (280, 46%), ensuring good regional representation.

Awareness and Understanding:

- All participants (100%) correctly identified “Decreasing water pollution” as the primary goal of river revival projects, showing strong environmental awareness.
- However, 74.7% mistakenly believed “introducing more chemical pollutants” was an appropriate method, while only 12.7% correctly recognized sewage treatment plants as the right approach, indicating a need for better environmental education.
- Most respondents (96.8%) understood river restoration as re-establishing natural habitats, with only 3.2% confused by damming as a restoration method.

Agency Involvement:

- The Mining and Mineral Department (MMD) is viewed as the primary agency involved in river restoration (90.5%), far more than EPA, VUDA, or corporate groups.

Community Engagement Perceptions:

- A majority (90.5%) perceive community engagement and public awareness as hindrances due to conflicts and disruptions.
- A minority (6.3%) see community involvement as beneficial for resource mobilization and stewardship.

Challenges in River Revival:

- Managing an abundance of native species (80.8%) is considered the biggest challenge.
- Excessive funding/resources (12.7%) raises concerns about inefficiency.
- Lack of stakeholder interest (6.5%) and environmental regulation gaps (0%) are less significant issues.

Funding Sources:

- Private donations (61.3%) are the primary funding source, followed by government grants/subsidies (22.8%) and local municipal contributions (12.7%).
- Corporate sponsorships are minimal (3.2%).

Perceived Impact on Communities:

- Most respondents (71%) associate healthy river ecosystems with decreased recreational opportunities, suggesting concerns about negative impacts on community activities.
- Some (22.7%) worry about increased waterborne diseases linked to river health.
- Only a small percentage (3.2%) see healthy rivers as providers of clean water or economic benefits.

Public Knowledge and Misconceptions:

- There is confusion about the specific water bodies involved, with 67.7% correctly identifying Dhadhar River lak but others mixing it with nearby lakes.
- A significant majority (64.3%) misunderstand the project's primary goal, mistakenly thinking it aims to increase agricultural runoff instead of improving water quality and biodiversity.
- Nearly half (48.8%) falsely believe the project encourages deforestation along riverbanks.
- Only a minority correctly identify key project features such as sewage treatment plants and green cover restoration.

Project Identification and Public Awareness:

- **Correct Recognition:** 68.0% of respondents correctly identified the Vishwamitri River as the focus of the rejuvenation efforts.
- **Confusion:** A significant 25.7% mistakenly thought the project related to the Yamuna River, with smaller percentages incorrectly associating it with the Ganga (6.3%) and Godavari (0%) rivers.
- **Implication:** While most are aware of the project's geographic focus, notable confusion exists, highlighting the need for clearer communication and public engagement.

Community Participation:

- **Supportive View:** 58.2% believe community involvement is crucial for mobilizing support and ensuring sustainability, reflecting recognition of local engagement's importance.
- **Concerns:** 38.7% feel community participation may hamper progress due to coordination challenges or differing priorities.
- **Neutral:** 3.2% think community involvement is unnecessary.
- **Notably:** No respondents viewed community participation as a source of conflict.
- **Summary:** There is a balance of opinions, underscoring the need for

effective management of community involvement to align progress with active participation.

Key Project Features Awareness:

- **Correct Understanding:** 54.7% identified sewage treatment plants and green cover restoration as core project components.
- **Misconceptions:** 42.2% wrongly believed the project promotes deforestation along riverbanks, which contradicts its environmental goals.
- **Minor Misunderstanding:** 3.2% thought the project involves building more factories, inconsistent with the ecological focus.
- **Conclusion:** While many recognize important features, significant misconceptions remain, requiring better communication to clarify project objectives.

Perceptions of Project Impact:

- **Incorrect Belief:** 64.8% think the river revival decreases agricultural productivity, contradicting the project's goals.
- **Accurate Perception:** 32.0% correctly understand that the project improves water quality and creates recreational spaces.
- **Minor Misconceptions:** 3.2% mistakenly believe it increases water pollution.
- **Summary:** There is notable confusion about the project's impact on agriculture and pollution, signalling a need for improved public education.

Agency Responsibility:

- **Widespread Confusion:** 64.7% incorrectly believe ISRO oversees the project, which is unlikely given ISRO's space focus.
- **Other Incorrect Views:** 22.7% associate it with ONGC; 3.2% with NASA.
- **Correct Identification:** Only 9.5% recognize Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) as the responsible agency.
- **Implication:** Public understanding of agency roles is poor, necessitating clearer information on project governance.

Community Participation Challenges (Additional Data):

- **Hindrance Perception:** 57.7% view community involvement as slowing progress.
- **Supportive View:** 38.8% emphasize its importance for sustainability and support.
- **No Conflict Perception:** None see participation as causing disputes.

- **Summary:** Managing community engagement effectively is essential to balance project advancement and active involvement.

Misunderstood Project Challenges:

- **Incorrect Challenges:** 61.2% believe excess funding/resources are a challenge, which contradicts typical funding shortages.
- **Misconceptions on Regulations:** 32.5% see strong environmental regulations as a challenge, though such rules often support sustainability.
- **Underestimated Issues:** Stakeholder apathy and industrial presence were less frequently identified, despite being real concerns.
- **Conclusion:** There is a disconnect between public perception and actual challenges, highlighting the need for increased awareness about true obstacles such as funding shortages, pollution, and administrative hurdles.

Misconceptions about Project Benefits:

- **Incorrect View:** 74.0% wrongly think the project reduces agricultural productivity.
- **Correct Understanding:** 13.0% recognize improvements in water quality and recreational spaces.
- **Misunderstood Impacts:** 9.8% mistakenly believe the project increases water pollution; 3.2% think it reduces water access.
- **Summary:** Widespread misunderstanding exists regarding the project's benefits, reinforcing the need for better public communication on environmental and social gains.

Sustainable Development Understanding

- **Misconceptions:** 61.2% wrongly believe the project reduces access to water resources; 25.7% think it worsens environmental degradation; 3.2% say it increases pollution.
- **Correct Awareness:** Only 10.0% understand that the project improves ecological health and supports sustainable development.
- **Summary:** There is a significant gap in public understanding of the project's environmental and developmental benefits, indicating an urgent need for improved public education and awareness efforts.

Agency Responsibility Awareness

- **Correct Identification:** 51.5% correctly named the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) as the responsible agency.
- **Confusion:** 45.3% mistakenly identified ONGC; 3.2% mentioned ISRO; none selected NASA.

- **Summary:** While over half recognize the correct agency, nearly half confuse it with unrelated organizations, highlighting the need for clearer communication on project leadership.

Challenges in River Rejuvenation

- **Correct Perception:** 48.8% identified lack of stakeholder interest as a key challenge.
- **Misunderstanding:** 38.3% incorrectly think excess funding is a challenge; 12.8% see strong environmental regulations as a hurdle.
- **Summary:** Respondents partly understand real challenges but there is widespread misunderstanding of financial and regulatory realities, necessitating targeted education.

Success Indicators Understanding

- **Incorrect Views:** 41.5% mistakenly believe increasing industrial waste is a success indicator; 26.2% think reducing native species signifies success; 3.2% say urban expansion does.
- **Correct Understanding:** Only 29.2% correctly identified improved water quality, biodiversity, and community engagement as key success measures.
- **Summary:** Public awareness on appropriate success indicators is lacking, underscoring the need for transparent reporting and community education.

Public Participation Perceptions:

- **Negative Views:** 48.7% feel public participation causes bureaucratic hurdles; 38.5% believe it raises project costs.
- **Positive Recognition:** Only 9.7% acknowledge that participation fosters community ownership and support; 3.2% think it leads to conflicts.
- **Summary:** Public participation is largely viewed negatively, emphasizing the importance of educating communities on its long-term benefits for sustainable project outcomes.

Overall Interpretation:

- A significant portion of respondents hold misconceptions about the project's goals, impacts, responsible agencies, challenges, and success criteria.
- Correct awareness exists but is limited, with many responses reflecting misinformation or confusion.
- Effective public education, outreach, and transparent communication are critical to align community understanding with the project's sustainable development objectives, ensuring active support and engagement.

Interpretation

- **Correct Response:** Only 22.3% identified the core environmental goal as “Implementing sewage treatment plants and restoring green cover.”
- **Widespread Misconception:** 35.3% incorrectly believe the campaign encourages industrial effluent discharge, which contradicts its objectives.
- **Other Misunderstandings:**
 - 25.7% think it promotes industrial development along riverbanks.
 - 16.7% associate it with commercial development near the river.
- There is a significant lack of awareness about the campaign's true goals.
- With only 1 in 5 respondents recognizing its real focus, urgent efforts are needed in public education, awareness campaigns, and community engagement to dispel false narratives and build environmental literacy.
- **Incorrect Majority Response:** 42.3% wrongly believe the campaign causes loss of livelihoods for fishermen and farmers, misunderstanding its economic impact.
- **Correct Benefits (Less Chosen):**
 - 22.5% recognize potential property value increases near the river.
 - 19.3% see eco-tourism and recreational growth as positive outcomes.
- **Misunderstood Impact:** 15.8% expect tourism revenue to decrease, which is contrary to project goals.
- Public understanding of environmental restoration's economic benefits is limited.
- Many see the campaign as harmful to livelihoods, while fewer acknowledge positive economic impacts.
- Targeted communication and outreach are essential to explain economic advantages, address livelihood concerns, and promote inclusive development benefiting both people and nature.
- **Most Chosen (Incorrect):** 48.7% believe community participation unnecessarily increases project costs.
- **Correct Understanding (Minority):** 28.8% acknowledge that participation fosters ownership and support vital for success.
- **Other Misconceptions:**
 - 13.0% think participation causes bureaucratic hurdles.
 - 9.5% feel it leads to delays and conflicts.
- Many underestimate the positive role of community involvement.
- Effective engagement enhances trust, sustainable behaviors, and stewardship.
- Awareness campaigns should educate citizens on benefits of

- participation and showcase successful community-led initiatives.
- **Correct and Most Chosen:** 51.8% rightly identify success indicators as improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and active community participation.
 - **Common Misconceptions:**
 - 32.0% incorrectly believe reducing native species signals success.
 - Smaller portions associate success with increased pollution (6.5%) or urban expansion (9.7%), which are harmful.
 - Majority understand true success indicators, showing promising public support.
 - However, nearly half hold incorrect views, underscoring the need for focused education on ecological balance and sustainability goals.
 - **Correct Answer:** Only 26.0% correctly identified sewage treatment and green cover restoration as key components.
 - **Alarming Misconception:** 58.0% wrongly think the campaign promotes industrial effluent discharge.
 - **Other Misunderstandings:**
 - 12.7% believe it involves expanding industrial units.
 - 3.3% think it relates to commercial complex construction.
 - A large knowledge gap exists about the campaign's real objectives.
 - Over 70% incorrect responses demand urgent public awareness programs, educational outreach, and clear communication from stakeholders.
 - **Correct Understanding:** 22.7% recognize community participation fosters ownership and local support, key for long-term success.
 - **Major Misconception:** 48.8% believe participation unnecessarily increases costs.
 - **Additional Misbeliefs:**
 - 15.8% say it causes conflicts and delays.
 - 12.7% cite bureaucratic hurdles.
 - There is limited appreciation for community engagement benefits.
 - Raising awareness and sharing success stories of participatory projects can encourage involvement and strengthen initiatives.
 - **Correct Understanding:** 49.0% recognize the campaign's positive role in improving ecological health, aligned with sustainable development goals.
 - **Potential Misconceptions:**
 - 25.5% think it limits water resource access.
 - 19.0% believe it worsens environmental degradation.
 - 6.5% feel it increases pollution.
 - Most respondents understand the project's environmental intent, but significant misconceptions remain.
 - Further education is necessary to clarify how the campaign

enhances water quality, biodiversity, and sustainability, countering persistent misunderstandings.

Summary of Public Perceptions on the Vaho Vishwamitri Abhiyan

1. Economic Impact Perceptions:

- Nearly half of respondents (48.2%) fear loss of livelihoods for fishermen and farmers, while 35.5% worry about decreased property values near the river.
- Positive economic impacts like eco-tourism are recognized by only 10%, and a small 6.3% foresee tourism revenue decline.
- **Conclusion:** There is considerable concern about negative economic effects, though eco-tourism offers a promising opportunity to reshape the project's narrative.

2. Measures of Success:

- A majority (48.5%) believe success should be measured by improvements in water quality, biodiversity, and community engagement.
- Nearly as many (45.2%) focus on native species conservation, while industrial waste discharge and urban expansion are overwhelmingly rejected as success criteria.
- **Conclusion:** Strong public support exists for ecological and social indicators of success, emphasizing sustainability and community involvement over development or pollution.

3. Environmental and Sustainability Views:

- 48.5% see the initiative as enhancing environmental health and sustainability.
- Concerns remain regarding water resource access (38.8%), environmental degradation (6.3%), and pollution (6.3%).
- **Conclusion:** While the campaign is viewed positively for ecological restoration, some scepticism about implementation and resource management persists.

4. Public Awareness and Participation:

- 44.8% value public awareness as key to informed decision-making and participation.
- However, 39.3% worry that awareness efforts spread misinformation and distrust; smaller portions see it causing disengagement (9.5%) or reduced transparency (6.3%).
- **Conclusion:** Education and communication are critical, but

the quality and trustworthiness of information must be carefully managed to avoid scepticism.

5. Mixed Economic Views (Additional Data):

- Respondents show mixed views on property values and livelihoods, with concerns about decreased values (48.7%) and loss of livelihood (41.7%).
- Tourism revenue decline is noted by 9.7%, but potential growth in eco-tourism and recreation is unreported, indicating a missed opportunity.
- **Conclusion:** Public perception on economic impact is divided; highlighting eco-tourism benefits could improve community support.

6. People's Participation in the Project:

- 42.3% believe participation raises project costs; 32.3% see it as fostering ownership and support.
- Bureaucratic challenges (22.2%) and conflicts/delays (3.2%) are concerns but less prominent.
- **Conclusion:** While community involvement is valued for sustainability, concerns about costs and administration remain and should be addressed through effective management.

Measures of Project Success:

- About 77.5% of respondents link success to environmental and community factors like protecting native species, improving water quality, biodiversity, and fostering community engagement.
- A smaller group (22.5%) focuses on industrial waste increase or urban development, likely due to misunderstandings of project goals.
- **Conclusion:** Majority prioritize ecological restoration and social involvement as key success indicators.

Views on Public Involvement:

- 42.2% see public involvement positively, fostering community stewardship and ownership.
- However, 38.8% worry it may reduce accountability, and 15.8% feel it could slow project progress due to bureaucracy.
- **Conclusion:** Public participation is generally valued but seen as potentially challenging to manage effectively.

Role of Public Awareness:

- Nearly half (48.3%) believe awareness promotes informed

decision-making and participation.

- A significant portion (35.5%) associate it with misinformation and distrust, and smaller groups see it reducing interest or transparency.
- **Conclusion:** Awareness is critical but must be managed carefully to avoid confusion and mistrust.

Nature of Public Participation:

- 44.8% perceive public participation mainly as criticism, while 42.2% view it as active decision-making involvement.
- Some disengagement is noted (13% ignoring or avoiding discussions).
- **Conclusion:** Participation is a mix of constructive engagement and critical scrutiny, with a need to better involve disengaged groups.

Benefits and Challenges of Public Participation:

- 45.2% value participation for fostering ownership and support.
- Concerns exist about increased costs (29.3%), bureaucratic hurdles (19.2%), and conflicts/delays (6.3%).
- **Conclusion:** While crucial for success, participation requires balancing inclusivity with efficiency.

Effective Public Engagement:

- 42.2% favour dialogue, feedback, and transparency as key to effective engagement.
- 41.8% stress decisions should not be made without consultation.
- **Conclusion:** Inclusive, transparent communication is essential to address community concerns and preferences.

Public Consultation:

- 55.3% see consultation as encouraging involvement and accountability.
- Yet, 22.3% feel it reduces responsibility, and 15.8% think it may obstruct progress if poorly managed.
- **Conclusion:** Well-managed consultation is critical to avoid delays and maintain accountability.

Perceived Responsibility for Public Participation:

- Majority (51.3%) believe the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible.
- Others see ONGC (32.2%) and VMC (16.5%) as responsible to lesser extents.
- **Conclusion:** EPA is recognized as the primary agency for ensuring public participation.

Effectiveness of Public Engagement:

- 48.2% worry decisions are made without consultation.
- 38.7% emphasize the need for communication, feedback, and transparency.
- Smaller shares report exclusion (6.7%) or dismissal of community concerns (6.5%).
- **Conclusion:** There is concern about insufficient consultation, but also recognition that transparent, two-way communication is vital.

Challenges to Public Involvement:

- The main challenges perceived are strong environmental regulations (39.0%) and abundant funding/resources (38.7%), which might limit engagement by creating either restrictive or complacent environments.
- Lack of stakeholder interest (19.2%) also poses a significant hurdle in fostering active community participation.

Public Awareness and Participation:

- A majority (51.3%) view public awareness positively as it encourages informed decision-making and participation, but 22.7% worry about misinformation causing distrust.
- Community participation is seen mainly as fostering cooperation, trust, and reciprocity (51.5%), though a substantial portion (35.7%) expresses concerns about potential conflict and division.
- Public participation is valued for encouraging ownership and support (45.2%), but concerns exist over increased costs, bureaucracy, and delays.

Government Role and Perception:

- Most respondents (55.0%) see the government's primary role as providing funding and regulatory support, essential for project success.
- However, some respondents worry that government involvement imposes restrictions on participation (22.5%) or prioritizes economic growth over environmental concerns (9.7%).
- Government involvement is credited with fostering collaboration and resource allocation (32.2%) but also criticized for increasing costs (31.8%), bureaucratic hurdles (22.7%), and project delays (13.3%).

Public Participation Impact on Environment and Justice:

- Opinions are divided: 35.3% believe participation might lead to environmental degradation, while others see it as a tool for

promoting environmental justice and inclusivity.

- Addressing this divide requires better education and structured, inclusive participation mechanisms.

Inclusive Public Participation:

- Surprisingly, 54.5% believe limiting access to project information could ensure inclusivity, reflecting a possible misunderstanding.
- Only 26.2% recognize transparency, accessibility, and feedback as key to genuine inclusive participation.
- Exclusion of marginalized groups or ignoring community concerns were viewed negatively but still noted among some respondents.

Government Responsibilities:

- The largest group (41.8%) sees government responsibility as facilitating transparency and accountability.
- Nonetheless, a notable minority supports exclusion of stakeholders (25.8%) or ignoring community feedback (19.2%), which conflicts with good governance practices.
- Overall, openness, transparency, and accountability are critical for fostering trust and successful project outcomes.

Government Role and Public Consultation:

- 35.5% of respondents favour minimizing public consultations for efficiency, reflecting a preference for a centralized, top-down approach, which may risk alienating community stakeholders.
- 28.8% emphasize the government's traditional role in providing funding and regulatory support, essential for project management.
- Smaller groups support imposing control over public participation (16.3%) or prioritizing economic growth over environmental concerns (19.3%), both of which pose risks to sustainable and inclusive outcomes.
- Balancing efficient governance with meaningful public consultation is crucial for long-term success.

Government Engagement and Environmental Outcomes:

- 42.0% believe government involvement is key to enforcing regulations and promoting environmental sustainability.
- However, 29.5% worry the government may prioritize economic growth at the expense of environmental protection, while others express concerns about governance failures leading to environmental degradation or industrial pollution.
- This highlights the need for balanced policies that integrate environmental and economic goals.

Government Consultation and Project Implementation:

- 42.5% see government consultation as fostering cooperation and resource allocation, important for project success.
- Yet, roughly 22% each identify consultation as a source of increased costs and bureaucratic obstacles, and 12.8% note it may delay project timelines.
- Efficient, streamlined consultation processes are necessary to minimize these challenges.

Key Government Agencies Identified:

- 42.3% identify Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as the primary overseeing agency, likely due to industrial ties.
- Other recognized agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency (25.7%), Department of Transportation (22.5%), and Ministry of Finance (9.5%), reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the project.

Transparency, Inclusion, and Accountability:

- A notable 32.3% perceive that excluding stakeholders from decisions is a government responsibility, suggesting a tendency toward centralized control.
- 25.7% believe limiting access to project information is common, while 22.7% think governments ignore community feedback.
- Only 19.3% see the government's role as facilitating transparency and accountability.
- These perceptions underline the need for improved openness, stakeholder inclusion, and trust-building in the project governance.

Key Challenges:

- **Funding and Resources:** The biggest challenge, identified by 55.0% and similarly by 42.2% in another data set, is insufficient funding and resources, underscoring the critical need for adequate financial and material support.
- **Weak Environmental Regulations:** About 16-42% of respondents highlight weak environmental laws as a significant barrier, indicating the need for stronger regulatory frameworks to protect the river ecosystem.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** A smaller but notable portion (12.7%-15.8%) points to lack of interest or engagement from stakeholders as a potential challenge, which could hinder project momentum.
- **Industrial Presence:** Concerns about industrial activity along the riverbanks are less prominent, with some respondents citing it as an obstacle but others not viewing it as a major issue.

Government's Role in Environmental Management:

- **Positive Role:** 38.3%-42.0% see government involvement as essential for enforcing environmental regulations and promoting sustainability.
- **Concerns:** About 29.2% worry the government may prioritize economic growth over environmental protection, while others raise concerns about potential encouragement of industrial pollution (19.3%) and environmental degradation due to mismanagement (13.2%).
- **Balanced Approach Needed:** These mixed views emphasize the importance of government policies that balance economic development with environmental sustainability.

Building Public Trust:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** 35.3% believe promoting transparency is key to building trust.
- **Excluding Public Input:** Nearly 50% (25.8% + 22.8%) worry that excluding community feedback or imposing decisions without consultation undermines trust.
- **Information Access:** 16.0% feel that limiting project information harms public confidence.
- **Conclusion:** Open communication and active public participation are crucial to fostering community trust and project support.

Government Agencies' Perceived Roles:

- **ONGC as Primary Agency:** A majority (64.8%) identify the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation as the main agency overseeing the project, likely due to its regional presence and resource management role.
- **EPA and DOT Roles:** The Environmental Protection Agency (16%) and Department of Transportation (12.7%) are also recognized, reflecting their specialized environmental and infrastructure roles.
- **Ministry of Finance:** Seen as less directly involved (6.5%), mostly in funding allocation.

Government Support and Community Involvement:

- **Promotes Involvement:** Nearly half (48.7%) associate government support with fostering community stewardship.
- **Concerns on Impact:** Some respondents (28.8%) worry government actions may increase environmental degradation; 19.3% link it to higher costs.
- **Minor Concerns:** Only a small fraction (3.2%) believe government causes conflicts and delays.

Ensuring Effective Project Implementation:

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** 45.3% strongly believe fostering collaboration is vital for success.
- **Transparency Issues:** 25.7% think limiting access to information can ensure effectiveness, which contradicts transparency principles.
- **Ignoring Concerns & Oversight:** 22.5% feel ignoring community concerns might help, while only 6.5% support avoiding regulatory oversight—suggesting regulatory control is widely seen as necessary.
- **Conclusion:** Effective implementation requires open stakeholder collaboration, transparency, and strong regulatory frameworks.

Building Public Trust:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** 38.7% of respondents believe that promoting transparency and accountability is the most effective way for the government to build public trust, emphasizing the importance of openness and clear communication.
- **Excluding Community Feedback:** Surprisingly, 32.5% think excluding community feedback helps build trust, possibly reflecting a perception that strong government control can improve efficiency, though this approach risks alienating the public.
- **Limiting Access to Information:** 22.5% suggest that restricting information might build trust, but this likely reduces transparency and public engagement, which are essential for sustainable success.
- **Decision-Making without Consultation:** Only 6.3% support non-consultative decision-making as a way to build trust, showing most people favour participatory approaches.

Government Accountability:

- **Positive Impact:** A strong majority (61.7%) see government accountability as crucial for fostering public trust and confidence, linking responsible governance with public support.
- **Concerns about Bureaucracy:** 22.3% worry that increased accountability could create bureaucratic hurdles, potentially causing delays or inefficiencies.
- **Perceptions of Transparency:** 9.7% feel accountability might paradoxically reduce transparency, indicating some scepticism about how accountability processes are implemented.
- **Conflicts and Delays:** A small minority (6.3%) believe accountability leads to conflicts and delays, reflecting concerns over administrative complexities.

Final Recommendations- The Vaho Vishwamitri Abhiyan faces a mix of public optimism, concern, and scepticism. While there is strong support for

environmental restoration and sustainability—such as improving water quality and biodiversity—economic worries dominate, with fears of livelihood loss and reduced property values. Limited awareness of potential benefits like eco-tourism points to a major communication gap.

Public participation is seen as vital, yet concerns about costs, delays, and misinformation persist. Trust in government agencies is mixed, with calls for greater transparency, accountability, and genuine stakeholder involvement. The project must address misconceptions, promote inclusive engagement, and highlight sustainable benefits to gain broader public support.

Ultimately, aligning environmental goals with economic and social priorities through clear messaging and participatory governance is key to the project's long-term success.

Suggestions for Further Study

- 1. Longitudinal and Impact Assessment Studies:** A significant gap in current research is the absence of longitudinal studies that track the long-term effects of river restoration projects on both the environment and local communities. Future research should focus on assessing the impact of these projects on water quality, biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and rural livelihoods over extended periods. This could be done through regular monitoring and the use of indicators that measure the resilience of river ecosystems and the socio-economic status of communities.
- 2. Social Mobilization and Behavior Change:** Further studies could investigate how social mobilization and community behavior change over time as a result of river restoration projects. Research could look at whether communities' attitudes towards water conservation and environmental protection change post-project and how such behavior shifts contribute to the ongoing success of river management efforts. It would also be useful to understand the role of **social norms, traditions, and cultural values** in shaping community involvement in river restoration projects.
- 3. Policy and Institutional Gaps:** A closer examination of existing policies and institutional frameworks is required to identify the gaps that hinder the successful implementation of river restoration projects. For example, while policies may mandate community involvement, their implementation often lacks the necessary funding, political will, or coordination among agencies. Future research could evaluate how existing policies can be restructured or strengthened to better support community-based river management.
- 4. Role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems:** Future research should place greater emphasis on the role of **indigenous knowledge** in river management and restoration projects. While there is growing interest in integrating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) with modern scientific methods, there is still limited research that thoroughly documents these knowledge systems. Research could

identify how TEK can complement or even lead restoration efforts, particularly in rural and indigenous communities.

5. **Technological Integration:** The role of technology in monitoring and implementing river restoration projects warrants further exploration. Technologies like **satellite imagery**, **GIS mapping**, **real-time water quality monitoring**, and **data analytics** can help stakeholders better understand and manage river ecosystems. Further studies could examine the challenges and opportunities associated with adopting these technologies, particularly in rural or low-resource settings.
6. **Cross-National Comparative Studies:** As river systems transcend political boundaries, **international collaboration** and cross-border case studies could yield valuable insights into how different nations tackle similar river management issues. Comparative studies between India and other countries that have undertaken successful river restoration initiatives, such as **Australia**, **South Africa**, or **Brazil**, could provide lessons that can be adapted to India's specific context.

Implications of the Study- This study's implications extend far beyond academic discourse, touching on practical issues of environmental management, sustainable development, and governance. The emphasis on **community participation** and **decentralized governance** presents a clear direction for policy-makers and practitioners involved in river management. It underscores the need for building institutional capacity at the local level, promoting **collaborative governance** structures, and ensuring that communities are meaningfully involved in decision-making processes.

In policy terms, the study highlights the urgent need to harmonize existing water and environmental policies with the realities on the ground. Policies must be **flexible**, **adaptive**, and responsive to local needs, ensuring that community-driven projects receive the necessary financial, technical, and policy support to succeed. Furthermore, these findings stress the importance of creating a framework that bridges gaps between **research institutions**, **local governments**, **NGOs**, and **community organizations** to effectively tackle river degradation.

For **development practitioners** and **NGOs**, the study reinforces the importance of fostering **social capital** and trust among communities, creating platforms for dialogue, and leveraging both traditional and modern knowledge systems to ensure that restoration projects are inclusive, sustainable, and impactful.

In conclusion, this research reaffirms that **people-centred approaches** are central to addressing the water and environmental crises India faces, particularly in its river systems. Future river revival projects must integrate **ecological restoration**, **social equity**, and **economic development** to ensure that rivers are restored not only as physical entities but also as vital social and cultural resources for future generations.

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Study of Educational Activities of Bagbahara Block of Mahasamund District under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

• Gurneet Kaur Saluja

Abstract- *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been a historic step towards making education universal in India. This program, started in 2001, aims to provide free and compulsory primary education to every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years. The present research paper presents a study of educational activities of Bagbahara block of Mahasamund district. It analyzes the dimensions of enrollment growth, girl education, education of children with special needs, community participation, mid-day meal scheme and digital education. The study makes it clear that there has been significant progress in the field of education, but challenges such as shortage of teacher numbers, social conservatism, lack of digital resources and child labor still exist. This research concludes that if the infrastructure and resources are further strengthened, Bagbahara block can become an ideal example in the field of education.*

Keywords- *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Bagbahara Block, Mahasamund District, Primary Education, Girl Education, Digital Education*

Introduction- Education is the basic foundation of social, economic and cultural development of any nation. The Indian Constitution has provided the fundamental right of free and compulsory education to children between 6 and 14 years through Article 21A. In this context, the Government of India started the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the year 2001. It is not just an educational program but a social movement, which aims to ensure universalization of education, availability of quality education and elimination of social inequalities. Sarva shiksha abhiyan is a major campaign of Government of India which was started by Atal Bihari Bajpai to achieve Universalization of Primary Education within a given time period. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan program was launched in January, 2001 with the Objective of publicizing basic education to provide useful and contextual education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 by 2010. As directed by 86th amendment to the Indian constitution, the provision of free and compulsory education for children between 6 to 14 years has been made Fundamental right. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has 8 main programmes, it includes integrated child development services and Anganwadi. It also includes the school plan of Kasturba Gandhi Girl's School, in which the dream of giving primary education to all the Girls was dreamed up. Later on,

the plan was merged with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It is an effort to provide opportunities for the Empowerment of human abilities in all children. It is an attempt to Eliminate social, regional and gender gaps in which the community participates actively in the management of schools.

Introduction of Bagbahara Block- Bagbahara is a town and municipal body within the Mahasamund District of the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, situated at an elevation of 360 meters (1,180 feet). It is recognized by the postal code 493449. The geographical introduction provided mentions its status as a municipality, but for the specific geography of the Bagbahara block, one would need to look for broader geographical details or block-specific information Bagmara block of Mahasamund district is an area with tribal and rural background. Here access to education and its quality have always been challenging. In such a perspective, the initiatives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan hold special importance. Bagbahara city has moved rapidly towards Education until a few years ago only general education was hardly available, now new opportunities for higher education have developed in Bagbahara city. While new subjects of Mathematics, Science, Arts, Commerce for higher education in schools has also started which was not available in earlier years. Education level has improved with the introduction of new subjects in schools as well as Undergraduate and Postgraduate category. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an important program of Government of India to achieve the Universalization benefits of Elementary Education within a given time frame. The 86th Constitutional Amendment has made it Compulsory to make Elementary Education free and compulsory as a fundamental right for children between the Ages of 6 to 14 years. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being run with the participation of the State Government in the country so that 192 Lakh Children from 11 lakh villages across the country can be catered to the needs of children. Under this Programmed, in a village where there is no school facility, plans are made to open new schools and providing Additional Classrooms, toilets in existing schools, drinking water repair fund, school improvement fund, additional teachers will be provided in such schools where the number of teachers working is inadequate and will be provided intensive training, by providing funds for the development of Teaching proficiency. Material and the contingency support structure will be strengthened at the District Level. Indira information power scheme seeks to provide Quality Elementary Education along with Life skills. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Yojna has special emphasis on Girl education and Needy Children as well as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's Computer Education to end the Digital distance in the Country.

Regional Perspective: Mahasamund District and Bagbahara Block

District formed: July 1998

Area: 4790 sq km

Population (2011): 10,32,754

Literacy rate: 71.02% (male 82.05%, female 60.25%)

Tehsils: Mahasamund, Bagbahara Pithora, Basna, Saraipali

Tribal communities: Bhujia, Dhanwar, Kanwar, Halba, Munda etc.

Mahasamund district is also rich in historical and cultural terms. The ancient capital of South Koshal 'Shripur' (Sirpur) is located here. Due to the tribal and rural background in Bagbahara block, government schemes have an important role in the field of education.

Educational Institutes in Bagbahara-

1. PVT Saraswati Gyan Vidya Mandir Bagbahara School
2. GOVT. Higher Secondary School Bagbahara
3. GOVT. Girls Primary Secondary School Bagbahara
4. PVT. Carmal Convent School Bagbahara
5. PVT Ashibai Laxmichand Golcha Higher Secondary school bagbahara
6. PVT Devashish English medium higher secondary School Bagbahara
7. PVT Narbadi Devi Munshi Lal Agrawal High School Bagbahara
8. PVT Ishwari Bal Vidya Mandir High School Bagbahara
9. PVT Pratibha Public School Paterapali Bagbahara
10. PVT Human Pride School Lalpur Bagbahara
11. GOVT Khemraj Laxmichand College, Bagbahara
12. PVT Saraswati Shishu Mandir Higher Secondary School Bagbahara Ward no.2.

Objective of the research- The main objective of this research paper is to evaluate the educational activities conducted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Bagbahara block. Under this:

1. Study of efforts made for universalization of education.
2. Analysis of strategies adopted to improve the quality of teaching.
3. Evaluation of participation of girls and backward classes in education.
4. Analysis of teaching-support activities and community participation.
5. Study of the impact of digital education and new initiatives.

Methodology of research- This research is based on descriptive and analytical method. Primary data was collected from schools, teachers, students and parents. Secondary data was taken from State Education Center, District Education Office and Block Education Office Mahasamund. Census 2011 and reports of Ministry of Education were also used.

Educational activities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1. Enrollment Campaign- Under the 'School Chalo Abhiyan', enrollment camps are organized every year. As a result, the enrollment rate of boys and especially girls have increased.

2. Quality of teaching

Continuous training of teachers.

Continuous and comprehensive evaluation (CCE).

Use of innovation-based teaching methods.

3. Girl education

Establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).

Coordination with schemes like 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.

Self-defense training at upper primary level.

4. Education of children with special needs

Availability of assistive devices (hearing aids, wheelchairs etc.).

Appointment of special teachers.

5. Community participation

School Management Committees (SMC) formed.

Active role of Gram Panchayat and parents.

6. Mid-day meal scheme

Availability of nutritious food.

Increase in attendance and enrollment.

7. Digital education

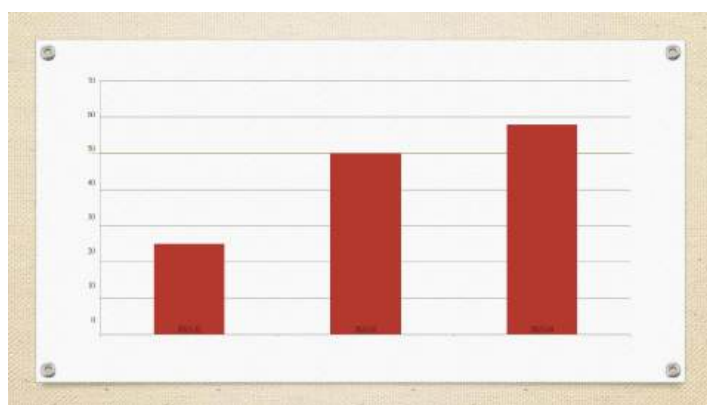
Smart class and e-learning material.

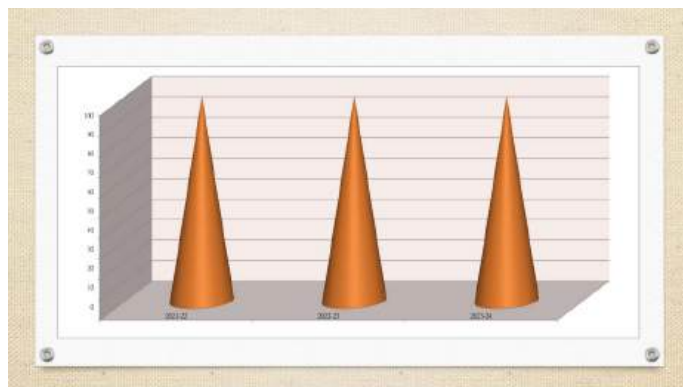
Initiatives like 'Operation Digital Board' and UDISE+.

ICT based infrastructure.

Data Analysis

The following analysis is done on the basis of the data received from Ward no.6, primary school, Bagbahara the school has received Rs.10,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs.5,000 in 2021-22, 2022-23,2023-24 respectively from the funds received from government. This fund has been provided to the school for the repair and maintenance of the school, so the entire amount received by the school from this fund was put into the repair and maintenance of the school. So, the school does not have any amount left as savings or income, so we can say that, school's income is Nil. The total no. of Students in ward no. 6, Bagbahara has been 25,50 and 58 in 2021-22,2022- 23 and 2023-24, Respectively so analyzing the data shows that the number of students has increased each year. If the growth percentage of the number of students in the year 2022-23 and 2023-24 is found in comparison to the year 2021-22, Then the percentage increase will be according to the following analysis:





The following analysis is done on the basis of the data received from Kasturba Gandhi School, Bagbahara the school has received Rs.12,000, Rs.12,000 and Rs.7,000 in 2021-22, 2022- 23 and 2023-24 respectively from the funds received from government. This fund has been provided to the school for the Repair and Maintenance of the school, so the entire amount received by the school from this fund was put into the repair and maintenance of the school. So, the school does not have any amount left as savings or income, so we can say that, school's income is NIL.

The total no. of students in Kasturba Gandhi School Bagbahara has been 100,100 and 100 in 2021-22,2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively, so analyzing the data shows that the number of students has neither increased nor decreased. So, the growth rate of students remained same in all these years. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has accelerated the universalization of education in Bagbahara block. Increase in enrollment and attendance, improvement in girl child education and community participation show the success of this program. However, teacher training, expansion of digital resources and social awareness are still required for quality education.

Problems, Suggestions and Achievements

Problems- The following Problems arise under the Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, out of which some of the major problems are as follows:

(I) Fund Problem- A Major Problem in the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is the lack of funds and also the delay in the receipt of funds. Funds are used for the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, but due to non-receipt of funds at the appropriate time, the pay scale of teachers and individuals' participation in the other activities is delayed. As a result, there is Apathy in the Work.

(II) Weak Infrastructure- The basic facilities in the schools are weak due to which there is Inconvenience in the Functioning of the Schools. infrastructure means toilets, classrooms and drinking water which is necessary for running a school.

(III) Insufficient Public Resource Support- There is no Permanent Staff for the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan at District and Sub District Levels. Staff Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres do not

have sufficient resources for Capacity Building.

Challenges

1. Distance of schools in rural areas.
2. Shortage of teachers.
3. Social barriers to girl child education.
4. Lack of digital resources.
5. Child labour in economically weaker families.

Suggestions

(I) Fund Problem- Weak Quality of Education is a major obstacle in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, for which Solution is necessary. First of all, children have to be aware of Education so that they understand the Importance of Education and get attracted towards the same. Along with this, the Standards will have to be Fixed for the Appointment of the Teachers who are able to give Basic Education to the Children of Urban and Rural Areas, and The Teachers will also have to be Trained for this so that the Education System and Education Quality can be Improved.

(II)Bringing Awareness to Towns- In Towns, there are Many Obstacles related to Education which need Improvement, because there is a Large Population of India in Towns only, so the Development of the Country is Possible only by the Development of Small Villages and Towns. Therefore, it is Necessary to raise the Level of Education in the towns, so it is very important to make the Citizens residing in the towns aware of the Importance of Education.

(III) Strong Executive System- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an Ambitious and Challenging program along with a Necessity for Change in its Implementation System. Enrollment, Stagnation and Quality Education Development, Curriculum and Infrastructural Aspects Should be Encouraged.

Achievements

This Program has made Significant Achievements at the Village level. In 2004, Many Villages in India were Covered and Elementary Education Centres Opened. There is a Village in the State of Tamil Nadu in South India Called Satnathpuram, located in Nagapattinam District. It is a village where this program was Successfully Implemented for the First time Significant Progress in Literacy Rate was Witnessed due to the Mid – Day Meal Schemes for Poor Children with the help of State Government with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. NGOs Generously Donated Land for Poor People and the construction of Schools Was Completed by Gram Panchayats.

Conclusion- The study of educational activities in Bagbahara block of Mahasamund district under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan clearly reveals that this program has played a pivotal role in expanding the reach of primary education, particularly in rural and tribal areas. The initiatives of enrollment campaigns, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, mid-day meal scheme, digital education projects, and active community participation have collectively contributed to increasing student enrollment, reducing dropout rates, and improving girls' education. The data analysis also indicates a

steady rise in student strength in certain schools, reflecting the effectiveness of these interventions. At the same time, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, shortage of trained teachers, delay in funds, limited digital resources, and social barriers like child labour and gender discrimination still remain. These obstacles highlight the need for timely financial support, strong monitoring mechanisms, effective teacher training, and broader social awareness programs to sustain the momentum of progress. Overall, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has laid a strong foundation for educational development in Bagmara block. With continued policy support, strengthened infrastructure, and active community participation, this region has the potential to emerge as a model of inclusive and quality education. The long-term success of the mission will depend on how effectively the existing gaps are bridged, ensuring that every child not only attends school but also receives meaningful, equitable, and quality education.

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