

Tell-All

Volume One
2016



Department of Economics

Vivekananda College

269, Diamond Harbour Road, Thakurpukur Kolkata – 700063

The background of the cover is a light, airy wash of colors, primarily pinks, purples, and blues. It is populated with numerous colorful butterfly silhouettes in various sizes and colors, including pink, purple, blue, yellow, and orange. On the right side, there is a large, faint silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, looking towards the left. The overall aesthetic is soft and artistic.

Tell-All

Edited By

Sujit Thakur

Pampa SenGupta

Organized by

Department of Economics

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE

Thakurpukur, Kolkata- 700 063

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Designed by
Vishakha Chakravorty
First Year

TELL-ALL

Volume I, 2016

Editor

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First Publication of the Department of Economics

Contents


- From the desk of the Principal
- Joint Editor's Address
- Preface and Acknowledgements
- Kanika
- Canvas
- Reflections
- Achievements

The background of the page is a light, airy composition. It features a variety of colorful butterflies in shades of pink, purple, blue, and yellow, scattered across the space. On the right side, there is a faint, dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, looking towards the left. The overall aesthetic is soft and celebratory.

From The Principal's Desk

When I was informed that the Department of Economics was planning to publish a departmental journal, truly I was little bit doubtful. But , few days ago , when I saw the preparation on screen, I was really surprised and delighted. It is an extraordinary production prepared by the students of the department and their teachers. I wish all the success of the first publication of TELL-ALL from the core of my heart. The name of the journal, TELL-ALL, is also a unique one and thoughtful. I believe strongly that this small initiative in the year 2016 would be a big foot mark within a very short span of time in the sphere of budding social scientists.

Thanks and good wishes to all.



It's humbling and at the same time quite unnerving to have been trusted with this role. Editing, as with any other creative work, is enormously challenging. You cut down a little too much on salt and the recipe's on toss. You got to punch in a calibrated mix of spices to make that dish taste worthy. But then, you haven't seen a cook who doesn't love experimenting. Hope you love my serving!

Sujit Thakur

Joint Editor

Preface and Acknowledgements

I had a long-cherished dream ---ever since I joined this institution a little less than 20 years back. I longed for our departmental journal where the teachers and the students would be able to have their own space for scribbling down their thoughts. Time has rolled by. Every year I have kept on witnessing our students performing overwhelmingly well in various spheres---apart from their daily chore of routine-based results----- presenting papers, drawing posters, authoring essays ,participating in debate and quiz competitions within the college premises as well as in other institutions and coming out with flying colours. Work done by our faculty as a whole has also quite often been praiseworthy. And every year a deep sense of guilt for not keeping all these achievements in a structured frame has pained me very much.

This year, from the very beginning, I was very determined to complete this task, come what may. Students-----both alumni and the present ones ----have always been very enthusiastic and supportive to this endeavor. It is ultimately they who have made this unfulfilled task complete. This year our departmental journal **Tell-All** is finally being published. It is a **collage** of seminar lecture write-ups by the students, their experience of educational tours, their occasional paintings and some glimpses of their achievements.

And in this connection I would first like to thank our Principal Dr. Tapan Kr. Poddar for his encouragement and support. Other teachers of our department have been quite accommodative in this regard .I remain grateful to all of them.

In the editorial board, Sujit Thakur, our alumnus and a Guest Faculty of the department deserves deepest gratitude. He has been instrumental in fulfilling this task. He has coined the name **Tell-All** and looked into the papers despite his otherwise busy schedule in corporate set-up.

The collection of Bangla write-ups, has been named **Kanika** by Aishi Roy, a second year honours student. She has put her intellectual pursuits, along with her classmate Dwaipayan Sengupta, while reviewing the write-ups .I remain grateful to them.

Vishakha Chakravorty ,a first year honours student has designed the cover page and the background of the page lay-out . **Reflections** ,the collection of the English write-ups has been structured by her. In fact, had she not been there, **Tell-All** in its present format would never have been possible.



Gratitude is also due to other associate editors for their respective valuable contributions.

Shib Shankar Datta of Journalism department has arranged the entire set-up. Subrata Ganguly of our college press has taken the responsibility of printing the present volume. I remain thankful to both of them.

I remain grateful to all my students----alumni and present---who have directly or indirectly have contributed in the culmination of this work. I sincerely feel that working for Tell-All every year would help the students to build up and express their own thought process, a fact which would stand in good stead in their future life for sure.

The usual disclaimer applies.

Pampa SenGupta

June, 2016





କନିକା . . .

Social networking ও একাকীত্ব

দ্বৈপায়ন সেনগুপ্ত

(দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ)

মানুষের প্রয়োজন জীবনের নানান ক্ষেত্রে নিজেকে প্রকাশ করার। এই কাজে চিঠি লেখা, telephonic conversation-এর পর আজ সে পৌঁছেছে Whatsapp বা facebook এর যুগে। সাধারণভাবে যাকে আমরা তকমা দিয়ে থাকি Social Networking নামে।

Social Networking বড্ড কম সময়েই ছোটো থেকে বড় সবার কাছেই গ্রহণযোগ্য হয়ে উঠেছে। ফলে আজকে সেটা আলোচনার বিষয়বস্তু। যাদের সাথে হয়ত কোথাও কোনোদিন যোগাযোগের সুযোগই ছিল না, তাদের সাথে যোগাযোগের একটি মাধ্যম হয়ে উঠেছে facebook। তাতে আমরা স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই আশ্রিত। সেগুলি নিয়েও একটু ভাবনা চিন্তার প্রয়োজন বলে মনে করছি।

অল্পবয়সীদের মধ্যে Social Networking একটি addiction-এ পরিণত হয়েছে। জীবন গড়ে তলার পথে, সময়ের সঠিক ও কার্যকর ব্যবহার যাদের খুবই জরুরি, তারা যদি অহেতুক নিজেকে অন্য কাজে ব্যস্ত রাখে তবে সেটা অবশ্যই মেনে নেওয়া যায় না।

মুখোমুখি কথাবার্তায় অনেক বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হল বলার ধরন, গলার স্বর, শরীরের ভঙ্গি, দৃষ্টি ইত্যাদি। এর মধ্যে কথার ভূমিকা নেহাতই লঘু। অপরদিকে আমরা Social Networking-এ কেবল কথা আর কিছু emoticons-এর মাধ্যমেই নিজেকে প্রকাশ করার চেষ্টা চালাই। ফলে অপরপক্ষের কাছে তা যে বার্তা বয়ে নিয়ে যায় তা কতটা সম্পূর্ণ তাও ভাবার বিষয়।

অনেকক্ষেত্রে দেখা গেছে, কেউ কেউ Social Networking-এ যতটা vocal ,সামনাসামনি কথা বলার ক্ষেত্রে ততটাই আড়ষ্ট। এই আড়ষ্টতা কিন্তু বক্তাকে তার দুর্বলতা সম্পর্কে আরও বেশী সচেতন করে তোলে,সে নিজেকে আরও বেশী গুটিয়ে ফেলে। সরাসরি সম্পর্কের চেয়ে আরও বেশি virtual সম্পর্কের মধ্যয় আবদ্ধ করে ফেলে। আর এই দুর্বলতার থেকে তার কোন মুক্তি নেই বরং সে আরও বেশিই একাকীত্বের গভীরে ঢুকে যায়। সুতরাং Social Networking অনেক মানুষকে আরও বেশি একা করে তুলেছে এবং communication skill develop করার ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিবন্ধক হিসেবে দেখা দিচ্ছে।

তাই শারীরিক সমস্যা, cyber crime এর মতো যথেষ্ট গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ঋণাত্মক প্রভাব থাকলেও যোগাযোগের এই সুবিস্তৃত মাধ্যমটিতে মানুষের একা হয়ে যাওয়াটা আমার কাছে অনেক বেশি ভয়ের বলে মনে হয়েছে।

বর্তমান সমাজে শিক্ষার মূল্য

সুতপা দে
(দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ)

বাংলা মাধ্যমে হোক বা ইংরেজি যেকোনো বিদ্যালয়ের ফলপ্রকাশের দিনে বিদ্যালয়চত্বরে, পরীক্ষার নম্বরের জন্য অভিভাবকদের ছাত্রছাত্রীদের প্রতি মৌখিক শাসন এমনকি স্থান কাল বিশেষে লাঠৌষধির দৃষ্টান্ত খুবই সাধারণ। কিন্তু পরীক্ষায় পাওয়া নম্বরকে শিক্ষার প্রকৃত মাপকাঠি করে গড়ে ওঠা বর্তমান সমাজের শিক্ষাব্যবস্থা কতটা সঙ্গত? দিস্তা দিস্তা নোটস্ মুখস্থ করে আর পরীক্ষা নামক হুঁদুর দৌড়ে সামিল হয়ে জ্ঞানকে আত্মস্থ করার পরিবর্তে মুখস্থ করার যে ধারা চলেছে তাতে সমাজ কি আদৌ শিক্ষিত হচ্ছে? অনেক অনেক নম্বর ও ডিগ্রির অধিকারী হয়ে জীবিকা নির্বাহের জন্য আদর্শ চাকুরি পাওয়া যেতে পারে, প্রকৃত শিক্ষিত হয়ে ওঠা যায় কি? বর্তমান সমাজে শিক্ষা বা পড়াশোনা সাধনা বা তপস্যার পরিবর্তে হয়ে উঠেছে অবশ্য কর্তব্য প্রথা এবং সমাজে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার এক ও অদ্বিতীয় মাধ্যম। যে কারণে বর্তমান প্রজন্মের বহু ছাত্রছাত্রীর কাছে অঙ্ক বা ইতিহাস হল আতঙ্কের বিষয় এবং তথ্য প্রযুক্তির যুগে বই পড়তে আগ্রহী মানুষজন “পড়াকু” ও “বোরিং”।

কিন্তু আমরা কি কখনও ভেবে দেখেছি প্রকৃত শিক্ষা কি? আজ থেকে অনেকগুলি বছর পিছিয়ে গেলে যখন সর্বসাধারণের শিক্ষালাভ করার অধিকার বা উপায় সুলভ ছিল না তখন মানুষ কেন সব বাধাবিপত্তিকে তুচ্ছ করেও জ্ঞানার্জনের তপস্যায় ব্রতী হতেন? কেন আমাদের পূর্বপুরুষরা এত কষ্ট স্বীকার করেছেন শিক্ষাকে সর্বসাধারণের প্রাথমিক অধিকারের মর্যাদা দিতে? তাহলে তাঁরা কি ভুল ছিলেন?

সাধারণের স্বার্থেই তাই আমাদের নতুন করে পর্যালোচনা করা প্রয়োজন শিক্ষার প্রকৃত অর্থকে ।

অভিধানের ভাষায় : Education is an act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge developing the powers of reasoning and judgment and generally of preparing oneself or others, intellectually for mature life.

পড়াশুনা হল একটি অবিচ্ছেদ্য , ধীর ও দৃঢ় প্রক্রিয়া যা আমাদের জ্ঞানার্জনের সহায়ক ।জ্ঞানার্জনের এই অবিচ্ছিন্ন প্রক্রিয়া শুরু হয়ে জন্মের পরবর্তী মুহূর্ত থেকে, শেষ হয় আমাদের মৃত্যুর সাথে।

শিক্ষা শুধুমাত্র পরিবেশ ও সমাজোপযোগী করে আমাদের গড়ে তোলে না , শিক্ষা প্রকৃতপক্ষে গড়ে তোলে আমাদের মনুষ্যত্ব বোধকে, সাধন করে আমাদের চারিত্রিক দৃঢ়তা ও উৎকর্ষতা।শিক্ষাই মানুষকে করে তোলে অন্যান্য প্রাণীদের তুলনায় উৎকৃষ্ট ,খোঁজ দেয় জীবনের প্রকৃত দিশার যা নিয়ে আসে আমাদের জীবনে আনন্দ,শান্তি ও সন্তুষ্টি।

বর্তমান সমাজের নৈতিক অধঃপতন, বিভিন্ন সামাজিক সমস্যা যেমন নারী নির্যাতন বা লিঙ্গ বিরূপতা,কিংবা ধর্মীয় হিংসা - এ সকলই অপূর্ণ ও বিকৃত শিক্ষার ফল।

প্রাচীন ভারতবর্ষ কিংবা বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের ইতিহাস শিক্ষালাভের জন্য বিশেষ যোগ্যতা অর্জন করতে হত।এমনকি প্রাক স্বাধীনতা যুগেও দেখা যায় কীভাবে বহু মানুষ স্বতঃস্ফূর্ত ভাবে জ্ঞানার্জনের তাগিদে সকল বাধাবিপত্তিকে অতিক্রম করে শিক্ষালাভে নিয়োজিত হয়েছেন। কিন্তু বর্তমান সমাজে যেখানে শিক্ষার অফুরান সুযোগ সেখানে মানুষ কেন এমন একপেশে স্বার্থ ঘেঁষা ডিগ্রি ও নম্বর সর্বস্ব পড়াশোনায় বিভোর?

স্বাধীনতা পরবর্তী ভারতের সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি বিশ্লেষণ করলেই হয়েতো এর কিছু কারণ পাওয়া যাবে। ভারত স্বাধীনতা পায় এক চরম সঙ্কটকালীন অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থার মধ্যে। একদিকে চরম দারিদ্র্য,অপরদিকে উদ্বাস্তু সমস্যা, ভাষা সমস্যা, ধর্মীয় দাঙ্গা, যুদ্ধ ,কালোবাজারী এবং প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগের প্রাদুর্ভাব দেশে একটি বিশাল নিম্নবিত্ত,নিম্নমধ্যবিত্ত ও বেকার সমাজের সৃষ্টি করে।

স্বাভাবিক ভাবেই জীবিকার তাগিদে মানুষ প্রকৃত শিক্ষিত হওয়ার পরিবর্তে তৎকালীন সমাজের চাহিদা মারফিক পুঁথিগত বিদ্যাশিক্ষা ও ডিগ্রি লাভ করাকেই অগ্রাধিকার দিয়েছে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়ে এই যে বর্তমানে আমাদের সমাজ সেই চরম সংকটময় অবস্থার থেকে মুক্তিলাভ করলেও সেই পুরোনো নম্বর ও ডিগ্রিসর্বস্ব শিক্ষাব্যবস্থা থেকে মুক্তিলাভ করতে পারেনি। একের পর এক প্রজন্ম শিক্ষার প্রকৃত উৎকর্ষ থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে যা প্রকৃতপক্ষে সামাজিক অবক্ষয়কে ত্বরান্বিত করেছে।

কয়েক দশক ধরে চলে আসা এই ধ্বংসাত্মক, নীতিহীন শিক্ষাব্যবস্থায় পরিবর্তন আনতে হলে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে আমাদের উপলব্ধি করতে হবে।জীবনের প্রথম পর্যায়ের শিক্ষক হিসেবে এক্ষেত্রে যেমন শিশুদের অভিভাবকদের দায়িত্ব শিশুকে উপযুক্ত শিক্ষা গ্রহণের উপযুক্ত করে গড়ে তোলা, তেমনি শিক্ষকদের দায়িত্ব পাঠ্য বিষয়কে ছাত্রদের কাছে আনন্দদায়ক ও প্রাত্যহিক জীবনে ব্যবহারযোগ্য করে তোলা। কারণ জানার জগতের সাথে শিশুর প্রাথমিক পরিচয়ে জত আনন্দদায়ক হবে তত সে শিক্ষালাভে আগ্রহী হবে। আর এই পড়াশোনা বা শিক্ষালাভের প্রতি আগ্রহ ও ভালোলাগা তৈরী করার প্রথম মুহূর্ত থেকেই।স্বামী বিবেকানন্দের বক্তব্যেও আমরা সে আশ্বাসই শুনি, তিনি বলেছেন,

“We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.”

বর্তমান সমাজ এবং আগামী প্রজন্মকে প্রকৃত শিক্ষার মূল্য সম্পর্কে অবগত করতে অনেক সময় লাগবে এবং অনেক বাধাবিপত্তির সম্মুখীন হতে হবে। কিন্তু আমাদের সেই সকল বাধা বিপত্তির কাছে পরাজয় স্বীকার করলে চলবে না, কারণ ভবিষ্যতের অপেক্ষাকৃত উন্নত ও শিক্ষিত সমাজ গড়ে তোলার দায়িত্ব আমাদের উপরই বর্তায়।

কবির ভাষায় ,

“চলে যাব-তবু আজ যতক্ষণ দেহে আছে প্রাণ

প্রাণপণে পৃথিবীর সরাবো জঞ্জাল

এ বিশ্বকে এ শিশুর বাসযোগ্য করে যাব আমি

নবজাতকের কাছে এ আমার দৃঢ় অঙ্গীকার”।

লুপ্তপ্রায় বাংলা

সারিকা পারভীন

(প্রথম বর্ষ)

বাংলার অস্তিত্ব প্রায় শেষের পর্যায়ে চলে গিয়েছে। লুপ্ত হয়ে যাচ্ছে আমাদের মাতৃভাষা- বাংলা ভাষা। বাংলা না জানাটা আজকাল বাঙালির গর্বের বিষয় হয়ে দাড়িয়েছে। বাংলা ভাষার মূল্যবোধ বাঙালির কাছে আর নেই। আজকাল বাঙালি মায়েদের মুখে প্রায়শই শোনা যাচ্ছে যে "বাংলা না জানলেও চলে, স্কুলে বাংলার চেয়ে alternative subject হিন্দি নেওয়াটাই ভালো"। যার সাথে সাথে ছেলেমেয়েরাও না পারছে ঠিক করে বাংলা পড়তে, না পারছে ঠিক করে বাংলা লিখতে। আমরা ভুলে যাচ্ছি সভ্যতার শিকড় লুকিয়ে থাকে নিজের ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতির মধ্যে। পৃথিবীতে কোনো কালজয়ী সাহিত্য মাতৃভাষা ছাড়া লেখা হয়নি। দান্তে, রবীন্দ্রনাথ, টলস্টয় প্রত্যেকে নিজের মাতৃভাষায় সাহিত্য লিখে বিখ্যাত হয়েছেন। আর আজ আমরা তাকেই অবজ্ঞা করি। না, আমি একথা বলছি না ইংরাজি না জানাটা ভালো, ইংরাজি জানাটা আমাদের মানিয়ে নেওয়ার জন্য, পড়াশোনার অগ্রগতির জন্য দরকার - কিন্তু সেটা নিজের মাতৃভাষাটাকে অবজ্ঞা করে নয়, বাংলা জানাটাকে অস্বীকার করে নয়। অটোয় বসে দুজন বাঙালির ইংরাজি কথা বলাটা ঠিক এমন দেখায় যে, দুজন ব্রিটিশ লন্ডনে বসে বাংলায় কথা বলছে। তাই লেখক চন্দ্রিল ভট্টাচার্য তাঁর লেখার মধ্য দিয়ে তীব্র ধিক্কার জানিয়ে বলেছেন- "আজকাল রবীন্দ্র জয়ন্তীর নাম শুনে অকলুষ বাঙালি শিশু জিজ্ঞেস করে 'জয়ন্তী কে?'। লুপ্ত হয়ে যাচ্ছে আমাদের মাতৃভাষা- বাংলা ভাষা।

বিষয় : সত্যজিৎ

ঐশী রায়

(দ্বিতীয় বর্ষ)

আমার বক্তব্য বিষয়ে আজ উপস্থিত শ্রী সত্যজিৎ রায়। কিন্তু লেখক, চলচ্চিত্রকার,চিত্রশিল্পী বা সংগীত পরিচালক নয়, আমার বিষয় আজ শিক্ষক সত্যজিৎ।

সত্যজিৎ রায় এক বহুমুখী প্রতিভা। সিনেমা-ছবি-গল্পের বিভিন্ন নান্দনিকতার জগতে তাঁর স্বচ্ছন্দ বিচরণ। উপেন্দ্রকিশোর-সুকুমার থেকে এই রায়পরিবারের সাহিত্যিক উত্তরাধিকার তাঁর মধ্যেও বর্তেছে। সুখলতা-সুবিনয়-লীলা মজুমদারের ভ্রাতুষ্পুত্র সত্যজিতের সৃষ্টির পথ ও ক্ষেত্র কিন্তু অনেকটাই আলাদা দিকে গেছে। আশা করি আমার সম্পূর্ণ বক্তব্যের মধ্যে বিষয়টি যথাযথ আলোচনা করতে পারব।

প্রথম রচনা- ১৯৪১এ-“অ্যাবস্ট্রাকশন”। এরপর ফিল্ম সোসাইটির পত্রিকাগুলিতে তাঁর অনেক প্রবন্ধ বেরোয়।পরবর্তীকালে প্রকাশিত সংকলন “Our Films, Their Films”, “Deep Focus”, বিষয় চলচ্চিত্র-র মতো গ্রন্থগুলির তাৎপর্য চলচ্চিত্রপ্রেমীদের কাছে অসীম। ঋতুপর্ণ ঘোষ থেকে অনীক দত্ত- অধুনা তন অনেক চিত্রনির্মাতারই অনুপ্রেরণা তিনি। তাঁর নিজস্ব ভাবধারা, সিনেমার ইতিহাসের পর্যালোচনা- এসবের মধ্য থেকে তাঁর শিক্ষাদানের নিদর্শন খুঁজে বের করার জন্য অধিক বাক্যব্যয় নিস্প্রয়োজন। স্বল্প পরিসরে কেবল তাঁর সর্বজনীন বক্তব্যের দিকেই আলোকপাত করা যাক।

কালক্রম অনুসারে এগোতে গেলে সত্যজিৎ-জীবনপঞ্জীতে প্রথম সাফল্য পথের পাঁচালী তথা অপু ট্রিলজি। তার মাঝেও আমরা পেয়েছি জলসাঘর ও পরশপাথরের মতো সহজ ও জটিল জীবনসত্যে উদ্ভাসিত দুটি ছবি। এই পর্বের সমস্তই প্রসিদ্ধ সাহিত্যকীর্তি অবলম্বনে। সুতরাং, গল্পের মধ্যে পরিচালক কোনো ‘মেসেজ’ দিয়েছেন কিনা, সে আলোচনা বাহুল্যবোধে বর্জন করা গেল। কিন্তু কাহিনী যাঁর-ই হোক, চিত্রনাট্যকার তিনি।এবং director ও

cinematographer অভিন্ন ব্যক্তি হওয়াটাই সিনেমার পক্ষে শ্রেয় বলে তিনি মনে করতেন। তাই তাঁর অভিনবত্বের সঙ্গে বার বার আমরা পরিচিত হয়েছি চলচ্চিত্রে।

তাঁর ছবিতে মৃত্যুর পূর্বে ইন্দির ঠাকরণকে আমরা দেখি নিজের পানের অবশিষ্ট জল দিয়ে লালন করে যান একটি চারাগাছকে। গুপী গাইন বাঘা বাইন-এ হাল্লার রাজা ও গুপীর চরম অসহায়তা ও অবমাননার দুটি পৃথক দৃশ্যে সঙ্গীত পরিচালক সত্যজিৎ একই আবহ সংযোজন করে দেন - দুজনের আলাদা সামাজিক অবস্থা তাঁর সমদৃষ্টিতে পার্থক্য সৃষ্টি করে না। চারুলতার সেই ব্যঞ্জনাবাহী freeze-frame, জন-অরণ্যের শেষে সাদা-কালো আলোর ছককাটা দেওয়াল, সীমাবদ্ধের শেষ দৃশ্যে ঘুরন্ত পাখা-সকলেই তাঁর নিঃশব্দ বার্তা বহন করে।

১৯৬১ তে কবি সুভাষ মুখোপাধ্যায়ের সঙ্গে যৌথ সম্পাদনায় পুনরাবির্ভাব ঘটে সন্দেশ পত্রিকার। এখানেই প্রথম দেখা মেলে প্রোফেসর ত্রিলোকেশ্বর শঙ্কু নামে এক আশ্চর্য বৈজ্ঞানিকের। এই সিরিজের বিশেষত্বই হল, কেবল কল্পবিজ্ঞান নয়,দেশ-বিদেশের বিভিন্ন সাংস্কৃতিক যোগাযোগ, অজানা অকল্পনীয় অনেক সম্ভাবনার আভাস,এবং দার্শনিকতার স্পর্শে অবিস্মরণীয় এই মানবিক বিজ্ঞানীর কীর্তি ও অভিজ্ঞতার রোমাঞ্চকর গল্পের সুকৌশলী সংকলন। আজ থেকে ৫০ বছর আগে তিনি আবার আমাদের জন্য এনে দিলেন একজন নায়ক-প্রদোষ চন্দ্র মিত্রকে। ফেলুদার সঙ্গে যে ছেলেটি দুনিয়া দেখে, জানে, বোঝে;যার কলমে ভর করে আমরা অ্যাডভেঞ্চারে রওনা হই; প্রথম গল্পে তার বয়স সাড়ে তেরো।যে সময় হিরো বলতেই একটা দেখনদারি, রুচির উগ্রতা, নাচ-গান-রোম্যান্স এবং তার পদে পদে জিতে যাওয়ার প্রকাশ মাধ্যম হিসেবে মাত্রাতিরিক্ত হিংসার ছবিটা ভেসে ওঠে, তখন তাদের পাশে ফেলুদার চালচলন, কথাবার্তা, ভাবনাচিন্তা সব কিছুতেই একটা মার্জিত, রুচিসম্মত সুস্থ সংস্কৃতি আর সংঘমের ছাপ দেখা যায়। ফেলুদার কাছেই প্রথম শেখা টেলিপ্যাথি কাকে বলে, টুয়াটারার বাসস্থান,তিনতোরেরোর পরিচয়, আর কিভাবে কোন জ্ঞানটা কাজে লেগে যাবে, তাই ভেবে সবকিছু পড়বার উৎসাহ।বীজগণিত শেখবার আগেই গ্রীক বর্ণমালা জানতে চেয়েছে বাঙালী কিশোরমহল, সেও তো তাঁরই অনুপ্রেরণায়। লালমোহনবাবু যখন তাঁকে প্রশ্ন করেন “আপনার অস্ত্রটি সঙ্গে

এনেছেন কি?” তার উত্তরে আসে “রিভলভার আনিনি। বাকি তিনটে সব সময় সঙ্গেই থাকে।” তথাকথিত হিরোইজম্ কে এইভাবে অবজ্ঞা করে কেবল তিনিই বলতে পার, মস্তিষ্ক, স্নায়ু আর পেশীই আসল হাতিয়ার। এ থেকে তোপসের বাবার সেই অবিস্মরণীয় উক্তি “ফেলুর মত মাস্টার আছে কি সেই স্কুলে?”-র তাৎপর্য কিছুটা অনুধাবন করা যায়। জীবন্ত ছবির সঙ্গে বুদ্ধিদীপ্ত সংলাপ আর বিচিত্র ঘটনা পরম্পরায় কয়েক প্রজন্মকে মাতিয়েছেন তিনি। কিন্তু এ হেন নায়কের প্রতি অনেকের অনুযোগ, তাঁর গল্প শিশুপাঠ্য। “নয়ন রহস্য” গল্পে ফেলুদা বলেছিল “আমার এমন অনেক মামলার উদাহরণ দিতে পারি যেগুলো চিত্তাকর্ষক হলেও তাতে এমন অনেক উপাদান থাকে যা কখনওই কিশোরদের পাতে দেওয়া চলে না।” প্রশ্ন জাগে, যিনি সমকালে নিজের গল্প থেকে কাঞ্চনজঙ্ঘা-নায়ক-এর মতো ছবি করেছেন, তিনি কেন নিজের পাঠক-পরিধি কিশোরে সীমাবদ্ধ করছেন? এখানেই আমার শিক্ষক-প্রসঙ্গের উৎপত্তি। তাঁর জগতে ছোটদের গুরুত্ব অসীম। তিনি মূল্য দেন তাদের অনুভূতিকে, আর সেই সঙ্গে সন্দেশ ইত্যাদি পত্রিকার অল্পবয়সী পাঠককুলের মনের পুষ্টি, ভালো লাগা, জ্ঞানবৃদ্ধি, বিচারবোধ এগুলির সঠিক পরিচর্যা করার গুরুদায়িত্ব নিতে গিয়ে “বড়দের গল্প” লেখার প্রবৃত্তিকে সম্পূর্ণ অবহেলা করে, শিক্ষকের মহৎ কর্তব্যকে বেছে নিয়েছেন।

এ জাতীয় আলোচনায় ছোটগল্পগুলি বিশেষ ভাবেই উল্লেখ্য। কিন্তু এখানে ওটুকুই বলব- কারণ প্রায় শতাধিক গল্পে, অপরিসীম বৈচিত্র্যপূর্ণ চরম মুহূর্তগুলির প্রতিটির ব্যাখ্যা বর্তমানে আমার সামর্থ্যের বাইরে। প্রতিটি কাহিনীতেই আছে অদ্ভুত, অপ্রত্যাশিত মোচড়, আর মানবহৃদয়ের অনবদ্য সব উপলব্ধি; শুধু জ্ঞান নয়, মনেরও সমৃদ্ধি ঘটে আখ্যানান্তোনিজস্বরচনাভিত্তিক সৃষ্টি “হীরক রাজার দেশে”-র রাজনৈতিক তাৎপর্য সর্বজনবিদিত। যদিও, একেও ছোটদের ছবির পর্যায়ভুক্ত করা হয়ে থাকে। এর মধ্যেও লক্ষণীয় তাঁর গল্পবলার মেদহীন স্টাইল ; আপাদমস্তক অনুপ্রাসের সংলাপ কোথাও অতিকাব্যিক বা মেলোড্রামাটিক হয় না। কাহিনীর ঋজুতায় পরিসমাপ্তি সহজে ঘনিয়ে এলে, climax টা দর্শকচিত্তে তৈরি করে একরকমের কম্পন - পর্দার দিকে আঙুল তুলে যখন গুপী-বাঘা প্রশ্ন তোলে- “রাজা রাখল তাদের চেপে, যারা উঠলে পরে ক্ষেপে, রাজার আসনখানা করবে টলোমল.. রাজা

ঠিক কী না?” তখন আমাদের মধ্য থেকে তিনি উত্তর আদায় করে নেন..“অনাচার করো যদি..রাজা তবে ছাড়ো গদি..”

উল্লেখ করব তাঁর শেষ ছবি “আগন্তুক” এর কথা। ছবির গুণগত মান নিয়ে সমালোচকরা প্রশ্ন তুলতেই পারেন, তুলেও থাকেন, কিন্তু ছবিটির একটা আলাদা তাৎপর্য আছে। এটি ব্যক্তি সত্যজিতের শেষ ভাষণ। আর তাঁর target audience দেশ-কাল-জাতি-ধর্মনির্বিশেষে সমস্ত মানুষ। মূল চরিত্র মনমোহন মিত্র-র কয়েকটা উজ্জ্বল বিষয় কিছুটা স্পষ্ট হবে। তিনি productive আড্ডা নিয়ে যা বলেছেন, তা প্রয়োগ করতে পারলে জাতির উন্নতি আর অবাস্তব আদর্শবাদের পর্যায়ে থাকত না। সভ্য-অসভ্যের ভেদাভেদ, তথাকথিত শিক্ষিত মানুষের নীচতা নিয়ে ক্ষোভে ফেটে পড়েন তিনি। Cannibalism -কে আপনি সভ্যতার কোন পর্যায়ে ফেলবেন? প্রশ্নের উত্তরে শ্লেষের সঙ্গে তিনি বলেন, “সভ্য কোথায়? বর্বর! Barbaric! সভ্য কারা জানেন? যারা আঙুলের একটি চাপে একটি বোতাম টিপে একটি ব্রহ্মাস্ত্র নিক্ষেপ করে একটা শহর নিশ্চিহ্ন করে দিতে পারে তারা ! আর সভ্য কারা জানেন?যারা ঐ সিদ্ধান্তটা নিতে পারে...”

যুক্তি বুদ্ধির প্রাথর্ষে নিজের শিল্প থেকে অবাস্তব অতিনাটকীয়তাকে বিতাড়িত করেছেন সত্যজিৎ । কিন্তু বিশ্বাস-অবিশ্বাসের মধ্যে একটা ধূসর জায়গায় মানুষকে বন্দী করে ফেলতে তাঁর অদ্বিতীয় পারদর্শিতা। চাঁদটা কার খেয়ালে সূর্যের সামনে আসে, একেবারে চাকতি চাকতি মিলে যায়, সে কথার ব্যাখ্যা দিতে যান না তিনি। দুহাত মেলে তিনি শুধু বলেন- “ম্যাজিক !!”

তাঁর শেষ শিক্ষা এটাই, মনের দরজা-জানলাগুলো খুলে রাখতে হবে, যাতে বাইরের আলো-হাওয়া ঢুকে মনটাকে তাজা করে দেয়। অন্ধকার চারিদিক থেকে ঘিরে ধরলেও, “নিজের মনটাকে অন্ধকার হতে দিও না ফেলু, হতে দিও না।”

পরিশেষে বলতে চাই, সত্যজিৎ রায়ের শিক্ষাধারাটা আমাদের মনে প্রবেশ করলেও, অনেকসময় চোখ এড়িয়ে যায়। ভাবনাচিন্তার জগতে কি অপরিমেয় পরিবর্তনতিনি এনেছেন, তাএখনো প্রাসঙ্গিক, এবং তার ব্যাপ্তি সত্যজিৎ-সাহিত্য ও চলচ্চিত্র-চর্চায় মনোযোগ দিলেই জানা যাবে। সমাজচিত্রের

অভাব, শিশুপাঠ্য, নারীচরিত্র-বিবর্জিত - এই ভিত্তিহীন অভিযোগগুলি কখনো কখনো জনমানসে তাঁর সঠিক মূল্যায়নের পথে অন্তরায় হয়ে দাঁড়ায়। কিন্তু প্রকৃত সত্য হল, যুগের আগে এগিয়ে ছিল যেমন তাঁর চিন্তাভাবনা, তেমনই শিক্ষাপদ্ধতিও। তাই শেষ করব তাঁকে নিয়ে আমার অপরিসীম ধৃষ্টতায় লেখা কয়েকটি লাইন দিয়ে-

"মিথ্যে অস্ত্রশস্ত্র ছেড়ে ধরতে প্রাণের ভাষায় গান

জিততে লড়াই মগজাস্ত্রে শান দিতে তিনিই শেখান

উদয়নের প্রতিবাদ আর মগজধোলাই শাসকদের

চলতে থাকা এই দুনিয়ায় তাঁকেই যেন দেখছি ফের

মূর্তি ছুরির হোক কিনারা - সাহস-সে তাঁর অভ্যেসেই

ফেলু মিত্তির তৈরি আছেন - দেশের জিনিস থাক দেশেই

অপরাধীর শাস্তি হবেই - তাঁর জগতের এমনি রীত

শৈশবও যায় ফুরিয়ে, কেবল ফুরোন না সেই সত্যজিৎ..."

আলোর মাঝে আঁধার

সুরজিৎ মন্ডল

(তৃতীয় বর্ষ)

ভারতবর্ষ বিশ্বের বৃহত্তর গণতান্ত্রিক প্রজাতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্র। ভারতবাসী হিসাবে এই বিষয়ে আমরা গর্বিত বোধ করি, যেখানে প্রত্যেক ভারতবাসী জাতি, ধর্ম নির্বিশেষে সমান গুরুত্ব বা অধিকার পায় দেশের প্রতি। আজ বিংশ শতাব্দীতে দাঁড়িয়ে অর্থাৎ স্বাধীনতার প্রায় ঊনসত্তর বছর পরে আমরা নানান দিকে সাফল্য লাভ করেছি, বিশ্বের দরবারে নিজেদের পরিচিতি গড়ে তুলেছি, যেমন - আজ আমরা বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ ধান রপ্তানিকারক দেশ, চা রপ্তানিতে আমরা বিশ্বে তৃতীয় স্থান অধিকার করেছি, সফটওয়্যার রপ্তানিতে আমরা বিশ্বে উল্লেখযোগ্য স্থান দখল করেছি, আমরা নিজস্ব প্রযুক্তি ব্যবহার করে মহাকাশযান ছেড়েছি। এছাড়াও সারা বিশ্বে আমাদের উপস্থিতি এবং উপলব্ধি উল্লেখযোগ্য, উদাহরণস্বরূপ - আমেরিকার মোট ডাক্তারের মধ্যে ৩৮% ভারতীয়, NASA গবেষণা কেন্দ্রের ৩৬% বিজ্ঞানী হলেন ভারতীয়, এছাড়াও বিশ্বের বড় বড় কোম্পানীতেও ভারতীয়দের উপস্থিতি চোখে পড়ার মতন। যেমন - Microsoft-এর মত বড় কোম্পানীর ৩৪% হল ভারতীয়, IBM -এর ২৮% কর্মী হলেন ভারতীয়, INTEL-এর বিজ্ঞানীদের মধ্যে ১৭% ভারতীয়।

অর্থাৎ আজ আমরা বিভিন্ন দিকে সাফল্য অর্জন করেছি। এই সকল বিষয়ে আমাদের মাথা উঁচু করে বিশ্বের দরবারে। আমেরিকান লেখক মার্ক টোয়েন (Mark Twain) ভারতবর্ষ সম্পর্কে বলেছেন - “India is the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition”.

কিন্তু অন্যদিকে এই গর্বপূর্ণ বিষয়গুলি ফ্যাকাশে হয়ে যায়, যেই মুহূর্তে কিছু অমানবিক ঘটনা আমাদের কানে আসে। এত বহুমুখী উন্নতির

পরেও এই ধরনের ঘটনা আমাদের উন্নতির উপর প্রশ্ন চিহ্ন দিয়ে দেয় - আমরা কি সত্যিই উন্নত?

বিজ্ঞানে এত উন্নতির পরেও, আমাদের কানে আসে ধর্ম নিয়ে বিবাদ, মারামারি, খুনোখুনি। যখন পুরো বিশ্ব অতীত শত্রুতা ভুলে শান্তি কামনা করে তখন কিছু মানবিক বুদ্ধিহীন গোষ্ঠী অতীতের শত্রুতাকে আঁকড়ে ধরে বেঁচে থাকতে চায়। এত উন্নতি সত্ত্বেও মানুষকে তার ধর্ম নিজের মত করে পালন করতে দেওয়া হয় না। এই শতাব্দীতে দাঁড়িয়ে এই ঘটনাগুলি খুবই লজ্জাজনক। এই ধরনের কিছু ঘটনার মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য ঘটনা হল 'দাদরি' ঘটনা, যা মনুষ্যত্বের কাছে লজ্জা, ২৮শে সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৫, একদল গোঁড়া হিন্দু আক্রমণ করে গ্রামের এক মুসলমান বাড়িতে। সেই বাড়ির মালিকের উপর গোহত্যা, গোমাংস ভক্ষণের এবং তা ফ্রিজে সংরক্ষণ করার आरोপ ছিল। সেই বাড়ির মালিক ৫২ বছর বয়সী মহম্মদ আখলাদকে পিটিয়ে খুন করা হয় এবং তার ২২ বছর বয়সী ছেলেকে গুরুতর জখম করা হয়। কিন্তু পরবর্তীকালে তার বাড়ি থেকে কোন গোমাংস পাওয়া যায়নি, পাওয়া গিয়েছিল পাঁঠার মাংস, যা হিন্দু ধর্মের মানুষেরাও ভক্ষণ করে। এই ঘটনার পিছনে কারণ ছিল মানুষের অজ্ঞানতা, গোঁড়ামি এবং ভুল তথ্য। অন্যদিকে এই ঘটনা ছিল গোমাংস নিষিদ্ধকরণের ফল। মহারাষ্ট্র, হরিয়ানা, জম্মু ও কাশ্মীর এই রাজ্যগুলিতে গোমাংস নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়।

আমাদের সংবিধানে ভারতবর্ষকে ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ বলে আখ্যা দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং অন্যদিকে সকল ভারতবাসীকে নিজের ইচ্ছানুসারে ধর্মগ্রহণ করার অধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে। আজ সংবিধান প্রচলনের ৬৫ বছর পরেও আমাদের এইরূপ ঘটনার সম্মুখীন হতে হয়।

অন্যদিকে পাকিস্তানের প্রাক্তন বিদেশমন্ত্রীর ভারতে তাঁর বই প্রকাশ করতে আসার প্রতিবাদে এক উগ্রপন্থী রাজনৈতিকগণের কর্মচারীরা সুধীর কুলকার্ণীর মুখে কালো কালি মাখিয়ে দেন। কারণ সুধীর কুলকার্ণী বই প্রকাশের সময় মঞ্চ উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

এই সকল ঘটনার পরিবর্তে মুখ খোলার জন্য চলচ্চিত্র জগতের দুই নামকরা শিল্পীকে পাকিস্তানি আখ্যা দেওয়া হয়। আমরা ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতার অভাব দেখতে পাই আর একটি ঘটনাতে। গুজব ছড়িয়ে পড়ে যে দিল্লির কেরল ভবনে গোমাংস বিক্রি হচ্ছে, তার পরিবর্তে এক হিন্দু সেনার কথামত পুলিশ ক্যান্টিনে রেড করে। পুলিশের কাজ হয় দেশের আইনশৃঙ্খলা বজায় রাখা। কিন্তু এই ঘটনায় পুলিশের ভূমিকা নিয়ে প্রশ্ন ওঠে।

সারা দেশে এই সকল ঘটনা, যা সারা বিশ্বর কাছে অসহিষ্ণুতার বড় উদাহরণ পেশ করে এবং সারা বিশ্বের কাছে আমাদের ছোট করেছে। এর প্রতিবাদে সারা দেশের মোট ৩০জন সাহিত্যিক, লেখক, বুদ্ধিজীবী নিজেদের পুরস্কার, উপাধি ত্যাগ করেন, তাদের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য হল কে.এম. কামযোগী, বিকাশ ভট্টাচার্য, আব্দুল মান্নান।

সাধারণত অসহিষ্ণুতা দেখা যায় মানুষের মধ্যে অসম্পূর্ণ জ্ঞান, উগ্র মানসিকতা, সঠিক তথ্যের অভাব, গোঁড়ামি প্রভৃতি কারণে। তাই আমাদের সমাজে অসহিষ্ণুতা দূর করতে দরকার সঠিক শিক্ষা এবং সঠিক সমাজ পরিচালক।

অসহিষ্ণুতা সম্পর্কে হিলারী ক্লিন্টন বলেছেন - “In every religion, there are those who would drape themselves in the mantle of belief and faith only to distort it's most sacred teaching - preaching intolerance and resorting to violence”.

অবশেষে বলা যেতে পারে মহাত্মা গান্ধী স্বপ্ন দেখেছিলেন স্বচ্ছ ভারতের, তিনি মনে করতেন স্বচ্ছ জায়গা হল ভগবানের বাসস্থান, বর্তমানে স্বচ্ছ ভারত মিশনের মাধ্যমে আবর্জনা পরিস্কার ও রাস্তাঘাট নিজের লোকালয় পরিস্কার করার জন্য মানুষের মধ্যে সচেতনতা বাড়ানোর কাজ চলছে। কিন্তু স্বচ্ছ ভারত মানে কেবল পরিবেশের আবর্জনা পরিস্কার করা? গান্ধিজী হয়তো কেবল তার কথা বলেননি। তিনি চেয়েছিলেন মানুষের মধ্যে ধর্ম, ভাষার অথবা রঙের ভেদাভেদ মুক্ত সমাজ, তাই আজ আমাদের প্রয়োজন সকলে মিলে মনের

আবর্জনা পরিস্কার করার, যাতে ভগবান কেবল মন্দির, মসজিদ, গীর্জায় নয়, আমাদের সকলের মনে বাসস্থান করতে পারেন।

ওয়েবসাইট এবং ইন্টারনেট তথ্যসূত্র

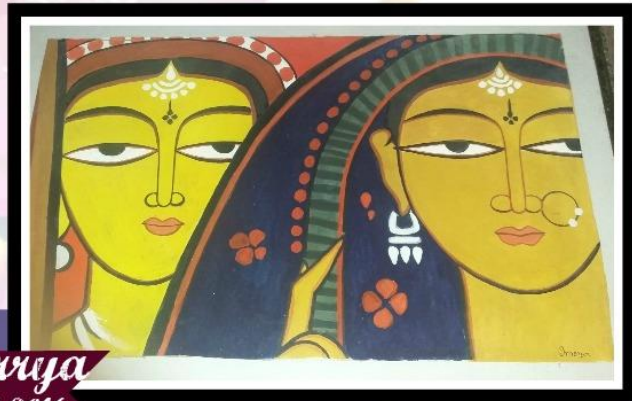
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Canvas...



Bornita Mondal
Alumnus, 2012-2015



Imon Bhattacharjya
Alumnus, 2013-2016



Shuvam Das
2nd Year 2016



Reflections . . .

Poverty In India

*Aanshuman Shah
Second Year*

“Rich are getting richer, poor are getting poorer”

The above phrase may sound skeptic, but it is the utmost truth. One of the sarcasm of technical developing world is the ‘poverty’, which remains prevalent and uncontrolled. Poverty is an old age observable fact suffered by country at global scale. It is a very indistinct concept with varied implications and facades. Poverty in general is defined as the deprivation of wellbeing. It is the inability of getting access to basic choices and opportunities to support life. Poverty in INDIA has always remained a challenge. It is considered as the biggest obstacle to the development planning in India. High poverty levels are synonymous with poor quality of life, deprivation, malnutrition, illiteracy and low human resource development.

Although every government tries to deal with this problem through implementation of various schemes and policies, the overall number of poor in the country keeps increasing, People are bound to spend their live on streets, poor children are struggling to get into the schools and receive basic education. Also, there are many groups that are greatly impacted due to poverty but are bound to live a life under this menace, such as:

Women: Many reports have shown that women make a greater percentage of poor people as compared to men. The main cause for this is that women have generally found less access to education and employment. Many women have always performed unpaid work as Mothers and housewives.

Children: Children are the group which are most affected by poverty. Some of the poorest households in INDIA are those headed by children where parents are ill or have died. Even in families where parents are present, children are very badly affected by malnutrition. It also means that the children can more easily catch diseases and either die young, or have poor physical and mental development as a result.

Youth: Young people have to suffer a lot due to poverty because they may be deprived of education facilities which in turn limit employment opportunity in INDIA, with high. This degrades their standard of living and they are very susceptible to crimes, drugs and alcohol abuse.

Similar condition prevails with other groups and other section of people under poverty. The fundamental reasons behind the increase of this indigent condition is the massive population growth leading to imbalance between demand and supply of various essential goods, Social restrictions on people to engage in certain activities, growing unemployment among the illiterate people and unequal distribution of wealth etc. Therefore poverty is not limited to only one corner, but it has affected the lives of many young people, children, women, older people all over the country.

So it is high time to look this dreadful issue with much more attention and take steps that would be helpful in eradicating the poverty from its grassroots level. Improved irrigation and agricultural facilities to increase agricultural farm output, creation of employment opportunity, giving equal opportunity and empowerment of women, providing education comprising of both traditional and vocational, maintaining social equality and fair distribution of wealth along with few modification and implementation of important schemes and programs aimed at reducing poverty are some steps that will not only have a transparent look on poverty but can bring it down to maximum extent. With all these we shall also have to mend ways to quicken up the process, so that the programs and schemes and helps from various organizations reaches to wider section of society who are in utmost need. This will not only help in uplifting their standard of living and making their life better in future but also it will lay a better foundation for our country's future generation.

“So, let's begin the end to this menace together, today, right here, right now to take a one step forward towards a brighter future.”

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Child Labour- Identification and Rectification


Arpita Dhar

Second Year

Child labour is a global problem. It can be defined as any work done by children in order to economically benefit their family or themselves directly or indirectly, at the cost of their physical, mental or social development. The problem of child labour hampers the growth and progress of a country. Children constitute the most important asset of a nation and when society forces them to throw in their labour, so as to earn livelihood, denying them education and hence their optimal development, the nation suffers a net loss of their capacity as mature adults.

Child labour is not only a burning problem but also an offence against civilization. There are several provisions in the constitution for the protection of working children. For instance, Article Twenty Four prohibits the employment of child in any factor or mine, or in any other hazardous place. Article Thirty Nine(f) also states that children should be given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. Despite the constitutional safeguards, the Central and State governments have not been able to solve the problem of child labour. Child labour is more common in under-developed or developing countries like India. In India, the worst affected states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. Haryana and Punjab have been able to eliminate child labour to a great extent. At several places the most inhuman treatment is meted out to children who are the cheapest source of labour. Children are exported outside the country by unscrupulous agents on the promise of securing them lucrative jobs. The existence of child workers is an indication of poverty and depressed economic status.

Two important factors responsible for child labourers are poverty and large number of uneducated population. Child labourers are children from scheduled castes and tribes, religious minorities or urban poor. All working children are engaged in different urban and rural sectors. In the rural sector, children are engaged in fields, plantation, domestic job, cottage industry. In the urban sector, they are employed at shops, houses, restaurants, small and large industries and garages. According to the

The background of the page is a soft, light-colored wash with a pattern of colorful butterflies in shades of pink, purple, blue, and yellow. In the bottom right corner, there is a faint, dark silhouette of a child's face, looking upwards and to the left.

UNICEF, (1) fulltime job at an early age, (2) inadequate wages with too much responsibility, (3) work that undermines children's dignity and self esteem (4) working in bad conditions (such as rag picking) are exploitative. The cause of child labour being complex, its solutions must be eradication of poverty, provision of compulsory and free education and increase in social awareness. Our planners have realised that the problem of child labour at the present stage of economic development cannot be solved, attention has to be focused on making the working conditions of child labour better.

Child labour cannot be totally eradicated by legislation alone unless supplemented by comprehensive socio-economic programs and educational uplift of the poor and by total change in attitude of the society towards child labour.

Operation Bluestar

Avirup Sarkar

Second Year

Operation Bluestar was an Indian military operation which occurred between 3rd June and 8th June 1984. It was ordered by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in order to establish control over the Harmandir Sahib Complex in Amritsar, Punjab and remove Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed followers from the complex building.

This operation had two components - Operation Metal confined to the Harmandir Sahib Complex. Operation Shop was launched in the Punjab countryside to capture any suspects and Sikhs who were carrying a Kirpan and protesting.

The main political aim for Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers was to pass the Anandpur Resolution and not explicitly or solely for a separate country of Khalistan. This was often heavily reported by the Indian media. The armed Sikhs within the Harmandir Sahib Complex were led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and former Major General Shabeg Singh. Indira Gandhi first asked Lt. Gen. S.K.Sinha, the Vice-Chief of Indian Army to become Army Chief, to prepare a position paper for assault on the Golden Temple. Lt. Gen. S.K.Sinha advised against any such move, given its sacrilegious nature according to the Sikhs. He rather suggested that the government should take an alternative solution. A controversial decision was made to replace him with Gen. Arun Shridhar Vaidya as Army Chief and Lt. Gen. Sundarji as Vice-Chief of Indian Army. Both of them planned and coordinated Operation Bluestar.

On 3rd June, a 36 hour curfew was imposed on the state of Punjab with all methods of communication and public travel suspended. The electricity supply was also interrupted. Thus creating a total blackout and cutting off the state from the rest of the world. A complete media censorship was enforced. On 5th June, Indian army stormed into Harmandir Sahib Complex. By

morning of 7th June, Indian army had control over the complex. Sikh leaders Bhindranwale and Shabeg Singh were killed in the action.

The amount of casualties 'officially' was 493 civilians dead, 136 killed and 220 wounded army personnel. The unofficial count can well be anticipated.

The aftermath of this operation was much more devastating than one could think of. Many Sikh soldiers in the Indian Army mutinied, many resigned from armed and civil administrative office, many returned awards and honours received from the government. Operation Bluestar led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 31st October 1984 by her two bodyguards. This triggered the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. There was a widespread killing of Sikhs in Delhi and in other major cities of North India. Gen. Arun Shridhar Vaidya was also assassinated on 1986 in Pune.

The operation was criticised on four main grounds: Choice of time of attack by the Government, Heavy casualties, Loss of property and Allegations of human rights violation by the Indian Army. The media blackout throughout Punjab resulted in widespread doubt regarding the official stories and aided the promotion of hearsay and rumour. Indira Gandhi was accused of using the attack for political ends. Dr. Harjinder Singh Dilgeer stated that she wanted to present herself as a great hero in order to win the forthcoming elections.

Coming to the conclusion. A frequent question that pops up in everyone's mind, What if there was no Operation Bluestar? Possible answers, there could have been a diplomatic solution to minimise the loss of casualties or a new country would come into existence named Khalistan. Indira Gandhi never cared about the collateral damage. All that mattered to her was portraying her a great leader and win the elections.

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Healthcare status of India today

Biswajit Mondal

Third Year

From macroeconomic point of view, employment generating growth of output is considered to be the main objective for a nation. But if we consider on wellbeing of a nation, the growth of output is not the only factor that ensures the wellbeing of a nation. The wellbeing of an economy ultimately depends on its social sector performance. Also economic sector performance which reflects the growth and employment performance of a nation depends on the status of its social sector. So to understand the wellbeing of a nation we have to look upon its social sector scenario. Social sector considers two main aspects, health and education.

Growth in output of a nation depends on productivity of its factors (labour, capital and technology), and productivity of the factors depends on health and education status of that nation. Moreover health is a prerequisite for growth in productivity of labour and education is main requirement for increased capital productivity and technical progress: "a successful education relies on adequate health as well" (Todaro and Smith, 2011). Thus both health and education can also be seen as vital component of growth and development. The improvement of health and education status of a nation with output growth can boost up the nation's wellbeing.

Though health and education both demand proper evaluation for analysing the development of social sector, but at this time we are analysing only the health care scenario in India.

In India healthcare has been one of the neglected aspect of development. Despite string statement in planning documents on centrality of health and healthcare, the field has suffered from persistent neglect in public policy in general.

Although public expenditure on social services as a percentage of total social expenditure in India has been increased in recent years from 22.4% (2007-08) to 25.2% (2013-14) ,while public expenditure on health as percentage of total social expenditure of government has fallen from 21.5% (2007-8) to 17.8%(2014-15)

Table: Public health care expenditure in India over time,(2007-2015)

	2007-08	2010-11	2014-15(BE)
Public health expenditure as% of GDP	1.27	1.3	1.2
Public health expenditure as% of total health expenditure	4.8	4.7	4
Health expenditure as% to social services expenditure	21.5	19	17.8

Note, BE:Budget Estimated

Source: 1:RBI as obtained by budget document of union and states government,

2:Economic survey 2012-13,13-14,14-15.

So we observe a downward trend in public expenditure on health. Public expenditure in healthcare in India is low compared to its neighbouring countries, developed countries and even underdeveloped economies like sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean. Unlike most countries India's private expenditure on healthcare is greater than that of public expenditure. In India, private expenditure in healthcare is 67.8% and out of pocket expenditure is nearly 58 % (World development report 2015).

The burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases has been increasing continuously. The poor who are daily wage earners, have lack of security in health status due to health expenditure, specially out of pocket expenditure. Poor take loan to bear huge amount of health expenditure that push millions of peoples below poverty line.

Although in last year India had improved its HDI (Human Development Index) ranks by five points and entered in middle HDI group. But still now healthcare status of India is low compare to its neighbours, developed countries and even underdeveloped economies

So government should enhance expenditure of income on health care and ensure that the benefits reach the needy. This would help improving overall health status on one hand and developing the social sector on the other hand.

Traditional paper books vs. E-Books

BUBUN MAITY

Second Year

Modern technology has resulted in the creation of e-readers, which can keep library shelves full and allow reader's access to any book eBooks-in seconds.

While eBooks are convenient, many people still prefer traditional paper books. According to a 2012 Pew Internet Research Center study, 67% of Americans prefer physical paper books over e-books. Traditional paper books provide a better reading experience with touch, emotional connections and durability.

The best thing about traditional paper books are that they do not come with issues that may prevent someone from reading them. A traditional paper book doesn't need to be plugged in or charged in order for it to work. Going on the road with an e-reader can require a nearby outlet.

With an actual book, there are no worries of whether the battery will last for the rest of the day or if a charger is on hand. Reading a physical book can make the reader feel connected to the characters or author. A book can reveal how much a person enjoyed it by its condition. A book with marked coffee cup ring shows its post use as a coaster and folded corner pages represent where reading segments started and ended. Also, owning a traditional book allows the readers to add his or her personal touches by highlighting and underlining words. The readers can also make notes in the

margins to look back on for reference. Physical paper books are more durable than eBooks mostly because eBooks are not tangible.

EBooks require a platform which can be fragile. If a traditional book is dropped, chances are it only ends up a little dirty. E-readers, on the other hand, can break or suffer from a cracked screen if dropped. Also, if an electronic device falls in a pool, data might be wiped and someone could lose his or her entire library. But if an actual book falls in a pool, it only gets wet. Once the book dries, it's still usable.

With paper books, on the other hand, there are no limits when it comes to giving someone a traditional book. As the owner, a person can loan it out for however long her or she likes or sell it to his or her friends.

People do not need to deal with technology or contacts before letting a friend borrow a physical book. A person can just hand the book over and that's it. The restrictions and electronic issues that come with eBooks can ruin a reading experience. Physical books do not have regulations, so people can enjoy them whenever and however they like. The easier the reading process, the more enjoyable a book is. However, is not the electronic gadget and the physical book same?

In a nutshell, both have positive and negative aspects. Even though it is a difficult decision, I will always be loyal to traditional paper books, touching and smelling a book is not the same than holding an electronic gadget.

Border

Debadyuti Roy Chowdhury

First Year

The very word 'border' takes me to the lyrics of a song "Panchhi Nadiyaan Pazwan Ke Jhonke" (by Sonu Nigam)

" Panchhi Nadiyaan Pazwan Ke Jhonke
Koi Sarhad Na Inhein Roke
Sarhad Insaanon Ke Liye Hai
Socho Tum Aur Maine Kya Paaya
Insaan Hoke"

This song says that things like air, water, breeze, birds etc are not restricted by the border but the borders restrict their maker to cross them. We humans are the only one who can't cross them. Then what is the use of being human. We are the one who created these borders and dividing the land into small fragments and ironically these borders are stopping us. Thank God we still couldn't divide the oceans and the sky.

Actually the sky has been divided into fragments just like the land. People may doubt my words but it's a fact. When a child takes birth in a flight, the child gets dual citizenship. One from the country

the parents of the child belong to and the other which says "The child is born in the part of sky which is above my land that is in my part of the sky. So the child should get citizenship of my country too." So can we say that the sky is not divided?

So what we get from these borders? Just this vague feeling that this is my motherland and that is yours. You can't come to my land without proper paper and the same goes for us. You are a foreigner to me and I am a foreigner to you.

I want to mention one line "Remember, no men are strange, no country foreign" (by James Kirkup). Beneath every dress lies the same human body. The people whom we call strange have same eyes like us which wake up and sleep. They can also feel air, water, heat, cold etc. They also have to work hard to earn their living. They are also fed by peaceful harvest and starved during the wars.

These words like border have come into our daily life where we draw barriers from our neighbors. We are becoming self centric nowadays. We are drawing fences to say this part of land belongs to me and the other part belongs to you. Robert Frost in his poem "Mending Walls" questions the requirement of the fence to his neighbour. Few forces of nature seem to break the wall every time they mend it. The poet mocks about the importance of the wall as he had apple orchard which can't go and feed on the corns growing under his pine trees. But he believed "Good fences made good neighbours". These words were said by his ancestors and thus he couldn't overcome this mental barrier. Were his neighbour's ancestors wrong who learned the truths of life facing thousands of trouble and have a huge experience or the poet was wrong. Are fences really required? I leave it up to you to judge.

Economics of Terrorism

Dipsa Midya

First Year

Terrorism is the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by individuals or sub-national groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience, beyond that of the immediate victim. Although the motives of terrorists may differ, their actions follow a standard pattern with terrorist incidents assuming a variety of forms: airplane hijackings, kidnappings, assassinations, threats, bombings, and suicide attacks. Terrorist attacks are intended to apply sufficient pressures to a

government so that it grants political concessions. Terrorism has multiple roots and multiple effects. Economic considerations come into play at both ends, but it has been difficult for researchers and policy makers to reach a consensus on what role economics plays in causing terrorism, and how economic considerations might be useful in understanding terrorism and in devising strategies and specific policies to counter terrorism.

Terrorist incidents have many economic consequences and impose large direct costs upon individuals and societies. The immediate costs can be measured in terms of the economic value of the lives lost and property destroyed in terrorist incidents. These measures are usually derived by estimating the present market value of the projected future production of the lost human and physical assets. This does not mean that all losses can be reduced to purely market calculations. The emotional toll imposed on victims, relatives, friends, other survivors and a broad range of community members is quite real, and while the legal system does try to measure these losses – pain and suffering, for example – there is an important sense in which the usual methods of quantifying costs are insufficient..

But in few cases, The costs imposed by a single incident of terrorism are generally not large in relation to the size of the economy in question. For example, In case of the 9/11 attacks in the United States, while the personal costs borne by those directly involved are immense and can linger for substantial periods of time, and while the magnitude of loss measured in dollars appears huge—\$33 to \$36 billion in New York City alone, according to one authoritative estimate—the destruction of physical and human capital and related loss of output was quite small in relation to the size of the economy.. In New York City, among the activities that suffered considerable losses after 9/11 were finance, air transportation as the decline in air traffic affected employment

and income associated with the two major airports, Kennedy and LaGuardia, and businesses related to tourism, including hotels, restaurants, etc..

World in recent past, has witnessed several economies burning with disaster & crisis. Today every nation faces some or the other economic, social or communal unrest. Further, globalization has enabled the impact of these tremors to be felt even at remotest part of the world. India till FY 2008 had seen a steady growth with its GDP shining as high as 9.3%. Subsequently, the economy was hit with US Sub Prime Crisis, Satyam scandal & the Mumbai 26/11 Terrorist attacks.

Many believe that terrorism can't hamper ones economic activity as it only destroy a small fraction of the stock of capital of a country. However, a broader look at the geo-political & economical scenario can easily erode this misconception.Over a period of time terrorism has severely affected Indian economy. Following are the issues that had been major hindrance for Indian economic growth:

1) Loss of Human Capital

The human costs have been horrendous. Estimates are in past 5 years 4000+ were killed in terrorist attacks. This puts India next to Iraq both in terror deaths and terror incidents. The recent 26/11 Mumbai attacks itself left 257-300 dead and 700 injured which includes several high profile individuals such as Shri Ashok Kapur, chairman of Yes Bank who was killed in attack.

2) Investor Behavior

Frequent attacks on commercial & government institutions shatter the confidence of the investors causing heavy investment drainage. One example of the same is the terrorist attack in Indian Parliament in 2001, which internationally provoked insecurity & discouraged the investors (FII's & FDI's), obstructing the economic growth.

3) Short Term Financial Loss

In short term the obstacles like loss suffered due to the diversion of business away from the city to other locations, lost earnings of public due to disability and trauma among survivors etc. drains out the productivity levels & impact the respective economy adversely. Post 26/11 the Taj & Trident Hotels incurred heavy loss as operations were halted for 3-4 months. After 26/11 Mumbai attack Pak cricket team had to cancel its Mumbai tour due to which BCCI has incurred a loss to the tune of INR 120 crore.


4) Retrenchment effect on Specific Industries Mumbai 26/11 attacks did have immediate and concentrated impacts on a number of industries: most notably, airlines, aerospace, travel, tourism, insurance, lodging, restaurants, recreation and related activities. Gross earnings from foreign tourists are currently around 1% of GDP. Post 26/11 terrorist attack estimates suggest that nationally hotels have seen about 60% booking cancellations. Hotel occupancy in western India is down some 25% and rates have plunged. These industries suffered concentrated economic and job losses. Of

course, regions or localities with heavy concentrations of these industries suffered disproportionately as well

5.) Long Term Financial Loss

India, post Kargil war then Attack on Parliament now 26/11 has lost millions of business as the trade link between the two countries are frozen during such period. Agri-Exporters in bordering states have taken heavy burns. This has resulted in unemployment in these regions, which in turn again triggers riots. 26/11 Attack involved foreign hostages and places where business leaders, executives and foreigners frequented. This will lead to a drop in investments. The direct economic damage done by terrorist attacks: buildings and infrastructure destroyed, productive lives ended. The structural damages post 26/11 attacks was amounting to total of INR 500 crores, which subsequently took its toll on the insurance industry. economic resources will be directed to shoring up security and diverted away from more productive private sector activity. Even if terrorism represents a small fraction of the overall economic risk in India, it may have a large impact on the allocation of productive capital across the country. In any part of the world terrorism is unwanted as it not only kills the human life but also the infrastructure, industry ultimately se shackling its overall growth.

When terrorism persists for long periods of time, the costs can continue to mount. Terrorism also appears to reduce inflows of foreign direct investment and, normal business dealings.. Fighting

The background of the page is a light, pastel-colored wash. It is decorated with numerous colorful butterfly silhouettes in shades of pink, purple, blue, and yellow, scattered across the surface. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, faint silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, which appears to be part of a larger graphic or watermark.

terrorism requires resources, so it does impose a direct economic cost. When terrorism is perceived as a threat, businesses, individuals, and governments spend more on security..

As a conclusion, Terrorism imposes substantial economic costs, but there are also significant costs associated with policies to combat terrorism.. Facts and evidences suggests that policy responses to terrorism need to be multi-faceted and flexible. Security policies, for example, need to be more cost effective, in order to both achieve results and to limit the negative economic consequences of devoting excessive resources to security purposes. Similarly, aid policies need to concentrate on achievable objectives, both to obtain positive results and more optimistic outlook on the future.. So, A society is better off if the threat of terrorism can be reduced, or even eliminated, just as it is better off if the threat of crime can be reduced or eliminated.

Footnotes'

1. For civil conflicts, these spatial spillovers are measured by Murdoch and Sandler (2002, 2004). Studies include Blomberg, Hess, and Orphanides (2004), Blomberg, Hess, and Weerapana (2004), Li (2005), and Li and Schaub (2004).

2. Studies include Blomberg, Hess, and Orphanides (2004), Blomberg, Hess, and Weerapana (2004), Li (2005), and Li and Schaub (2004). These studies investigated causes beyond economic conditions – e.g., globalization, democracy, and government restraint.

3. On terrorism-induced substitution, see Enders and Sandler (1993, 2004, 2005)

4. Sloboda (2003) also used a transfer function to analyze the effects of terrorism on tourism revenues for the United States following the Gulf War of 1991.

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Glorification of Motherhood - The Secret wand of Patriarchy

Imon Bhattacharyya

Third Year

Motherhood, a biological phenomenon and a social and cultural institution, is known to be the strongest and most beautiful relationship possible between two human beings. Irrespective of countries, communities, ethnicities and any other demographic factor, a mother's love for her child is believed to be the strongest & purest form of love, unconditional in its core essence and selfless and all-sacrificing in its nature. Against this background and at this exact juncture lies my simple question- how much of the ideology of motherhood in its currently glorified form is natural and how much of it is a trap clearly created by patriarchy? I at least believe the latter to be true.

The 'Patriarchal' Motherhood - The Invisible Trap:

Motherhood which is supposed to be natural, a relationship and bond of nurture, no doubt unique, has been cleverly & systematically put on an artificial high pedestal by Patriarchy and given an almost god-like glorified status. This artificial and intentional glorified status has done nothing but resulted in women being reduced from being 'persons' to mere 'wombs', which sadly, most of the times women do not realize themselves. Patriarchy basically has strategically undervalued, ignored and oppressed women through centuries, made them feel unworthy and useless in every possible way and then cleverly given them this high pedestal stating that it is a place only they can enter, a place that is going to guarantee them happiness that can't be felt in anything else, give meaning to their otherwise worthless lives, will transform them into god-like beings (Read self-sacrificing, forever-loving, always-there, 'selfless'ly-giving mother-martyrs) and by virtue of it all would provide them respect in the world, give them a feeling that they are useful and important...a feeling that women has been kept away from since time immemorial.

No

doubt being a mother is a unique feeling but motherhood is more about nurture, about the body and the flesh. Clearly, this excessive glorification of it through social, cultural and in fact all possible mediums, across cultures and through centuries, is nothing but a trap systematically laid down by patriarchy so as to keep women away from the public sphere and force them to think it to be their life's only mission, strive to achieve it and realize their self-potential in it. Glorification of motherhood feeds rape culture too, as in many countries after rape, the child is not allowed to abort.

Glorification of Motherhood – Impact on Young Women & Mothers:

Glorification of motherhood as a patriarchal tool impacts two different categories of women in two different ways. First, it internalizes in the minds of young girls that their life's sole mission is to reach that pedestal and only by becoming a mother can they feel complete as a woman, give meaning to their lives and feel inner happiness and fulfillment that they can never ever feel from anything else. This belief is so deeply ingrained in girl children and constantly reinforced by society (often by their own mothers and other womenfolk right from childhood) in every possible way that women grow up believing from inside that her ultimate goal in life is to be a mother and her true happiness is somewhere tied to it.

Second, and more dangerously, it tells women who are already mothers, the eligibility and requirements of that glorified pedestal, what they should do and how they should behave in life in order to maintain the respect and glory. It specifically defines who a 'good mother' is, governs their life's decisions and even feelings. It compels her to forget what she wanted, what she dreamt of and what she loved and forces her to believe that her ultimate happiness is attainable through satisfying the needs of her child.

What about Single Mothers? Lesbian Mothers? Trans Mothers?

The fact that the glorification of motherhood is nothing but a patriarchal trap which basically does nothing but further enslaves her in domesticity and even makes her feel glamorous and worthwhile to do so, is definitely proved by the status of single mothers in our country. If motherhood is all about the eternal blissful glorified god-like feeling, then why does it need to have the sanctity of marriage to a man? The glorification, mind you comes only with terms & conditions, and specifically ones which uphold the structure of heteronormative, heterosexist, binary, patriarchal structure in place. And what about lesbian and trans woman mothers who have adopted a child? What about gay parents? What about any person or couple (going beyond the rigid gender & sexual labels) who decide to care for and nurture a child? It is from this point that we finally start understanding how patriarchy uses motherhood glorification as a tool to reinforce itself.

Ideology of Patriarchy – The focus on the 'seed'

Patriarchy as a word is often used to mean male dominance or sexism. However, the real meaning of the term is 'rule of the father'. In the ideology of patriarchy, the central social relationship of society is patriarchal kinship, or paternity. In this system, children are born of men, through women. Thus, the core concept in patriarchy is the 'seed', the parts of men that grow into their children, through the bodies of women. Thus, women in patriarchy are nothing but the cradles or the flower pots where the man's seed germinates. Simply put, patriarchy aims to control the 'motherhood' in order to maintain itself. Thus, in a patriarchal system like India, where family is the central tenet, blood ties are always genetic ties, i.e. a connection in lieu of the 'seed'. The alternative would perhaps have been a tie of nurturance, of upbringing and care. A person would have been who the mother grows instead of what grows out of a man's seed.

A simple question...

Let's look at this simple question that would clarify everything. Let's say Sita is acting as a surrogate mother to Gita. That Gita's egg is growing in Sita's womb with the help of modern procreative technology. No men involved. Now...who do you think is the real mother of the child? Gita, who is the provider of the seed, or Sita, who is nurturing the child with her flesh and blood? Is Gita substituting for Sita's seed or Sita substituting for Gita's body? You, I and entire society knows and would agree that Gita is the real mother of the child because it's her egg, right? Well, yes..true...and thus, we are all victims of patriarchy, having internalized the patriarchal notion of the 'seed' being the core essence. A notion that has been structurally put in place through centuries so that the role of men never diminishes. Till the time the 'seed' is supreme, men as fathers will reign supreme, and till the completes her, men will rule over women, and patriarchy over both men and women and needless to say whoever are in-between or beyond the binary.

In the words of the French Feminist and Historian Yvonne Knibiehler,

“The maternal function in humans is not at all natural; it is a completely social construction, defined and organized by building standards according to the needs of a population specific to a given time in history.”

[I owe this write up to my sister Indrani Kar, who in spite of being married for long eight years has chosen to be child free by choice. So am thankful as well as blessed to have her in my life. She is the real hero and my source of inspiration]

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Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinemas Today

Vishakha Chakravorty

First Year

Ever since the very dawn of Film Industry in India, the masses have always been attracted to the shiny world of "Motion pictures". For a country, which lacked proper stages for entertainment, turned towards the much new and advanced technology of videography. No wonder, within a very short span, the industry flourished widely across the country. More than anything it amazed the masses how a set pictures transformed into a moving object to display a story virtually without actually playing the act in front of the. And hence, the love and obsession for 'Cinema' made its place in the hearts of every Indian.


Now, having known how the roots of film industry grew in the country, it is obvious to assume that Movies and Television series do have a great impact on people's life, besides solving the entertainment purpose. In fact, this industry is also considered as a family to many people. Following their favorite stars and their fashion has become a common trend for the current and the older generations. Not only fashion; this addiction is as deep as following their lifestyles and imitating everything they watch on the reel.

Then, if this industry has that huge effect on people's life, doesn't it form a classical stage for mass communication as well? If people are so dependent on what they see and act accordingly, why is this industry highly focused on entertainment? "A Modern communicative tool gifted by science"; why has it reduced itself to a simply profit making organization rather than educating the country?

Covering every area might not be possible, but in this article, I would like to focus on Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema Today.

The moment I bring up this statement, many people might object saying, 'What is wrong with woman's portrayal today? There have been so many women-centered movies today'. YES! That's problem exactly! We never say the same thing for male-centered movies. We never say, 'Have you seen the movie which has that male in the lead role?' Why? Because a man being a hero is natural? But movies for women need to be specified that it is a "Female-Centered" movie? Why can't we treat a women's struggle as natural as that of a man's? Why is this forced invisible discrimination simply going unnoticed?

Another area, in films more specifically, which people might again disagree, but Yes! Women have been reduced to the position of props in today's movies. In producers words, 'More the skin, more the money'. I ask all the feminist, where does your feminism go that time? Funny it is, how an actress gives a speech on feminism and rushes to shoot her item song the next minute. If you have an objection on everything today, why not a ban on item songs as well? Why are item songs taken so lightly in today's date? Can't people see that it serves as one of the basic reasons for being disrespectful towards women and calling them names?



Now, talking about Television series, we are seeing many "women-centered series"-as they say, coming up. It starts with a decent track with a woman struggling for her life and dreams, a young confident girl who wants a good career, job etc etc., but not even within a run of a month or so, you also get to see a Handsome man, fighting with the girl, becoming friends, falling in love, and not to mention, then comes his cruel mother, an opposing family and everything that could possibly remind you of an 70's film. And then, the story takes a beautiful "Saas-Bahu" turn with a slight blooming love story. Now ask about the girl? 'What dreams? She was always destined to be a house wife!' My question is, what was the point of making such a serial? And surprisingly enough every such serial ends up becoming a Saas-Bahu drama or a love story. Why can't it be focused only on the struggle of the lead? Is the 'masala' that important?

My point is, if cinema is so closely related to Indians, why not make it a tool for building a better India? Why not cut off anything that might trigger disrespect and hence, create a natural flow by joining the much needed pieces? Why not stop the invisible discrimination such that when an individual watches a movie, they watch it for a commoner's struggle and not for that of a particular gender's! There is so much to change, so let's be the change.

EXCURSION

Tushar Saha, First Year

An excursion is a trip by a group of people, usually made for educational purpose. It is often an adjunct to a longer journey or visit to a place for typical work-related purpose. Even we go for educational tour from our college, the Economics department of VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE. Our teachers arrange this educational tour every year and this is not just an educational tour for us, it gives us many memories which will be cherished even after our college life.

In the midst of January, 2016, we the students along with the teachers went to Buxa Wild Reserve. We were all excited about our excursion, specially the 1st year as it was our first excursion. We contacted a travel agency for booking hotels and tickets. Then they gave us a list of where we can go within three days. Finally, it was all decided and 16th January, we were all set to leave for Buxa. We had our train from Sealdah station at 8:00pm. It was 14 hours journey in train from Sealdah to Alipurduar but it was not at all a boring journey for us. All the students from 1st year to 3rd year were together and we had a fun time playing cards, gossips and more, which were our part of entertainment in train. After reaching Alipurduar we were taken to Buxa Reserve Forest by cars, which was about an hour's journey from the station. When we were moving through the forest, we were told that we shouldn't make any kind of noise and even switch off our mobile phones because if there is any loud noise then chances of seeing wildlife decrease. We saw a group of elephants and bison on our way to resort. Here I would like to tell you one interesting fact, Buxa Wild Reserve is specially known as "Tiger Reserve Forest" but we heard from our guide that it has been about 8 to 10 years that there has been no trace of tiger there, so there was not any chance of seeing a tiger. This was a bit disappointing. We went to our resort had our lunch and got ready to go for side scene. They said that there is one place near the streams where many animals go, to drink water. We went to that place but since we were late, unfortunately we did not see anything except some cows. We returned to our resort and planned for next day. Our teachers planned for a survey to be conducted by us with their help in the local region and on our way to Buxa Fort means the survey was to be conducted on the people living in mainland and even on them living in the mountains. Next day the survey was conducted, to study the livelihood there. We found that those who are living in the mountains have more difficult life than those living in mainland. They have to carry all types of necessary goods up the mountain for their living, which is quite a difficult task. We went to individual houses and spoke to them about their livelihood and problems. They said that they face a lot of problem for improper road conditions and lack of transport. They do not have a hospital nearby, they have to go to Alipurduar for medicine and doctor which is about 15km away from their place. We noted all those points to make a report on their livelihood after we return. Then we went to Buxa Fort which was about 5km above mainland, the fort was broken in 1953 due to movement in landscape but the spot is still there for visitors. Many freedom fighters were being locked up there during freedom movement, including Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Then we finally returned to the

resort in the evening. After that we made bonfire , grilled chicken on that and had a fun time singing and dancing. That was our last night over there. Next day morning, when we were packing our bags the guide called us all , we went downstairs and saw deers finally, which we were all waiting for. When we were leaving from that place , a slight sign of disheartenment was there in everyone's face, the kind of feeling everyone generally have when live behind some treasured moments. It was indeed a memorable journey for everyone and thanks to our teachers for that who gave us this opportunity by systematically caring out this educational tour every year.

Missing Beauty at Buxa

Debadyuti Roy Chowdhury, First Year

Henry Lawson in the story "The Drover's wife" depicts the struggle that the drover's wife faces. The struggle is both external and internal. The external is the fight for existence and fight against the challenges given by the nature just for basic amenities. The internal is against the loneliness and the uneventful nature of the life. In 21st century we can hardly think of such situations. The high skyscraper of the city lights shows the progress of living standards in the last few years. Life has become faster and easier. Basic amenities are within the reach. But here is the focus was on brighter part of the society. There lies the darkness to who leads a life like Drover's wife. It is hard to believe. It is actually harder to depict their situation when you see them and feel their situation. During the educational tour we came across few such villages in Buxa, West Bengal.

In the midst of January 2016, Economics Department organized a tour to Buxa Wild Reserve. It was an enriching and heart breaking experience. During the survey we came across pathetic situation of the dwellers and their daily struggle for each and every amenity required. Basic amenities like clean water electricity hospital etc. without which we can't even imagine a day of our life in the city.

This survey mostly took place in the hilly areas of Buxa, on the way to the Buxa Fort. Firstly, this area lacks proper road and consist of what is called 'Kaccha Sarak' on which no vehicle can make its way. Thus to reach any of the village, we got no other way than to walking up or down to the mountain. Any of those villages do not have a school. Thus to reach the nearest school students have to walk at least 10-15 km. They aren't so lucky like us who at least get proper schooling. Those Schools in which they study are just secondary schools with no proper faculty. For further Studies they need opt for boarding nearby or need to come to the city. Similarly the nearest hospital in proper terms is 10 to 15 km away. To cove this distance they need to walk along with the patient. Thus the distance of the basic amenity like schooling and hospital is too far to be reached in time.

There might be a feeling that here ends their hardship, but the reality is much more bitter and far off our imagination. Their daily struggle for their existence with all odds is comparable with a soldier fighting at battlefield. They are still devoid of the water supply by the Government and clean water was only available in nearby waterfall. Electricity was provided by means of solar energy. Thus to adapt with this situation they made few pipelines so that the clean water becomes easily available to them. Thus their struggle still continues with life. Buxa may be a place with a huge scenic beauty but this beauty could not be found in the life of those people as they lead their life amidst the darkness.





Achievements . . .

POVERTY IN INDIA : AN OVERVIEW

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[Paper Presented at ECOLORE,2015 ,organized by and held at Loreto College]

ABSTRACT

The study presented here attempts to throw light on growth of different economic sector and social challenges like poverty. It also provides the specific measure of poverty that is the poverty rate or headcount ratio (HCR), which is the proportion of the population with expenditure or income below a pre-specified level referred to as the poverty line. This paper also throws light on the state poverty levels through comparison between rural and urban poverty levels of 18 different states of India.

INTRODUCTION:

India, located in South Asia is a large country that ranks second in the world in terms of population and seventh in terms of geographical area. Poverty, is general scarcity, dearth, or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. It is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements. It is a situation when people are deprived of basic necessities of life. It is often characterized by inadequacy of food, shelter and clothes. India is one of the poorest countries in the world .Poverty in India is widespread, and a variety of methods have been proposed to measure it. The specific measure of poverty reported in the paper is the poverty rate or headcount ratio (HCR), which is the proportion of the population with expenditure or income below a pre-specified level referred to as the poverty line. In the context of most developing countries, the poverty line usually relates to a pre-specified basket of goods presumed to be necessary for above-subsistence existence.

In so far as prices vary across states and between rural and urban regions within the same state, the poverty line also varies in nominal rupees across states and between urban and rural regions within the same state.¹ Similarly, since prices rise over time due to inflation, the poverty line in nominal rupees in a given location is also adjusted upwards over time.

The original official poverty estimates in India, provided by the Planning Commission, were based on the Lakdawala poverty lines, so named after Professor D. T. Lakdawala who headed a 1993 expert group that recommended these lines. Recommendations of a 2009 expert committee headed by Professor Suresh Ten-dulkar led to an upward adjustment in the rural poverty line relative to its Lakdawala counterpart. Therefore, while the official estimates for earlier years were based on the lines and methodology recommended by the expert group headed by Lakdawala, those for more recent years were based on the line and methodology recommended by the Tendulkar Committee. Official estimates based on both methodologies exist for only two years, 1993–1994 and 2004–2005. These estimates are provided for the overall population, for rural and urban regions of each state, and for the country as a whole In this paper, we provide estimates using Lakdawala and Tendulkar lines for different rural

and urban areas in all major states and at the national level. Our estimates based on Lakdawala lines are computed for all years beginning in 1983 for which large or “thick” expenditure surveys have been conducted. Estimates based on the Tendulkar line and methodology are provided for the three latest large expenditure surveys, 1993–1994, 2004–2005, and 2009–2010.

Our paper is divided in two part. First, much confusion has arisen in the policy debates in India around certain issues regarding poverty in the country—for instance, whether or not growth has helped the poor (if yes, how much and over which time period) We hope that by providing poverty estimates for various time periods, states, and urban and rural areas, this paper will help ensure that future policy debates are based on fact. Second, researchers interested in explaining how various policy measures impact poverty might find it useful to have the poverty lines and the associated poverty estimates for various social and religious groups and across India’s largest states in rural and urban areas readily available in one place.

The plan of our study is as follows. A brief literature survey in the second section presents some selected studies in this regard. In section three ,data and methodology are discussed. Analysis of results of forth section reveals the important findings of this study. The last section summarizes the results and concludes with some policy implications.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Our Literature survey starts with basic understanding of what actually poverty is.

ACCORDING TO ‘UNITED NATIONS’:

Poverty is the inability of getting choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society.

ACCORDING TO ‘WORLD BANK’:

Poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity.

CAUSES OF POVERTY:

Growing population: Our population is growing rapidly. But our resources are limited. The growth in population creates problems for us. Today, our population is 1.20 billion; tomorrow we will be 1.21 billion and so on. We need more food, more houses, and more hospitals for them. So we have no money to spend on development projects. The ever-growing rate of population must be checked. If not, we may not be able to remove India’s poverty.

Gap between the rich and the poor: The widening gap between the rich and the poor is also responsible for India’s poverty. The rich are growing richer. The poor are growing poorer. This economic gap between the two must be reduced. Our social system should be changed. The poor people must get all help to reap the fruits of Independence.

Corruption and black-money: There are corruptions in every walk of life. There is inefficiency in offices. People have become selfish. They neglect the national interests.

Black money causes the problem of rising prices. Some people have all the privileges. But many others are suffering. Black money affects our economy. It causes poverty.

EFFECTS OF POVERTY:

1. **Illiteracy:** Poor people constitutes greater share of illiterate population. Education becomes extremely difficult when people are deprived of basic necessities of life.
2. **Child Labor:** In India, a large number of young boys and girls are engaged in child labour. Also read, article on Poverty and Child labour in India.
3. **Nutrition and diet:** Poverty is the leading cause of insufficient diet and inadequate nutrition. The resources of poor people are very limited, and its effect can be seen in their diet.
4. **Poor living condition and Housing problems:** They don't get proper living conditions. They have to fight the hardship of poverty to secure food, clothes and shelter. A large number of poor families live in houses with one room only.
5. **Unemployment:** Poor people move from villages to towns and from one town to another in search of employment/work. Since, they are mostly illiterate and unskilled, There are very few employment opportunities open for them. Due to unemployment, many poor people are forced to live an unfulfilled life.
6. **Feminization of poverty:** Women are the worst victims of poverty. Poverty effects greater number of women than men. The total of poor women outnumbers the total population of poor men. The causes include low income, gender-inequality, etc. They are deprived of proper-diet, medicines and health treatment.
7. **Social tensions:** Poverty is often characterized with income disparity and unequal distribution of national wealth between the rich and the poor. Concentration of wealth in the hands of few rich people lead to social disturbances and revolts. Fair or even distribution of wealth leads an overall improvement in general standard of living of people.

ESTIMATION OF POVERTY :

Lakdawala Committee:

It was constituted to review methodology for poverty estimation, chaired by DT Lakdawala, made the following suggestions:

- Consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier
- State specific poverty lines should be constructed and these should be updated using the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in urban areas and Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) in rural areas;
- Discontinuation of 'scaling' of poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics.

Tendulkar Committee :

In 2005, methodology for poverty estimation, chaired by Suresh Tendulkar, was constituted by the Planning Commission to address the following three shortcomings of the previous methods:

- A shift away from calorie consumption based poverty estimation
- A uniform Poverty Line Basket (PLB) across rural and urban India
- Incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

We are able to study the differential impact accelerated growth has had on poverty alleviation both directly, through improved employment and wage prospects for the poor, and indirectly, through the large-scale redistribution program known as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which enhanced revenues made possible.

The paper is organized as follows. In the analysis Section,

- 1) We discuss the history and design of the expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), which form the backbone of all poverty analysis in India. ,
- 2) We describe in detail the evolution of official poverty lines in India,
- 3) Comparison of poverty rates for all of the last five quinquennial surveys including 2009–2010 derived from Lakdawala lines.
- 4) Poverty in State level: Rural and Urban

All the charts and table used in this paper prepared by our Team members, using MS Office software .The data of our analysis are collected through secondary sources.

ANALYSIS:

1 The main source of data for estimating poverty in India is the expenditure survey conducted by the NSSO. India is perhaps the only developing country that began conducting such surveys on a regular basis as early as 1950–1951. The surveys have been conducted at least once a year since 1950–1951. However, the sample had been too small to permit reliable estimates of poverty at the level of the state until 1973–1974. A decision was made in the early 1970s to replace the smaller annual surveys by large-size expenditure (and employment–unemployment) surveys to be conducted every 5 years.

This decision led to the birth of “thick” quinquennial (5-yearly) surveys. Accordingly, the following 8 rounds of large-size surveys have been conducted: 27 (1973–1974), 32 (1978), 38 (1983), 43 (1987–1988), 50 (1993–1994), 55 (1999–2000), 61 (2004–2005), and 66 (2009–2010). Starting from the 42nd round in 1986–1987, a smaller expenditure survey was

reintroduced. This was conducted annually except during the years in which the quinquennial survey was to take place. Therefore, with the exception of the 65th and 67th rounds in 2008–2009 and 2010–2011, respectively, an expenditure survey exists for each year beginning 1986–1987.

While the NSSO collects the data and produces reports providing information on monthly per-capita expenditures, it is the Planning Commission that computes the poverty lines and provides official estimates of poverty. The official estimates are strictly limited to quinquennial surveys. While they cover rural, urban, and total populations in different states and at the national level, estimates are not provided for specific social or religious groups. These can be calculated selectively for specific groups or specific years by researchers. With rare exceptions, discussions and debates on poverty have been framed around the quinquennial surveys even though the other survey samples are large enough to allow reliable estimates at the national level.

For each household interviewed, the survey collects data on the quantity of and expenditure on a large number of items purchased. For items such as education and health services, where quantity cannot be meaningfully defined, only expenditure data are collected. The list of items is elaborate. For example, the 66th round collected data on 142 items under the food category; 15 items under energy; 28 items under clothing, bedding, and footwear; 19 items under educational and medical expenses; 51 items under durable goods; and 89 in the other items category.

It turns out that household responses vary systematically according to the length of the reference period to which the expenditures are related. For example, a household could be asked about its expenditures on durable goods during the preceding 30 days or the preceding year. When the information provided in the first case is converted into annual expenditures, it is found to be systematically lower than when the survey directly asks households to report their annual spending. Therefore, estimates of poverty vary depending on the reference period chosen in the questionnaire.

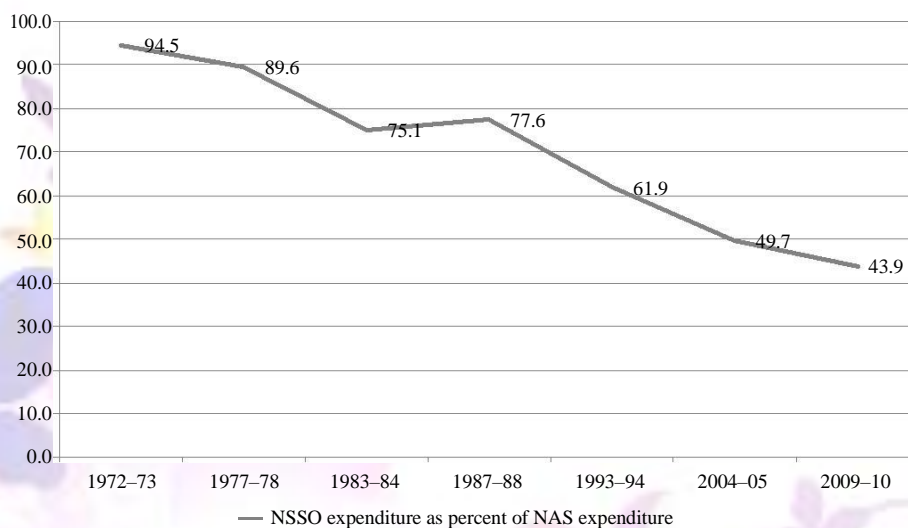
Most quinquennial surveys have collected information on certain categories of relatively infrequently purchased items including clothing and consumer durables on the basis of both 30-day and 365-day reference periods. For other categories, including all food and fuel and consumer services, they have used a 30-day reference period. The data allow us to estimate two alternative measures of monthly per-capita expenditures that refer to the following: (i) a uniform reference period (URP) where all expenditure data used to estimate monthly per-capita expenditure are based on the 30-day reference period, and (ii) a mixed reference period (MRP) where expenditure data used to estimate the monthly per-capita expenditure are based on the 365-day reference period in the case of clothing and consumer durables and the 30-day reference period in the case of other items.

With rare exceptions, monthly per-capita expenditure associated with the MRP turns out to be higher than that associated with the URP. The Planning Commission's original estimate of poverty that employed the Lakdawala poverty lines had relied on the URP monthly per-capita expenditures. At some time prior to the Tendulkar Committee report, however, the Planning Commission decided to shift to the MRP estimates. Therefore, while recommending revisions that led to an up-ward adjustment in the rural poverty line, the Tendulkar Committee also

shifted to the MRP monthly per-capita expenditures in its poverty calculations. Therefore, the revised poverty estimates available for 1993–1994, 2004–2005, and 2009–2010 are based on the Tendulkar lines and the MRP estimates of monthly per-capita expenditures.

Figure 1.

NSSO Household Total URP Expenditure Estimate as % of NAS Total Private Consumption Expenditure



Source: Authors' construction based on data from the Government of India (2008) until 2004–2005 and authors' calculations for 2009–2010.

- We note an important feature of the NSSO expenditure surveys at the outset. The average monthly per-capita expenditure based on the surveys falls well short of the average private consumption expenditure separately available from the NAS of the CSO. Moreover, the proportionate shortfall has been progressively rising over successive surveys. These two observations hold regardless of whether we use the URP or MRP estimate of monthly per-capita expenditure available from the NSSO. Figure 1 graphically depicts this phenomenon in the case of URP monthly per-capita expenditure, which is more readily available for all quinquennial surveys since 1983.

Precisely what explains the gap between the NSSO and NAS expenditures has important implications for poverty estimates. For example, if the gap in any given year is uniformly distributed across all expenditure classes as Bhalla (2002) assumes in his work, true expenditure in 2009–2010 is uniformly more than twice of what the survey finds. This would imply that many individuals currently classified as falling below the poverty line are actually above it. The proportionate gap between NSSO and NAS private expenditures has been rising over time implies that the poverty ratio is being overestimated by progressively larger margins over time. At the other extreme, if the gap between NSSO and NAS expenditures is explained entirely by underreporting of the expenditures by households classified as non-poor, poverty levels will not be biased upwards.

2.....In the second part of our analysis, we will discuss about the official poverty lines. In The 1993 expert group headed by Lakdawala defined ,all-India rural and urban poverty lines in terms of per-capita total consumption expenditure at 1973–1974 market prices. The underlying consumption baskets were anchored to the per-capita calorie norms of 2,400 and

2,100 in rural and urban areas, respectively. The rural and urban poverty line baskets were based on different underlying baskets, which meant that the two poverty lines represented different levels of real expenditures.

State-level rural poverty lines were derived from the national rural poverty line by adjusting the latter for price differences between national and state-level consumer price indices for agricultural laborers. Likewise, state-level urban poverty lines were derived from the national urban poverty line by adjusting the latter for price differences between the national and state-level consumer price indices for industrial laborers. National and state-level rural poverty lines were adjusted over time by applying the national and state-level price indices for agricultural workers, respectively. Urban poverty lines were adjusted similarly over time. Lakdawala lines served as the official poverty lines until 2004–2005. The Planning Commission applied them to URP-based expenditures in the quinquennial surveys to calculate official poverty ratios. Criticisms of these estimates on various grounds led the Planning Commission to appoint an expert group under the chairmanship of Suresh Tendulkar in December 2005 with the directive to recommend appropriate changes in methodology for computing poverty estimates. The group submitted its report in 2009.

In its report, the Tendulkar committee noted three deficiencies of the Lakdawala poverty lines (Government of India 2009). First, the poverty line baskets remained tied to consumption patterns observed in 1973–1974. But more than 3 decades later, these baskets had shifted, even for the poor. Second, the consumer price index for agricultural workers understated the true price increase. This meant that over time the upward adjustment in the rural poverty lines was less than necessary so that the estimated poverty ratios understated rural poverty. Finally, the assumption underlying Lakdawala lines that health and education would be largely provided by the government did not hold any longer. Private expenditures on these services had risen considerably, even for the poor. This change was not adequately reflected in the Lakdawala poverty lines. To remedy these deficiencies, the Tendulkar committee began by noting that the NSSO had already decided to shift from URP-based expenditures to MRP-based expenditures to measure poverty. With this in view, the committee's first step was to situate the revised poverty lines in terms of MRP expenditures in some generally acceptable aspect of the existing practice. To this end, it observed that since the nationwide urban poverty ratio of 25.7%, calculated from URP-based expenditures in the 2004–2005 survey, was broadly accepted as a good approximation of prevailing urban poverty, the revised urban poverty line could be anchored to yield this same estimate using MRP-based per-capita consumption expenditure from the 2004–2005 survey. This decision led to MRP-based per-capita expenditure of the individual at the 25.7 percentile in the national distribution of per-capita MRP expenditures becoming the national urban poverty line.

3) We address here the two rounds of controversies over the poverty line that broke out in the media in September 2011 and March 2012. The controversy resurfaced in March 2012 when the Planning Commission released the poverty estimates based on the 2009–2010 expenditure survey. The Planning Commission reported that these estimates were based on average poverty lines of Rs28.26 and Rs22.2 per person per day in urban and rural areas, respectively. While there was no basis to the accusations that the Planning Commission had lowered the poverty lines, the issue of whether the poverty lines remain excessively low despite having been raised does require further examination. In addressing this issue, it is important to be clear about the objectives behind the poverty line. Potentially, there are two main objectives behind poverty lines: to track the progress made in combating poverty and to identify the poor towards whom redis-tribution programs can be directed. The level of the

poverty line must be evaluated separately against each objective. In principle, we may want separate poverty lines for the two objectives. With regard to the first objective, the poverty line should be set at a level that allows us to track the progress made in helping the truly destitute or those living in abject poverty, often referred to as extreme poverty. Much of the media debate during the two episodes focused on what could or could not be bought with the poverty-line expenditure. There was no mention of the basket of goods that was used by the Tendulkar Committee to define the poverty line.

Table 1. **The Tendulkar Poverty Line Basket**

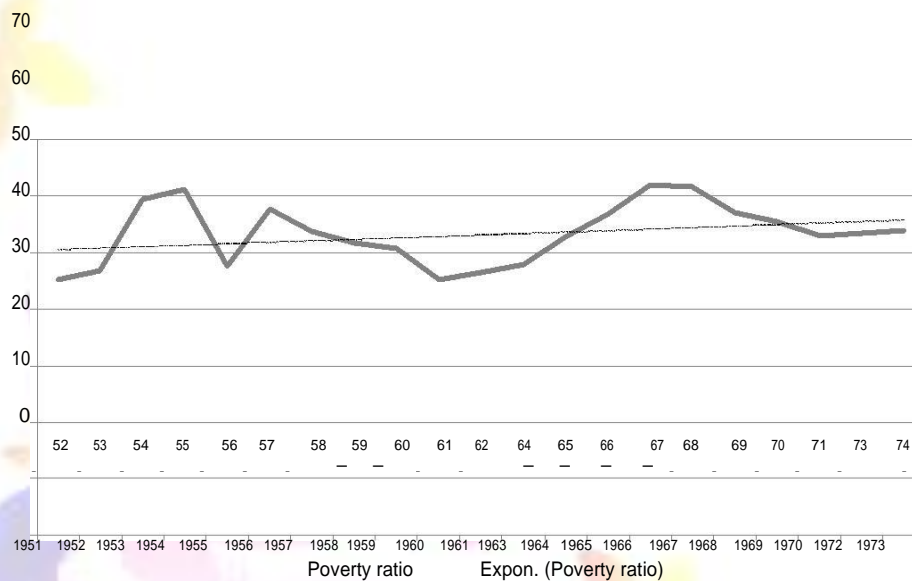
Commodity Group	Expenditure in Current Rupees	Expenditure Share (%)	Quantity Consumed (kg)
Cereal	479.5	16.6	50.9
Pulses	97.0	3.4	3.5
Milk and milk products	223.5	7.8	16.2
Edible oil	142.5	4.9	2.7
			6.2 eggs and 1.7
Eggs, fish, and meat	99.0	3.4	meat
Vegetables	191.0	6.6	23.9
Fresh Fruits	38.0	1.3	4.7
Dry Fruits	10.5	0.4	0.3
Sugar	66.5	2.3	3.7
Salt and spices	62.0	2.2	2.2
Intoxicants	64.0	2.2	n/a
Fuel	350.5	12.2	n/a
Other	138.0	4.8	n/a
Clothing	191.0	6.6	n/a
Footwear	30.5	1.1	n/a
Education	96.5	3.4	n/a
Medical: Institutional	21.5	0.7	n/a
Medical: Non-Institutional	105.0	3.6	n/a
Entertainment	30.5	1.1	n/a
Personal items	90.0	3.1	n/a
Other goods	70.5	2.4	n/a
Other services	87.5	3.0	n/a
Durables	45.0	1.6	n/a
Rent and conveyance	149.5	5.2	n/a
Total	2,880.0	100.0	n/a

Source: Authors' calculations using unit-level data

The main point to note is that while the quantities associated with the poverty line basket may not permit a comfortable existence, including a balanced diet, they allow above-subsistence existence. The consumption of cereals and pulses at 50.9 kilograms (kg) and 3.5 kg compared with 48 kg and 5.5 kg, respectively, for the mean consumption of the top 30% of the population. Likewise, the consumption of edible oils and vegetables at 2.7 kg and 23.9 kg for the poor compared with 4.5 kg and 35.5 kg, respectively, for the top 30% of the population. This comparison shows that, at least in terms of the provision of two square meals a day, the poverty line consumption basket is compatible with above-subsistence level consumption.

3) Here, we provide comparable poverty rates for all of the last five quinquennial surveys including 2009–2010 derived from Lakdawala lines. For this purpose, we update the 2004–2005 Lakdawala lines to 2009–2010 using the price indices implicit in the official Tendulkar lines for 2004–2005 and 2009–2010 at the national and state levels. We provide estimates categorized by social as well as religious groups for all quinquennial surveys beginning in 1983 based on the Lakdawala lines and for the years relating to the last three such surveys based on the Tendulkar lines at the national and state levels.

Figure 2. The Poverty Ratio in India, 1951–1952 to 1973–1974 (%)



Source: Authors' construction based on data from the Government of India (2008) until 2004–2005 and authors' calculations for 2009–2010.

Although, we focus mainly on the evolution of poverty since 1983 in this paper, it is useful to begin with a brief look at the poverty profile in the early years. This is done in Figure 2 using the estimates in Datt (1998) for years 1951–1952 to 1973–1974. The key message of the graph is that the poverty ratio hovered between 50% and 60% with a mildly rising trend. As India had been extremely poor at independence. Growth in per-capita income during these years had been a mere 1.5% per year. Such low growth coupled with a very low starting per-capita income meant at best limited scope for achieving poverty reduction even through redistribution. As argued above, even today, after more than 2 decades of almost 5% growth in per-capita income, the scope for redistribution remains limited.

4) We now turn to the progress made in poverty alleviation in different states. Though our focus in this paper is on poverty by social and religious groups, we first consider poverty at the aggregate level in rural and urban areas. India has 28 states and 7 union territories. To keep the analysis manageable, we limit ourselves to the 17 largest states. Together, these states account for 95% of the total population. We exclude all seven union territories including Delhi; the smallest six of the seven northeastern states (retaining only Assam); and the states of Sikkim, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttaranchal. Going by the expenditure survey of 2009–2010, each of the included states has a population exceeding 20 million while each of the excluded states has a population less than 10 million. Among the union territories, only Delhi has a population exceeding 10 million. The estimates of rural and urban poverty in the 17 largest states. To conserve space, we confine ourselves to presenting the estimates based on the Tendulkar line. Recall that the estimates derived from the Tendulkar line are available for 3 years: 1993–1994, 2004–2005, and 2009–2010. Disregarding 1973–1974 and 1977–1978, which are outside the scope of our paper, estimates based on the Lakdawala lines are available for an additional 2 years: 1983 and 1987–1988. Table 2 reports the poverty estimates with the states arranged in descending order of their populations.

Table 2. Rural and Urban Poverty in Indian States (%)

State	Rural			Urban			Total		
	1993	2009		2009			2009		
	–	2004–	–	1993–	2004–	–	1993–	2004–	–
	1994	2005	2010	1994	2005	2010	1994	2005	2010
Uttar Pradesh	50.9	42.7	39.4	38.2	34.1	31.7	48.4	41.0	37.9
Maharashtra	59.2	47.8	29.5	30.2	25.6	18.3	48.4	38.9	24.8
Bihar	62.3	55.7	55.2	44.6	43.7	39.4	60.6	54.6	53.6
Andhra Pradesh	48.0	32.3	22.7	35.1	23.4	17.7	44.7	30.0	21.3
West Bengal	42.4	38.3	28.8	31.2	24.4	21.9	39.8	34.9	27.1
Tamil Nadu	51.0	37.6	21.2	33.5	19.8	12.7	44.8	30.7	17.4
Madhya Pradesh	48.8	53.6	42.0	31.7	35.1	22.8	44.4	49.3	37.3
Rajasthan	40.7	35.9	26.4	29.9	29.7	19.9	38.2	34.5	24.8
Gujarat	43.1	39.1	26.6	28.0	20.1	17.6	38.2	32.5	23.2
Karnataka	56.4	37.4	26.2	34.2	25.9	19.5	50.1	33.9	23.8
Orissa	63.0	60.7	39.2	34.3	37.6	25.9	59.4	57.5	37.3
Kerala	33.8	20.2	12.0	23.7	18.4	12.1	31.4	19.8	12.0
Assam	55.0	36.3	39.9	27.7	21.8	25.9	52.2	35.0	38.5
Jharkhand	65.7	51.6	41.4	41.8	23.8	31.0	61.1	47.2	39.3
Haryana	39.9	24.8	18.6	24.2	22.4	23.0	35.8	24.2	19.9
Punjab	20.1	22.1	14.6	27.2	18.7	18.0	22.2	21.0	15.8
Chhattisgarh	55.9	55.1	56.1	28.1	28.4	23.6	51.1	51.0	50.3
Total	50.1	41.9	33.3	31.7	25.8	20.9	45.5	37.9	29.9

Source: Authors' calculations.

Several observations follow. First, taken as a whole, poverty fell in each of the 17 states between 1993–1994 and 2009–2010. When we disaggregate rural and urban areas within each state, we still find a decline in poverty in all states in each region over this period. Indeed, if we take the 10 largest states, which account for three-fourths of India's population, every state except Madhya Pradesh experienced a consistent decline in both rural and urban poverty. The reduction in poverty with rising incomes is a steady and nationwide rural or urban areas of a given state.

Second, acceleration in poverty reduction in percentage points per year during the highest growth period (2004–2005 to 2009–2010) over that in 1993–1994 to 2004–2005 can be observed in 13 out of the total 17 states. The exceptions are Uttar Pradesh and Bihar among the large states and Assam and Haryana among medium-size states. Of these, Uttar Pradesh and Assam had experienced at best modest acceleration in gross state domestic product (GSDP) during the second period while Haryana had already achieved a relatively low level of poverty by 2004–2005. The most surprising had been the negligible decline in poverty in Bihar between 2004–2005 and 2009–2010, as GSDP in this state had grown at double-digit rates during this period.

Finally, among the large states, Tamil Nadu had the lowest poverty ratio followed by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh—all of them from the south—made the largest percentage-point improvements in poverty reduction among the large states between 1993–1994 and 2009–2010. Among the medium-size states, Kerala and Haryana had the lowest poverty rates while Orissa and Jharkhand made the largest percentage-point gains during 1993–1994 to 2009–2010.

IN A NUTSHELL

In this paper, we have provided a comprehensive analysis of poverty in India along National Level and State level :rural and urban areas and To keep the exposition manageable, we have concentrated on estimates based on the Tendulkar line. In the latter case, we report estimates in rural and urban India derived from both the Lakdawala and Tendulkar lines.

Although the focus of this paper is on poverty, we find it useful to briefly report the evolution of inequality at the state and national levels in rural and urban areas. At the outset, it is important to note that the issue of inequality is complex partly because it can be measured in numerous ways. The potential list of measures is almost endless, and there is no guarantee that these different measures will move in the same direction. Therefore, it is quite easy to show simultaneously that inequality has risen as well as fallen depending on the choice of measure.

Within this broad category, we have left many questions unanswered. For instance, it would be useful to separate the contributions of growth and redistribution policies in explaining the decline in poverty. Likewise, we may want to know what role, if any, rural-to-urban migration may have played—directly as well as through remittances. Similarly, we might ask what role the division of population among various social and religious groups plays in determining the progress in combating poverty. Finally, we might also wish to study the role that education plays in bringing down poverty.

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INDIA'S WAR AGAINST INFLATION

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[Paper presented at Conjecture,2015 organized by and held at R.K.M.Narendrapur]

ABSTRACT

This paper tries to examine the inflationary trends in India for the last 54 years starting from 1958-2012 using secondary data source. This paper also shows the policies implemented by the Indian government to keep the rate of inflation stable.

INTRODUCTION

Inflation is the sustained increase in the general level of prices of goods and services. At a macro economics level, inflation can be traced to imbalances in aggregate demand and supply of output. Excess monetary growth or low interest rates can also fuel the excess demand relative to supply leading to inflation. This is generally termed as Demand -Pull Inflation. Considering demand to be fixed, inflation may occur when there is a fall in supply due to supply shocks like crop failure, restriction on imports, increase in crude oil price or any other reasons. As this inflation is due to supply shortage, so it is termed as Cost-Push Inflation.

Some of the causes of inflation in India are:-

India uses the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in its calculation, according to which, a total of 676 commodities have been chosen and divided into three categories, all of which have a different weight in inflation. 102 of these 676 commodities belong to the category of "Primary articles" (weight 20.12%) while 19 belong to "Fuel and Power" (weight 14.91%) group. The remaining 555 items belong to the "Manufactured Product" (weight 64.97%) group.

The elementary factor that governs inflation is the variation in supply and demand. Inflation is caused when an increase in demand is not met with an increase in supply.

- **Population** - The population of India has been on a continuous rise. The decadal growth rate according to the [2011 census of India](#) has been 17.64%. The growth rate of the essential goods and commodities (like food, oil, land etc.) has not been able to match our population growth. Factors like increase in the cost of land due to population growth also lead to an **increase in the cost of production**.
- **Unbalanced economic growth** - The Indian economy has been growing at a fast rate for the last few years. But this economic growth has not been balanced. The contributions towards economic growth from the primary (agriculture), secondary (industry) and tertiary (services) sectors are 17.2%, 26.4% and 56.4% respectively. So the growth in the primary or agricultural output has been way less than average. Due to this we are required to import a good quantity of basic goods and commodities for consumption. The weak INR has not helped in this regard. The prices of these imported goods and commodities have been on the rise due to a weak INR.
- **Increase in spending capacity** – Due to economic growth people have more money to spend in general. Schemes like MGNREGS and the Sixth Pay Commission have also led

to an increase in the spending power of people. People employed in the private sectors have also seen a jump in their earnings. Now this has led to an improvement in the living standards of people, but since it is not matched with a similar increase in output prices have gone up.

Inflation has some positive effects, those are:-

- Fundamentally, inflation gives everyone an incentive to spend and invest, because if they don't, their money will be worth less in the future. This spending and investment can benefit the economy.
- Inflation reduces the real burden of debt, both public and private. If you have a fixed-rate mortgage on your house, your salary is likely to increase over time due to wage inflation, but your mortgage payment will stay the same. Over time, your mortgage payment will become a smaller percentage of your earnings, which means that you will have more money to spend.
- Inflation keeps nominal interest rates above zero, so that central banks can reduce interest rates, when necessary, to stimulate the economy.
- Inflation reduces unemployment to the extent that unemployment is caused by nominal wage rigidity. When demand for labor falls but nominal wages do not, as typically occurs during a recession, the supply and demand for labor cannot reach equilibrium, and unemployment results. By reducing the real value of a given nominal wage, inflation increases the demand for labor, and therefore reduces unemployment.

Inflations cause a lot of problem in any economy. Some of the problems caused by Inflation are:-

- Decreased in living standard.
- Redistribution of wealth.
- Decrease in old age pensions.
- Price rise of basic life supporting commodities.
- Financial burden over poor and fixed income groups, etc

So inflation is one of the major concerns of Economists and the Government. So one of the basic object of any Government is to control inflation through fiscal and monetary policies. In this paper we mainly focused on government policy taken up to control inflation.

First we try to figure out the inflationary trend in India from 1958 to 2012, that is, 54 years. To make the understanding more clear we divided the total period into 5 groups taking 11 years in each group. Through graphs we have represented the inflationary trends in India.

LITERATURE SURVEY

➤ CAUSES OF INFLATION

Economists differ over the causes that lead to inflationary rise in prices. The quantity theorist or monetarists explain inflation as the result of excessive increase in the money supply in the face of inelastic supply of goods and services.

Other economists describe inflation caused by wage push and profit push. The basic cause of wage push inflation is the rapid rise in money wages compared to the productivity of labor. It is further aggravated by the rise in cost of living index. The profit push inflation occurs when firms raise the prices of their products to offset the rise in production cost or to earn higher profit.

The structuralist school of economists explained the causes of inflation by two basic rigidities. First, the rate of export growth in a developing economy is slow to support the required growth rate of economy. The lower growth rate of export requires imports substitution to maintain balance of trade position. This necessitates imported materials and equipments which again leads to cost push inflation. Second, agricultural production is inelastic in supply due to different rigidities namely defective land tenure system, lack of irrigation, finance and marketing. These factors also add to cost push inflation.

➤ INFLATIONARY TRENDS IN INDIA

Inflationary trends in India contain some elements of all these three types of inflation. The factors responsible for increasing demand for goods are i) erratic agriculture production, ii) increase in government expenditure iii) increase in money supply iv) deficit financing, v) presence of black money.

On the supply side the factors responsible for the inflation are i) erratic agriculture production, ii) speculative activities in product market iii) sluggish growth of industrial production, iv) increase in commodity taxes, v) rise in import prices. (Jhingan)

In respect of inflation growth trade off, a growth maximizing threshold inflation rate has been placed at around 1-3% for industrialized countries and 7-11% for developing countries. According to the Chakravarty committee's observation, 4% inflation rate can be regarded as the first illustrative benchmark on threshold inflation around 4-7%. The estimate of threshold inflation is perspective. Prolonged worldwide price stability and the credible anchoring of inflationary expectation at a lower level with structural changes in the economy, the threshold inflation could also move downwards.

Price stability is imperative for realizing inclusive growth as because high inflation reduces real incomes of the wage and low income earners. For achieving price stability, it is needed to target a headline rate of inflation for both CPI and WPI indices of 5% and then progressively lower this target. This was achieved in the tenth five year plan. (Kapila, 2011-2012).

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The research work is based on secondary data which is collected by our team from Internet (Website- Inflation.eu). The data shows inflation rate in India from the year 1958 to 2012 at constant prices. This data of the inflation rates are based on Consumer Price Index (CPI).

A consumer price index (CPI) measures changes in the price level of a [market basket](#) of [consumer goods](#) and [services](#) purchased by households. The CPI is a statistical estimate constructed using the prices of a sample of representative items whose prices are collected periodically. The annual percentage change in a CPI is used as a measure of [inflation](#). A CPI can be used to index (i.e., adjust for the effect of inflation) the real value of wages, salaries, [pensions](#), for regulating prices and for deflating monetary magnitudes to show changes in real values.

The data between 1958-2012 are divided into 5 groups, each group consists of 11 years data. The data are divided into 11 years as because small gap of time period will represent the charts and diagrams in more detailed than in large gaps. So we had divided the time period in five groups.

The charts and the diagram used in this paper is prepared by us using MS OFFICE software and the data.

This topic features an overview of the historic Indian inflation. The inflation rate is based upon the consumer price index (CPI).

- The annual inflation by year of India - comparing the December CPI to the December CPI of the previous year.

ANALYSIS AND RESULT

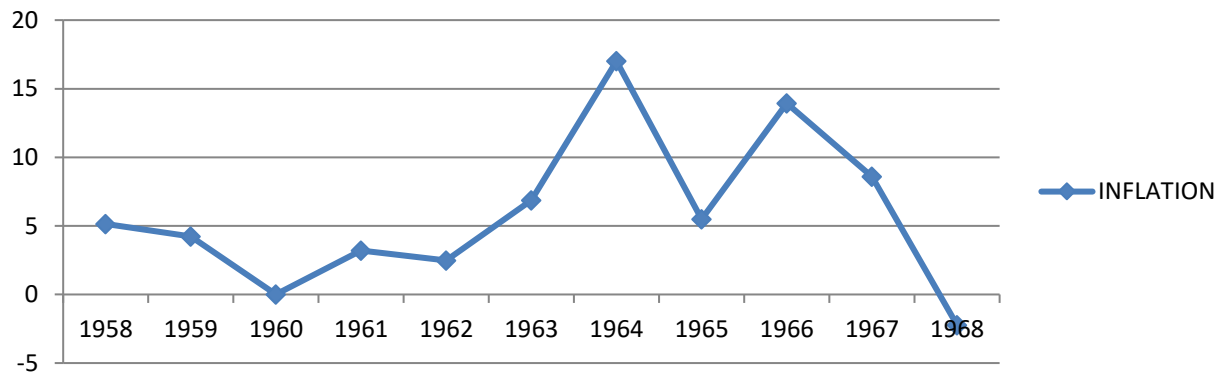
ANALYSIS:

Table 1: ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 1958-1968

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANNUAL INFLATION(IN %)</u>
1958	5.15
1959	4.23
1960	0.00
1961	3.21
1962	2.48
1963	6.87
1964	17.01
1965	5.49
1966	13.34
1967	8.60
1968	-2.23

Source:- <http://www.inflation.eu/>

ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 1958-1968



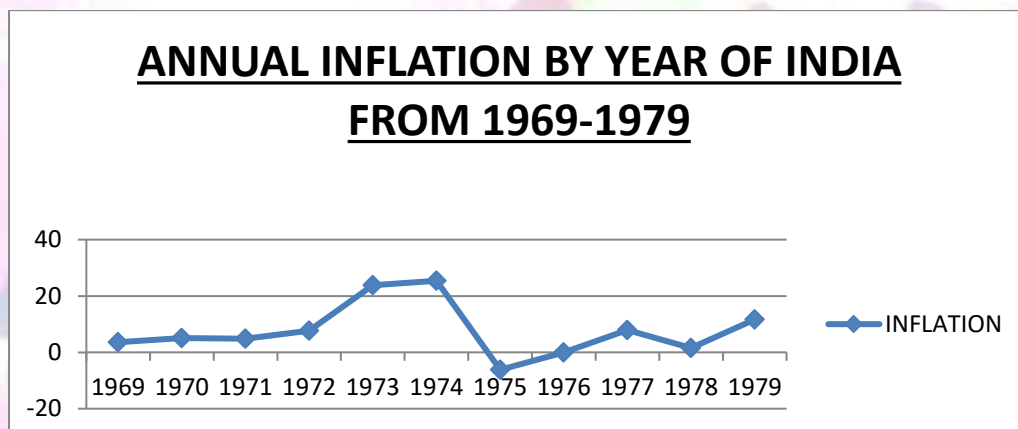
Source: Same as in Table 1

Inflation during the period 1958-1968 shows huge ups and downs. In the year 1958 annual inflation rate was 5.15%, and then gradually inflation rate rises to 13.27 in the year 1964. So the inflation rate rises by 8.12%. This clearly indicates that the policy taken by the Government of India was unable to control the inflation. This period falls between 2nd and 3rd planning period. The objective of the 2nd planning period was on rapid industrialization, the plan was successfully executed but the 3rd year plan failed to achieve the objective because of Chinese Aggression, Indo-Pak war and severe drought. For this reason inflation rate started to rise from 1962 and reaches its peak in the year 1964. Failure of 3rd plan that leads to devaluation of rupee along with inflationary recession which in turns leads to postponement of 4th Five Year Plan. For this reason Government of India introduced 3 Annual plans instead of 4th Five Year Plan. During this plan government implemented a new agricultural strategy. It involves widespread distribution of High Yielding Seed extensive use of fertilizers, exploitation of irrigation potential and soil conservation. This 3 Annual Plan was a successful plan which held Indian Economy to absorb the shocks generated during the 3rd Five Year Plan. That's why we can see from 1966 the inflation rate tends to decrease and gradually it becomes negative in the year 1968 which indicates the policy taken by Indian Government was successful in reducing Inflation. It paved the path for planned growth ahead.

Table 2: ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 1969-1979

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANNUAL INFLATION(IN %)</u>
1969	3.54
1970	5.01
1971	4.89
1972	7.66
1973	23.81
1974	25.40
1975	-6.18
1976	0
1977	7.86
1978	1.51
1979	11.70

Source:- <http://www.inflation.eu/>



Source: Same as in Table 2

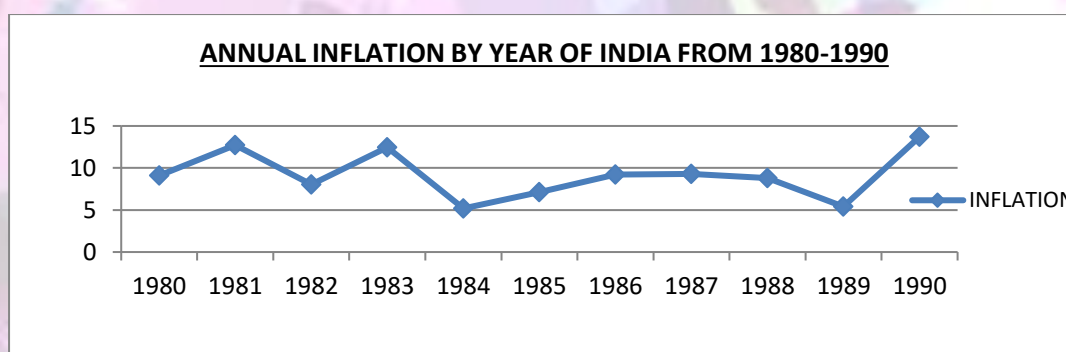
Inflation rate increases from a negative to a positive value in the year 1969. In the year 1969, the refusal of supply of essential equipments and raw materials from allies during Indo-Pak war resulted in twin objective, “Growth of Indian economic stability” and “Progressive achievement of self reliance”. The main objective of the 4th Five year plan was on growth rate of agriculture to enable other sectors to move forward. The first two years (1969-1971) of the plan saw bumper harvest. As a result, the rate of inflation was stable. Rate of inflation increases from 4.89 to 7.66 in the period 1971-1972. The rate of inflation further increases from 7.66 to 23.81 in the period 1972-1973. This is because of poor harvest which led to poor production of agriculture. As a result, prices of commodities increased leading to high inflation. In the period 1974-1975, we observe a drastic fall in the rate of inflation from 25.40 to -6.18. Recalling from history we know that India faced the ‘Emergency Rule’ in that particular period. We can say that Emergency may be one of the reasons for this drastic fall in

inflation rate. During this period, the production was high, which led to excess supply, the demand remained same. The manufacturer was forced to sell the goods at a low price, causing inflation rate to fall further. After the year 1975, the rate of inflation rises since some special economic measures were taken by the new government.

Table 3: ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 1980-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANNUAL INFLATION(IN %)</u>
1980	9.09
1981	12.73
1982	8.05
1983	12.46
1984	5.19
1985	7.14
1986	9.21
1987	9.31
1988	8.79
1989	5.42
1990	13.71

Source:- <http://www.inflation.eu/>



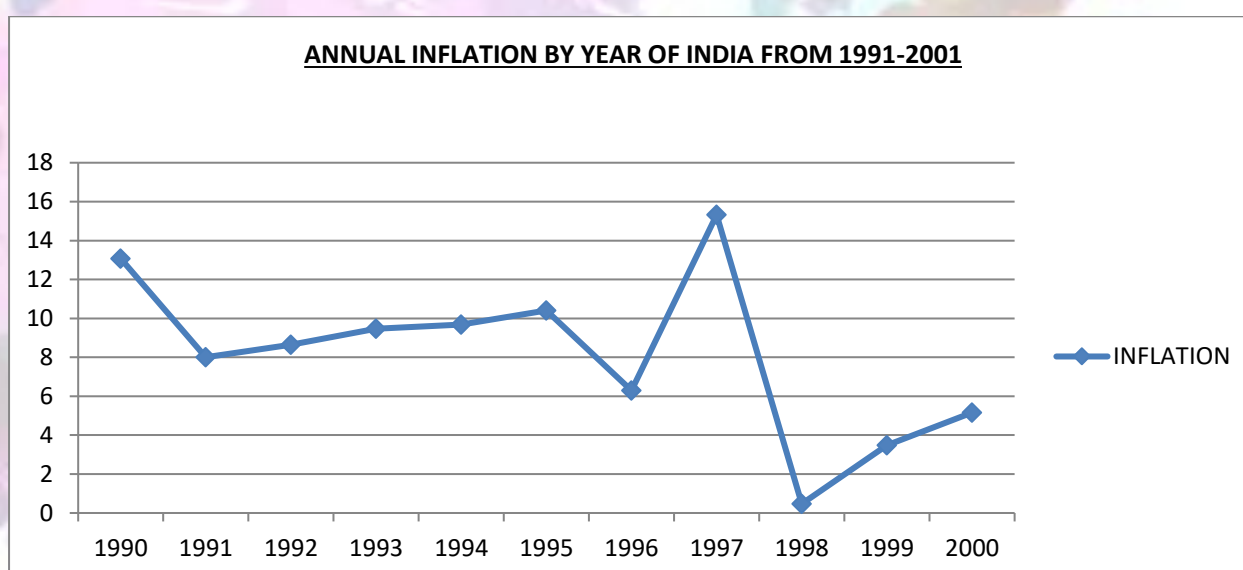
Source: Same as in Table 3

During the year 1980, the new government came to power and it imposed the 6th Five year plan which focused on increase in National Income, modernization of technology and removal of poverty & unemployment. As a result, people have more money to spend and this caused inflation to rise. In the year 1983-1984, inflation rate falls from 12.46 to 5.19. After 1984, inflation rate increased at a stable rate due to severe drought conditions. In the year 1989-1990, inflation rate increases from 5.40 to 13.71. The reason being high money supply in the market.

Table 4: ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 1991-2001

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANNUAL INFLATION(IN %)</u>
1991	13.07
1992	8.00
1993	8.64
1994	9.47
1995	9.69
1996	10.41
1997	6.29
1998	15.32
1999	0.47
2000	3.48
2001	5.16

Source:- <http://www.inflation.eu/>



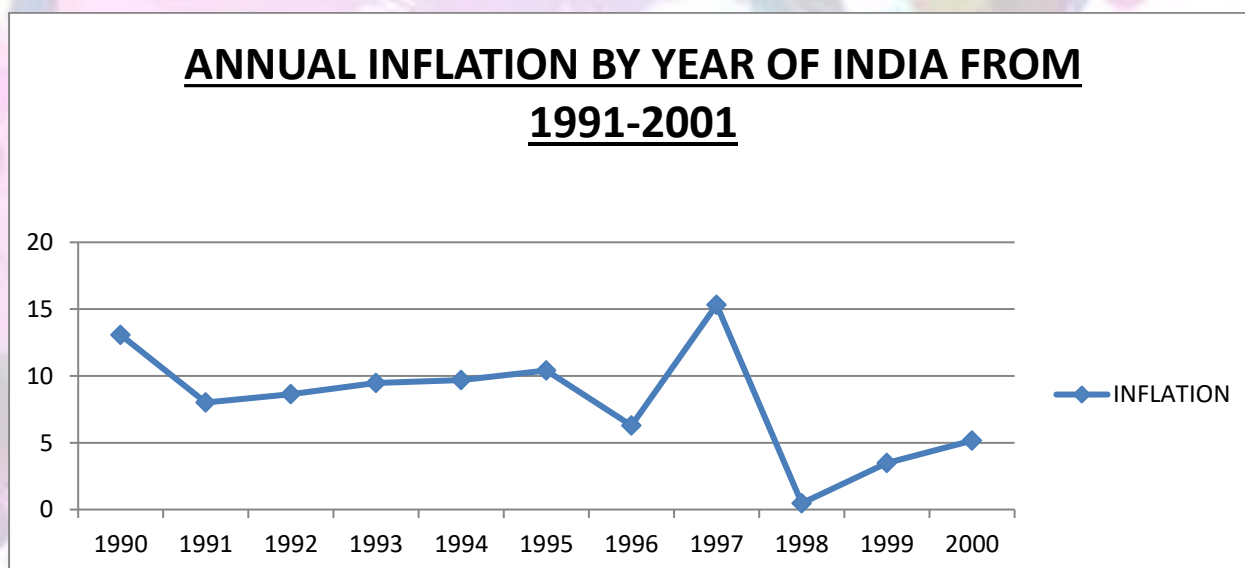
Source: Same as in Table 4

In the period 1990-1991, inflation rate falls from 13.07 to 8.00. The inflation rate increases at a stable rate from the year 1991 to 1995. In the period 1995-1996, inflation rate falls from 10.41 to 6.29. After 1996, inflation rate increases from 6.29 to 15.32. During this period, the government made the economy more market-oriented and expanded the role of private and foreign investment. The rate of inflation falls from 15.32 to 0.49 in the period 1997-1998. The reason being adequate productive employment and poverty eradication. After the year 1998, inflation rate rises at a stable rate.

Table 5: ANNUAL INFLATION BY YEAR OF INDIA FROM 2002-2012

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ANNUAL INFLATION(IN %)</u>
2002	3.20
2003	3.72
2004	3.78
2005	5.57
2006	6.53
2007	5.51
2008	9.70
2009	14.97
2010	9.47
2011	6.49
2012	11.17

Source:- <http://www.inflation.eu/>



Source: Same as in Table 5

The rate of inflation remains more-or-less stable at 5% level from the year 2002 to 2006. The rate of inflation then increases from 5.51 to 9.70 in the year 2007-2008 and from 9.70 to 14.97 in the year 2008-2009. During the period 2007 to 2008, the Government Of India adopted expansionary fiscal policy. Because of this expansionary demand management policy, inflation rate rises in 2009. The government adopted contractionary demand management policy. As a result, inflation rate comes down.

Policies Implemented To Control Inflation

1) EFFECT ON PRODUCTION:-

Like inflation production of a good or providing a service is an interdependent and intricate process. If a good has to be produce, various inputs should be available to produce and sell it to the final consumer. Let me explain with some examples that how price rise in just one sector will have its adverse effects on all dependent sectors, contributing to an aggregate price rise of the final product.

“When there is inadequate rainfall, it could lead to a condition of drought. A condition of drought leads to decreased production of a crop; let us take it as sugar-cane. When the yield is less, supply goes down. Sugarcane is the raw material for sugar industries. When the raw material has been purchased at a higher cost, obviously the cost of production of sugar goes high thus leading to increased price (inflation results as sugar is one of the inflation sensitive food items). The byproduct of the sugar industries, molasses (used to make alcoholic beverages) and baggage (used in paper making) will also cost high. Thus the production of alcoholic beverages and paper is affected. When cost of the paper goes high, the production of the newspaper you read daily is affected.

Let me give another dimension to this. When the price of food items goes high, people start sleeping without satisfying their hunger (There are about 27 % BPL population in India, most of the laborers in India work in Agriculture sector. Overall, the work force of India consists of a huge chunk from unorganized sectors, whose salaries are not guaranteed as that of government employees). When people are hungry, they are also angry. Workers of an industry whose income is not enough to satisfy their basic needs demand a hike in salary, strikes happen, lockouts happen. As a result that industry faces labour shortage, shortage leads to high demand, high demand leads to price rise (in this case labour becomes costly. Therefore cost of production rises resulting in price rise.”

2) INEQUALITY:-

Like production inequality is also an intricate phenomenon. If we factor in inflation, inequality is both the cause and effect of inflation. The ones who are affected by price rise are the one who are already poor and who work in unorganized sectors. The one who cause the price rise, in most of the cases are those who have enough wealth with them (People who practice hoarding, who evade taxes, who have black money, who are black-marketers etc). When there are favourable conditions for such practices, such unscrupulous traders make money and the poor people who can't satisfy their basic needs with their meager income become poorer. This also affects the psychology of vast majority of people, who start venting their frustration and aggression through the anger they show on the policies of the state.

The solution in this case is curtailing the unscrupulous practices. Now you might have understood how mighty and interlinked the phenomenon of price rise is. The Government has taken some important steps in this direction. Like;

A) Prevention of money laundering act (2002, Amended in 2009).

B) Various measures taken to prevent tax evasion by Income tax department.

C) The Essential commodities act (1955, Amended in 2006): to prevent black marketing

1) DEMAND MANAGEMENT

The government targets the demand side of inflation mainly controlling the money supply in the country. The price policy of the government has changed overtime. The policy has relied on fiscal and monetary measures with a view to check the demand of the general public for goods and the services (by decreasing the money with them).

A) FISCAL MEASURES.

The Indian government has always tried to control its own expenditure and keeping the revenue and fiscal deficit minimum. In 1984, the Government of India announced a package of programmes to curtail public expenditures, to postpone recruitment to government jobs etc. But the measures were not effective. Instead the governments (both central and state) have always adopted a policy of deficit budgeting, revenue deficit and fiscal deficit. Thus instead of checking prices, government policy has actually pushed up prices.

But since 1990-91 the need to reduce fiscal deficit has gained importance. The budget of July 1991-92 took the first decisive action to limit the fiscal deficit from 8.4% in 1990-91 to 6.2% in 1991-92 and to further 3.1% in 2007-08. (This was in compliance with the conditions imposed by IMF). The Fiscal policy for 2010-11 is being guided by the principles of gradual adjustment from the fiscal expansion of 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Because of global financial crisis). The adjustment path is being so calibrated that it would not affect the revival process and at the same time stabilize the debt to GDP ratio of the Government in the medium term. In the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement of 2009-10, the Government had enumerated the roadmap for fiscal consolidation during 2010-11 and 2011-12. The Government is adhering to these commitments made in July 2009 and has also benefitted from the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission on fiscal consolidation. Accordingly fiscal deficit in BE 2010-11 has been reduced to 5.5 per cent of GDP. This correction of fiscal deficit is attributed to reduction in total expenditure by 0.6 per cent of GDP (from 16.6 per cent in BE 2009-10 to 16.0 per cent in BE 2010-11), increase in gross tax revenue by 0.4 per cent of GDP (from 10.4 per cent in BE 2009-10 to 10.8 per cent in BE 2010-11) and increase in non debt capital receipt by 0.6 per cent of GDP (from 0.1 per cent in BE 2009-10 to 0.7 per cent in BE 2010-11). All the above numbers are with reference to the revised GDP numbers.

B) MONETARY MEASURES:

This is done by RBI; it involves extensive use of general and selective credit control measures. In general, RBI uses its monetary policy to achieve a judicious balance between the growth of production and control of the general price level. RBI uses Bank rate, CRR, SLR and open market operations to increase bank credit and expansion of business activity (during recession) or to contract bank credit and check business and speculative activity (during inflation).

Any increase in CRR, Bank Rate, SLR, reverse repo, repo rate results in decreased money with Commercial banks thus money supply in the country decreases and vice versa. Decreased money leads to decreased demand and thus eases the rising prices.

In July 2010 RBI announced that it would update the monetary policy about 45 days after the quarterly review to respond faster to changing domestic and international economic scenarios. The RBI said that such formal mid-cycle announcements would take out the surprise element arising from an off-cycle rate decision as was the case earlier (Although

scheduled policy announcements were made once in a quarter, the RBI had intervened at times when situations demanded a policy change). The present RBI governor, D V Subbarao had said that mid-quarter reviews are intended to communicate our assessment of economic conditions more quarterly.

The former governor of RBI has supported the RBI's decision of increasing the various interest rates. He said that it is a long term measure to contain inflation and promote healthy growth of the economy.

Summary and Conclusion

From the above study of inflation rate of 54 years starting from 1958-2012, we observed that Indian experienced a moderate rate of inflation with some hiccups. India experienced both single-digits as well as double-digit inflation rates. The study shows that a double inflation rate never exceeds more than 26%. It is found only in 1964 , 1966 , 1973 , 1974, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1998, 2009 and 2012.

The study shows that in 1968 and 1975, the inflation rate becomes negative. It is evident from the study that the highest single digit inflation rate recorded was 9.70% in the year 2008. During the period 1974-1975 we observed that inflation rate fall from a maximum value to a minimum value. The maximum value being 25.40 and minimum value being -6.18.

From our study, we can conclude that Indian is at a constant war with inflation. It neither faces galloping inflation nor hyper inflation. India experiences moderate inflation rate which is beneficial for economic growth. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) still has a long way to go in fighting inflation and it is important that the central bank has the credibility to bring down inflation rate if it picks up.

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DEATH OF PLANNING

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ABSTRACT

The study presented here attempts to throw light on the performance of planning in India with a focus on growth of different economic sectors and social challenges like poverty and employment. Despite the fact the implementation of Five Year Plan has not been praiseworthy due to political hindrances the planning methodology adopted indeed has succeeded in some or the other front in pulling out the economy out of vicious circle trap, that it suffered from before the birth of the Planning Commission. This has raised the need to look into the area where planning has shown significant results and prevent the pessimistic ideas about the planning methodology from bubbling up and enforced the government to rethink about the death of this process. Starting from agriculture, manufacturing, service sector to poverty and employment wherever the process had shown a ray of hope have been briefly highlighted with appropriate policy implications using economic survey data for the period that the planning has covered.

INTRODUCTION

The formulation of five year plan helped India to embark upon the program of planned economic development of the country. In recent times Indian planning has become a subject of intense speculation. There has been much debate regarding the issue whether the planning should be scrapped or not. Studies show that even in a market oriented economy, planning can have a useful note to the play. Doing away with the planning imbalance in resource allocation for states and away also leads to regional disparity in the nation. It is often argued that planning is an absolute necessity for an entity that has a stake in future (Nag 2014). So in this study we assess the impact of planning mechanism on Indian economy.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was so greatly influenced by the success of Soviet Union's Planning Model developed by Feldman (1928) that he launched the 1st FYP in April 1951 emphasizing on the socialistic pattern of the society. During the 1950's the Indian Economy was caught up in a vicious circle of poverty accompanied by high population growth rate. The Indian economic policy after independence tended towards protectionism, with a strong emphasis on import substitution, industrialization and large public sector. The FYP's paved the way for the nation to be self-reliant, have an improved standard of living and reduction in poverty level and unemployment rate, though during the 1980's there was a huge fiscal deficit. Again the Mahalanobis two sector model was moderately successful. However through the implementation of planning by the planning commission is not at all and appreciable one, but in a mixed economy like India there cannot be any alternative to planning in raising the country's status to a developed one. Moreover, although there were many loopholes of planning and also many debates against planning, who knows this so called futile mechanism might have fuelled development in the socio economic scenario.

The plan of our study is as follows. A brief literature survey in the second section presents some selected studies in this regard. In section three, data and methodology are discussed. Analysis of results of fourth section reveals the important findings of this study. The last section summarizes the results and concludes with some policy implications.

Brief Literature Survey

A huge volume of literature has evolved that supported the view that planning should not be scrapped in India. The following statements further proves the validity of planning mechanism in India

Sinha emphasized the fact that, instead of engaging in the perspective planning the Planning Commission today is engaged in micro managing the states...

Former Finance Minister, Government of India

Parmar stated that, at present Planning Commission is engaged in economy wide modelling and planning with the help of Leontief Input-Output modelling, with very little of econometric modelling. Furthermore,

....Planning Commission has already moved on from being "Planner" to "Strategist", but modelling and scenario analysis have not been abandoned. Even a strategist cannot do without these tools!

Adviser, Planning Commission

Majumdar opined that, they have a blank slate today! If, as likely, the Planning Commission will soon be reconstituted, the Perspective Planning Division has to be re-vitalized and assume primacy. Nevertheless, that contingency has to be preceded by the statement of a vision of at least what India is as a nation, what the India economy is to be constituted of and what her relative position in the world is to be. An industrialized India can hold her head high in the world.....Perspective planning of the older Leontief type input-output matrices may simply be passé, as they do not handle the numerous behavioral contingencies involved in a networked world. Such fundamental changes in society call for fundamental changes in planning, and, therefore, a total re-definition of the activities, functions and tasks of the Planning Commission and of the process of perspective planning.

*Professor of Technology Strategy
University of Texas at Dallas, USA*

Ghosh highlighted that, the model employed for a particular policy problem must be fit for purpose. A model of general applicability does not exist. The credibility of the model depends upon the extent to which the assumptions built in capture the essential features of the real world, represent correct scientific understanding, and employ reliable parameter estimates. As an assurance of credibility, the onus is on modelers to lay bare the detailed structure of the models, the sources of data, and the results of simulations designed to show how well the model has replicated the world in the past. Even so, policy makers should never accept in totality the quantitative outcomes of the models, and at best accept "order of magnitude" results if these are maintained over sensitivity analyses over key parameter values and modeling assumptions. The best use of policy analysis models is to gain insights into the way different components of the economy interact in response to policy changes or shocks, and in this they beat raw intuition any day.

Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute

Das proposed that, Dr. Prodipto Ghosh has more eloquently explained what I wanted to say in my comments. I fully agree with his views. My basic view was that the Planning Commission needs to be reorganized and reoriented to shift to strategic planning, indicative planning and policy planning and modeling instead of the traditional quantitative and physical planning and target setting for various sectors.

Former Senior Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The data of our analysis are collected through a secondary method from

- Government of India (2013) : Economic Survey,2012-13,OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, New Delhi.
- Government of India (2012) : *India Human Development 2011 Towards Social Inclusion*, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, New Delhi.

In this section we have described the method or way that we have followed for this study. We start with the scenario of National Income and Work force in the post-colonial period (table-1). Then we further proceed towards planning era emphasizing on the objectives and achievements of Five Year Plans. The specific objectives might have undergone changes over the year but the basic objectives have remained the same throughout the planning era viz; overall GDP growth, reduction in poverty etc.

In our analysis, the data that we use for observing the Sectoral Growth was observed in (percentage per annum).In table2, **A** Agriculture includes (Agriculture, Forestry Fishing) and **B** Industry includes (mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply, construction, manufacturing) and **C** Services includes (trade, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communications, financing insurance, real estate and business services, community social and personal service).

In table 3, we estimate the total poverty ratio (rural along with urban) in percentage.

And in table 4, we have shown the sectoral growth rate in employment in percentage.

In the analysis section, we focus on

- **EMPLOYMENT:** It is a relationship between two parties usually based contract where work is paid for, where one is the employer and the other is the employee.
- **POVERTY:** A state of condition in which person or community lacks the financial resources and essential to enjoy a minimum standard of life and well-being.
- **NATIONAL INCOME:**The total net value of all goods and services produced with in a nation over a specified period of time representing the sum of wages, interest, rent, profit and transfer earning.

ANALYSIS

In this section analysis is made by comparing the Indian economy before and after the planning period:

Indian economy before the planning era:

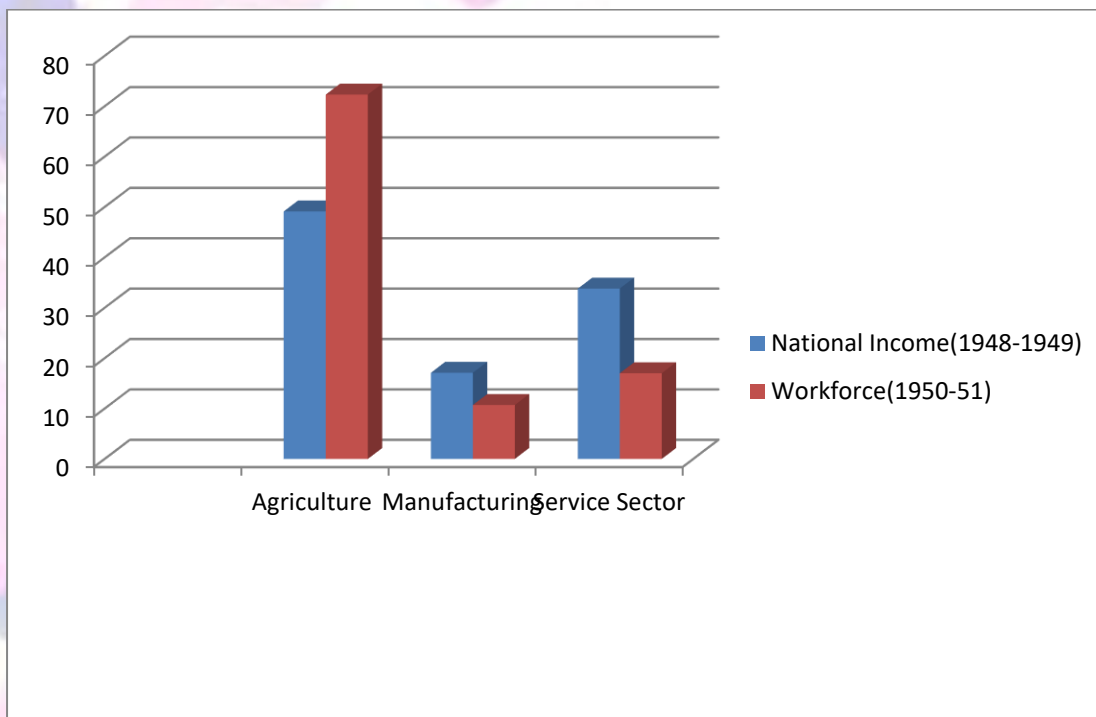
India economy in the time of independence was overwhelmingly rural and agricultural in character. The following table shows the conditions of National Income and employment based on the three sectors (agriculture,industry,services) just before the First Five Year Plan was set up.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL INCOME AND WORK FORCE SECTORWISE

SECTOR	NATIONAL INCOME(1948-49)	WORK FORCE(1950-51)
AGRICULTURE	49.1	72.3
MANUFACTURING	17.1	10.7
SERVICES	33.8	17.0

Source: Bettelhem Charles, India Independent (p.2)

Figure 1



Source: Same as table 1

It is seen that agricultural activities contributed nearly 50% to Indian's National Income and around 72% to the total working force. Industrial sector which comprised of mining and manufacturing contributed nearly 17% to India's NI but less than 11% to the total working force. Around 33.8% of India's NI was generated by the service sector which employed 17% of the country's entire population.

Indian Economic scenario after launching Five Year Plans:

The Five Year Plans were based on socialist based policies from the 1950's until the 1980's, while since 1991 economic liberalization have moved the economy to a market based system.

From 1951 until now, in this long 64 year journey the Five Year Plans as proposed by the government has more or less achieved the following targets:

1st Five Year Plan (1951-55):

- Attempted to stimulate balanced economic development

Achievements:

- Growth of GDP at 3.6% per Year
- Evolution of good irrigation system
- Improvements in roads and railways
- Improvements in manufacturing fertilizers

2nd Five Year Plan (1956-61):

Also termed as Mahalanobis Plan

- Emphasized on rapid industrialization

Achievements:

- Land reform measures
- Improvement of standard of living
- Establishment of large scale industries

3rd Five Year Plan (1961-66):

- Aimed at substantial rise in national income and per capita income by expanding industrial base and rectifying neglect in agriculture

Achievements:

- Decentralization
- Emphasis on Green Revolution
- Irrigation

4th Five Year Plan(1969-74):

- Agriculture growth rate

Achievements:

- The target growth rate was 5.6%, but the actual growth rate was 3.3%, which implies that the plan was not implemented successfully

5th Five Year Plan (1974-79):

- Aimed at removal of poverty and attainment of self reliance

Achievements:

- Food grain production was above 118 million tons due to the improvements of infrastructural facilities

6th Five Year Plan (1980-85):

- Attempted to improve productivity level
- Control poverty and unemployment
- Introduce minimum support price

Achievements:

- Speedy industrial development
- Self-sufficiency in food

7th Five Year Plan (1985-90):

- Emphasized on allocation of resources
- Rapid growth in food grain production

Achievements:

- Social justice
- Modern technology

8th Five Year Plan (1992-97):

- Launched to combat the BOP crisis and an annual average growth of 5.6%

Achievement:

- Rise in employment level

9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002):

- It was developed in the context of four important dimensions : Quality of life , Generation of productive employment, regional balance and self reliance

Achievements:

- Increasing rate of growth of service sector
- Ensured growth of Indian Economy

10th Five Year Plan (2002-07):

- Aimed at achieving the growth rate of GDP at the rate of 8%
- Providing employment opportunities
- Reduction in infant mortality rate and population growth

11th Five Year Plan (2007-12):

- Aimed to eradicate poverty
- Maintain environmental quality
- Improve health and education standard

From the above study it can be concluded that many of the Five year plans were beneficial and the system was well implemented.

From the following tables we analyze the performances of different Five Year Plans on the basis of its impact on the three sectors (Agriculture, Industry, and Services), poverty level and unemployment rate.

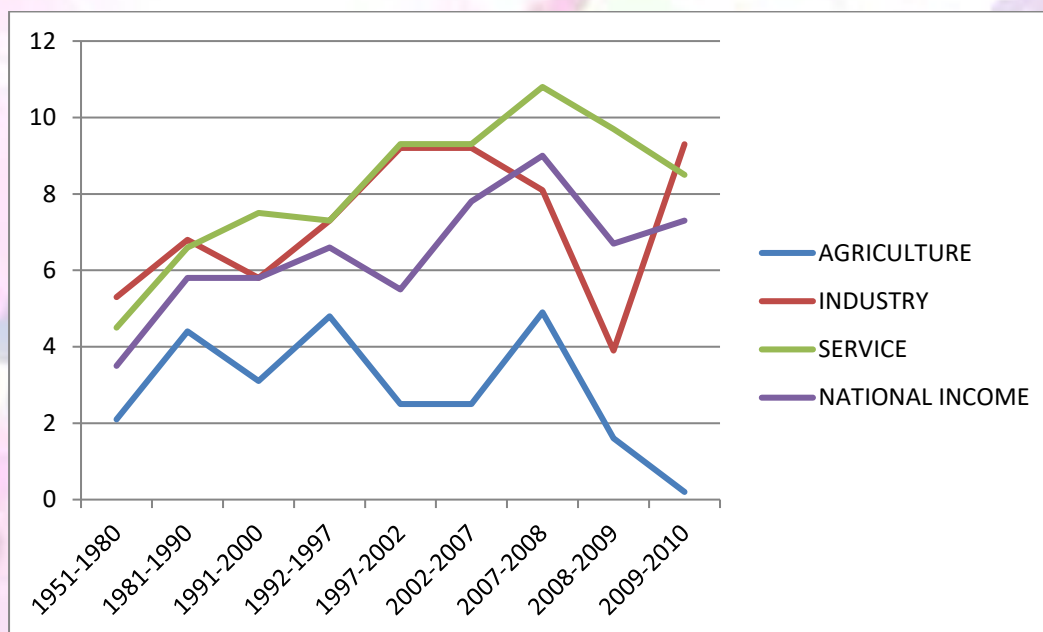
Table 2: Sectoral Growth Rates During The Planning Period (% Per annum)

sector	1951-1980	1981-1990	1991-2000	1992-1997	1997-2002	2002-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
AGRICULTURE	2.1	4.4	3.1	4.8	2.5	2.5	4.9	1.6	0.2
INDUSTRY	5.3	6.8	5.8	7.3	9.2	9.2	8.1	3.9	9.3
SERVICE	4.5	6.6	7.5	7.3	9.3	9.3	10.8	9.7	8.5
NATIONAL INCOME	3.5	5.8	5.8	6.6	5.5	7.8	9.0	6.7	7.3

Note:Agriculture includes i)Agriculture ii) Forestry iii) Logging iv) Fishing. Industry includes i)Mining and Quarrying ii) Manufacturing iii) electricity,Gas , water supply and constuction. Service includes trade,hotels,resturaunts, transport ,storage and communication,financing,insrance,real estate and business service , community, social, and personaln service.

Source : (i)for coloumn 2,3 and 4, Jim Gordon and Poonam Gupta “Understanding India’s Services Relovution, International Monetary Fund Working Paper , 2003, Table 1,(ii)for cloumn 5,6 and 7 Shankar Acharya , “ Macroeconomic Performances And Policies”, in Shankar Acharya and Rakesh Mohan (Ed.) India’s Economy : Performance and Challenges (New Delhi , 2010), Table 4.1 , p.119.(iii) figure in coloumn 8 and 9 have been computed from RBI , Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy 2009-10(Mumbai, 2010), Table 2, p-8 and Table 3 , pp 11-13

Figure 2



Source: Same as Table 2

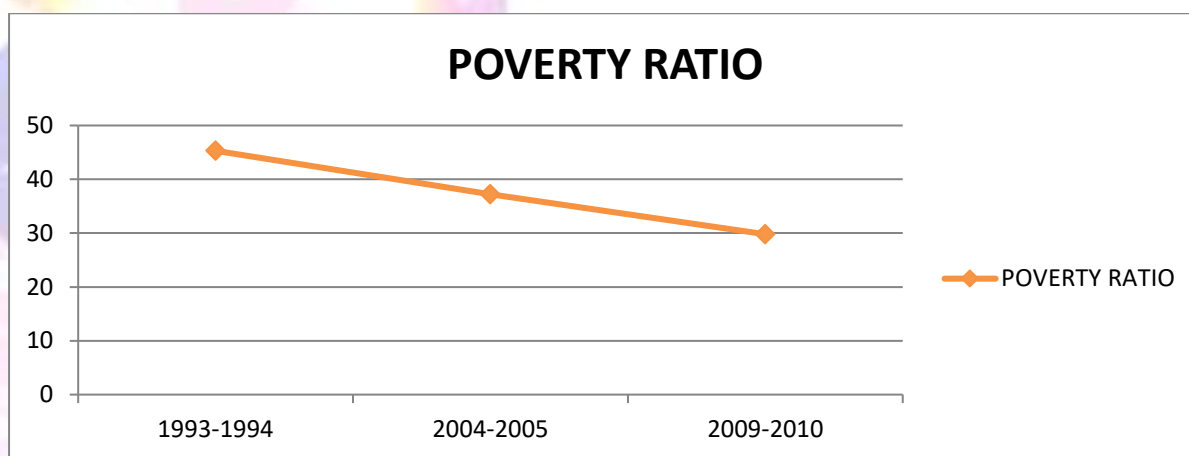
Table 2 and Figure 2 shows that during the year 1951-80 the agricultural sector experiences a growth of less than 3% while it increased to 4.4% during 1981-90. It again fell to 3.1% and this falling trend continues till 2009-10. The growth of industrial sector was nearly 5% during 1951-80 but gained momentum and increased to 9.3% in 2009-10. The growth of the service sector and India’s National Income.

Table 3: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF POOR

YEAR	POVERTY RATIO (%)
1993-94	45.3
2004-05	37.2
2009-10	29.8

Source: Planning Commission. Economic Survey 2012-13

Figure 3



SOURCE: Same as in Table 3

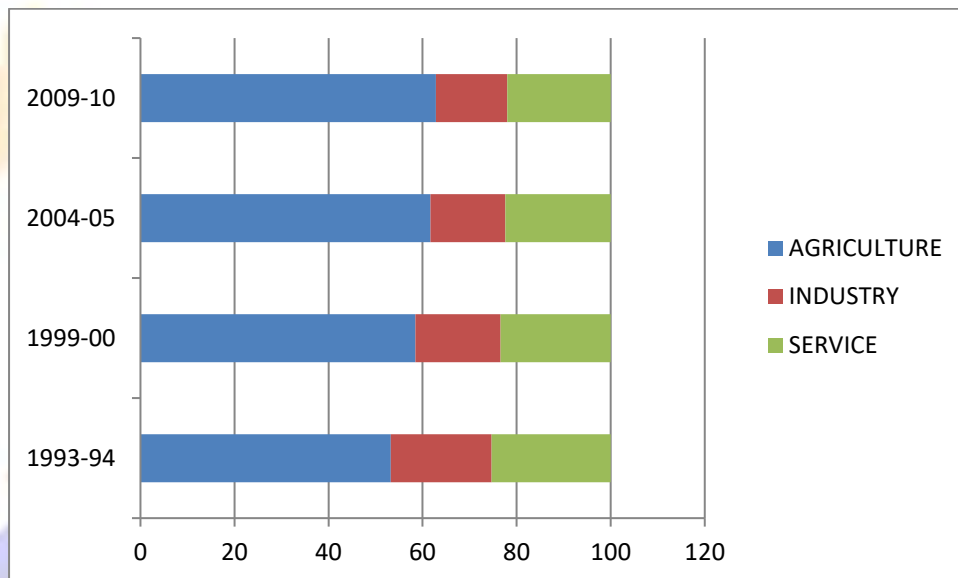
It is seen from table 3 and figure 3 that the poverty ratio has declined gradually from as high as 45.3% during the year 1993-94 to a minimum of 29.8% in 2009-10.

TABLE 4: TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN DIFFERENT SECTORS

SECTOR	1993-94	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10
AGRICULTURE	53.2	58.5	61.7	62.8
MANUFACTURING	21.5	18.1	15.9	15.2
SERVICE	25.3	23.4	22.4	22.0

SOURCE: NSSO Report on Employment and Unemployment in India

Figure 4



SOURCE: Same as in Table 4

Table 4 and figure 4 show that the employment generated by service sector was greater than that of industrial sector but less than that of agricultural sector which employed the maximum share of labour force.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this section we may now summarize the results:

- ✓ Before the planning era majority of the population was engaged in agriculture which contributed the maximum share of GDP.
- ✓ Agriculture became self-reliant after the planning was set up.
- ✓ Throughout the planning period the service sector gradually gained importance which in turn generated high GDP rates and employed a large portion of the nation's labour force.
- ✓ In the initial years of planning the Industrial Sector didn't contribute much to the GDP, but with time it became one of the predominant sector of the nation
- ✓ The poverty level of the country gradually declined being influenced by the growth of the service sector as well as of the Industrial sector.
- ✓ It is also found that the rate of employment also increased during the planning period.

The conclusion of this whole analysis can be briefly described in few words. As we know that market economy has a main motive of profit maximization, but in mixed economic system the importance of welfare was a major part of the thinking behind the economy. Here in mixed economy the state has a crucial role to play in an economy as the welfare only can be attained through the planning mechanism. So in order to maintain social welfare in the economy planning should be implemented throughout no matter who is implementing it (i.e The Planning Commission or Niti-Ayog). Therefore Death Of Planning should not be considered a valid step for the economy because, the planning may have different specific objectives over the years, but the

basic objectives have remained the same over the whole period of planning periods which are fully fulfilled by the planning mechanism. The basic objectives are:

- ❖ Sustaining a higher growth rate of GDP percentage per year
- ❖ Self sufficiency of the Agricultural sector
- ❖ Poverty reduction
- ❖ Unemployment reduction

So if the planning mechanism with the help of a proper implementing authority may cause more beneficial results in future which will further enhance the overall development of the Indian Economy.

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Digital India: Power and Empower?

Poushal Sarkar*

Second Year

“It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself” - Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach after his second symphony had an epiphany regarding how lucid being a musician was, there had to be proper timing. The philosophy of proper timing is not that complex and does not limit itself to music. It is fundamental for human existence and governance to realize that right things at the right time are the means to an efficient state in equilibrium. Digital India is magnificent, profound and forward reaching but the question that lays in front of us is whether it is the proper time for India to go forth with this ideology.

Let us delve a little deep into the concept that is Digital India, it is a model by the Government of India to make certain that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by humanizing online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity. It was launched on July 1, 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It has three components: The creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally, Digital literacy. A firsthand look into these components makes one believe that the implementation of this plan can only be for the greater good of the people of India but once we delve deeper into the gimmicks that our country goes through we lose track of what we have to do, go forth or go back.

Urban India has reaped absolute benefit from Internet services, in a present day pseudo-cosmopolitan like Mumbai or Bangalore everything can be done by the flick of your phone. The question lies here is whether rural India with its religious dogmas, beliefs and other such nuances is ready to be transformed as yet.

As a nation India is a comity of thousands of cultures, dialects, beliefs with more than 17% of the world's below poverty line population calling it home. Are we yet ready to be digitally connected? I think it is more important for us to be fed.

Digital technologies which include cloud computing and mobile applications have emerged as catalysts for rapid economic growth and citizen empowerment across the globe. Digital technologies are being increasingly used by us in everyday life from retail stores to government offices. They help us to connect with each other and also share information on issues and concern faced by us. In some cases they are also enable resolution of these issues in near real time.

Digital India is an ambitious programme of Govt .of India projected at Rs 113000 cores. This will be preparing the India for the knowledge based transformation and delivering good governance to citizens .This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and will impact ministry of Communications& IT, Ministry of Rural development, Human resources development, Health and others. The vision of digital India is to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It would ensure that government services available to citizens electronically and would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.

The programme will be implemented in phases from 2014 to 2018. The sources of funding for most of the e-governance projects at present are through budgetary provisions of respective ministers/departments in the central or state governments.

To implement this government is planning to strengthen National informatics Center (NIC) by restructuring it to support all central Government departments and state Governments . Positions of Chief information officers(CIO) would be created in at least 10 key ministers so that e-governance projects could be designated , developed and implemented faster. Apart from this DeitY would create four senior positions within the department for managing the programme.

The vision of the “Digital India” is to provide infrastructure as a utility to every citizen as High speed internet to every citizen shall be made available in all gram panchayats. Mobile and Bank Account would enable participation in digital and financial space at individual level. Easy access to common service centre within their locality. Again, it also provides Government and services on demand as single window access to all persons by seamlessly integrating departments or jurisdictions availability of government services online and mobile platforms. Another vision is digital empowerment of citizens by universal digital literacy. As all digital resources are universally accessible, all government documents /certificates to be available on the cloud and availability of digital resources in Indian languages.

The pillars of this “Digital India” are : (a) broadband highways , (b) universal access to phones, (c) public internet access programme, (d) E-Governance reforming Government through technology, (e) E-Kranti electronically delivery of services, (f) information for all, (g) Electronically Manufacturing –target net zero impacts, and lastly (h) Easy Harvest Programmes. There are also some impacts of Digital India by 2019 like (a) broad bands in 2.5 lakh villages, (b) net zero imports by 2020,(c) 400000 public internet access points, (d) Wi-Fi in 2.5 lakh schools , all universities, public Wi-Fi hot spot for citizens, (e) Digital inclusion 1.7 cr trained for it, telecom and electronic jobs,(f) Job creation direct 1.7 cr and indirect at least 8.5 cr, (g) Digital empowered citizens public cloud and internet access, (h) It make possible the implementation of digital locker system which is turn reduces paper work by minimizing the use of physical documents as well as enabling e-sharing through registered repositories, (i) It is an effective online platform which may engage people in governance through various approaches like “discuss , do and disseminate .”, (j) Through e-sign framework citizens may digitally sign their documents online, (k) It may make easy the important health care services through e-Hospital system such as online registration, taking doctor appointments , fee payment, online diagnostic tests , blood check-up, (l) Bharat net

Programme (a high speed digital highway) will connect 250000 gram panchayats of country, and lastly it provides benefit to the beneficiary through National Scholarship Portal by allowing submission of application, verification process, sanction and then disbursal.

There is a political dogma regarding this digitalized India. The political structure of this country has always been abrasive, abrupt and politically imbalanced. Right from the time of Independence where in Indian National Congress and Muslim League had their propagandas and now after 68 years after India's independence Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress. Every positive step forward taken leads to three steps backward and thousands of hindrances but we aren't here to cause any obstacles, we are here to judge a situation based on merits and quality. It has been seen throughout history that every implementation seems to be propaganda against a political party.

Our country has been going through a lot of turmoil. Standing in twenty first century where the country rooted to be a super power still can't figure out what meat to eat and which religion to follow. The safest in the country are apparently saffron followers and cows. Have really reached the stage to connect the nation digitally where our beliefs still embody zero progress.

Hence, it is a very wise decision of the government to digitalize our country. Now, everyone has an access to the internet, that is what the concept of digital India is. Yes, internet is a place for enrichment, but there are a lot of young generation using it for foul means. We don't want to elaborate it by blaming a shame on young generation but there lies the truth. And also, it is leading many boys and girls to choose the path of suicide. At the same time many are using it for enriching knowledge. With the usage of internet the usage of social networking is gradually increasing which eventually is eating our times. At first, India should be turned into a normal place where the digitalization is valid. Only by following the other developed countries will lead us nowhere near enrichment and welfare. Moreover, India is a country which has a lot of poor people and also a lot of people below poverty level. They can't even have enough food to live a life and so what's the point of giving them access to internet? Seriously, there is no logic. Power gives a lot to accomplish and a lot to impose on but if it is not of any use what is the point of showing off saying that 'India is digitalized'? It will be better if the government comes forward to give the poor a life with food, clothing and shelter and needed medication to the needy. It will make the nation stronger and then give them the access to internet. After that, call us 'Digital Indians'. Yes, this digitalization may have empowered the government and representing India as one of the most prosperous countries, but, no, that is trivially wrong. India is still just the same with poverty and unavailability of education for the poor. How can the government expect those without basic education having an access to internet? It doesn't make sense at all. Yes, the government is doing everything for our good and also for the empowerment of the country. But they should help Indians to develop sociologically, economically and then should induce the modernization in them. So, it is high time for all of us to come forward and help them for making an Incredible India where everyone has access to food, clothing, education, shelter and also internet and stuffs harming the teenagers. The government should take legal steps against the people who are harassing young boys and girls by taking the advantage of the drawbacks of the system. This is all we have to say to government about using their superior power in a more channelized way.

Digital India: An Ostentation of Empowerment

Nilavo Roy*
Third year

A digital revolution has been sweeping the world and there is already explosion of information at an unprecedented scale, so much so that storage and retrieval of the available data is assuming challenging proportions. Empirics reveal that societies not capable of coping up with digital tools remain digitally illiterate and are being pushed down the ladder in the job market. To bridge the digital divide between the societies and individuals, governments should encourage education planners to reorient the functioning of the schools and institutions of higher learning in favour of a technology-friendly environment. This will not only enable students to become digitally literate and essentially inquisitive, but also help dig gold nuggets out of the data mines to facilitate economic and social benefits. Thus the Congress-led UPA government initiated the National e-governance Programme that sought to digitally connect India. Further building on this, the Modi-led government initiated the five-year (2014–19) Digital India Project with a commitment to transform India into a “connected” economy. That is, the project aims to connect the 2.5 lakh villages across India through broadband highways, public internet access, universal access to mobile connectivity, e-governance, *e-kranti*, information for all, a robust electronic manufacturing regime, early harvest programmes, and IT for jobs—known as the nine pillars of Digital India.

Digital India Programme moves away from the silo-approach to e-governance towards a synchronised approach so that citizens have a “one stop-shop” that will provide end-to-end services. Viewed from this angle, the Digital India programme seeks to be transformative in totality. The Digital India vision is centered on the following three key areas:

- ☐ Digital infrastructure as a utility which seeks to provide every citizen with high speed internet facility, a cradle to grave internet identity, mobile phone and bank account, access to common service centre, sharable private space on a public cloud and safe and secure cyberspace.
- ☐ Governance and services on demand which will be available in real time for online and mobile platforms, seamlessly integrated across departments and jurisdictions. All citizen documents to be made available on the cloud platform; as a result, citizens will not be asked to produce such documents for availing services. In addition, the provision of cashless electronic transactions will help generate business. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be integrated with the development schemes.
- ☐ Empower citizens, especially rural citizens, by making them digitally literate. This will be done through collaborative digital platforms and by making available the digital resources in their native language with a view to making their participation a reality. It will help tap into the data that will be freely available on the cloud computing platform—*independent of an intervention.*

While embarking upon such an ambitious nationwide and all-pervading programme, it is instructive to review the level at which the country stands at present in terms of its efforts towards digitisation. The programme will help delineate sectors which need special attention in order to speed up the process of digitisation on the one hand, and study its efficacy in reaching the intended targets and objectives of transformation of the techno-economic environment and socio-institutional operations on the other hand. While investing in activities

leading to greater digitisation, it needs to be emphasised that returns to computerization are

dependent upon apart from capital investment—organisational capital, encompassing managerial

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culture, availability of critical skills and societal and regulatory environment. There have been attempts to develop a measure of cross country progress along the digitisation development path, simultaneously identifying measurable tangible elements like ubiquity, affordability, reliability, speed, usage and skills, and indicators of perceived digitisation metrics.

Measuring the above-mentioned elements and relevant 23 indicators, 150 countries were classified into the categories namely constrained digital economies, emerging digital economies, transitional digital economies and advanced digital economies.

On the basis of the above-mentioned classifications and digitisation index, India has been included in the group of constrained digital economies signifying that India at this stage (2012–2013) is wanting in all the six elements included in the exercise of indexation of digitisation. To catch up with the other economies, India will have to make quantum jumps as the pace of digitisation and movement between stages has been rapidly accelerating the world over.

Although 'Digital India' seem to be undoubtedly a great employment generator however the state of our basic physical infrastructure like roads, water and electricity are abysmal and improvement on these fronts are directly and more prominently related to the strengthening of economy and generating employment. . Only about 4% of GDP is spent on healthcare and education respectively, while research and development expenditure is less than 1% of GDP. Prominent Indian institutes repeatedly fail to come in the global top 200 list of universities. With such poor investment in critical sectors, only focusing on infrastructural development will hardly yield any result. . For encouraging participatory democracy in digital space, there is an urgent need for digital awareness. However, the efforts and reach of digital literacy missions till date has been very poor. . Though Indian cities like Bangalore are termed as Silicon Valley of the country, they are still very nascent as far as global product reach and innovation is concerned. There is a gap between academia and industry and the overall ecosystem of start ups needs more positive reforms and guidance.

Part of Prime Minister Modi's recently-launched Digital India programme will be crippled if domestic manufacturers do not source electronics locally - one of the stated targets of the programme is to achieve 'net zero imports by 2020'. According to the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association, the Indian Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) market will grow from \$76 billion in 2013 to \$94 billion in 2015. The industry is expected to touch \$400 billion by 2020. However, local production and services is estimated at only \$100 billion. This implies a demand-supply gap of \$300 billion. The target of zero imports, therefore, is an arduous one, and is unlikely to be achieved unless the government figures out a way to coerce manufacturers into buying domestic components.

Announcements of investments by industry leaders made juicy headlines during the launch of Digital India - but that, too, were mere optics. Not all of it is fresh money; most of the investment and employment plans had already been frozen much ahead of the campaign.

Transformations, which involve cultural change, are never easy. The breadth of things the programme wants to cover makes it even more complex. Let us take the case of NOFN. The programme, under the UPA government, was progressing at a snail's pace and the present government may speed it up. But, what next? Without reliable power supply, NOFN will be ineffective. Even if the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats are lit up with broadband, villages today have no clue about what to do with it. There are no applications, no content to consume. And, here comes the second bottleneck. Who is going to invest in creating these applications? The private sector may not be interested in a public private partnership (PPP) - projects in the villages may not be commercially viable. There is another reason why the private sector may not be interested in funding such projects. According to Nasscom, about Rs5000 crore in contract payments to

technology companies are still stuck with the government from previous projects. The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), a company formed to provide the technology backbone for India's most ambitious indirect tax reforms, recently discovered the cynicism when it went scouting for vendors. GSTN had to meet IT industry representatives many times before it could convince some to participate in its requests for proposal.

Other issues in the roll out of Digital India are more structural. The government may not have the institutional capacity to execute a programme of such massive scale. Many issues that could throw a spanner in the works encompasses lack of a stand on net neutrality, no mention of The Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011 (which required public authorities to deliver all public services electronically within a maximum period of eight years), lack of clarity on privacy, cyber security, and limited human resources capacity in the government.

Though one cannot deny that technology is something we cannot neglect in the 21st century, it is also true that the Digital India mission raises several unanswered questions as we seek help and participation from global tech giants like Facebook, Google and Microsoft. The world today is government by data, as back in the US, these companies have faced several lawsuits and criticisms for not handling privacy of the user data as they should have. Opening up the last unconquered digital market of India poses threat of these companies tapping into the personal data of millions of consumers for their own competitive advantages. Hence, it will be prudent to redirect more energy towards improving basic development metrics and address the fundamental challenges like poverty and unemployment in the country rather than “jumping steps” towards a Digital India.



Students' Achievements



Debadyuti Roy Chowdhury

(1st Year)

Nilavo Roy (3rd year)

- Won third and first prizes respectively in interdepartmental debate competition



Kasturi Guha

(2nd Year)

- Graduated And certified in Bharatnatyam from Smt. Thankamani Kutty's Dance School : kalamandalam Performing Art and Research Centre

- Senior Diploma in Rabindra Nritya, Bharatnatyam and Kathak with Distinction from Rabindra Bharati university



Vishakha Chakravorty

(1st year)

- Participated in All India Merit Test Contest, 2016, Visual Arts
- India's Economic Environment, Old Challenges, New Actors. Organised by: Department of Economics, Loreto College.



Debolika Sil

(2nd Year)

got green belt in KYO KYUSHIN KARATE in 2010

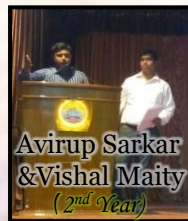
Students' Achievements...



Aishi Roy

(2nd Year)

- first prize in Carom doubles in college sports, 2015
- Second prize in Chess, 2015
- First prize in Chess, 2016



Avirup Sarkar & Vishal Maity
(2nd Year)

Paper presentation on the topic

"INDIA'S WAR AGAINST INFLATION"
Conjecture, 2015
RKM, Narendrapur



AANSHUMAN SHAH



PRATIM DAS

- PARTICIPATED IN A QUIZ COMPETITION IN CONJECTURE HELD AT R.K.M.

- Vishal maity and Aanshuman Shah presented a paper on "Poverty In India" in Ecolore, Loreto College



Rupsha Chatterjee

(2nd Year)

- second prize in Chess, College Sports, 2016

Devdip Roychowdhury

- played Quarter final at CAB inter school league
- has been playing 2nd Division Cricket under CAB for more than 3 years.
- played for South 24 Parganas district for more than 2 years.



DEVDIP ROYCHOWDHURY

Paper presentation on the topic
"DEATH OF PLANNING" Conjecture, 2015
RKM, Narendrapur
Devdip, Imon and Sayan (Third Prize)



IMON BHATTACHARYA



SAYAN SHAW

Students' Achievements...



Shuvam Das
(1st Year)

- Won second prize in Poster Making Competition at Jadavpur University, 2015 (with Vishakha Chakraborty, 1st year)



Zinia Nath
(1st Year)

- Secured second rank in state level inter college Devotional Music Competition at R.K.M. Vidyamandir, Belur Math



Megha Bose
(1st Year)

- Qualified in All India Merit Test contest ,2016 in Painting



Nilavo Roy
(3rd Year)

- Secured third position in Essay Writing, Ecolore 2015 at Loreto College
- 1st prize in Debate Competition organised by BAES on 29th June, 2016



Deblina Ray
(1st Year)

- first prize in Vocal Hindustani Classical Music held at the Paschim Banga Rajya Sangeet Academy in the year 2015.
- The winner in the Classical Voice Of Kolkata competition also held in the year 2015.
- A Scholarship holder at the Centre For Cultural Resources (CCRT).



Poushal Sarkar
(2nd Year)

- Second position in Essay Writing, Ecolore 2015 at Loreto College



Rupkana Basu
(2nd Year)

- Second position in All India Music & Dance Competition conducted by Murari Smriti Sammilani
- Nrityabisharad (Graduate) from Pracheen kala kendra, Chandigarh

Students' Achievements...

DRAMA COMPETITION- 2015

The list of students who performed in the drama "জগতে আনন্দযজ্ঞে", on 16/10/2015 at the college auditorium, which won the third prize in "best drama" category in interdepartmental drama competition.

Acting:

Rupkana Basu
Priyanka Seal
Rupsha Chatterjee
Sudipto Mondal
Saptarshi Das
Arkaprovo Roy
Avirup Sarkar
Indrajit Banerjee
Debaduti Roy Chowdhury
Biswajit Roy
Dwaipayan Sengupta
Subham Das
Saikat Paul

Dance:

Kasturi Guha
Arpita Dhar
Tomosha Patra
Shalini Chakraborty
Manzka Mahato

Music (vocal) :

Zinia Nath
Bubun Maity
Sutapa Dey
Aishi Roy

Technical Assistance :

Srishti Bhattacharya
Shayani Ghosh

Script, Direction and Music Direction :

Aishi Roy

