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The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM)

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Committee of the ICPSD - 2015

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MESSAGE FROM HON. MINISTER S.B.DISANAYAKE – MINISTER OF SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE

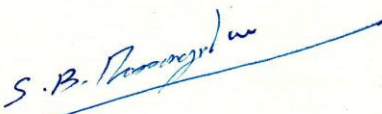
It is a great pleasure to deliver a message for this invaluable international event. A conference demonstrates the sharing of knowledge. A conference will provide improvisations to implement innovations with the intermediation of intellectuals' ideologies.

In that the 2nd Annual International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development (ICPSD 2015) will be a great arena to open new ventures to flow fresh ideas, opinions and thoughts to develop our own motherland and the whole world at large. It is our duty to encourage these kinds of events to get the utmost contribution of the academicians, researchers, professionals and university students for the development of the community.

The 2nd Annual International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development (ICPSD 2015) carries a timely important theme "Economic growth, environmental mitigation and poverty in the post 2015 agenda". It is no doubt that these three concepts - Economy, Environment and Poverty are interrelated. From this kind of conference with the assistance of intellectuals we can find the extent of interrelationships and as policy makers we can generate fruitful insights to be focused in order to implement to develop the life styles of the general community.

It is nice to see that The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) has taken initiations to have a knowledge gathering and sharing momentum like this. And this conference will provide great improvisations to be looked at to minimize the poverty related issues and to ensure the sustainable development perspective in Sri Lanka as well.

I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the organizers – TIKM, for their effort to enhance the true value of education & knowledge fields in Sri Lanka as well as in the world. As the related representative governing body of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for this particular field, the Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare will give their fullest support with heartiest wishes to conduct such conferences in the future too.


S.B. Disanayake
Minister
Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare
Sri Lanka



**MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR SARATH KOTAGAMA - CONFERENCE CHAIR
ICPSD 2015**

As we reach the end of the MDG implementation, the world as a whole has seen a sad end. Despite few success stories the majority of the developing countries have failed to achieve the goals. The analysis indicate two major factors. The first is the "governance" system that prevailed. The governance system if not socially inclined saw that the MDGs were not reached. Compounding this was clearly the absence of the financial assistance needed for the incremental cost in implementing actions. Once again the global economic order has failed to respond adequately to ensure equity in development.

The research and information sharing has to go on as it is the ONLY way to ensure that knowledge is built up and thus inducing change. This year we see a growth in the papers submitted, with a good distribution among the subject matter. As we move into the Sustainable Development Goals, this collective effort will need to be enhanced. The travel trade despite the conditions in the global economy and conflicts will continue. It will have both positive and negative impact that will have to be researched properly to find solutions and to take advantage of.

While commending on all the authors, I wish to congratulate TIIKM for its "sustainable" efforts to make this event a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarath Kotagama'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Prof. Sarath Kotagama
Professor of Environmental Science,
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Table of Contents	Page No
01. Human Trafficking and Poverty: A Critical Connection <i>Ms. Heta Dipak Pandya</i>	1
02. Untouchability and Poverty: A Meager Opportunity for Upliftment <i>Mr. Jay Himanshu kumar Raval</i>	7
03. Role of Corporate Social Responsibility Towards Poverty <i>Mr. Darshak M. Shah</i>	16
04. India and its Neighborhood: India's Role in Restoring Peace and Security in South Asia <i>Mr. Zuben Tirmizi</i>	20
05. Building Professional Capacity among Youth to Support Effective Learning and Living <i>Prof. Anil Kumar</i>	28
06. The Contributions of Non-Timber Forest Products (Ntfps) to Rural Community Empowerment in Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Taraba State, Nigeria <i>Devang Patel</i> <i>D.C.A. Amadi</i>	32
07. Unacceptable Discrimination against Widows in the Life Insurance Sector <i>P Yakulan</i>	38
08. Ganga Rejuvenation Mission- Success or Failure? <i>Ms. Heer Jagdip Nanavati</i>	43

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND POVERTY: A CRITICAL CONNECTION

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Abstract

Human trafficking, as it is defined by international law, subsumes all forms of non-consensual exploitation. That is, whenever people are forced or lured into exploitation – no matter if movement of victims is involved – it is considered human trafficking. Human trafficking is the second most profitable underground industry after drugs in the world. Around the globe, its yearly earnings are \$35 billion to \$37 billion and it's estimated that at least 1 million people are trafficked each year. Poverty is one of basic factors that make individuals vulnerable to trafficking. While trafficking victims come from a range of backgrounds, including from economically privileged families, trafficking is linked inextricably with people with a lack of resources, notably job opportunities. Criminals take advantage of these vulnerable people, offering them a way to escape the harsh realities of their lives. People become desperate enough to enter into fraudulent employment schemes or be deceived into prostitution. Traffickers target people who have few economic opportunities and those struggling to meet basic needs. Ending trafficking requires addressing the demand of sex and cheap labour, which contributes to the enormous profit for the trafficker. It entails ending the poverty that makes human beings vulnerable to trafficking. In this paper, I will present a detailed study of how poverty is one of the main reasons of human trafficking and further discuss the preventive measures which have been implemented by state governments in providing eventual facilities in curbing the trafficking.

Keywords: Human trafficking, poverty, cheap labour.

INTRODUCTION

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by the threat or use of kidnapping, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or by the giving or receiving of unlawful payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, and for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Human trafficking is the fastest increasing criminal industry in today's world, coming in second after illegal drug-trade. (International Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children)

Globally, there are around 20 to 30 million slaves today; that equates to about three in every 1,000 people. Human trafficking, or modern slavery, generates about \$32 billion a year, making it the third-largest criminal activity in the world after drug

and arms trafficking. Human trafficking is generally split into two categories: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Human trafficking can be caused by a wide array of factors depending on the region, type of trafficking and cultural and social factors. However, there are some trends that are found with trafficking in general and across a wide range of regions. These include violence like civil unrest, internal conflict and war, lack of human rights, poverty, oppression and a general lack of opportunity.

Some of the most vulnerable people to trafficking are those who are migrating or displaced. This can be caused by a "push," like conflict or natural disaster, or a "pull," like the change for better economic and social opportunities.

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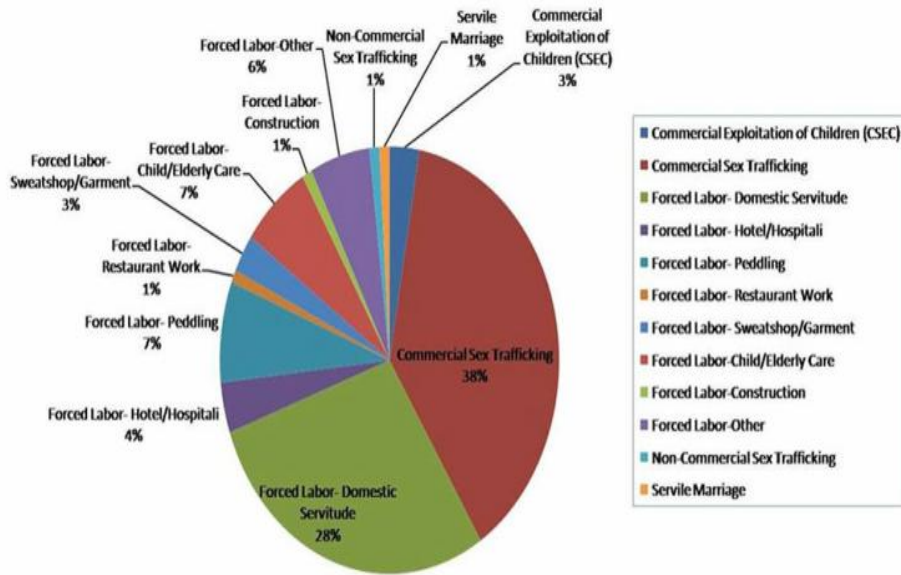


Figure. 1 : Classification of Human Trafficking

Poverty is a major cause of vulnerability to human trafficking. Because people who are impoverished are more motivated to seek better conditions, they tend to be exposed to conditions that make human trafficking easier. Vulnerable people seeking better conditions for themselves and their families may be trafficked through job offers, training and false economic opportunities.

Human Trafficking and its relationship with Poverty

Poverty is a condition of incapacitation of human being to experience a moderate livelihood, his inability have access to basic essentials of life and the uncertainty of what tomorrow has for him. The World Development Indicators (2004) explained that poverty is the deprivation of common necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water and may also include the deprivation of opportunities to learn, to obtain a better employment to stay out of poverty. The Bank Report (2005) explained that poverty is the inability of the individual to attain minimum standard of living.

The correlations between human trafficking and other social justice issues, such as poverty, are complex. Poverty is a major driver of the human trafficking industry. Those trapped in poverty are keen to obtain a better life for themselves and their families, and these vulnerable people are preyed on by unscrupulous people offering jobs, training, opportunities, remuneration and better life prospects.

There are a number of main ways that people initially become trafficked: (1) Many women and children are kidnapped into slavery. (2) Some children are sold to traders by their parents. (3) Some children are willingly sent with a trader by their parents, who have been promised that their children will receive a good education, an apprenticeship or a good job and good prospects or even just adequate food. (4) Some women are married, only to find that their marriage is a sham, and that their new husband has sold them into the sex industry. (5) Some respond to job advertisements offering good pay for manual labour, only to find that they are imprisoned on arrival, subjected to vastly different employment contracts to what they had been led to believe, with no escape, and may be made to work for many years labouring for no pay at all. (6) Many women apply to sham foreign job agencies or to study overseas, and go

abroad willingly thinking they will receive education or have employment as a waitress or a nanny etc. only to find when they reach their destination that the reality is very different, and that they are imprisoned, raped and forced into the prostitution industry.

In the current economic scenario families either have no assets or their incomes are inadequate. In the countryside, agriculture is less profitable than it formerly was and land has become increasingly scarce. Women and children are therefore compelled to contribute more towards the family's subsistence than in the past. Households become increasingly vulnerable as margin shrink. There is a chronic shortage of paid work, particularly for unskilled labour. Youth unemployment is high in many places.

The shortage of adequate, free schooling is particularly detrimental to young girls. Many children have still not received a basic education and are dependent on others who can read and write. Where education is available at all it is usually at a cost. It is often ill-adapted to the child's real circumstances and seldom leads to paid work.

These all condition increase the poverty which in turn increases the chance of people either trafficked or are compelled to get in trap of the traffickers in search of a better employment or living condition.

Trafficking in Person: an Indian Perspective

States with highest level of poverty are where large number of victims of trafficking originate (i.e. Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal) (Fig 1). On the other hand the richer states have both a lower percentage of people below the poverty line in addition to relatively high literacy rates among both men and women due to positive economic development resulting from globalization. They are generally the destination for the traffickers to employ the persons who have been bought/trafficked from the poorer states.

On the other end of the continuum, there has also been in increase in the demand for casual labour, which requires both flexibility and mobility. Poor individual that engage in migrant labour are particularly susceptible to the manipulation of the traffickers. Livelihood loss is positively co-related with increase in trafficking. India has experienced

this particularly in Fishing, weaving etc. Evidence from south India shows that where these factors are present and there are high probability of natural disaster, trafficking tends to be more common. This further compounded by low cost competition in south Asia, increasing the demand for cheap labour and encouraging employers to exploit unskilled labours by trafficking.

It is often argued that Feminization of poverty is driving the increasing trend of trafficking in women. Investment in female workers is lower compared to their male counter parts and women receive less of what society produce. This extends to education, health care and productive assets that could improve their wellbeing.

State-wise & Category-wise Cases Of Human Trafficking In 2012

State/UT	2012					
	Buying of Girls for Prostitution	Selling of Girls for Prostitution	Procurement of Minor Girls	Importation of girls	Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act	Total
West Bengal	3	56	369	12	109	549
Tamil Nadu	0	0	28	0	500	528
Andhra Pradesh	0	4	30	0	472	506
Karnataka	5	0	45	32	335	412
Maharashtra	0	2	31	0	366	403
Kerala	0	0	10	0	210	220
Total (All India)	15	108	809	59	2,563	3,554

Source: NCRB

Figure 2. State-wise Cases of Human

State	2014		
	Buying of Girls	Selling of girls	Forced Labour
Gujarat	2	15	175

Figure 3. Statistics of Gujarat State

Why Human Trafficking Increasing in India?

Fundamental theory of demand and supply is applicable to this situation as well. Men for work generally migrate to major commercial cities and from here the demand for commercial sex is created. To fulfil the supply all sorts of efforts are made by the suppliers like abduction etc. Young girls and women belonging to poor families are at higher risk. Then comes the economic injustice and poverty. If you are born to a poor family in North-eastern state of India then you are at a higher risk of being sold. If you are born to a poor family and a girl then these chances further increases. Sometimes parents are also desperate to sell their daughters to earn money.

Social inequality, regional gender preference, imbalance and corruption are the other leading causes of human trafficking in India. Parents in tribal areas think that sending their kids means a better life in terms of education and safety. Parents also pay about Rs 6000-7000 to these agents for food and shelter.

Forced marriage

Girls and women are not only trafficked for prostitution but also bought and sold like commodity in many regions of India where female ratio is less as compared to male due to female infanticide. These are then forced to marry.

Bonded labour

Though debt labour is not known much but it is illegal in India and prevalent in our society. According to the International Labour Organization there are more than 11.7 million people working as a forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region. People running out of cash generally sell their kids as debt labour in exchange for cash. Both boys and girls are sold for this purpose and generally not paid for years.

Victims of human trafficking have great chances of suffering from issues like mental disorders, depression and anxiety. Women forced into sexual trafficking have at higher risk of getting affected from HIV and other STDs.

Action against guilty

Under the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is penalized. The punishment ranges from seven

years' to life imprisonment. The Bonded Labor Abolition Act, the Child Labor Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act prohibit the bonded and forced labor in India. Because of the brutal gang rape of December 2012, government has passed a bill in which it was related to sexual violence and making sex trafficking have been amended. But still there is a huge gap between enactment and enforcement of these laws. Because of widespread corruption and bribe, it is easy for agents for bring these young boys and girls for their profit. But there should be strict disciplinary action against everybody involved in such a crime then only this problem can be addressed. Also better education and other facilities should be provided at native places so that parents do not opt these ways for their kids. Above all attitude towards women and young girls must change.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Increasing employment opportunities for young people and improving working conditions

Overshadowing the whole situation is the fact that young people, particularly young women, have no employment and therefore no income. Today, more and younger women need incomes of their own to support themselves and their families. As income-generating opportunities are often limited locally, they move to other areas in search of employment.

Ensuring Free Movement

While capital can move unhindered and rapidly from place to place in today's globalized world, labor migration, especially from poorer countries is more restricted. The freedom of people to migrate for work, within and across national frontiers, has a direct bearing on smuggling of human beings and human trafficking.

Education for children at special risk

It is essential to continue to focus on education, particularly for girls. In addition to primary schooling, comprehensive education leading to employment and regular income is urgently needed. Education must also be made accessible and relevant to the needs and experiences of poor and socially marginalised children and young people at risk of becoming victims of trafficking. Projects must focus more closely on the knowledge children require in order to deal with the reality they live in.

Promoting gender equality

Gender equality is a key issue and measures to reduce male oppression of females are fundamental. Unequal power relations and sexual stereotypes must be counteracted. Respect for and protection of women's rights must be strengthened by – among other means – amending discriminatory legislation and working to change traditional discriminatory norms and attitudes.

Discouraging the demand for sexual services

We should seek ways of reducing the demand for sexual services through awareness raising measures or by discouraging potential perpetrators and buyers of sexual services.

Informing people at risk

Measures to inform and make potential victims, their families and their local community aware of the risks and consequences of human trafficking can be a more immediate way to prevent trafficking in human beings. Schools are important fora for this type of awareness raising and information. It is also important to provide opportunities for organisations to monitor social trends and follow up students who have stopped attending school.

CURATIVE MEASURES

Facilitating reporting of violations

Efforts should be made to facilitate the reporting of crimes against women and children. Victims of human trafficking and similar violations need secure and accessible procedures for reporting offenders and alerting the authorities to their situation, either through the police or via special telephone helplines. NGOs are particularly experienced in setting up reporting or advisory hotlines or women's shelters for victims and possible witnesses.

Immediate assistance and support for victims

Victims of human trafficking must receive immediate assistance and support from the authorities when a case of human trafficking has been reported. They must be protected from the perpetrators and receive such legal, economic, medical and psycho-social assistance as they may need. Special requirements apply in cases involving children. The victim must

not be prosecuted under existing migration or prostitution laws.

Reforming the police and judiciary

There is a need for support to reform and train police services and the judicial system. Knowledge of the victims' legal rights is often inadequate and the treatment of women and children unsatisfactory. Victims of trafficking are frequently in real danger of further sexual assaults or abusive treatment, sometimes from the authorities whose duty it is to protect them.

Development of social services

Psychosocial treatment and counselling is not always available in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. Further improvement of specialised rehabilitation and counselling services for women and children is predicated on the general development of social policy and the expansion of organised social services.

Repatriation and rehabilitation

The return of victims of trafficking to their countries of origin and their rehabilitation call for a range of curative measures; in the destination country as well as in the country of origin. Returnees are often left, without money, at their country's borders, where they may face exactly the same problems that left them vulnerable to traffickers in the first place. The return of a victim can raise legal and administrative issues as around citizenship and the need for residence and work permits. Before the repatriation process is set in motion, efforts must be made to determine whether the victim can be assisted in finding work, accommodation and a meaningful social context. It is also important to ensure that she or he will be guaranteed protection and be free to lead a regular life. The journey to the country of origin must also be secure. The development of cooperation agreements and practical procedures between adjoining countries will be of assistance.

CONCLUSION

Human Trafficking is third-largest criminal activity in the world after drug and arms trafficking. Human trafficking can be caused by a wide array of factors depending on various factors. Poverty is the main

reason contributing to Human Trafficking. Poor economic structure and lack of employment opportunities are some of the main reasons which is making it difficult to control or keep a check on Human Trafficking. In India, Poorer states are generally the source and richer states are the destination for Human Traffickers. Various Preventive and Curative measures were mentioned in the paper which if not use to eradicate Human Trafficking, but will surely help in keeping a check on it.

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UNTOUCHABILITY AND POVERTY: A MEAGER OPPORTUNITY FOR UPLIFTMENT

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Abstract

William Henry Harrison, President of U.S.A., "It is true democratic feeling, that all the measures of the government are directed to the purpose of making the rich richer and the poor poorer". In any country poverty is the phenomena and the consequence of the previous government, is an allegation by present government, whatever allegations, the measures taken by any government in eradicating the poverty are at the larger end in Uplifting poor or bringing down differences between haves and have-nots. Poverty elevation Programs are at the poor stage of formulation, implementation and Evaluation. Politicians are large in making out an opportunity in consuming and diverting the funds out of poverty elevation Schemes, civil servants are least bothered about the program implementation, businessmen are eager to make out business out of it, they want the existence of poor for cheap labor, Middle men even exploit the poor in every area. In the name of religion and cast conservative, elites distance poor as untouchables. Out of 260 million untouchable people in South Asia, 200 million are in India; we would find poor from the degraded communities like Sudhras (untouchables) in India, Baruku in Japan, Rodias in Sri Lanka, Massalis in Pakistan, etc. Do these people get an opportunity to come out? My thinking and paper discussion would be on moral and ethical education, generation shift, Transparent Bureaucracy; Dismantling of Cast system can bring a change from one angle.

Keywords: Untouchability, democratic, poverty, haves and have not's, sudhras.

INTRODUCTION

Archeologist and historians identified, Indian subcontinent as one of the oldest civilization evolved in world. Civilizations are much talked about the evolution and settlement of human beings at defined boundaries and the customs they had learned and understood in period of time. As part of learning of life they came across good and bad. Good is, India is a vast country with rich mineral resources, it has been constructed by many rulers and many wars had been fought on this soil, India is such a place where it has welcome the foreign rulers and accepted their suzerainty, belong to any religion. India having a huge demographic structure had various languages and practices. This has been united by many rulers many times and divided by others many times. Whenever there was integration in the country they used to learn practices and the language for communication, whenever there was foreign invasion new practices and languages came up, further

bifurcation took in the country. At the time of wars the situation was bit confusing that if the ordinary public were captured they were treated as slaves even though they belong to any profession. My explanation here is the process of Integration; disintegration has brought much indifference in the people's lifestyle and behavior. This had taught them new behavior, with in the human beings. Some people started accepting the new practices and others restricting to the old passion. This has made distinction in the work style and practices. In return this has restricted certain section or lifestyle people to one workfare and others to other kind of work. This has been continued for long time and they fixed to that jobs as profession. The profession taken up as hereditary has pushed them into large scale bifurcation saying as working class, slave class, soldier class, education class, ruler class, etc. this class bifurcation had fixed them to certain practices, clothing and food practices. In mean time India has been invaded by kings and empires from central Asia, middle East, Far East and

so on they brought many customs and religions into India, unfortunately in our country also many religions took birth but they could not survive in this country, this mixture had covered with a blanket of religions practicing various practices. Islam and Christianity were borrowed from foreign rulers and remaining evolved from Indian subcontinent. Religions had again subdivided classes individually. This had increased sections. Ultimately some people practicing certain habits had followed certain activity in life it became their profession. For example, Sikh community basically grows up as protecting and fighting community so they choose the profession of soldiers still today. This bifurcation had attached the professions to the people, labor class took up the profession of slipper making, scavenger, rag picking, laborious work like pulling and lifting of royal carts. Etc. earning capacities were decided on these parameters, apart from this proximity with elite people like ruling and think-tank has further widened the gap between the professions, which are of high class jobs and which are of low class jobs. This divide has further continued and exploited in the British period. A clear administrative setup was made in bifurcating people and they adopted the policy cast division for records and employment segregation. This had worked out for them in further strengthening this stand in India. They encouraged the Zamindari and subedari system. Ultimate powers were given to small section of people (Elites) and British's controlled vast section of people with their help. This had eased their job in controlling and administering India. They had introduced communal electorate system and tried to introduce community electorate system. This divide India policy was understood by grate leaders like Gandhiji and went on indefinite strike and stopped in further bifurcating India. at the early stage of independence we were facing many problems like many independent state, bifurcation of Pakistan, poverty, hunger, population, superstitious believes, no infrastructure, many religions, casts, creed, rich and poor divide, extremists, various languages, imprints of British rule, etc. this had totally given a different look of India. This had basically raised the question how long India will continue as union of states. It is a mysterious question till today. Because India is surrounded internally and externally by various threats which are aggressive and poisonous in nature

Poverty is significant in India and if we speak about the causes of the poverty as we speak many reasons can be highlighted as the consequences for this situation, we will discuss them below

British rule: first major cause is because the policy adopted by the imperialist towards India, the tried to drain the wealth, they utilized the land as the market place to sell the finished goods and to exploit the mineral resource of this country, This had not brought any prints of industrialization into India. This were some of the reasons I am highlighting the impact made by British'sin making the country more badly and poverty ridden. This had been exploited by the commercial class of Indians. They tried to keep the basic needs out of the reach to large section of India so that their exploitation continues after independence. This is the people who had officially segregated the cast in India and they bifurcated the society for the purpose to provide the employment opportunities only to the elite section. They placed all the other sections of the people under tribes expect kings, Brahmins, landlords and other elite section. They bifurcated the Indians by adopting the policies of communal divide and community divide.

Over Population: population explosion has boosted our poverty level still further. Basically at that time Indian mind set was, due to prevailing health conditions, frequent drought occurrence, male births, etc., our people started producing in maximum number of children so that some may survive and become an helping hand in their poverty clutches.

Illiteracy: Lack of education had further increased the larger section of public toward poverty, because they were very superstitious bound and not ready to accept the change in the society and this had kept them out of alternative employment if the crop fails.

Gender Inequality: India, at the time of evolving of the janapadas and mahajanapadas, woman played a significant role in participating in administration. But slowly their prints were disappeared and restricted to house hold and later they were seen as burden in the society. This ideology has wasted the energy of half the Indians and it invariably led as the burden on the family and later on the country.

Caste and Untouchability

The caste system in India is a system of social stratification; it consists of two different concepts, *varna and jati*. *Varna* may be translated as "class," and refers to the four social classes which existed in the vedic society and *Jati* is related to the birth is usually referred to occupation, and it is hereditary. The caste system has been mainly criticized for its treatment of outcastes or untouchables. This group has been termed the *panchama* (the fifth *Varna*), collectively designating all who fall outside the regular four classes. The notion of untouchability may have been present in the original *Varna* system, though it is not clear precisely how it operated. Puranic texts mention untouchables, stating that they should be well-supported, but intimate connection with them avoided. They also state that those who fell from their status within the higher "twice-born" *varnas* were called *dvija-bandhu* (friends of the twice-born) and were accommodated within the *shudra* class. In actual practice, some who abandoned key rituals or moral standards were altogether ostracized. Additionally, jobs deemed to be particularly contaminating were held only by outcastes. These include sweepers, leather workers, and crematorium attendants. They were not allowed to live within the confines of regular village life, nor to share public facilities such as wells and temples.

Who are the Untouchables

Untouchables have for many centuries occupied a deeply ambiguous place within Indian society. From the standpoint of the Great Tradition represented by the "Vedas", Untouchables have no place at all. What much later became known as Hindu Society was divided by the *vedas* into four categories associated with particular social occupations: Brahmin (Priest and Teacher), Kshatriya (ruler and warrior), Vaishya (Trader), Sudra (Servant). These *Varnas* are often, but quite misleadingly called 'Caste'. In everyday life, particularly in the villages, the operative conception of caste is *Jati* rather than *Varna*. These are thousands of *jatias* in India, the largest containing many millions of persons and the smallest perhaps only hundreds. *Jatias* are endogamous units with individual traditions and rules as to personal conduct. The existence of *jatias* is often reconciled with the great Tradition by asserting that

they are simply an elaboration of the four *varnas*. But just one of the problems of this approach is that Untouchables are Organized in *jatias* just as other Hindus are. Chamar, Bhangi, Dhobi, Pulaya, Paswan, Madagi are some of the many hundreds of Untouchables *jatias* scattered through every region of India. Untouchables are permanently polluted people. Their status is said to arise from the work they perform, such as skinning animal carcasses, tanning leather and making shoes; Playing in musical bands; butchery of animals; fishing; removal of human waste ; attendance at cremation grounds; washing clothes, coconut harvesting and the brewing of toddy , to name some of the principle grounds of permanent pollution. The Untouchables are a regular part of Indian society, which has always been an aggregation of multiple compartments or statuses varying over both region or culture group and time. People from the castes called 'Untouchable' are disguised by being generally poor and of very low status ,but not so low that they should be identified as a collective grouping opposed to the remainder of higher status society.

Still in India "manual scavenging" — the collecting of excrement from latrines by hand continues. The job is done by those considered to be of the lowest birth. These Dalits, or untouchables, often face threats of violence, eviction and withheld wages if they attempt to leave the trade. People work as manual scavengers because their caste is expected to fulfill this role, and are typically unable to get any other work.

Disabilities of Untouchability

1. Social Disabilities:

From the social point of view, the untouchables suffered following disabilities.

- Lower Social Status:

Since social status was fixed for different castes, therefore, the untouchability was placed at the lowest place in the caste hierarchy and enjoys lowest status in the society. Their social status was just like a golden zero. Moreover, they were considered as the symbol of pollution by the higher caste people. Consequently, the untouchables are deprived of all kind of commercial contacts.

- Educational disabilities:

Traditionally, the untouchables were forbidden from receiving any education. They were not entitled to acquire the knowledge of Vedas. Even if they were not permitted to touch the religious books. The untouchables were not allowed to get education from the public institution. Only recently they have given educational facilities.

- Disabilities relating to Social habits:

Till recently, the untouchables are faced many problems in various social habits like food, drink and social intercourse. They are not permitted to take food or drink from the house of high caste people. They are eating only 'Kachha' foods which are prepared by the ordinary things. In the social intercourse, they are also faced the same problem.

- Prohibition in the use of public places:

In fact, the untouchables were not allowed to use village wells, ponds, public hospitals, roads and so on. They were not permitted to live in those places where the higher caste people reside. The untouchables were forced to live in the worst type of village slums. Moreover, they were leading a life just like the domestic animals.

2. Economic disabilities:

Economically, to the position of untouchable's castes was very pitiable. They were deprived from all kinds of economic privileges in the society following are the main economic disabilities of untouchables.

- No right to property:

Traditionally, the untouchables were not allowed to have any land or property of their own. They were prevented from entering in various types of enterprises. They were not permitted to acquire wealth or to buy land in village. Even if, the untouchables have no right to sell their landed property to anyone. Moreover, they were deprived from all sorts of right to property.

- No right to choose occupation:

In the past, the untouchables were not allowed to engage themselves in occupations which were reserved for the members of higher castes. They were compelled to strike to their traditional occupations. They were largely engaged in agricultural and other

associated works as wage-earners. The untouchables were traditionally associated with such lower occupations like scavenging, leather works, basket making and so on.

Though generation to generation, they lived with half-belly with no hope of getting some tasty foods. Even now their position is not very much different from what it had been. Most of them are still far below the poverty line.

- Landless laborer:

The untouchables were traditionally known as landless laborers because they have no land in the village. They were leading a landless laborer life. Before the abolition of zamindari system, their primary duty was to work for a landlord without any remuneration. Thus their position was just like a slave and in certain circumstances worst than a slave. In this context, Gandhiji has said that, "the untouchables performed the most essential service of society yet at the same time they were the lowest paid ones. Only such amount of wages is given to them that are necessary to unite, their cursed soul and their physical frames.

3. Religious disabilities:

Though, the untouchables are known as the Hindus by religion, yet they were not permitted to enter into the Hindu temple and pilgrimages nor were they allowed to use public bathing Ghats. The untouchables were not allowed to study religious books. They were also deprived from the Jajman of Brahmin priests. For example, a Brahmin never accepts to perform the religious ceremony of an untouchable. Only recently, efforts have been made by the Government for removing these religious disabilities by legislators.

4. Political disabilities:

In the past, the untouchables were also deprived from all kinds of political privileges. They were not allowed to participate in political administration and general election of the traditional India. They were also not permitted to hold any public post. Only during the British rule, they for the first time got the right to vote.

But, now-a-days, they have enjoy maximum political rights on the ground that some seats in Parliament and State Assemblies are reserved constitutionally for them, but it is doubtful, whether they can properly utilize this political rights without their economic development. It means without their economic improvement, they cannot utilize the political rights which they have got.

Measures Taken by Government

The 1950 national constitution of India legally abolished the practice of untouchability and provided measures for positive discrimination in both educational institutions and public services for Dalits and other social groups who lie within the caste system. These are supplemented by official bodies such as the National commission for SC and ST.

1. Constitutional Safeguards:

The Constitution of India provides protection and safeguards for the untouchables by way of general rights of citizenship with the object of promoting their socio-economic interests and of removing certain disabilities from which they suffer. The following Constitutional safeguards are provided to the untouchables.

- **Article 15:** The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, caste, race, sex, and place of birth or any of them.
- **Article 16:** There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
- **Article 17:** Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law.
- **Article 25:** The throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.
- **Article 29:** The forbidding or any denial of admission to educational institutions maintained by the State or receiving aid out of the State funds.

- **Article 46:** The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- **Article 330 and 332:** Seats shall be reserved in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly of every State for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes
- **Article 338:** There shall be a special officer for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the special officer to investigate all matters relating to safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this constitution and report to the President
- **Article 340:** There shall be a Commission to be appointed by the President in order to investigate the condition of socially and educationally backward classes.

2. The Untouchability Offences Act, 1955:

For the eradication of untouchability, the Untouchability Offences Act was passed by the Parliament in 1955. It came into force on June 1, 1955. This Act provides penalties for the following offences:

- Preventing a person on the ground of untouchability from entering a place of public worship, offering prayers therein or taking water from a sacred tank, well or spring.
- Enforcing all kinds of social disabilities such as denying access to any shop, public restaurant public hospital or educational institution, hotel or any other place of public entertainment,
- Enforcing occupational, professional or trade disabilities or disabilities in the matter of enjoyment of any benefit
- Refusing to sell goods or render services to a Harijan because he is a Harijan,

The untouchability Offence Act, 1955 has been replaced by the Protection of the Civil Rights Act after amendment on 1976. The Act prescribes punishment for compelling any person to scavenge, sweep, remove carcasses, fly animals or remove umbilical cords. All untouchability offences have become non-compoundable and in case where the punishments given are less than three months, they can be tried summarily.

3. Harijan Welfare Departments:

For the all-round development of untouchables the Government of India has established a Harijan Welfare Department and also appointed a Commissioner for Harijan welfare. Some Regional Assistant Commissioners have been appointed in each region to assist the Commissioner. Besides, the Advisory Boards are formed in all States to suggest the ways and means for the welfare of Harijans.

4. Educational Facilities:

For the upliftment of the untouchables, both Central and State Governments provide many educational facilities to them. Seats are reserved in all educational institutions for the untouchables. Free education, free distributions of books and stationery, stipends, scholarships and so on are some of the educational facilities provided by the Government to them.

5. Job Facilities:

A fixed percentage of jobs has been reserved for the untouchables in the administrative services of both Central and State Governments. To make Harijan students skilled in various crafts, proper arrangements have been made by the Government for their training.

6. Economic Facilities:

For the improvement of economic conditions of untouchables, both Central and State Governments are spending considerable amount of money. The nationalised banks are also extending their helping hand by lending loans to them for starting small scale and cottage industries. Apart from these, for the betterment of the untouchables, the Government has also provided loans to them through various schemes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna etc.

7. Housing Facilities:

The housing condition of the untouchables is very miserable. They mostly live in the worst type of slums. Therefore, the Government provides housing facilities to them. New Harijan colonies are being constructed where accommodation is cheap. Through Indira Awas Yojna, the Government provides new houses to the Harijans. Special efforts are being made towards cleanliness of old Harijan residential areas.

Continuation of Untouchability

Unfortunately the Indian government, made up of the upper castes, has successfully convinced the international community that caste discrimination is an internal, cultural issue. Despite various measures to improve the socioeconomic conditions of untouchable communities, they remain in danger. They are deprived of civil rights; they are subjected to various offences, indignities, humiliations and harassment. They have, in several vicious incidents, been deprived of their life and property. Grave atrocities are committed against them for various, social, cultural and economic reasons. Approximately 33,000 cases are being registered as atrocities against Scheduled Castes in one year. What makes it even more disturbing is that while so many cases are registered, the conviction rate hovers around 30%.

CASE STUDY

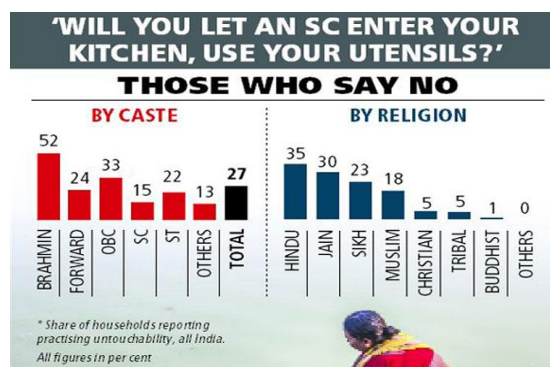


Figure 1

Going by respondents' admissions, untouchability is the most widespread among Brahmins, followed by OBCs. Among religious communities, it is the most widespread among Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, shows

the survey, which was conducted in over 42,000 households across India by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the University of Maryland, US.

Source: The India Human Development Survey (IHDS-2)

NCAER, established in 1956, is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit economic policy research institute. The results are part of the India Human Development Survey (IHDS-2) — the largest pan-Indian non-government household survey — carried out in 2011-12 for economic and social variables across multiple categories. The full results of the survey will be available in 2015. Surveyors asked respondents, "Does anyone in your family practise untouchability?" and, in case the answer was "No", asked a second question: "Would it be okay for a Scheduled Caste person to enter your kitchen or use your utensils?" Across India, 27 per cent respondents agreed that they did practise untouchability in some form. The practice was most prevalent among Brahmin respondents (52 per cent). 24 per cent of non-Brahmin forward caste respondents admitted to it — lower, interestingly, than OBC respondents, 33 per cent of whom confirmed its prevalence in their homes. 15 per cent of Scheduled Caste and 22 per cent of Scheduled Tribe respondents admitted to the practice. Broken up by religious groups, data from the survey shows almost every third Hindu (30 per cent) admitted to the practice, followed by Sikhs (23 per cent), Muslims (18 per cent) and Christians (5 per cent). Jains topped the list, with 35 per cent respondents accepting that they practised untouchability. The survey has, however, warned that the result for Jains is "not conclusive" because of the small size of the sample.

Lead researcher Dr Amit Thorat, an associate fellow at NCAER, said, "These findings indicate that conversion has not led to a change in mindsets. Caste identity is sticky baggage, difficult to dislodge in social settings." Currently, as per a government order of 1950, the SC quota in government jobs applies only to Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist Dalits, not Christian and Muslim Dalit caste groups. Spatially, untouchability is most widespread in the Hindi heartland, according to the survey. Madhya Pradesh is on top (53 per cent), followed by Himachal Pradesh

(50 per cent), Chhattisgarh (48 per cent), Rajasthan and Bihar (47 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (43 per cent), and Uttarakhand (40 per cent). West Bengal appears to be the most 'progressive' — with only 1 per cent of respondents confirming they practised untouchability. Kerala comes next in the survey, with 2 per cent, followed by Maharashtra (4 per cent), the Northeast (7 per cent), and Andhra Pradesh (10 per cent). Survey results suggest that high incomes do not dent the practice, but education, especially among Brahmins and OBCs, makes a difference.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/one-in-four-indians-admit-to-practising-untouchability-biggest-caste-survey/#sthash.Ekn2fMfD.dpuf>

Measures to be taken

Moral Education: Education is a strong weapon in the hands of human beings to gain knowledge. Knowledge should be utilized in maintaining equilibrium in society, for learning Human value system, ethics and social responsibility. Its should be taught to the students from their earlier studies. Human relationship and culture of living and helping and sharing should be inculcated in lifestyle from their childhood by their parents. This will help in dismantling the empathy and indifferences in human society.

Stringent Law: laws has been amended and incorporated to remove the indifferences between the human beings, uplift the venerable sections of people and bring them on the same platform. Government and Media should play a major role in advertising this laws. Conviction percentage should increase. Only 30% of the cases are put to conviction, in the cases related to the caste atrocities. Many of them are not registered. Surveillance should increase in atrocity prone areas. Concentration on Rural education and development can change the situation, because mostly, caste affected are from rural areas. But the rigid cultural and social beliefs are taking longer time in accepting the change. This has many hurdles, as the laws are prepared by the elite class of the society and the law implementing authorities do belong to the same section.

Abolishing of Reservation Policies: Reservation on the lines of cast, religion, region, etc is certainly in

wrong direction and it is going to discourage the intellectuality. Reservation policy was introduced to uplift the underprivileged for a period of 10 years, but due to political unwillingness it was untouched till today and advantage is taken out of it. It should be modified on the lines of social and economic backwardness with a certain time period and restrictions.

Generation Shift: Shift in the generation of human beings will bring a change in the cultural, social and economic practices. This morfrage is directly affecting the human behaviors and relationships. Performance based segregation will dominate over caste based divisions. Intermix of culture will drastically bring down the indifferences.

Woman Empowerment: As you all know that mother is first teacher for any child in the world. If she is good enough to distinguish between good and bad than that impact would be shown on the rowing child. So her education is prerequisite for growth of the family in return it would develop the society. Countries like India should concentrate more on ending inequalities and encourage and utilize the human resource (woman), which we are having in plenty.

Abolish of political reservation: Politics play a major role in developing societies and building nation. The concept of dividing on the grounds of cast to accommodate in politics is further engulfing the divide and heartedness between the different sections of the society. So this nature of political accommodation on the cast basis should be abolished and focus more on the personality who can handle the task and the qualification

CONCLUSION

Any country development depends up on the proper utilizing of Man, Material and Money. In this man defiantly plays a major role because other two are natural or manmade and utilized by them. So the proper utilization of human resources is a huge task in front of India. Because on the names of segregation this human beings has created differences in a large scale and this creation has developed and restricted the development to certain pockets and sections of people. This huge divide of haves and have-nots will

lead to chaos in the nation. When any crisis broke out in the country this large are going to destabilize the peace and sovereignty of nation which leads to total collapse. As i had discussed in my paper many reasons are contributing to poverty and untouchability in India. So many measures had been taken to abolish and bring them into main stream of society. But still India is facing a wide variety of differences in the socio cultural and economic growth of individuals. This divide is not in any way helping to achieve the development of the country; in return this will further make a concentrated growth. This will make the poor still poorer. So the government should concentrate on education as major tool to bring change in the society and measure to be taken for an equal distribution of wealth. When the work and wealth is distributed than the indifference would be removed over a period of time. Law should be more stringent towards those who practice caste, creed, and religion and sex discrimination.

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ROLE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN REDUCING POVERTY IN INDIA

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Abstract

"Social Responsibility has become the hallmark of mature, global civilisation" - Keith Davis

Every Society has a form or pattern. It is a system or structure within which its members live. It exists on the natural companionship and association among fellow members. It develops enduring and co-operative relationships. These, in turn establish complex variety of institutions. Institutions in society are originally centres of community culture. They serve as a means to achieve economic and social ends. They are functional agents of society. Such Institutions include Corporates, Governmental Organisations, Non- Governmental Organisations, Research Organisations, etc. Business is created by the society anticipating that it will aid the society and vice-a-versa. A business needs a healthy, educated workforce while a society needs to thrive on the success. But this concept of Corporate Social Responsibility has changed since the nascent idea in 1960s. Now, the Corporates consider this responsibility as a form of self-regulation. Also, in the competitive world of business, this social responsibility is comparable to the transparency and accountability functions of a company. Such serious nature it has in a company. Many corporates would like to provide funds to social activities also as a means to show the stakeholders that the business is socially aware and that helps them win the confidence of the consumers. A study in China shows that the Chinese consumer believe that a socially responsible company makes safe, high-quality products while Germans feel that Corporate Social Responsibility is a means to secure employment. Also, by practising social responsibility, the company not only serves, but sustains itself in the market. Non-Governmental Organisations also play a significant role as the Donations to NGOs are ploughed back into their operations and service. In India, the Public Sector Enterprises are also encouraged by the Government to contribute to CSR. Corporate Social Responsibility is practiced in areas like Education, Health, Philanthropy, Developing the infrastructure of cities like making parks, providing funds for social awareness programmes, etc.

Legislations at a Glance: Legislations also play major role to express the will of the Government. In India, the Companies Act, 2013 provides that the board of each company covered under the CSR requirement needs to ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, at least 2% of its average net profits made during the three immediately preceding financial years in pursuance of CSR policy. There are International Standards also like ISO 26000 which provides guidelines about how the social responsibility is to be realised.

The Concept of Poverty: CSR does not exist in vacuum. There are many social problems which need attention of CSR and one such major problem is Poverty. There are many causes of Poverty like Lack of Education, Lack of Skill, Inequality in the society, Discrimination on various grounds like sex, caste, creed, religion and also Corruption.

According to Reports, India still has about 20% of world's poor. Providing them education so that they become skilled and hence find employment would be a major challenge for India in years to come.

There are a many Institutions in India which are active in developing the society through CSR in various ways.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, poverty, corporate, companies act.

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the emergence of civilization, social behavior has become an integral part of human life and activities of mankind. The moral, cultural and social behaviors can help one comprehend the aspect of responsibility he has towards various things.

The last 50 years have witnessed a revolutionary change in the world's business environment. This has necessitated businesses to realign their objectives and goals from the historical objective of profit or wealth maximization to Social Objectives. Today, business feel that it is imperative that they care for the society and its need; otherwise it will be difficult for them to grow.

Business is created by the society anticipating that it will aid the society and vice versa. Business enterprise is an economic institution and society provides infrastructure facilities for its smooth functioning. Every society has a form or a pattern. It is a system of structure within which its members live. It exists on the natural companionship and association among fellow members. It develops enduring and co-operative relationships.

Institutions in a society serve as a means to achieve social and economic ends. They are functional agents of a society. Business is created by the society and its success depends on the society since the goods and services are ultimately consumed by the society. A business activity cannot isolate itself from the rest of the society.

Every action that the business takes is related to the external world and vice versa. It helps society understand the business better. The internal and external self-correcting tendency to maintain equilibrium is called *homeostatic social system*. The concept of *homeostasis* refers to the development and processing economic values in the society.

According to Henry Gantt, "the business system must accept its social responsibility and devote itself primarily to service or the community will ultimately make the attempts to take it over in order to operate in its own interest."

Before the 20th Century, the sole motivation of business was profit. As more and more businesses entered the business, competition grew fierce and abuses continued until it was inevitable that the Government intervene to protect the legitimate interests of the society. Businesses gradually developed a sense of social responsibility when they realized that promotion, sales and efficient production alone would not increase the profits and by the early 1950s they asked what the society needed and began to develop their goals and objectives to meet the social needs.

It is now increasingly recognized that what is not for the public good is not for the good of business. The environment also demands attention from business for its protection.

Today, the motive of business has also changed and are no longer restricted to profit earning. With the change of character and composition, business is emerging as a social institution.

The concept of social responsibility is fundamentally an ethical one. It involves changing notion of human welfare and emphasizes a concern for the social dimensions of business activity, which have a bearing on the improvement on the quality of life of the society.

According to JRD Tata, social obligations of organized businesses and industry must go beyond the accepted routine duties of making a good product and selling it at a fair price, paying for wages, providing good conditions to labor and paying them in full.

It is assumed that the social welfare of the people is the sole responsibility of the State. The State meets this expectation in two ways:

1. By direct action through various schemes launched by it, and
2. By encouraging business houses to take the lead in some areas and share some of the responsibilities of social welfare.

Dimensions of Social Responsibility:

- Economic
- Legal
- Ethical

- Voluntary

The aim of Social responsibility is to:

- Ensure viability of business
- Avoid Government Regulation or control
- Stop misuse of national and economic resources
- Establish better public image

Constraints in assuming social responsibilities:

- Prevalence of the idea of profit maximization
- Lack of social skills
- Absence of accountability

Approaches to Social Responsibility:

- Obstructionist Approach
- Defensive Approach
- Accommodative Approach
- Proactive Approach

Corporate Social Responsibility

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, in its publication "Making Good Business Sense" defined:

"Corporate Social responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of their workers and their families as well as the society at large."

According to Friedlen, "Corporations, if they are to survive, will have to be responsive to the needs of the society."

In India, Gandhiji was one of the first persons who had foreseen the problem of social responsibility and spelt out his own philosophy to meet the challenge. He was a strong advocate of the ideal of Sarvodaya which meant moral as well as material well-being of all sections of the community. He recognized the fact that if a Socialist democracy has to function, adequate employment opportunities should be provided to all the citizens irrespective of their caste, color, creed, etc. and thereby enable them to earn their living with self-respect and dignity.

The Gandhian principle of Trusteeship expresses the inherent responsibilities of a business enterprise to its consumers, workers, shareholders and the community, and mutual responsibilities of these to one another.

Indian social responsibility of business is a post-independence phenomenon, particularly after the Publication of Sachar Committee Report.

The Committee observed:

Every company, apart from being able to justify itself on the test of economic viability, will have to pass the test of socially responsible entity. Thus, a chemical company which may declare very high dividends may yet be responsible for polluting the water, air and would have to be named as a socially irresponsible company.

The Report made it **obligatory** on the Indian companies to report about their social responsibility.

TISCO took the lead in 1980, by incorporating a social responsibility clause in its Articles of Association, by subjecting itself to social audit and to get it published.

The late Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri observed:

"The benefits of economic development must accrue more and more to the relatively less privileged class of the society and there should be progressive reduction of concentration of incomes, wealth and economic power. Let us look not to the immediate profit but long-term gain."

The UK based ICCSR carried out a survey of CSR activities in seven Asian Countries-India, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines and Indonesia. India ranked top by 72% of the samples revealing that CSR activities are done here extensively.

LEGISLATIONS

In order to safeguard the interest of the society and to ensure that society as a whole enjoys the fruits of industrialization, the Government of India has enacted many legislations. The Corporates discharge

their duties towards the society by complying with such provisions.

Under the Companies Act, 2013, any company having a net worth of rupees 500 crore or more or a turnover of rupees 1,000 crore or more or a net profit of rupees 5 crore or more has to spend at least 2% of last 3 years average net profits on CSR activities as specified in Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 and as amended from time to time.

SEBI as per its notification on August 13, 2012, has mentioned that enterprises are accountable to the larger society and "adoption of responsible business practices in the interest of the social set-up and the environment are as vital as their financial and operational performance".

SEBI has mandated the inclusion of Business Responsibility Reports as part of the annual reports of the Top 100 listed entities based on market capitalization at BSE and NSE. It is mandatory to make these reports available on the website of the company. For companies that do not belong to Top 100, inclusion of Business Responsibility Reports is not mandatory, though SEBI encourages its inclusion in the annual report and website.

Poverty in India is widespread, and a variety of methods have been proposed to measure it. The different definitions and different underlying small sample surveys used to determine poverty in India, have resulted in widely different estimates of poverty from 1950s to 2010s. In 2012, the Indian government stated 21.9% of its population is below its official poverty limit. Poverty in India is a historical reality. From late 19th century through early 20th century, under British colonial rule, poverty in India intensified, peaking in 1920s.-After India gained its independence in 1947, mass deaths from famines were prevented, but poverty increased, peaking post-independence in 1960s. Rapid economic growth since 1991, has led to sharp reductions in extreme poverty in India.

Lack of basic essentials of life such as safe drinking water, sanitation, housing, health infrastructure as well as malnutrition impact the lives of hundreds of millions. The World Bank reviewed and proposed revisions in May 2014, to its poverty calculation methodology and purchasing power parity basis for

measuring poverty worldwide, including India. According to this revised methodology, the world had 872.3 million people below the new poverty line, of which 179.6 million people lived in India. In other words, India with 17.5% of total world's population, had 20.6% share of world's poorest in 2011.

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INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD: INDIA'S ROLE IN RESTORING PEACE AND SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

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Abstract

Asian Continent is most populous region in the world comprising of rising economies and developing nations. The region is culturally and politically diverse. Asia's Regional security, particularly south Asian countries, where there has been instability and contentious issues between the neighbouring nations has deteriorated the peace and regional security among the countries. India, as largest Democracy in the world and member of community of democracies, it has played Big brother and guardian role towards neighbouring countries in establishing popular Democracy. Since its democratic inception, India stood by a republic and sovereign features, even after sustaining external and internal threats surrounded by the nations where peace and security was hampered by military coups, internal conflicts and war. Whenever necessary, India has intervened and extended solidarity with neighbouring nations to resolve internal conflicts through diplomatic means and by deploying peace keepers. This effort has been applauded by world nations. For example, India's treaty with Bhutan in 1949 was renewed after Bhutan declared democracy in 2007. India extended its arms in liberating Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in establishing security and peace. Therefore, the paper focuses on how India exercised the tools of statecraft and diplomacy in the neighbourhood for maintaining peace and security.

Keywords: Asia, south Asia, democracy, peace, security.

INTRODUCTION

South Asia or **Southern Asia** is a term used to represent the southern region of the Asian continent, which comprises the sub-Himalayan SAARC countries and, for some authorities, adjoining countries to the west and east.

Topographically, it is dominated by the Indian Plate, which rises above sea level as Nepal and northern parts of India situated south of the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush. South Asia is bounded on the south by the Indian Ocean and on land (clockwise, from west) by West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. The terms "Indian subcontinent" and "South Asia" are sometimes used interchangeably.

The current territories of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka form the countries of South Asia, with

deviating definitions based on often substantially different reasons, the British Indian Ocean Territory, Mauritius, and the Tibet Autonomous Region are included as well.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an economic cooperation organization in the region which was established in 1985 and includes all eight nations comprising South Asia.

South Asia covers about 4.4 million km² (1.7 million mi²), which is 10% of the Asian continent or 3.3% of the world's land surface area. Overall, it accounts for about 45% of Asia's population (or over 25% of the world's population) and is home to a vast array of people with varying ideologies, culture, history and ethnicity. It has been observed that South Asian countries share a linkage of history, culture and colonialism; these countries maintain their indigenous population.

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South Asia- The neighborhood

The ideas that Jawaharlal Nehru powerfully espoused and vigorously applied for newly independent India's engagement with the world have left an enduring framework of reference for the political class. The traumatic partition and the unending conflict with Pakistan have strongly influenced the way India conducts its external relations. India's socialist orientation at home and third world radicalism abroad in the first decades of independence has been the highlighting features of India's perspectives on the world.

The nature of interaction with India's neighborhood, and the imperatives of ensuring India's security both on its land and maritime frontiers were adopted from the colonial past. There was always a school of thought in the foreign policy establishment that India was the legatee of the British role for peace and stability in the Indian Ocean, and many neighbors of India suspected that Delhi was determined to play the role of a hegemon in its neighborhood. But these views were generally drowned out by the rhetoric on non-alignment and anti-imperialism in post-Colonial India.

Post-independence, the new state merged with the South Asian subcontinent was well prepared to be a regional leader. The country possessed potential to use hard power and military which was tested in two world wars, the country also possessed soft power in terms of a large economy with a historical culture, diplomacy and bureaucratic corps.ⁱ

India's foreign policy with its neighbors have been unilateralist in approach and hegemonic in nature. Since the establishment of foreign affairs department, India has intervened several times in the neighborhood. The nature of benign hegemony can be analyzed in events which have taken place since independence. In 1961 India annexed the territory of Goa from Portuguese and in 1971 claiming Sikkim principality, it also proclaimed a doctrine against foreign intervention in South Asia. India mounted a peace keeping operation on Sri Lanka while covertly supporting Tamil rebels against Sri Lankan government, this was an attempt to forcibly impose peace in the region and India also insisted other powers not to interfere in the region.

India's invasion in East Pakistan created Bangladesh, which was in December, 1971 superpowers like China and USA opposed it strongly. Deploying 700,000 troops on India-Pakistan border in 2002 shows India's use of hard power when required and exercised hegemony in the South Asia to ensure its territorial sovereignty, oppose regional adversaries.

India's balancing role in the region is represented both through hard power and soft power. India has wisely used the tool of soft power and it is also known for its multilateral leadership which was clearly seen during the time Non Alignment Movement and in United Nations. Later in the year 1991 after economic reforms India became a beneficiary of globalization with other developing countries and became less defensive in the approach. Today, India reignited its engagement with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and has helped foster democracy in Sri Lanka and Nepal through the signing of peace and friendship treaties.

Statistically, India dwarfs its neighboring countries in terms of population, land mass, GDP and economy. India's population is more than 1.13 billion followed by Pakistan's 165 million, Bangladesh with 150 million followed by small states like Afghanistan which is 32 million, Nepal with 29 million and Sri Lanka with 21 million; micro states like Bhutan which has population of 672,000 and Maldives which is less than 400,000. These figures represent India's capability to naturally dominate its neighbors as well as attract them economically. India is using its soft power and striving to develop consensus with its neighbors for establishing democracy which would also help to develop a single regional voice to reform international order.

To harmonize and integrate the South Asian region, countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal took the initiative to form South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 and approached India, Pakistan, Bhutan and Maldives to join. However, the conflict between India and Pakistan has been a disturbing force to enhance cooperation among the SAARC nations in the region.

SAARC acted as an alternative platform to Indian unilateralism and India's foreign policy in unipolar

world. It also proved useful to India for confidence building measures and creating a free trade area in the region. India is the most stable country in the region and it is trying to build mutual cooperation between all South Asian countries and also on other hand trying to maintain the notion of democracy. India has had its past experiences with all these nations in terms of aid and assistance, and getting involved in contentious issues. Many countries consider India as “a factor for the stability and protection of democracies and human rights in the South Asian region.”ⁱⁱ(madhavi bhasin- india’s role south asia)

India’s Presence and Role in the Region:

Nepal

Nepal geopolitically, is situated on the north eastern border. For India it acts as a natural barrier against china. After India’s defeat to China, Nepal was inclined towards china and rejected the defense pact. India strongly opposed absolute power and monarchy by King Gyanendra in 2005 and chooses not to participate in regional summit with the king. Indian stance was quickly shifted when Prime Minister of India and King met in Afro-Asian summit held in Jakarta, April, 2005. Democratic forces in Nepal eventually brought down the monarchy, public opinion influenced Nepal to establish a democratic republic. This was chance for India to regain its position by promoting democracy in Nepal. The Prime Ministers of the both the country met in June, 2006 and agreed to extend help to Nepal in creating a new democracy. Both nations also agreed to enhance the “India-Nepal development partnership for expanding rural and economic infrastructure, developing education and healthcare facilities and building human resources”.ⁱⁱⁱ

Bhutan

India-Bhutan relations are amongst the first after India’s independence, the kingdom is also a buffer state between India and China. The signing of friendship treaty in 1949 defined India’s relation with Bhutan, the highlights of this treaty was India’s non-interference in Bhutan’s isolated status, while India will manage the kingdom’s defense and external affairs. Bhutan willingly cooperated in clearing out the insurgent camps in 2003. In 2007 the royal government of Bhutan in the leadership of 27 year

old monarch King Jigme Khesar and government of India renewed the 1949 friendship treaty under which the kingdom will conducts its defense and foreign policy. Through this treaty it was eminent that India would play a guiding role in establishing democracy and helping them in modernization and bringing internal/administrative changes. The treaty also included fresh provisions for expanding economic relations and cooperation in the fields of education, culture, health, sports, science and technology and hydroelectricity.^{iv}

Pakistan

Pakistan since its inception is known for anti-India approach and hindering the regional development, the nation also destabilize notion of democracy in India’s neighborhood. Despite the four wars and other territorial conflicts, both the sides have also developed various forms of confidence building measures (CBMs) in the nuclear, conventional and non-conventional fields. One of the example is the Indus Water Treaty, which was signed between India and Pakistan with the mediation of World Bank in 1960. Because of the treaty’s binding regulations, water has not been used as a weapon in the wars by both the nation. India has also worked to sustain peace with its nuclear neighbor by using of diplomacy. The efforts were notable since 1980’s when Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his counterpart Benazir Bhutto agreed to exchange lists of nuclear installations which were present in both the countries in 1988 and exchanged list should not be attacked in war, since 1992 the list are exchanged every year. In 2007 an agreement was signed between both the countries for reducing the risk of accidents with nuclear weapons. The new political and economic stability was marred after 2010 by various attacks and incidents. The number of ceasefire violation increased at Loc in Kashmir, 60 in 2011 and 117 in 2011. All confidence building measures between India and Pakistan fails due to terrorism, illegal trade, border skirmishes and internal politics. South Asia, along with the international community, has witnessed positive efforts taken by India and Pakistan in order to shape bilateral relations and bring stability in the region, however due to the increasing threat perceptions and security dilemmas, the region continues to serve as a battlefield for these two nuclear states.^v

Bangladesh

India is concerned about Bangladesh declining stability and state capacity to act. On the other hand, China is gaining more influence in the country. The relations have deteriorated due to the border problems and security related issues like arm-trafficking, human movement, transit and gas pipeline. 2 \$ billion worth of Indian goods are smuggled every year into Bangladesh whereas goods worth 1.5 \$ billion enter legally in the country. In 2010, both the Prime Ministers launched a bold effort to revamp the Indo-Bangla relations. Dhaka is also addressing the issues on cross-border terrorism by security cooperation. In return, Delhi has also removed most of the trade barriers on Bangladeshi exports in India.^{vi}

The private sector of India is much more interested in Bangladesh; efforts towards reviving bilateral relations can be noted. Tata group has been progressing towards an investment worth \$2.5 billion in steel, fertilizers and power plants. Another initiative is the opening of a high facility hospital in Dhaka with collaboration of India's Apollo group. The Indian information technology companies and garment houses are already involved in the region.

India has also proposed a FTA (Free Trade Agreement) between India and Bangladesh. Also, Bangladesh given a status of Least Developed Country (LDC). Bangladesh is in a good position to get more concessions and increased investment from Indian companies. The FTA would give duty-free access to the Indian market for goods, including readymade garments. India is also working on developing east-west highway and rail links which would connect India with South East Asia. Another development is to construct Chittagong port, which in the future has potential to serve as an access point for countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. To materialize the initiatives taken by the Indian government, considerable level trust is needed to be developed. Delhi and Dhaka are naturally interlinked, which is other because the border between India and Bangladesh is nearly 4,000 km long. The strategic cooperation between both the nations will produce a win-win situation for the eastern subcontinent.

Sri Lanka

The Indo-Sri Lanka relations have grown closer through the time even though the conflict between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil minorities has resumed. India is strongly in favor of a politically negotiated settlement acceptable to all the sections of Sri Lankan society without harming the democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. The infrastructure links are improving and defense collaboration is getting stronger by Indian armed forces assisting Sri Lankan military in carrying out training which takes place in India and a notable rise is seen in trade and investment because of FTA which became operational in 2000 between both the countries. India as being guardian was the first country which was approached by Sri Lanka to assist them during tsunami floods in 2004. It also helped clearing the major oil spill in the ocean in 2006 and Indian forces also evacuated Sri Lankan citizens from Lebanon in July 2006.^{vii}

The negative incident for India in South Asia is the intervention of 1971. India is accused of using the accord of 1987 to mount its military potential in the littoral. The accord allowed India's diplomatic involvement in resolving the conflict between the Tamils and Sinhalese people in Sri Lanka. Though the intervention was later not diplomatic in nature, the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka forced India to get militarily involved.^{viii}

The future seems bright between India and Sri Lanka because the manifesto of the new government in Colombo specially commits to improving relations with India, "with an attitude that would be neither anti-Indian nor dependent."^{ix}

Maldives

India was the first nation to establish bilateral relations with Maldives after its independence in 1965, also settled maritime border in 1976 and signed trade agreement in 1981. The major step was taken when India intervened and crushed a coup against the Maldivian government in 1988. The Indian armed forces restored peace and Indo-Maldivian relations reached a new high. Since then India has provided economic assistance and training in fields of health,

developing civil society and infrastructure, also assisting in disaster relief and telecommunications.^x

India in 2014 was the first responder to Maldives call for help in time of grave crisis. The water sewage treatment plant in country's capital caught fire which left 100,000 without access of drinking water. When asked for aid, India dispatched five planes carrying bottled water and two ships containing spare parts and mechanics to fix the damaged treatment plant. This incident gave a good chance to India to show its capacity to serve as the 'first responder' in the time of crisis.^{xi}

Afghanistan

India extended hand for reconstruction and development assistance, India also pledged to give \$450 million aid which would also include a highway (Zaranj-Delaram) which would connect Kandahar to the Iranian border. For the security of Indian officials working there Indian government has deployed Indo-Tibetan Border Police for safe guarding of workers and the Indian embassy in Kabul. This move indicates that India is ready to play more active role in providing security against Taliban.^{xii}

Challenges in South Asia

The South Asian region suffers from a high degree of conflict, both within and across countries. Nepal witnessed a long-running civil war from 1996 to 2006, in which more than 12,000 people were killed. Afghanistan and Sri Lanka have also been the scenes of long-running conflicts. The provinces of Balochistan and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) in Pakistan are widely regarded as conflict-ridden places. In India, 749 people were killed in incidents of Naxalite violence in 2006; such incidents have been reported from 13 different states, and 70 per cent of these deaths occurred in the lagging regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

More than 70 million people have been displaced by conflict in South Asia and incidents of terrorism are also on the rise across these countries. There are several potential causes for a higher degree of conflict in the lagging regions, many of which have been found to be significantly associated with the incidence of conflict in cross country studies. These include geography, economic factors such as poverty

and unemployment, social diversity, and institutional factors such as poor property rights, landlessness, inequality of access to public infrastructure, and weak state capacity in the delivery of services. Within South Asia, areas with historically poor property rights have been found to display higher levels of violent crime.

District-level research in Nepal finds that geography and poverty are very significantly associated with the intensity of conflict, while measures of social diversity based on caste or language play a much smaller role. Dealing with conflicts within countries has led to the suffering of significant conflicts between countries. Two well-known examples are the long-drawn conflict between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, and the Afghan-Pakistan conflict over the Taliban issue. Less open, yet unfortunate, is the low-level conflict between Bangladesh and India over the perceived rise of terrorism in the region.

The development costs of these conflicts have been tremendous in terms of loss of life, restrictions on people to people contact across countries within the region, high financial cost of military and other security-related operations, and the loss of benefits from lack of economic, social, and political cooperation.

Cross-country conflict is the most important reason why South Asia is the least integrated region of the world. What can South Asia do to transform conflict into cooperation? South Asian countries have implemented different measures to control internal conflict. In most countries, the official government policy has been to combine implementation of development schemes with the deployment of additional security forces.

By and large, efforts to curb ethnic conflict with force appear to have exacerbated the intensity of conflict. In Nepal, after several years of trying a military response, the government signed a peace deal with the Maoist rebels in 2006. The challenge for South Asia is how conflict can be converted into cooperation and the resources channeled towards achieving growth and sharing the benefits of growth with minority and disadvantaged groups.

Nepal's success in reaching a peace accord with the Maoists and bringing them into the democratic

process sets a good example for other countries regarding how to address long-term conflict at its source. Ensuring good governance that allows participation and voice of all citizens in the development effort can play a key role in reducing in-country conflicts. Better economic cooperation and stronger trade relations can be helpful in reducing cross-country conflicts.

Possibility of Cooperation and Restoring Peace in the Region

South Asia is one of the conflict prone regions in the world. The region contains local, national, bilateral and regional conflicts. In addition to the growing tensions in the South Asian region, India being a nuclear state shares its borders with other two nuclear states namely China and Pakistan. The regional organization SAARC has no scope or mandate which would contribute in security policy and conflict management, it focuses mainly on economic, social and technical cooperation. SAARC does provide a framework for multilateral cooperation on issues like cross-border terrorism, fighting international crime and illicit drug trade. These frameworks failed to kick-off because of unresolved Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan has prevented South Asia from deeper integration. Another point is the huge trust deficit between most neighbors.

The signs of cooperation can be seen between India and Pakistan through recent meeting of National Security Advisors of both countries in Bangkok. Another initiative being taken by the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, who went for a two day visit to Pakistan to enhance bilateral talks with her counterpart Sartaj Aziz (December 9,2015).^{xiii} The issues discussed during the meeting were Jammu Kashmir as it is the most longing conflict between both the nations. Consensus were developed for Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue which will include CBMs, Siachen, Sir Creek, Wullar Barage/Tulbul navigation Project, economic and commercial cooperation, counter terrorism, narcotics control, humanitarium issues, people to people exchanges and religious tourism. Another significant development is underway by Mr. Modi who is expected to attend SAARC summit in Pakistan in September, 2016.

India is also using SAARC as medium to integrate the region, efforts made in the field of education e.g. – establishment of the South Asian University, which will foster people to people contacts, exchange of knowledge. The growing number of initiatives ranging from regional academic network through track-1 diplomacy and cooperation in UN peace keeping missions is gaining momentum. Initiatives like joint military exercises and strategic trainings for UN peace keeping operations or joint maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and curbing the piracy. There is more security cooperation among member countries of the SAARC than is visible in the political and academic debates.

The collaboration is mostly bilateral and depends on the overall relationship between India and its neighbors. The most important reason for the expansion of security cooperation is probably the change in India's South Asia policy since the 1990s. India has been willing to make unilateral concessions in bilateral conflicts and in economic cooperation. Today, India pursues its security interests through cooperation with its neighbors and no longer by interfering in their domestic affairs. A related factor is that most governments in South Asia see the biggest threats coming from domestic challenges, such as various ethnic, religious, and communist rebellions, rather than from external forces, for instance from India, as was the case in the 1980s and 1990s. Hence, national security perceptions have converged, thereby opening the door for more security cooperation.

CONCLUSION

The recent development by Delhi government in speeding up cooperation in its littoral is gaining importance. India is reportedly stepping its defense cooperation with its two island neighbors Sri Lanka and the Maldives. According to times of India, the assistance will focus primarily on “capacity building” of the armed forces of both countries. India will supply equipment and assist in training. South Asia since its inception has remained a tenuous region which is why it is the least integrated region in the world compared to ASEAN and EU. Countries in South Asia cooperate in harmony through bilateral relations with non-conflicting parties compared to multilateral ones. SAARC being a regional platform

for these countries does not take bilateral contentious issues in discussions and forums. Therefore, countries remain stranded in a conflicting flux. If one player is infected with conflicts then the whole region suffers. India and Pakistan are obstacles in fully integrating South Asia as an integrated region.

However, there are signs that South Asia is beginning to see the advantages of greater regional cooperation and openness to trade. Deals are being signed to build power transmission lines across borders. A shared sense of culture and history offers much of the promise for changing the dominant mindset. Over the last couple of years, countries have accelerated their efforts to foster cultural and people to people exchanges and to reduce trade barriers, while continuing parallel efforts to diffuse security threats and revolve territorial disputes. By encouraging greater trade and economic investment, South Asia has the ability and capability, and power to move entire communities from poverty to prosperity. Maldives strongly believes that a major key to alleviating poverty in the region is through enhancing stronger trade and economic cooperation. South Asia still remains the most backward and least integrated region in the world. Therefore, the South Asian leadership needs to portray a strong and healthy political will to fully operate South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) by evolving standard trade procedures, which is the only way to increase the volume of trade from 5 percent to a considerable level.

To develop a strong voice on global platform India needs to use its tool of diplomacy and natural resources for integrating the neighborhood which would help foster the region but will also enhance India's image as a guardian and big brother of the region and this will lead India to enhance its influence on global platform.

According to L. Kadirgamar, India has used the analogy of a wheel to depict centrality of its presence in South Asian affairs. According to him at the hub of the wheel lies regionally preponderant India. Radiating as spokes are India's neighbors with each of whom India shares land or maritime boundaries, but no two others are thus joined without at the same time touching India also. The renewed approach towards the neighbors by the big brother will help in

developing strong consensus among the nations to cooperate regionally and India should externally guide the neighbors to establish the notion of democracy, this will take India to act as benign hegemony.

“The Indian elephant cannot transform itself into a mouse. If South Asia is to get itself out of the crippling binds of conflicts and cleavages, the six will have to accept the bigness of the seventh. And the seventh, that is India, will have to prove to the six that big can indeed be beautiful.” - Bhabani Sen Gupta.

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BUILDING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY AMONG YOUTH TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND LIVING

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Abstract

Present paper is based on the vision building towards providing professional learning to the youths beyond the traditional mode of education. Professional development is an essence of any system and its necessity is widely recognized.

Current provision falls far short of what the researchers say is necessary to improve learning outcomes, for student's youth. There are many individually effective professional development programmes and activities operating at school and college levels, but overall pattern of provision is brief, fragmentary and rarely sequential. The capacity of the profession to engage most of youth in effective modes of professional learning over the long term is weak and need to build capacity for learning, The Professional Learning is about building individual "Capacity". The focus is on the relationship between Capacity and Student Learning outcomes. Capacity here refers to the knowledge, skills, and values essential to providing quality opportunities for learning.

It is high time that the methodological innovations are required to follow in the curriculum, practices, and processes in the educational institution itself. As it is rather difficult to spell out various methods, techniques and mode-media to be adopted at each and every stage of a learning and stage of learning programme. Some of the proposed guidelines are given for organizing ; (A) Pedagogical Theory, (B) Working with the Community and, (C) Content-cum-Methodology and Practice, including related practical work. (d) Development of Communication Skills, Life skills, social skills, Technical skills, inter-personal skills, Humanistic Skills, Socio-cultural skills and professional skills are essential ingredients for effective learning and living for their economic independence and sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Present paper focus on the vision building towards providing professional learning to the youths beyond the traditional mode of education. Professional development is an essence of any system and its necessity is widely recognize.

"YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION", Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru stated this keeping in mind the pace with which India was supposed to progress. For years we have talked about India becoming a Developed nation and the Superpower in the world one day and now this dream does not seem far-fetched. But due to distractions among the young generation the personal and moral values seem to be

falling into a deep oblivion dramatically. The waking up of the youth at the dawn of the new millennium is a noticeable phenomenon that has grasped Indians to such an extent that slowly but symbolically the progress of the nation is reaching zeniths heights.

Among the youth due to which they seek a lot more direction and clarity for carving a niche for themselves making the world a better place to live. The positive perception of the youth is generally marred by depressive symptoms and various types of maltreatment, but that is not be all and end-all. The challenge before us is to see, identify and realize the potential of the youth. The positive mind set and optimism in the attitude can overcome hurdles, failures and regression. All that is pre-requisite is to

analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The individualised core competences of the youth should be identified and channelized for which this study has been conducted. Education is recognized as the key sector of concern for the youth. It is viewed as an investment for future with high expected return. Educated, well-trained population is an asset for any country having potential to be change agent. This is even more apt with respect to youth as they are the prospective designers of and contributors to a nation's progress. Education in turn has to be designed with utmost care so as to inculcate among youth the right values, attitudes, morals, perceptions, impart a correct blend of knowledge, information and skills; prepare them to face challenges of life and above all, make them good citizens and human beings. For a massive and diversity rich country like India, all out efforts have to be made to reach all- socially, geographically, culturally, economically different strata. To meet these ends, distance education has to be expanded, media has to play a powerful and responsible role and private sector and community have to involve themselves more closely to ensure access of quality education for all, with greater attention on youth. The increasing demand for the effective learning for living with the quality of life could be achieve with optimum resource allocations and training of various skills to utilize available resources. Suitable teaching, learning and training materials along with non-stressing mechanisms for imparting education and training have to be generated and adopted. Special attention and policies would help to mainstream physically and mentally challenged youth

Current provision falls far short of what the researchers say is necessary to improve learning outcomes, for student's youth. There are many individually effective professional development programmes and activities operating at school and college levels, but overall pattern of provision is brief, fragmentary and rarely sequential. The capacity of the profession to engage most of youth in effective modes of professional learning over the long term is weak and need to build capacity for learning. The Professional Learning is about building individual "Capacity". The focus is on the relationship between Capacity and Student Learning outcomes. Capacity here refers to the knowledge,

skills, and values essential to providing quality opportunities for learning.

It is high time that the methodological innovations are required to follow in the curriculum, practices, and processes in the educational institution itself. As it is rather difficult to spell out various methods, techniques and mode-media to be adopted at each and every stage of a learning and stage of learning programme. Some of the proposed guidelines are given for organizing ; (A) Pedagogical Theory, (B) Working with the Community and, (C) Content-cum-Methodology and Practice, including related practical work. (d) Development of Communication Skills, Life skills, social skills, Technical and vocational skills, inter-personal skills, Humanistic Skills, Socio-cultural skills , and professional skills are essential ingredients for effective learning and living among youths . It will generate a spirit among the youth to ahead for their economic independence and sustainability.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING

Institutional Planning is a pivotal aspect of any innovation to facilitate inputs, strength, and strategies for the implementation of innovation. Every institution, should convene a staff meeting and dispassionately evaluate the previous year's performance. The staff should take cognizance of both the factors that facilitated and obstructed the smooth working of the programme; and then a modified institutional plan, with specific target dates and built in evaluation checks should be developed for the semester.

It will provide general guide-lines to the members of the staff for working out their yearly plan, with specific objectives, modes of operation and evaluation procedure.

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

Before the commencement of programme, its major and minor objectives, the strategies of transaction and the goals expected to be attained by youth need to be drawn. In order to make instruction more meaningful and understandable, crystal clear and self-expressive outline to motivate the students, the synopsis of the

professional learning to be covered be given in advance, stating what his expectations are, how intends to organize and what kind of evaluation procedure he will adopt. Latest relevant and necessary references may be provided in the synopsis itself. In order to make instruction effective, a variety of methods/techniques and educational technology may be used. No space for spoon feeding though half baked, outdated noted have to be replaced by library studies, workshop, practical labs, individualized assignments, self-paced materials, etc., thereby entrusting the responsibility of learning themselves to build professional competencies.

Problem Solving

Self-learning is a training of mind that is to say, the developing of mental powers. The problem-solving method provides an effective way to stimulate higher mental process. In preparing material for self-learning, special care needs to be taken to present it in the form of problems, the solutions of which have to be found out through a scientific process.

Objective-based Instruction

Identify the objectives that can be attained and indicate the mental processes implicit in the problems and arrange them in a hierarchical order.

Capacity Building and Skill Development

Following skills work as leading force towards professional learning:

- Intellectual Skills
- Socio-cultural Skills
- Life Skills
- Communication Skills
- Professional Skills
- Psychomotor Skills:-
 - Non-Verbal (Motor) skills
 - Verbal (Communication) Skills
 - Skills Conducive to Human Relations
 - Technical and vocational skills

Utilizing Community Resources and Working with the Community

"Working with the Community" should be carried out on the campus of the institution itself taking the instruction as a community, based on self-help, cooperation and democratic values.

- Identification of work situations in the community.
- Providing work-information - purpose, role, participation, the work schedule etc.
- Simulation for developing skills of leadership, member and follower; simulating interaction in formal and informal.
- Follow-up by free and frank discussions

Thus to identify and realize the potential of our youth and channelise their energy. This study their aspirations, expectations and values of our youth to enhance their economic status.

There is a paradigm shift in skill building all over the world with more focus on capability to generate and apply technology. Customer driven production, job enrichment and broadening, increased flexibility and higher skill intensity are now considered critical. The Information Technology sector now offers more an environment of scope and economies of scale. Rapid technological change calls for a richer cognitive and competency content in education and skills training for the youth. Improving the efficiency of the economic and labour market by reducing skills bottlenecks is seen as a means of increasing the employment generating capacity of the economy. This underscores the importance of developing systems for life-long learning. Continued efforts in pumping in new blood into the skilled labour market are becoming a necessity as a result.

The new technology is more inter-disciplinary and heavily dependent on R&D. It is information intensive with greater demand on human capital. Consequently, its impact on occupation pattern has also been changing with more demand on upper level managers, technical sales and service personnel and technology professionals than on craft workers, operators and labourers. There is an increasing demand for personnel in service industries i.e.

finance, accounting, trade, travel, outsourcing, distribution, transport and advertisement. This has led to decreasing demand on production, manufacturing, agriculture, textile, and mining and construction industries. In brief, the trend is to shift away from blue collar jobs in agriculture and manufacturing to white-collar jobs in high technology and service industries.

In this changed scenario the cognitive and competency skills have emerged as central to the skill profile of the modern worker. This profile can be enlarged further with higher order transferable skills like reasoning, conceptualization, communication, problem solving, leadership, personality development and inter-personal relationships.

What is required is a system of higher education and training that promotes broad based generic skill development needed for enhancing:

- Operative capability;
- Adaptive Capability;
- Innovative capability;
- Multiple skill generation capability;
- Organisation building capability;
- Policy, Planning and implementation capability; and
- Entrepreneurship and marketing capability.

In the conclusion of the paper, it pertinent to mention that professional and Skills training is seen to be most effective when it builds on existing skills or is directly relatable by the recipient to his daily life and healthy living.

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THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPS) TO RURAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN GASHAKA- GUMTI NATIONAL PARK, TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The increasing empowerment of rural dwellers through the harvesting and processing of various non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) has attracted more participants in the industry. This paper therefore examined the contributions of NTFPs to household income of communities living in Gashaka-Gumti National Park. 100 structured questionnaires were distributed to the communities living in Gashaka-Gumti National Park and 95% were retrieved. Data collected included among others the socio-economic characteristics of the rural community, quantity and type of non-timber forest products harvested/processed, income per month and uses. Interview method and focus group discussion were equally used to complement the data for this study. The data generated were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools such as means, frequencies and percentages. The economic tool used is Net Income (Gross Income G_1 less Gross Cost G_c) (Olukosi and Isitor 1990). The result of the study shows that NTFPS contributes significantly to household income of the inhabitants of Gashaka Gumti thereby augmenting the much needed rural empowerment.

Keywords: Non-timber forest products, household income, rural empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

The World and in particular Nigeria is presently confronted with the problem of reducing rural poverty. Indicators of poverty include low income, lack of food, poor health, water, environmental and housing facilities among others. Harvesting, utilization and processing of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) has the potential of increasing rural income thus boosting the interest of rural dwellers to encourage forest development (Amadi; Dishan; Jatau and Tella 2005). NTFPs are vital in terms of basic livelihoods areas such as fuel wood, protein, medicines and raw materials. It also has important place in the cultural and social values for forest communities. Moreover the sales of NTFPs in rural and urban communities provide economic growth to rural dwellers. The people who depend on NTFPs are the rural poor whose well-being can fluctuate widely, characterized by extremely low income and large

family size. These rural poor meet small needs by selling or mortgaging assets such as land, livestock, tools, trees, jewelry, standing crops or future labour. The wealth from NTFPs are used both as food and to improve income.

Gashaka-Gumti National Park is endowed with 97 different types of NTFPs (Zaku, 2013). NTFPs refer to all biological resources, products and services which are harvested from the forest ecosystem for subsistence and trade. The term NTFPs is used interchangeably with terminologies such as minor forest products, secondary forest products, non-wood forest products etc. NTFPs are important in a number of ways such as food, feeds, energy, cultural value, economic gains, craft for local tools and technology etc.

The gathering of NTFPs is as old as man himself. The early man was a wonderer, hunter and a gatherer of wild nuts, fruits and berries. NTFPs contributes to

household self-sufficiency, food security, income generation, accumulation of savings and risk. These minimization are important in filling seasonal or other food or income gaps by providing a buffer in time of hardship or emergency. It is an activity of last resort that often presents an opportunity for improving household income and food security. This corroborates the findings of Adekunle (2009) that, it is very common to have a large family in Nigeria in order to supply farm labour and to assist in the collection of Minor forest product for family consumption. The objective of this study is therefore to find out the various NTFPs being harvested and processed by the inhabitants of Gashaka Gumti National park and the extent the local industry has enhanced their local income.

THE ROLE OF NTFPS

According to Alison (2007), NTFPs provide a wealth of resources for both rural and urban dwellers throughout Central Africa. These include foods, medicines, construction materials, fuelwood, as well as resources of spiritual and cultural significance. These are important in improving livelihood security. They may provide one of the main sources of food (for example, for Pygmy peoples when they are based in the forest (Ichiakawa, 1993), or they may provide a safety net in times of agricultural shortage (Ndoye & Tieguhong, 2004). The wealth of forest resources that are used as foods also provide valuable source of nutrients, particularly for the poorest sectors of society and in times of shortage, for example, prior to the agricultural harvest. As a source of medicine, NTFPs provide the basis of healthcare for the vast majority of the region's population for whom western medicines are unavailable or too expensive. In addition, a large proportion of the population use forest resources to build houses, tools and other implements, and the majority of households use wood or charcoal for cooking, as well as meeting subsistence needs, many of these resources are traded, and so provide a valuable source of income.

NIFPs are often collected and traded by women, and so help to increase their livelihood security and economic status. Women dominate the collection and trade of many products, such as Gnetum and caterpillars, while men are more involved in the harvest of higher value products, for example rattans,

bushmeat and pharmaceutical products. Some NTFPs do provide a valuable income for many and can, in certain circumstances, help to reduce poverty. Even where they do not enable people to get out of the poverty trap, they may be crucial as a safety net and to improve livelihood security.

Despite the use and importance of NTFPs in Nigeria, forest regeneration is not encouraging and it hoped that this work in concomitance with others will make all tiers of Nigerian government to consider their negative stand on forest regeneration and development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Gashaka-Gumti National Park lies between latitude $6^{\circ}55'N$ and $8^{\circ}05'N$, longitude $11^{\circ}11'E$ and $12^{\circ}13'E$ of the equator. The park is situated in Taraba State of Nigeria. The inhabitants of the area are predominantly farmers, craftsmen, hunters and traders. Questionnaires sourcing data on socio-economic characteristics of the Gashaka Gumti dwellers, NTFPs harvested, quantity, income per month, number of persons in the industry, were distributed to the inhabitants of Gashaka-Gumti National Park to extract data. Interview method and Focus Group Discussion were also used to complement the data for this study. The data generated was analyzed using descriptive statistical tools such as means, frequency and percentages. The economic tool used is Net Income (Gross Income G_1 less Gross Cost G_c) (Olukosi and Isitor 1990).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The list of NTFPs available in Gashaka Gumti Area is given in Table 1 while the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are shown in Table 2. 32% of the respondents were males while 68 % were females. Women are vital to the success or failure of the family. They participate actively supporting family income through harvesting of NTFPs in the study area. The married respondents consisted of 84% and must be in the industry as one of the means of supporting their family income. In the same vein, those with large family size were also involved more in the harvesting and processing of NTFPs as a means of augmenting household income. There is no much difference in educational status of

the people involved in the collection and processing of NTFPs. Therefore educational qualification is not a prerequisite for collection and processing of NTFPs. Occupationally, Farmers, Civil Servants and Fishermen were involved more in the collection and processing of NTFPs than traders and artisans. Farmers found it easier to combine the industry with their farming activities, Civil Servants use the industry as part-time activities while traders and Artisans find it difficult to combine.

Table 3 shows various level of income generation from the sales of NTFPs. A collector is able to make additional annual income of 102,000 Naira (\$514) from sales of 144 Pickup vans of fuelwood. In the production of charcoal, an additional annual net income of 95,600 Naira (\$488) can be generated. The craftsmen producing mortar and pestle, farm implements and baskets make additional income of 96,000 Naira (\$480). In the same vein, the Palm Wine Tappers likewise makes an income of 384,000 Naira (\$1,920) annually from the sales of about 2000 liters of the product. In the production of cattle sticks, a person that produces 2000 cattle sticks in a month will make a net income of 120,000 Naira (\$600). In palm oil production, a person that produces 2000 liters will get 192,000 Naira (\$960) at the end of the year.

Problems encountered by the respondents in the industry include, long trekking distances, bad rural road networks, park legislation officials, processing facilities and market trade unions. However all the respondents agree that their family income is enhanced through the collection and processing of NTFPs.

The findings of this study is in line with Shrivastava (2009) who stated that the use of NTFPs is as old as human civilization as source food, fodder, fibre, medicine, cosmetics and local crafts and 350 million people living in or near dense forests depend highly on it for their subsistence or livelihood both for their own consumption and income generation. On the hand, Alison (2007) observed that markets in NTFPs are often hampered by poor infrastructure, storage and lack of market information. NTFPs Producers face challenges in the lack of organization into viable trading entities, lack of credit and investment

opportunities and they are often victims of many types of informal taxes. (Alison 2007).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The result of the study indicates that majority of the inhabitants of Gashaka-Gumti National Park are involved in NTFPs harvesting, processing and trade. This is an indication that NTFPs contributes to household income and this agrees with the findings of Okafor (1994) which states that, the gathering and selling of forest products is a major economic activity of the rural populace.

The inhabitants of Gashaka-Gumti National Park should form themselves into co-operative organizations such as forest products collectors' co-operative group and buyers co-operative group and should register with the National Park Service and should be charged token fees per quantity of NTFPs collected and their activities supervised by the Park management. This implies that if one is not a member, he cannot collect or harvest or buy NTFPs and since they are charged token fees per quantity of NTFPs collected, this will spur them not to allow a non-member, or non-contributor to harvest or buy NTFPs and since they are living together, it becomes easier to apprehend intruders and this will cushion over-exploitation since they are under close watch.

Having established that majority of the rural populace depend on NTFPs for livelihoods and income generation, disappearance of forests is a signal of danger to the livelihood and economic well-being of the rural people. The government should then create an enabling environment for the various departments of forestry to embark on reforestation and forest development programs.

Table 1: List NTFPs in Gashaka Gumti National Park

NTFPS
Bush meat
Fish
Honey
Basketry
Forest foods
Palm wine
Medicinal Plants
Fruits/nuts
Insects
Mushroom
Charcoal
Ropes
Palm Oil

Table 2: Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentages
Gender		
Male	30	32
Female	65	68
Total	95	100
Marital Status		
Single	15	16
Married	80	84
Total	95	100
Age		
20-40	35	37
41-60	45	47
61 & Above	15	16
Total	95	100
Household Size		
1-4	35	37
5-8	45	47
9 & Above	15	16
Total	95	100
Educational Status		
Quaranic / Arabic	20	21
Primary	40	42
Secondary	25	26
Tertiary	10	11
Total	95	100
Occupation		
Farming	55	58
Civil Servant	15	16
Trading / Business	5	5
Artisan	5	5
Fishing	15	16
Total	95	100

Source: Field Survey 2013

Table 3: Annual Contributions of selected NTFPs to household income

Annual Quantity of NTFPs harvested	Gross Cost (N,000) / (\$)	Gross Income (N,000) / (\$)	Net Income (N,000) / (\$)
FUELWOOD			
144 pickup vans	216.0 / 1,080	318.9 / 1,594.5	102.9 / 514.5
CHARCOAL PRODUCTION			
240 bags of charcoal	115.2 / 576	196.8 / 984	95.6 / 488
CRAFT			
100 Mortar & Pestle	120.0 / 600	216.0 / 1080	96.0 / 480
200 Farm implement handles	480.0 / 2,400	840.0 / 420	360.0 / 180
200 Mats and baskets	96.0 / 480	144.0 / 720	480.0 / 2,400
PALM WINE			
2000 litres of palm wine	576.0 / 2,880	960.0 / 4,800	384.0 / 1,920
CATTLE STICKS			
2000 cattle sticks	240.0 / 1,200	360.0 / 1,800	120.0 / 600
PALM OIL PRODUCTION			
160 litres of palm oil	288.0 / 1,440	480.0 / 2,400	192.0 / 960
ROPE			
40 Bundles of Rope	240.0 / 1,200	360.0 / 1,800	120.0 / 600

SOURCE: Field Survey 2013

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UNACCEPTABLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WIDOWS IN THE LIFE INSURANCE SECTOR

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the denial of life insurance proposal to uneducated widows. The main obstacles for them are producing a salary certificate and a standard age proof. Self-employed or daily wagers widows are unable to produce these documents. This issue has been neglected since the very beginning of the Life Insurance sector. Even the Indian State owned Life Insurance Company, LIC of India adopts this policy. On the other hand, there are no restrictions on giving life insurance to uneducated men. This amounts to explicit gender discrimination. But the reality is women working as hard as men. Moreover, the mortality rate of men is higher than that of women. This empirical reality affects the growth of families and their future life chances. When a widow dies, minor children from that family struggle to complete their higher education owing to their poor economic condition. Undoubtedly their dreams are ruined. In some cases, children are diverted to lives of crime. As per the SECC (Socio Economic and Caste Census) 2011 census by the Indian Government, there are 30532550 widows in India who constitute 3.5% of the Indian population. Providing Life Insurance to these underprivileged categories does no harm to the Companies; instead it will provide a safety measure for children of such widows. State institutions should frame policies to give social security for widows under the poverty line. This paper will also analyse empirical trends and evidence for the claims advanced.

Keywords: Widow, life insurance sector, gender discrimination, minor children, social security.

INTRODUCTION

This scope of the paper focuses on the denial of life insurance proposal to uneducated widows. In most developing and poor countries, many more women are widowed than men who are living under the below poverty line. In India there is no Life Insurance facilities for uneducated widow women. Main Obstacle are unable to produce a salary certificate and a standard proofs (Self- employed or daily wagers widows are helpless to produce these documents). This issue has been neglected since the very beginning of the Life Insurance sector. Even the Indian State owned Life Insurance Company, LIC of India adopts this policy. Controversial Discrimination - On the other hand, there are no restrictions on giving life insurance to uneducated men (Insupportable policy).

Women have a great role in society through family perspectives and Nation development as well.

Widows do experience special difficulties and deprivations in their everyday life. Even this modern age, they are facing the unacceptable troubles such as begging, prostitution, and chanting hymns for their survival, also restricted employment opportunities and lack of social support ; cruel than this widowhood living with them minor children, and some significant number of widows are still discriminated against by their families and local communities. Due to longstanding Hindu traditions, many widows have been highly discriminated against in India (Ahmed 2009, Ulrich 1998, Sugirtharajah 2003), which is the home of 42 million widows (Loomba Foundation 2010). However, the argument that widows are discriminated against has relied heavily on case studies in small areas, there is no empirical evidence that such discrimination still exists nationally [2]. As per the SECC (Socio Economic and Caste Census)

2011 census by the Indian Government, there are 30532550 widows in India who constitute 3.5% of the Indian population. In this developing country, there still remains illiterate women also in village's fig (b), tribal areas and some innocent illiterate women in cities. The serious difficult relationship between uneducated widowhood and poverty is a basis in the household financial assets. The essence of poverty is lacking the material resources to meet basic needs.

Our society conformation is always stands there same but government also have an imperfections. Another authentic argument is Discrimination. It will cause a psychological thinking to women that men are superior to them. Yes, there are no restrictions on giving life insurance to uneducated men. Why government reveals this Unacceptable discrimination? But the reality is women working as hard as men. Moreover, the mortality rate of men is higher than that of women. Every Insurance company has the Mission / vision, In this case they shouldn't quote "policies for all". In superficially looking, Poor economic condition with minor children; No secure for future life; Inadequate Income; No Education for children; children are diverted to lives of crime these problems are influences major in their life. Unfortunately, when a widow dies, minor children from that family struggle to complete their higher education owing to their poor economic condition. This empirical reality affects the growth of families and their future life chances.

Poor Uneducated Widow Women Life Circle

There is a significantly larger number of illiterate women than men, and not just in our country. In nations all over the world, percentages of illiterate women are higher than those of illiterate men. There are several important factors of illiteracy widows in India such as No motivation of life, No secure for children future, No healthy Immune system (starving). Obviously, if mother would a illiterate widow woman fig (a), their minor children need to go as a child worker. Undoubtedly, never realize the importance of life and their dreams are ruined. In some cases, children are diverted to lives of crime. And next generation will be continued same. It will definitely deteriorate wrong side. As per the study of widows, the major impacts are in

tribal and village rural sides. This is the specific worriment in my personal experience in Government Insurance Policy sector, it is the one of the biggest issue i confronted. In this twenty-first era many tribal woman's are still don't know the Insurance policy and laws. Many Insurance company treats this like unnecessary law. One of the successful Government long lasting Insurance Company is LIC of India. "Even Government Insurance Companies focusing the profit".

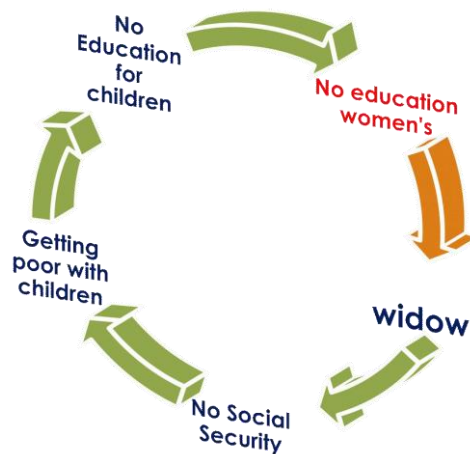


Figure 1(a)

FDI in Insurance

India's liberalisation policies became high on the end of 1990's. That is the time centre has decided and allowed 26% FDI in insurance sector. What change had made through the liberalisation of insurance from the foreign investors to the socially marginalised people? When the State is pushing the FDI across the global nations keeping the mind of money circulation and the improvement of GDP, the foreign investors on profit, neither played a role in the improvement of marginalised people even within their business strategies. Nearly 25 years of liberalisation policy adapted, what has happened to the weaker sections. Any policy changes happened for their inclusive growth in privatisation? There is no fair role and government has closed its eyes and ears just to bring the FDI and no policy what it will do to the lower economic sections. The primary duty of the government is to provide the social security to the marginalised people and the most vulnerable people like young widows and their minor children

who are usually left off. The original notion was that we can find the optimal balance between need-proportional justice and market defined justice in an economic system by finding the point where utility gains from incremental transfers downward, away from the market – set income allocation. There is no compulsion or directive measure or not even a suggestion to the foreign investors to take care the less privileged people even within their business models. Inclusive growth is the uncommon factor in this FDI companies.

CSR In Relation to Business Ethics

CSR corporate social responsibility which are mandatory for Public Sector undertakings and for private sector whose net profit is five crore or more. The Time Foundation – TNS survey was painting a rosy picture of the spread of CSR. CSR information website www.karmayog.com surveys that nearly half of the top 1000 Indian companies were doing nothing by way of CSR. Out of twenty two private life insurance companies in India in which all these companies are partnered with foreign insurance companies also having CSR section. What kind of social responsibilities these companies have in their business ethics? Does these companies providing equal opportunity to the people of all sects. But who cares if they didn't follow it when even the state owned Life Insurance Company doesn't have the equal gender consideration. Each company have to follow the business ethics first and then they can project themselves as doing CSR activities. Major reason for these companies are they are getting tax exemption for doing CSR activities. But in reality most of them doing nothing. Providing localized rural employment and livelihood opportunities to empowerment through wealth creation, raising quality of life and social wellbeing of communities. Question arises now, how much these are fulfilled by the CSR's?

Money and Humanity

The perception among the people that money always in the giving end and humanity always at the receiving end is not always true. Spreaded humanity is the catalyst of the social engineering and it plays a distinctive role in the inclusive development. Inclusive development doesn't have

any caste or gender bias. The rise of micro finance is an example for the humanity at its core strength of economy.

LIC of India Mission and Vision

Mission

"Explore and enhance the quality of life of people through financial security by providing products and services of aspired attributes with competitive returns, and by rendering resources for economic development." [6]

Vision

"A trans-nationally competitive financial conglomerate of significance to societies and Pride of India." [6]

According to the LIC of India, it explicitly shows they have a mission and vision like this, but indirectly it seems only focussing on profit rather than to be a equal opportunity provider and shows complete dichotomy from the policy of the state owned life insurance company. Some Objectives of LIC are a) "Spread Life Insurance widely and in particular to the rural areas and to the socially and economically backward classes with a view to reaching all insurable persons in the country and providing them adequate financial cover" [6] and b) "Involve all people working in the Corporation to the best of their capability in furthering the interests of the insured public by providing efficient service with courtesy" [6]. It did not mention anything that will not give for Insurance policy for widow women. Government Insurance institution who serve the people also acts as a private profit sector. The state allows this policy; then how the people will tackle this problem. Vision 2020 of LIC of India refers Policy in everones pocket. But denying the life insurance policy to the uneducated widows and how it could be achieved when the Indian population of women are nearly fifty percent uneducated in rural areas. The information that got about the denial of life insurance to uneducated widows through RTI (Right to Information) Act. Here, I am referring down that report.

Tenacious Empirical Evidence

Report of LIC of India on widows through Right to Information Act- 2005

Final Status of LICOI/R/2015/60015

Applicant Name P. Yakulan

Date of receipt 04/08/2015

Request Filed With Life Insurance Corporation of India

Dear sir/madam,

Please provide the details for the below mentioned questions.

1) Does LIC of India gives Life Insurance policy to widows who are in good health and having minor children and are working as self-employed but their earnings are below the income tax level and they do not have standard age proofs. They have voter ID card and aadhar card.

(1.1) widows who are in good health and having minor children and are working as a daily wage earners and they do not have standard age proofs. They have voter Id card and aadhar card.

2. Does LIC of India has any data that how many widows are insured with LIC of India presently. If yes, please provide the information zonal wise. Request document (if any) document not provided

Status REQUEST DISPOSED OF as on 10/08/2015

Reply : Applicant is informed that LIC of India is considering the proposal received from the self-employed widows who are in good health and having minor children on the basis of standard age proof only. Nonstandard age proof is not acceptable. The information sought on number of widows insured with LIC of India presently, is not maintained as a record as provided under section 2 i of RTI Act 2005, at this office of the public authority. Hence information cannot be provided.

As you have seen this report, they accepted the imperfection of Government Regulations. Standard Identification proofs (age proofs, salary certificate) are the vital role for policy making, but there are only two major reasons to restrict the policy one is Risk factor and another one is Socio-Economic conditions of widow's life.

Speculations of Insurance companies on illiterate widows

Risk Factor: Still sticking to the myth that women cannot work and their mortality rate is higher.

Socio- Economic condition of widow's life: They mostly are dependents and are highly uninsurable.

Reality

What difference will the insurance companies will give if they are ready to give 5th standard educated certified widow and 9th standard educated but unfortunately she doesn't have the school certificate. Even the illiterate women are doing their self-employed works and mostly engaged themselves with self-help groups.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This is a very challenging topic, because this discussion were made according to the certain criteria. Explore and enhance the quality of widow woman's life through financial security. Government should provide them adequate financial coverage through insurance companies for widows children future aspects and to eradicate poverty. Providing Life Insurance to these underprivileged categories does no harm to the Companies; instead it will provide a safety measure for children of such widows. State institutions should frame policies to give social security for widows under the poverty line. Its gives us good expected changes for upcoming generation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my mentor Prof. ARUN THIRUVENGADAM, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. Am extremely thankful and indebted to him for sharing expertise,

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I am also grateful to Coordinator, Prof. SRI KRISHNA AYYANGAR in the School of Public policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to all of the faculty members for their help and support. I also thank my parents for the unceasing encouragement, support and attention. I am also special grateful to my wife who supported me throughout this work.

I am using this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who supported me.

Economic Research, Osaka University Email: yintingjp2001@yahoo.co.jp

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FIGURES

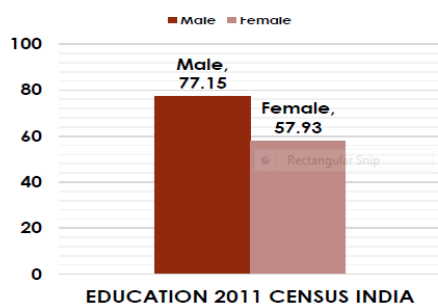


Figure 2 (b)

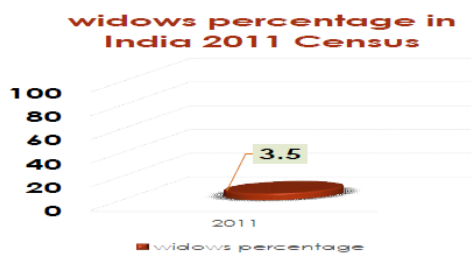


Figure 3 (c)

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GANGA REJUVENATION MISSION- SUCCESS OR FAILURE

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Abstract

Natural resources are existed naturally without the interference of human beings like sunlight, minerals, rain, wind, trees etc. disturbing of natural environment became a human phenomena on the name development and competitive growth. In the process of environmental degradation many perennial river turned into non perennial or reservoirs of dumping yards. Rapidly growing population, equally fast growing industrialization and urbanization has exposed water resources to various kinds of degradation Ganga a Mythological and agricultural source for northern part of India has about 80% of the river's basin is in India and remaining with Bangladesh and Nepal. It has been turned into a bed for various polluters as pesticides, heavy metals, bleaches and dyes as well as tanneries, food processors, textile and paper industries, pharmaceutical companies release their industrial waste into the river channel. In saving the river Goddess, One such attempt has been made by the Indian Government to clean the River i.e. through a National River Ganga Basin Project(NRGBP) funded by World bank, under the National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG).. The research is focused on the efforts being put by the ministry in cleaning up the river, and I would further discuss the challenges and strict measures to be taken by the government in mitigating such type of occurrence in future.

Keywords: Ganga River, National River Ganga Basin Project (NRGBP), pollutants, industrialization, natural resource.

INTRODUCTION

A river is a natural flowing watercourse, usually freshwater, flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river. In some cases a river flows into the ground and becomes dry at the end of its course without reaching another body of water. The rivers flowing in India are Ganga, Indus, Chenab, Ravi, Satluj, Beas, Brahmaputra, Krishna, Godavari, Narmada, Sabarmati, Mahi etc. All these rivers have great importance locally and nationally.

Rivers have been used as a source of water, for obtaining food, for transport, as a defensive measure, as a source of hydropower to drive machinery, for bathing, and as a means of disposing of waste. Rivers help to determine the urban form of cities and neighborhoods and their corridors often present opportunities for urban renewal through the development of foreshore ways such as river walks.

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But the physical wellbeing of the rivers show that we have totally failed in keeping our reverence for rivers. Rapid growth in industrialization to support the country's growing population and economy has polluted our rivers like never before. Most of these rivers have turned into sewage carrying drains. This poses a serious health problem as millions of people continue to depend on this polluted water from the rivers.

The Importance of River Ganga

The Ganga is not an ordinary river in India. It is a life-line, a symbol of purity for countless people of India. Millions of Ganga devotees still throng to the river just to have a holy dip, Achman (Mouthful with holy water), and absolve themselves of sins. The Ganga drains 9 states of India. Today, the 2,525 km long river supports 29 class I cities, 23 class II cities and 48 towns, plus thousands of villages. The tributaries of Ganga are Yamuna, Mahananda, Kosi, Mahakali etc. The Ganga flows through five states

such as Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal

The Hindus consider it sacred to take a dip in the holy waters of River Ganga, they believe that this would get them rid of their sins. Ganga is the daughter of Meru also known as the Himalayas and his second daughter is Uma who is companion of Lord Shiva. The aarti is performed every evening on the banks of River Ganga to pay regards to Goddess Ganga. Goddess Ganga is also referred as Ganga Ma. Her name has been stated in the Rig Veda an ancient scriptures of Hindus. It is also considered as the crossing point for all the human beings whether dead or alive. The Hindus consider the banks of River Ganga in Varanasi the most sacred for all the last rites. This is also referred as the Greatest Cremation ground The last rites of the Hindus performed at the Ganges are considered most sacred and it has also been mentioned in epic of Mahabharata that says the dead only receives heaven when their last ashes are flown in the holy waters of Ganges River.

Causes of Pollution

Water-borne diseases are a common cause of illness in India today. The bad effects of river pollution are not limited to human population only. Pollution of river has affected animals, fish, and bird's population. There is no sign of river pollution being stopped. It is increasing day by day. There are several sources of water pollution, which work together to reduce overall river water quality. Industries discharge their liquid waste products into rivers. Our agriculture practice that uses chemical fertilizers and pesticides also contribute to river pollution as rainwater drains these chemicals into the rivers. Domestic wastes that we throw into rivers adds to pollution levels. As population grows, the size of towns and cities also grows. With that the amount of domestic wastes that we throw into river increases. In most of the towns and cities, the municipal drains carry our wastes to rivers. There are examples of rivers catching fire because of high pollution levels. This shows how seriously polluted our rivers are.

The Ganges River Pollution is now at such a high level that the amount of toxins, chemicals and other dangerous bacteria found in the river are now almost

3000 times over the limit suggested by the WHO as 'safe'.

Some facts are:

- Approximately 1 billion litres of raw, untreated sewage are dumped in the river on a daily basis. The amount has more than doubled in the last 20 years and experts predict another 100% increase in the following 20 years.
- The rapid explosion of India's population in the last 25 years coupled with lax regulations on industry has put a huge strain on the river leading to an explosion in Ganges river pollution.
- Polybags are tossed in publicly and casually; piles of refuse tumble down slopes to the river edge in Varanasi.
- Thousands of bodies are cremated on the banks of the river yearly with many being released into the river with hopes that their souls may have a direct path to heaven.

Main Polluters of Ganga

- A large proportion of the sewage waste from various cities which is higher in organic load is diverted to Ganga.
- Establishment of a large number of industries like tanner is, slaughter houses, textile mills and hospitals that flourish on the bank of Ganga in cities like Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi contribute to the pollution by dumping untreated waste which is toxic and non-biodegradable.
- Hundreds of unwanted or 'illegitimate' babies, cattle and other animal carcasses are also dumped in the Ganges again with religious significance.
- A lot of human carcasses are also dumped in Ganga by poor families who do not have money for cremation.



Figure 1

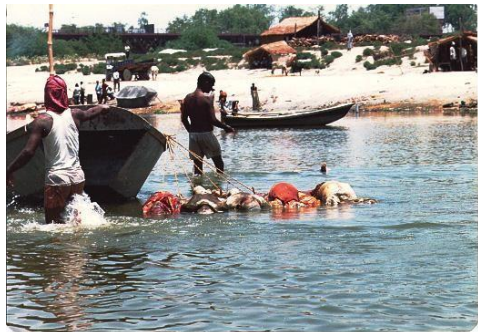


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

GANGA ACTION PLAN

Ganga today is more polluted than when the Ganga Action Plan was initiated by the late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi back in January 1986. The efforts to decrease the pollution were unsuccessful even after spending Rs.9,017 million.

The GAP-I was extended as GAP-II from 1993 onwards covering 4 major tributaries of Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahanada. The program was further broad-based in 1995 with the inclusion of other rivers and renamed as National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Ganga could not be cleaned but 34 other rivers have been taken up for cleaning with the same failed model of "GAP".

In the last years, leadership and staff of GAP have come and gone, often without any vision and commitment. There have been reviews and monitoring from time to time at different levels but the problems identified were never addressed and the decisions taken were never enforced. The lower level officials most often were unfamiliar with the work done by previous groups. GAP needs a critical examination, a thorough review and a complete overhaul. It has become so infamous and stale that it needs to be done away with completely. A new plan with a fresh name, more real and practical objectives, concrete action plans is needed to restore the health of the river Ganga. A committed, visionary, dynamic and practical man needs to be given the charge of cleaning and restoring the ecological health of river Ganga. Serious and honest efforts are needed. Casual approach and cosmetic efforts will only worsen the condition of river Ganga. This plan was withdrawn on 31st March 2000.

Delay in completion

Initially it was expected that the program would be completed in 6-7 years. However, it has been delayed considerably due to following reasons:

- Being the first program of its kind and magnitude, there was lack of experience both at the central and the state levels

- Litigations and court cases resulted in considerable delays.
- The schemes of some of the sewage treatment plants had to be tendered several times. There were contractual problems also.
- Externally aided components were delayed considerably due to initial formalities between the governments.
- Diversion of funds by State Governments resulted in delayed release of central funds.

THE NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

The Central Government, set up „National Ganga River Basin Authority“ (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River on 20 February 2009, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is ex-officio Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Ministers Concerned and the Chief Ministers of states through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others. The objective of the Authority is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

The first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was held on 5th October, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Hon^{ble} Prime Minister. In 2010 Union Budget of India a budget of 500 crore rupees was allocated to NGRBA.

Main function of NGRBA will revolve around addressing the problem of pollution in Ganga in a holistic and comprehensive manner. This will include water quality, minimum ecological flows, sustainable access and other issues relevant to river ecology and management.

In July 2014 the NGRBA was transformed from Ministry of Environment and Forests to the

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Functions of NGRBA

- The NGRBA would be responsible for addressing the problem of pollution in Ganga in a holistic and comprehensive manner. This will include water quality, minimum ecological flows, sustainable access and other issues relevant to river ecology and management.
- The NGRBA will not only be regulatory body but will also have developmental role in terms of planning & monitoring of the river conservation activities and ensuring that necessary resources are available.
- The NGRBA would work for maintaining the water quality of the river Ganga upto acceptable standards. The pollution abatement activities will be taken through the existing implementation mechanisms in the State and also through special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) at the pollution hotspots.
- The NGRBA will ensure minimum ecological flow in the Ganga by regulating water abstraction and by promoting water storage projects.
- The NGRBA will plan and monitor programmes for cleaning of Ganga and its tributaries.
- To begin with, it will concentrate on Ganga main stream.
- The NGRBA would draw upon professional expertise within and outside the Government for advice on techno-economic issues.
- The technical and administrative support to NGRBA shall be provided by the Ministry of Environment & for advice on techno-economic issues.

NANAMI GANGE

An Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission called “Namami Gange” has been proposed to be set up and a sum of Rs. 2,037 crores has been set aside for this purpose. In addition a sum of Rs. 100 crores has been allocated for developments of Ghats and beautification of River Fronts at Kedarnath, Haridwar, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Patna and Delhi in the current financial year. Namami Gange approaches Ganga Rejuvenation by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for a concrete action plan for future.

Recognizing the multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder nature of the Ganga Rejuvenation challenge, the key Ministries comprising of (a) WR, NRD&GR, (b) Environment, Forests & Climate Change, (c) Shipping, (d) Tourism, (e) Urban Development, (f) Drinking Water and Sanitation and Rural Development have been working together since June, 2014 to arrive at an action plan.

Following are proposed to be taken up under Namami Gange:

1. Nirmal Dhara- ensuring sustainable municipal sewage management
 - Project prioritization in coordination with Ministry of Urban Development.
 - Incentive for states to take up projects on Ganga Main-stem by providing an additional share of central grants for sewerage infrastructure.
 - Uniform standards for both MoUD scheme and Namami Gange programme, 10 years mandatory O&M by the same service provider at par with NGRBA programme and PPP, Mandatory reuse of treated water
 - Expanding coverage of sewerage infrastructure in 118 urban habitations on banks of Ganga- estimated cost by MoUD is Rs 51000 Crores
2. Nirmal Dhara- managing sewage from Rural Areas
 - Mo DWS scheme for all Ganga bank Gram Panchayts (1632) free from open

defecation by 2022, at a cost of Rs 1700 Crores as central share

3. Nirmal Dhara- managing Industrial discharge
 - Making ZLD mandatory
 - Rationalized water tariff to encourage reuse
 - Real time water quality monitoring
4. Aviral Dhara
 - Enforcing River Regulatory Zones on Ganga Banks
 - Rational agricultural practices, efficient irrigation methods
 - Restoration and conservation of wetlands
5. Ensuring ecological rejuvenation by conservation of aquatic life and biodiversity
6. Promotion of Tourism and Shipping in a rational and sustainable manner
7. Knowledge Management on Ganga through Ganga Knowledge Centre

To achieve the objectives of MND, certain activities must be prohibited in the NRGB as soon as possible. The list of prohibited activities in the NRGB include, i) discharge of sewage (either treated or untreated) from Class I towns, either directly or indirectly, into any river; ii) discharge of industrial effluents (either treated or untreated) from any large, medium or cluster of small industries, either directly or indirectly, into any river; iii) direct injection of sewage and industrial effluents (either treated or untreated) into the subsurface; iv) disposal of unburnt and partially burnt corpses and animal carcasses in any river or riverbank; v) open defecation and dumping of municipal/industrial solid wastes or sludge in any river or its active flood plain; vi) Construction of new permanent structures in river flood plains for residential, commercial and industrial purposes, but excluding bridges and associated roads, jettys/ghats and hydraulic structures for storage/diversion/control/chanelisation of river waters.

NEW STEPS

Recently, after being rebuked by the Supreme Court, the central government filed an affidavit envisaging a three phase plan – short-term, medium-term and long-term – to clean and rejuvenate the river. Government informed court that the process to clean Ganga will take 18 years and several programmes like Rs 51,000 crore worth project of the Union urban development ministry wherein 118 towns across India would get sewerage infrastructure including waste water treatment and solid waste management.

- Other major steps for cleaning Ganga which central government has envisaged includes a scheme for making all 1649 Gram Panchayats on Ganga banks open defecation free and a plan for zero liquid discharge by grossly pollution industries located in Ganga basin states.
- The government has also promised to tackle pollution in Kanpur, a city in Uttar Pradesh infamous for its polluting leather industry, which discharges toxic waste straight into the river. But again, it fails to mention how this will be done.

REASONS OF FAILURE

Since its formation in 2009 by UPA government as the nodal body to handle Ganga cleaning, NGRBA has been a non-starter with only three meetings in the last five years, the last meeting held in April 2012. But the NDA government recently told the supreme court that it intends to modify and restructure NGRBA to make it more effective.

Of 24 people, who were to be transferred from the environment ministry to water ministry for NGRBA work, only seven have come leaving 17 posts vacant. Now how will Ganga rejuvenation programme run when we don't have scientists and experts to work on it?

Ineffectiveness of NGRBA and apathy of previous governments had led to civil society experts like Water rights activist Rajendra Singh, Ravi Chopra and Professor Rashid Hyatt Siddiqui.

In 2013 the Central Pollution Control Board inspected 51 of the 64 existing sewage treatment plants along the Ganga and found that less than 60% of the installed capacity was being used and 30% of the plants were not even functioning.

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