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CONTENTS

Nationalised Banks of India Providing ATM and Debit Card Services Positively

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Abstract:

A computerized telecommunications device known as an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) allows bank customers to conduct financial transactions in a public setting without the assistance of a bank teller or human clerk. A plastic smartcard with a chip that has a unique card number and some security information, or a plastic ATM card with a magnetic stripe, is inserted to identify the consumer. An ATM was a new development in the Indian banking sector ten years ago. However, ATMs have proliferated throughout cities since private sector banks entered the market. With the active deployment of ATMs, private sector banks such as ICICI Bank, UTI Bank, and HDFC Bank have seen an increase in their clientele. Since then, public sector banks (PSBs) have also increased the number of their ATMs. Public sector banks (PSBs), commercial banks, foreign banks, and cooperative banks have been in fierce competition with one another in the past few years to install ATMs around the nation.

CMS Info systems, the top cash logistics company in India, said that the average monthly cash withdrawals from ATMs increased by 5.51% to Rs 1.43 crore in FY24. The survey shows a consistent need for cash nationwide, despite the growing acceptance of digital payment methods like UPI, which has raised concerns about a drop in cash usage. According to the research, the average amount of cash taken out increased by 10.37% in metro areas, 3.94% in semi-urban and rural areas (SURU), and 3.73% in semi-metros. This increase highlights how cash transactions are still used in many regions of the nation. According to the research, ATM cash withdrawals have increased by 37.49% in urban areas and by 12.50% in SURU, indicating that different regions have varied cash usage habits.

Keywords: Computerized telecommunications, plastic smartcards, HSBC, CMS info-system, digital payment methods, UPI.

Introduction:

The development of ATMs, direct payroll deposit, phone payments, point of sale, credit and debit cards, automated clearing houses, cash deposit machines, auto-banking, and other related services was made possible by the introduction of the electronic fund transfer system in the late 1970s. At that point, the development process started to pick up speed. The service industry was expanding quickly at the same time and was starting to play a significant role in the world's developing economies. If we look at the last 20 years, we can see that the service industry has been the main employer in our nation and has played a significant role in its rapid expansion. The electronic fund transfer system was introduced in the late 1970s, and it paved the way for the creation of ATMs, direct payroll deposit, phone payments, point of sale, credit and debit cards, automated clearing houses, cash deposit machines, auto-banking, and other related services. The banking industry may do this by implementing technology in their operations, which will spur innovation. An example of a banking innovation that has gained widespread acceptance across all banks is the automated teller machine (ATM). ATMs continue to be a crucial component of the banking industry, despite the fact that technology advancements like internet and mobile banking have contributed to a comprehensive overhaul of the industry.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM):

In certain countries, the device is referred to as an automated teller machine, whereas in other countries (Canada), it is called an automated banking machine (ABM). Additionally, it is well-known by a variety of monikers, including cash machine, cash point, micro bank, cash dispenser machine, etc. An ATM's main purpose is to facilitate financial transactions, specifically the public's ability to withdraw money from their own accounts without the assistance of a clerk, cashier, or other human resource. These devices have easily navigable software that is accessible to all users, making them user-friendly. It is available around-the-clock to assist customers in withdrawing funds as needed. In addition, this device can be used for a

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number of other tasks such as verifying the cash amount, generating a mini statement of accounts, transferring funds from one customer's account to another without the need for a manual interface, and processing additional fees such as insurance and loan premiums. The ATM card has a unique card number for each customer and resembles a plastic smart card with a microchip and magnetic strip. For security reasons, it also includes additional information such as the date of expiration and the CVV (Card Verification Value) number. Every customer receives a personal identification number (PIN) for authentication purposes.

Debit Card:

Debit Card came in the market since 1966. The Bank of Delaware launched the first ever debit card in the world. It was started as a pilot program alternative to carrying cash or a cheque book. In the initial stage the adoption of debit card was slow due to the fact that there was no connection of merchants with the banks outside one state. Thus, it was not widely accepted in those days. Back then in 1969, the first Automatic Teller Machine was launched in the United States at Chemical Bank in Rockville, New York. In the 1970, the process became more user-friendly which resulted in the increase in the acceptance rate of debit card. Since the mid-2000s, a number of initiatives have allowed debit cards issued in one country to be used in other countries and allowed their use for internet and phone purchases. This is how the Debit Card were accepted the entire world and benefited the consumers at national and international level.

Review of Literature:

1. Chattopadhyay and Saralelimath (2012)

Their study concentrated on the preferences of customers regarding the use of ATM services in Pune. The effects of ATMs on customer service and increased customer satisfaction are discussed in this article. Structured questionnaires were used to gather data, which was then analyzed using statistical tools to examine the association between demographic variables and ATM choice.

2. Hota (2013)

He discussed the rise of brown and white ATMs in India in his paper "Growth of ATM Industry in India." According to the article's findings, ATM usage is rising in India, and banks are gradually switching from multi-vendor to multi-channel integration.

3. Odusina (2014)

He attempted to investigate Nigerian ATM usage and customer satisfaction in his work. Despite the growing number of ATM installations in Nigeria, it was discovered that the needs of the clients were not being adequately satisfied. Three banks in Ogun State, Metropolis of Nigeria First Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, and Skye Bank were compared in this study. Questionnaires were utilized to gather data, which were then analyzed using the chi-square statistical technique. The study's findings demonstrated a favorable and significant correlation between customer satisfaction and ATM usage.

4. Baliyan and Mittal (2015)

In their article they discussed white label ATMs in India. Their work discusses the idea that led to the creation of these ATMs in India as well as the current trend in them. The writers have also talked about the issues and constraints.

Objectives of the Study:

1.   To depict the recent developments of ATM and Debit Cards in India.
2.   To analyse the growth of ATM and Debit Card usage in nationalized banks of   India.

Hypothesis of the Study:

Hypothesis 1:

H_0 – All nationalized banks have unfavorable towards providing facilities of ATM and Debit Card services. Customers are not aware about these services.

H_1 - All nationalized banks have favorable towards providing facilities of ATM and Debit Card services. Customers are aware about these services.

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

The sample taken for the study is restricted to Akola City and therefore the   results   attained may not be constant with any other location.

1.   The research was limited up to the ATM and Debit Card users of nationalized   banks of India.
2.   The research was focused on growth and development factors of ATM and Debit Cards.

Research Methodology:

The present research employs a combination of observation, interview, and survey conducted in accordance with the descriptive research technique; data was collected using the Simple Random Sampling approach; data was collected from primary and secondary sources; one hundred cardholders completed the survey and the questionnaire; secondary data was collected from a variety of sources, such as books, newspapers, review articles, reports, and papers; after data was collected, Anova single factor was used for analysis; and MS-Excel was utilized to help with data analysis.

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Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

Table No. 1
Degree of Satisfaction Level of ATM Card

Sr. No.	Particulars	Scale				
		SA	A	N	DA	SDA
1.	Convenience	335	249	275	207	118
2.	Accessibility	220	232	270	324	245
3.	Features	150	126	155	168	287
4.	Security	195	293	200	201	250
	Total	**900**	**900**	**900**	**900**	**900**
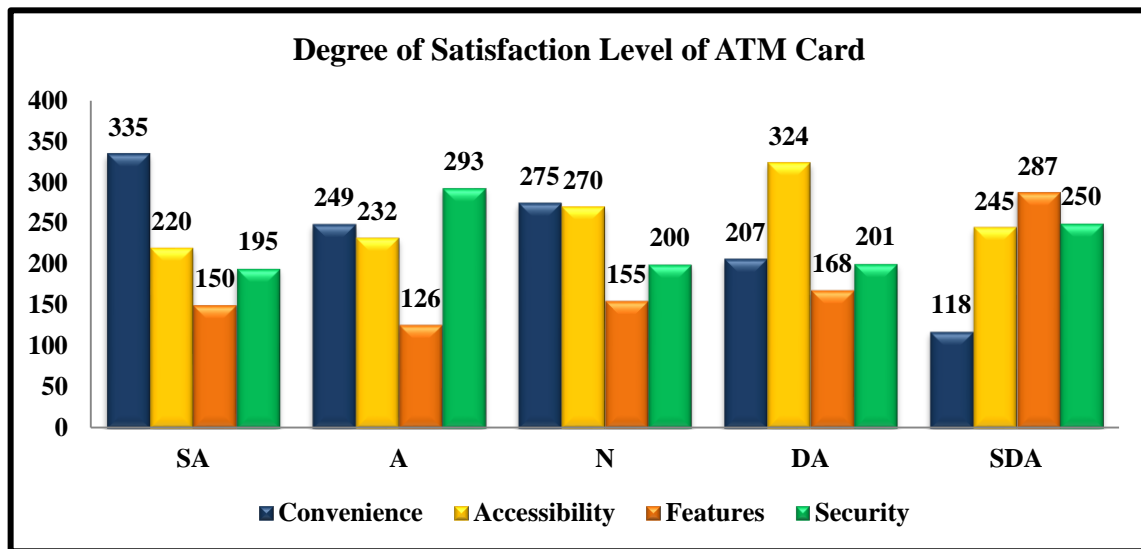
The above data is the ranking indicates by the ATM Card holders to different types of services or facilities they pay for using their card. The graph provides the ranking of the spending pattern of the ATM Card holders. It can see from the data and the graph that maximum 335 ATM Card holders are strongly agree and rated to convenience category. Maximum 293 ATM Card holders are agree and rated to security category. 275 of ATM Card holders are neutral about convenience category. Maximum 324 of ATM Card holders are disagree for accessibility category and 287 ATM Card holders are strongly disagree for the features of ATM Card services provided by banks of Akola district.

Majority 335 of ATM Card holders are strongly agree that ATM Card is convenient to use for financial transactions. Hence maximum ATM Card holders are highly satisfied with the facilities provided by banks.

Table No. 2
Degree of Satisfaction Level of Debit Card

Sr. No.	Particulars	Scale				
		SA	A	N	DA	SDA
1.	Convenience	126	90	78	111	195
2.	Accessibility	115	100	121	190	130
3.	Features	100	211	157	145	60
4.	Security	159	99	144	54	115
	Total	**500**	**500**	**500**	**500**	**500**

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Degree of Satisfaction Level of Debit Card
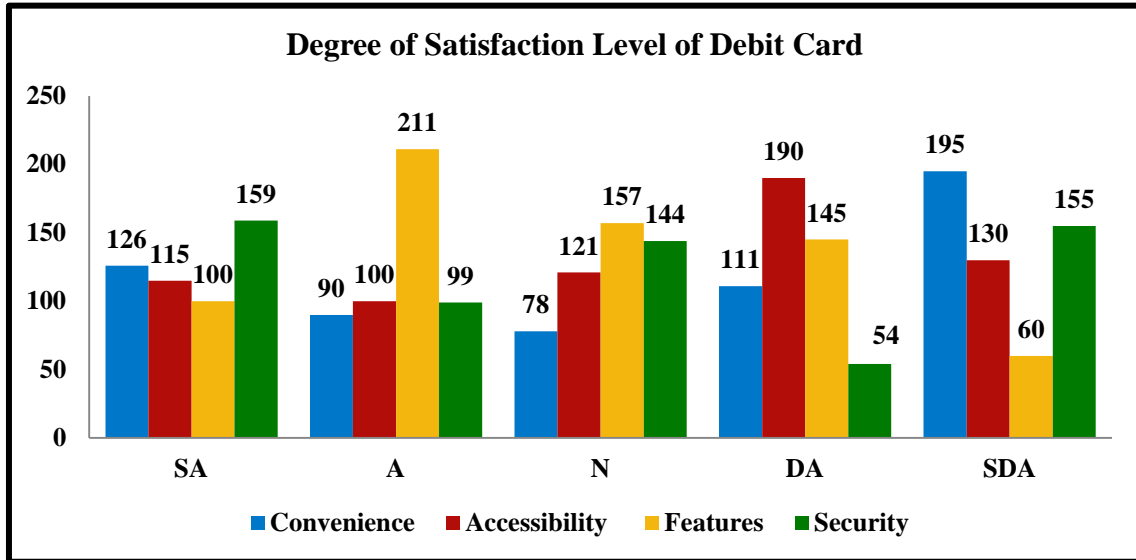
The above data is the ranking given by the Debit Card holders to different types of services or facilities they pay for using their card. The graph provides the ranking of the spending pattern of the Debit Card holders. It can see from the data and the graph that maximum 159 of Debit Card holders are strongly agree and rated to accessibility category. Maximum 211 Debit Card holders are agree and rated to features category. 157 of Debit Card holders are neutral about features category. Maximum 190 of Debit Card holders are disagree for accessibility category and 195 Debit Card holders are strongly disagree for the convenience of Debit Card services provided by banks of Akola district.

Majority 211 of Debit Card holders are agree that Debit Card is safe and security is provided by bank for financial transactions. Hence maximum Debit Card holders are highly satisfied with the facilities provided by banks.

Table No. 3
Social Acceptance

Sr. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents		Total	Percentage	
		ATM Card	Debit Card		ATM Card	Debit Card
1.	Strongly Positive	347	215	562	38.55	43.00
2.	Positive	275	162	437	30.55	32.40
3.	Negative	220	100	320	24.44	20.00
4.	Strongly Negative	58	23	81	06.44	05.40
	Total	**900**	**500**	**1400**	**100**	**100**

Social Acceptance

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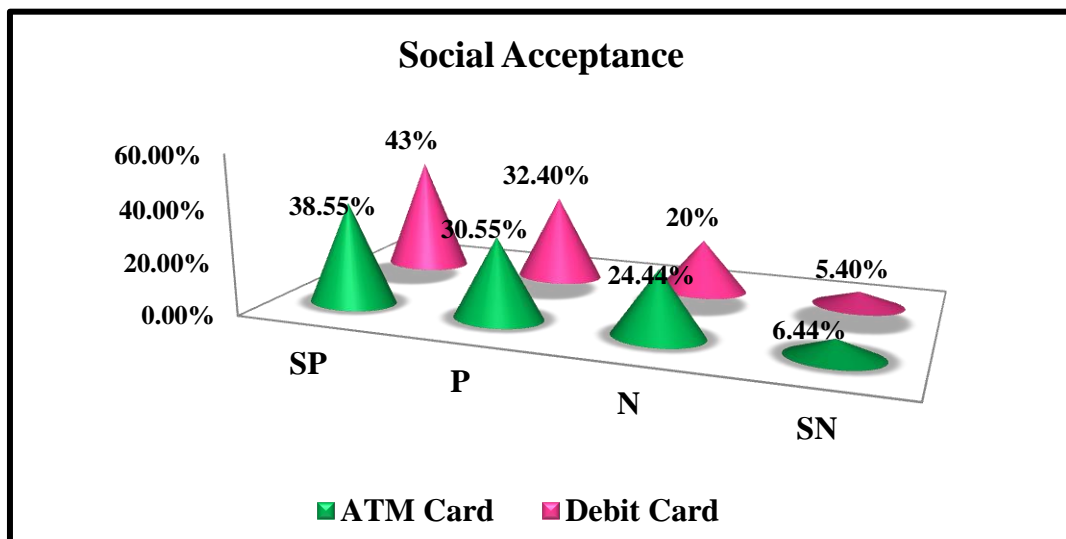
The above table and graph analysis indicates the information about social acceptance of ATM Card and Debit Card in Akola district. 38.55 percent of ATM and 43.00 percent of Debit Card holders are strongly positive, 30.55 percent of ATM and 32.40 percent of Debit Card holders are positive, 24.44 percent and 20.00 percent of ATM and Debit Card holders are negative, 06.44 percent and 05.40 percent for strongly negative respectively.

Maximum 69.10 percent of ATM Card holders and 75.40 percent of Debit Card holders are responded to the category strongly positive about social acceptance of ATM Card and Debit Card in Akola district.

Hypothesis Testing:

H_0 – All nationalized banks have unfavorable towards providing facilities of ATM and Debit Card services. Customers are not aware about these services.

H_1 - All nationalized banks have favorable towards providing facilities of ATM and Debit Card services. Customers are aware about these services.

This hypothesis was framed to find out whether the customers are aware about the services of ATM and Debit Card provided by nationalized banks of Akola district. To test the same ANOVA single factor was used. This test was applied on the data collected to prove the hypothesis. The following table observes the results obtained from the responses of the card holders:

Table No. 4

Anova : Single Factor (Based on the responses of respondents collected from ATM and Debit Card holders)				
Security issues	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
S1	1400	3431	2.45071	1.23274
S2	1400	3450	2.46429	1.24962

Table No. 5

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-Value	F- crit
Between groups	0.12893	1	0.12893	0.10388	0.74725	3.84478
Within groups	3472.81	2798	1.24118			
Total	3472.94	2799				

Test Interpretation:

In this hypothesis favorable ATM and Debit Card service is an independent variable while benefits of Debit Card, customer favorable facilities, ATM locations and other payment are the dependent variable.

In the above table p-value is $0.74725 > 0.05$, further the F-value for this hypothesis is found to be 0.10388, which is greater than the table value that is 3.84478. **As the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis is rejected and accepted the alternative hypothesis** that, "All nationalized banks have favorable towards providing facilities of ATM and Debit Card services. Customers are aware about these services."

Conclusion:

The types, rates, and growth of ATM and Debit Card usage among bank clients in India are the main topics of this descriptive analysis study. The findings indicate a significant increase in the use of Indian ATMs and Debit Card, particularly following the demonetization program. The public's awareness of cashless transactions has also been observed to have increased dramatically over the last several years. The government must take appropriate action to eliminate the degree of user ignorance in order to raise public knowledge and interest in accepting and implementing technology advancement in the Indian banking industry.

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Impact of Interventions of Kolhapur Type Weirs on Irrigation Intensity in Kolhapur District

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of Kolhapur Type Weirs (KTWs), a traditional and effective irrigation intervention, on irrigation intensity in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. Kolhapur district is heavily dependent on agriculture, and effective water management plays a pivotal role in ensuring crop productivity and sustainability. Kolhapur Type Weirs are low-cost, farmer-friendly structures designed to increase water availability for irrigation, which in turn, may significantly influence the irrigation intensity in the region. The research utilizes the Z-test to evaluate changes in irrigation intensity, which is defined as the proportion of the gross irrigated area to the total cultivated area. The Z-test is employed to test the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference in irrigation intensity before and after the construction of KTWs. Data on irrigation intensity pre- and post-intervention is collected from agricultural records over several years. Preliminary results suggest a significant increase in irrigation intensity post the introduction of KTWs, reflecting improved water accessibility and efficient irrigation practices. The Z-test results indicate that the increase in irrigation intensity is statistically significant, with a p-value below the 0.05 threshold, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. The findings underscore the positive impact of Kolhapur Type Weirs on water resource management in Kolhapur district, contributing to better irrigation outcomes and enhanced agricultural productivity. This study recommends further expansion of KTWs in other water-scarce regions to replicate the observed benefits.

Keywords: Z-test, Kolhapur Type Weirs, Irrigation, agricultural, Kolhapur, district, Maharashtra

Introduction:

Water resource management plays a crucial role in agricultural sustainability, especially in regions like Kolhapur district in Maharashtra, where agriculture is heavily dependent on rainfall and irrigation. One of the significant interventions in improving irrigation efficiency in this region is the construction of "Kolhapur Type Weirs." These weirs are low-cost, small-scale water storage structures that help in improving groundwater recharge and maintaining surface water levels during dry periods, contributing to the overall enhancement of irrigation intensity. Kolhapur Type Weirs are unique to this region, designed to retain water in riverbeds and streams while allowing excess water to flow downstream. This structure helps in raising the water table, thus ensuring a continuous supply of water for irrigation purposes throughout the year. The intervention of these weirs is considered a sustainable solution to address water scarcity and improve agricultural productivity.

Importance of Irrigation Intensity Irrigation intensity, defined as the ratio of irrigated land to total cultivated land, is a critical indicator of agricultural development. High irrigation intensity implies better water management and potentially higher crop productivity. In the Kolhapur district, improving irrigation intensity through efficient water management practices is vital for enhancing crop yields and supporting rural livelihoods.

Statistical Approach: Z-Test for Irrigation Intensity

In evaluating the impact of Kolhapur Type Weirs on irrigation intensity, a Z-test is a powerful statistical tool. The Z-test helps in comparing the mean irrigation intensity before and after the implementation of weirs to determine if there is a significant difference in irrigation intensity attributable to these interventions. The Z-test is particularly useful when dealing with large sample sizes, which is often the case with agricultural data spread over multiple farms and seasons. The Kolhapur Type Weirs (KTWs), also known as "Kolhapur Bandhara," are traditional irrigation structures in Maharashtra, especially in Kolhapur district, designed to improve water availability for agriculture. These weirs are crucial in improving irrigation intensity, which refers to the ratio of irrigated land to the total cultivable land.

Objective of the Research study

To evaluate the impact of irrigation facilities on irrigation intensity in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods:

As one of the state's irrigation districts, Kolhapur in Maharashtra is the site of the current study. We selected the irrigation intensity in the beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas using a multi-stage sampling technique. Kolhapur district's KOLHAPUR TYPE WEIRS were chosen at random for the first stage. For the Selection of sample respondents, the researcher divided Kolhapur district into four regions then i.e. East, Central, West, South -East. After that, the researcher selected one block from each region i.e. Hatkanagale, Karveer, Radhanagari, and Chandgad. followed by 10% of villages selected from each block; taluka he total number of villages is 47. In the next stage, five beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries' farmers were selected from each village therefore, 470 respondents were selected for the study.

$$\text{Irrigation Intensity} = \frac{\text{Net Irrigated Area}}{\text{Net Sown Area}} * 100$$

Results and Discussions:

Table no 1 : K.T. Weir's Beneficiary and Non-Beneficial Irrigation Intensity:

Irrigation Intensity						
Status	Non-Beneficiary		Beneficiary		Total	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Low	19	8.09	22	9.36	41	8.72
Moderate	216	91.91	135	57.45	351	74.68
High	0	0	78	33.19	78	16.60
Total	235	100.00	235	100.00	470	100.00

Source: Based on field survey 2024

Figure no1: Irrigation Intensity
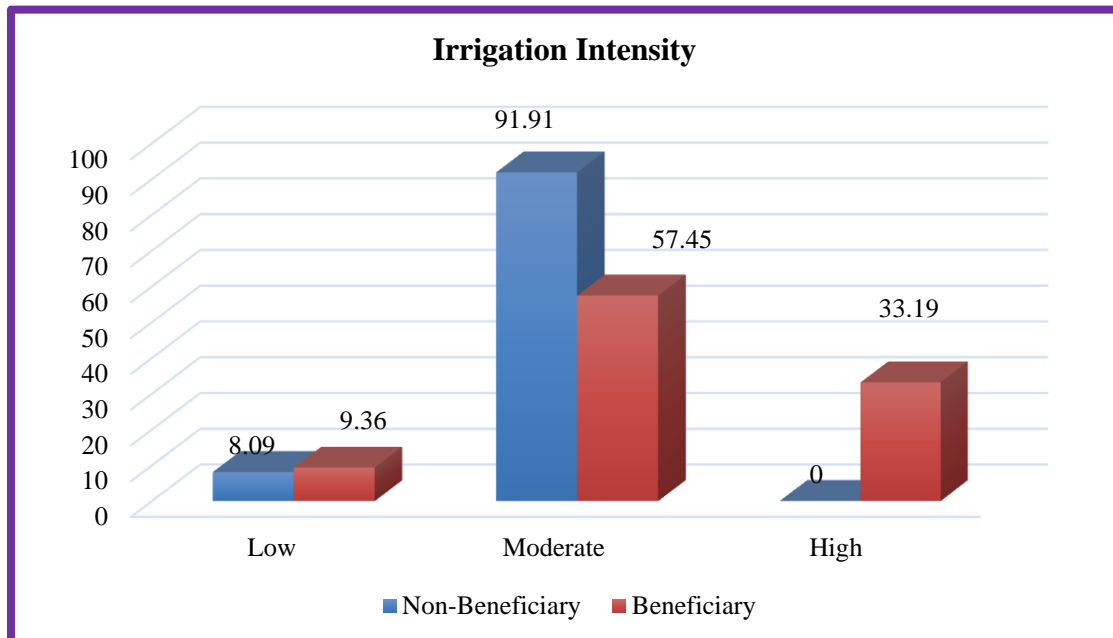
Table no .1 shows the irrigation intensity of beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas, respectively. The table shows the beneficiary intensity of 470 respondents, out of which 235 beneficiaries are beneficiaries and 235 beneficiaries are non-beneficiaries. The beneficiary intensity of medium respondents shows highest in beneficiary lands, which are 22, low respondents 167 for high respondents 78, and medium respondents 167; beneficiary intensity in the beneficiary area is most elevated. Therefore, we can see that, as a result of K-T Weirs being beneficiaries, the beneficiary intensity of beneficiary land is higher than that of non-beneficiary land.

A. Testing of Irrigation Intensity

We test the following null (H_0) **and alternative** (H_1) **hypothesis using Z test**

H_0= There is no significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas.

H_1 = There is a significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas.

We got the following results Kolhapur Type Weirs (K. T. Weirs) beneficiary and non-beneficiary area

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.Irrigation Intensity	Beneficiary Area	Non- beneficiary Area
Number of Observations	235	235
Mean	234.8936	126.6382
Variance	31153.3	1918.138
The calculated value of Z	9.1254	
Table value of Z	1.96	
p-value (at $\alpha = 5\%$)	0	
Decision	Reject H_0 at $\alpha = 5\%$	

Thus, we reject H_0 at a 5% significance level and conclude that there is a significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas.

Irrigation intensity plays a crucial role in agricultural development, particularly in regions that rely on farming as a primary source of livelihood. Irrigation intensity refers to the proportion of the total cropped area that is irrigated, and it has significant implications for agricultural productivity, cropping patterns, and overall economic growth in the agricultural sector.

Key Ways Irrigation Intensity Affects Agricultural Development:

1. **Increased Crop Productivity**:
o Higher irrigation intensity allows for better water management, leading to more stable and predictable crop yields.
o It reduces farmers' reliance on erratic rainfall, which is especially important in drought-prone areas.
o Irrigated crops tend to produce higher yields than rain-fed crops, which directly boosts food production and income for farmers.

2. **Expansion of Cropping Intensity**:
o Irrigation enables multi-cropping, meaning farmers can grow more than one crop in a year (e.g., rice in the kharif season and wheat in the rabi season).
o This increases land use efficiency and enhances food security, as more crops can be produced on the same land.

3. **Shift to High-Value Crops**:
o Farmers with access to irrigation are more likely to diversify into high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, and cash crops (e.g., sugarcane, cotton).
o This shift can increase farmers' income and enhance agricultural value addition.

4. **Climate Resilience**:
o Irrigation helps buffer against the impacts of climate change by making farming less dependent on rainfall.
o This stability can reduce the risks of crop failure, especially in regions experiencing increasing climate variability.

5. **Employment and Rural Development**:
o Higher irrigation intensity often leads to increased labor demand, as more crops are grown, and labor-intensive practices may be employed.
o This boosts rural employment and economic development, improving livelihoods in agrarian communities.

6. **Efficient Resource Use**:
o Advanced irrigation techniques (e.g., drip and sprinkler systems) can increase water-use efficiency.
o By maximizing the use of available water resources, these technologies can support sustainable agricultural practices and reduce environmental degradation.

7. **Economic Growth**:
o Higher agricultural productivity due to better irrigation often leads to surplus production, which can stimulate related sectors, such as agro-processing industries, transportation, and trade.
o As agriculture grows, it can contribute to rural development, poverty alleviation, and overall economic growth.

Challenges Associated with Irrigation Intensity:

• **Water Scarcity**: Over-irrigation can lead to depletion of water resources, particularly in regions where groundwater is the primary source of irrigation.
• **Environmental Degradation**: Poor irrigation practices can lead to soil salinization, waterlogging, and loss of soil fertility.
• **Equity Issues**: Smallholder farmers may have limited access to irrigation infrastructure, creating inequality in agricultural productivity and income.
• **Energy Costs**: In areas reliant on groundwater, the cost of energy to pump water for irrigation can be prohibitive for small-scale farmers.

Case of India:

In India, irrigation intensity is a critical factor in agricultural development, especially with the government's push for increasing irrigated area under programs like the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**. States with high irrigation intensity, such as Punjab and Haryana, have historically had higher agricultural productivity. However, these states also face challenges related to groundwater depletion, prompting a need for sustainable water management practices.

Thus, while irrigation intensity is a vital driver of agricultural growth, managing water resources efficiently is key to ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability.

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Conclusion

The construction of Kolhapur Type Weirs (KTWs), also known as "bandharas," has significantly impacted irrigation practices in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. These weirs, designed to hold and regulate water flow, have contributed to improved irrigation intensity in the region. To summarize the impact using a Z-test on irrigation intensity. Increased Irrigation Intensity. KTWs allow for better water retention and distribution across agricultural lands, increasing the area under irrigation.

By retaining water during the dry seasons and controlling water flow during the monsoons, farmers can irrigate their crops more effectively. Statistical Conclusion (Z-test):In the context of a Z-test, where we compare the irrigation intensity before and after the intervention of KTWs: Null Hypothesis (H_0): There is no significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas. Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): There is a significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas. If the Z-test yields a Z-score that exceeds the critical value at the chosen significance level (commonly 1.96 for a 95% confidence interval), we can reject the null hypothesis. This would imply that the intervention of KTWs has significantly improved irrigation intensity.

Real-World Implications: Water Availability: Improved water availability has helped increase cropping intensity and productivity, allowing farmers to cultivate multiple crops in a year. Reduced Dependence on Monsoon: KTWs reduce the dependence on erratic monsoon rains by providing a reliable source of irrigation. Agricultural Sustainability: The enhanced irrigation has supported sustainable farming practices, potentially improving rural livelihoods and food security. Therefore, we can see that, as a result of K-T Weirs being beneficiaries, the beneficiary intensity of beneficiary land is higher than that of non-beneficiary land.

The intervention of Kolhapur Type Weirs has had a statistically significant positive impact on irrigation intensity in Kolhapur district, contributing to increased agricultural productivity. The Z-test results confirm that KTWs are an effective measure for improving water management and irrigation systems in the region. Thus, we reject H_0 at a 5% significance level and conclude that there is a significant difference in irrigation intensity in beneficiary and non-beneficiary areas.

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Development of Motion and Gesture Control Drones with Obstacle Avoidance for Enhanced Safety and User Accessibility

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Abstract

Gesture and motion control integrated with obstacle avoidance technologies have significantly transformed both functionality and safety of drones for their varied industrial applications. The following review discusses recent developments on gesture recognition, sensor fusion, and collision avoidance systems, after which an overview is provided regarding specific applications in areas such as emergency response, agriculture, urban surveillance, and entertainment. This review synthesizes recent research in the field, including work by salaskar, lópez, khaksar, and others, to discuss the status of these technologies and their further potential for enhancements in user access and operational safety. It also points to challenges regarding sensor accuracy, environmental adaptability, and system complexity, thus showing perspectives on future research directions which may further optimize such systems for everyday applications.

Keywords: Motion Control, Gesture Control, Obstacle Avoidance, Drone Technology, Human-Drone Interaction, Sensor Fusion, Autonomous Drones, Uavs, Collision Avoidance, Drone Applications.

Introduction

The rapid development in drone technologies has gone hand in glove with the rapid improvements in unmanned aerial vehicles, or uavs' designs and controls, aiming to make uavs more user-friendly and safer through the mechanisms of motion and gesture control. Applications of drones include agriculture, emergency response, and other forms of surveillance that increase the demand for evasive, gesture-based control methods, and efficient obstacle avoidance mechanisms. This review paper will make a contribution toward researching the present conditions on motion and gesture control in drone development, with a focus on integrating obstacle avoidance technologies to enhance safety and user accessibility.

Motion and gesture control in drones

Hand gesture recognition methods

The recognition of hand gestures has arisen as one of the promising mechanisms useful in drone control and serves for a very intuitive natural interface for the various users of drones. The research by natarajan and nguyen (2018) in a study that develops an open-source library gestured control of drones presents groundbreaking opportunity toward simplifying operations related to drones. Notably, the recognition of gestures will significantly reduce the tediousness of these controls, democratizing drone **technology to a much larger audience.**

In the same study, lópez et al. (2024) show the effectiveness of cnn-lstm using post-processing techniques for emg-based hand gesture recognition with a novel approach. This provides the potential for more accurate and faster drone control, applicable for complex environments where traditional remote **controls face challenges.**

Khaksar and luke (2023) have done an investigation into the design and evaluation of an alternative control system for quadcopter drones only manipulated by hand gestures. Their work showed that the design is feasible in a practical scenario and the potentialities for substituting some conventional **remote control systems in a few applications.**

Also, lee and yu (2023) designed a wearable drone controller with machine learning-based hand gesture recognition features and vibrotactile feedback. The system enabled more precise control of drones, thus compensating for a lack of visual focus, and brought about improvements in situational awareness and control accuracy.
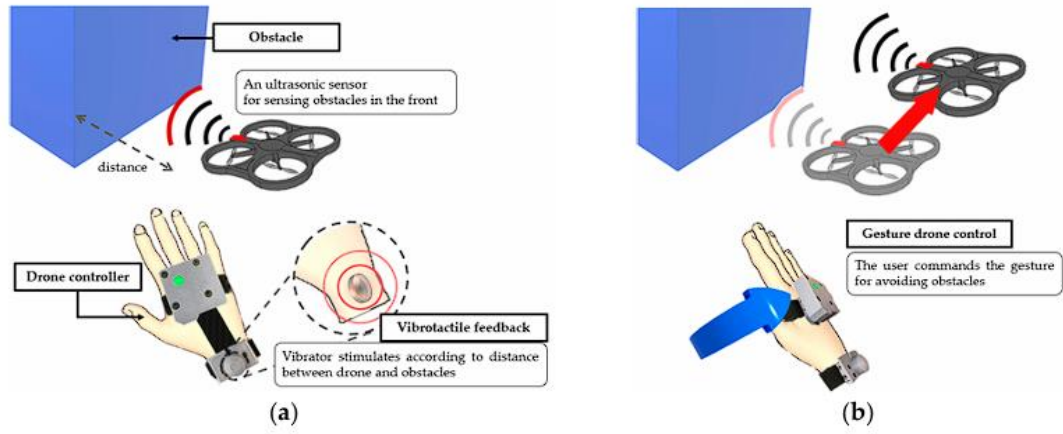
Fig: (a) Obstacle is detected in front of the drone and the vibrator is simulated. (b) Gesture of right direction is performed to avoid obstacle using gesture control
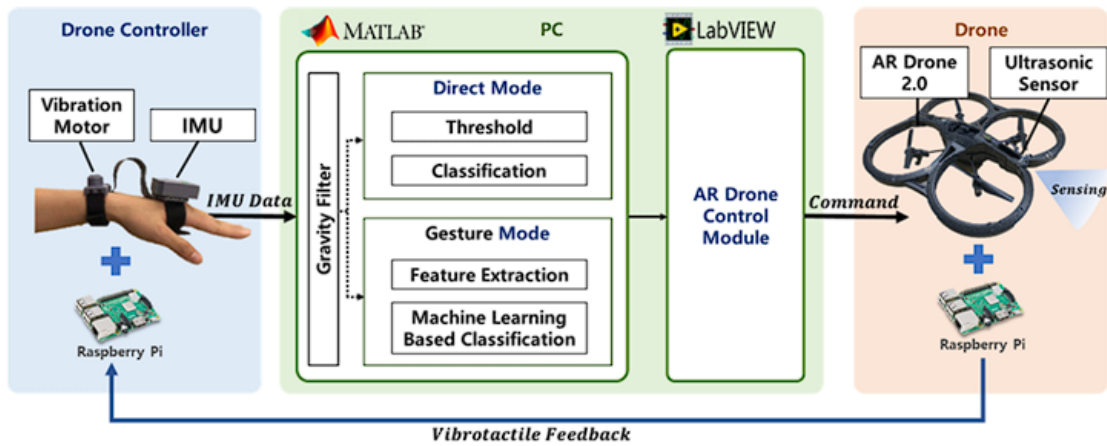
Fig: System configuration of wearable drone interface comprises a drone controller, hand gesture recognition and drone control module

Human-Drone Interaction

Interaction between humans and drones is very important to ensure the successful deployment of gesture-controlled drones. The state-of-the-art of human-drones interaction has been presented by Tezza (2019) which clearly indicated that there is a need for the development of an intuitive and responsive control interface. This further supported the point that user interaction development also requires attention to the development of systems for the users with least technical knowledge, which are user- friendly at the same time.
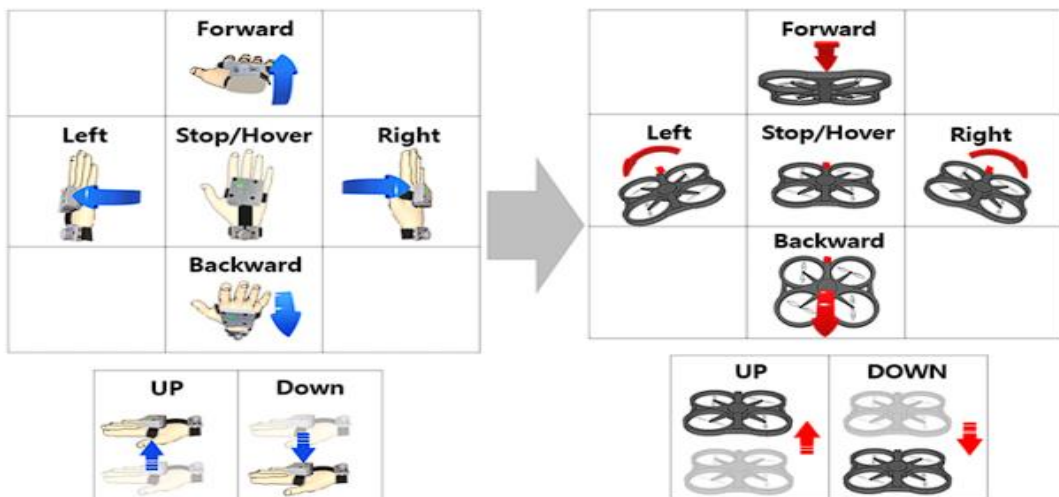
Fig: Definition of direct mode. It can directly control the drone's posture and speed according to inclination and up/down of hand.

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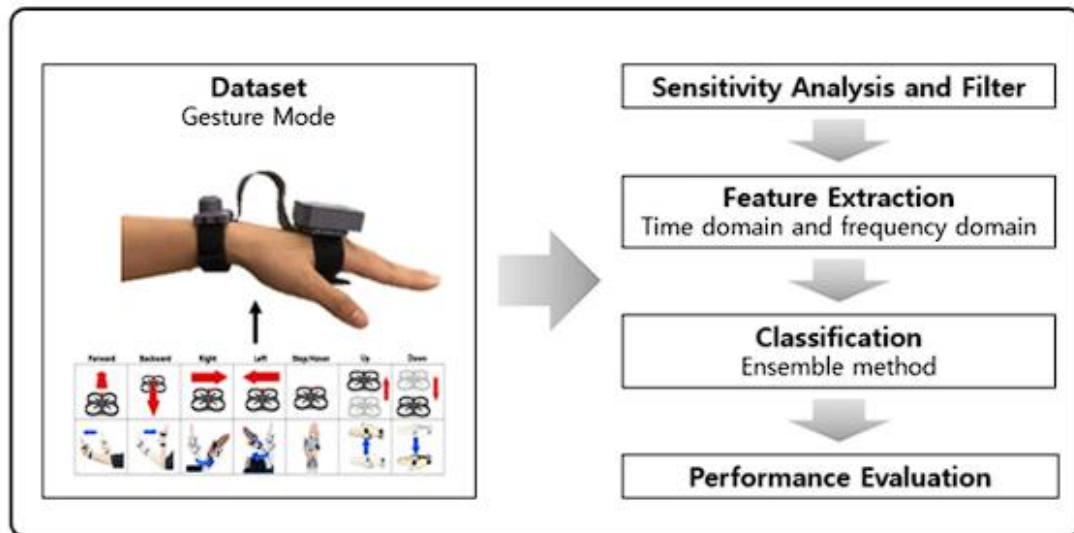
Fig: Scheme of signal processing for hand gesture recognition.

Obstacle Detection and Collision Avoidance
Ultrasonic Sensor-Based Systems

Two very critical functionalities of the operation of autonomous drones are obstacle detection and collision avoidance. Salaskar and Paranjpe presented a simple but effective approach to obstacle detection using low-cost ultrasonic sensors. They were able to demonstrate the feasibility of using ultrasonic sensors in a quadcopter platform to detect obstacles in nearly all directions, enhancing the drone's ability to navigate safely in complex environments.

This idea was taken up again by Shu-Ya Tong et al. in 2017, where sensor fusion techniques were combined with gesture control for quadcopter applications. Data from several sensors converge to increase the accuracy of detecting obstacles, thus navigating and avoiding collisions in difficult high-precision environments.

Choubey et al. (2020) applied gesture-controlled quadcopters in guard search operations, and this, therefore, brings about the aspect of obstacle avoidance. They argue that in high-risk search operations—efficient and safe drone operations call for advanced collision avoidance algorithms—gesture controllers have to be integrated.

Sanchez, Abaunza, and Castillo (2017) focused on developing a safe navigation control system for quadcopters in which arm commands can be implemented. Through this system, one can guide the drone based on arm movement and, on the other hand, elicit a collision avoidance algorithm for ensuring that the drone maintains a safe distance to obstacles during its navigation. Their next research shows the potential to use gesture control in combination with autonomous navigation systems to increase the levels of safety and user experience.
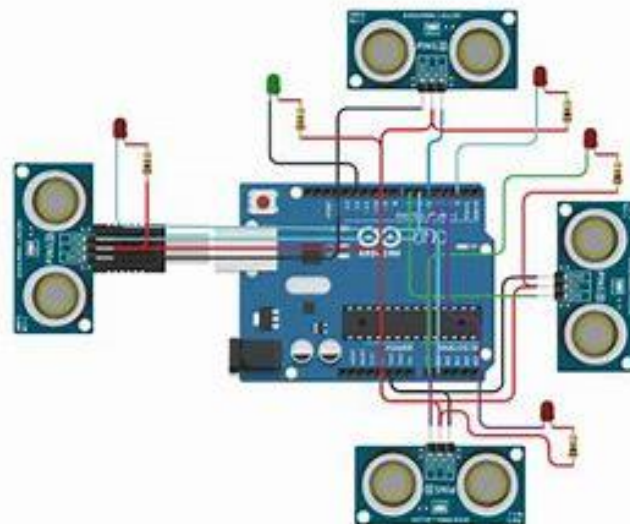
Fig: circuit diagram for the obstacle avoidance using Arduino UNO

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Gesture Control and Obstacle Avoidance Implementation

Combined with obstacle avoidance technologies, gesture control is one of the largest transformations in the field of drone technology. Sarkar and Patel (2016) have conducted research on the use of motion controllers in efforts to develop drones that can be controlled using gestures and present different challenges and opportunities that come with the integration of such systems in consumer-grade drones. Compiling the findings, the authors indicate that gesture control can add a tremendous amount of appeal to user accessibility; however, it must be strongly complemented with obstacle avoidance to ensure such drones are safely used across different environments.

Hu et al.'s study aimed to measure the effects of different forms of communication on safety and balance control in virtual construction settings. The authors found an associative effect that, through the use of gesture control, along with visual and audio feedback, improved the performance and safety of the user; therefore, providing valuable input toward drone system development in the future.

Even though a lot trudged the development path of motion and gesture control drones with obstacle avoidance, some problems remain. Development should be advanced in gesture recognition systems to get a better level of accuracy and reliability when operating in outdoor situations, where lighting and weather conditions may affect sensor performance. Furthermore, integration with multiple sensors and control systems adds further complexity in drone implementation, raises the costs, and can potentially yield in reliability problems.
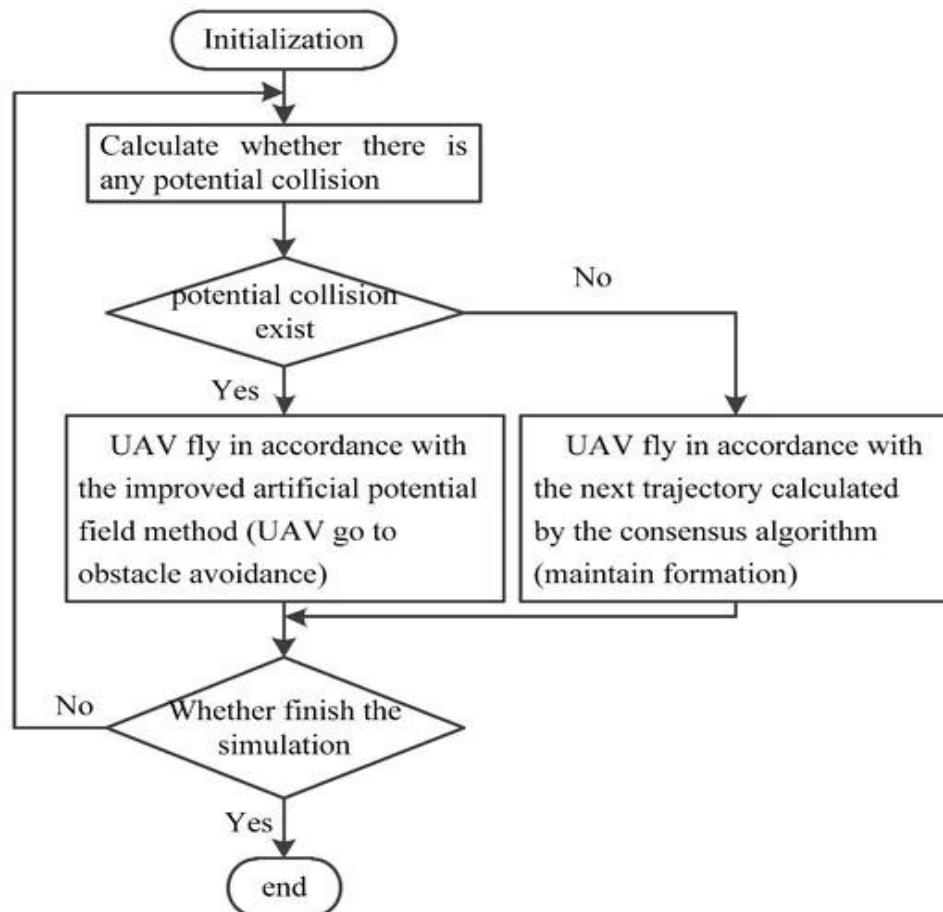
In future research, more advanced algorithms and newer sensor technologies that have recently emerged, along with more efficient data fusion, should be considered. This is best done by seizing on the aggressive developments in machine learning and artificial intelligence in the period, working towards the ultimate goal that drones are not only accessible and user-friendly, but also safe and reliable.

Applications of the obstacle avoidance drones with motion and gesture control

Most importantly, integration of motion and gesture control with obstacle avoidance technology in drones has opened a wide avenue of applications across various sectors. These advanced features make the drones more usable, safe, and versatile, hence being commercial and consumer-driven. Here are some important applications where these technologies play a huge role:

Emergency response and disaster management

Obstacle avoidance systems integrated into drones with motion and gesture control are

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increasingly functional in emergency response situations. The drones can be deployed quickly in locations struck by disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or fires, to determine the extent of damage, identify survivors, and even deliver supplies. To this end, the intuitive control rendered possible by gesture recognition enables them to be operated in complex environments without high levels of training. It could be the search and rescue missions carried out by a quadcopter using gestures to not hit something like debris; one has to be careful about that. Choubey et al. (2020)

Agriculture and environmental monitoring

Drones are used by farmers to monitor their crops and even detect pests. It is also used to manage irrigation of crops. The gesture interface makes such drones much easier to use, even for farmers who are not very tech-savvy. The obstacle avoidance feature allows drones to move into fields without causing damage to crops or any equipment. Environmental monitoring, such as tracking wildlife or forests, also benefits from these technologies by enabling the operation of drones in dense, obstacle-rich environments autonomously, as demonstrated in the research by sarkar and patel (2016).

Urban surveillance and law enforcement

Surveillance, traffic monitoring, and law enforcement are performed in urban environments. Khaksar and luke, (2023) say that hand gesture cotrols allow officers not to be tied down since it can always have the hands free to do other things in a controlled environment. In light of this, in this particular environment, scenario obstacle avoidance is very critical to prevent hitting buildings, power lines, and some infrastructure while the drone is performing its functional operations.

Medical and health care deliveries

The healthcare industry is now in the research phase to see how drones can be utilized to drop medical supplies, including access to vaccines, blood or medications to the hardest to reach places. The accuracy given by a gesture-controlled drone combined with a reliable obstacle avoidance system is a vital aspect of ensuring these deliveries are made not only accurately but also safely. For example, a drone flying inside a crowded city to distribute emergency medical supplies should be able to avoid obstacles while flying in the most accurate way, something that has now been made possible through the efforts of individuals such as salaskar and paranjpe (2014).

Building and infrastructure monitoring

Construction site inspection, monitoring of the development of a structure, and tracking safety situations are just some of many other areas where the use of drones is slowly being adopted. In these environments, drones are required to move around cranes, scaffoldings, and other obstacles; thus, avoiding obstacles is another critical functionality.

At the same time, it allows its users to navigate drones as fast as possible on construction sites expectedly with dynamical operational contexts. Research has conducted by hu et al. (2024) mainly to perform safe and effective operational research on drones in virtual construction environments, for the concept to extend simultaneously to real-time scenarios.

Entertainment and photography

Motion and gesture control equip drones for cinematography and other filming and photography in the entertainment industry. With these, cinematographers do not need to be tethered to traditional remote controls to get any dynamic shots; all they need to do is gesture. Obstacle avoidance will make sure drones can effectively work safely in any crowded or complex setting, such as a live event or indoor studio. Work on open-source gesture control libraries allows for applications across a variety of creative professionals, according to natarajan's and nguyen's 2018 findings.

The more that drone technology is made available, the more consumer applications seem to grow in acceptance, with the common ones being recreational flying, personal photography, and home security. These applications can find a better home for gesture-controlled drones equipped with obstacle avoidance capabilities because they will be just as user-friendly and safe for use in normal environments. The possible addition of advanced control features in consumer-grade drones was shown by lee and yu's development of a drone controller interface that is usable as wearables. This addition would make the user experience greater and the number of uses infinite.

Military and défense operations

The use of drones in military applications includes reconnaissance, surveillance, and even combat missions. In military applications, integration with gesture control means that these unmanned flying devices are controlled by the soldier with stealth and ease. The integration of obstacle avoidance in this notion makes sure the drone avoids obstacles when navigating through hostile or rugged terrains. The research by sanchez et al. (2017) regarding safe navigation control for the drone by arm commands demonstrated the applicability of the technologies in military settings where precision and safety need to be kept.

Conclusion

The recent expansion of technology and its novel functions in drones are being coupled with obstacle-avoiding motion and gesture control drones. By developing obstacle-avoiding motion and gesture control drones equipped with advanced obstacle detection and collision avoidance systems, integrated with intuitive control interfaces, the researchers are opening up the future for drones—a future where drones can be used effectively in a

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variety of environments, including urban areas and zones hit by natural disasters. Once this technology further develops, it is going to revolutionize the application of drones within industries that have suddenly found them to be indispensable, either in everyday tasks or very involving.

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The role of Youth in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract
The goal of the sustainable development goals is to create a better world. There are 17 sustainable goals related to national development, and today's young may be able to accomplish them for a better world tomorrow. Similarly, the younger generation of today will carry on the tradition for the years to come. Without affecting any other definition by Member States, youth are defined by the United Nations as individuals between the ages of 15 and 24. The overall outcome was influenced by the contributions made by young people to the process that resulted in the establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They were referred to as "torchbearers of the sustainable development agenda through 2030" by former UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon. Definitions of youth, sustainable development, a conceptual overview of both, a historical perspective, theories and models related to sustainable development, youth, and what young people can do to support sustainable development will all be covered in this conceptual paper. A self-made model will be presented based on the conceptual overview. Internationally, social work is beginning to pay more attention to youth empowerment in the framework of sustainable development. A key idea in social work is sustainable development, which is an integrated set of global goals for addressing social, economic, and ecological concerns. The profession of social work is based on the person-in-environment, which can be fully realised in protecting both people and the environment. In terms of societal change that is in balance with nature, the eco-social paradigm is frequently explored. This article examines Eco social work discourses in youth empowerment within this framework.

Keywords: Youth Empowerment, Sustainable Development; Youth, Entrepreneurship, Eco-Social work.

Introduction
"**We cannot always build the future for the youth, but we can build the youth for the future**"
Franklin. D. Roosevelt, Former President of United States America

Everywhere in the globe, young people are eager to contribute to the advancement of society. When we examine the developmental activities that young people engage in, it becomes evident that they are quite proactive, acting as social agents and fostering good growth. The majority of young people are developing into respected members of their communities through their education, observation, and behaviour. Any nation's sustainable prosperity depends on giving its citizens a sense of direction, acknowledging their accomplishments, which empowers them to stand out in society, and empowering them to overcome unforeseen obstacles. Only when young people are actively involved in sustainable development will it be feasible. After learning about their awareness of the topic, this paper aims to explore how young people view sustainable development. The different ways that young contribute to the sustainable development of society will also be considered in this study. We all reside in a nation that is fortunate to have one of the world's best demographic profiles for young people in addition to having some of the best biodiversity. In our nation, over half of the population is under 25, and roughly 65% of the population is under 35. As a result, both the federal and state governments are focussing on using young power through a variety of youth-focused initiatives. Young people in India are change agents who are not only focused on technical advancement by being tech-savvy but also make significant contributions to the advancement of our nation by evaluating the effects of their present actions on the future.

Need for study
We cannot accomplish sustainable development through laws and regulations. Regulating anything does not make a dream come true; instead, it must be viewed as self-initiation. Humans tend to analyse things from a cost perspective rather than as opportunities that might be enhanced when they are considered as obligations. This brings up the topic of youth's role in sustainable development. After gaining a grasp of the topic, the researcher attempts to evaluate how young people view sustainable development, what part they may play, and how sustainable

development can be achieved with a humanitarian touch.

Objective

1. To determine if young people understand the idea of sustainable development
2. If so, what do they mean by sustainable development?
3. When people hear the phrase "Sustainable Development," what immediately springs to mind?
4. To evaluate their contribution to sustainable growth
5. To ascertain whether they engaged in any activities that they believed were essential to the advancement of society, whether intentionally or unknowingly.
6. To find out what they believe should be the government's and local authorities' top priorities in order to achieve Sustainable Development.

Research Methodology

To obtain the statistics used in this study, a variety of secondary sources were examined. Among other things, it contains interpretative models and case studies. Books and articles are examples of secondary data sources that offer further details about sustainable development. The researchers decided to conduct a thorough, systematic review of the literature. A connection between youth and sustainable development was discovered by the literature review. There aren't any foundational articles on the topic because the discipline is so new. The summary of the review identified research gaps and showed that the fields of youth and sustainable development have seen relatively little work. There will be an attempt to reduce the glaring academic gap.

Result and Discussion

Young people's contributions to sustainable development are influenced by various factors: A list of variables pertaining to the factors influencing juvenile sustainability was created based on literature study. The most crucial elements for ISM were determined to be youth and long-term viability.

Youth education and training: Engaging, empowering, and educating pupils should be the inclusive goals of a school. Only in a peaceful environment can sustainable progress begin. In the twenty-first century, youth must be active in long-term development. A lot of attention needs to be paid to youth employment and vocational training in order to make this a reality. It is important to educate young people so they can positively impact their communities. There are intuitive things in the neighbourhood, school, and home. "Developmental youth education" refers to teaching young people for their physical, social, moral, emotional, and intellectual development. Complex social behaviours can be learnt through observational learning. Setting a good example is the most effective technique to teach young people. In order to support the kid's development, learning should occur in a social setting that incorporates the attitudes and behaviours of both the adult and the child. In order for young people to develop their own resources, positive youth development encourages them to acquire and practise new abilities. It provides an opportunity for pupils to assume duties that affect other people. This responsibility encourages young people to form satisfying and mutually useful interactions with others, which helps them acquire social maturity. Education and the development and independence of young people may be clearly correlated. Education must be integrated with sustainability if we are to have a sustainable future. Students' varied needs, abilities, interests, and behaviours must be taken into consideration in a curriculum that teaches them about sustainability. In order to encourage full engagement from all facets of the young population, youth peer education is essential. There may be a connection between environmental issues and environmental concerns, and traditional teaching approaches and environmental education are very different. The first task is to teach youth about environmental responsibility. Achieving success in innovation, competitiveness, and improved education are the objectives for sustainability. young development benefits from young involvement in community issues. Due to the worldwide scope of Earth education, sustainable development and education are interwoven. Understanding the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in youth education is essential for sustainable development.

Youth's contribution to long-term development: According to the UN Environment Program, people under 30 make up 30% of the global population. Youth must be involved in environmental decision-making and program implementation if people want to see long-term growth in their nation. Young people are thought to be powerful change agents. They may fight against bribery, corruption, and other societal evils, which could result in positive social change. Students ought to apply their education for the good of the entire country. Youth must be the source of activists. Young people's actions could have an impact if they provide them a sense of accomplishment, worth, and purpose. According to researchers, the sustainability process depends heavily on next-generation leaders. Children and teens are being encouraged to get involved in environmental sustainability efforts because those working in this field increasingly view them as an important constituency. The involvement of youth needs special consideration. For youth participation to have a long-lasting impact on youth and their communities, it is imperative.

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Long-term sustainability requires the inescapable and infinite involvement of youth.

Youth involvement, social responsibility, and activism: An individualistic focus on attaining personal sustainability is endangering global sustainable development. To attain sustained development, it is essential to provide children a global social role. When paired with other young people, strength and impact can be enormous, yet a solitary youth's strength could not have much of an impact. The only way to achieve sustainability is to integrate culture, science, and community. It is crucial that young people get involved in science, the community, and culture. For sustainability over the long run, adolescent involvement in the early stages of problem identification and planning is essential. Adolescents of all backgrounds must be committed, and the process should be ongoing with active participation and dedication from all. The missing sustainability evaluation criteria may be found in the social and economic aspects of sustainability. The long-term health of a community depends on its youth being involved. Young people have been viewed as particularly important as a stakeholder group. Adolescents differ from adults in many ways; thus, it takes careful consideration to include them in sports. Universities must teach and raise awareness of sustainability among young people. Encouraging sustainability on college campuses may inspire students to generate fresh concepts.

Young people's contributions to the environment or green economy: It has been demonstrated that urban green spaces have a significant role in encouraging children and teenagers to socialise and form cross-cultural friendships, which is crucial for social inclusion. In order to address environmental issues, people must be able to apply their understanding of critical discipline information in addition to understanding it. Youth must be involved in planning and carrying out community initiatives related to green energy concerns. When evaluating the global ecological system, human well-being should be taken into account. Young people need to be introduced to the natural world in order to solve global problems. Students' perspectives and experiences, which environmental educators share with them, have a positive impact on environmental education. Students could contribute positively to the green economy and act as critical observers. New economic models must be created in order to counteract the unsustainable forms of globalisation that are now in place and to grow the green economy. Young people must actively participate in positive youth development.

Young persons in positions of leadership: It is possible to argue that leadership is a more "mature profession." Here, leadership, growth, and education are two distinct ideas. A leader's mental and physical health may be impacted by the stress of their role. Peers, instructors, and parents must all be involved in the formation of young leaders. Young individuals are encouraged by entrepreneurship to steer clear of the mistakes made by senior leaders. Leadership has been defined as the capacity to motivate people ever since it was included in the Marland Report. Research indicates that while there is considerable consensus regarding the aspects of leadership that are more or less trainable, there is still no complete theoretical framework for leadership giftedness. This implies that people have the power to change laws and hold institutions more responsible. They might develop as people and community members as a result of this. A potential connection between internal and external approaches to youth leadership development is made feasible by an understanding of the idea of "youth leadership" development. The environmental attitudes, actions, initiative, and participation of young people are well stated criteria for their leadership. Young people who are currently changing the world today will be the future's environmental guardians.

Being able to start an Entrepreneurship: The entrepreneurial skills of young people differ from those of their elders. Differentiation is exemplified by the acquisition of resources and skills as well as psychological responses to demands from the environment, culture, and norms. Young people's entrepreneurialism and environmental advocacy are significantly correlated. The "Green-Works" business model is used to accomplish the organization's social and environmental goals. An entrepreneurial spirit may be stimulated by a moral compass. The real capital of a nation is its natural resources, which are rapidly running out. In the past, economic progress was the primary indicator of a country's growth, but today sustainability plays a significant role. Ecopreneur ship is seen as requiring sustainable business practices. Since the next generation will be the nation's competitive advantage, ecopreneur ship is essential. Developing new and creative environmental technology is the most important source of competitive advantage for young people. The bulk of this consumption would come from wealthy consumers, which could harm ecosystems even as it is required to reduce poverty in many developing countries. Young entrepreneurs have a crucial role in creating green technology and ensuring that there are sufficient resources for present and future generations. Young entrepreneurs' perspectives on the uptake of innovative information technology are crucial. Involving all stakeholders, particularly the younger generation, in the governance process may help address environmental issues more successfully. Young people's development and capacity to

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contribute are positively impacted when they are involved in government.

Suggestions for additional research:

A long-term framework must be developed for young minds and issues. A fuller economic analysis of the existing studies is required. Future research could examine the negative consequences of young governance and how it contributes to long-term sustainability. The ISM-based model, which is hierarchical in nature, withholds the relative weights given to each of the components. This can be achieved through the use of an analytic network method. To better understand the connections, an advanced ISM technique that incorporates full interpretive structural modelling may be used. The accuracy of the model can be verified by the use of structural equation modelling. The limitations of our current investigation could be extended in the future.

Conclusion

This study identified and simulated the factors that affect young people's capacity to support sustainable development. Each of the variables mentioned was given a significant role. Important relationships that aren't immediately apparent can be discovered through observation. Clear, practical, and effective strategies for sustainable development can be created using these standards. After that, we created a conceptual framework for our discussion. In order for young people to be constructive agents for sustainability and respond to the sustainability issues they encounter; we have emphasised the role that youth play in sustainability and theoretical knowledge. We have emphasised our investigation's theoretical contributions. Young people and sustainability are closely related, according to the ISM hierarchy. The conceptual framework takes into consideration the different ways that youth contribute to sustainability. Because it examines the relationship between youth and sustainability in a fresh manner, this research is ground-breaking.

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The Role of Kisan College NSS Unit Volunteers to Environmental Conservation

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Abstract

The National Service Scheme was established in 1969, with a primary objective to inculcate the spirit of voluntary service among students. The motto of NSS, "Not Me, But You," reflects the philosophy of selfless service. The National Service Scheme (NSS) has been pivotal in channelizing the energy of Indian youth towards national development. Among its many objectives, environmental conservation holds a crucial place, especially in the context of growing ecological challenges. The geographical location of college poses unique environmental challenges. The region's semi-arid conditions mean that water scarcity and soil erosion are persistent problems. The NSS unit's activities, such as afforestation and water conservation, directly address these issues. This paper seeks to analyse the role of the NSS unit at Kisan College in environmental conservation efforts within its geographical area. Through a combination of primary data collected from volunteers and faculty members and secondary data sources, the paper outlines the initiatives undertaken by the NSS unit, the geographical significance of their efforts, and the broader impact of these actions on both the local environment and the community.

Keywords: NSS, Environmental Conservation, Youth Participation, Geographical Analysis

Introduction

Environmental conservation has become a critical issue worldwide due to the increasing impact of human activities on ecosystems. Its primary goal is to preserving natural resources such as forests, wildlife, water and energy, for present and future generations. It tries to reduce pollution through a multi-pronged approach that includes responsible management of resources. Healthy natural ecosystems give several benefits to rural communities including clean water, fertile land, and raw materials. When we fail to protect these valuable resources, these communities suffer the most. Deforestation and degradation of the environment significantly impact these communities. Environmental conservation promotes the ethical use and management of land ensuring the well-being and sustainable livelihoods of local people. It knows the connection between a healthy environment and the well-being of local communities. In India, several government-led initiatives have aimed at environmental preservation, with the National Service Scheme (NSS) playing a significant role. The NSS, a public service program under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a voluntary community service program in India that aims to in still the spirit of social welfare and civic responsibility among the youth. Established in 1969. It involves students in various activities that contribute to community development, such as health camps, cleanliness drives, environmental initiatives, and awareness campaigns. NSS seeks to foster a sense of social consciousness, empathy, and leadership skills in participants, encouraging them to actively engage in addressing societal challenges. Through its motto, "Not Me, But You," This paper focuses on the NSS unit at Kisan College, examining its contribution to environmental conservation. We will assess how the unit's geographical location influences its conservation efforts and evaluate its overall impact on the community and local environment.

Objectives of the Study

1. To evaluate the environmental conservation initiatives undertaken by the NSS unit at Kisan College.
2. To analyse the impact of the NSS's work on local environmental issues.

Study Area:

KVPS'S Kisan Arts, Commerce and Science College situated in Parola taluka of Jalgaon District. Parola is a city and a municipal council in Jalgaon district in the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is located on the Hajira (Surat)–Dhule–Kolkata national highway 6. The Parola is located at $20^0.52'$ North Latitude and 75°.07 East Longitude. Its altitude is 261 meters above sea level. Parola is surrounded by Amalner taluka towards North, Bhadgaon taluka towards south, Dhule taluka

towards West, Erandol and Dharangaon taluka towards East. According to census 2011, the area of Parola taluka is 792.8 sq.km. Its total population is

196863 Out of which males are 102,887 and females are 93,976. The density of population is 248.3 per sq.km.
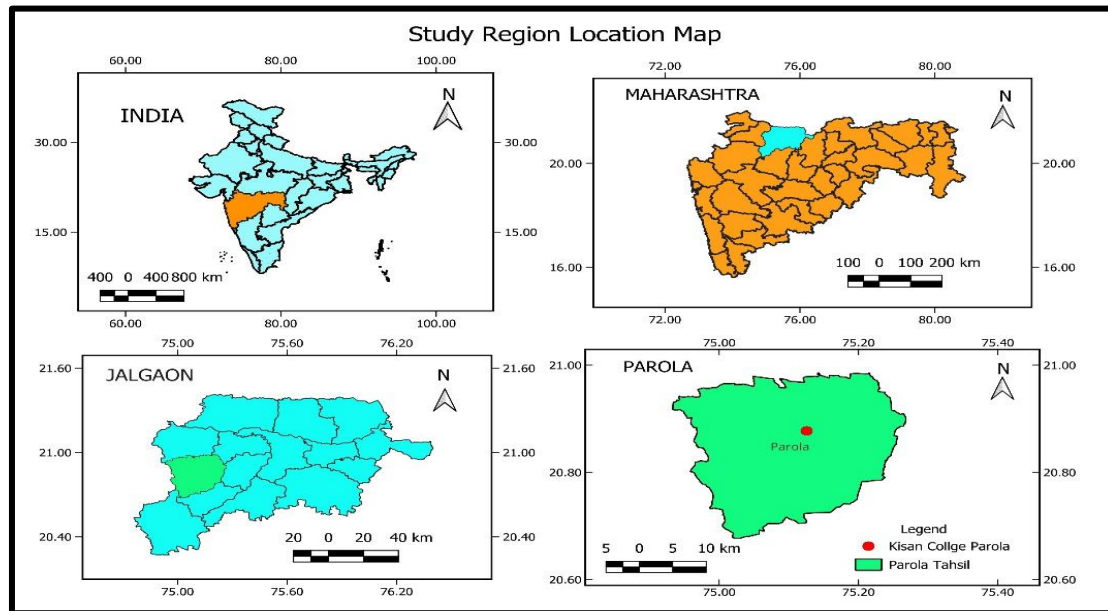
Fig 1: Location map of Kisan College, Parola

Database and Methodology:

The study of concern is mainly based on Primary and secondary data. This research related primary data has been collected through a questionnaire for NSS volunteers and rural villagers in Undirkhede.. Secondary information has been collected through previous research works, Journals, magazines, annual report of the NSS Unit. Interpretation data to analyse will be used to graphs, percentage etc.

National Service Scheme:

1. History and Objectives

The National Service Scheme was established in 1969, with a primary objective to inculcate the spirit of voluntary service among students. The motto of NSS, "Not Me, But You," reflects the philosophy of selfless service. The scheme has two main objectives: To promote social responsibility and community service among youth. To develop personality and leadership qualities in students through service to the nation. Environmental conservation is a core component of NSS activities. NSS volunteers are actively involved in afforestation drives, awareness campaigns, waste management projects, and initiatives promoting biodiversity conservation. The program encourages students to take part in local environmental issues, thereby integrating academic learning with practical environmental stewardship.

2. Geography and Environment:

Kisan College is located in a rural region, characterized by agrarian communities and surrounded by forested areas, agricultural fields, and water bodies. The geographical features of this region include a semi-arid climate, which makes

water conservation a critical concern. Soil erosion, deforestation, and waste management are some of the prominent environmental challenges faced by the community. The college's region faces multiple environmental challenges that require urgent attention: Soil degradation and erosion due to unsustainable farming practices. Water scarcity aggravated by limited rainfall and over-extraction of groundwater. Waste disposal and sanitation issues, particularly due to lack of proper waste management facilities. Loss of biodiversity, especially in surrounding forested areas.

3. About Kisan College:

Kisan Arts, Commerce and Science College, Parola is run by Kisan Vidya Prasark Sanstha. KVP'S provided the facility of Higher Education by opening Kisan Arts and Commerce Senior College in 1977 and Science stream in June 1992. Institution has extension unit NSS and the selection in NSS is done by devotion and interest of the candidates in social welfare activities. The present there are I NSS Unit for the under graduate students with 250 volunteers.

6. The Role of Kisan College NSS Unit in Environmental Conservation

The NSS unit at Kisan College has been actively engaged in various environmental conservation activities undertaken. Some of the key initiatives include:

Tree Plantation Drives: In collaboration with local authorities, the NSS unit organizes annual tree plantation drives. Our college NSS unit was organized special tree plantation programme in last year at surrounding Nageshwar temple Udhirkhede and successfully planted total 10000 trees. In this

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campaign 250 NSS volunteers, college staff and local village peoples also participate. An initiative 'Ek Paid Ma Ke Naam' was implemented in kisan college NSS unit under these 165 trees were planted in the college premises and rural areas of Parola taluka. These drives are aimed at mitigating soil erosion, enhancing green cover, and promoting biodiversity.

Waste Management Campaigns: Regular waste segregation and recycling workshops are conducted to raise awareness about the environmental and health impacts of improper waste disposal. The NSS unit also participates in village cleanliness drives. Cleanliness campaign was recently implemented at Nageshwar temple Udhirkhede. In this campaign 178 NSS volunteers participate. There is a very ancient Shiva temple at Nageshwar, this temple is visited by a huge yatra every Shivaratri. Volunteers while cleaning the Smanshanbhumi premises at Undirkhede. There was a lot of uncleanliness in the temple area. Volunteers of Kisan College conducted a one-day cleaning campaign to clean the area around the temple. In this one day the volunteers cleaned the entire area. On this occasion, the volunteers collected plastic bottles from the area. Also, every year 24th September is celebrated as the foundation day of the NSS. on this occasion 157 volunteers participate cleanliness drive in the entire Bhuikot fort, Balaji temple premises were cleaned and plastic free.

Plastic Eradication Campaign: On the campaign of plastic eradication under the 'Clean India 2.0' NSS unit 164 Volunteers carried out 768 plastic bottles collection in Parola city. These plastic bottles are very dangerous impact for the environment and these plastic bottles also close drainages during monsoon season, creating huge amounts of plastic waste. So, it becomes important to eliminate these bottles and decrease environment pollution.

Water Conservation Projects: Volunteers engage in awareness campaigns focused on rainwater harvesting and efficient water use. They have also constructed rainwater harvesting structures on the college campus and in nearby villages. During the 7-day winter special labour training camp organised by Kisan Arts, Commerce and Science College and NSS Unit at Dattak village UndirKhede. The students of National Service Scheme donated four hours of labour every day to deepen the embankment and removed ten tractor trolleys worth of silt from the embankment and gave it to the surrounding farmers for farming. After the silt removal from this dam and it's deepening the water storage capacity of this dam has increased to more than 50 thousand liters. This water is used by the farmers for irrigation purpose and to raise the water level in their borewells and wells. The shortage of water for agriculture during the rainy season has been decrease.

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Energy Conservation Initiatives: The NSS team promotes the use of renewable energy, such as solar energy by conducting awareness programs and demonstrations within the local community.

Biodiversity Conservation: The NSS unit has formed Eco-Clubs in colleges and promoting biodiversity conservation through student participation in local clean-up activities, butterfly gardening, and forest monitoring. A seed ball creation workshop was organized in association with seed ball campaigning and college NSS unit. In this workshop 198 NSS Volunteers participate and prepared 3500 seed balls. The environment is currently deteriorating to a large extent. If the environment is to be balanced there is no other options but to plant trees. This seed balls workshop is more useful for tree production. The NSS unit has collaborated with local NGOs focused on environmental protection, enabling knowledge exchange and greater reach for conservation efforts.

Conclusion

The NSS unit at Kisan College has made significant strides in addressing local environmental issues through its conservation initiatives. By leveraging the region's geographical characteristics, the unit has implemented strategic projects that directly benefit the local environment and communities. However, for these efforts to have long-lasting impacts, sustained community involvement, increased funding, and a strategic approach to climate adaptability are necessary. The initiatives undertaken by the NSS unit have had a noticeable impact on local community. The community awareness regarding the environmental importance of clean surroundings, proper waste disposal, and tree planting has increased. The water conservation projects have improved groundwater recharge in selected areas, benefiting both agriculture and daily life. The creation of microhabitats and promotion of biodiversity conservation have led to the return of certain plant and animal species that were previously diminishing due to deforestation.

Recommendations:

1. Allocating more resources for large-scale projects like rainwater harvesting and renewable energy infrastructure will enhance the impact of NSS initiatives.

2. Focusing on long-term behavioural changes within local communities through education and participation will ensure that conservation efforts are sustainable.

3. Using modern technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for planning conservation activities could enhance their efficiency and success rate.

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The Role of NSS Towards Sustainbility, Environment and Society (Rntses-2024)

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Abstract

The national service scheme (nss) was started by the government of india on the birth anniversary of mahatma gandhi on 29 september 1969. The main objective of nss is to engage college and university students in social work as a form of social responsibility. The program aims to develop students holistically through social service and education, promoting the idea of giving back to society. Nss was launched in 37 universities across india and is supported by the ministry of youth affairs and sports. The motto of nss is "not me but you" it encourages youth to engage in community service and education. Nss is a voluntary association of young college-going students that works towards campus and community linkage focusing primarily on villages. The paper focuses on environmental and social problems and motivates the future youth generation of youth in society to work positively to overcome the issues and suggest solutions.

Keywords: social responsibility, awareness, objectives, community, youth

Introduction

The national service scheme was established in 1969 to mark the birth ceremony of mahatma gandhi. It was the dream of mahatma gandhi, the father of the nation of india, that india's youth power should be used for social work with education, and the work of making this dream a reality has been going on for the last 50 years. Period post-independence, ugc headed by s. Radhakrishnan recommended this idea of voluntary national service being introduced in academic institutions. In a 1958 letter to all of the indian chief ministers, jawaharlal nehru suggested that they think about making social work a prerequisite for undergraduate degrees. He further directed, 'the ministry of education' to design a suitable scheme for including national service in academic institutions.

This initiative was started in 37 universities with 40,000 students. Students should always do something positive so that not only the standard of living of the community is raised but also materially and morally they are raised. Nss was started by the government of india on the birth anniversary of mahatma gandhi i.e. 29 september 1969. The primary goal of launching the nss program is to encourage college and university students to take up social responsibility by volunteering in the community during their free time.

Growth of national social service:

On september 4, 1969, the then union education minister, dr. V.k.r.v. rao, launched the nss program covering all the states and at the same time requested the chief ministers of the states for their cooperation and assistance. This program is launched and promoted by the ministry of youth affairs and sports. "the main objective of nss is to develop the ministry holistically through social service and the aim of nss is education through social service and social service through education. It took almost 20 years for the concept of the national service scheme to evolve into university education.

The central advisory board of education in 1950 suggested suggestions for future nss programs. In 1951, the first five-year plan report says the importance of social service camps and then after some year few institutes started planning such camps. Then, later in 1958, india's chief minister, pandit nehru, recommended social service terms and conditions for youth graduates. But implementation was further delayed. In 1966, dr. Kothari's strong recommendations came into play. Then the scheme received a welcome from a conference of student leaders in 1969, followed by the vice chancellors' meeting the next year.

The main aims of nss:

"development of the personality of students through community service" is the stated goal of the national service scheme.

The main objectives of nss:

- To understand the community in which they work;
- To understand themselves their community;

- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in a problem-solving process.
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
- To develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities:
- To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
- To acquire leadership qualities and a democratic attitude;
- To develop the capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
- To practice national integration and social harmony.

NSS Program Categorization

Two main categories have been established for nss activities. Regular nss events and a unique camping program are these.

(a) Consistent nss engagement: students participate in a variety of programs under this during the weekends or after college hours in the adopted villages, college/school campuses, and urban slums;

(b) Special camping program: under this, 10-day camps are held during the summer in adopted villages or urban slums with certain targeted projects by involving local communities. It is anticipated that 50% of nss volunteers will take part in these camps

Role of nss in sustainability

The entire supply chain is based on natural resources. On the other hand, nature is depleting a lot of natural resources. The ethical use of natural resources to ensure that they continue to serve current and future generations is known as sustainability. Although forests are one of the most important resources for sustainability, we will never be able to consume fewer natural resources as long as the population grows. To lessen our reliance on fossil fuels, many scientists are concentrating on renewable energy sources. It's also likely that by managing natural resources more sustainably, humanity will guide the planet toward a better future.

Role of nss in the environment

At present, many activities of nss are related to environmental protection and related problems. Many environmental issues arise as we live in contact with many harmful elements in the surrounding environment. Such as water pollution, air pollution, deforestation, extreme weather, depletion of non-renewable resources. A study of volunteers in the nss unit found that the government of india has provided a good platform for the volunteers to contribute to society by protecting the environment through various activities. These include celebrating world earth day, cleaning the roadsides, laying barricades, as well as carrying out cleanliness drives. These include celebrating world vasundhara day, cleaning roadsides, putting up barricades, and conducting cleanliness drives. This creates a sense of responsibility and awareness among the volunteers regarding the protection and conservation of the environment.

Role of nss in society

The national service scheme (nss) emphasizes the motto "not me but you," promoting selfless service and the importance of community welfare. With a focus on bridging the gap between educational institutions and rural communities, nss encourages youths to play a pivotal role in rural development, addressing the challenges faced by underdeveloped areas in india. The nss aims to utilize the potential of india's vast youth population by providing them with training to effectively contribute to societal transformation. Through community service, nss volunteers engage in activities to improve living standards in rural regions, ensuring access to essential services. The initiative reinforces the significance of educated and motivated youth in driving socio-economic progress, highlighting the critical investment in human resources for sustainable rural development. Our nss environmental and sustainability strategy 2022–2040 outlines how we will expand on ongoing efforts to lower emissions and apply specific sustainability practices, covering a variety of topics.

Suggestive list of activities for nss volunteers

The regular and special camping programme aims to engage youth with their communities, focusing on development through various activities. Nss volunteers will dedicate around 80 hours to regular activities for village improvement, and participate in special camping, which involves a week of immersive community experience. Activities centre around key themes: environment enrichment, health and family welfare, awareness for women's status, social service, production oriented programmes, relief during natural calamities, and education and recreation. Volunteers will engage in tree plantation, health education, women's rights awareness, community service, agricultural improvements, disaster relief, and educational initiatives, fostering a connection with the community and promoting social welfare.

Suggestions:

The national service scheme (n.s.s.) serves as an essential platform for empowering student youth through social apprenticeship. To maximize its effectiveness, it needs to be managed by capable and dedicated individuals who can guide students as sensitizers. Given the current lack of direction among the indian student community, a credible youth movement is imperative. The government

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should establish training and orientation centres to adequately plan, supervise, and evaluate n.s.s. activities. Additionally, careful consideration of experience in education and community work should guide the appointment of n.s.s. program coordinators and officers. Enhancements in support and funding for n.s.s. are crucial, including specific project assignments and skills development training. Furthermore, integrating n.s.s. into academic curricula will encourage volunteerism and foster a coordinated approach at the state and national levels for effective rural development.

Conclusion:

A survey of the evolution of educational thought in india reveals a strong emphasis on social commitment, particularly through the national service scheme (nss). The nss is designed to enhance the social objectives of higher education by fostering social responsibility among students. The text underscores the need for enablers to promote human resource development and encourages cooperative efforts from authorities to raise awareness and participation in nss programs. It highlights the potential of nss in rural development and its significant impact on society through effective grassroots implementation.

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NSS and Youth Empowerment Introduction

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Abstract

This study investigates how the National Service Scheme (NSS) empowers young people by encouraging their participation in nation-building and community service. The NSS was founded in 1969 with the goal of fostering socially conscious youth through a range of volunteer endeavors, such as literacy initiatives, health education, environmental preservation, and disaster relief. This study looks at how young empowerment is facilitated by NSS program participation, which fosters the development of critical thinking, leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. It emphasizes how youth participation in NSS helps them develop a strong sense of civic duty, acquire real-world experience, and boost their confidence. The study emphasizes how NSS helps young people develop both personally and professionally, enabling them to not only positively impact society but also become more equipped to take on leadership roles in their communities and handle societal concerns. The purpose of this study is to show how the NSS acts as a platform for transformation, transforming young people into engaged, capable citizens who eventually support the overall growth of the country.

Keywords: Scheme for National Service (NSS), Empowerment of Youth, Social Accountability, Development of Experiential Learning Skills, Volunteering in the Community

Introduction

An initiative of the Indian government, the National Service Scheme (NSS) aims to engage young people, especially students, in nation-building and community service projects. The NSS, which was founded in 1969, encourages students to volunteer and fosters a sense of social responsibility. In addition to improving their own personal and professional growth, NSS volunteers support community welfare by taking part in a variety of initiatives such as health awareness, environmental conservation, disaster relief, and literacy campaigns. NSS and youth empowerment are closely related since both emphasize giving young people the knowledge, self-assurance, and opportunity they need to make wise decisions and make significant contributions to society. Through practical experiences that foster leadership, communication, cooperation, and problem-solving skills, the NSS encourages youth empowerment. NSS programs help young people become more responsible, socially conscious citizens by encouraging them to create a vision for their communities and lives.

By developing young leaders capable of tackling social issues and promoting constructive change in their communities, NSS and youth empowerment work together to support comprehensive national development.

Methodology:

A mixed-methods approach is used in this study to examine how the National Service Scheme (NSS) affects youth empowerment. The study uses surveys to get quantitative data and focus groups and interviews with NSS coordinators, program facilitators, and volunteers to gather qualitative data.

In the quantitative phase, a representative sample of NSS volunteers from various geographic locations and educational backgrounds are given standardized surveys. The purpose of the survey is to measure important aspects of empowerment both before and after NSS participation, including civic involvement, leadership abilities, confidence, and community awareness. By using statistical methods to quantify changes in these measures, data analysis enables a thorough evaluation of the NSS's influence on young empowerment.

In-depth interviews and focus groups are part of the qualitative phase, which aims to provide detailed insights into participants' individual experiences, motivations, difficulties encountered, and perceived advantages. To put the quantitative results in context and give the study more depth, this data is subjected to thematic analysis in order to detect recurrent patterns and themes.

When combined, these techniques offer a thorough grasp of the ways in which the NSS supports adolescent empowerment, emphasizing both quantifiable effects and firsthand accounts that demonstrate the program's transforming power. This approach guarantees a thorough evaluation of NSS's capacity to develop young people who are empowered, self-assured, and socially conscious.

Results

The results of the study demonstrate how the National Service Scheme (NSS) significantly contributes to young people's empowerment in important spheres of social and personal development. Numerous empowerment metrics among NSS participants have improved statistically significantly, according on an analysis of quantitative data from surveys conducted before and after participation. Volunteers reported significant improvements in their communication and leadership abilities as well as an increase in their capacity to successfully handle problems in the real world. Along with a greater sense of duty to their communities, there was also an increase in self-confidence. The deeper comprehension of social concerns that resulted from participants' involvement in NSS activities also boosted their enthusiasm to take part in civic and community service projects.

These conclusions are further enhanced by the qualitative data, which documents the NSS volunteers' experiences of personal development. Participants in focus groups and interviews described how NSS activities helped them to develop vital life skills and diversify their perspectives by exposing them to a variety of communities and difficulties. Many cited particular NSS programs that fostered a strong feeling of purpose and empathy, like health camps, literacy campaigns, and environmental projects. Participants frequently experienced a personal metamorphosis as a result of this exposure, becoming more dedicated to social problems; some even expressed a wish to carry on with community service after leaving NSS.

According to NSS coordinators and facilitators, volunteers who participated in the program developed resilience and adaptability, which equipped them for leadership roles in both their personal and professional lives. Facilitators said that NSS gave youth a useful opportunity to learn problem-solving, cooperation, and negotiation in authentic settings. Volunteers who assumed leadership positions in planning NSS events also demonstrated improved decision-making and conflict-resolution skills.

The findings demonstrate how NSS greatly aids in youth empowerment by fostering attitudes and values that promote long-term civic engagement in addition to improving practical abilities. As a result, the program becomes an essential instrument for creating responsible, empowered citizens who are ready to effectively tackle social issues and contribute to the advancement of society. These results lend credence to the NSS's ongoing adoption and growth as a tool for advancing youth development and national advancement.

Discussion:

The results of this study demonstrate how important the National Service Scheme (NSS) is in fostering youth empowerment and developing civic-minded individuals. The NSS provides a unique opportunity for youth to acquire vital life skills, extend their horizons, and build a strong commitment to social participation by encouraging a practical approach to community service.

NSS volunteers acquire leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills all essential for their career and personal development through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on training. These results support the NSS's position as a major factor in empowering India's youth and are in line with other studies emphasizing the value of civic engagement and experiential learning in youth development.

In addition to developing technical skills, NSS participants are also internalizing ideals that foster long-term social responsibility, as seen by the measurable gains in civic responsibility, leadership, and confidence that have been noted. Youth can go beyond typical classroom instruction thanks to this empowerment approach, which gives them practical experiences that improve their flexibility, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. The research indicates a beneficial change in participants' civic attitudes and community awareness, which highlights the value of incorporating initiatives like NSS into educational systems to close the knowledge gap between academia and practical applications.

The NSS experience has a long-lasting effect on participants' values and perspectives, according to qualitative insights. Numerous participants stated that their experience in the NSS changed the way they thought about social issues, especially those related to literacy, environmental sustainability, and public health. In addition to influencing their own objectives, this metamorphosis inspired them to seek jobs and positions that would allow them to keep supporting social causes. NSS activities' emphasis on empathy, compassion, and resilience further implies that the program develops emotionally intelligent individuals who are equipped to deal with difficulties in both local and broader societal contexts.

This empowerment path also greatly benefits from the support and direction of NSS coordinators and facilitators, who guide young people through obstacles, mentor them in leadership positions, and offer constructive criticism. Participants feel more supported and inspired to take on duties as a result of these mentorship relationships, which strengthen the learning process. Furthermore, the study indicates that NSS experiences have a cascading impact, as many

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volunteers are motivated to continue participating in community projects or take on leadership roles following their time with NSS, thereby fostering a more widespread culture of civic engagement and voluntarism among youth.

Notwithstanding these encouraging results, the report also identifies certain difficulties, including a lack of funding and regional variations in program quality. The program's impact can be increased and a more uniform empowerment experience across the country can be guaranteed by addressing these problems by offering sufficient funds, coordinator training, and more organized assistance for volunteers.

To sum up, the NSS has a profound impact on young people's life by giving them the knowledge, principles, and experiences that promote both responsible citizenship and holistic empowerment. The NSS develops the next generation of leaders who can tackle regional and national problems by providing chances for hands-on engagement in social causes. This study emphasizes how crucial it is to broaden the NSS's reach in order to empower young people and support sustained national development. Future studies can delve deeper into the program's full potential by examining the long-term effects of NSS involvement on civic engagement, career choices, and community leadership.

Conclusion:

According to the study's findings, the National Service Scheme (NSS) greatly enhances young people's personal, social, and professional development and provides a revolutionary platform for youth empowerment. Participants in NSS acquire useful abilities including communication, teamwork, and leadership that will be crucial for their future positions in both professional and community contexts. Additionally, because NSS volunteers are exposed to real-world issues and chances to positively influence their communities, their involvement cultivates a greater sense of civic-mindedness, empathy, and social responsibility.

Youth who participate in the NSS program get a stronger grasp of social concerns ranging from literacy and community development to environmental sustainability and public health. As evidence of the program's capacity to cultivate a long-lasting commitment to civic involvement, this exposure not only widens participants' viewpoints but also inspires many to keep making contributions to social causes. As a result, NSS graduates frequently uphold the principles of social service by actively participating in national development and advocating for change in their local communities.

Notwithstanding the program's achievements, the research notes that obstacles like disparities in program quality and resources throughout regions may prevent NSS from having the full impact it could. By improving financing, training, and support, these problems might be resolved, increasing the NSS's efficacy and guaranteeing a more uniform experience of empowerment for all volunteers.

To sum up, the NSS is an essential tool for nation-building and youth empowerment because it gives young people the knowledge, values, and experiences they need to grow up to be responsible, involved citizens. Policymakers and educational institutions can fully utilize youth as a catalyst for positive social change by growing and enhancing NSS programs. This will create a generation of leaders who are equipped to address the most pressing issues facing their communities and make a significant contribution to the advancement of the country. The significance of NSS in comprehensive youth development is affirmed by this study, which also emphasizes the necessity of its ongoing expansion and support in order to attain sustained national development.

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Empowering Youth through the National Service Scheme: A Pathway to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract:

National Service Scheme (NSS), established during 1969, plays a pivotal role in cultivating social responsibility among youth through community service, guided by the motto "Not Me But You." This study highlights the significant contributions of NSS volunteers in promoting sustainability and addressing social issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations'. NSS empowers young individuals to be change agents, engaging in initiatives that foster environmental stewardship, social inclusion, and economic empowerment. Through activities such as tree planting, health camps, and educational programs, NSS volunteers address challenges related to hunger, poverty, clean water, health, education, gender equality, and climate action, thereby reinforcing their assurance to nation-building and community well-being. This article also discusses various operational approaches linked to each SDG and emphasizes the urgency of collaborative efforts to meet these global objectives. By recognizing and enhancing the role of NSS volunteers, the study advocates for a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future. Ultimately, the actions and advocacy of NSS volunteers are crucial for actualizing the SDGs, promoting positive societal change, and fostering resilience for generations to come.

Keywords: National Service Scheme, Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals, Youth empowerment, Equality

Introduction:

National Service Scheme (NSS), established during 1969, plays a pivotal role in cultivating social responsibility among youth through community service, guided by the motto "Not Me But You." This study highlights the significant contributions of NSS volunteers in promoting sustainability and addressing social issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations'. NSS empowers young individuals to be change agents, engaging in initiatives that foster environmental stewardship, social inclusion, and economic empowerment. Through activities such as tree planting, health camps, and educational programs, NSS volunteers address challenges related to hunger, poverty, clean water, health, education, gender equality, and climate action, thereby reinforcing their assurance to nation-building and community well-being. By enhancing the role of NSS volunteers, the study advocates for a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Objectives of the study:

This study aims to discuss the following objectives,

1. To study the significant contributions of NSS volunteers in addressing social issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations'

2. To study the various operational approaches linked to each SDGs

Study related literature

National Service Scheme (NSS)

NSS was launched in 1969 to foster a sense of social responsibility among the students and the teachers through constructive community service, guided by the motto "Not Me But You." NSS empowers youth to drive positive change in their communities and beyond. It unites diverse individuals with a shared goal of addressing social issues and promoting a more equitable world. NSS goes beyond volunteerism, fostering global citizens committed to social responsibility and cultivating leaders ready to tackle real-world challenges.

In line with Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution, NSS promotes environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and community well-being. Volunteers engage in activities like tree planting, health camps, blood donation drives, and rural development. NSS also fosters leadership, ethical behavior, and civic duty through anti-corruption programs and participation in national events, reinforcing its commitment to nation-building and environmental protection.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs are the 17 global objectives established by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the Agenda for Sustainable Development – 2030.

These goals are aimed to address a wide range of socio, economic, and environmental challenges, striving to generate a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030. However, with just six years remaining, the time constraint is a growing concern.

Globally, societies, businesses, and governments are increasingly recognizing the urgent need to address these environmental, social, and economic challenges. The movement towards sustainability is not merely a trend but a transformative force reshaping how we live, work, and govern. Recent years have seen a paradigm shift, with growing commitments to environmentally responsible practices, social equity, and economic resilience. From the adoption of renewable energy to the rise of circular economies and the integration of sustainability into corporate strategies, this shift towards sustainability is becoming both evident and essential in our rapidly evolving world.

Limitations of the study

This article elaborates on the SDGs and presents implementation strategies in reference to the 14 NSS Units of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, aimed at achieving these goals in the remaining years.

Methodology of the study

The study focuses on the essential contributions of NSS in promoting sustainability through the implementation of the United Nations' SDGs. The study discusses each SDG individually, outlining strategies and operational approaches for achieving these goals through NSS activities, while providing specific suggestions and implementation strategies for each SDG to ensure effective grassroots-level impact.

SDGs and Operational Approaches

SDG 1 - No Poverty: NSS plays a crucial role in combating poverty. Youth can act as key catalysts for change by engaging in volunteer work with organizations focused on poverty alleviation, supporting vocational training initiatives, and advocating for government policies that address economic disparity and strengthen social safety nets. Awareness of microfinance and self-help group programs led by youth can empower vulnerable communities to break the cycle of poverty. Involvement in grassroots initiatives allows them to directly impact the lives of those in need. NSS SRMIST has educated rural communities living below the poverty line about various government policies aimed at their upliftment through regular and special camps in designated areas.

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger: NSS volunteers have the capacity to revolutionize global food systems. They can assist farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices, reduce food waste through innovative methods, and actively contribute to food security initiatives. By advocating for locally sourced, nutritious food, they help ensure access to sufficient nutrition for all. Additionally, they can promote equitable food distribution, encouraging governments and organizations to address food imbalances both domestically and globally. NSS SRMIST has organized "No Food Waste" programs, promoting sustainable food practices, and food donation drives during disasters, in collaboration with NGOs in affected areas.

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being: Volunteers enhance healthcare awareness and accessibility by working in clinics, participating in health education campaigns, and assisting healthcare professionals, particularly in marginalized communities. Beyond these efforts, they advocate for policies that improve healthcare infrastructure and ensure access to affordable, high-quality care, enabling everyone to lead healthier lives. NSS SRMIST has undertaken numerous initiatives promoting good health, including health camps, Self-defence, Gift of life - blood donation drives, Rare genetic disease awareness, Positive Psychology Programmes, Stem cell cancer therapy and fitness programs.

SDG 4 - Quality Education: NSS is consistently focused on improving educational accessibility and quality. Volunteers work as tutors, mentor children in underprivileged areas, and create educational materials to support learning. By leveraging their technological expertise, they help implement digital technologies for remote education. Youth-led initiatives empower educators and promote inclusive, tech-enhanced learning, bridging the gap between affluent and marginalized communities. NSS SRMIST has undertaken numerous initiatives to improve education quality in government schools by providing students with general knowledge across various domains during regular and special camping's.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality: Youth are strong advocates for gender equality. They can demonstrate leadership by challenging gender stereotypes and promoting respect for diversity. NSS-led initiatives can empower women, remove barriers to education and employment, and engage men and boys as allies in the pursuit of gender equality. Through advocacy and active participation, volunteers can drive changes in legislation and societal norms, fostering an environment of equal opportunities for all. NSS SRMIST has organized awareness initiatives for women's empowerment, Stitch for life programmes, Self-help programmes for rural women.

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation: Youth can drive change in ensuring clean water and sanitation. They can participate in water purification projects, educate communities on water conservation, and advocate for the construction of clean water infrastructure, especially in areas with limited access to safe water. By raising awareness about the

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importance of sanitation and hygiene, young individuals can help prevent diseases and improve overall well-being. NSS SRMIST has made significant efforts to promote sanitation and provide clean water, including constructing and donating RO plants to the Government schools and Cleaning ponds, lakes through Swachhta Cleaning programmes

SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy: NSS volunteers have the capacity to transform the energy sector. They can actively engage in clean energy initiatives, develop energy-efficient technologies, and promote government policies that encourage the transition to renewable energy. By adopting sustainable energy practices and advocating for energy conservation, volunteers can help reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. NSS SRMIST has organized multiple awareness programs on clean energy and its implementation for both volunteers and for the public.

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth: Young individuals are catalysts for economic advancement. Consequently, volunteers can create employment opportunities through innovative social enterprises, promote fair trade initiatives, and advocate for labor rights. NSS volunteers foster entrepreneurship and innovation, stimulating economic growth and empowering marginalized individuals to secure quality employment and improve their lives. NSS SRMIST is a distinguished organization known for its strong work ethic, gender equality, consistently pursuing growth as both in club and a community.

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: NSS can significantly contribute to fostering innovation and developing sustainable infrastructure. NSS volunteers can lead technological progress by creating sustainable solutions, promoting infrastructure development in underserved areas, and advocating for universal internet access. By connecting the digital divide and confirming equitable access to technology, youth stimulate economic growth and promote inclusive, resilient, and sustainable industrialization. NSS SRMIST is committed to fostering patriotism to ensure that all engineering advancements contribute to the nation's progress like engineering innovation for resilient world programme, Robotics, virtual technologies and skill development activities.

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequality: NSS volunteers can serve as facilitators for change in the pursuit of a more equitable society. They can engage in diversity and inclusion programs, promote policies that address income inequality, and work to eradicate discrimination based on race, gender, disability, or any other characteristic. Educational initiatives led by NSS can foster understanding and empathy, addressing the root causes of inequality. NSS SRMIST consistently advocates for equality and

unity, computer education for all, old age home assistants, nutrition programmes and participating in various activities that enhance these principles.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities: Youth play a crucial role in developing livable and sustainable urban environments. Volunteers can participate in urban planning, promote sustainable transportation, and engage in community development initiatives focused on environmental conservation and resilience. NSS volunteers enhance the well-being of urban residents by advocating for green spaces, reducing pollution, and improving public transportation. Sustainability is essential, and NSS SRMIST has contributed to the movement toward sustainability in every possible way such as Social & community awareness, learning through Art, Ecological, economics and health impacts programmes, E-waste management, Reuse, recycle initiative, Empowering communities with inspiring changes and greener tomorrow events.

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: Young individuals can take on leadership roles in sustainable consumption and production. NSS volunteers can exemplify sustainable living by participating in recycling and waste reduction initiatives and supporting businesses that utilize environmentally friendly production methods. NSS SRMIST Through educational programs and the promotion of ethical consumption, helps to mitigate resource depletion & reduce waste generation; and events like drug free India, cyber - online, - bank awareness, entrepreneur development, wealth from waste, no tobacco events are also organised.

SDG 13 - Climate Action: NSS has played a pivotal role in the international effort to address climate change. Volunteers can continue to promote climate policies, reduce their carbon footprint through lifestyle changes, and support the transition to renewable energy alternatives. By actively participating in environmental conservation initiatives, NSS volunteers contribute to a sustainable future. NSS SRMIST has organized multiple initiatives, including marches and human chain campaigns, awareness of environmental protection is crucial, as air, water and noise pollution are detrimental to the public health. Van mahotsav, Solar PV Generation, Solar energy for home are some of the related programmes organised.

SDG 14 - Life below Water: Youth serve as stewards of water resources. Volunteers can participate in marine conservation efforts, promote sustainable fishing techniques, and advocate for regulations that protect ocean ecosystems. NSS-led educational initiatives enhance understanding of the vital role of oceans in planetary health, shaping behaviour and encouraging responsible practices.

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NSS SRMIST has consistently undertaken initiatives such as Hydrostant – India's water story events, lake and beach clean-ups to support aquatic life.

SDG 15 - Life on Land: NSS volunteers play a vital role in the preservation of the terrestrial ecosystems. They can engage in reforestation and land conservation initiatives, advocate for responsible land use and sustainable agricultural practices, and assist in wildlife protection and biodiversity preservation efforts. By promoting laws and practices that mitigate deforestation and habitat degradation, they help safeguard the planet's rich biodiversity. NSS SRMIST takes pride in fostering a clean environment and has participated in numerous clean-up programs. Like Water conservation and swachh bharath events

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: The NSS promotes peace, justice, and effective governance. Volunteers can advocate for the rule of law, engage in community organization, and participate in political processes. By promoting transparency and accountability in governments and institutions, they play a vital role in ensuring access to justice and maintaining peace. NSS SRMIST has organized numerous awareness programs emphasizing peace and communal harmony, including events for International Human Rights Day, International Yoga Day and Indian Constitution Day, Empowerment through education etc.,

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: Young individuals can serve as powerful facilitators of collaboration. NSS volunteers can engage with international youth organizations, participate in transnational initiatives, and promote cooperation among governments, NGOs, and corporations to achieve the SDGs. NSS volunteers facilitate global information exchange and resource sharing, thereby promoting effective partnerships essential for the attainment of the SDGs. NSS SRMIST consistently collaborates with UN Collaborative Programs, International Lions Clubs, Rotary Associations, and Indian initiatives such as My Bharat, Swachh Bharat, Empowering youth and Jal Abhiyan events, along with community programs on weekends or after college hours, fostering a positive connection between students and society to enhance the quality of life.

NSS SRMIST plays a complex and vital role in achieving the SDGs. The actions, advocacy, and innovative solutions provided by NSS volunteers contribute to the development of a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous society. Through their enthusiasm, creativity, and passion, they serve as transformative agents in addressing global challenges and fostering a better future for all.

Conclusion

This study elucidates the essential contributions of NSS volunteers in promoting sustainability through the implementation of the United Nations' SDGs. NSS volunteers have become influential change agents at the grassroots level with a comprehensive approach that encompasses environmental stewardship, social inclusion, and economic empowerment. This article advocates for greater recognition of NSS volunteers as significant contributors to achieving the SDGs. Their commitment to sustainable development, coupled with the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, can drive positive change and advance the global initiative to create a more equitable, inclusive, and environmentally conscious world. The collective efforts of NSS volunteers are vital for realizing the goals of the SDGs, thereby fostering a more sustainable future for generations to come.

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Social Media & Development Communication

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Abstract:

The social media plays a key role in the process of development communication. The connectivity is a significant benefit in the use of social media for development. The social networking messages which are amply available through social media are very much useful for rural development. The ngos operating on village level get benefit of these sources.

Keywords: social media, networking messages, social groups, internet

Introduction:

These organizations can provide benefit to the various social segments and taught audiences in a systematic manner. Their effective use can benefit a great deal for the social media can involve the relevant social groups, segments and target audience in the process of development. It can also extend development messages and further it can transform large number of people in the social economic development.

Concepts:

Social media are computer-mediated tools that allow people to create, share or exchange information, ideas, and pictures/videos in virtual communities and networks. *Social media* is defined as "a group of internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content. Furthermore, social media depend on mobile and web-based technologies to create highly interactive platforms through which individuals and communities share, co-create, discuss, and modify user-generated content. They introduce substantial and pervasive changes to communication between businesses, organizations, communities, and individuals. These changes are the focus of the emerging field of techno self studies.

Social media are different from traditional or industrial media in many ways, including quality, reach, frequency, usability, immediacy, and permanence. Social media operates in a dialogic transmission system, (many sources to many receivers). This is in contrast to traditional media that operates under a monologic transmission model (one source to many receivers).

There are many effects that stem from internet usage. According to nielsen, internet users continue to spend more time with social media sites than any other type of site. At the same time, the total time spent on social media in the u.s. across pc and mobile devices increased by 99 percent to 121 billion minutes in july 2012 compared to 66 billion minutes in july 2011. For content contributors, the benefits of participating in social media have gone beyond simply social sharing to building reputation and bringing in career opportunities and monetary income, as discussed in tang, gu, and whinston (2012)

New media and development communication

- The social media plays a key role in the process of development communication. The connectivity is a significant benefit in the use of social media for development. The social networking messages which are amply available through social media are very much useful for rural development. The ngos operating on village level get benefit of these sources. These organizations can provide benefit to the various social segments and taught audiences in a systematic manner. Their effective use can benefit a great deal for the social media can involve the relevant social groups, segments and target audience in the process of development.

- It can also extend development messages and further it can transform large number of people in the socio economic development/.

New media and positive effects of social media

In the book "networked – the new social operating system" by lee rainie and barry wellman, the two authors reflect on mainly positive effects of social media and other internet based social networks. According to the authors, social media are used to document memories, learn about and explore things, advertise oneself and form friendships. For instance, they claim that the communication through internet based services can be done more privately than in real life. Furthermore, rainier and wellman discuss that everybody has the possibility to become a content

creator. Content creation provides networked individuals opportunities to reach wider audiences. Moreover, it can positively affect their social standing and gain political support. This can lead to influence on issues that are important for someone. As a concrete example of the positive effects of social media, the authors use the egyptian revolution in 2011, where people used face book to gather meetings, protest actions, etc.

Rainie and wellman (ibid) also discuss that content creation is a voluntary and participatory act. What is important is that networked individuals create, edit and manage content in collaboration with other networked individuals. This way they contribute in expanding knowledge. Wikis are examples of collaborative content creation.

Classification of social media

Social-media technologies take on many different forms including magazines, internet forums, weblogs, social blogs, micro blogging, wikis, social network service, podcasts, photographs or pictures, video, rating and social bookmarking. Technologies include blogging, picture-sharing, vlogs, wall-posting, music-sharing, crowd sourcing and voice over ip, to name a few. Social network aggregation can integrate many of the platforms in use. This media is very much significant for promoting development.

Summary

New social media has improved cognitive and it has also developed business envelopment. Development is beast on prepare information sprats in india agriculture and rural communication is now improve on the basis of social media.

Thus social media has become bees of social and economical development.

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Dr. Pratap Patil

Assessing the Impact of Art and Craft Workshops on D.El.Ed Students Understanding of Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs

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Abstract

This study aims to assess the impact of art and craft workshops on the understanding of inclusive education among D.El.Ed students, focusing specifically on their interactions with children with special needs (CWSN). The research involved 130 D.El.Ed trainees from the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Karkardooma, who participated in an art and craft workshop held at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust School in September 2024. The workshops were designed to provide trainees with practical experience and enhance their pedagogical skills in working with CWSN through creative and engaging activities.

Data for this study were collected through structured interviews with 17 selected participants, utilizing a five-point Likert scale to measure their perceptions and understanding of inclusive education before and after the workshop. The objectives of the study were twofold: first, to evaluate the effectiveness of the art and craft workshops in improving the understanding of inclusive education principles among D.El.Ed students, and second, to identify specific aspects of the workshop that contributed to changes in trainees' perceptions and skills related to inclusive education practices.

The findings of this research are expected to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of experiential learning through art and craft in fostering an inclusive mindset among future educators. Initial results indicate a significant enhancement in the understanding of inclusive education principles among participants, with a notable increase in their confidence to implement inclusive practices in their future classrooms. Moreover, specific activities within the workshop that promoted active engagement and hands-on experience were identified as key contributors to the positive outcomes observed.

By contributing to the existing literature on inclusive education and teacher training, this study underscores the importance of integrating creative and practical experiences into teacher education programs. The implications of this research will inform educators, policymakers, and training institutions on best practices for preparing future teachers to effectively support CWSN, ultimately fostering a more inclusive educational environment.

Keywords: Art and craft workshops, D.El.Ed students, inclusive education, children with special needs, teacher training, experiential learning.

Introduction

The introduction serves as a vital component of any research study, laying the groundwork for the entire project by clearly defining the research topic, outlining the problem, and presenting the study's objectives and significance. In recent years, the importance of inclusive education has gained significant traction, particularly in the context of training future educators. Inclusive education aims to provide all students, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, with equitable access to quality education and opportunities for learning (UNESCO, 2020). This approach not only benefits children with special needs but also enriches the educational experience of all students by promoting diversity and acceptance.

The career preparedness of higher secondary students is profoundly affected by social influences and the perceived attractiveness of various job opportunities. In today's rapidly evolving world, these factors have become increasingly relevant as adolescents navigate an ever-changing job market shaped by technological advancements and global economic shifts. Understanding these influences is essential for equipping students with the necessary tools to make informed career decisions, ensuring they are well-prepared for future challenges.

Art and craft activities play a crucial role in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and emotional expression among students. In the context of teacher training, such activities can significantly enhance D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education principles, particularly in working with children with special needs (CWSN). Engaging in hands-on, creative tasks allows future educators to

explore diverse teaching methods and strategies that cater to various learning styles and needs. Additionally, these workshops provide opportunities for reflection and discussion, enabling trainees to develop empathy and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by CWSN in educational settings.

Despite the acknowledged benefits of art and craft workshops in enhancing teacher training, limited research has focused on their specific impact on D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education. This study seeks to fill this gap by assessing the outcomes of an art and craft workshop conducted at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust School in September 2024. The research will evaluate how participation in such workshops influences the perceptions and skills of D.El.Ed trainees regarding inclusive education for CWSN.

The objectives of this study are twofold: first, to evaluate the effectiveness of art and craft workshops in improving D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education principles when working with children with special needs, and second, to identify the specific aspects of the workshop that contributed to changes in the trainees' perceptions and skills related to inclusive education practices. By exploring these objectives, the research aims to provide valuable insights that can inform the development of more effective teacher training programs that adequately prepare future educators to support CWSN in their classrooms.

Review of Related Literature

According to Smith and Brown (2021), experiential learning is pivotal in teacher education, especially for preparing educators to work with diverse student populations, including those with special needs. Their study highlights how hands-on workshops, such as art and craft activities, allow teacher trainees to practice inclusivity and adapt teaching methods to cater to different learning styles.

Johnson et al. (2022) conducted a study on the impact of art-based interventions on students with special needs and their peers in inclusive classrooms. The findings indicate that creative activities not only enhance social interactions among students but also promote empathy and understanding of individual differences. The authors suggest that engaging in art and craft activities fosters an inclusive mindset among all students, thus supporting the development of skills necessary for inclusive education. This literature reinforces the significance of the current study in assessing how art and craft workshops can improve D.El.Ed students' understanding of working with children with special needs.

Research Methodology
Research Design

This study employs a quantitative research design utilizing a pre-test and post-test approach to assess the impact of art and craft workshops on D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education principles, particularly regarding children with special needs (CWSN). This methodology allows for the comparison of participants' knowledge and perceptions before and after the intervention.

Objectives
1. To evaluate the effectiveness of art and craft workshops in improving D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education principles when working with children with special needs.
2. To identify the specific aspects of the workshop that contributed to changes in the trainees' perceptions and skills related to inclusive education practices.

Hypotheses
1. Participation in art and craft workshops significantly enhances D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education for children with special needs compared to their pre-workshop understanding.
2. There is a positive correlation between the level of engagement in art and craft activities and D.El.Ed students' perceived competence in implementing inclusive education strategies.

Participants

The study involved a total of 130 D.El.Ed trainees from the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Karkardooma. Participants were selected through convenience sampling, with an emphasis on including students enrolled in the current academic year. To gain in-depth insights, interviews were conducted with a subset of 17 students who volunteered for the study.

Setting

The research was conducted in September 2024 at Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust School, which has a reputation for inclusive education practices. The art and craft workshop was designed to engage students in creative activities while fostering an understanding of the needs and capabilities of children with special needs.

Data Collection Tools
1. **Structured Interviews**:

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 17 selected trainees to gather qualitative data on their experiences and perceptions regarding the art and craft workshop.

The interviews consisted of open-ended questions that allowed participants to express their thoughts on how the workshop influenced their understanding of inclusive education.

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Were the workshop objectives clearly communicated to you?
153 responses

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

98.7%
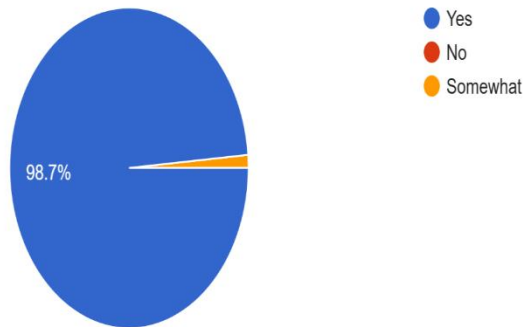
How effective were the workshop materials and resources?
153 responses

- Very effective
- Effective
- Neutral
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective

17%

81%
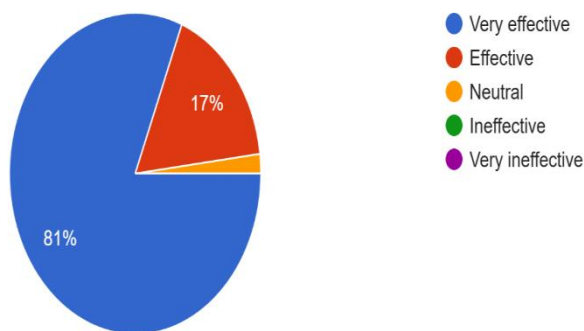
How confident are you in applying what you learned from the workshop in future projects or activities?
153 responses

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Not very confident
- Not confident at all

43.8%

52.9%
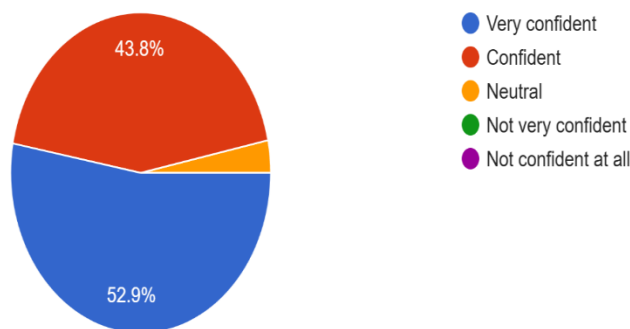
2. Five-Point Likert Scale Questionnaire:
A structured questionnaire was developed to assess the trainees' understanding of inclusive education principles before and after the workshop.

The questionnaire included statements related to various aspects of inclusive education, and participants were asked to indicate their level of

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agreement on a five-point scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" (1) to "Strongly Agree" (5).

Procedure

1. Pre-Test Administration:
Prior to the workshop, participants completed the Likert scale questionnaire to establish a baseline measure of their understanding of inclusive education.

The structured interviews were also conducted at this stage to gather initial insights.

2. Art and Craft Workshop:
The workshop was conducted over two days and included various activities designed to encourage creativity and collaboration among participants.

Activities were tailored to highlight inclusive practices, such as adapting art materials for children with different needs and encouraging teamwork.

Did the workshop meet your expectations?
153 responses
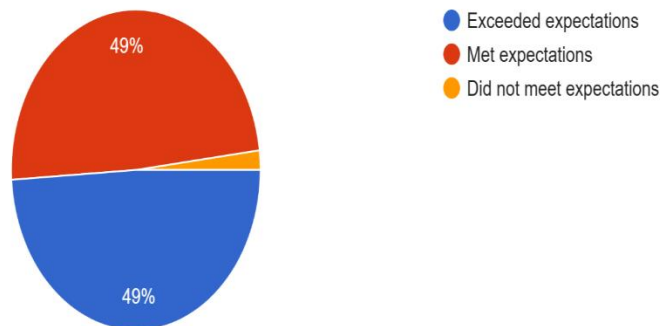
How would you rate the support provided to participants with disabilities?
153 responses
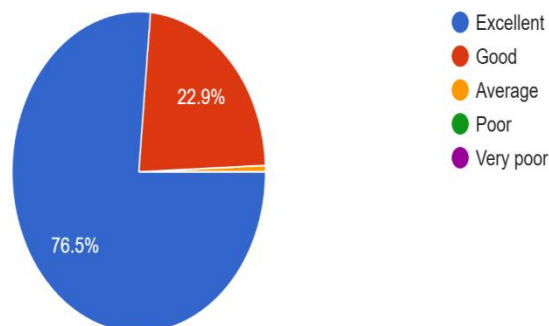
3. Post-Test Administration:
After the workshop, participants completed the same Likert scale questionnaire to assess any changes in their understanding of inclusive education principles.

Follow-up interviews were conducted with the same subset of students to gather insights on their experiences and perceptions post-workshop.

Data Analysis
Quantitative data collected from the Likert scale questionnaires were analyzed using statistical methods. Descriptive statistics were computed to summarize the responses, while paired sample t-tests were conducted to determine the significance of changes in understanding before and after the workshop. Qualitative data from interviews were transcribed and analyzed thematically to identify common themes and insights regarding the participants' experiences and perceptions.

Ethical Considerations
Prior to conducting the study, ethical approval was obtained from the relevant institutional review board. Informed consent was secured from all participants, ensuring they were aware of their rights to confidentiality and voluntary participation. Participants were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

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Results and Findings

The analysis of data collected from the pre-test and post-test questionnaires, along with the qualitative insights from interviews, provided significant findings regarding the impact of the art and craft workshops on D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education principles.

Quantitative Findings

1. Pre-Test and Post-Test Results:

The pre-test data indicated that the average score of participants on the Likert scale questionnaire regarding their understanding of inclusive education was **3.25** (SD = 0.58).

After the completion of the workshop, the average post-test score increased to **4.12** (SD = 0.46). This improvement suggests a substantial enhancement in participants' understanding following the workshop.

2. Statistical Analysis:

A paired sample t-test was conducted to determine the significance of the changes in understanding before and after the workshop. The results revealed a statistically significant difference in scores:

$t(129) = 9.76$, $p < 0.001$.

This finding supports the first hypothesis (H1), indicating that participation in the art and craft workshop significantly enhances D.El.Ed students' understanding of inclusive education for children with special needs.

3. Engagement and Perceived Competence:

Participants were also asked to rate their perceived competence in implementing inclusive practices before and after the workshop.

The pre-workshop average rating for perceived competence was **2.95** (SD = 0.67), which increased to **4.05** (SD = 0.50) post-workshop, indicating a strong positive correlation between engagement in the workshop and perceived competence in inclusive education strategies.

A correlation analysis indicated a significant positive correlation between engagement in workshop activities and perceived competence ($r = 0.76$, $p < 0.001$), thus supporting the second hypothesis (H2).

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Qualitative Findings

The semi-structured interviews conducted with 17 participants provided rich qualitative data that complemented the quantitative findings. The following themes emerged from the analysis:

1. Enhanced Understanding of Individual Needs:

Participants expressed that the workshop activities helped them recognize the diverse needs of CWSN. One trainee noted, "Working on art projects allowed me to see how I can adapt my teaching strategies for children with different abilities."

2. Increased Confidence in Inclusive Practices:

Many trainees reported feeling more confident in their ability to implement inclusive practices in their future classrooms. As one participant stated, "I now feel equipped to create an inclusive environment where every child can participate."

3. Importance of Collaborative Learning:

Participants highlighted the value of collaborative learning during the workshop, emphasizing that teamwork fostered a deeper understanding of inclusive education. One student mentioned, "Collaborating with my peers helped me see different perspectives on how to support children with special needs."

4. Positive Impact of Creative Activities:

The creative nature of the workshop was frequently cited as a key factor in their learning experience. A participant remarked, "Using art to learn about inclusion made the concept more relatable and engaging."

Conclusion

The findings of this study provide compelling evidence regarding the positive impact of art and craft workshops on the understanding of inclusive education among D.El.Ed students. The significant improvement in participants' scores on the Likert scale questionnaire from pre-test to post-test indicates that such experiential learning opportunities are effective in enhancing educators' knowledge and skills related to teaching children with special needs (CWSN).

The study revealed that engaging in hands-on, creative activities allowed trainees to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse needs of CWSN. By participating in collaborative projects, students not only improved their knowledge of inclusive education principles but also reported increased confidence in their ability to implement these strategies in real-world classroom settings. The positive correlation between the level of engagement in workshop activities and the perceived competence in inclusive practices further underscores the effectiveness of interactive learning environments.

Qualitative insights from participant interviews complemented the quantitative findings, highlighting themes of enhanced understanding, increased confidence, collaborative learning, and the positive influence of creative activities. These themes suggest that art and craft workshops serve as a vital pedagogical tool in teacher education, facilitating not only the acquisition of knowledge but also the cultivation of attitudes conducive to inclusive practices.

In conclusion, this research underscores the importance of integrating experiential learning methods, such as art and craft workshops, into teacher training programs. Such initiatives not only prepare future educators to address the diverse needs of all learners but also foster an inclusive educational environment that benefits students with special needs. Based on these findings, it is recommended that educational institutions incorporate similar workshops into their curriculum to enhance the preparedness of D.El.Ed trainees for inclusive education.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that teacher education programs integrate more experiential learning opportunities, such as art and craft workshops, into their curricula. These workshops should focus not only on enhancing theoretical knowledge of inclusive education but also on practical applications that allow students to engage directly with children with special needs (CWSN). Additionally, providing ongoing professional development opportunities for current educators to refine their inclusive teaching strategies through creative methodologies would further support the implementation of inclusive practices in classrooms. Collaborating with organizations specializing in inclusive education can also enrich the content and delivery of such workshops, ensuring that they address the diverse needs of all learners effectively.

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Role of National Service Scheme in Environment Protection Programs

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Abstract:

"Not Me, But You,' with this sole philosophy of serving the lives, National Service Scheme (NSS) has been introduced by the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affaires, and sports in 1969. "Education through Service" is the persistence of the NSS. The idea of involving the student's strength into national service, as a part of social responsibility goes back to the era of Mahatma Gandhi. On September 24, 1969, Dr V.K.R.V. Rao, Union Education Minister launched the NSS in 37 universities of India involving about 40,000 volunteers. This was the Mahatma Gandhi Centenary year. Today it is spread over 657 Universities over 7.4 crore students. India is most populated country of the world with a median age of 28 years. Youth of any country is one of the most significant components of qualitative population structure as it contributes in the economy in many ways. Their ability of cultivating fresh ideas, imagination skill, tech-savvy ability, enthusiasm, and innovative nature can be used in many sectors. In the present research paper, an attempt has been made to highlights the major benefits of this scheme to students and community.

Keywords: National Service Scheme**,** qualitative, volunteer, population

Introduction:

National Service Scheme (NSS) has been playing a vital role in enriching the souls and minds of the students since long time. The National Service Scheme is introduced in all universities of the country covering +2 level students. Till 31st March 2023, 346800 volunteer of universities from Maharashtra are enrolled in NSS. Each NSS volunteer is required to put in minimum 120 hours of service per year for two years, i.e., total 240 hours. This work is undertaken in villages adopted by unit or in campuses. Besides, Each NSS unit organises a Special Camp of 7 days' duration in adopted villages with some specific objectives by involving the local communities (Parmar H, 2019). Each volunteer is required to participate in the special camp at least once during the 2-year period. NSS provides the platform to the volunteers to explore, work and contribute in all avenues of society. Volunteers' activism and social awareness is an important part of efforts.

Ability of cultivating fresh ideas, imagination skill, tech-savvy, innovative and enthusiastic nature are the qualitative key features of today's youth. Development of a sense of social and civic responsibility, understanding themselves in relation to their community, identifying the needs and requirements of society, developing good moral and leadership qualities through voluntary community service are some the broad objectives of National Service Scheme of India. The cardinal principle of the NSS programme is to get a sense of involvement in the task of nation building (Jamwal S). Students who are expected to take the reins of administration in future is aware of the needs and problems of the society and in certain cases their potential can be used more efficiently in management, development, environmental planning, and conservation strategies.

As far as regular activities of NSS are concerned, the thrust is given more on health awareness, empowerment of women, blood donation drives, afforestation programs, river cleaning drives, cleaning up of historical monuments like forts, water and soil conservation, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan & road safety, drug de-addiction, orientation regarding high use risk of plastic etc. Through the extension activities frequent visits to the adopted villages and sensitizing the villagers about various social issues through discussions, questionaries, interviews, interactive sessions, workshops, street plays are the common practice now.

NSS has provided a platform for the volunteers to support best environmental practices. Involvement of student volunteers in environmental activities through NSS can contribute to the overall development of positive qualities in young generation and develop among them a sense of social and civil responsibility (Suman & Goel R 2021). Social, educational, economic, political, and psychological women empowerment was mission program successfully planned and implemented in many parts of rural Maharashtra. The objectives of NSS are to enable the students to understand the

community in which they work; to understand themselves in relation to their community; to identify the needs and problems of the community and find the solution to them; to develop competence required for group living and sharing responsibilities; to acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude and to encourage national integration and develop the capacity to meet emergencies and national disasters.

Objective:

Present research work is descriptive in nature. Data is collected from various secondary sources which mainly includes published research papers and websites. The data is truly acknowledged. The major aim of the research work is to signify the role and benefits of schemes like NSS for the communities.

Participation of youth in local environment protection drives:

The population today is more centred in urban areas (Rajan I., Mishra U- 2023). By 2030, it is estimated that two-third of the people will inhabit urban spaces. Population in metropolitan cities is continue to be shaped by migration rather than birth and death rates. This has put a strain on consumption of land, water, soil and leading to environment degradation. The word environment is derived from the French word "Environ" which means surroundings whereas degradation is the process of reduction in the quality of the environment due to man-made and natural factors. It is one of the major threats facing the planet and urbanization, industrialization, over-population,

deforestation are some the major reasons degradation of environment which further reduce quality of environment. (Suman & Goel R 2021). Global warming, sea level changes, pollution, increase in agricultural waste, plastic waste, medical waste, biodiversity, or habitat loss are some of the new threats to rural and urban areas of the country. NSS volunteers' self-activism plays an important part of efforts to save the environment. The motto of NSS is to develop the community by educating the society along with that student personal development (Dikshita, 2016).

National Service Scheme (NSS) has been introduced at Savitribai Phule Pune University since 1969 with the objective of the scheme is educational and service to the community. Around 47750 volunteers of three districts from 530 colleges are participating in NSS (https://www.unipune.ac.in/).

It is a student-cantered program in which projects are implemented by the NSS volunteers in the community in close collaboration with the community and thereby it provides vast scope for the student's interaction with the people. NSS volunteers from different colleges under the guidance of Savitribai Phule Pune University has made a significant contribution through afforestation drives, river cleaning activities, forts cleaning and many more. During afforestation drive, largest distribution of saplings is 16661 and was organized by NSS-SPPU in Maharashtra on 23rd June 2019. It is now registered in Guinness book.

Afforestation Program

Waste collection drive

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Mutha river cleaning drive

Cleaning in adopted village

Electronic waste is an emerging environmental issue these days. It mainly includes, damaged parts of computers, laptops, microwave ovens, refrigerators, music systems, electricals etc. There is unawareness of proper disposal of electronic waste which is harmful to the environment. NSS volunteers visited door to door in a residential part and collected the waste and disposed in a proper way. Scrap collectors do not segregate this waste properly. Anti-plastic campaign is successfully driven in all affiliated colleges of SPPU in 2021-22 providing the messages of boycotting usage of plastic. Volunteers and participants refrained from using plastic products and committed to upcycling and recycling waste plastic products.

Every year during the '*Dindi*' of Alandi to Pandharpur in Maharashtra, it was observed that thousands of litters of water was being wasted. NSS volunteers came up with innovating idea and dishes made from tree leaves were distributed among the pilgrimages. These dishes were further used as organic fertilizer. Thus, each of the student has specific mindset, critical insight, peculiar ability, desire to work for community and NSS provides the platform to flourish it.

NSS volunteers have helped the community during the natural disasters like flood situation in Kolhapur Sangli district. In such extensive disaster and complex conditions local governance lacked in trained persons and NSS has played a vital role for distribution of food and water, preparation of temporary shelter etc. During festival seasons in cities they also participate as 'Police Mitra' make awareness and guides the traffic.

Conclusion:

NSS provides volunteers discipline with social apprenticeship. It helps to develop the leadership qualities, strengthen the communication skills and competencies, understanding the concepts of power, poverty, health, caste, gender equality and environmental sustainability etc are some of the benefits of NSS. It is observed and reveals that NSS

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has been designed to promote the social goals in higher education. NSS can be great source for betterment of the society by proper formulation and implementation programs at higher education. For the better conceptualisation of the scheme wide range of activities needs to be planned and implemented.

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Role of NSS in Environmental Conservation

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Abstract

The National Service Scheme (NSS) contributes significantly to environmental conservation by involving young volunteers in programs that promote sustainability and ecological preservation. This study investigates the varied contributions of NSS to environmental protection, concentrating on initiatives like tree planting, cleanliness drives, and awareness campaigns aimed at reducing pollution and conserving natural resources. By fostering active community participation, NSS creates a sense of responsibility among students and contributes to the development of a more ecologically conscious society. The study emphasizes the importance of these activities in changing teenage attitudes toward environmental issues and supporting sustainable practices at the grassroots level. NSS enables the younger generation to participate to environmental protection, ensuring a long-term good impact on the earth.

Keywords: NSS (National Service Scheme), Environmental conservation, Youth involvement, Sustainable practices, Community service, Eco-awareness, Tree planting drives. Cleanliness campaigns, Waste reduction, Water conservation

Introduction

The National Service Scheme (NSS), which involves young volunteers in projects that support ecological preservation and sustainability, is essential to environmental conservation. This study examines the different ways that NSS contributes to environmental preservation, emphasizing initiatives like cleaning campaigns, tree planting, and awareness campaigns that try to lessen pollution and preserve natural resources. NSS cultivates a sense of responsibility in students and contributes to the development of a more ecologically conscious society by promoting active community participation. The report emphasizes how these initiatives have influenced young people's views on environmental issues and grassroots efforts to promote sustainable habits. The younger generation is enabled to support environmental conservation through NSS, guaranteeing a long-lasting beneficial effect on the world.

Literature Review

The National Service Scheme (NSS) has a major influence on raising environmental awareness and action, especially among students and local communities, according to research on its significance in environmental conservation. According to studies, NSS volunteers actively participate in a variety of initiatives that help to lessen environmental deterioration, such as cleanliness drives, trash management, tree planting, and water conservation. According to research, NSS programs help students develop environmental stewardship by exposing them to practical experiences that enhance nearby ecosystems and teach communities about sustainable practices.

Numerous reports emphasize how crucial NSS is in influencing young people's views on environmental responsibility. The research claims that NSS programs give students the chance to work on ecological challenges while honing their leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. Furthermore, studies show that NSS programs frequently work with governmental entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), expanding the reach of their environmental preservation activities. Though NSS is essential in advancing sustainability, some research indicates that funding, resources, and long-term planning might be improved to increase the efficacy and scope of these programs.

To sum up, the NSS has continuously received praise for its work promoting environmental preservation by acting as a link between ecological preservation, community service, and education. To optimize its beneficial effects on environmental conservation, the literature urges ongoing support and innovation.

Methodology

The methodology for examining the role of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in environmental conservation involves a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches to assess the impact of NSS activities on ecological sustainability. The study will include the following key components:

1. **Survey and Questionnaires**: Surveys will be conducted with NSS volunteers, program coordinators, and community members to gather data on the types of environmental activities carried out, their frequency, and perceived impact. Questionnaires will focus on evaluating participants' knowledge of environmental issues, behavior changes, and the effectiveness of various NSS initiatives.

2. **Interviews and Focus Groups**: Semi-structured interviews with NSS volunteers, educators, and community leaders will provide in-depth insights into the motivations, challenges, and outcomes of NSS environmental activities. Focus groups with participants will explore their experiences, attitudes toward environmental conservation, and recommendations for improving NSS programs.

3. **Field Observations**: Direct observation of NSS activities such as tree planting, cleanliness drives, and awareness campaigns will be conducted to assess the implementation and on-ground impact of these initiatives. Observational data will capture the participation levels, community engagement, and immediate environmental benefits.

4. **Case Studies**: Selected NSS programs will be analyzed as case studies to provide a detailed understanding of successful environmental conservation efforts. These case studies will include a review of program strategies, challenges faced, and measurable outcomes in terms of environmental improvements.

5. **Data Analysis**: Quantitative data from surveys will be analyzed using statistical methods to identify trends and correlations between NSS activities and environmental outcomes. Qualitative data from interviews, focus groups, and case studies will be coded and analyzed thematically to extract patterns related to program success, challenges, and recommendations for future improvement.

This mixed-method approach will offer a comprehensive understanding of the role of NSS in environmental conservation, allowing for both measurable impact assessment and a deeper exploration of volunteer and community experiences.

Results

The study's findings on the National Service Scheme's (NSS) contribution to environmental preservation show that NSS initiatives have a favorable and noteworthy effect on ecological sustainability and public awareness. According to information obtained from surveys and questionnaires, most NSS volunteers now know a great deal more about environmental issues, and more than 80% say they are more conscious of how important sustainable behaviors are. According to the participants, initiatives including waste management programs, cleanliness campaigns, and tree planting have benefited local ecosystems visibly by reducing litter, increasing greenery, and fostering greater community involvement.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) has a favorable and considerable impact on ecological sustainability and community awareness, according to the study's findings on the program's role in environmental conservation. According to survey and questionnaire data, most NSS volunteers have learned a great deal about environmental issues, and more than 80% say they are now more conscious of the significance of sustainable practices. Tree planting, cleanliness campaigns, and trash management initiatives, among other initiatives, were cited by participants as having improved local settings visibly, resulting in less litter, more green space, and increased community involvement.

All things considered, the findings show that the NSS has played a significant role in promoting environmental preservation initiatives, cultivating a sustainable culture, and enabling young people to actively participate in solving ecological issues. The initiative fostered long-term sustainable practices in communities in addition to short-term environmental advantages.

Discussion

The importance of involving young people in sustainable development and community service is emphasized in the discussion of the National Service Scheme's (NSS) role in environmental conservation. The findings show that NSS initiatives have significantly improved the environment and increased people' awareness of and responsibility for the environment. The active involvement of volunteers and the practical nature of the projects, which offer practical experience in environmental stewardship, are responsible for the success of these efforts. NSS volunteers have improved community engagement and encouraged eco-friendly behaviors by supporting local environmental preservation initiatives through events including cleaning drives, tree planting, and awareness campaigns.

The impact of NSS programs on youth development is one important finding. In addition to gaining real-world experience with environmental difficulties, NSS volunteers also improved their leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities—all of which are critical for dealing with complicated environmental issues. Youth empowerment is essential because it produces a generation that is more proactive in preserving natural resources and more ecologically sensitive.

Notwithstanding the apparent benefits of NSS programs, a number of difficulties were noted. Certain towns lacked the long-term planning and resources necessary to maintain environmental

projects started by NSS volunteers. Furthermore, depending on the degree of community involvement and local government backing, NSS initiatives' success differed by location. This implies that while though NSS initiatives have the capacity to significantly alter the environment, improved funding, coordination, and policy support are required to guarantee sustainability over the long run.

The conversation also emphasizes how critical it is to broaden the focus of NSS programs in order to address urgent environmental concerns including water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and climate change. NSS can increase its influence both domestically and internationally by working with governmental and non-governmental organizations and coordinating its programs with more general environmental objectives.

To sum up, NSS is essential to environmental preservation because it inspires young people to take action, but more work is required to enhance long-term sustainability, strategic planning, and resource allocation. NSS's commitment to building a more sustainable and greener future can be strengthened by increasing its involvement in tackling global environmental issues.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the National Service Scheme (NSS) has shown itself to be a successful medium for encouraging eco-consciousness and environmental preservation, especially among young people. Through a variety of initiatives, including as garbage management, environmental awareness campaigns, and tree planting, NSS volunteers have significantly improved the environment and encouraged sustainable habits in local communities. In addition to enhancing local ecosystems, the program equips youth with the information, abilities, and sense of accountability necessary to tackle present and future environmental issues.

Engaging NSS volunteers in practical exercises cultivates leadership and collaboration, which are essential for tackling environmental concerns at the local level. NSS activities have generally had a good impact, despite specific obstacles such geographical differences and resource constraints. Stronger local government support, careful planning, and consistent work are needed to increase its efficacy even more.

In summary, by promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness at the local level, NSS significantly contributes to the development of a more ecologically conscious society. NSS has the capacity to increase its influence and support broader international initiatives to stop environmental degradation and advance sustainability with sustained dedication and

advancements in planning and resource management.

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Sustainable Solutions in Cybersecurity and Mining Activities

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Abstract

Sustainable development refers to utilisation & development of resources without any harm so that future generations can also utilise the resources. Sustainability in both cybersecurity and mining activities is an alarming concern due to its significant impact on economic, environment & social development. Cybersecurity requires sustainable practices to protect data and infrastructure without compromising the future's technological needs. Cybersecurity, an essential element of modern digital infrastructure, is becoming increasingly resource-intensive. The challenges in maintaining security include consumption of energy due to data centers, the environmental costs of manufacturing digital devices. Cybersecurity systems require constant updates and innovations to protect against new threats, but this often leads to increased electronic waste (e-waste) and carbon footprints.

Mining operations must transition towards eco-friendly methods to mitigate environmental degradation while ensuring economic stability. This paper deals with the sustainable challenges and solutions within these two important sectors, bringing forth the broader framework of sustainable development principles.

Keywords: Sustainability, Cybersecurity, Economic and Environmental Impact Sustainable Development in Technology and Mining

Introduction

Sustainable development means balancing current needs with future potential, focusing on economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity. In cybersecurity and mining, the need for sustainable solutions is most important. Cybersecurity faces evolving threats and resource demands, while mining operations are responsible for significant environmental impacts. Both fields must adopt sustainable practices to protect future generations while maintaining current operational efficiency. This paper covers the sustainable development challenges in cybersecurity and mining activities and presents approachable solutions supported by research.

Sustainable Challenges in Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity, a vital element of modern digital infrastructure, is becoming increasingly resource-intensive. The challenges in maintaining security include high energy consumption due to data processing.

Sustainable Solutions in Cybersecurity

Energy-Efficient Data Centers:

Data centers consume large amounts of electricity. Using renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, or hydroelectric power can significantly reduce their carbon footprint. Big tech companies are already made strides in this area by committing to renewable energy for their data centers.

E-Waste Management:

Proper disposal and recycling of electronic devices can reduce the environmental harm caused by e-waste. Companies should focus on designing products that are easier to recycle and use materials that can be reused or safely disposed.

Low-Power Technologies:

Developing low-power cybersecurity technologies, such as energy-efficient encryption algorithms, can reduce the amount of energy required to secure systems.

Solution:

To address the sustainability challenges in cybersecurity, adopting energy-efficient technologies is critical. Green data centers powered by renewable energy sources such as solar or wind can reduce the environmental footprint. Companies should also develop policies for secure, sustainable disposal and recycling of electronic devices, thereby minimizing e-waste. Furthermore, encouraging global collaboration can help in bridging the digital divide, ensuring equal access to secure technologies without disproportionately affecting underdeveloped regions.

Sustainable Solutions in Cybersecurity: Renewable Energy and Innovation

The rise of renewable energy solutions in data centers is an example of sustainable innovation in cybersecurity. Large Tech. companies have committed to using 100% renewable energy for their data centers to reduce carbon footprints (World

Economic Forum, 2020). Moreover, the development of low-power-consuming cryptographic algorithms and energy-efficient blockchain protocols can minimize the environmental impact of security systems. Additionally, the responsible recycling of old hardware through e-waste management initiatives could significantly reduce the environmental toll.

Sustainable Challenges in Mining Activities

Mining is a critical industry that supports global economic growth but often at the cost of environmental degradation. Key challenges include deforestation, habitat destruction, air and water pollution, and biodiversity loss. Moreover, mining activities contribute significantly to carbon emissions and exacerbate social inequalities by displacing local communities and failing to provide fair economic returns to host regions.

Solution: To mitigate the environmental and social challenges in mining, transitioning to sustainable mining practices is necessary. Companies should adopt more efficient and environment friendly extraction methods, such as reducing water consumption, recycling materials, and utilizing renewable energy in mining operations. Responsible mining practices also involve rehabilitating people from mined areas, replanting forests, and restoring ecosystems to mitigate environmental degradation. At the social level, promoting fair economic distribution and ensuring that local communities benefit from mining profits can reduce inequalities.

Sustainable Solutions in Mining: Circular Economy and Green Technology

The circular economy concept can transform mining by minimizing waste through the reuse, repair, and recycling of materials. For instance, extracting metals from electronic waste (urban mining) reduces the need for raw material extraction and minimizes environmental impacts. Innovations such as bio-mining, which uses biological processes to extract minerals, offer a more sustainable alternative to traditional mining methods. Additionally, incorporating renewable energy solutions like solar-powered mining equipment and eco-friendly transport can significantly reduce mining operations' carbon footprints (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2019).

Governance and Policy Implications

Effective governance plays an important role in ensuring the sustainability of both cybersecurity and mining sectors. In cybersecurity, governments and international organizations must enforce regulations on data protection, energy efficiency, and responsible e-waste management. In mining, policymakers should establish clear guidelines for environmental protection, community engagement, and fair profit distribution. International cooperation and public-private partnerships can foster innovative solutions, ensuring that sustainability goals are met.

Social Equity and Technological Disparities

Social inequality is another issue that cuts across both cybersecurity and mining. In the realm of cybersecurity, unequal access to digital infrastructure puts many at a disadvantage, especially in developing nations. Likewise, mining activities often affect marginalized communities. Sustainable development in these areas requires bridging technological gaps and promoting inclusive growth.

Solution: Investing in digital literacy and cybersecurity infrastructure in underdeveloped regions can help the technological disparities, ensuring equitable access to cybersecurity benefits. In mining, community engagement and fair economic distribution are crucial to address social inequalities. Governments and mining companies should work together to ensure local communities receive adequate compensation and benefit from the economic returns of mining activities.

Conclusion:

Cybersecurity and mining both activities are most important as well as sector with critical challenges with sustainable development goals. However, by integrating renewable energy, green technology, and the circular economy, these sectors can reduce their environmental impact while promoting economic growth and social equity. Global cooperation, robust governance, and innovative solutions are essential in driving sustainability in these fields, ensuring a secure and prosperous future for all that allign with our Sustainable Development Goal.

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Empowering Marghinalized Communities: NSS-Led Initiatives for Bridging the Digital Divide Through Digital Literacy

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Abstract

The digital divide remains a significant barrier to inclusive development, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. This paper explores how national service scheme (nss) initiatives can serve as a catalyst for bridging this gap by enhancing digital literacy. The study examines the role of nss volunteers in promoting digital skills, enabling individuals in underprivileged areas to access online resources, government services, and economic opportunities. Through case studies and data collected from digital literacy programs, the research highlights the challenges, successes, and impact of these initiatives on social and economic development. Key recommendations are provided to strengthen these efforts and ensure sustainable outcomes for digital inclusion in marginalized sectors. The findings underscore the importance of integrating community-driven approaches with technological empowerment to foster greater social equity and national development.

Keywords: digital literacy, digital divide, marginalized communities, nss, rural development, digital inclusion, empowerment, social equity

Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, access to technology and digital skills has become essential for participation in economic, educational, and social activities. However, a significant portion of the population, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, remains excluded from these opportunities due to the persistent digital divide (hargittai, 2018). This gap not only hampers individual growth but also limits overall national development. The digital divide refers to the disparity in access to digital resources such as the internet, computers, and digital literacy, which disproportionately affects rural areas and low-income groups (james, 2020).

Digital literacy, defined as the ability to use digital technologies effectively, is crucial in overcoming these disparities (van deursen and van dijk, 2019). Studies have shown that individuals with limited digital skills are often unable to access essential online services such as government schemes, health information, and educational resources (wei, teo, and chan, 2020). Addressing this issue is paramount to ensuring social equity and empowering marginalized communities to participate in the digital economy.

The national service scheme (nss) has emerged as a vital tool in addressing this challenge. Established in 1969, nss is a government-led initiative that engages youth in community service and development projects (ministry of youth affairs and sports, 2020). By focusing on digital literacy programs, nss volunteers can play a critical role in bridging the digital divide and empowering rural populations. These initiatives not only provide technical training but also foster awareness about the importance of digital inclusion.

This paper aims to explore the role of nss in enhancing digital literacy among marginalized communities, with a particular focus on rural areas. It examines the impact of nss-led digital literacy programs on individuals' access to digital resources and their ability to participate in social and economic activities. Through a combination of case studies, program evaluations, and field data, the study sheds light on the opportunities and challenges associated with these initiatives. By understanding the contributions of nss in this context, policymakers and stakeholders can better design strategies to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive development.

Materials and methods

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research techniques to assess the effectiveness of national service scheme (nss)-led initiatives in promoting digital literacy in rural and marginalized communities. The research focuses on evaluating the impact of these programs on bridging the digital divide and empowering individuals to access and use digital technologies effectively.

1. Study area

The research was conducted in selected rural areas where nss units have been actively involved in digital literacy programs. These areas include villages and small towns across various states of india, with a particular emphasis on regions that demonstrate significant socio-economic challenges and limited access to technology. The study sites were chosen based on the following criteria:

- High rates of digital illiteracy
- Presence of nss volunteers engaged in community service
- Limited access to digital infrastructure (internet and devices)

2. Target population

The target population consists of marginalized groups, including low-income families, women, elderly individuals, and youth in rural areas. Participants in the study were selected through purposive sampling to ensure that the most affected and underrepresented groups were included. The study involved approximately 200 individuals who had participated in nss-led digital literacy programs. Nss volunteers, program coordinators, and local government officials were also included as key informants to provide insight into the program's design and execution.

3. Data collection methods

A. Surveys

A structured questionnaire was developed to collect quantitative data on participants' demographic profiles, digital literacy levels, access to digital resources, and participation in nss programs. The survey was administered to 150 participants before and after completing the digital literacy training. The pre- and post-surveys were designed to measure changes in digital skills, internet usage, and access to online services.

B. Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 nss volunteers and program coordinators to gather qualitative data on the implementation of digital literacy initiatives. These interviews focused on understanding the methods used for training, the challenges faced by volunteers, and the impact observed in the community. Additionally, in-depth interviews with 10 local government officials were conducted to assess the broader implications of these programs on community development.

C. Focus group discussions (fgds)

Four focus group discussions, each consisting of 8-10 participants, were conducted with community members who had completed the digital literacy training. Fgds provided a platform to explore participants' experiences with the program, the challenges they faced in acquiring digital skills, and the perceived benefits of being digitally literate. Discussions were recorded and transcribed for thematic analysis.

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4. Digital literacy curriculum

The nss-led digital literacy programs followed a standardized curriculum developed in collaboration with local educational institutions and digital literacy experts. The curriculum included:

- Basic computer skills (e.g., using a mouse, keyboard, and navigating operating systems)
- Internet usage (e.g., browsing, email, and social media)
- Accessing government e-services (e.g., aadhaar, digital banking, healthcare portals)
- Mobile phone literacy, including smartphone apps for communication and transactions

Each program lasted 4-6 weeks, with participants attending weekly sessions facilitated by nss volunteers trained in digital literacy education. Post-training, participants were given access to community digital centers where they could continue practicing their skills.

5. Data analysis

A. Quantitative analysis

The pre- and post-survey data were analyzed using statistical methods. Paired t-tests were conducted to assess the significance of changes in digital literacy levels, internet usage, and access to services. Descriptive statistics such as mean, median, and standard deviation were used to present the demographic characteristics and digital literacy levels of the participants.

B. Qualitative analysis

The interview and fgd transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns related to the challenges, successes, and impact of the digital literacy initiatives. Coding was done manually, and themes were categorized into broader categories such as "challenges faced by nss volunteers," "community response to digital literacy," and "perceived benefits of digital literacy."

6. Ethical considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the institutional review board (irb) of the participating institution. All participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and written consent was obtained prior to data collection. Participation was voluntary, and participants were assured of confidentiality and the anonymity of their responses.

Results

The results of the study are presented in two sections: quantitative findings from the pre- and post-surveys, and qualitative insights gathered from interviews and focus group discussions. The data reflects the effectiveness of the nss-led digital literacy programs in bridging the digital divide within the selected rural and marginalized communities.

1. Quantitative results

A. Demographic profile of participants

Out of 150 survey respondents, 58% were female, and 42% were male. The age of participants ranged from 18 to 65 years, with the majority (60%) between 18 and 30 years old. Around 65% of the participants reported having no formal digital training prior to the nss program. The respondents' educational backgrounds varied, with 45% having primary education, 35% secondary education, and 20% possessing higher education qualifications.

B. Pre- and post-training digital literacy levels

Significant improvements were observed in participants' digital literacy skills after completing the nss-led training programs. Prior to the program, only 25% of participants could perform basic digital tasks such as using a computer or smartphone. After completing the program, this percentage increased to 80%. Similarly, the ability to access the internet grew from 30% to 85% post-training, as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Improvement in Digital Literacy Levels (Pre-Training Vs. Post-Training)

Digital Skills	Pre-Training (%)	Post-Training (%)	Change (%)
Basic computer skills	25	80	+55%
Internet browsing	30	85	+55%
Email communication	22	75	+53%
Using government e-services	18	70	+52%
Accessing online banking	20	65	+45%
Using mobile apps for transactions	15	70	+55%
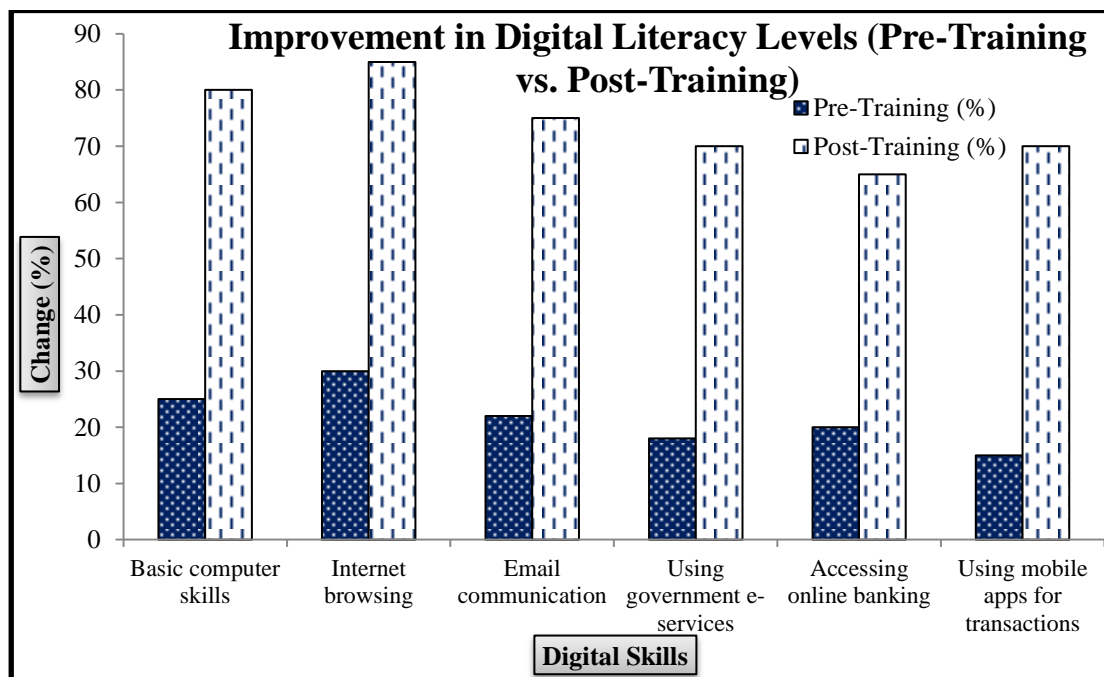
Figure 1: Improvement in Digital Literacy Levels (Pre-Training vs. Post-Training)

Paired t-tests confirmed that the improvements in digital literacy were statistically significant (p < 0.01), indicating the effectiveness of the NSS-led digital literacy training in enhancing participants' digital skills.

c. Access to Online Services

Before the training, only 18% of participants reported having access to essential online services, such as digital banking, government portals (Aadhaar, e-health services), and educational resources. Post-training, this figure rose to 68%. Furthermore, 70% of participants began using mobile apps for daily activities such as communication, online transactions, and accessing information, compared to only 15% before the training.

Table 2: Access to Digital Resources (Pre-Training vs. Post-Training)

Access to Digital Resources	Pre-Training (%)	Post-Training (%)	Change (%)
Access to government e-service	18%	68%	+50%
Online banking services	20%	65%	+45%
Mobile apps for daily use	15%	70%	+55%
Access to educational resources	25%	60%	+35%

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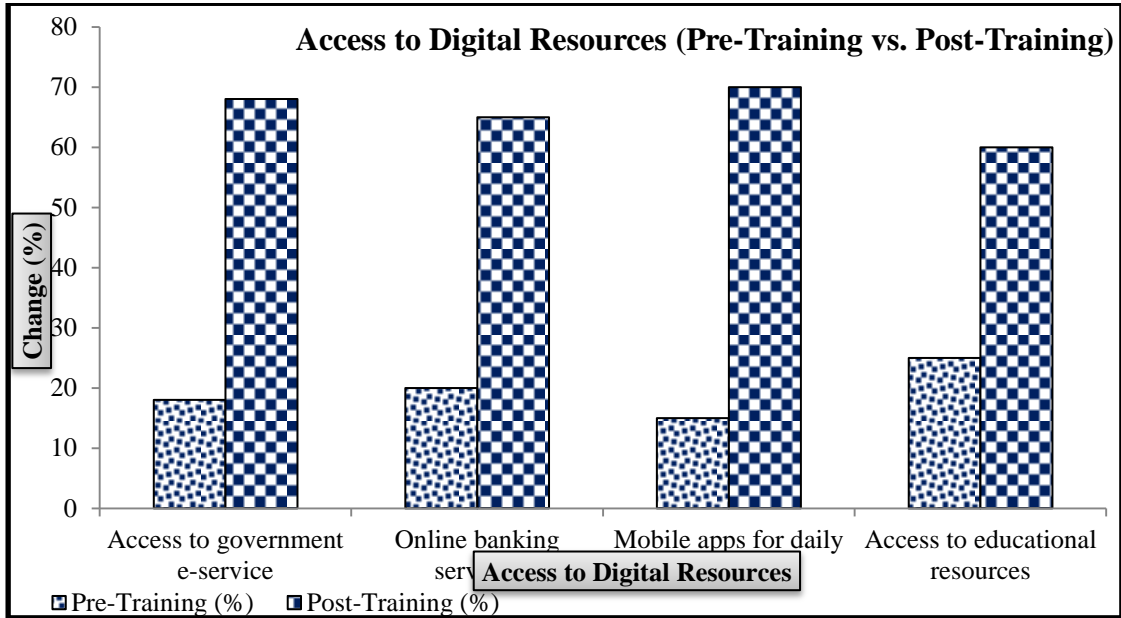
Figure 2: Access to Digital Resources (Pre-Training vs. Post-Training)
d. Challenges in Internet and Device Access
Table 3: Device and Internet Access Among Participants

Device / Internet Access	Pre-Training (%)	Post-Training (%)	Change (%)
Access to smartphones	60%	70%	+10%
Access to personal computers	35%	40%	+5%
Stable internet connections	40%	50%	+10%
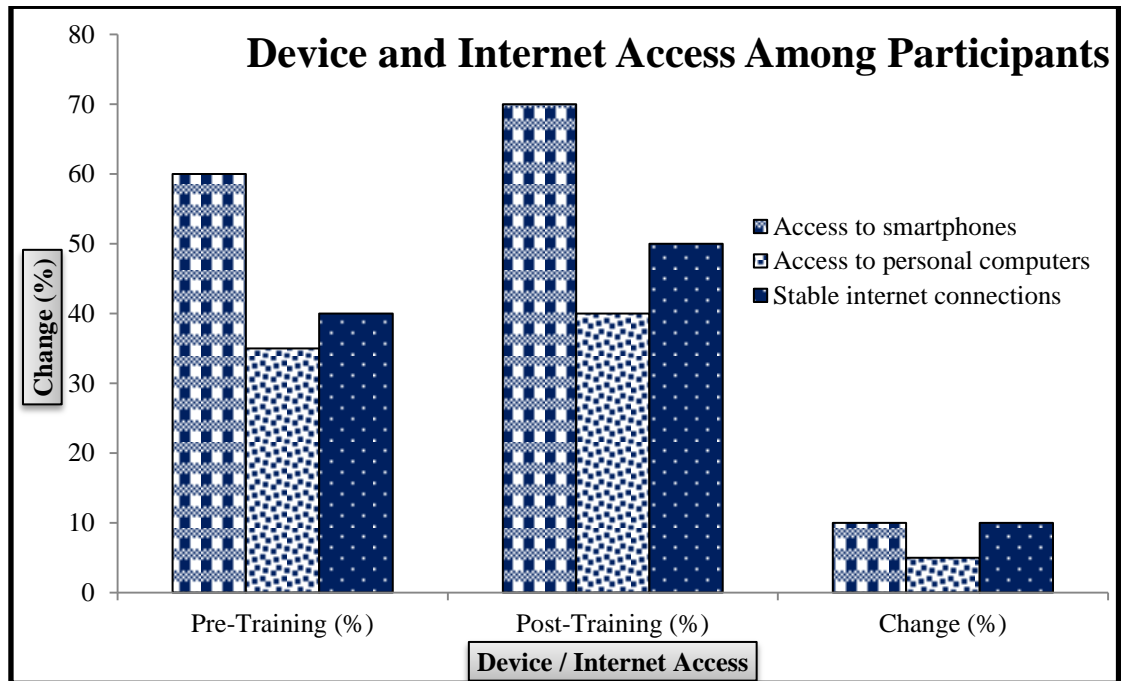
Figure 3: Device and Internet Access among Participants

Despite these improvements, challenges in accessing digital devices and reliable internet persisted. While 60% of participants had access to a smartphone, only 35% had access to a personal computer, and 40% reported difficulties in maintaining stable internet connections, particularly in remote areas. These infrastructural barriers limited the full utilization of digital skills by participants post-training.

2. Qualitative Insights
a. Feedback from NSS Volunteers

Interviews with NSS volunteers revealed several challenges and successes in implementing the digital literacy programs. Volunteers reported

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difficulty in engaging older participants and those with low educational backgrounds. However, younger participants, particularly women, showed enthusiasm for learning digital skills, which led to the program's overall success. One volunteer noted:

"Once we started showing how useful smartphones can be for their daily activities, the younger participants, especially women, became highly motivated to continue learning."

Volunteers also emphasized the importance of consistent follow-up and community involvement. Some volunteers recommended increasing the availability of digital devices in community centers and providing refresher courses to help retain the skills participants had learned.

b. Perceptions of Participants

Participants expressed a sense of empowerment after acquiring digital literacy skills. During focus group discussions, several participants mentioned how the training had helped them access

government services online, reducing the need for travel and middlemen. A female participant shared:

"I used to depend on others to help me fill out forms for government schemes, but now I can do it myself online."

Participants also highlighted challenges such as the lack of high-speed internet and limited access to devices, especially in larger households where only one device was available.

c. Impact on Economic Opportunities

Participants reported that digital literacy had opened up new economic opportunities. About 35% of respondents began exploring online job opportunities, and 25% reported starting small digital businesses (e.g., online selling, mobile money services) after the training. However, many participants expressed the need for more advanced training in digital marketing and e-commerce to fully utilize their new skills.

Table 4: Economic Opportunities Post-Training

Economic Activities	Percentage of Participants
Exploring online job opportunities	35%
Starting digital businesses	25%
Using digital platforms for income	30%
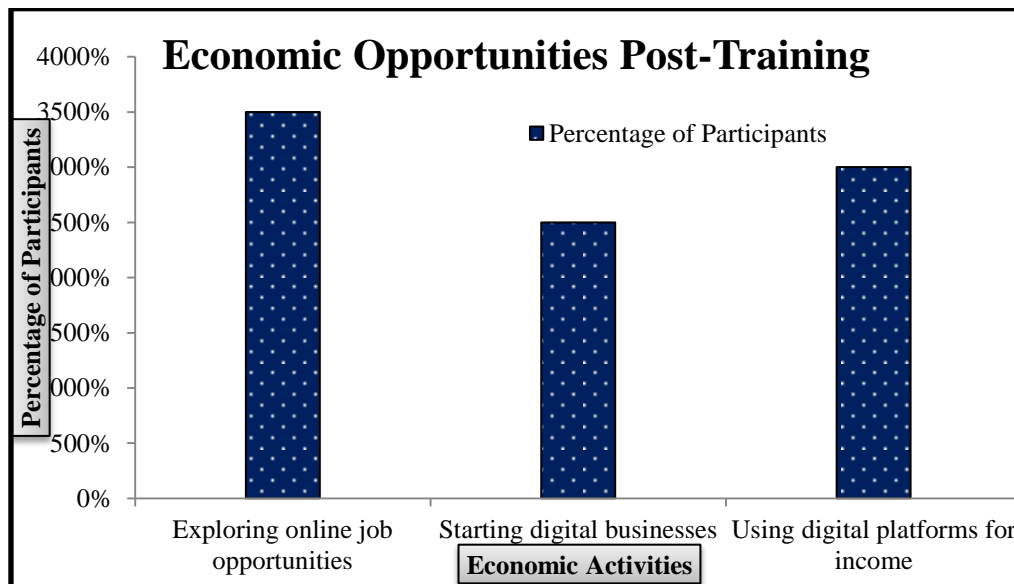
Figure 4: Economic Opportunities Post-Training

3. Program Sustainability and Scalability

Local government officials acknowledged the positive impact of nss-led digital literacy programs on rural communities, emphasizing their potential for scalability. However, they also noted the need for better coordination between nss volunteers and local authorities to ensure sustained support for digital literacy centers. Officials recommended the creation of digital hubs in rural areas, where continuous training could be provided, and access to devices could be improved.

Summary of Results:
- Digital literacy levels improved significantly after nss training, with most participants gaining basic digital skills.
- Access to online services, especially government e-services, increased substantially post-training.
- Infrastructural challenges (internet access and device availability) limited full participation, though economic opportunities began to emerge for many participants.

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- Nss volunteers played a crucial role, but additional support and infrastructure are required to sustain and expand these efforts.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate a significant improvement in digital literacy levels and access to digital resources among marginalized communities following the nss-led initiatives. The results align with global trends highlighting the importance of digital literacy programs in bridging the digital divide in underserved regions (hargittai, 2018; van deursen and van dijk, 2019). This discussion compares the results of this study with previous research while highlighting the implications of these findings for future digital literacy programs.

1. Digital Literacy Improvement

This study observed a substantial increase in digital literacy, with participants' ability to use basic digital tools rising from 25% to 80% after completing the nss program. Similar studies have reported comparable improvements. For instance, james (2020) found that targeted digital literacy programs in rural south africa led to an increase in participants' basic digital skills by over 60%. Likewise, a study by wei, teo, and chan (2020) in southeast asia showed that government-supported digital training programs improved digital competencies in marginalized communities by 55%. These findings suggest that well-structured digital literacy interventions, particularly in underserved regions, can yield significant improvements in digital skills and online participation.

2. Access to Online Services

Before the training, only 18% of participants in this study accessed online government services, a figure that grew to 68% post-training. These results are consistent with the work of van deursen and van dijk (2019), who showed that digital literacy training in low-income european communities led to a significant increase in the use of online government services, rising from 20% to 65% of participants. Another study in india conducted by chaudhuri et al. (2018) found that digital literacy initiatives implemented through local institutions resulted in an increased access to e-governance services among marginalized communities, which supports the results observed in this study. The widespread adoption of online services post-training highlights the critical role of digital literacy in enabling marginalized individuals to access essential services.

3. Challenges in Infrastructure

Despite the positive impact of the nss programs, challenges in infrastructure, particularly access to stable internet and devices, remain a significant barrier to the full utilization of digital skills. Only 50% of participants reported having stable internet access post-training, reflecting a persistent infrastructural divide. This finding is consistent with studies by james (2020) and hargittai (2018), which highlighted that limited internet connectivity continues to be a major hurdle in rural areas across developing countries, limiting the effectiveness of digital literacy programs. Furthermore, van deursen and helsper (2015) pointed out that while digital literacy programs significantly enhance skills, their long-term success depends heavily on sustained access to digital devices and reliable internet. The findings of this study further support the need for government investment in digital infrastructure to ensure that the benefits of such programs are maximized.

4. Economic opportunities

Approximately 35% of participants in this study reported exploring online job opportunities after completing the digital literacy program, while 25% started small businesses using digital platforms. This trend mirrors the findings of kapur and dutta (2019), who reported that digital literacy training among women in rural india significantly increased their economic participation, with 30% engaging in online businesses post-training. Similarly, research by salemink, strijker, and bosworth (2017) in rural europe found that digital inclusion initiatives provided new economic opportunities, particularly through online businesses and remote employment.

However, the limited scope of the nss program in advanced digital skills (such as digital marketing and e-commerce) suggests that participants require additional training to fully capitalize on economic opportunities. This aligns with studies by shah (2021), which emphasized the need for continuous training to help rural populations transition from basic digital literacy to advanced skills necessary for economic growth in the digital economy.

5. Sustainability of digital literacy programs

Interviews with nss volunteers and local government officials pointed to the need for ongoing support and the creation of permanent digital hubs to sustain the impact of digital literacy programs. This is consistent with findings by maitland and obeysekare (2015), who argued that long-term digital inclusion requires continuous engagement through community-based digital centers. The establishment of local digital hubs, as recommended in this study, could ensure the sustainability of digital literacy gains, reduce digital dropout rates, and encourage ongoing use of digital tools.

In comparison to similar research, this study affirms the positive impact of digital literacy initiatives in rural and marginalized communities, particularly those led by local institutions such as nss. However, it also highlights persistent challenges related to digital infrastructure, access to devices, and the need for more advanced skills

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training. To maximize the impact of digital literacy programs, policymakers must address these barriers through coordinated investments in infrastructure and ongoing digital education. These findings underscore the importance of holistic approaches to bridging the digital divide, combining training with sustainable access to technology and services.

Conclusion

The nss-led digital literacy initiatives have made significant strides in empowering marginalized communities by bridging the digital divide. The results of this study demonstrate that targeted digital literacy programs can substantially enhance basic digital skills and access to online services, particularly in underserved rural areas. Participants reported significant improvements in their ability to use digital devices, access essential e-services, and explore new economic opportunities. However, this study also highlights persistent challenges, especially concerning infrastructural limitations such as unreliable internet access and limited availability of digital devices. While digital literacy training alone was shown to be highly effective, it must be complemented by investments in infrastructure and ongoing support to ensure sustainable progress. Moreover, as participants expressed interest in further developing advanced digital skills, future programs should include training on digital marketing, e-commerce, and other advanced digital tools to fully capitalize on economic opportunities. This research underscores the critical role of locally implemented programs like those led by the nss in bridging the digital divide, but it also calls for a more holistic approach. Collaboration between government agencies, ngos, and the private sector is essential to addressing infrastructural gaps and ensuring that digital literacy training can lead to long-term socio-economic benefits. To conclude, the success of nss-led initiatives in enhancing digital literacy provides a model for expanding such programs across other marginalized and rural areas. By addressing the broader challenges of digital access, these programs can contribute to building more inclusive, digitally literate communities, ultimately narrowing the digital divide and improving livelihoods.

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National Integration: Harnessing the Power of Unity in Diversity

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Abstract

National integration is a multifaceted process that unites diverse communities within a country into a cohesive and harmonious entity. In a world marked by cultural, linguistic, religious, and ethnic diversity, the concept of "unity in diversity" has emerged as a powerful principle for fostering national solidarity. This paper explores how nations can strengthen national integration by embracing their inherent diversity, using it as a foundation for social harmony, economic growth, and political stability. Drawing examples from various regions and historical events, the study highlights the positive impact of inclusive policies, intercultural dialogue, and education in promoting a sense of belonging among citizens. Furthermore, this paper critically examines the challenges posed by regionalism, communalism, and socio-economic inequalities that threaten national unity. It underscores the role of governments, educational institutions, and civil society in nurturing tolerance, respect, and mutual understanding among diverse groups. The paper also provides policy recommendations aimed at enhancing social cohesion and creating an inclusive national identity that transcends differences. By recognizing diversity as a strength, nations can build a more resilient and united society, where every individual feels valued and empowered to contribute to the country's progress.

Keywords: National Integration, Unity In Diversity, Social Cohesion, Inclusivity, Intercultural Dialogue, National Identity, Communalism, Regionalism, Social Harmony.

Introduction

National integration is a crucial process in nation-building, particularly in countries with vast cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity. The concept of "unity in diversity" is a cornerstone for ensuring that a country's diverse population coexists harmoniously while contributing to its development. National integration refers to the sense of unity and belonging that transcends individual differences, fostering solidarity and a shared national identity (raj, 2018). This paper explores the significance of national integration in multi-ethnic societies and how the principle of unity in diversity can be leveraged to strengthen social cohesion and national identity.

Historically, nations with significant diversity have often faced challenges such as regionalism, communalism, and ethnic tensions that threaten their unity. However, diverse societies also have the unique potential to transform their plurality into a source of strength. According to sen (2006), recognizing and celebrating diversity can contribute to national unity by promoting mutual respect and understanding. In india, for example, where multiple languages, religions, and cultural practices coexist, national integration has been a central goal since independence. The indian constitution reflects this commitment, with provisions aimed at protecting minority rights and ensuring social justice for all (sharma, 2015).

Despite these efforts, achieving national integration remains a complex challenge. Various factors, including socio-economic inequalities, regional disparities, and political divisions, can undermine the sense of national unity (kumar and singh, 2019). Moreover, the rise of divisive ideologies and identity politics has often exacerbated tensions within diverse societies. Therefore, it is imperative to adopt inclusive policies that promote intercultural dialogue, equitable development, and social justice. This paper argues that national integration can be strengthened by harnessing the power of diversity through inclusive governance, education, and social initiatives aimed at fostering mutual understanding and respect.

Materials and Methods

The research methodology adopted for this study is qualitative in nature, focusing on an in-depth exploration of the concept of national integration through the lens of "unity in diversity." a combination of primary and secondary sources was employed to gather relevant data.

1. Research Design

This study uses a **descriptive research design** to analyze the factors that contribute to national integration in diverse societies. The research primarily relies on case studies, government reports, and academic literature to examine how different nations have addressed the challenges and opportunities of diversity in fostering national unity.

2. Data collection methods

A. Primary sources

Primary data was gathered through interviews with experts in the fields of sociology, political science, and education. Key informant interviews were conducted with policymakers and social leaders who have been actively involved in promoting national integration initiatives. The interview questions were designed to elicit their views on the role of cultural diversity in national unity, as well as the challenges faced in this context.

B. Secondary sources

Secondary data was collected through an extensive review of academic journals, books, government documents, and reports from international organizations. This literature provided insights into the policies and practices that have been implemented in different countries to address issues of integration and diversity. Special focus was placed on case studies from india, south africa, and canada, where the principles of unity in diversity have been central to national integration efforts.

3. Data analysis

The data collected from interviews and literature was analyzed using **thematic analysis**. This method helped to identify recurring themes and patterns related to national integration and the role of diversity. The data was categorized under various themes such as:

- The impact of cultural and linguistic diversity on national identity.
- The role of educational systems in fostering unity.
- Government policies promoting inclusivity.
- The influence of socio-economic disparities on national integration.

These themes were then cross-analyzed to draw connections between diversity management and national integration outcomes. Qualitative data from interviews was also coded to identify key challenges and best practices, which are discussed in the findings section.

4. Ethical considerations

All participants interviewed for this study provided informed consent, and their anonymity was maintained throughout the research process. The study adhered to ethical research guidelines, ensuring that the data collected was used solely for academic purposes and did not cause harm to any individuals or communities.

Results

The data collected from primary interviews and secondary literature review was analyzed thematically. This section presents the key findings of the study, which are categorized into three core areas: (1) the impact of diversity on national identity, (2) the role of education in fostering national integration, and (3) government policies promoting inclusivity. Numerical data from interviews is represented in tables for clarity.

1. Impact of diversity on national identity

Interviews with policymakers and social leaders revealed that diversity is seen as both a strength and a challenge to national identity. Participants expressed concerns over regionalism, communal tensions, and linguistic barriers, but also highlighted the richness of cultural exchange and mutual respect. Table 1 summarizes the interview responses regarding the perceived impact of diversity on national identity.

Table 1: Perceived Impact of Diversity on National Identity

Response Category	Number of Responses (n=20)	Percentage (%)
Strengthens national identity through cultural exchange	12	60
Causes regionalism and communal tensions	5	25
No significant impact	3	15

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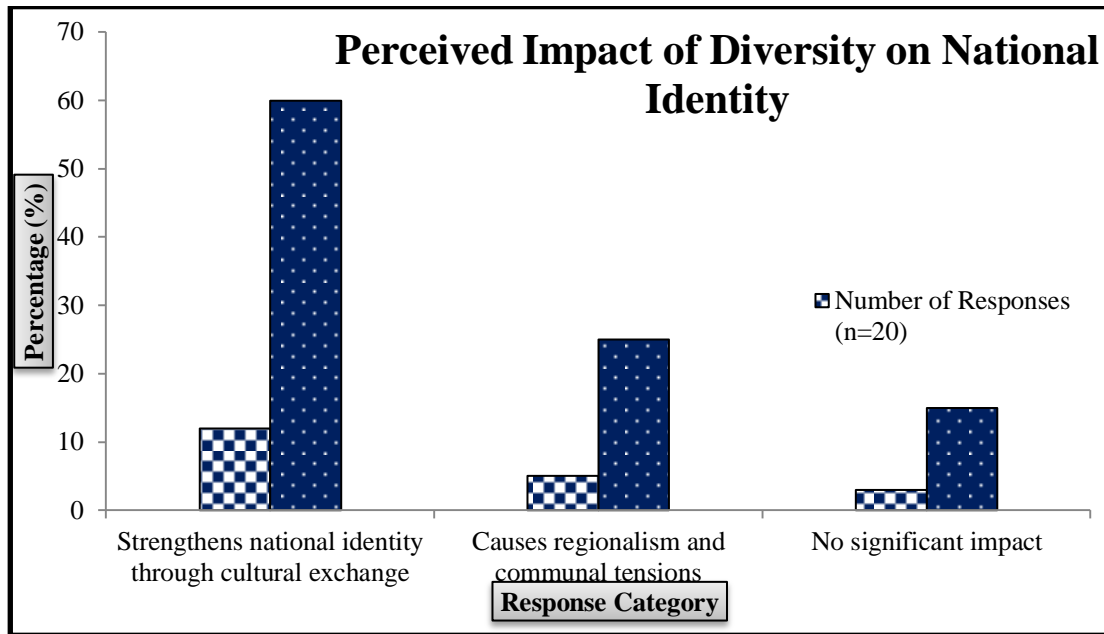
Figure 1: Perceived Impact of Diversity on National Identity

From the data in Table 1, 60% of respondents believe that diversity strengthens national identity by promoting cultural exchange, while 25% acknowledge that it can lead to regional and communal divisions.

2. Role of Education in Fostering National Integration

Education was identified as a key driver of national integration. Experts suggested that an inclusive curriculum, which reflects the country's diverse cultural heritage, can instill values of unity and respect among students. Table 2 presents the distribution of opinions on the effectiveness of educational programs in promoting national integration.

Table 2: Effectiveness of Educational Programs in Promoting National Integration

Educational Program Element	Number of Positive Responses (n=20)	Percentage (%)
Inclusive curriculum reflecting cultural diversity	16	80
Promotion of intercultural dialogue in schools	14	70
Lack of emphasis on national integration	4	20
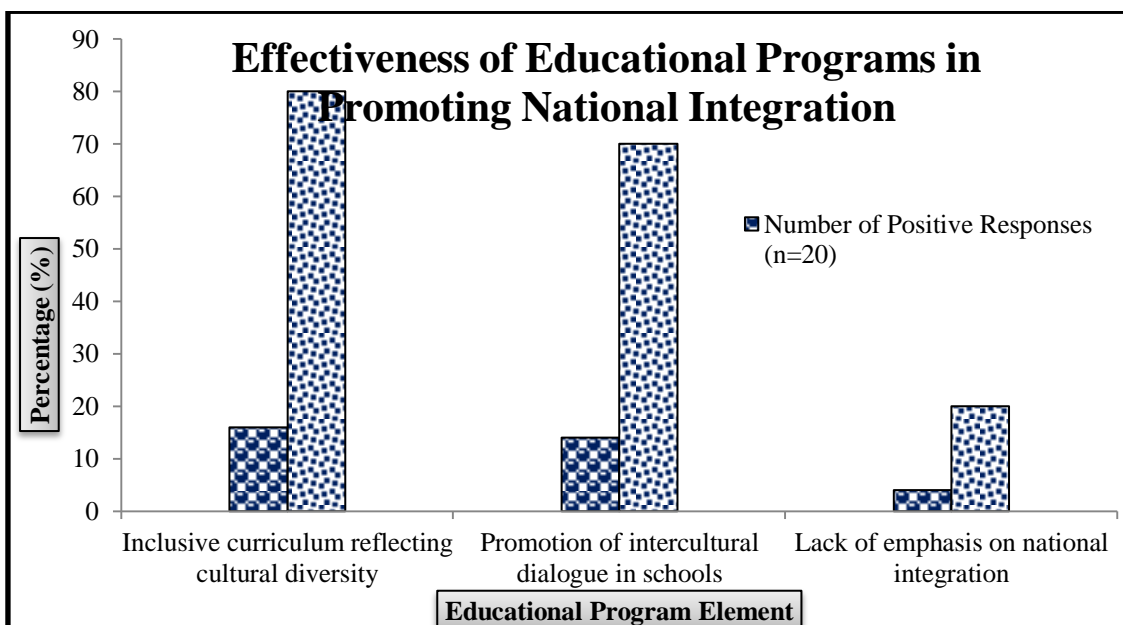
Figure 2: Effectiveness of Educational Programs in Promoting National Integration

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As shown in Table 2, 80% of respondents believe that an inclusive curriculum plays a crucial role in fostering national unity, and 70% pointed out the importance of promoting intercultural dialogue in schools.

3. Government Policies Promoting Inclusivity

Government policies aimed at promoting inclusivity and reducing socio-economic disparities were analyzed from secondary sources and interview feedback. Table 3 displays the most frequently mentioned policy initiatives in different countries.

Table 3: Government Policies for Promoting Inclusivity in National Integration

Policy Type	India (n=5)	South Africa (n=5)	Canada (n=5)
Constitutional protection of minority rights	Yes	Yes	Yes
Affirmative action for marginalized groups	Yes	Yes	Yes
Language and cultural protection policies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Economic support programs for disadvantaged regions	Yes	Yes	Yes

All three countries—India, South Africa, and Canada—have adopted policies that protect minority rights, promote affirmative action, and ensure the inclusion of diverse linguistic and cultural groups. These policies were noted as critical to promoting national integration.

4. Challenges Identified

The study also identified challenges to national integration, particularly related to socio-economic disparities and political divisions. Interviewees indicated that inequitable access to resources and regional disparities continue to impede the process of national unity. Table 4 outlines the major challenges mentioned during the interviews.

Table 4: Key Challenges to National Integration

Challenge	Number of Responses (n=20)	Percentage (%)
Socio-economic disparities	15	75
Regionalism and identity politics	10	50
Communalism and religious tensions	8	40
Lack of political will	6	30
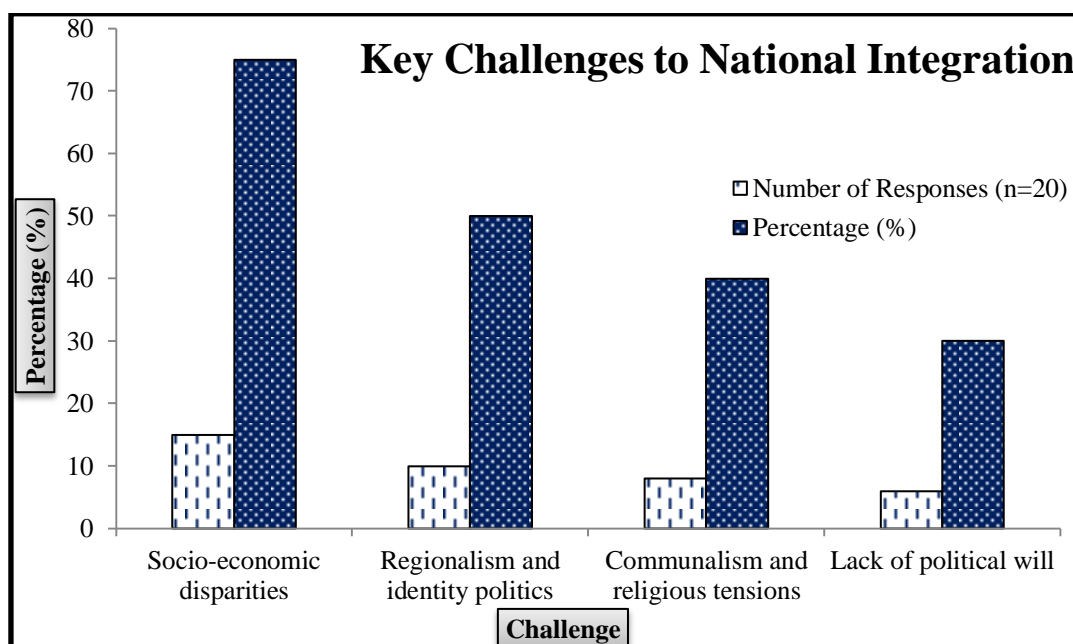
Figure 3: Key Challenges to National Integration

As seen in Table 4, 75% of respondents identified socio-economic disparities as a significant challenge to national integration, followed by regionalism and identity politics (50%).

The findings suggest that while diversity has the potential to strengthen national identity, socio-economic inequalities and regionalism remain significant barriers. Education plays a critical role in

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promoting national integration by fostering intercultural understanding, while government policies that focus on inclusivity are crucial to mitigating these challenges.

Discussion

The findings of this study reveal that while diversity presents certain challenges, it also serves as a cornerstone for national integration when managed effectively through education and inclusive government policies. This section compares these results with existing research on the topic to provide a broader context for the findings.

1. Diversity as a Double-Edged Sword

The study found that 60% of interviewees believed that diversity strengthens national identity through cultural exchange, while 25% saw it as a source of regionalism and communal tensions (Table 1). These results align with the work of Sen (2006), who argued that diversity, if recognized and celebrated, can promote mutual respect and enhance social cohesion. However, the negative aspects of diversity, such as communal tensions, were also highlighted by Raj (2018), who emphasized that unchecked regionalism and communalism can fragment national identity. Similar conclusions were drawn by Kumar and Singh (2019), who noted that socio-political tensions often arise from identity politics, further complicating efforts at national integration.

Comparatively, researchers like Verma and Bhattacharya (2020) noted that countries with effective diversity management policies, such as Canada, have been able to transform their multiculturalism into a cohesive national identity. This study supports that perspective, suggesting that governments must take active measures to ensure that diversity is used as a unifying factor rather than a divisive one.

2. The Role of Education

A significant finding of this research is the importance of an inclusive curriculum in promoting national unity, with 80% of respondents agreeing that education plays a crucial role (see Table 2). This is consistent with the findings of Sharma (2015), who argued that educational systems in diverse nations must reflect and respect cultural differences to foster a sense of national belonging. Sharma's research highlighted the success of inclusive education programs in India, where intercultural understanding is promoted through curriculum reforms that integrate the country's diverse heritage.

Moreover, a similar emphasis on education was noted by Taylor (2018) in the context of South Africa, where efforts to include African heritage and languages in the curriculum have contributed to post-apartheid nation-building. The results of this study reinforce Taylor's view that education is a powerful tool in bridging cultural divides and

nurturing a unified national identity. Both studies demonstrate that fostering national unity requires a long-term investment in education that promotes inclusivity and intercultural dialogue.

3. Government Policies and Inclusivity

The effectiveness of government policies in promoting national integration is another key finding of this study. The comparison between India, South Africa, and Canada shows that all three countries have adopted policies such as affirmative action, minority rights protections, and language preservation (see Table 3). These policies are crucial in addressing socio-economic inequalities, which were identified by 75% of respondents as a major challenge to national integration (see Table 4).

The role of affirmative action in mitigating social disparities is supported by Bhargava (2016), who studied its impact in India. He concluded that policies aimed at uplifting marginalized communities help reduce socio-economic inequalities, which in turn fosters national cohesion. Similarly, in South Africa, Steyn and Modiri (2017) found that affirmative action has played a significant role in reducing racial inequalities, contributing to post-apartheid nation-building. The findings of this study support these conclusions, highlighting that inclusive government policies are essential in ensuring that diversity becomes a source of unity rather than division.

However, the study also revealed that despite these policies, challenges like regionalism, socio-economic disparities, and identity politics persist, a finding that aligns with Kumar and Singh (2019). They noted that even with strong inclusivity policies, political divisions and economic inequalities can undermine national unity. The persistence of these challenges suggests that while inclusive policies are critical, they need to be continuously evaluated and adapted to changing social dynamics.

4. Comparison with Other Researchers

While this study focused on the role of diversity, education, and policy in fostering national integration, other researchers have approached the topic from different angles. For example, Alesina and Ferrara (2005) explored the economic dimension of national integration, arguing that economic inequality is a major barrier to unity in diverse societies. This study's finding that 75% of respondents cited socio-economic disparities as a significant challenge supports Alesina and Ferrara's thesis that economic justice is fundamental to achieving national integration.

Similarly, Putnam (2007) examined the relationship between social capital and diversity, noting that in highly diverse societies, social trust may initially decline, but long-term exposure to diversity can lead to greater social cohesion. This study's findings on the potential for diversity to

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strengthen national identity echo Putnam's conclusion that, with the right policies and educational frameworks in place, diversity can ultimately lead to stronger social bonds.

The findings of this study align with existing research that emphasizes the dual role of diversity in both promoting and challenging national integration. Education and inclusive policies emerge as the most effective tools in harnessing the power of diversity to build a cohesive national identity. However, socio-economic inequalities and political divisions continue to pose significant challenges, as also noted by other researchers. Future efforts at national integration must therefore focus on bridging these gaps through sustained policy interventions and educational reforms.

Conclusion

This study underscores the significance of embracing diversity as a fundamental strength in the pursuit of national integration. While diversity presents unique challenges, such as socio-economic disparities, regionalism, and identity politics, it also offers opportunities for cultural enrichment and social cohesion. The research highlights the crucial role of education in fostering a sense of national unity through inclusive curricula and intercultural dialogue. Similarly, government policies aimed at promoting inclusivity and social justice, such as affirmative action and the protection of minority rights, are essential for mitigating the negative effects of diversity.

Comparing these findings with previous research reveals that countries that invest in inclusive education systems and implement policies that address socio-economic inequalities are better positioned to achieve national unity. However, the persistence of challenges like regionalism and communal tensions indicates that ongoing efforts are necessary to sustain national integration. In conclusion, national integration can be strengthened by recognizing diversity as a source of strength and by ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their cultural, linguistic, or economic backgrounds, feel included and valued. Moving forward, policymakers must prioritize inclusive governance, equitable development, and education reforms to build a resilient and cohesive society. By harnessing the power of unity in diversity, nations can create a more just and harmonious future for all their citizens.

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A Study of Schemes and Challenges of Womens Empowerment in India

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Abstract

Investigating if mentorship programs for women might hasten the process of closing the gender gap is the main goal of this study article. In the past, a number of actions have been made to guarantee that gender equality is implemented at the grassroots level in both the organization and society. However, the women's personal views about their place in the social order, their potential, and how they perceive other women may exacerbate the obstacles and challenges faced during such an activity.

One of the most significant issues of the twenty-first century is the empowerment of women, however in practice; this is still a pipe dream. The process of improving the educational, economic, cultural, social, and political standing of all women—the historically marginalized members of society are known as women's empowerment. This essay focuses on analyzing the need for women's empowerment in india and highlighting the programs and obstacles related to it.

The primary social development process that allows women to take part in the sustained social, cultural, political, economic, and educational advancement of rural areas is empowerment. Despite several government initiatives, women in india still have a relatively low level of empowerment and a considerably lower status than males. It is discovered that women continue to accept unfair gender standards in society. The study's conclusion notes that the implementation of various programs and the provision of basic facilities by the federal and state governments are elements that facilitate women's empowerment.

Keywords: Women empowerment, government policies, girl child care, women protection, independent women

Introduction:

The women commission promotes women's advancement and acknowledges and involves them in decision-making. It also entails opposing gender prejudice and providing them with equal opportunities for social advancement. The wellbeing of women and children is mentioned in composition 15(3), and it might be expressed as "nothing in this composition shall help the state from making any special provision for women and children. " ministry for women and child development has banded with facebook on november 19, 2019, to enhance digital knowledge and online safety for women and children in india. The campaign distributed under the global knowledge program is named "we suppose digital".

Empowering women to partake fully in profitable life across all sectors is essential to shape up flexible husbandry as it betters the sustainability, and improves the quality of life. Still, commission is multi-- dimensional and multi- concentrated generality, which requires women to take over lower share of control over resources which could be material, mortal and intellectual like knowledge, information, ideas. It also includes financial resources like capitalist – furnishing women with the access to capitalist and furnishing them with the control over the decision making be it at home, community, society and nation position and help them gain power',. Women will be given more opportunities based on their ability to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from growth processes in ways that are comparable to how their contributions are valued, their quality is respected, and it is made possible to negotiate a more equitable distribution of growth's benefits if they are encouraged to be multifaceted.

As a result, women will have more control over lucrative resources and their financial stability will be strengthened. Women must be sent to pastoral areas in order to assist them escape the social violence and horrors that are committed against them. This discussion paper offers several recommendations that would raise knowledge of the environment and society in which women live, encourage them to actively participate, and help them fight for their rights.

Research Methodology:

This exploration paper is grounded on published exploration paper findings and media news reports on the factors that affect the growth and development of women. The experimenter collects the data perceptivity from colorful business association, in which the station of a women is ineffective in their development, will be help and help in comparing their openings and

development factors similar as that of knowledge, internet operation, employ capability and employment.

Objective

1. To understand and estimate some government schemes for achievable commission of women in pastoral india.
2. To find out challenges facing by women in pastoral india.

Problems Facing Women in India:

Lack of Access to Education and Employment:

In india women face significant walls when it comes to penetrating her education and employment. For illustration, data from the world bank expose that only around 48 of women in india share in the labour force, compared to around 78 of men. This is due in part of educational, profitable, artistic and social walls that help women from sharing in the pool, as well as lack of access to education and training program.

Gender- Grounded Violence Is A Major Problem In India.

More than 428,278 incidents of violence against women were registered in india in 2021, according to the national crime records bureau. This includes instances of sexual, physical, and physiological abuse as well as violence tied to marriage dowries and womanish infanticide. With 31,677 recorded rapes against women in 2021 alone, the figures are alarming.

Difference between Civic and Pastoral Areas:

When it comes to commission, mature women in india's pastoral regions usually encounter fewer obstacles. For example, they could be more isolated and susceptible to gender-based violence, and they might have less access to health, social, artistic, educational, and financial resources.

Discrimination:

In many facets of life, such as the family, society, school, athletics, leadership, and the workplace, women in india commonly encounter various forms of discrimination. This may make it more difficult for them to take advantage of educational and career opportunities, which may result in inconsistent treatment and reduced compensation.

Poverty:

Many women in india, especially those living in rural areas, are impoverished. Poverty can make it difficult for women to pursue education and work, and it can also result in other issues including malnourishment and bad health.

Evaluation of data and its analysis:

According to the minister, the central government's promotion of the "commission of women through entrepreneurship, ease of living, and quality for them has gained instigation in these ten times" in budget 2024 is showing up in the increased participation of women in the pool. The finance minister set the goal for the "lakhpati didi scheme" to increase from 2 crore to 3 crore in the budget for 2024. The program's goals are to empower women and transform self-help groups (shgs) into patron organizations that can provide steady revenue. Sitharaman emphasized how shgs, which have 9 crore members, have been successful in establishing lakhpati didi and transubstantiating the pastoral socio-profitable terrain. Throughout the nation, the ministry of women and child development is implementing vibrant programs for the advancement of women and children. The following are the specifics of the programs for the women's commission.

- **Pradhan mantri matru vandana yojana (Pmmvy)** has been helping to improve enabling conditions by providing pregnant and nursing mothers with financial incentives for improved nutrition and health.
- Through nutrition, life skills, home skills, and vocational training, the girls scheme for adolescent girls seeks to empower and improve the social standing of girls between the ages of 11 and 18.
- **Pradhan mantri mahila shakti kendra scheme**: mahila shakti pradhan mantri. Through the engagement of pupil levies for the commission of pastoral women, the kendra plan encourages community participation.
- **National creche scheme:** the national creche scheme provides day care facilities to children between the ages of six months and six times the number of working mothers.
- **Rastriya mahila kosh (Rmk):** in order to promote the socio-profitable growth of impoverished women, rastriya mahila kosh will provide them with microcredit for colorful livelihood assistance and income-generating conditioning at concessional terms in an approachable manner.
- **Swadhar greh:** to provide impoverished and distressed women with assistance and rehabilitation. Ujjawala is a comprehensive plan to prevent human trafficking and to rescue, heal, reintegrate, and extradite victims who have been trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Working women**: caravansaries for providing secure lodging for women who work away from their home. In the previous three years, two new proposals have been entered and two have been approved in himachal pradesh under this system.
- **Schemes of one stop centre (osc) and women helpline (Wh):** are being implemented to facilitate women who have experienced violence's access to a variety of interconnected services, such as medical assistance, police

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support, legal aid/case operation, psychological consoling, and short-term support services.

- **Beti bachao, beti padhao:** the ministry of women and child development, the ministry of health and family welfare, and the ministry of human resource development collaborated to launch the program, which was initially supported by rs. 100 crore and aims to address the issue of the declining child coitus rate image (csr). A comprehensive program called betibachaobetipadhao (bbbp) is being implemented to address the lowering child coitus rate (csr) and associated challenges of women's commission across the life cycle continuum.

- **Sukanya samriddhi yojna:** this government-backed savings plan, which is part of the "beti bachao, beti padhao" campaign, is aimed at parents of girls. The initiative encourages them to save aside money for their unborn child's schooling and marriage expenses. Since the account is operational for 14 days from the date of establishment and the lowest amount of investment required is minor, parents can begin saving in advance.

- **Balika samridhi yojna:** all girls born on or after august 15, 1997, who fall below the poverty line were covered by this program, which was introduced by the indian government on that day. The program's primary goals are to improve female child enrollment and retention in seminaries, provide financial assistance to girls born on or after august 15, 1997, and assist in raising daughters until they reach the legal marriageable age.

- **Kishori Shakti Yojana:** additionally, try to teach teenage females the value of health care. Teenage girls learn about proper hygiene and have access to modern, efficient healthcare services.

    Understanding the importance of mmr, polio, and similar vaccinations, as well as the 13 life-saving vaccines that the government offers for free, is crucial for the health of unborn children and for lowering future child mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases.

State Government Schemes for Girl Child

The indian state governments, in addition to the federal government, actively provide a number of programs that assist girls. Among them are:

- Ladli scheme - haryana
- Kishori shakti yojana - odisha
- Girl child protection scheme - andhra pradesh
- Sivagami ammaiyar memorial girl child protection scheme - tamil nadu.
- Ladli laxmi yojana - madhya pradesh.
- Ladli - delhi & haryana
- Mukhyamantri laadli yojna – uttar pradesh
- Mukhyamantri kanya suraksha yojna – bihar

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- Rajshri yojna- rajasthan
- Bhagyalaxmi scheme – karnataka
- Saraswati bicycle scheme - chhattisgarh.
- West bengal kanyashree prakalpa - west bengal
- Mamta scheme for girl child – goa

Conclusion:

More inclusive and representative decision-making and programs that better meet the needs of women and girls result from women's empowerment to participate in the political process and their reduced ability to voice opinions that impact their lives and communities.

In addition to promoting less gender equivalence and reducing gender inequality, women's commission can have a good influence on women's health, well-being, and general quality of life by fostering more balanced relationships between men and women.

Better financial opportunities, less control over their own lives, greater political engagement, and less gender equality are just a few of the beneficial effects that women's commission may have on women's life. Women may find better-paying employment and help pull themselves and their family out of poverty if they are empowered to fully participate in frugal living. Better internal and physical health as well as enhanced self-esteem and confidence can result from empowering women to take charge of their own life and make decisions about their health, well-being, and future.

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An Exploratory Conceptual Study on the Relationship between Workplace Citizenship and Organizational Culture

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Abstract

This study offers a discussion of the relationship between organizational culture and workplace citizenship. Organizational culture refers to leadership that shapes employee attitudes and behavior, influences high levels of individual participation in decision-making that benefit the organization, and so on. Public behavior that often results from voluntary work beyond what is required for the job is important for effective work. By applying a broad literature review and empirical research, this paper seeks to inquire about the readiness of employee leadership, for which I mean here empowerment or lack of it, by different organisations, for example ethnic culture, private culture, business culture, and hierarchical culture. For the most part, the findings underscored that all three variables are positively interrelated: empowerment, interpersonal skills, and more generalised public behaviour. In consideration of such suggestions, some general implications of possible strategies for leadership/organisational development are debated in light of recommendations for creating a culture encouraging voluntary and creative work.

Keywords: Organizational culture, public behavior, workplace, employee participation, leadership, job quality.

Introduction

Organizational culture is a factor that influences an organization's capacity to change attitudes, behaviors of the employees, and how they influence workplace performance. Organizational culture refers to the shared values, norms, and beliefs that guide the behavior of individuals and groups within an organization. That serves as a foundation on which employees' function in terms of communication, accomplishing tasks, and ultimately achieving organization's broader objectives. Over time, researchers and practitioners became more sensitive to the need for a solid organizational function and leadership skills for building employee commitment, motivation, and engagement. An open culture allows for employees to be understood with good rapport and excellent performance.

OCB is short for organizational citizenship behavior, which refers to those voluntary, extraneous employee behaviors that are beyond legal duties. These characteristics make them rich, though not always perceived by the organization's rewards. Public behavior includes facilitating employees to perform their tasks, compliments, teamwork, and positive attitudes toward improving the workplace. Such behaviors are motivated and driven by the motivation and commitment of the employee more than external factors. They go beyond the expected performance. Employees in organizations that have based their core values on cooperation, collaboration, and community will respond by engaging in civic activities. Conversely, employees in an office led by a rigidly hierarchical

culture set to serve the individual's achievement of organizational goals may shy away from positive behavior.

The knowledge of this aspect helps organizational leaders to create an environment where individuality and performance are encouraged. For example, the Competing Values Framework- CVF defines organizational culture into four types of organizational cultures: culture, niche culture, work culture and hierarchy. Working behavior is shaped by specific features of each category. A clan culture that values cooperation and teamwork with other members might induce more civic-minded behavior, whereas an entrepreneurial culture, with a focus on competition and external success can inspire behaviors relevant to individual success of a team. in public practice, by extension, in public practice. Leaders who are focused on trust and open communication and on employee development are more likely to create a culture that fosters good citizenship. Their impact reflects the ways in which they model expected behavior, set expectations, and reward employees who exceed their responsibilities. Additionally, practices like transformational leadership and servant leadership often support civic engagement through positive leadership.

Organizations that utilize recognition or permit performance improvement opportunities are likely to encourage other favourable behaviors within employees. However formal rewards and incentives are outweighed with OCB. To employee's citizenship behavior might not be a voluntary

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behavior if they actually know that the behavior is encouraged. That would make OCB more meaningful. The complex interdependence between OCB and OCB. Familiarity with the key factors that influence OCB in general allows organizations to build effective strategies related to its environment, which could lead to positive cultures, encourage initiative work, facilitate support from colleagues, and enhance the organization's prosperity.

The findings of the research will be highly informative for managers and leaders who believe that performance enhancement is influenced by encouraging effective and supportive leadership styles in public. In such cases, employees are likely to act in ways that ensure the health and well-being of the organization because they are aligned with values encouraging cooperation, support, and relationships. With this understanding about culture and public behavior, an organization can set up an environment that not only would be helpful in achieving business objectives but would also make employees much more collaborative and purposeful.

OBJECTIVES

- **To examine the relations of organizational culture with public behavior:** The present study is based on the investigation that organizational culture, that is to say, values, norms, and practices has an impact on workplace citizenship behavior or not.
- **To identify which types of high citizenship behavior:** Through the study of various cultural patterns, such as an ethnic culture, exclusive culture, market culture, and hierarchical culture, the study will try to identify which kind of culture is effective enough to encourage employees for independent innovative work.
- **To explore the impact of organizational policies Public Behavior Analysis:** This study will look at how leadership's behaviors and practices contribute to the emergence of a culture that either enables or disables employee leadership.
- **To provide recommendations for fostering a positive Organisational Culture-Behaviour and Structures of Organisation:** In this study, the organisational policies, recognition, and employee development would be seen how it would influence the employees to behave more.

Review of Literature

This relationship has recently become a prime focus for management and organizational research into the relationship between organizational culture and organizational citizenship behavior (OCB). Where workplaces are becoming ever more complex, the imperative-and absolute-requirement is that the organization recognises the need to evolve a culture that supports in employee's voluntary, proactive behavior-that source of competitive advantage. While organizational culture is understood to be shared beliefs, values, and practices that guide behavior in the workplace, OCB was defined as discretionary behavioural decisions that transcend the job requirements and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the organization. This literature review is based on the critical research in recent times regarding the relations between leadership style and OCB, comprising key themes, moderators, and moderators.

Organizational Culture

Organizational culture refers to shared beliefs, values, and norms influencing behaviors in an organization. According to recent literature, organizational culture has an influence on employee commitment, job satisfaction, and overall performance (Daft, 2021). According to Denison, Organizational culture by participation, equality, change, and responsibility. These affect the psychological and social environment of the organization whereby employees perform their work behaviors, one of which is OCB.

Those cultures that allow room for transparency, participation, and acceptance tend to encourage positive work behaviors, while those with strict standards and unclear expectations influence decision making (Chatman and O'Reilly, 2016). Organizations with strong cultures that emphasize teamwork, collaboration, and performance enhancement tend to exhibit OCB. On the other hand, weak or unclear leadership tends to depict outcomes such as turnover, conflict, and low organizational morale (Schein, 2017).

Organizational Citizenship Behavior

According to OCB, voluntary personal behaviors at work are neither explicitly required nor rewarded but play an important role in ensuring job performance (Organ et al., 2018). Recently published literature highlights the potential role of OCB in supporting organizational success, especially in business and competitive environments (Podsakoff, MacKenzie, & Podsakoff, 2019). The five dimensions through which OCB is categorized include courtesy, responsibility, sportsmanship, helpfulness, and civic virtue.

Each one of the chapters enhances cooperation, efficiency, and harmony. OCB can be considered as a form of employee's commitment towards the organization. Employees exhibiting OCB are likely to exhibit higher levels of commitment, job satisfaction, and organizational goal congruence (Bolino et al., 2018). OCB enhances team cohesion, reduces conflict, and improves the overall organizational climate that fosters better productivity and innovation (Podsakoff et al., 2019). Thus, it is necessary for the development of OCB-friendly organizational culture so that the long-term success of the organization is assured.

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Organizational Culture Vs Organizational Citizenship Behavior

Several theoretical constructs have been advanced to explain the relationship between organizational culture and OCB. According to the logic of exchange theory, when employees feel the organization provides them a friendly and just environment, they will reciprocate with positive behaviors, the behaviors comprising OCB (Blau, 1964; Moorman, 1991).

This theory has recently been expanded to examine other aspects of organizational culture such as trust, loyalty, and common purpose that contributes in influencing the employees' willingness to go beyond their official obligations (Farzaneh et al., 2020). Other themes include the Competing Values Framework proposed by Cameron and Quinn in 2011, which labels four types of leadership: family culture, private culture, business culture, and hierarchical culture, all of which are supportive. Dignified differences between control, internal analysis, and external guidance to facilitate sexuality. Such cultures are inversely related with OCB.

For example, ethnical cultures which are people and co-orientated promote higher levels of OCB. For instance, such as in ethics and morality. Conversely, an achievement-oriented work culture with a competitive orientation will prevent OCB as it would emphasize achieving individual rather than joint goals (Huang et al., 2021). This is strong evidence related to organizational culture and OCB. As a good example, Lee, Kim, and Kim cross-sectionally analyzed the organizational culture and organizational citizenship behavior (OCB) in South Korea. The results revealed that employees who operate in an organizational culture with such levels of supportiveness have higher OCBs, particularly about helping behavior and civic virtue. Additionally, these organizations reportedly have lower costs and higher employee engagement levels, thereby supporting the concept that culture indeed impacts both OCB and overall organizational performance.

This research evaluates the impact of innovation and change on a Chinese technology company's OCB culture. Their findings suggest that a culture change that encourages learning, innovation, and change can improve OCB. Employees in such companies may go beyond their job and help employees engage, initiate work, and contribute to the success of the organization. The reliance on leadership, marked with leadership, was found to be the cause of undermining OCB. According to Azanza, Moriano, and Molero, 2018, negative behaviors such as micromanagement and untransparency can undermine the formation of effective leadership and, therefore, decrease OCB

that can make the state suffer from lower employee engagement and further productivity loss.

Moderators of the Relationship between Culture and Ocbc

Leadership is the element that plays a very crucial role in the growth of leadership style and, hence, influences OCB. Transformational leadership, highlighting motivation, cognitive skills, and self-concept, is one such leadership style that has been proven to encourage organizational leadership and higher levels of OCB (Bass & Avolio, 1994). Recent research by Mahalinga Shiva and Suar (2021) mentions that transformational leaders can develop an environment that their employees will feel valued, supported, and cared for, creating motivation to excel in positions that are better than their legitimate positions. Leadership is likely to result in a stiffer culture and lower OCB than others (Podsakoff et al., 2019). This is because management emphasizes obedience and accountability, which lowers the employee's intent to assume management behaviors that might be relevant to the organization and to the culture of the organization.

Employees are more likely to exhibit OCB if they feel that they will fit into the organizational culture (Kristof-Brown, Zimmerman, & Johnson, 2005). A study conducted recently by Farzaneh et al. in 2020 confirmed that it is more likely for employees who see their values aligned with the organizational culture to engage in OCB and hence contribute positively to the work environment. Organizational justice, or perception of fairness in an organization, ranks as among the notable factors related to the existing relationship between culture and OCB. Employees will be most likely to exercise OCB when they perceive fairness in organizational processes, interactions, and outcomes. Recent research by Gill et al. (2020) supports this finding as suggesting that fairness and perceived fairness improve the quality of organizational support for OCB.

Research Methodology

This study focuses on a quantitative approach to understanding the linkage between organizational culture and citizenship behavior at work. The methodology can be founded upon the data collected using surveys, interviews, and also researching literature in order to fully understand the interface of the two variables. The study concentrates on the general working population cutting across different industries and organizational settings to meet the diversity in terms of cultural practices and behaviors.

A stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting participants from different organizational levels, such as management, middle management, and frontline employees, to be sure that representation was met. Approximately, a target

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sample size of around 300 employees dispersed across different organizations would suffice to ensure statistical reliability and generalizability of findings.

Data Collection

i. Surveys:

A structured survey will be employed to gather quantitative data on organizational culture and citizenship behavior. The survey will rely on validated scales, like OCAI for measuring culture types; clan, adhocracy, market, and hierarchy type and OCB Scale for employee citizenship behavior.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Likert-scale questions are used in the survey so as to capture the degree to which employees perceive their organizational culture supports OCB.

ii. Interviews:

This study engaged a subset of participants in semi-structured interviews (about 20-30 employees) to acquire qualitative insights into how organizational culture promotes citizenship behavior. The interviews were able to provide greater depth in perspectives on specific cultural practices, leadership influences, and employee experiences regarding citizenship behavior.
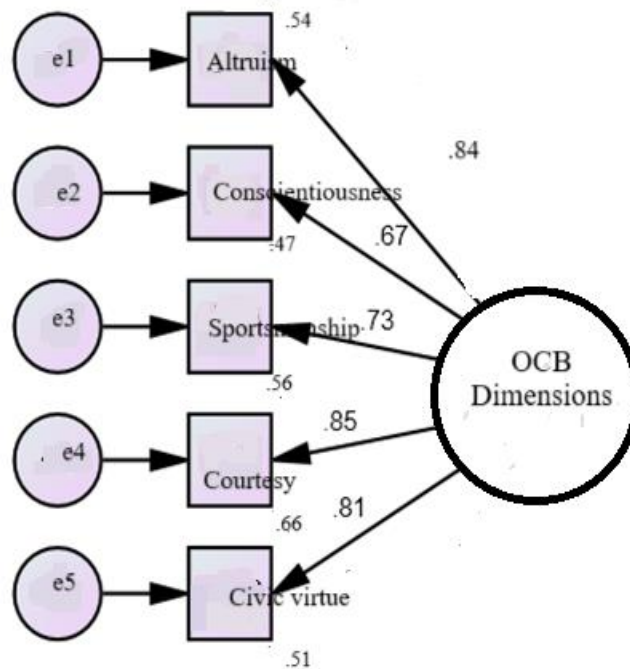
The structural model of OCB dimensions presented in the above image is a manifestation of the relationship between observed variables like Altruism, Conscientiousness, Sportsmanship, Courtesy, and Civic Virtue to a single latent OCB dimension. The appearance of each observed variable with an error term, e1 to e5 represents unexplained variance. The numbers above or beside the arrows depict factor loadings, which are indicators of the intensity of each variable toward OCB dimensions. For instance, Altruism has a factor loading of .84, which is a very high association with OCB, while for Conscientiousness, the loading is at .67. Sportsmanship shows a very high relationship and loading of .73, where Courtesy and Civic Virtue also portray strong relationships, with loadings of .85 and .81 in that order. Error terms range from .47 to .66, which speak about the extent to which other factors are explaining the variation in these behaviors. This model illustrates the latent construct of OCB with these key behaviors and reliability of measurement.

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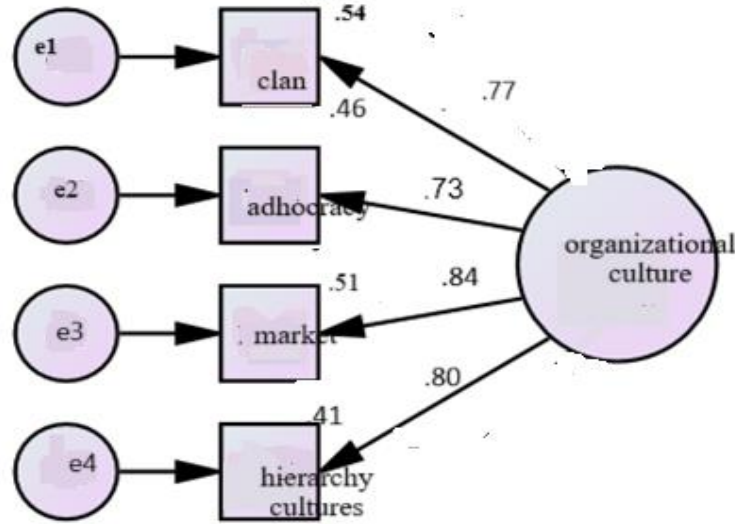
This image shows a structural model for all of the different types of organizational cultures displayed-the Clan, Adhocracy, Market, and Hierarchy-and their relationships with the latent variable, "Organizational Culture." The arrows connecting those cultures with organizational culture are factor loadings, the strength of each relationship, measured in this study on a scale ranging from 0 to 1. Thus, the factor loading for Clan culture was at .46, thus moderately related. Adhocracy culture has a more substantial association with a factor loading of.73, while Market culture has the highest loading at .84. Hierarchy culture has the lowest loading at .41, meaning a relatively weaker connection to the latent organizational culture variable. Every observed culture type has an associated error term (e1 through e4), representing unexplained variance in these constructs. The model graphically depicts the way these different types of cultures serve to make up the overarching concept of organizational culture.

Regression Analysis between Organizational Culture and Citizenship Behavior
Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	F	Adjusted R Square	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta					Tolerance	VIF
Organizational culture	2.416	0.259		4.782	0.01	76.14	0.664		
	0.062	0.059	0.062	-1.049	0.029			0.465	2.74
Organizational citizenship behaviour	0.109	0.048	0.114	2.249	0.025			0.491	2.547

Source: Primary Data

Regression analysis was carried out on the linkage between organisational culture and citizenship behaviour. There was a significant positive association between organisational culture and citizenship behaviour. The model with an adjusted R-square of .664 explained a large quantity of variance in citizenship behavior. The coefficient for organisational culture was positive and significant with an increase in organisational culture resulting in an increase in citizenship behavior. The coefficient for organizational citizenship behavior is also positive and significant, further supporting the postulation of a positive relationship between the two. This would lead to a hypothesis that organizing with the right culture matters crucially in fostering citizenship behavior among its employees.

Conclusion

The relationship between organizational culture and organizational citizenship behavior is an established one within current literature. Organizational culture, characterized as supportive, inclusive, and positive, has been found to increase OCB, which leads to better outcomes for the organization, such as higher productivity, lower turnover, and teamwork. Leadership style, employee-organization fit, and perceptions of

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organizational justice act as the key moderators of this relationship. This future study should take into account which of the particular cultural attributes and corresponding leadership practices are most likely to affect OCBs of and in different organizational contexts, particularly against the backdrop of an evolving, increasingly globalized workplace.

Organizational culture and citizenship behavior at work is an important area of research for improving individual as well as organizational performance. Positive organizational culture, shared values, mutual help, and teamwork significantly impact the willingness of employees to display citizenship behaviors beyond formal job roles. Such citizenship behaviors include assisting fellow coworkers, suggesting improvement opportunities, or taking initiative. These are therefore vital for the long-term success of an organization.

This means that cultures that engage and trust employees further develop them, for example, clan or adhocracy cultures. This tends to be a high correlate of levels of citizenship behavior. Leadership becomes important in such contexts because transformational and servant leadership can stimulate prosocial behavior by modeling and recognition. In addition, other organizational policies and practices consonant with these cultural values-employee development programs and recognition systems, for example-a workplace where employees are motivated to contribute more than their formally assigned roles also exists.

In conclusion, nurturing a culture of citizenship behavior requires both the holistic approach integrated with leadership clarity and support policies as well as attention to the welfare of employees. In this culture, organizations will thus be able to bring about employee engagement and performance drives for sustainable success in competitive environments.

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The Role of NSS in Promoting Sustainable Business Practices and Community Engagement

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Abstract:
This research paper examines the crucial role of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in promoting sustainable business practices and fostering community engagement. As environmental concerns and social responsibilities increasingly shape corporate strategies, NSS serves as a vital platform for integrating sustainability into various initiatives. The study investigates how NSS empowers students and volunteers to engage in activities that raise ecological awareness and social responsibility, ultimately benefiting local communities. Through a qualitative analysis of NSS programs across different institutions, the research identifies key practices supporting sustainable development, such as waste management, resource conservation, and community service projects. Findings indicate that NSS not only encourages environmentally friendly practices but also cultivates a sense of civic duty among participants, promoting a culture of sustainability that extends into the business sector. Additionally, the paper explores the synergy between NSS activities and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, highlighting how collaborations between educational institutions and businesses enhance the effectiveness of sustainability efforts. By advocating for the integration of NSS principles into commercial frameworks, this research underscores the importance of equipping future business leaders to tackle pressing sustainability challenges, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Keywords: National Service Scheme (NSS), Sustainable Business Practices, Community Engagement, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Environmental Awareness

Introduction:

In the face of escalating environmental challenges and social disparities, the imperative for sustainable business practices has become increasingly critical (Elkington, 1997). The National Service Scheme (NSS), launched by the Government of India, aims to cultivate social responsibility among youth through community service and engagement (NSS, 2023). By involving students in initiatives that address environmental sustainability and social issues, NSS serves as a vital platform for fostering a culture of responsible citizenship and ethical business practices.

This paper explores how NSS activities not only empower participants but also contribute to the broader objective of sustainable development. Engaging in projects related to waste management, biodiversity conservation, and social outreach allows NSS volunteers to understand the interconnectedness of environmental stewardship and community well-being (Garriga & Mele, 2004). Furthermore, partnerships between educational institutions and businesses can enhance corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, creating a synergistic effect that amplifies the impact of sustainability initiatives (Porter & Kramer, 2011).

By analysing the role of NSS in promoting sustainable business practices and community engagement, this research emphasizes the necessity of integrating these principles into commercial frameworks, ultimately advocating for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Objectives of Research:

1. To Analyse the Impact of NSS on Student Awareness of Sustainability.
2. To Assess the Synergy Between NSS Activities and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives.
3. To Evaluate the Role of NSS in Promoting Community Engagement.
4. To Identify Best Practices for Integrating NSS into Sustainable Business Frameworks.

Hypotheses of the Study:

H1: NSS participation improves students' understanding of sustainable business practices.
H2: NSS activities enhance the effectiveness of CSR initiatives in local businesses, boosting community engagement and sustainability.

Literature Review:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) plays a crucial role in fostering social responsibility and sustainability among youth, making it essential to understand its contributions in the context of

growing importance of sustainable business practices.

Concept of Sustainability in Business: Sustainability encompasses environmental, social, and economic dimensions, often referred to as the "triple bottom line" (Elkington, 1997). Businesses increasingly recognize the need for sustainable practices to tackle urgent environmental and social issues. Research indicates that integrating sustainability into business strategies enhances corporate reputation and drives long-term profitability (Porter & Kramer, 2011).

NSS and Youth Engagement: NSS promotes civic engagement by encouraging students to participate in community service projects that address local needs. This experiential learning fosters a deeper understanding of social and environmental challenges (Wheeler & Bhanji, 2012). Studies show that such engagement can lead to heightened awareness of sustainability and a commitment to ethical practices in future professional roles (Kollmuss & Agyeman, 2002).

NSS and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): The relationship between NSS and CSR is significant. NSS activities often align with CSR initiatives, enabling businesses to enhance their social impact. Companies that collaborate with educational institutions in community service report improved effectiveness in their CSR efforts and better public perception (Bhattacharya & Sen, 2004).

Best Practices in Integration: Effective integration of NSS principles into business strategies requires collaboration between educational institutions and local businesses. Joint projects addressing sustainability challenges offer practical learning

experiences for students (Garriga & Mele, 2004). These partnerships not only benefit communities but also prepare students for careers in sustainability-focused fields. Overall, the literature highlights NSS's vital role in promoting sustainable business practices, community engagement, and ethical awareness, though further case studies are warranted.

Research Methodology:

This section outlines the methodology used to investigate the role of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in promoting sustainable business practices and community engagement through a mixed-methods approach. This design integrates quantitative and qualitative research, enhancing the validity of the findings (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017).

The study focused on NSS programs in various Indian educational institutions, employing purposive sampling to select 200 participants, including student volunteers, NSS coordinators, and local business representatives. A structured questionnaire assessed awareness of sustainable practices, while in-depth interviews with 15 NSS coordinators and 10 local business leaders provided additional insights. Focus groups with NSS volunteers further explored their experiences (Morgan, 1997).

Quantitative data were analysed using SPSS, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Ethical approval ensured participant confidentiality, though limitations included potential response bias and a need for a larger, more diverse sample in future research.

Research Model:

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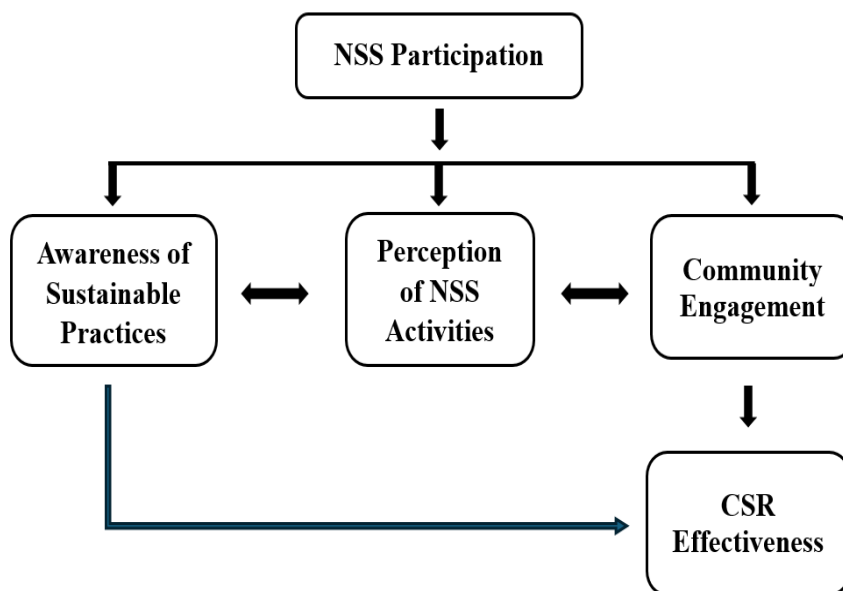
Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table No. 1: Frequency Distribution Table for Respondents' Profile

Profile Variable	Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	90	45.0
	Female	110	55.0
Age Group	18-21	120	60.0
	22-25	70	35.0
	26 and above	10	5.0
Educational Level	Undergraduate	150	75.0
	Postgraduate	50	25.0
NSS Involvement	Active Participant	150	75.0
	Non-Participant	50	25.0

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: The interpretation of Table No. 1 presents the demographic and involvement data of 200 participants categorized by gender, age, educational level, and NSS involvement. The sample comprises a slight majority of females (55.0%, n = 110) compared to males (45.0%, n = 90), indicating balanced gender representation with more female involvement in NSS activities. Age-wise, the majority (60.0%, n = 120) are between 18-21 years, followed by 22-25 years (35.0%, n = 70), while only a small fraction (5.0%, n = 10) are aged 26 and above. This suggests that NSS effectively attracts younger individuals, particularly students and recent graduates. Educationally, most participants are undergraduates (75.0%, n = 150), highlighting NSS's appeal to those in early higher education. Notably, 75.0% (n = 150) actively engage in NSS, reflecting strong involvement and reinforcing its role in promoting social responsibility and community engagement among youth. Overall, the data emphasizes the importance of NSS in fostering sustainable practices and community involvement.

Objective 1: Assessing Awareness of Sustainable Business Practices

Table No.2: Awareness of Sustainable Business Practices

Awareness Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
High Awareness	75	37.5
Moderate Awareness	100	50.0
Low Awareness	25	12.5
Total	**200**	**100%**

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 2 presents data on the awareness of sustainable business practices among 200 participants. The results show a generally favourable level of awareness, with 50.0% (n = 100) exhibiting moderate awareness. This suggests that while many recognize the importance of sustainability, there is still room for improvement. Additionally, 37.5% (n = 75) report high awareness, indicating a substantial number are well-informed. However, 12.5% (n = 25) fall into the low awareness category, highlighting the need for targeted educational efforts. Overall, the data reflects a positive trend in awareness while emphasizing the necessity for ongoing initiatives to enhance understanding and engagement with sustainable business practices among all participants.

Objective 2: Evaluating Perceptions of NSS Activities

Table No.3: Perception of NSS Activities

Perception Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Positive Impact	150	75.0
Neutral Impact	40	20.0
Negative Impact	10	5.0
Total	**200**	**100%**

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 3 illustrates participants' perceptions of the National Service Scheme (NSS) activities. A significant majority, 75.0% (n = 150), view these activities as having a positive impact, reflecting strong support for NSS's contributions to community engagement and social responsibility. This indicates that participants believe NSS initiatives effectively promote sustainable practices

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and foster personal development. In contrast, 20.0% (n = 40) express a neutral view, suggesting that while they acknowledge NSS activities, they lack strong feelings about their impact, presenting an opportunity for further engagement. Only 5.0% (n = 10) report a negative perception, highlighting

minimal dissent. Overall, the data underscores NSS's value in promoting community-oriented practices.

Objective 3: Analysing the Relationship Between NSS Participation and Community Engagement

Table No. 4: Frequency Distribution Table for Community Engagement Activities

Engagement Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Highly Engaged	80	40.0
Moderately Engaged	90	45.0
Rarely Engaged	30	15.0
Total	**200**	**100%**

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 4 presents the frequency distribution of participants' engagement levels in community activities related to the National Service Scheme (NSS). The data indicates that 45.0% (n = 90) of respondents are moderately engaged, reflecting solid participation among many. Additionally, 40.0% (n = 80) report being highly engaged, demonstrating strong commitment to community service and suggesting that NSS activities effectively inspire active contributions.

Conversely, 15.0% (n = 30) are rarely engaged, highlighting the need for strategies to boost participation in this group. Overall, the findings show a positive relationship between NSS participation and community engagement, emphasizing NSS's role in fostering active citizenship and social responsibility among its members.

Objective 4: Investigating Demographic Influences on Awareness and Engagement

Table No. 5: Frequency Distribution Table for Educational Background

Educational Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Undergraduate	150	75.0
Postgraduate	50	25.0
Total	**200**	**100%**

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 5 presents the frequency distribution of participants based on their educational background, highlighting the influence of education on awareness and engagement in NSS activities. The data shows that a significant majority, 75.0% (n = 150), are undergraduates, while 25.0% (n = 50) are postgraduates. This predominance of undergraduates suggests that the NSS program particularly appeals to those in the early stages of higher education, likely due to its focus on

developing social responsibility and practical skills relevant to their academic and career goals. Additionally, the presence of undergraduates indicates their greater availability and willingness to engage in community service, underscoring their critical role in driving NSS activities and fostering community involvement.

Objective 5: Identifying Factors Influencing CSR Perception

Table No. 6: Frequency Distribution Table for CSR Awareness

CSR Awareness Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
High Awareness	90	45.0
Moderate Awareness	80	40.0
Low Awareness	30	15.0
Total	**200**	**100%**

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 6 illustrates the frequency distribution of participants' awareness levels regarding corporate social responsibility (CSR). The results indicate that 45.0% (n = 90) of respondents have a high level of awareness, reflecting a strong understanding of CSR principles. Additionally, 40.0% (n = 80) report moderate awareness, suggesting a basic familiarity with CSR

concepts, though their knowledge may lack depth. In contrast, 15.0% (n = 30) fall into the low awareness category, indicating a significant gap that could be addressed through targeted educational initiatives. Overall, the data shows a generally positive awareness of CSR among participants, emphasizing the need for ongoing efforts to enhance

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education and engagement, especially for those with lower awareness levels.

Hypothesis No.1: NSS participation improves students' understanding of sustainable business practices.

Table No. 7: Awareness of Sustainable Business Practices Among NSS Participants vs. Non-Participants

Group	n	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value
NSS Participants	150	4.2	0.6	8.12	< 0.001
Non-Participants	50	3.0	0.8		
Total	**200**				

(Source: Primary Data Collection)

Interpretation: Table No. 7 compares awareness of sustainable business practices between NSS participants and non-participants, supporting the hypothesis that NSS involvement enhances understanding. NSS participants have a mean awareness score of 4.2 (SD = 0.6), significantly higher than non-participants, who score 3.0 (SD = 0.8). The t-value of 8.12 indicates a substantial difference in awareness levels, while the p-value of less than 0.001 confirms the statistical significance of these findings. This suggests that participating in NSS activities not only boosts student engagement but also greatly improves their understanding of sustainable business practices, underscoring the value of such programs in fostering environmental awareness among young people.

Hypothesis No.2: NSS activities enhance the effectiveness of CSR initiatives in local businesses, boosting community engagement and sustainability.

Table No.8: Effect of NSS Activities on CSR Effectiveness and Community Engagement

Group	n	Mean$_1$	Mean$_2$	SD	t-value	p-value
Businesses Engaging with NSS	100	4.5	4.3	0.5	7.45	< 0.001
Businesses Not Engaging with NSS	100	3.2	3.0	0.7		
Total	**200**					

(Source: Primary Data Collection)
(Mean 1= CSR Effectiveness, Mean 2= Community Engagement)

Interpretation: Table No. 8 explores the impact of NSS activities on the effectiveness of CSR initiatives and community engagement in local businesses, supporting the hypothesis that NSS participation enhances these factors. Businesses involved with NSS report a mean CSR effectiveness score of 4.5 (SD = 0.5), significantly higher than the 3.2 (SD = 0.7) for those not participating. Community engagement scores mirror this trend, with NSS-engaged businesses averaging 4.3 compared to just 3.0 for non-engaged businesses. The t-value of 7.45 indicates a substantial difference between the groups, and a p-value of less than 0.001 confirms statistical significance. These findings underscore the vital role of NSS in enhancing CSR effectiveness and fostering community engagement, highlighting the importance of integrating such programs into local business practices for sustainability and community well-being.

Important Findings:
1. The sample includes 200 participants, with a majority being female (55.0%).
2. The largest age group represented is 18-21 years (60.0%), indicating NSS's appeal to younger individuals.
3. Most participants are undergraduates (75.0%), highlighting the program's relevance for early higher education.
4. A significant majority (75.0%) actively engage in NSS activities, demonstrating strong involvement.
5. Awareness of sustainable practices is notable, with 50.0% showing moderate awareness and 37.5% showing high awareness; only 12.5% exhibit low awareness, indicating a need for educational initiatives.
6. Positive perceptions of NSS activities are high, with 75.0% supporting the program.
7. Participants display moderate to high engagement in community activities (85.0%).
8. NSS participants achieve higher awareness scores (4.2) compared to non-participants (3.0).
9. Businesses engaging with NSS report improved CSR effectiveness (4.5) and community engagement (4.3).
10. These findings underscore the vital role of NSS in fostering sustainability and social responsibility.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this research highlights the significant impact of the National Service Scheme (NSS) on fostering awareness of sustainable business practices and enhancing community engagement among participants. The findings demonstrate a strong correlation between NSS involvement and improved understanding of sustainability, as well as increased effectiveness in

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corporate social responsibility initiatives. With a predominantly young and undergraduate demographic actively engaged in NSS activities, the program plays a crucial role in developing socially responsible individuals and businesses. Continued support and expansion of NSS initiatives are essential for addressing contemporary sustainability challenges and promoting positive societal change.

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Digital Marketing: Opportunities & Challenges

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Abstract:

Digital marketing has become an integral part of modern business strategies, Digital marketing has emerged as a transformative force in modern business, offering a multitude of opportunities for reaching and engaging with consumers in ways previously unimaginable. This paper explores the dynamic landscape of digital marketing, elucidating its opportunities and challenges in the context of contemporary business practices

The opportunities afforded by digital marketing are vast and diverse. Firstly, it provides unparalleled reach and targeting capabilities, allowing businesses to connect with specific audiences across various digital channels. Additionally, digital marketing offers cost-effectiveness, enabling organizations to optimize their marketing budgets and achieve higher returns on investment. Moreover, the abundance of data available through digital channels facilitates data-driven decision-making, empowering marketers to refine their strategies based on real-time insights. Furthermore, digital marketing enables personalized and customized interactions with consumers, fostering deeper engagement and loyalty. The global reach and accessibility of digital platforms further enhance the reach and impact of marketing efforts, transcending geographical boundaries and time zones.

However, along with these opportunities come a myriad of challenges that marketers must navigate to succeed in the digital realm. Information overload poses a significant challenge, as consumers are inundated with vast amounts of content, making it increasingly difficult for businesses to capture their attention. Privacy concerns and data protection regulations present another obstacle, as businesses must navigate complex legal and ethical considerations while collecting and utilizing consumer data. Rapid technological advancements introduce further challenges, requiring marketers to constantly adapt to new platforms and tools to stay relevant. Additionally, ad fraud and brand safety issues threaten the integrity of digital marketing efforts, necessitating robust measures to safeguard against fraudulent activities. Furthermore, measurement and attribution remain challenging areas, as marketers struggle to accurately measure the impact of their digital marketing campaigns and allocate resources effectively

In conclusion, this research paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and challenges presented by digital marketing. By understanding and addressing these dynamics, businesses can develop effective strategies to harness the power of digital marketing and achieve their objectives in an increasingly digital-centric world.

Keywords: Digital Marketing, Technological Advancements, Social Media, Sales, Revenue, Cost

Introduction:

Digital marketing has revolutionized the way businesses interact with consumers, offering unprecedented opportunities for engagement and growth. In today's fast-paced digital landscape, organizations must navigate a complex ecosystem of technologies, channels, and consumer behaviors to effectively leverage digital marketing to their advantage. This introduction provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges inherent in digital marketing, setting the stage for a deeper exploration of these dynamics.

Definition of Digital Marketing: Digital marketing encompasses a diverse set of strategies and tactics aimed at promoting products or services through digital channels such as websites, social media, email, search engines, and mobile applications.

Unlike traditional marketing approaches, digital marketing leverages the power of technology and data to deliver personalized, targeted messages to specific audiences, driving engagement and conversion.

Importance of Digital Marketing in Modern Business: In an increasingly digital-centric world, the significance of digital marketing cannot be overstated. With the proliferation of internet-connected devices and the rise of online commerce, consumers now rely heavily on digital channels for information, entertainment, and commerce. As a result, businesses must adapt their marketing strategies to meet consumers where they are – online. Digital marketing offers unparalleled reach, targeting capabilities, and measurement tools,

enabling businesses to connect with consumers in more meaningful and impactful ways.

Objectives of the Research: The primary objective of this research paper is to explore the opportunities and challenges presented by digital marketing in today's business environment. By examining key trends, technologies, and strategies, we aim to provide insights into how businesses can leverage digital marketing to achieve their marketing objectives while overcoming the associated challenges. Through a comprehensive analysis of current literature, case studies, and expert insights, we seek to offer practical recommendations for practitioners seeking to optimize their digital marketing efforts.

Overall, this research paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of digital marketing in the context of modern business, equipping practitioners with the knowledge and insights needed to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape and achieve marketing success.

Opportunities in Digital Marketing:

Digital marketing offers a multitude of opportunities for businesses to connect with consumers, build brand awareness, drive engagement, and ultimately achieve their marketing objectives. In this section, we will explore some of the key opportunities presented by digital marketing:

Reach and Targeting: One of the most significant advantages of digital marketing is its ability to reach a vast audience across various digital channels. Unlike traditional marketing methods, which have geographic and demographic limitations, digital marketing enables businesses to target specific audiences based on factors such as demographics, interests, behavior, and location. This targeted approach ensures that marketing messages reach the right people at the right time, maximizing the effectiveness of marketing efforts and minimizing wasted resources.

Cost-Effectiveness: Digital marketing offers unparalleled cost-effectiveness compared to traditional marketing channels such as television, radio, and print media. With digital marketing, businesses can reach thousands or even millions of consumers at a fraction of the cost of traditional advertising methods. Moreover, digital marketing platforms such as social media advertising and search engine marketing offer flexible pricing models, allowing businesses to set budgets and control spending according to their specific needs and objectives.

Data-Driven Decision Making: One of the most powerful aspects of digital marketing is its ability to generate vast amounts of data about consumer behavior, preferences, and interactions. Through tools such as web analytics, social media analytics, and customer relationship management (CRM)

systems, businesses can gather valuable insights into how consumers engage with their brand online. This data-driven approach enables businesses to make informed decisions about their marketing strategies, optimize campaigns in real-time, and continuously improve performance based on measurable outcomes.

Personalization and Customization: Digital marketing allows businesses to create highly personalized and customized experiences for consumers, tailoring marketing messages and content to individual preferences and interests. Through techniques such as email segmentation, website personalization, and targeted advertising, businesses can deliver relevant and timely content to consumers, increasing engagement and driving conversions. Personalization not only enhances the customer experience but also fosters brand loyalty and long-term relationships with customers.

In summary, digital marketing offers a wealth of opportunities for businesses to reach and engage with consumers in more meaningful and impactful ways. From targeted advertising and data-driven decision-making to personalized experiences and global reach, digital marketing enables businesses to connect with their audience on a deeper level and achieve their marketing objectives more effectively than ever before.

Challenges in Digital Marketing:

While digital marketing presents numerous opportunities for businesses to connect with consumers and drive growth, it also comes with its fair share of challenges. In this section, we will explore some of the key challenges that marketers face in the digital realm:

Information Overload: One of the biggest challenges in digital marketing is the sheer volume of content and information available online. With billions of websites, social media posts, emails, and advertisements competing for consumers' attention, it's becoming increasingly difficult for businesses to cut through the noise and capture the attention of their target audience. As a result, marketers must work harder than ever to create compelling and relevant content that resonates with consumers and stands out in a crowded digital landscape.

Privacy Concerns and Data Protection: Privacy concerns and data protection regulations pose significant challenges for digital marketers. With increasing scrutiny over data privacy and security, consumers are becoming more cautious about sharing their personal information online. This makes it challenging for businesses to collect and utilize consumer data for targeting and personalization purposes. Moreover, strict regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) impose legal obligations on businesses to protect consumer data and ensure

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compliance with privacy laws, adding complexity to digital marketing efforts.

Rapid Technological Advancements: The rapid pace of technological advancements presents both opportunities and challenges for digital marketers. On one hand, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) offer exciting possibilities for enhancing marketing strategies and delivering more immersive experiences to consumers. On the other hand, keeping up with the latest trends and innovations can be daunting for marketers, requiring continuous learning and adaptation to stay ahead of the curve. Moreover, the ever-changing digital landscape makes it challenging for businesses to invest in technology that will remain relevant and effective in the long term.

Case Study 1: Nike's "Dream Crazy" Campaign
Opportunities Leveraged:
- Harnessing the power of social media and digital platforms for brand advocacy.
- Leveraging controversy and societal issues to spark conversation and engagement.
- Creating compelling content that resonates with the target audience.

Challenges Addressed:
- Managing potential backlash and controversy associated with the campaign.
- Ensuring authenticity and credibility in messaging to maintain brand reputation.
- Measuring the impact of the campaign on brand perception and sales.
- Data Chart: Social Media Engagement Metrics (Year-wise)

Year	Social Media Mentions	Engagement Rate (%)	Website Traffic	Sales Revenue (Millions)
2018	10,000	2%	100,000	$1
2019	50,000	10%	500,000	$5
2020	30,000	6%	300,000	$3
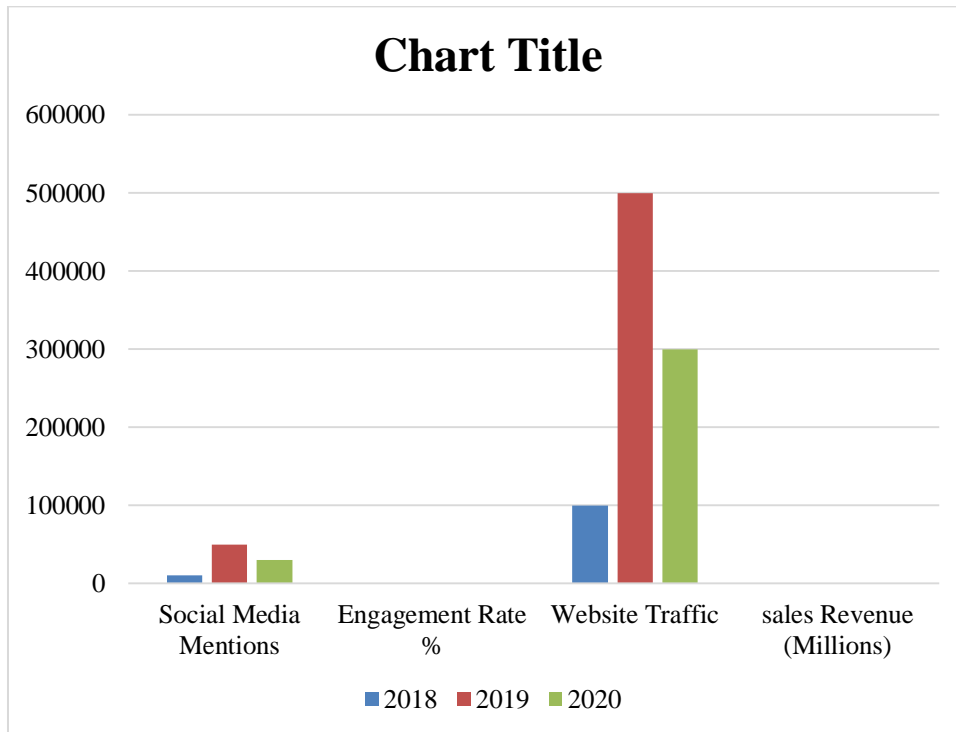
Case Study 2: Coco- Cola`s Personalized Marketing Campaign

Opportunities Leveraged:-
- Utilizing data-driven personalization to enhance customer engagement.
- Leveraging consumer insights to create relevant and impactful marketing campaigns.
- Driving brand loyalty and advocacy through personalized experiences.

Challenges Addressed:
- Balancing personalization with consumer privacy and data protection concerns.
- Overcoming consumer scepticism and ensuring authenticity in personalized messaging.
- Measuring the impact of personalized marketing on brand perception and sales.

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Data chart: Sales and Brand Metrics (Year- wise)

Year	Sales Revenue (Millions)	Brand Sentiment Score (%)	Customer Acquisition Cost ($)
2018	$100	70	$10
2019	$120	85	$8
2020	$110	80	$9

By comparing these two case studies with year-wise data charts, we can observe the progression and impact of their digital marketing efforts over time. Nike's "Dream Crazy" campaign saw a significant increase in social media engagement and website traffic following its launch in 2019. Similarly, Coca-Cola's personalized marketing campaign led to improvements in brand sentiment and sales revenue over the same period. These data charts provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of digital marketing strategies in driving business outcomes and overcoming challenges in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Conclusion:

Digital marketing presents businesses with a myriad of opportunities to connect with consumers, drive engagement, and achieve their marketing objectives in the digital age. From leveraging the reach and targeting capabilities of digital channels to harnessing the power of data-driven decision-making and personalized experiences, businesses can unlock immense potential for growth and success in the digital landscape.

Moreover, compliance with legal and ethical standards is essential for maintaining trust and credibility in digital marketing practices. Businesses must ensure that their digital marketing efforts comply with relevant laws and regulations, such as data protection and privacy laws, and adhere to ethical guidelines and best practices to safeguard consumer trust and privacy.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Digital marketing offers numerous opportunities for businesses to reach and engage with consumers effectively, driving brand awareness, customer engagement, and sales.
- Key opportunities in digital marketing include reach and targeting capabilities, cost-effectiveness, data-driven decision-making, personalization, and global accessibility.
- Challenges in digital marketing include information overload, privacy concerns, rapid technological advancements, ad fraud, measurement and attribution issues, and competition.
- Strategies for leveraging digital marketing opportunities and addressing challenges include content marketing, social media marketing, search engine optimization (SEO), influencer marketing, email marketing, data analytics, and compliance with legal and ethical standards.

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- Case studies demonstrate how businesses have successfully leveraged digital marketing strategies to achieve their marketing objectives while overcoming challenges.

Overall, businesses that embrace digital marketing and adopt strategic approaches to leverage its opportunities while addressing its challenges will be well-positioned to succeed and thrive in the digital age. By understanding the evolving digital landscape and implementing effective digital marketing strategies, businesses can achieve sustainable growth and maintain a competitive edge in today's dynamic marketplace.

Future Trends and Implication in Digital Marketing

Ai Powered Personalization: Artificial intelligence (AI) will play a crucial role in enhancing personalized marketing experiences. AI algorithms will analyse vast amounts of consumer data to deliver highly tailored content, recommendations, and offers in real-time across various digital channels. This will result in increased engagement, improved conversion rates, and stronger customer relationships.

Voice Search Optimization: With the rise of voice-activated devices and virtual assistants, optimizing for voice search will become essential. Businesses will need to adapt their SEO strategies to accommodate natural language queries and conversational search patterns, ensuring their content is discoverable and relevant in voice search results.

Video Dominance: Video content will continue to dominate digital marketing strategies. Short-form videos, live streaming, and interactive video experiences will gain traction, allowing brands to engage with audiences in more immersive and compelling ways. Businesses that invest in high-quality video production and distribution will stand out in a crowded digital landscape.

In summary, the future of digital marketing will be characterized by advancements in AI and personalization, the rise of voice search and video content, the evolution of social commerce, increased focus on data privacy and compliance, the emergence of AR and VR experiences, the importance of micro-influencer marketing, and the shift towards sustainability and purpose-driven marketing. Businesses that embrace these trends and adapt their strategies accordingly will be well-positioned to thrive in an ever-changing digital landscape.

Suggestions for Future Research in Digital Marketing:

Impact of Emerging Technologies: research could explore the impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) on digital marketing strategies and consumer behaviour. Studies could investigate how these technologies are shaping the future of digital marketing, enabling more personalized experiences, and driving innovation in marketing tactics.

Ethical and Responsible Marketing Practices:

As consumer expectations around ethics, transparency, and sustainability continue to rise, future research could examine the implications of ethical and responsible marketing practices on consumer trust, brand loyalty, and long-term business success. Studies could investigate how businesses can integrate ethical considerations into their marketing strategies and communicate their values effectively to consumers.

Globalization and Cultural Differences:

With the increasing globalization of markets, future research could explore the challenges and opportunities of digital marketing in diverse cultural contexts. Studies could investigate how cultural differences influence consumer behavior, attitudes towards advertising, and preferences for digital channels and content. Additionally, research could examine how businesses can adapt their marketing strategies to effectively reach and engage with global audiences while respecting cultural nuances and sensitivities.

Overall, future research in digital marketing should focus on exploring the latest trends and technologies, understanding consumer behavior and preferences, addressing ethical and regulatory challenges, innovating in content marketing, building consumer trust and brand reputation, considering cultural differences in global markets, and evaluating the long-term impact of digital marketing efforts on business outcomes. By addressing these research areas, scholars can contribute valuable insights to the evolving field of digital marketing and inform best practices for businesses operating in today's digital landscape.

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Youth for Sustainable Development of the Country

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Abstract:

In an economy, young people are the most dynamic and adaptable group, and they are a major source of innovation and creativity. This study aims to draw a link between sustainable development and the interests of youth. The role of young people in a country's progress and prosperity is a significant focus of this inquiry. The researchers have done a lot of reading, and that's what researcher is using to build our interpretive structural model (ISM). A method that encourages researchers to examine a wide range of variables to see how they relate is used. This study presents a hierarchical view of the numerous ways in which young people may contribute to sustainable development. According to academics, this poll sheds light on the link between sustainability and youth. Based on extensive literature investigation, ISM This article explores the approach and interaction of young contributions to sustainable development, as well as key elements identified. Using a literature review, using a theoretical framework, researchers investigated the relationship between sustainable development and research technique. They want to know whether this is true.

Key words: Youth, India, Sustainable Development

Introduction:

India has the world's largest population of under-21s. Over 50% of Indians are under the age of 25, with more than two-thirds under the age of 35. Indian youngsters are keen to engage in activities that promote long-term growth. Young individuals are expected to act as change agents in their communities and civilizations. However, there is a challenge in prioritizing youth development methods. Young people may play a role in creating a greener and better environment for future generations by their knowledge, quick observation, and consistent action. A sense of purpose, worth, and achievement is crucial for long-term development among young people. Engaging young people in environmental sustainability efforts benefits their communities significantly. According to Gambone et al. (2004), including young people in the process is crucial for positive progress. Emerging nations often confront difficulties that stem from their local populations. Young people have a crucial role in promoting sustainable development. Local institutions can support economic growth, social and political development, and environmental sustainability. India's young may be given more responsibilities to support their long-term growth.

Sustainable Development:

The term "sustainable" has become commonly used. Accepted one. It refers to a continuous series of occurrences that might take many forms. A diversity of forms. Shediac-Rizkallah and Bone (1998) consider the duration of events rather than Katz and Kahn's (1978) approach.

To develop a philosophy of sustainability, Mebratu (1998) recommends studying many definitions. The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) aims to create a global environmental and development policy. The UN General Assembly was tasked with long-term environmental measures for sustainable development. In their 1987 research "Our Common Future," the (WCED) examined the phrase "sustainable development." Translating the notions of sustainability Development into company is critical. This may be achieved by ensuring that young people According to Bansal (2002), effective laws, norms, policies, and mentalities are essential for long-term growth. Sustainability encompasses economy, education, health, and environment. Huovila (1998). The world's most powerful countries have significant challenges in addressing sustainability (Olsen, 2007). Immediate action is necessary to meet the present development challenges. Rural poverty in emerging nations is mostly caused by limited access to markets and healthcare, poor infrastructure, and discrimination based on race or gender. Positively addressing infrastructure challenges is crucial for a strong economic basis. The significance of environmental sustainability cannot be emphasized.

Long Term Development:

The United Nations Environment Program estimates that Thirty percent of the world's population is under thirty. Individuals seeking long-term growth for their nation. Youth participation is crucial in environmental decision-making and program implementation. Young people are often viewed as effective change agents. They can battle corruption and bribery, resulting in positive societal reform. Students should apply their education to help the nation as a whole. Activists must be young people. Young people's actions can impact society by instilling a sense of responsibility. Purpose, value, and achievement. Next-generation leaders are crucial for ensuring sustainability, according to researchers. Leaders may inspire creativity, generate new ideas, and promote sustainability (Akerlund, 2000; Calsyn and Kenny, 1977; Steckler and Goodman, 1989). Environmental sustainability professionals recognize the need of engaging children and teens in their efforts. It's crucial to prioritize youth participation. Youth participation is crucial for making a long-term impact on youth and communities. Youth engagement is crucial for ensuring long-term sustainability.

Youth and social Responsibility:

Individualistic pursuit of personal sustainability threatens global sustainable development. Kreps et al. (1999) emphasize the need of preparing young people for global social roles for long-term progress. Blyth and Roehkepartain (1993) found that when many youngsters work together, their combined strength may have a large impact. Sustainability requires merging science, community, and culture. Youth engagement in science, community, and culture is crucial (Schensul, 2009). Engaging kids in early issue identification and design is crucial for long-term sustainability. Adolescents must commit and actively participate in a continuous process that includes young people from many backgrounds.Sustainability may be discovered. Engaged young According to Berardi (2013), a community's long-term well-being depends on its population size. As a stakeholder Young people have been identified as a key demographic. Including adolescents in sports requires careful consideration due to their unique characteristics (Frank, 2006). Noor et al. (2015) propose that universities teach and raise awareness about sustainability among young people. Promoting sustainability on college campuses can inspire innovation among students (Sadusky, 2014). Young people's involvement in civic life promotes community stability by kindling positive change.

Education and Training for Youth:

According to Greenberg et al. (2003), schools should aim to educate, empower, and involve all pupils. Peaceful surroundings are essential for long-term success. Youth in the 21st century must be active in long-term improvement. To achieve this goal, youth employment and vocational training must be prioritized. Lawson (2005) emphasizes the need of educating youth to positively impact communities. Jackson and Davis (2000) emphasized the need of preparing adolescents for the 21st century. According to Bernard (1991), intuitive knowledge exists in the family, school, and community settings. Mosher (1979) defines "developmental youth education" as teaching young people to grow intellectually, emotionally, morally, socially, and physically. Observational learning may be used to learn complicated concepts. Learning should occur in a social setting.

Involving both the adult's and the child's attitudes and behaviors can help improve the situation. Growth of the kid. Barcelona conducted an integrated research study on effective youth expansion (2011). Positive youth development promotes skill development and self-sufficiency. It allows pupils to take on duties that affect others. This obligation promotes social maturity among young people. According to Ryan et al. (2010), long-term improvement in education requires systemic restructuring. There may be a link between education and young development and freedom. Foster (2001) emphasizes the importance of education in ensuring a sustainable future. A sustainability curriculum should consider students' diverse needs, abilities, interests, and behaviors

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(Combs, 1981; Mosher, 1979). Peer education is essential for fostering full involvement among all sectors of the youth population. Environmental education differs significantly from traditional education techniques, suggesting a link between environmental concerns and issues (Tilbury, 2011). Educating young people on environmental responsibility is the first step. The purpose of sustainability is to achieve success.

Conclusion:

This study examines the characteristics that impact young People's potential to contribute to sustainable development was recognized and modeled. A All listed variables played a significant influence. Observation can reveal significant relationships that are not visible to the human eye. These standards can help create effective and efficient sustainable development strategies. We created a conceptual framework for our discourse. We emphasize the role of kids in sustainability and provide theoretical knowledge to empower them to be constructive agents of change and address sustainability concerns. Our study made significant theoretical advances. The ISM hierarchy identifies a strong link between youth and sustainability. This study examines the characteristics that impact young People's potential to contribute to sustainable development was recognized and modeled. A All listed variables played a significant influence. Observation can reveal significant relationships that are not visible to the human eye.

These standards can help create effective and efficient sustainable development strategies. We created a conceptual framework for our discourse. We emphasize the role of kids in sustainability and provide theoretical knowledge to empower them to be constructive agents of change and address sustainability concerns. Our study made significant theoretical advances. The ISM hierarchy identifies a strong link between youth and sustainability.

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Assessing the Role of Panchayati Raj in Social Inclusion and Empowerment of Marginalized Communities in Odisha

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Abstract

Panchayat Raj in Odisha operates as a three-tier decentralized governance system that empowers local communities and promotes grassroots democracy. Established to improve local administration and facilitate participatory development, the system includes three levels: Gram Panchayat (village level), Panchayat Samiti (block level), and Zilla Parishad (district level). Odisha was among the first states in India to adopt the Panchayati Raj system, following the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, which made Panchayati Raj mandatory across India. The Panchayati Raj system in Odisha, while instrumental in promoting rural development and local governance, faces several challenges that impact its efficiency and effectiveness. In this juncture it is necessary to understand the structural and functional aspect of Panchayat raj in Odisha by taking case study of Kalahandi District

Keywords: 1. Panchayati Raj Institutions, 2. Social Inclusion, 3. Empowerment, 4. Marginalized Communities, 5. Social Development

Conceptual Overview

The term "Panchayat" refers to a form of local self-government in rural India. The term is derived from the Sanskrit words "Pancha" (five) and "Ayat" (assembly). Traditionally, it signifies a council of five elders chosen by the community to settle disputes and oversee local affairs. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a pivotal role in decentralized governance, particularly in rural India. These grassroots-level democratic bodies are designed to empower local communities by ensuring their active participation in the decision-making process. In the context of promoting sustainable development, PRIs hold immense potential, especially in regions with a significant indigenous population like Kalahandi district of Odisha. Kalahandi, known for its rich cultural diversity and high concentration of Scheduled Tribes (ST), presents unique challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.

Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj, as a decentralized form of Government where each village is responsible for its own governance. He coined the term "Gram Swaraj", which when translated into English means Independent Village Republics. It was indeed the prophetic ability of the father of our nation to see that a country, which is primarily rural, cannot develop if the people in its villages are unable to make decisions that affect them most. The same sentiment was also expressed by our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, when he stated that: "India is poor because the villages of India are poor. India will be rich if the villages of India are rich. Panchayats should be given greater power; for we want the villagers to have a greater measure of real swaraj (self-government) in their own villages.

In contemporary India, the Panchayat system has evolved into a structured and institutionalized framework aimed at promoting decentralization and participatory democracy at the grassroots level. The concept of Panchayati Raj is deeply rooted in Indian history, drawing from traditional village councils that have existed for centuries. The original constitution contained a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) in the form of Article 40, which directs the State to 'organize village panchayats and endow them necessary powers and authorities.' However, the modern framework of PRIs was institutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, which provided a constitutional status to these bodies.

The significance of this research lies in its exploration of how PRIs can be instrumental in inclusion of marginalized communities in Kalahandi. By examining the role of PRIs, this research aims to understand their effectiveness in addressing the specific needs of these communities, fostering social inclusion, and ensuring that development initiatives are sustainable and culturally sensitive. The study also seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on the intersection of governance, development, and

indigenous rights, offering insights that could inform policy and practice in similar contexts. The present study is a descriptive study which focuses attention to identify the different benefits or challenges the elected representatives of Scheduled Tribes' face, in Panchayati raj institutions in Odisha, which contribute directly for the sustainable development.

Methodology and Locale of Study

Quantitative primary data collected by the Survey of selected blocks through a complete enumeration of the members (size 204). In-depth interviews using Interview Guide consist of hints to get the response from the respondent. The secondary data were gathered from records and reports from newspapers, Govt records, Census offices etc. Based on the review of literature, understanding the structure of Panchayati Raj Institutions Interview Schedule- printed questions were asked and noted by the researcher. The study is a mix of qualitative and quantitative approach. In-depth interview guide was used to collect Qualitative data. In-depth interviews were conducted. Survey method was used to collect data from the selected Panchayat representatives.

The Kalahandi district of Odisha, where indigenous communities form a significant portion of the population, PRIs play a crucial role in shaping development outcomes The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) serve as a cornerstone of decentralized governance in India, empowering local self-government at the grassroots level. The Tribal communities, often marginalized, face unique socio-economic challenges that hinder their access to resources and opportunities. Sustainable development, which seeks to balance economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity, is vital for improving the quality of life for these indigenous groups.

The land area of Kalahandi district is 7,920 Square km representing 4.68 per cent of the area of the Odisha State. Since 2nd October, 1992, the erstwhile Kalahandi has been reorganised into two districts viz., Kalahandi and Nuapada. The forest cover of the district accounts for 42 percent of its land area and the forest produce provides livelihood to many rural people (Rao and Misra 2005). Out of the 30 districts of Odisha, it occupies 7th position in terms of area. It is situated between 190 8' N to 200 25' north latitude and 820 32' east and 830 47' east longitude. It is located in the south-western part of Odisha.

Structure of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Structure of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRIs): PRIs operate at three levels: *1) Gram Panchayat (Village level)*: the most basic unit of local governance, responsible for the development and welfare of a village or group of villages. Gram Sabha: The general assembly of villagers, which includes all registered voters in the area. It is the foundation of the Panchayati Raj, where people directly participate in decision-making. Gram Panchayat:

The elected body that works for the welfare of the village. It is headed by a Sarpanch and includes Panchs elected from the wards. *2) Panchayat Samiti (Block level):* this is present in states with a population over 20 lakhs and consists of members from the Gram Panchayats within the block or tehsil. The Panchayat Samiti coordinates development programs for the area and ensures proper resource allocation. *3) Zilla Parishad (District level):* the top tier of the PRI system, it coordinates activities across the district and ensures policy implementation. Zila Parishads include elected representatives and officials from different departments. They are led by a chairperson and have members who oversee specific aspects like health, education, and infrastructure.

Each tier has elected representatives, with the Gram Panchayat being the most fundamental unit. The representatives are chosen by the local community through direct elections, and the head of the Gram Panchayat is known as the Sarpanch.

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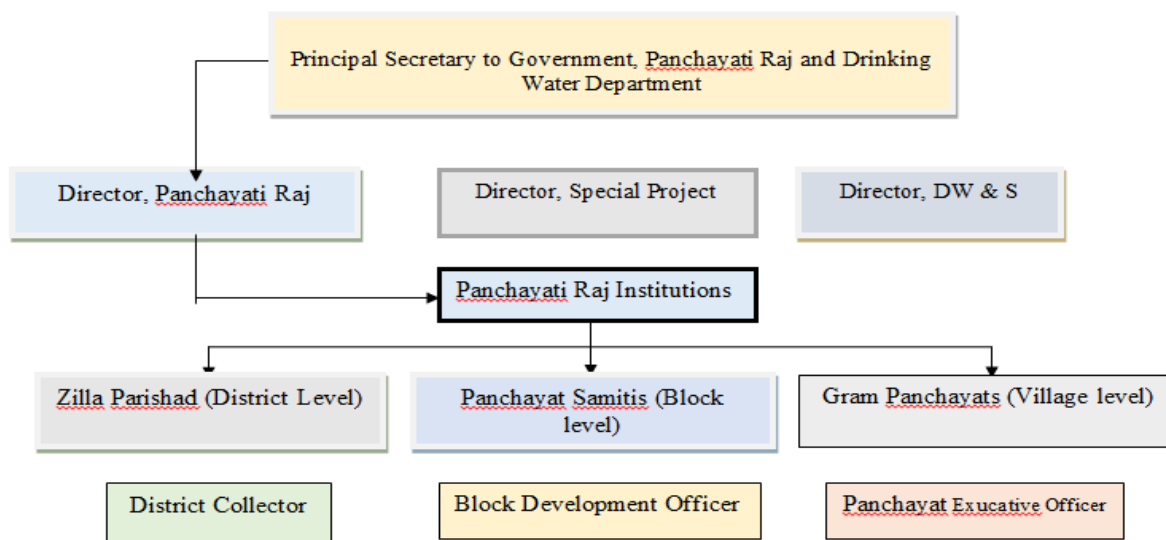
Chart- Structure of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Challenges in Achieving Social Inclusion and Empowerment

Social and Cultural Barriers: Caste-based Discrimination- Traditional caste hierarchies and cultural biases continue to affect the active participation of SC and ST members in Panchayats. Although reserved seats are mandated, discrimination and social exclusion sometimes persist. *Influence of Dominant Groups:* Often, powerful social groups influence decisions within Panchayats, sidelining marginalized representatives and diluting their impact on governance.

Challenges in Implementation of Schemes: Leakages and Corruption- Corruption and leakage in government schemes sometimes prevent benefits from reaching the intended beneficiaries, particularly in remote areas where marginalized communities reside.

Low Participation in Gram Sabhas: Despite efforts to involve communities, attendance and participation in Gram Sabhas remain low among marginalized groups, limiting their role in decision-making.

Conclusion

The Panchayati Raj system in Odisha has made significant strides in promoting social inclusion and empowering marginalized communities, with reservation policies enabling representation and various welfare schemes addressing socio-economic disparities. However, challenges remain, especially related to social norms, financial constraints, and capacity gaps. By implementing supportive policies and addressing these barriers, Odisha's Panchayati Raj institutions can continue to advance equity and empowerment, paving the way for a more inclusive and participatory rural governance system

Participatory governance emphasizes the importance of decentralizing decision-making to local bodies, allowing communities to directly participate in their own development. PRIs are central to this approach by involving rural populations in governance, thus ensuring development initiatives are locally relevant and sustainable.

PRIs in Odisha enable local communities, particularly marginalized groups like Scheduled Tribes (STs), to participate in resource management, rural development programs (like MGNREGA), and the planning of sustainable livelihoods. This bottom-up approach is critical to aligning development with local needs and sustainable practices.

Through the representation of SCs, STs, and women in the Panchayats (as mandated by the 73rd Amendment), Odisha's PRIs work to promote inclusive development. Schemes related to food security, tribal welfare, and rural employment are implemented through PRIs, thus ensuring that social sustainability is prioritized.

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Women and Sports: An Overview

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Abstract

There has been research in this area but it is far from conclusive. Lately, however, Indian female sports persons have faired better than the men. Be it Anju Bobby George, PT Usha, Sanya Mirza, Anjali Bhagwat. This does not overlook the achievements of Sachin Tendulkar, Prakash Padukone, Pullela Gopichand, and Leander Paes. All that is implied is that women are making a mark for themselves in the world of sport and are gaining respect. Women participation in sport has come a long way. Efforts have been and are being made in getting more women to participate in sports. However, a lot more effort is still required to generate greater women participation in the world of sport. Attitudes regarding female sport participation are changing, as there are women who have made sport part of their daily lives. Hence, the Study takes on the role of unveiling the realistic conditions connected to women participation in sports at the collegiate level and thus is pertinently titled, "Women and Sports: An Overview".

Key Words: Women, Sports, Participation

Introduction

The need for physical exercise in India now, with the growing standard of living of the people, is more than ever in the past. The conditions obtaining in India, say fifty years ago, when there was no transport into the villages and no mechanization, provided forced exercise to the people by way of walking and attending personally to all sorts of chores, which a machine does now. Denied of those exercises, we have to now think of alternatives. Therefore to encourage games and sports and every exercise that moves and hardens the muscles is the need of the hour if national health is to improve and reach any where nears the standards obtaining in the rest of the world.

Sports as life, is a place for happiness as well as grief. Through activity men builds anxieties, suffer pain, engages in the tensions of life and frequently challenges actual death. Despite the fact that participation in competitive sports does a world of good to its pursuers, opportunity provided is not consistent and uniform for either sex as sports competitions remained a male bastion for long. Thanks to persistent demands for equal opportunities and agitations against genders bias, opportunities for women participation has opened up. However there is much to be desired. It may be remembered that participation of women in sports helps them in innumerable ways. Furthermore, the physical strength often gained through sport participation goes beyond simply helping a woman feel fit; it also can make her feel less vulnerable, more independent, and more in control of her physical safety and psychological well being.

This could add value to the angle in which promotion of sport is done thus getting more females actively involved in the world of sport. Argues that there are four reasons that have led to an increase in female sport participation. One being an increase in opportunities for women in sport. Two women's movements that have been fighting for the rights of females in the world of sports. Three, women are becoming more health conscious and fitness has become a key issue. Lastly, the presence of more visible female sports role models in the different societies. South African female sport participants need to take action to achieve these necessary long-term changes. A number of studies have been conducted focusing on female sport participation to try and understand why the majority of females are not involved in sport. This study will attempt to show that the problem of non-female sport participation starts at school and this is where necessary changes need to be initiated. The underrepresentation of young girls in sport at school level has also become a matter of concern, not just for schools, but also for communities and the entire country.

Publicity provided in the media for women sports have been drawing more and more women on the competitive sports field. Their number is likely to be increased in many fields in the coming years. In India many women sports persons have distinguished themselves in competitive sports field. Their number is likely to be increased many fold in

the coming years. P.T.Usha was an excellent athlete of Asia, Karnam Malleshwari and Kunjarani Devi have distinguished themselves in world level weight lifting, Sania Mirza showed sterling performance in Tennis, M. Chitra is the first women world champion in Billiards. Excellent performance in sports will not be attained by chance. A number of factors contribute to the making of sportswomen. They are physical, physiological, social, recreational, training and coaching, nutrition and psychological.

Review of Literature

Kane, 2012 Many girls seldom show an interest in sports and if they are interested, they do not have the strength and endurance to be successful. Often they cannot perform to the best of their abilities because of the risks they are exposed to. Female's gain strength as they mature and several studies have indicated that short term training programmes can increase muscle strength in all children. At the age of 14 years the growing rate for girls slows down and if they continue being physically active then they increases their strength. Females have the ability to enhance their physical strength that would eventually enable themselves to perform at high competitive level.

McKay et al., 1996 The empowerment of girls and women involves the increased ability to make strategic life choices in contexts where this ability was previously limited. A necessary precursor to empowerment, self-esteem is defined as a person's overall self-appraisal and feeling of self-worth. Self-esteem is essential to mental health and well-being (low self-esteem can be a contributing factor to health risk behaviors such as drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, suicide, early and unsafe sexual activity, teen pregnancy, and anti-social behavior.

Hardman, 2005 For all girls and young women, access to physical education in schools can play an important role in promoting their participation in sport. During the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, physical education in schools worldwide was subject to decreasing curricula time, reduced financial, physical and human resources, and a low subject status. Since the Berlin Physical Education World Summit in November 1999, there have been significant improvements in school-based physical education in developed countries, but unfortunately little change in developing countries.

Family Encouragement towards Women Sports

The family does not encourage or allow their female children to participate in any form of sports. On the basis of observation it is assumed that this is mainly due to the exaggerated importance given to academic progress and the false notion that their sports will deteriorate children's studies. Lack of knowledge towards physical and psychological benefits of sports prevents the parents from encouraging their daughters to participate in sports.

Parents in the semi urban and rural area are unaware of the availability of sports quotas for their girl child for higher education as well as for employment.

Women Participation in Sports

Girls participating in games like Football, Hockey and Cricket are very less since it requires specific infrastructure, expensive equipment and also such games are injury prone. These games are not popular in women sports as there is more possibility of injuries and hence parents do not encourage their girl child to play these games. Women showing more interest in Shuttle badminton and ball badminton sports, as it are an Indoor game and do not demand huge strength when compared to other games like Kabbadi and Football. As today's women give much importance to their figure and are keen in losing excess weight, they play more Shuttle badminton and ball badminton sports. Athletics is simple and inexpensive sport. Though it demands physical fitness, strength, speed and stamina it is played for individual performance and development. Hence many respondents have indicated that they participate in Athletics. Kho-Kho is a traditional sport played by women from ancient times and the awards are also given in the name of patriotic leaders like Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai and Onake Obavva to encourage women participate more in this game. Kho-Kho can be played without any equipment hence we can see playing kho-kho in villages by small girl children also.

Conclusion

Games and sports are not only important for success in studio but it is important for success in every walks of our life. Games and sports include all outdoor and indoor games and also athletics. In ancient Greece they formed the principal part of education. In the advanced countries of the present day also they are a regular feature of the school and college curriculum. Games and sports may be of various kinds. Apart from school or college sports, boys and girls may practice races, jumps, discuss throw and javelin throw and thus pass their afternoon in useful activities. They may play various games like football, cricket, hockey, volleyball, basket ball, badminton etc. School and college games and sports are annual affairs. Sports are generally held in winter months. Students take part in various games like high and long jumps, pole vault, go-as you like and different kind of races. These annual sports foster competitive spirit and sportsmanship. It is an important part of a student's life. Sometimes inters class tournaments are held in relation with football, hockey, cricket, tennis, cycling, volleyball, badminton etc.

What is needed is to educate at the core level, parents and men with women on the need of exercise to women both for health and recreation. There is a strong correlation between physical activity and self-esteem. Girls should be made to

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feel more positive about themselves and their abilities to take part in sport up to the highest level. The situation is not different to that of any other states of India, where girls are hardly encouraged to participate in sports. Female athletes are given a lower priority in their lives and have lower expectations of their future in sports. The policy makers have to think seriously to prohibit gender discrimination in sports and bring a separate law which brings equality in organizing sports programmes to men and women and provide financial assistance for the development of women sports.

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Implementing The Impoverishment Risks And Reconstruction (IRR) Model: A Case Study of Gangavaram Port, Visakhapatnam

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Abstract

Over the last two decades land acquisition for development has displaced thousands of people. They have faced multiple challenges and have been subject to much suffering and anguish. The researcher is examining the case of Gangavaram Port, Visakhapatnam which has displaced people from Gangavaram and Dibbapalem villages.

Keywords: Displacement, homelessness, rehabilitation, housing, amenities, compensation, resettlement, unemployment, disarticulation, development.

We must act so that poverty will be alleviated, our environment protected, social justice extended, human rights strengthened. Social injustice can destroy economic and political advances. - James D Wolfensohn

Introduction:
Forced Displacement Due to Development Programs:

Over the last two decades of the previous century, forced displacement due to development programs affected approximately 10 million people annually, totalling around 200 million globally. This significant issue arises from the need for infrastructure development, including new industries, irrigation, transportation, highways, power generation, and urban projects such as hospitals and schools. While these programs are essential for improving living standards and providing employment, they often impose severe hardships on certain populations.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh designated Gangavaram port as a minor port to facilitate its development through a public-private partnership (PPP). To advance this project, the government invited a consortium led by Mr. D.V.S. Raju from India and Dubai Ports Limited from the UAE. On August 7, 2003, GPL signed the concession agreement, state support agreement, and shareholders agreement with the government of Ahra Pradesh.

A fish landing center in Dibbapalem village served fishermen from both Dibbapalem and Gangavaram villages. Being in close proximity to the proposed port area, the fish landing center had to be relocated. Negotiations for resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) began in December 2004 with the residents of **Dibbapalem village**. After several discussions, the following agreement was reached:

1. Fish Landing Center Relocation: The fish landing center would be moved to Yarada village.
2. Job Preferences: During the port's operation, 250 to 300 jobs would be offered to Dibbapalem residents based on availability and qualification.
3. Compensation Package: Each of the 1,270 affected families would receive ₹44,500.
4. Cattle Maintenance Allowance: An allowance of ₹1,200 would be provided for cattle maintenance to 234 families.
5. Revolving Fund: A fund of ₹15,000 would be allocated to each of the 20 DWCRA groups.
6. Monthly Compensation for Fishermen: Each of the 550 active fishermen whose boats have been relocated to Yarada would receive ₹3,000 per month until the completion of the new road.
7. Boat Maintenance Charges: Each of the 104 boat owners would receive ₹3,000 per month for maintenance.
8. Boat Shifting Charges: A one-time payment of ₹15,000 would be given to each of the 104 boat owners for shifting their boats.
9. Housing Provision: A house site would be provided for each affected family.

Compensation has been distributed, and the relocation process for Dibbapalem village was underway. The construction of the new fish landing center at Yarada with a budget of ₹75 lakhs is ongoing, and the road to Yarada is being built at a cost of ₹380 lakhs. There was no relocation of houses.

On April 1 and 2, 2005, a preliminary survey was conducted in Gangavaram village by 49 teams comprising Revenue and Municipal personnel,

supervised by Mr. K. Kanna Babu, Project Director of DRDA Visakhapatnam. The survey found that there were 3,262 households residing in Gangavaram and surrounding areas.

In April 2005, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued G.O. Ms No. 68, outlining the procedure for preparing a resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) package for families affected by the Gangavaram port project. As part of this process, the Assistant Director (AD) of Fisheries was tasked with compiling a list of active fishermen in the village whose livelihoods were likely to be significantly impacted by the establishment of the port.

The AP Fisheries provided a list of 429 active fishermen from Gangavaram village, which was publicly notified on November 21, 2005, and the community was invited to submit objections until December 21, 2005. By the deadline, a total of 3,028 applications were received, including those from the 429 fishermen already listed.

From December 22 to 24, 2005, a review of the applications was conducted by 10 teams and a final list of eligible fishermen was compiled.

Key Statistics:

1. Total Number of Boats: 109
2. Fishermen Working on Boats: 773
3. Fishermen Using Drag Nets: 81
4. Fishermen Using Cast Nets: 186
5. Total Number of Active Fishermen: 1,040
6. Women Engaged in Fish Trading: 493

Following multiple discussions, the following R&R package was finalized for the affected families in **Gangavaram village**:

1. **Fish Landing Facility:** Construction of a fish landing center at Yarada.
2. **Employment Opportunities:**
- **Job Preferences:** Up to 300 jobs would be prioritized for Gangavaram villagers.
- Construction Employment: Local labourers would be prioritized for jobs during the construction phase of the port.
- **Training:** Active fishermen would receive training to prepare them for permanent employment opportunities.
3. **Boat Shifting Charges:** ₹15,000 for each of the 109 boats.
4. **Boat Maintenance Charges:** ₹3,000 per month for each of the 109 boats until alternative arrangements are made.
5. **Fishermen Compensation:**
- **Active Fishermen**: ₹3,000 per month for each of the 773 active fishermen until alternative arrangements are in place.
- **Cast Net Workers:** ₹2,000 per month for each of the 81 workers using cast nets until alternatives are established.

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- **Drag Net Workers:** ₹1,500 per month for each of the 186 workers using drag nets until alternatives are established.
6. **Support for Women Fish Vendors:** 493 women engaged in fish vending will be provided with Self-Generating Self-Employment (SGSRY) loans.

Additional Demands from Active Fishermen (Proposed in December 2005):

The following demands were put forward by the active fishermen, with assurances that they would be considered favourably at the time of signing the agreement:

1. Monthly Compensation: ₹1,000 per month to each of the 493 women fish traders until alternative arrangements are made.
2. Productive Asset Grant: A one-time grant of ₹25,000 as a productive asset to 1,340 fishermen.
3. Boat Damage Compensation: Compensation amounting to ₹64.95 lakhs for damages to boats.
4. Subsidy Loans: Subsidized loans for self-help groups in the village.
5. Old Age Pensions: Provision for eligible individuals to receive old age pensions.
6. Housing Support: Eligible families to be included under the Rajiv Gruha Kalpa scheme for housing assistance.

As on January and February 2006, the following compensation was distributed:

1. Total Active Fishermen Paid: 775
- Fishermen Working on Boats: 531
- Fishermen Using Drag Nets: 81
- Fishermen Using Cast Nets: 163
2. Women Fish Trader: One fisherwoman accepted a cheque for ₹1,000 for January.
3. Boat Shifting Charges: Paid ₹15,000 per boat for 75 out of 109 boats; two boats were successfully shifted to Yarada.

The representatives of Gangavaram Ikya Vedika demanded the following:

1. A job to each and every family as per old survey i.e., to 3262 persons. Those who cannot be provided a job shall be given a compensation of Rs 5.00 lakhs each
2. Fish landing centre shall be constructed at Nallamaramma pathalu instead of Yarada.
3. A certificate from pollution control board that the establishment of port will not have no effect on the village
4. All the fish trading women shall be provided alternative permanent employment. Talks were held on 5.2.2006 but a decision could only be made after the Assembly elections. On 8.2.06 they started an agitation at Gangavaram centre

and hindered the ongoing work. A meeting was called on 9.2.06 to convince them in vain. The AP Fishermen and Karmika Sangham of Pedagantyada Mandal Committee took out a rally on 22-3-2006 and met the District. The District Collector explained the package offered and also requested them not to stop the on-going works at Gangavaram Port. However, did not heed to the request of the Collector and proceeded with their plan to stop the works leading to a law and order problem on 27-3-2006. Later on, on 29th March 2006 an all-party meeting was convened by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Hon'ble Minister for Home in Hyderabad to discuss about the problems and R&R package.

Review of Literature

Forced displacement epitomizes social exclusion of certain groups of people. Adherence to social justice and equity norms and respect for civil rights and people's entitlements should remain paramount whenever development brings about risks. If impoverishment is the looming risk in displacement, the challenge is to organize risk prevention and provide safeguards. The IRR model has been formulated and developed to remedy this risk.

The impoverishment risks and reconstruction model focuses on the social and economic content of both segments of the process: the forced displacement and the re-establishment.

Displacement risk consists of the following components. They are: (a) landlessness (b) unemployment (c) homelessness; (d) marginalisation; (e) food insecurity (f) increased morbidity (g) loss of access (h) community disarticulation. Transformative strategies must be adopted and to mitigate these problems (a) from landlessness to land-based resettlement; (b) from unemployment to reemployment (c) from homelessness to rehabilitation (d) from marginalisation to social inclusion (e) from increased morbidity to improved health care (f) from food insecurity to adequate nutrition (g) from loss of access to restoration of community assets and services and (h) from social disarticulation to networks and community rebuilding.

Unemployment

The risk of losing employment is very high both in urban and rural displacement for those employed in enterprises, services, or agriculture. A survey carried out among tribal households in five villages at Talcher, Orissa [Pandey 1996] found an increase in unemployment from 9 per cent to 43.6 per cent, accompanied by a large shift from primary to tertiary occupations.

Unemployment among resettlers surfaces after a time delay, rather than immediately because in the **Dr. N. Komali Salomi**

short run, resettlers may receive employment in project-related jobs. Such employment, however, is short lived and not sustainable. Evidence compiled from several dam projects shows that the employment boom created by new construction temporarily absorbs some resettlers, but severely drops toward the end of the project. This compounds the incidence of chronic or temporary unemployment among the displaced.

Homelessness

Loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many resettlers; but, for some, homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a lingering condition. In a broader cultural sense, loss of a family home and the loss of a group's cultural space results in alienation and status (Mopeli & Abraham, 2022).

Marginalization

Marginalization occurs when families lose economic power and spiral on a downward mobility path. Middle-income farm households do not become landless, they become small landholders; small shopkeepers and craftsmen downsize and slip below poverty thresholds. Many individuals cannot use their earlier acquired skills at the new location. Economic marginalization is often accompanied by social and psychological marginalization, expressed in a drop in social status, loss of confidence in society and in themselves, a feeling of injustice, and deepened vulnerability. The coerciveness of displacement and the victimization of resettlers tend to depreciate self-image and are often perceived by host communities as a socially degrading stigma.

The facets of marginalization are multiple. The cultural status is belittled when they go to new relocation areas, where they are regarded as strangers and are denied opportunities and entitlements. Psychological marginalization and its consequences are typically over looked in resettlement planning. Yet, cultural and behavioural impairments, anxiety and decline in self-esteem, have been widely reported from many areas [Appell 1986].

For urban resettlers, marginalization is sometimes gradual and may occur after relocation, when, for example, resettlers receive temporary jobs (instead of land) that, in the long term, turn out to be unsustainable as income sources.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity and undernourishment are both symptoms and results of inadequate resettlement. Green (2000). Displacement-induced social stress and psychological trauma are sometimes accompanied by the outbreak of relocation-related illnesses.

Unsafe water supply and improvised sewage systems increase vulnerability to epidemics. The weakest segments of the demographic spectrum - infants, children, and the elderly are affected most strongly.

Loss of Access to Common Property and Services Losses of common property assets are not compensated by governments.

These losses are compounded by loss of access to some public services, such as school (Mathur 1998; Mahapatra 1999a, 1999b), losses that can be grouped within category of risks.

Social Disarticulation

Forced displacement tears apart the existing social fabric. It disperses and fragments communities, dismantles patterns of social organization and interpersonal ties; kinship groups become scattered as well. This is a net loss of valuable 'social capital' that compounds the loss of natural, physical, and human capital. The social capital lost through social disarticulation is typically unperceived and uncompensated by the programmes causing it, and this real loss has long-term consequences. A monograph on the Hirakud dam in India found that displaced households whose economic status was completely shattered as a result of displacement [Baboo 1992].

Differential Risk Intensities

The major impoverishment risks, identified and described above, must be seen in their interconnectedness, as a pattern of variables. They affect populations frequently described as being risk-averse. Yet this heavy knot of risks is forced upon them beyond their choice. The result is a crisis. Thus IRR model captures a broad range of hazards - not only the economic risks, but also the social and cultural ones. It introduces a view on resettlement that reveals the causal mechanisms of impoverishment, its main processes and dimensions. These include income and non-income dimensions of impoverishment, such as assets Impoverishment, housing impoverishment, health, nutrition and educational impoverishment, loss of organization, and powerlessness. During displacement, people lose capital in all its forms – natural-Capital, man-made capital, human and social capital. Actions to safeguard against such capital losses are required in order to provide a comprehensive and Systematic resettlement programme.

Processes of livelihood reconstruction

The resettlement model can help predict and diagnose the risk of displacement. The risk model has to be read on its head, and thus it maps the way for reconstructing the livelihoods of those displaced. The internal logic of the IRR model suggests that to prevent and overcome the patterns of

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impoverishment it is necessary to act in time to attack the risks and stop them from becoming reality. Risk identification is not an exercise carried out for academic purposes: it is carried out to design for action, for risk reversal.

From Homelessness to Rehabilitation

Building new homes is an easy-to-achieve task that will improve the livelihood of resettlers. The reconstruction of communities, networks and social cohesion is essential, yet seldom is it deliberately pursued in current government policies. Planners tend to overlook these socio-cultural and psychological (not just economic) dimensions. Community reconstruction refers to group structures, including in formal and formal institutions, while overcoming marginalization refers primarily to the individual family/household level. Therefore enabling the rebirth of community institutions is paramount for successful resettlement and livelihood reconstruction. From Ethiopia, Woldeselassie (2000) reports the profoundly positive effects of restoring religious village associations and customs after displacement. Organized collective help to the most vulnerable and marginalized community members accelerates re-inclusion.

And the experience of Greek resettlers, as analyzed by Hirschon (2000) shows that in re- articulation and reintegration processes, common cultural values can overcome material deprivations, economic disadvantage, and inadequate physical provisions. Sustainable reconstruction, however, requires long-term planning as well, beyond immediate relief measures, together with information and education, to foster needed changes in resettlers behaviour and their ability to cope with the circumstances of the new habitat.

Necessary improvements in current resettlement practices

As a planning and monitoring tool, the IRR has started to be used in the last four to five years in a number of projects in various countries. From India and Philippines, its use has been reported in resettlement preparation and planning [Thangaraj 1996; Spiegel 1997]. Others have used the model in field supervision of resettlement operations and in project implementation monitoring work [Downing1996a, 1996b; Sapkota 1999].

The weak institutional capacity of state agencies for resettlement planning and implementation in many developing countries [Gill 1999] make participation of affected people even more necessary. Withholding information instead of participation and transparency by officials to prevent panic and stress. In fact, however, this is deceptive and self-defeating. It preempts the early mobilization of resettlers in the reconstruction of their own

livelihoods. Their energy is an exceptionally important factor, which even the resettlement literature has seldom highlighted. M Basu (1994) explored the linkages between the IRR model and the basic needs framework.

Several scholars proposed expanding the IRR by including other risks and losses, such as the loss of access to public services [Mathur 1998, 1999], loss of civil rights [Downing 1996a], or temporary loss of access to schooling for school-age children caught in the struggle of displacement [Mahapatra 1999a, 1999b]. The IRR is being increasingly used operationally in project preparation, appraisals, monitoring and evaluation work, in designing indicators or formulating recommendations, as well as in theory led basic research. Further use of the risks and reconstruction model will certainly test its potential in more ways and will explore its relevance for various types of displacements and reconstruction approaches.

Dislocation and relocation in another area, unless very carefully executed, means a breakdown in community networks. For women, community and family networks are extremely important support systems. Since their dependence on them is greater, breakdown of these networks creates tremendous insecurity and trauma, which the women experience more than the men who are usually mobile and relatively less depend on these networks. The current model of development allows for very little or no participation of the affected population. The tragedy of displacement due to development projects is compounded because the affected bear the cost but have no share in the benefits. [Ganguly Thukral 1992:18].

The people resettled as a consequence of the construction of the Ramial river dam have suffered land loss; loss of access to common assets, including sites of cultural and social importance; and loss of some income generating opportunities, including stocks of domestic animals and of social networks and relationships. Around 12 per cent of resettled families abandoned the resettlement colonies altogether, opting instead to return to their previous villages.(Mahapatra L.K & amp; Sheela Mahapatra).

Research Methodology

Method and Sample

The main purpose of the study is to understand the dimensions of the displaced and to identify their Strengths for Resettlement.

Objectives
1. To ascertain the socio-demographic characteristics of the displaced persons of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem villages.

2. To find out the different risks experienced by them due to the displacement caused by Gangavaram Port project.
3. To examine how the resettlement process has taken place and public opinion on the resettlement package.
4. To know how the displaced people have adjusted and resettled in the new area.
5. To make necessary recommendations for improvement of the policy.

Research Setting:

Gangavaram Village with a population of 10000 residents and notified by the Gajuwaka zone in Visakhapatnam, is located 5 kms from the seashore. It is surrounded by a retaining wall constructed by the Gangavaram Port. The Gangavaram village has long history of displacement due to two projects. During the construction of the Steel Plant, the Government provided one job per family displaced. The remaining 3000 people shifted to Dibbapalem village and they are given houses with all amenities.

Sample

The investigator has conducted series of interviews with both Gangavaram and Dibbapalem Village leaders and an interview schedule was prepared to collect information basing on specific objectives.

A total of 100 families, 50 from Gangavaram Village and 50 from Dibbapalem village were selected for the systematic sampling method. Two families were selected from each lane for the study of population. The schedule covered information about socio-demographic profile and infrastructure facilities of villages and resettlement in the displacement project.

Information was collected by observation and by interviews with leaders of the community. Case studies are also while obtaining micro level information; secondary information was gathered from Gangavaram Port project Office, Visakhapatnam. The investigator started data collection from 01-02-2011 and completed gathering of information within 3 weeks. The data were tabulated and analysed using appropriate statistical tests.

Results

A description of the social characteristics of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem villages are given in the following pages followed by an analysis of the different aspects of information collected. The profile of the villagers in terms of their household structure, infrastructure facilities, socio-demographic characteristics, health status, community resources, habits, debts, information about the project, details about resettlement and rehabilitation plan, facilities in the new resettlement area, and future plans. Analysis was made by using

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appropriate statistical techniques to describe the distribution of occupations of villagers and their attributes of the residents such as age, education, income and family structure.

Head of the family:

Out of total 100 families studied, 86% of the families are headed by men and only 14% families are headed by women. The researcher did not found any widowers in the sample.

Age:

The majority of the householders belong to the age group of 20-30. The mean age is found to be around 33.7 years. The youngest one is 20 years and the oldest one is about 65 years

Religion and caste:

The total sample respondents belong to BC Community, all the samples respondents are predominantly from the Hindu Religion.

Family type:

Nuclear family seems to be the predominant form reported by the respondents 97%. Joint families are also found in the sample.

Accommodation:

The sample respondents of both Gangavaram village and Dibbapalem village own houses. 50% of the families are living in pucca houses, 20% families in semi-pucca houses, and 6% of the families in kutcha houses. The ownership pattern indicates 100% families own their houses. All the villagers are having all the facilities like electricity, bathroom, toilets, drainage and water facilities.

Education:

It can be seen from table one that more than half of the respondents of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem villages are illiterates. Around 25% have high school education and only 6% have technical education.

Family Income:

The mean income of the family is Rs 2,540/- per month and median income is Rs. 2,968.75/- per month and mode income is Rs. 2,605.26/- .

Occupation:

The occupation distribution of the respondents can be classified into 3 categories namely 1.Fishing 2.Daily labour and 3.Others. Nearly 49% of the sample respondents are daily wage labourers followed by others belong to fishing as their occupation. The remaining 24% are auto drivers, vegetable vendors, and fishmongers etc.

Community facilities:

There is community hall in both villages. The people of the villages use the community hall mostly for meetings and marriages. Both the villages have a church and temple. Besides these facilities, the villagers have a school and post office. All are availing these services. The researcher did not find any school dropouts from these two villages.

In both the villages there are government primary health services and a private clinic which run by an RMP doctor. Only 23% of the people are utilising Government hospital services while the remaining 77% are using private medical practitioners.

Ration Card:

Almost all the families of these villages are having white ration cards.

Other assets:

20% of them have boats/nets and only 2% are having cultivable land.

Habits:

The researcher found that a small percentage of the respondents are addicted to smoking 14%, alcohol 18%, chewing tobacco 6%, gambling 5%.

Debts:

70% of the total respondents are debts-ridden. 34.9% have borrowings between Rs.80000 – Rs.1,60,000. About 22.8% have borrowings ranging between Rs.10000 – Rs.40,000 and 27.1% have borrowings between Rs.40,000 – Rs.80,000. About 15.8% people have borrowings of Rs.160000 and above.

Reasons for borrowings:

57.1% of respondents have borrowed money for repayment of old debts. 28.6% have taken loans for house construction, 10% have taken loans to run their house. Only 4.3% have taken loans for business investment and purchase of boats. Majority of people have taken the loan from private money lenders or local traders. 4% of the respondents have taken loans from banks and co-operatives and the other 4% of them have borrowed from friends & relatives.

Health:

The health of the respondents has been adversely affected since the inception of this project. Some were suffering from dust allergies and others from fever and body pains.

Nearly 60% of the population believe that the project has no benefit. Since the beginning of the project 40% of the villagers lost their land, 66% of the villagers lost their employment, 60% of the

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villagers lost their house, and 57% of the respondents reported that they lost their social status. 61% of the respondents are not using skills in present employment, 93% of the villagers explained that they have feeling of injustice due to displacement and 93% reported that they lost their confidence after resettlement 63% stated that they are not able to take enough food.

Social Relationships:

Due to displacement and resettlement 75% of the families have faced feelings of alienation from their own community. Around 83% said that they are maintaining their relations with their relatives 25% are not getting reciprocal help from their own community after displacement. 43% of respondents reported that due to this displacement they found change in their own relationship (intra personal relationships with their relatives). 49% of the respondents reported that they were not able to participate in village development activities after resettlement.

Information of the Project:

Only 55% of the respondents were informed about the project. Around 80% knew about the project before it was launched. 64% of the respondents participated in talks related to the project and 82% of the respondents were briefed on the project by the port management. Further 83% of the women were consulted about the project and 78% of people stated that the issue of starting the project was discussed at the Grama Sabha.

67% of the respondents said that the issues were approved in Grama Sabha, 83% of the people believed that the project was running well. 66% of the respondents reported that they lost their assets and sources of livelihood due to this project. 85% of them received compensation from the management. All of the villages received compensation in cash or in the form of a house.

It was found that in the sample out of 100 only one person got employed by the Port. 86% of the respondents reported that they were not satisfied with the compensation given. 60% of the people expressed that they received only the market rate and 40% said that they received the compensation which was less than market rate.

Information of R & R Package:

Seventy Four (74%) stated that new leaders were emerged during resettlement process, 80% said that they were no way associated with R & R plan. Further, 68% stated that they have no choice in selecting option with R & R plan. And 79% expressed that they did not satisfy with the delivery of R & R benefits. Surprisingly 74% said that without consultation the site has been selected for resettlement. 46% said that they are going to village

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heads to discuss about their grievances but not able to put up at the district level.

Life in the Resettlement Colony:

74% of the residents were satisfied with the quality of the house and the amenities provided by management. 86% of the children were going to school. 78% of the residents are facing problems like unemployment, health issues and financial challenges. 40% of the families were facing hardship to get food with their present income. All of the 100 samples are not able to follow the same religious practices in the resettled area as in Dibbapalem due to lack of money.

Case Studies

Only pseudonyms are used.

Case study 1:

Mr. Ramesh aged 55 is a Hindu, illiterate belonging to Jalari community (BC). He belongs to Dibbapalem. His wife is 45 years old and has five children (4 daughters and one son). Four of his children are married. He used to go fishing before the project. He lost his livelihood because of Gangavaram port. The Port management did not provide any livelihood to him so he joined as a daily wage labourer earning Rs. 4000/- every month. He is having a debt of Rs. 20,000/- which borrowed for his daughter's marriage. As he lost his house because of the project, the port authorities provided a house with all the amenities like water, bathroom, drainage, electricity etc. they are utilizing all the facilities of the community like community hall, school, hospital & post office etc. Because of their displacement the respondent has become poor and is dissatisfied with his life. The compensation given by the authorities was used for clearing his old debts but has no productive assets. The respondent is full of anguish, despair and frustration towards life.

Case Study 2:

Mrs. Mani is a 45 Years old Hindu widow, an illiterate who belongs to a fisherman community. She belongs to Gangavaram area. She lost her husband 2 years ago to heart attack. She has 3 children, among whom one son and one daughter are married and living independently. Her husband was a fisherman. Since her husband's demise she now sells vegetables. Her youngest son lives with her and they live in a pucca house. She now has a debt of Rs.100000/- incurred for the marriage of her children. She earns Rs.2500/- monthly and her economic status is very low. Due to the displacement she feels her life has changed a lot and is living in complete dissatisfaction. She is earning her own livelihood but is still disappointed with the displacement. She has lost her neighbours who have supported her in all her troubles.

Discussions and Conclusions

The study was undertaken to investigate the socio demographic profile, resettlement and rehabilitation experiences through IRR model. The fisherman community of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem displaced by Gangavaram Port project. At the end, some constructive recommendations are made to improve the R & R package and IRR model in the displacement followed by some suggestions for future research.

One Hundred samples were chosen by adopting systematic sampling method from out of the population of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem for the study. A structured interview schedule was used to collect data from the villagers and data were collected at their doorstep. The period of data collection was 3 weeks. The information was further supplemented by interviews with leaders and with other key informants of the villages. The researcher found in her study that majority of the respondents fall into the age group of 20-40 years which is the most productive part of their life. They were displaced at this time where their skills are kept unused. More than 60% are illiterates which clearly show the lack of awareness. Their main occupation was fishing but due to displacement they had no other alternative, but to go as daily labourers. 51% of the respondents are earning below 3000/- per month. Among the respondents 70% have debts with money lenders at exorbitant rates of interest which is pushing them into poverty. 62% of them have loans between Rs 40,000 - 1, 60,000. This clearly shows that more than three fourth of the respondents are in a vicious cycle of debt. Their life during the four years of displacement is made miserable. Losing their traditional livelihood of fishing has left them in abject poverty. They are forced to take up occupations that don't match with their skills. This has caused an immense impact on their earnings and resulted in a decrease of income. As a result, they have lost their social status. The feeling of alienation was seen among them (i.e.75%) as their environment was shifted to a new one that is from seashore to mountains where they are feeling completely isolated and they expressed a feeling of frustration. The port operations have filled the air with dust. They are now subject to dust allergies especially the children. Both the people of Gangavaram and Dibbapalem have expressed their dissatisfaction and blame their fate. Inadequate earnings are moving them into deep poverty. Above three fourth of the respondents i.e. 86% have felt lot of dissatisfaction in the displacement process - losing assets, job, health, environment, neighbourhood and finally having to leave their traditional occupation is a major setback in their life.

Recommendation:

The researcher opined that the IRR model was not properly implemented. People were displaced by caste led leadership and not with people elected leadership.

As always displacement done to a new area is detrimental to the people concerned. Here there is a need to strengthen social re-articulation. As majority of the displaced are not shown an efficient alternative employment there is poverty prevails.

The B.C Corporation or Co-operative societies should be given prior training in allotting alternative employment so that trust is developed in the government. The women should be seriously engaged in participating in self-help group activities, so that they develop confidence to start their own livelihood. The youth has to be formed into a strong forum and given employment through SETVIS and other NGO's. There is an urgent need of sanctioning loans through B.C Corporation. Finally the choice of place has to be made in consultation with the people displaced.

In the 1980's, the Government of India began thinking on the formulation of a policy on the displacement of people relating to developmental projects of all kinds, such as dams, industrial or mining projects, highways and so on. In October 2006, a draft National Rehabilitation Policy 2006 was posted in the public domain for comments. The government sought to consult the general public for their suggestions but lip service was paid to the idea of participation. So finally there is a need for National Displacement and Rehabilitation Act. In recent times, it has come to be accepted that displacement of people must be followed by resettlement and rehabilitation. Government now talks about 'consultation', 'people's participation' and 'stakeholder involvement'. A 1994 amendment to the Environment Protection Act has made public hearings on major projects mandatory. However, what is the reality? The principles of consultation and participation reluctantly accepted by the government, and in a very limited sense.

The tendency is to plan and formulate policies, projects and programmes in a wholly non-participatory manner within the closed circles of the bureaucracy. The government puts them briefly before the general public as a matter of form, and asks for comments. Full documentation is rarely made available; the material, sometimes in truncated form, is often put on websites to which those who are likely to be affected have hardly any access; or printed material (generally incomplete) is circulated at public hearings with little time given for reading; and no attempt is made to explain the contents and implications to the general public. This hardly qualifies as 'consultation', and no real debate takes

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place or is conceivable at the so-called public hearings, which are merely rituals of compliance with prescribed procedure. (Ramaswamy R Iyer 2007).

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Psychological Determinants of Herd Behavior in Stock Market: The Role of Fear, Overconfidence, and Social Comparison

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Abstract

This research article explores the psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets, focusing on how fear, overconfidence, and social comparison drive collective decision-making among investors, positioning these behaviors within a conceptual framework that synthesizes recent advances in behavioral finance and psychology to highlight how cognitive biases shape market dynamics and amplify price volatility; by dissecting the mechanisms through which fear leads to risk-averse herding, particularly in uncertain market conditions where the fear of loss becomes a primary motivator for emulating the actions of others, and examining how overconfidence skews risk perception and fosters herd behavior as overconfident investors disregard independent analysis in favor of crowd cues, this paper elucidates the complex relationship between individual psychological states and collective investor actions, arguing that overconfidence amplifies market instability by reinforcing speculative bubbles; additionally, the study investigates the role of social comparison, a psychological process whereby investors gauge their decisions against the actions of others to reduce uncertainty, often resulting in increased conformity and herding, especially during periods of heightened market information asymmetry and ambiguous economic signals; drawing on a conceptual model informed by recent data on investor sentiment and market behavior, this theoretical analysis posits that fear, overconfidence, and social comparison are not isolated phenomena but rather interact synergistically to create feedback loops that perpetuate herding behavior, whereby fear exacerbates the influence of social comparison, and overconfidence reinforces collective biases, resulting in a self-sustaining cycle of herd-driven market movements; through a synthesis of contemporary psychological theories and empirical findings on investor behavior, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the psychological underpinnings of herd behavior in stock markets, offering insights that could inform strategies to mitigate herding through targeted behavioral interventions aimed at enhancing investor self-awareness, improving decision-making autonomy, and fostering resilience against cognitive biases; thus, this paper provides a conceptual foundation for future empirical research to further disentangle the intricate ways in which psychological factors drive herding, advancing theoretical perspectives on the intersection of psychology and financial behavior in volatile market environments.

Keywords: Herd Behavior, Psychological Determinants, Investor Sentiment, Fear and Overconfidence, Social Comparison, Behavioral Finance Theory

Introduction

The study of herd behavior within stock markets has gained substantial theoretical and empirical attention as researchers seek to decode the psychological underpinnings that influence investor decisions and contribute to significant market volatility; understanding how psychological factors such as fear, overconfidence, and social comparison drive individuals to engage in collective behaviors in financial markets offers crucial insights into the dynamic, often irrational nature of market movements, with recent scholarship affirming that these cognitive biases and emotional responses are central determinants of herd behavior, particularly under conditions of uncertainty where individual investors rely on the observable actions of others as heuristic shortcuts in decision-making (Barberis, Greenwood, Jin, & Shleifer, 2018); in essence, herd behavior is the propensity of investors to mimic the trades or investment choices of others, deviating from independent analysis and rational assessments, which has been observed across different investor types, including institutional and retail investors, during diverse market conditions, with a pronounced increase during periods of economic instability or crisis (Bikhchandani & Sharma, 2000; Sias, 2004); fear, a fundamental psychological determinant, plays a pivotal role in amplifying herd behavior, as it drives risk-averse decision-making and causes investors to seek security by following the perceived safety of the crowd, resulting in substantial shifts in stock prices and potential overvaluation or

undervaluation of assets during panics or market corrections (Akerlof & Shiller, 2009); further, overconfidence, marked by an inflated belief in one's own investment knowledge and predictive abilities, has been consistently linked to speculative bubbles, as investors with high overconfidence levels are more inclined to ignore warning signals and participate in herd behavior, thereby exacerbating price distortions (Daniel, Hirshleifer, & Subrahmanyam, 1998; Glaser, Langer, & Weber, 2005); alongside fear and overconfidence, social comparison—the cognitive mechanism through which individuals evaluate their own actions relative to those of others—fuels herd behavior by creating a feedback loop wherein individual investors, especially those facing information asymmetries, increasingly conform to majority behavior as a means of reducing uncertainty, resulting in collective momentum that may drive extreme price movements even in the absence of fundamental changes in asset value (Festinger, 1954; Hong, Kubik, & Stein, 2004); recent advances in behavioral finance have further emphasized the role of cognitive biases in the financial decision-making processes, positing that psychological factors often override rational analysis, leading investors to conform to perceived trends or the behavior of those viewed as more knowledgeable, which is particularly evident in volatile or ambiguous markets where emotions and cognitive heuristics dominate, fostering a fertile ground for herd behavior to thrive and destabilize financial systems (Shiller, 2017); studies have illustrated that during financial crises, such as the 2008 global financial collapse, herd behavior was markedly prevalent, with fear and overconfidence catalyzing a wave of panic selling and speculative buying, which further exacerbated the downturn (Gennaioli, Shleifer, & Vishny, 2015); additionally, theoretical frameworks within behavioral finance suggest that the interaction of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison creates complex feedback mechanisms, where each factor reinforces the other fear drives investors toward consensus behavior, overconfidence pushes them to disregard potential risks in favor of crowd tendencies, and social comparison enhances conformity culminating in a self-sustaining cycle that propels herd behavior (De Bondt, Muradoglu, Shefrin, & Staikouras, 2008); these patterns are further corroborated by recent research into the influence of digital and social media platforms, where real-time information sharing amplifies herd tendencies, especially among retail investors, as platforms like Twitter, Reddit, and online investment forums provide a fertile ground for rapid sentiment shifts, thereby accelerating herding phenomena (Banerjee, Kim, & Meyers, 2021); such platforms magnify the impact of psychological biases by creating an environment

where opinions and decisions are publicly displayed, thus intensifying social comparison and contributing to a continuous feedback loop that perpetuates herd behavior, particularly among investors with limited access to fundamental information or financial expertise (Hodas, Kooti, & Lerman, 2013); consequently, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of literature by establishing a robust conceptual framework that elucidates the psychological underpinnings of herd behavior, emphasizing that fear, overconfidence, and social comparison interact synergistically to amplify herd tendencies in financial markets, and highlights the need for empirical and theoretical models that consider these psychological influences as core components of market behavior; by analyzing and synthesizing contemporary research, this paper seeks to bridge gaps in understanding how these psychological factors interplay to produce herd behavior, offering a foundation for future studies to examine how behavioral interventions, such as investor education or regulatory safeguards, may mitigate herd-driven market volatility and enhance stability in stock markets globally (Ghosh & Saidi, 2020).

Statement of the research problem

The problem at the heart of this research is the complex and often unpredictable role that psychological determinants, particularly fear, overconfidence, and social comparison, play in driving herd behavior among investors in stock markets, where these behavioral biases collectively fuel irrational, synchronized trading activities that lead to significant market inefficiencies, heightened volatility, and speculative bubbles, with recent data suggesting that during times of economic uncertainty or high market volatility, individual decision-making is frequently overshadowed by emotional responses and cognitive shortcuts, causing investors to mimic the actions of others rather than relying on independent analysis (Shiller, 2017); these psychological factors create a self-perpetuating cycle of herd behavior, where fear motivates risk-averse investors to avoid individual losses by following crowd behaviors, overconfidence pushes certain investors to disregard caution in favor of perceived market trends, and social comparison influences individuals to validate their decisions through others' actions, particularly in scenarios with asymmetrical information distribution, leading to volatile market shifts and the collective mispricing of assets (Akerlof & Shiller, 2009; Daniel, Hirshleifer, & Subrahmanyam, 1998); with the increasing influence of social media platforms, such as Twitter and Reddit, the impact of psychological determinants on herding is further intensified as real-time information and sentiment trends foster instant, often irrational, responses among retail investors, exacerbating the risk of

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herd-driven market crises (Banerjee, Kim, & Meyers, 2021); thus, this study addresses the pressing need for a theoretical model that encapsulates the psychological underpinnings of herd behavior in the stock market, providing a foundational framework to understand how fear, overconfidence, and social comparison interact dynamically to create and sustain herd behavior, while also offering insight into potential behavioral interventions that could mitigate the adverse effects of such psychological influences on market stability (Gennaioli, Shleifer, & Vishny, 2015).

Significance of the research study

The significance of this research lies in its potential to deepen our theoretical understanding of the psychological drivers behind herd behavior in stock markets namely, fear, overconfidence, and social comparison and to elucidate how these interdependent psychological factors contribute to market inefficiencies, asset mispricing, and heightened volatility by promoting widespread, synchronized behavior among investors, where individual decision-making is often overridden by emotional and cognitive biases that foster a cascade effect of collective trading decisions, particularly during periods of economic turbulence or uncertainty (Barberis, Greenwood, Jin, & Shleifer, 2018); by developing a conceptual framework that captures the mechanisms through which fear-driven risk aversion, overconfident speculation, and socially motivated comparisons lead investors to abandon rational analysis in favor of herd-following tendencies, this study has important implications for both academia and industry, providing a foundation for behavioral finance scholars to advance empirical research on investor psychology and offering insights for policymakers and financial regulators who aim to create strategies to mitigate the detrimental effects of herd behavior on financial stability, which have been increasingly evident in recent market crises exacerbated by mass behavioral shifts and speculative bubbles (Ghosh & Saidi, 2020); moreover, this research is significant for its consideration of modern developments in social media and digital information dissemination, where platforms like Twitter and Reddit not only heighten the psychological influences of social comparison and overconfidence but also accelerate the spread of fear, ultimately amplifying herd behavior and underscoring the urgency for enhanced investor education and the development of behavioral interventions that could mitigate the pervasive impact of psychological biases in stock markets, thereby fostering more resilient and stable financial systems (Hirshleifer, 2020; Kahneman, 2011).

Review of literature related to the study

The literature on psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets has developed considerably, with recent studies highlighting how fear, overconfidence, and social comparison significantly impact investor behavior, where fear a fundamental psychological response often triggers widespread risk aversion, leading investors to follow others' actions in uncertain market environments to avoid potential losses, a behavior pattern notably intensified during economic crises, as demonstrated by empirical evidence that shows fear-based herd behavior can distort market dynamics and result in substantial mispricing of assets (Coval & Shumway, 2005; Baker & Wurgler, 2007); while fear tends to drive investors toward safer, crowd-following choices, overconfidence pushes investors in the opposite direction, as numerous studies have illustrated that overconfident individuals are prone to overestimate their predictive accuracy and downplay risks, which leads them to engage in speculative behavior and follow perceived trends rather than relying on objective market analysis, with recent findings suggesting that overconfidence not only skews individual decision-making but also fuels herd behavior, as investors perceive crowd-driven trends as validation of their own biased forecasts (Gervais & Odean, 2001; Barber & Odean, 2013); beyond fear and overconfidence, social comparison plays a crucial role in fostering herd behavior, as originally proposed by Festinger (1954), who theorized that individuals naturally seek to evaluate their actions and beliefs against those of others, a tendency that has been shown to significantly influence investors, especially in volatile markets where information asymmetry exists, and recent research indicates that social comparison is further amplified in the age of digital platforms, where online investment forums and social media create echo chambers that encourage investors to conform to popular sentiment, thereby reinforcing herd-like behavior even when market fundamentals remain unchanged (Yuan, Zheng, & Zhu, 2020; Berger, 2019); expanding on these theories, behavioral finance literature underscores how these psychological drivers—fear, overconfidence, and social comparison do not act in isolation but interact dynamically to produce feedback loops that perpetuate herd behavior, as fear can intensify social comparison by making individuals more sensitive to the actions of others, while overconfidence exacerbates herd behavior by motivating investors to participate in high-risk trades that they perceive as endorsed by crowd sentiment, creating a self-sustaining cycle of market volatility (De Bondt, Muradoglu, Shefrin, & Staikouras, 2008; Barberis, Shleifer, & Vishny, 1998); moreover, recent empirical studies have demonstrated that the prevalence of digital information sources, such as financial news sites, investment platforms, and especially social media, has not only amplified herd behavior but also altered its nature, as digital

channels accelerate information dissemination and create a sense of immediacy that pressures investors to act in alignment with emerging trends rather than engaging in independent analysis, an effect that was particularly pronounced during the GameStop phenomenon in early 2021, where collective action on Reddit significantly influenced stock prices, illustrating how fear, overconfidence, and social comparison can drive synchronized market responses in an unprecedentedly short time frame (Eaton, Green, Roseman, & Wu, 2021; Leal & Carvalhal, 2020); alongside these dynamics, scholars have noted the impact of media framing and sentiment, where positive or negative media coverage can heighten fear or bolster overconfidence, thereby reinforcing herd behavior, with recent analyses using sentiment analysis tools suggesting that media sentiment serves as a potent driver of collective investor behavior, creating an informational cascade that often leads to market bubbles or crashes (Tetlock, 2007; Smales, 2014); thus, the extant literature on herd behavior within stock markets establishes that psychological determinants are instrumental in shaping investor decisions, and given the accelerating role of technology in financial markets, contemporary studies increasingly advocate for behavioral interventions that can enhance investor awareness of cognitive biases and foster market stability by encouraging independent, rather than crowd-dependent, decision-making (Sewell, 2010; Odean, 1999).

Research Gap related to the study

Despite significant advancements in understanding the psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets, including fear, overconfidence, and social comparison, there remains a critical research gap concerning the interaction effects and feedback mechanisms between these psychological factors, particularly in digital trading environments and social media-driven trading communities, where rapid information dissemination and heightened sentiment volatility can amplify herd behavior in ways not fully accounted for by traditional models of investor psychology, with recent studies indicating that while individual impacts of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison have been well-documented, there is a limited conceptual and empirical exploration of how these biases collectively interact to create cascading effects that drive herd behavior across diverse market contexts, such as during financial crises or speculative bubbles, thereby necessitating a more integrated framework that examines these psychological influences concurrently and accounts for emerging factors like algorithmic trading and real-time sentiment propagation (Easley, López de Prado, & O'Hara, 2012; Bikhchandani, Hirshleifer, & Welch, 1992);

furthermore, the pervasive role of social media platforms in fueling short-term investor sentiment and facilitating group-based decision-making, as seen in events like the GameStop short squeeze, underscores the need to expand current theoretical models to better incorporate how digital interactions modify or intensify herd behavior, highlighting a clear gap in addressing the psychological and technological complexities of modern trading environments and raising questions about how regulatory frameworks might mitigate the collective risks associated with amplified herd behavior in these settings (Sunstein, 2021; Shiller, 2017); additionally, there is limited empirical research on demographic factors—such as age, financial literacy, and cultural background—in relation to susceptibility to herd behavior in digital markets, where a more nuanced understanding of these variables could significantly enhance the development of targeted interventions to reduce herd-driven volatility and promote more resilient financial ecosystems (Hirshleifer & Teoh, 2003; Barberis & Thaler, 2003).

Methodology adopted related to the study

The methodology adopted in this study is a comprehensive conceptual and theoretical approach, relying on a synthesis of existing literature and recent empirical findings to construct a robust framework that examines how the psychological determinants of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison interact to influence herd behavior in stock markets, where the study begins by reviewing and integrating classical and contemporary behavioral finance theories to establish a foundational understanding of each psychological factor independently drawing from sources that define and contextualize fear as a risk-averse response in uncertain conditions, overconfidence as an inflated sense of predictive accuracy, and social comparison as a means by which individuals gauge their decisions relative to others (Tversky & Kahneman, 1974; De Bondt & Thaler, 1985); following this foundational synthesis, the methodology involves a theoretical model-building process wherein these factors are examined collectively to hypothesize potential interaction effects and feedback loops that could lead to cascading behaviors in financial markets, emphasizing how fear may trigger initial herding tendencies that overconfidence subsequently amplifies, while social comparison serves as a conduit that reinforces and normalizes crowd-driven behaviors in both digital and traditional trading environments (Shiller, 2017; Hirshleifer & Hong, 2003); the study also incorporates a meta-analysis of recent case studies, such as the GameStop event and other digitally-fueled market surges, to ground the theoretical model in real-world examples and illustrate how social media and instant information

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sharing intensify these psychological influences, thus adapting the conceptual framework to account for modern developments in digital communication and algorithmic trading (Easley et al., 2012; Baker & Wurgler, 2007); finally, the paper concludes by proposing directions for empirical validation of the theoretical model, suggesting that future research could employ quantitative sentiment analysis or behavioral experiments to measure how fear, overconfidence, and social comparison contribute to herd behavior under varying market conditions, thereby laying a conceptual foundation for ongoing exploration into the psychological complexities of investor behavior in increasingly digital and interconnected financial markets (Tetlock, 2007; Loewenstein, Weber, Hsee, & Welch, 2001).

Major objectives of the study

1. To examine the individual impact of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison on herd behavior in stock markets
2. To analyze the interactive effects and feedback mechanisms between fear, overconfidence, and social comparison in fostering herd behavior
3. To assess the role of digital platforms and social media in amplifying psychological biases and herd behavior among investors
4. To propose a conceptual model and potential behavioral interventions that could mitigate the adverse effects of herd behavior in stock markets

Individual impact of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison on herd behavior in stock markets

The individual impact of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison on herd behavior in stock markets can be understood through the distinct mechanisms by which each factor drives investors towards collective action, where fear a primal emotional response to perceived threats leads investors to prioritize security over potential gain, often resulting in a shift toward herd behavior as they emulate the actions of others in hopes of minimizing losses during uncertain or volatile market conditions, a pattern observed in both historical financial crises and recent market downturns where fear-based responses significantly increase synchronized selling or buying (Loewenstein et al., 2001; Baker & Wurgler, 2007); conversely, overconfidence influences herd behavior by causing investors to overestimate their knowledge or predictive abilities, prompting them to disregard independent analysis in favor of perceived trends, as they assume that their judgment aligns with broader market sentiment, a cognitive bias that has been linked to speculative bubbles and subsequent market corrections as overconfident investors collectively chase asset classes or sectors that appear promising, but ultimately lead to mispricing and volatility (Barber & Odean, 2013;

Daniel, Hirshleifer, & Subrahmanyam, 1998); meanwhile, social comparison exerts a subtle yet pervasive influence on herd behavior, where investors, particularly those with limited access to information, seek validation for their decisions by observing others, an inclination that is heightened by digital information-sharing platforms like social media, which intensify social comparison pressures by displaying real-time sentiment and trading patterns, thereby making investors more likely to conform to the majority even when fundamental analyses do not support such actions (Festinger, 1954; Yuan, Zheng, & Zhu, 2020); thus, each psychological factor independently fosters herd behavior through distinct yet intersecting pathways fear drives avoidance of independent risk-taking, overconfidence amplifies collective speculation, and social comparison promotes conformity as a response to ambiguity demonstrating how psychological biases individually predispose investors toward crowd-following in markets, ultimately highlighting the need for a deeper theoretical understanding of these factors to inform interventions that could mitigate herd-driven volatility and improve market stability (Shiller, 2017; Hirshleifer, 2020).

Interactive effects and feedback mechanisms between fear, overconfidence, and social comparison in fostering herd behavior

The interactive effects and feedback mechanisms between fear, overconfidence, and social comparison in fostering herd behavior in stock markets involve complex, reinforcing cycles where each psychological determinant amplifies the others, creating conditions that drive collective investor behavior toward synchronized buying or selling; specifically, fear—a response heightened in volatile markets triggers investors to avoid individual risk by mimicking the actions of others, often leading to collective sell-offs or buying frenzies that overconfidence subsequently exacerbates, as overconfident investors interpret these crowd actions as validation for their own predictions and proceed with similar trading choices, further intensifying market trends (Barberis, Shleifer, & Vishny, 1998; Loewenstein et al., 2001); simultaneously, social comparison functions as a mechanism that reinforces both fear and overconfidence by compelling investors to gauge their decisions against others, thereby promoting conformity, especially when market information is ambiguous or unevenly distributed, as investors increasingly rely on observable actions in their environment rather than on objective analysis, resulting in positive feedback loops where fear of missing out (FOMO) or potential loss and overconfidence in crowd-aligned choices drive investors further into herd behavior (Bikhchandani, Hirshleifer, & Welch, 1992; Festinger, 1954); digital

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platforms and social media amplify these interactions, providing real-time visibility into others' trading activities and opinions, which significantly heightens social comparison and quickly transforms individual biases into widespread market actions, illustrated by phenomena such as the GameStop rally, where group sentiment and online influence rapidly escalated herd-driven trading (Sunstein, 2021; Smales, 2014); thus, the interplay between fear, overconfidence, and social comparison creates self-reinforcing cycles that magnify herd behavior, where initial fearful responses fuel overconfident crowd alignment, while social comparison serves as the channel through which these biases are perpetuated across investor groups, leading to extreme market volatility and asset mispricing, highlighting the need for further theoretical examination of these mechanisms to develop models capable of mitigating herd-driven risk in financial markets (Tetlock, 2007; Shiller, 2017).

Role of digital platforms and social media in amplifying psychological biases and herd behavior among investors

The role of digital platforms and social media in amplifying psychological biases and herd behavior among investors has become increasingly significant, as these platforms facilitate real-time information sharing, social validation, and crowd sentiment visibility, creating an environment where psychological biases like fear, overconfidence, and social comparison are intensified, resulting in faster and more pronounced herd behavior; digital platforms such as Twitter, Reddit, and dedicated investment forums expose investors to a continuous stream of peer opinions, market rumors, and trending sentiments, which heightens social comparison by providing instant insights into others' trading choices, thereby fostering a tendency among investors to align their actions with the crowd, as they perceive collective sentiment as a signal of market direction or risk aversion, even when this sentiment is not grounded in fundamental analysis (Banerjee et al., 2021; Smales, 2014); furthermore, social media platforms contribute to the amplification of fear through rapid dissemination of negative news, leading to contagion effects where fear-driven reactions spread quickly across investor groups, particularly in times of market instability, creating cascades of panic-driven selling or defensive trading that heightens market volatility (Easley et al., 2012; Shiller, 2017); at the same time, digital environments promote overconfidence by enabling investors to find supportive narratives or reinforcement for their biases, such as through like-minded online communities that encourage speculative trades or risky investment moves based on groupthink, illustrated by events like the GameStop short squeeze, where social media

encouraged a wave of overconfident, coordinated buying that led to extreme price volatility (Eaton, Green, Roseman, & Wu, 2021; Sunstein, 2021); thus, digital platforms not only accelerate the transmission of psychological biases but also amplify herd behavior through mechanisms that reinforce emotional responses and validate crowd-following tendencies, underscoring the need for a theoretical framework that addresses how digital media dynamics modify traditional investor psychology and elevate the potential for market disruptions due to herd behavior (Yuan, Zheng, & Zhu, 2020; Tetlock, 2007).

Conceptual model and potential behavioral interventions that could mitigate the adverse effects of herd behavior in stock markets

The conceptual model proposed to mitigate the adverse effects of herd behavior in stock markets emphasizes understanding the interactive roles of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison as psychological determinants that drive herd behavior, suggesting that targeted behavioral interventions—such as investor education programs, regulatory nudges, and the integration of real-time risk alerts—could effectively address the core biases fueling herd behavior by enhancing individual risk awareness and promoting independent decision-making, where investor education initiatives could focus on increasing financial literacy to help investors recognize and manage cognitive biases, thereby reducing reliance on crowd-following as a coping mechanism during volatile periods (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008; Barber & Odean, 2013); furthermore, regulatory interventions, including "cool-off" mechanisms that temporarily slow trading during high-volatility periods, could curb reactionary herd movements triggered by fear or overconfidence, as well as structured information disclosure rules that limit the spread of unverified information, which would reduce the influence of social comparison on trading decisions by promoting a more informed investment environment (Ben-David, Franzoni, & Moussawi, 2018); in addition, the model includes digital behavioral nudges, such as personalized risk alerts and interactive dashboards on trading platforms, which could provide real-time feedback on market risk levels and reinforce individual analysis, thereby countering the effects of social comparison by guiding investors toward objective assessment rather than peer-driven cues, as well as visual cues indicating abnormal trading patterns that encourage users to reconsider impulsive trades (Loewenstein et al., 2001; Shiller, 2017); by combining these educational, regulatory, and technological interventions, this conceptual model aims to foster resilience against the psychological triggers of herd behavior, ultimately creating a more stable and self-aware investor base that is less susceptible to the

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destabilizing effects of collective market behaviors, which are often driven by emotional and cognitive biases rather than rational assessments of asset value (Sewell, 2010; Tetlock, 2007).

Discussion related to the study

The discussion surrounding the psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets, specifically fear, overconfidence, and social comparison, highlights the intricate ways in which these factors individually and interactively shape investor behavior, ultimately exacerbating market volatility and creating cyclical patterns of asset mispricing that deviate from rational market fundamentals, where fear acts as a critical driver, especially during periods of market uncertainty, pushing investors to follow crowd actions as a perceived safeguard against individual losses, a pattern that has been extensively observed during financial crises when the fear of loss leads to synchronized sell-offs that often drive down asset prices irrespective of underlying values (Loewenstein et al., 2001; Baker & Wurgler, 2007); overconfidence, conversely, contributes to herd behavior by fostering a false sense of predictive accuracy, where investors, particularly those with limited experience or excessive optimism, are prone to joining market trends as they believe their actions are aligned with broader, crowd-driven knowledge, an inclination that inflates speculative bubbles as seen in events like the dot-com boom, where overconfident investing reinforced upward asset movements until inevitable corrections (Daniel, Hirshleifer, & Subrahmanyam, 1998; Glaser et al., 2005); social comparison, however, subtly but powerfully reinforces both fear and overconfidence, functioning as a psychological anchor that causes investors to assess their trading decisions based on those of their peers, a process further intensified by modern digital platforms that provide real-time insights into the trading behaviors and sentiments of others, which can trigger herd behavior at a more accelerated rate than traditional trading environments, as illustrated by the GameStop incident, where retail investors on social media coordinated trades, leading to abnormal price increases largely detached from company fundamentals (Banerjee et al., 2021; Smales, 2014); this synergy between fear, overconfidence, and social comparison is also evidenced in the way digital platforms magnify these biases by enabling the rapid spread of information and sentiment, creating a feedback loop where fear-driven reactions, overconfidence in group validation, and social cues coalesce to drive synchronized market movements that further destabilize price structures and investor expectations (Tetlock, 2007; Shiller, 2017); thus, this study suggests that the convergence of these psychological determinants, amplified by digital trading platforms, presents unique challenges

for market stability, as the rapid dissemination of sentiment in online settings can escalate herd behavior and lead to abrupt market swings, highlighting the need for theoretical and regulatory frameworks that better account for the psychological dimensions of digital-era investing and explore interventions, such as enhanced investor education and regulatory "circuit breakers," to mitigate the herd-driven volatility arising from these biases (Sunstein, 2021; Hirshleifer, 2020).

Managerial implications related to the study

The managerial implications of understanding the psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets specifically the roles of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison are multifaceted, emphasizing the need for asset managers, financial advisors, and market regulators to develop strategies and interventions that mitigate the impact of these biases on market stability and investor outcomes, where awareness of how fear drives risk-averse herding behavior could enable managers to create communication strategies that address investor concerns during volatile periods, thereby reducing panic-driven sell-offs that may undermine portfolio performance or market value, a technique that could also be reinforced by educational efforts focused on helping investors recognize and manage their emotional responses to market downturns (Loewenstein et al., 2001; Baker & Wurgler, 2007); understanding overconfidence's influence on speculative behavior and its potential to inflate asset bubbles suggests that managers should implement decision-making frameworks or tools that promote more grounded, data-driven evaluations rather than crowd-driven speculation, as well as encourage diversification strategies that counterbalance the risks associated with herd-influenced investment choices (Barber & Odean, 2013; Glaser et al., 2005); moreover, the prevalence of social comparison as a driver of herd behavior, particularly intensified by social media and digital platforms, underscores the importance of creating real-time analytics and alerts for investors, enabling them to critically assess market sentiment without relying solely on public opinion as an indicator of asset value, which could be further strengthened by managerial policies that promote independent thinking and discourage reactionary trading based on social trends, especially for retail investors who are more susceptible to herd behavior (Shiller, 2017; Tetlock, 2007); additionally, regulators and financial institutions might consider implementing "circuit breakers" and other controls that prevent excessive trading influenced by psychological biases, as well as leverage sentiment analysis tools to monitor and anticipate herd behavior, using this data to inform regulatory interventions that stabilize markets during episodes of amplified social comparison and overconfidence (Hirshleifer, 2020; Sunstein, 2021);

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thus, this study's insights into psychological biases provide managers with a basis for adopting behaviorally informed strategies and tools that not only enhance investor decision-making but also contribute to overall market resilience by reducing the volatility and inefficiencies introduced by herd behavior.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of psychological determinants—specifically fear, overconfidence, and social comparison—reveals their profound and interconnected impact on herd behavior in stock markets, illustrating how these biases contribute to synchronized trading patterns, amplify market volatility, and often lead to asset mispricing, where fear, as a primary emotional driver, propels investors to follow crowd behavior as a protective measure against potential losses during uncertain times, thereby creating cascades of collective actions that override individual analysis; conversely, overconfidence, by instilling an inflated sense of predictive accuracy, leads investors to trust their crowd-aligned perceptions over objective market fundamentals, reinforcing speculative tendencies that can drive market bubbles and heighten systemic risk when these bubbles eventually burst, while social comparison serves as a continuous psychological trigger, encouraging investors to assess and align their decisions with those of others, especially in digital environments where social validation occurs in real time and pressures individuals toward crowd-following behaviors regardless of actual asset value; this triad of psychological forces, further magnified by the increasing influence of social media platforms and digital information flows, creates a powerful feedback loop in which fear, overconfidence, and social comparison interact to propel herd behavior on a scale and at a speed unprecedented in traditional trading contexts, making it evident that addressing these behavioral influences is critical for fostering market stability and enhancing investor resilience; the findings underscore the importance of designing targeted behavioral interventions, such as investor education programs, regulatory policies, and digital risk alert systems, that can reduce the susceptibility of investors to herd-driven biases by encouraging more grounded, independent decision-making and helping investors recognize the influence of these biases on their own trading behaviors; ultimately, this research highlights the need for a theoretical framework that fully integrates these psychological determinants with modern trading practices, including digital and social media influences, to better predict and mitigate the adverse effects of herd behavior, advocating for a more behaviorally informed approach to financial market regulation and investor support that aligns with the realities of today's highly interconnected trading

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ecosystems, where quick access to crowd sentiment can easily overpower individual judgment and reinforce cyclical patterns of volatility and inefficiency that challenge traditional economic models of rational investor behavior and efficient markets.

Scope for further research and limitations of the study

The scope for further research on the psychological determinants of herd behavior in stock markets, specifically examining fear, overconfidence, and social comparison, is extensive, as future studies could explore the nuanced ways these psychological factors interact with newer trading technologies, such as algorithmic trading and AI-driven predictive tools, to shape collective investor behavior, especially under volatile market conditions where the speed and scale of digital trading may amplify herd behavior more intensely than in traditional market settings, inviting investigation into how these technologies could potentially mitigate or exacerbate the influence of cognitive biases; additionally, cross-cultural research could provide valuable insights into how differing social norms and economic environments shape the manifestations of herd behavior, particularly the roles of fear and social comparison, which may vary significantly across different investor demographics, market structures, and cultural attitudes toward risk and uncertainty; furthermore, examining the effectiveness of various behavioral interventions, such as digital literacy initiatives, personalized risk alerts, or regulatory measures like circuit breakers, could yield empirical data on how these strategies might reduce susceptibility to herd behavior, contributing to more resilient financial ecosystems; however, the limitations of this study include its conceptual and theoretical focus, which, while valuable in creating a comprehensive framework, lacks empirical validation through quantitative data and controlled experimental studies, potentially restricting the generalizability of findings across diverse market contexts and investor demographics; another limitation lies in the rapidly evolving nature of social media and digital platforms, which introduces challenges in capturing the full range of influences these platforms exert on investor psychology, as emerging technologies and changing user behaviors may alter the dynamics of fear, overconfidence, and social comparison in ways that this study's framework does not fully anticipate; lastly, while the study addresses the prominent psychological factors behind herd behavior, it does not account for other influential variables, such as financial literacy, economic conditions, or regulatory changes, which could provide additional layers of complexity and relevance, indicating a need for future research that incorporates these elements into an integrated,

multidimensional model that aligns with the behavioral realities of modern financial markets and allows for a more precise understanding of how cognitive biases, technological advances, and regulatory environments converge to influence herd behavior among diverse investor groups in increasingly interconnected global markets.

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Exploring the Intersection of Behavioural Finance and Marketing: Insights into Consumer Financial Decision-Making

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Abstract:

Introduction: Consumer financial decision-making is shaped by an intricate mix of psychological influences and targeted marketing strategies. This dynamic intersection between behavioural finance and marketing has emerged as a pivotal area of research.

Purpose: This paper examines how behavioural finance principles and marketing strategies converge to influence consumer financial choices, aiming to uncover the primary factors driving these decisions.

Methodology: Using primary data gathered through a structured questionnaire, this study captures insights into consumer financial behaviour and the role of various marketing tactics.

Findings: Results reveal that both rational thought and emotional triggers play crucial roles in financial decisions. Marketing approaches that leverage scarcity, personalization, and social proof are especially impactful in guiding consumer behaviour.

Research Implications: The findings highlight the value of incorporating behavioural finance concepts into marketing strategies to more effectively shape consumer financial decisions

.Originality: This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the combined influence of behavioural finance and marketing on consumer financial choices.

Keywords: Behavioural finance, Consumer decision-making, Marketing strategies, Consumer insights.

Introduction:

People have to make innumerable financial decisions every day, ranging from minor ones like where to get coffee to major ones like buying a house or setting up money for retirement. Even still, these choices are rarely chosen with icy, deliberate reasoning. Rather, conventional financial theories tend to ignore the emotions, habits, and biases that influence them. Behavioural finance can provide a more sophisticated comprehension of the psychological factors involved in this situation.

Simultaneously, marketing has developed into an intricate field that aims to comprehend and influence consumer behaviour, rather than just being a weapon for persuasion. Today's marketers create narratives and experiences that connect with consumers on a deeper psychological level rather than only pushing products. Combining behavioural finance and marketing allows for the discovery of compelling insights into the decision-making processes of customers, providing information on not only what they select but also the reasoning behind their selections. This intersection is practically essential as well as fascinating from an intellectual one. Better outcomes for businesses and customers can result from an understanding of the true factors influencing consumer choices in a world

where financial goods and services are growing more complex. In a perfect world, financial products would not only be offered for sale but also customised to the psychological needs of the clients they serve, assisting them in adopting wiser and more advantageous financial practices.

The purpose of this research is to delve into this rich intersection, exploring how the principles of behavioural finance can inform and enhance marketing strategies, and vice versa. By studying this convergence, we aim to uncover the underlying psychological mechanisms that influence financial decision-making, offering insights that can lead to more effective marketing practices, better financial products, and, ultimately, a more empowered consumer base.

Review of Literature

Hemraj Kawadkar (2024): undertook a detailed study to investigate Navigating the Irrational: A Review of Behavioural Finance Theory and Practice. This study explores how a deeper understanding of financial decision-making, behavioural finance integrates psychological concepts into economic theory, challenging the conventional assumption of rationality. The area is criticised for its subjective nature of bias identification and its predictive power despite its

contributions. However, the multidisciplinary character of behavioural finance keeps providing practitioners, policymakers, and investors with insightful viewpoints for comprehending market dynamics and enhancing financial outcomes.

Abigail B. Sussman, Hal E. Hershfield, and Oded Netzer (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate Consumer Financial Decision Making: Where We've Been and Where We're Going. This study explores how behavioural finance questions the conventional view that economic decision-making is rational by incorporating psychological concepts into finance theory, because behavioural finance is multidisciplinary, it helps us better understand financial markets by highlighting the important influence of human behaviour and emotions on economic results.

Dr. M. Padmavathy (2024): undertook a detailed study to investigate Behavioral Finance and Stock Market Anomalies: Exploring Psychological Factors Influencing Investment Decisions. The study explores behavioural finance highlights how important psychological variables are in influencing investment choices and causing anomalies in the stock market. A more sophisticated knowledge of market dynamics is made possible by the incorporation of behavioural finance concepts into financial decision-making models, which helps investors and financial experts better manage risk and optimise investment returns.

Ambreen Tour Ben-Shmuel, Adam Hayes and Vanessa Drach (2024): undertook a detailed study to investigate The Gendered Language of Financial Advice: Finfluencers, Framing, and Subconscious Preferences. The study that explores financial advice shows notable changes in the distribution and consumption of financial knowledge, especially in the context of social media and "influencers." This intricacy highlights the need for more nuanced and fair methods to financial literacy because, despite the fact that the digital age offers more opportunity for inclusive financial education, it also reinforces some biases.

Md. Enamul Kabir (2017): undertook a detailed study to investigate Why Behavioral Finance is Helpful for Investors to Decision Making Process? The study explores how investor behaviour is influenced by heuristic shortcuts, emotions such as fear and greed, and cognitive biases that result in market inefficiencies. Even with its advances, behavioural finance recognises that human mistake and emotional decision-making continue to play a big part in financial outcomes, meaning that total market efficiency may remain an ideal rather than a reality.

Christian Koropp, Franz W. Kellermanns, Dietmar Grichnik, and Laura Stanley (2014): undertook a detailed study to investigate Financial Decision Making in Family Firms: An Adaptation of the Theory of Planned Behavior. The study explores theory of planned behaviour provides a useful framework for comprehending the financial decision-making processes within family businesses. Considering the critical role that financial resources play in the expansion and viability of family businesses, which are pivotal to economies globally, a deeper understanding of these behavioural influences is essential for advancing both theoretical and practical knowledge in this field.

Olubunmi Edward Ogunlusi and Olalekan Obademi (2019): undertook a detailed study to investigate The Impact of Behavioural Finance on Investment Decision-making: A Study of Selected Investment Banks in Nigeria. The study explores that cognitive biases like prospect theory and heuristics commonly affect investors, and as a result, the impact of behavioural finance on investment decision-making has gained recognition. These behavioural finance insights are critical for enhancing investing methods and attaining more consistent, logical results in an area where psychological inclinations frequently play a role.

Rajae Sabhi (2024): undertook a detailed study to investigate Managing emotions and algorithms: the delicate equilibrium between artificial intelligence and behavioural finance. The study explores the application of AI in behavioural finance is particularly significant since it has made it possible to identify emotions in transactions and gain a greater knowledge of the personality traits that influence financial decisions. Therefore, even though AI has a lot of potential, its use needs to be carefully calibrated with moral standards to guarantee that its advantages in decision-making processes are both long-lasting and beneficial.

Rituparna Basu, Weng Marc Lim, Anil Kumar, Satish Kumar (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate Marketing analytics: The bridge between customer psychology and marketing decision-making. The study explores literature on marketing analytics and highlights the crucial role that marketing analytics plays in contemporary marketing by showing its progression from simple descriptive statistics to sophisticated predictive and prescriptive models. The process of turning raw data into strategic insights is highlighted by theoretical frameworks such as Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and the Data-Information-Knowledge-Wisdom (DIKW) hierarchy.

Aleksandra S. Vasić, Milena Jakšić, Violeta Todorović (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate Traditional And Behavioural Approach To Risk In Finance. This study explores by adding psychological insights into the comprehension of risk and decision-making under uncertainty, behavioural finance enhances traditional finance. This highlights the importance of taking

psychological issues into account when making financial decisions.

Vanessa Martins Valcanover, Igor Bernardi Sonza, and Wesley Vieira da Silva (2020): undertook a detailed study to investigate Behavioural Finance Experiments: A Recent Systematic Literature Review. The study explores the groundbreaking work of Tversky and Kahneman (1974), which questioned the dominant theories of anticipated utility and efficient markets that presupposed purely rational decision-making, giving rise to the idea of behavioural finance. The application of behavioural finance research has been the subject of extensive studies and surveys, experimental methods and the evolution of theories in this field, highlighting the shift towards incorporating psychological factors into financial analysis.

Mr. Jitesh Sanjay Bhanushali, Dr. M.R. Jhansi Rani (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate The Impact of Behavioral Finance on the Decision-making Process and Investments. The study explores how behavioural finance looks into emotional and cognitive biases, such greed and fear, affect investing decisions and produce less-than-ideal results. The literature emphasises how crucial it is to comprehend these psychological aspects in order to make better investing decisions and meet financial goals.

Rahul Chauhan, Neerav Patel (2024): Unravelling Investor Behaviour: undertook a detailed study to investigate Exploring the Influence of Behavioral Finance on Investment Decision-Making. This study explores the influence of psychological variables and behavioural biases on investment decisions. It builds on the fundamental research in behavioural finance, which shows how emotional and cognitive biases affect investor behaviour. Despite the study's limitations in terms of sample size and geographic breadth, the findings add to a better understanding of how contextual and local factors affect investing behaviour.

Maram Alanmi, Sager Alharthi (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate The Impact of Digital Marketing on Consumer Buying Behavior in Saudi Arabia: Brand Popularity as a Mediator. The study explores by concentrating on the particular setting of Saudi Arabia and investigating how digital marketing via platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, and Twitter affects consumer purchasing behaviour and brand popularity, this study expands on prior research in the field. These findings, which support previous research on the significance of digital presence in contemporary business, imply that digital marketing techniques can be optimised to increase brand awareness and consumer engagement.

Dr. Mukesh Agarwal, Balakrishnan S, Mr Hanish Kukreja, Shruti Verma, Rahul Hemant Sutar (2023): undertook a detailed study to investigate The Role Of Financial Literacy In Shaping Behavioral Finance Patterns Among Millennials. The study explores the critical significance that financial literacy plays in millennials' behavioural finance patterns is examined in this review study paper. The analysis finds a complex correlation between millennial behaviour in the financial markets and financial literacy. It reveals data indicating that different financial literacy levels affect how risk is perceived, what investments are made, and savings habits among millennials.

Kavita Karan Ingale, Ratna Achuta Paluri (2021): undertook a detailed study to investigate Financial literacy and financial behaviour: a bibliometric analysis. The study explores multidisciplinary research in the fields of economics, finance, psychology, and consumer behaviour has placed a growing amount of emphasis on the relationship between financial behaviour and financial literacy. This thorough mapping of the scientific literature is an invaluable tool for shaping future research partnerships and policy development in the fields of financial literacy and education.

Research Gap:
Although behavioural finance and marketing strategies have been studied independently in the context of consumer financial decisions, limited research examines how they jointly influence consumer behaviour. Existing studies often overlook how specific marketing tactics leverage cognitive biases to shape financial choices, as well as the balance between rational and emotional drivers. This study fills these gaps by exploring the combined impact of behavioural finance principles and marketing strategies on consumer decision-making.

Need For the Study:
In an increasingly complex financial landscape, consumers are continually exposed to a range of marketing strategies that leverage insights from behavioural finance to influence decision-making. Despite the growing integration of psychological principles in marketing, there remains a gap in understanding how these forces work together to shape financial choices. This study is essential to bridge this gap by examining how cognitive biases, emotional responses, and strategic marketing tactics converge to guide consumer decisions. By shedding light on the underlying drivers of financial behaviour, this research not only enhances our understanding of consumer psychology but also offers valuable insights for marketers and financial service providers aiming to design more effective, consumer-centered strategies. Ultimately, this study underscores the need for a

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more informed and ethical approach to financial marketing that considers both the rational and emotional dimensions of consumer choice.

Objectives of the Study:
1. To analyse the influence of behavioural finance on consumer financial decisions
2. To examine how marketing strategies impact consumer financial choices
3. To identify key factors driving consumer financial behaviour
4. To evaluate the effectiveness of marketing tactics in financial decision-making
5. To understand the balance between rational analysis and emotional responses in financial decisions

Research Methodology:
Type of Research: This study utilizes a descriptive and exploratory research design, aiming to both describe and investigate key factors influencing consumer financial decisions.

Data Source and Type: The research incorporates both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data was collected through a structured questionnaire consisting of 15 targeted questions to capture consumer insights, while secondary data was obtained from established sources such as journals, textbooks, articles, and magazines to provide additional context and depth.

Sampling Unit and Sample Data: A convenience non-probability sampling method was chosen for participant selection. The study originally aimed to survey 150 individuals from Mumbai; however, responses were successfully gathered from 100 participants within this demographic, providing a robust basis for analysis.

Tools Used in Research: Data analysis was conducted using Excel, with straightforward calculations to derive insights. The findings were then represented graphically through pie charts and bar charts, enhancing the clarity and accessibility of the data interpretation.

Analysis and Interpretation:

Table No. 1 Demographic Profile of the respondents

Details	Respondents	Percentage
Gender		
Male	51	51%
Female	49	49%
Age		
18-25	37	37%
26-35	39	39%
35-45	12	12%
45 and above	12	12%
Income		
1-5 lakhs	21	21%
5-10 lakhs	45	45%
10-15 lakhs	18	18%
15 lakhs and above	16	16%

Table No. 2 Showing the major factor that influences financial decisions

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
Logical analysis and information	36	36%
Advice from friends/family	24	24%
Emotional responses	13	13%
Social media and advertising	27	27%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

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Figure No. 1 Which of the following factors most influences your financial decisions?
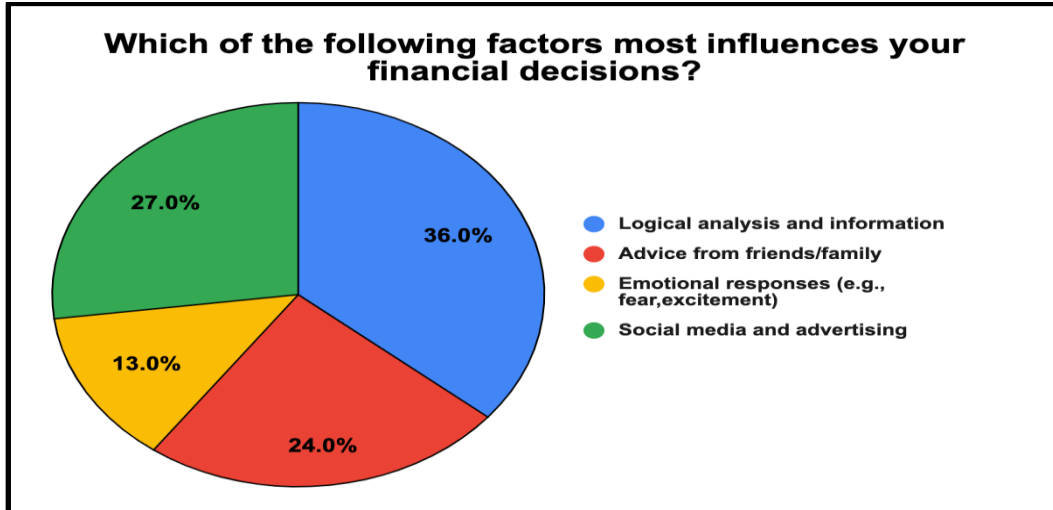
Interpretation: The majority number of respondents chose the factor: logical analysis and information with 36% and the remaining chose the factors: advice from friends/family, emotional responses and social media and advertising with 24%, 13%, and 27% respectively.

Table No. 3 Showing the Financial products marketed with scarcity tactics

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
I'm more likely to make a quick decision	66	66%
I feel pressured but still deliberate	31	31%
It has no impact on my decision-making	3	3%
I tend to avoid such offers	0	0%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Table No. 4 Showing the Reaction to a financial loss

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
I avoid making further financial decisions for a while	34	66%
I try to recover the loss quickly	36	31%
I seek advice before acting	22	3%
I remain calm and stick to my original plan	8	0%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No.2 When faced with a financial loss, how do you usually react?

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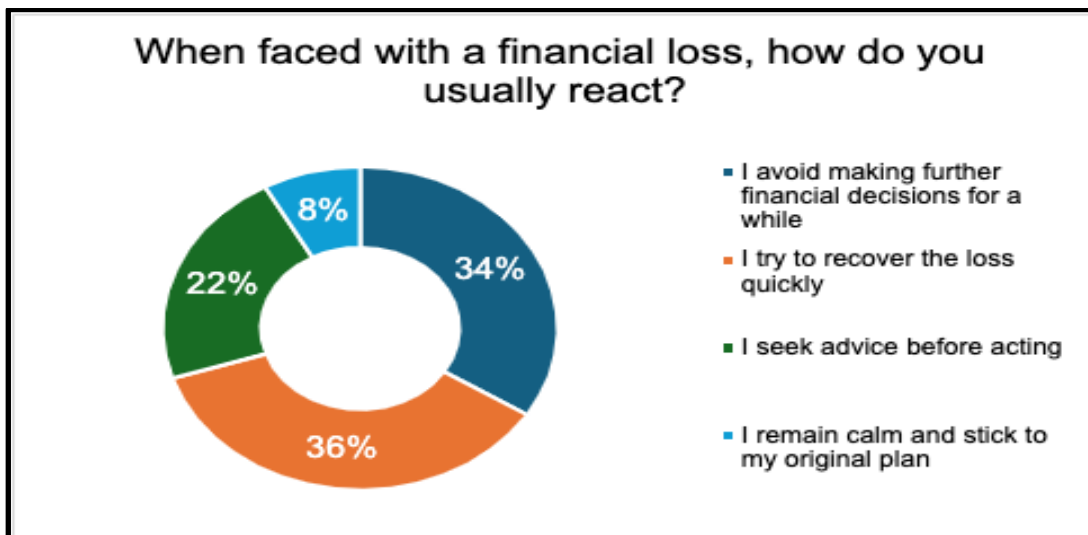
Interpretation: The respondents' reactions are to a financial loss: 36% try to recover the loss quickly, 34% will seek advice before acting, 22% avoid making further financial decisions for a

Table No. 5 Shows the influence of positive testimonials on the decision to purchase a financial product

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
I'm significantly more likely to consider it	59	59%
It somewhat influences me	40	40%
It doesn't influence me much	1	1%
It has no influence at all	0	0%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No.3 When a financial product is marketed with positive testimonials, how does that influence your decision?
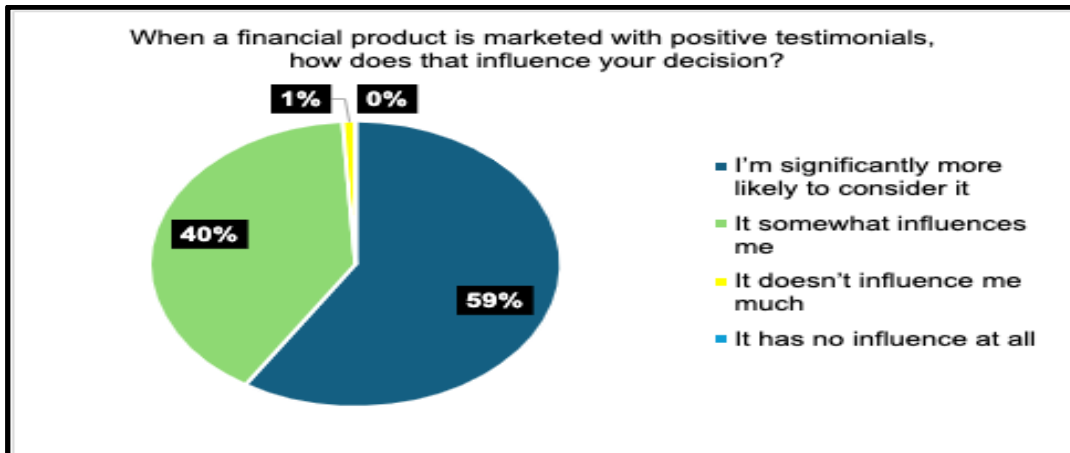
Interpretation: Out of the total respondents, 59% are significantly more likely to consider it , 40% feel that it somewhat influences them, 1% believe that it doesn't influence them much and none chose no influence at all.

Table No. 6 Shows the belief in the heavy influence of past financial experiences on current financial decisions

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
Yes, they strongly shape my decisions	39	39%
They somewhat influence my decisions	52	52%
They have minimal influence	7	7%
No, I make decisions independently of past experiences	2	2%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No.4 Do you believe that your past financial experiences heavily influence your current financial decisions?

Apurva Sankara Narayanan, Gauraang Ajay Revankar, Dr Abilasha N
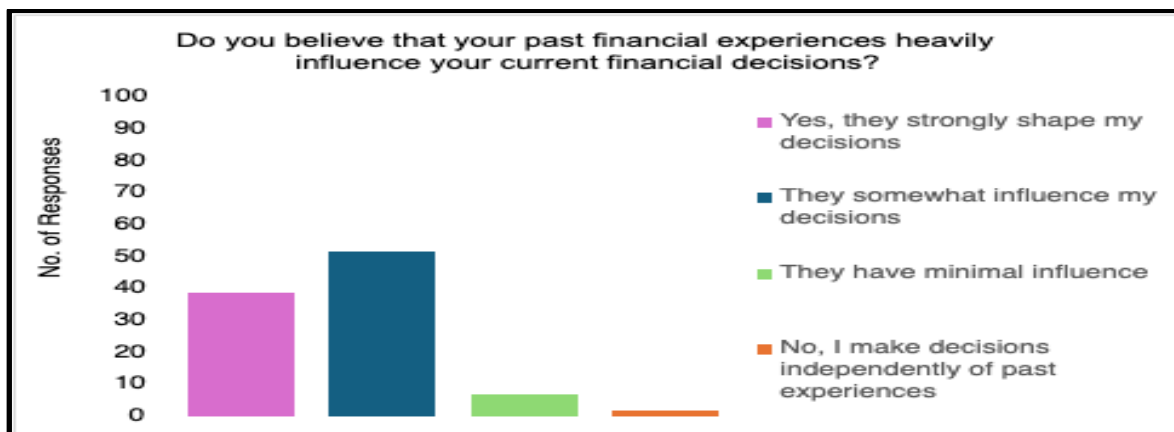
Interpretation: Out of the total respondents, 52% believe that it somewhat influences their decisions, 32% feel that it strongly shapes their decision, 7% believe that it doesn't influence them much and 2% chose to make decisions independently of past experiences.

Table No. 7 Shows the important factor when choosing between similar financial products

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
Cost/fees	29	29%
Brand reputation	34	34%
Emotional appeal or connection to the product	17	17%
Recommendations from others	20	20%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No. 5 When choosing between similar financial products, which factor is most important to you?
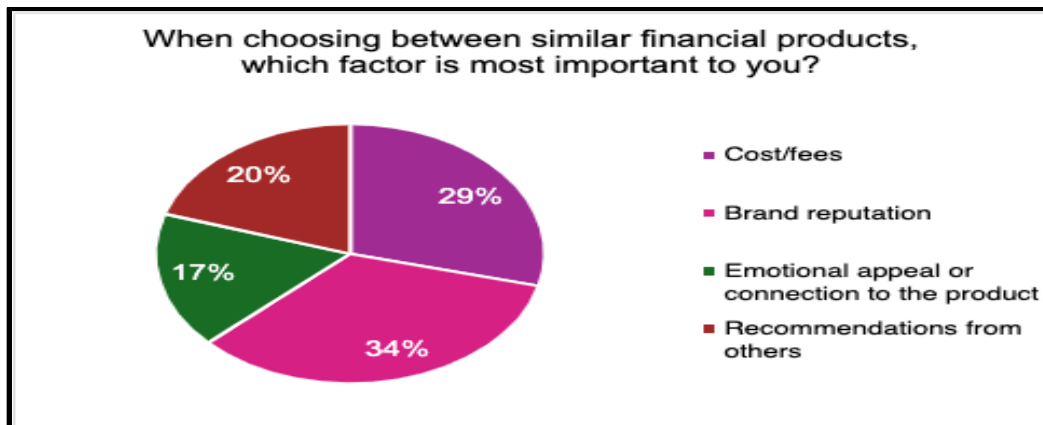
Interpretation: Out of the total respondents, 34% chose brand reputation to be the most important factor, 29% feel it's the cost/fees, 20% believe it's the recommendation from others and 17% chose emotional appeal or connection to the product as the important factor when choosing between financial products.

Table No. 8 Shows the frequency of regretting financial decisions

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
Often	6	6%
Sometimes	49	49%
Rarely	44	44%
Never	1	1%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No. 6 How often do you regret financial decisions after making them?

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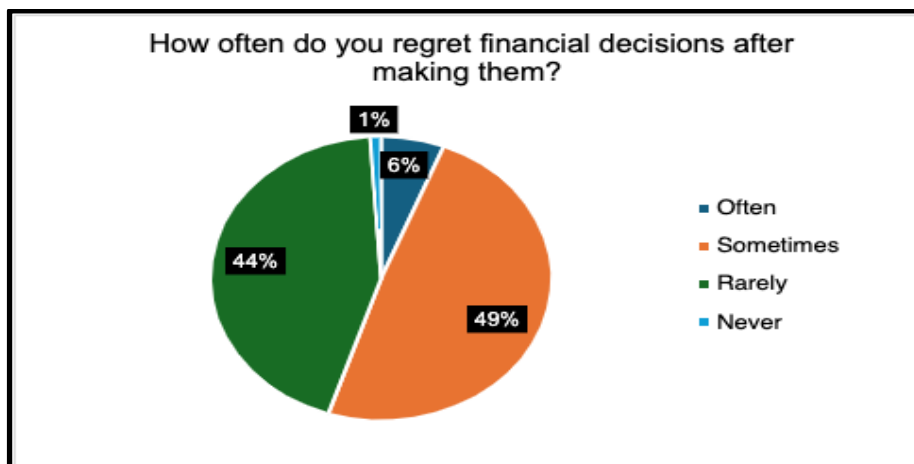
Interpretation: Out of the total respondents, 49% believe sometimes, 44% believe rarely, 6% and 1% believe often and never respectively.

Table No. 9 Showing the influence of gut feelings when making financial decisions

Title	No. Of Responses	Responses In %
Always	14	14%
Frequently	45	45%
Occasionally	40	40%
Rarely or never	1	1%
Total	**100**	100%

Source: Primary Data

Figure No. 7 How often do you rely on gut feelings when making financial decisions?
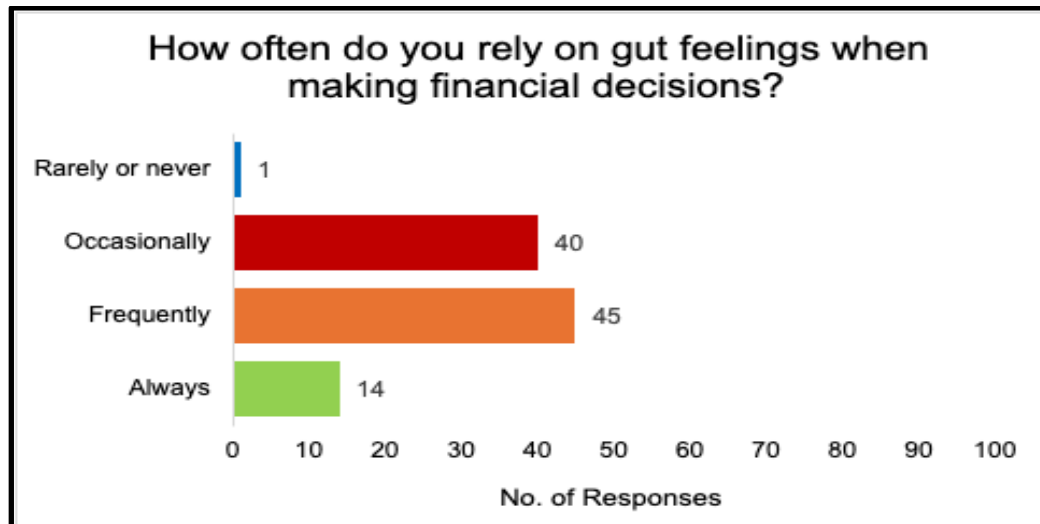
Interpretation: The majority number of respondents chose frequently which was 45% of the total, and 40% was occasionally. The remaining 14% chose always and 1% chose rarely or never regarding their gut feelings when making financial decisions.

Findings of the Study

1. The study reveals that both men and women actively participate in financial decision-making, which is balanced across genders. This shows that a wide range of people are involved in financial affairs, demonstrating how behavioural finance principles apply to different groups of people.
2. The majority of young professionals who arrange their finances are those between the ages of 26 and 35. According to this, a person's life stage has a significant impact on their financial behaviour, hence marketing techniques should address the goals and worries of this group.
3. People with higher incomes—particularly those who make between 5 and 10 lakhs per year—engage in more thorough financial planning. This illustrates how financial behaviour is influenced by income levels, encouraging people to go for more complex financial products—a crucial finding for marketers.

4. The relationship between rational decision-making and financial behaviour is demonstrated by the fact that consumers primarily rely on logical analysis and information when making financial decisions. This highlights how crucial it is to offer transparent, data-driven insights in financial marketing.
5. Although brand trust is an important component, it is frequently assessed in conjunction with other factors including product attributes and independent research. The behavioural finance idea of brand equity impacting consumer confidence and decision-making is reflected in this balance.
6. The fact that a lot of customers base their financial decisions on intuition, especially when things are unclear, highlights the psychological and emotional aspects of behavioural finance that marketers need to take into account when developing messages that persuade consumers.
7. Scarcity strategies in marketing encourage quick decisions, but they also put customers under pressure. This emphasises the conflict that exists between financial behaviour's urgency and anxiety, which is important knowledge for marketers who use behavioural cues.
8. People react differently to financial loss; some people bounce back fast, while others take their

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time. This variation in risk appetite and recuperation tactics highlights the necessity for marketing to take into account both the rational and emotional facets of consumer financial behaviour.

9. Consumers prefer solutions that are customised to meet their own demands, which suggests that personalisation in financial goods is highly valued. This desire is consistent with the idea of behavioural finance, which holds that customer pleasure and perceived value can be increased through customisation.

10. Consumer perceptions are greatly influenced by social proof, especially through testimonials, which increases their propensity to choose and trust financial products. This research highlights how social influence plays a significant role in marketing efforts as well as behavioural finance, where actions can be influenced by peer approval.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

The exploration of behavioural finance within marketing unveils crucial insights into consumer financial decision-making. Behavioural finance reveals that consumers often make irrational financial choices influenced by psychological biases such as loss aversion, overconfidence, and mental accounting. These biases disrupt rational decision-making, causing deviations from optimal financial behaviour. By integrating these insights, marketers can craft strategies that align with the psychological tendencies of their target audience. For instance, campaigns that highlight immediate benefits of financial products can counteract consumers' preference for short-term rewards over long-term gains. This alignment between marketing strategies and consumer behaviour not only enhances engagement but also promotes more informed and effective financial decisions. As a result, consumers are better equipped to manage their finances in a way that aligns with their long-term goals. To effectively apply behavioural finance principles, financial institutions and marketers should work together to develop educational initiatives that address common cognitive biases affecting financial decisions.

These programs should focus on helping consumers recognize and mitigate biases such as overconfidence and procrastination. Marketers should design campaigns using behavioural insights to target specific psychological triggers, such as emphasising the immediate advantages of financial products to address the tendency for immediate gratification. Clear and transparent communication about the benefits, risks, and costs of financial products is essential to aid rational decision-making and build consumer trust. Additionally, implementing behavioural nudges, such as default savings plans or personalised investment options, can guide consumers towards better financial practices effortlessly. By adopting these strategies, both marketers and financial educators can foster a more financially informed and behaviorally aware consumer base, leading to improved financial outcomes.

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Indian Automotive Component Industry: A Retrospective and Prospective Analysis in the Coronavirus Era

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Abstract

The Indian automotive industry, a cornerstone of the country's economy, has exhibited remarkable growth over the decades. The automotive components sector, in particular, has been pivotal in driving economic development, contributing 2.3% to the GDP and directly or indirectly employing 1.5 million people. India's favourable investment climate—characterized by sound government policies, rising purchasing power, a vast domestic market, and ongoing infrastructural development—has attracted significant global interest. This research paper delves into the evolution of the Indian automotive component industry during the coronavirus pandemic, examining key trends and patterns. The study utilizes secondary data published by the Auto Component Manufactures Association (ACMA) to explore crucial future indicators and analyze the industry's response to the global pandemic, necessitating adaptations in business practices, patterns, and paradigms.

Keywords: Indian auto components industry, coronavirus, future trends

Introduction

The Indian automotive component industry has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from its nascent stages to a significant contributor within the global automotive supply chain. Its growth trajectory has been shaped by a confluence of factors, including government policies, technological advancements, and changing consumer preferences. Traditionally, the automotive industry operated on a vertical integration model, where manufacturers produced most components in-house. However, the increasing complexity of vehicles and the globalization of the automotive sector have fostered a shift toward a more specialized and modular approach. This transformation has facilitated the growth of the automotive component industry, which now plays a crucial role in the overall development of the automotive sector (Singh, 2014).

Furthermore, the Indian government has played a pivotal role in shaping the growth of the automotive industry. Since the early 1990s, liberalization policies have significantly transformed this sector. The easing of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms and the reduction of import duties have attracted substantial investments from global automotive giants. Initiatives like the "Make in India" campaign, launched in 2014, aim to encourage local manufacturing and innovation, positioning India as a global hub for automotive production (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, 2021).

The automotive industry in India is characterized by a diverse range of products that cater to both domestic and international markets. It includes a variety of players, from small-scale manufacturers producing components to large multinational corporations manufacturing vehicles. The sector is a significant contributor to the Indian economy, generating employment for millions and contributing to GDP growth.

In recent years, the industry has focused on enhancing technological capabilities and improving quality standards. There has been a noticeable shift towards electric and hybrid vehicles, driven by government incentives and growing consumer awareness about environmental issues. This transition is supported by advancements in battery technology and charging infrastructure (SIAM, 2022). Companies are investing heavily in research and development to create innovative products that meet the evolving needs of consumers, such as connected vehicles and autonomous driving technologies (Gupta et al., 2023).

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the industry's digital transformation, with many manufacturers adopting digital tools for operations and customer engagement. The shift towards e-commerce for vehicle sales and servicing has also gained momentum (Sharma & Kumar, 2022).

Overall, the Indian automotive industry is poised for substantial growth, driven by government initiatives, technological advancements, and

increasing demand for sustainable transportation solutions.

Recent Investments in the Indian Auto Components Sector

The Indian auto components sector has witnessed substantial investments in recent years, underlining its significance within the global automotive landscape. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has provided SBI with $1 billion to finance production and distribution activities for Japanese car manufacturers' suppliers and dealers. Moreover, the Tamil Nadu government has signed 14 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹10,055 crores, which are projected to create approximately 69,712 jobs. Toyota Kirloskar Motors announced a ₹2,000 crore investment in electric components and technologies, signalling a shift towards electrification.

In addition, National Engineering Industries Ltd (NEIL) has committed ₹100 crores to produce needle roller bearings, reflecting a focus on precision components. Collaborative ventures are also on the rise; Tata AutoComp Systems and Prestolite Electric formed a joint venture to delve into the electric vehicle component market, while Minda Industries acquired Delvis-Gmbh, a German automotive lamp manufacturer, for ₹164 crores. Partnerships such as Eaton's collaboration with Pune-based KPIT and Durr's association with Patvin for automated painting solutions for two- and three-wheelers are indicative of the evolving landscape in technology and process innovation.

However, developing-country suppliers face challenges in minimizing errors and enhancing accuracy through R&D, which is heavily reliant on financial and human capital. Thus, a focus on management skills is vital for ensuring timely deliveries and maintaining competitiveness.

The Evolving Landscape of the Indian Auto Component Industry

The Indian auto component industry has witnessed significant growth and complexity in recent years. As the demand for automobiles has surged, so has the need for a robust and efficient supply chain. This evolution has led to the emergence of a tiered supplier structure, wherein manufacturers are categorized based on their roles in the value chain.

At the top of this hierarchy are Tier 1 suppliers, directly contracted by automakers to provide major components such as engines, transmissions, and chassis systems. These suppliers play a critical role in product development and design, collaborating closely with automakers to meet specific requirements. Below them are Tier 2 suppliers, specializing in specific components or processes, such as engine parts or suspension systems, often supplying to Tier 1 suppliers for integration into final products.

A unique characteristic of the Indian auto component industry is the relatively minimal size gap between Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers. This has fostered a more collaborative and integrated approach, with Tier 1 suppliers often acting as coordinators for their Tier 2 counterparts. Furthermore, major corporations increasingly source directly from both Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers, blurring traditional boundaries.

As the industry continues to evolve, the roles and responsibilities of suppliers are also changing. Some Tier 1 suppliers are now exporting directly to overseas assemblers, bypassing traditional distribution channels. Additionally, the increasing complexity of automotive technology necessitates a greater emphasis on R&D and innovation, prompting suppliers to invest in advanced technologies and skilled workforces to maintain competitiveness.

Despite these positive developments, challenges remain. Small-scale suppliers often struggle to invest in modern machinery and quality management systems, exacerbating the technological gap between them and larger Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers. Addressing these challenges and fostering a collaborative ecosystem will be crucial for the continued growth and success of the Indian auto component industry.

Post-Pandemic Trends in the Indian Auto Component Industry

The automotive industry has experienced significant disruptions due to global supply chain constraints, shifting consumer preferences toward mobility solutions, and the pandemic's impact on aftermarket spending. The rise of electric vehicles has further reshaped the industry landscape, necessitating a focus on new segments such as the aftermarket. In response to these challenges, the automotive sector is witnessing increased investments and deal activity. Additionally, the impending vehicle scrappage policy is expected to stimulate demand and drive industry growth.

The COVID-19 pandemic initially disrupted global supply chains, particularly from China, leading to severe shortages of auto components and subsequent changes in trading and industrial patterns. This disruption contributed to a decline in operating margins for both automakers and auto-part manufacturers.

In response, consumer attitudes towards mobility have shifted, with a growing preference for micro-mobility and small-format mobility solutions, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas. This shift has increased demand for two- and three-wheelers, which are viewed as more affordable and convenient options.

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The pandemic also influenced aftermarket spending. Reduced mobility restrictions, fewer collisions, and lower vehicle usage have resulted in decreased demand for car servicing and new auto parts. This trend is likely to persist in the long term, as fewer garage visits translate to lower demand for aftermarket products and services.

Recent Trends and Patterns in the Indian Auto Component Industry

In the table, The turnover growth of the Indian auto component industry from FY2019 to FY2024 illustrates a significant trajectory marked by resilience and recovery following economic challenges. The industry began with a turnover of ₹395,902 crores in FY2019. However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted operations, leading to a notable decline of 11.7% in FY2020, which reduced turnover to ₹349,637 crores. This downturn persisted into FY2021, with a further decline of 2.5%, bringing turnover down to ₹340,733 crores. These declines highlight the vulnerabilities faced by the sector during this tumultuous period.

Table 1: Trends in auto component industry Value in US$ Billion (Rs crores)

Fiscal Year	Domestic	Aftermarket	Import	Export	Overall
2019	44.7 (346,052)	10.1 (67,491)			57.1 (395,902)
2020	40.5 (287234)	9.8 (69,381)	15.4	14.5	49.3 (349,637)
2021	37.7 (279,919)	8.7 (65,524)	13.8	13.3	45.9 (340,733)
2022	45.8 (341,203)	10 (74,203)	18.3	19.1	56.6 (421,366)
2023	59.3 (476,022)	10.6 (85,333)	20.3	20.1	69.7 (559,748)
2024	62.4 (516,813)	11.3 (93,866)	29.9	21.2	74.1 (614,670)

Source: (ACMA, 2024)

Despite these challenges, subsequent years marked a remarkable recovery for the industry. In FY2022, the auto component sector rebounded with a growth of 23.7%, elevating turnover to ₹421,366 crores. This resurgence can be attributed to a stabilization of market conditions, increased consumer demand, and an adaptive response to evolving industry trends. The recovery momentum continued into FY2023, where turnover surged by an impressive 32.8%, reaching ₹559,748 crores.

Such growth underscores the sector's resilience and its ability to capitalize on technological advancements and improving economic conditions. Looking ahead, the projected growth rate for FY2024 is a robust 9.8%, with anticipated turnover reaching ₹614,670 crores. This sustained growth trajectory highlights the auto component industry's pivotal role in India's manufacturing landscape and its contribution to economic growth and global competitiveness.

Figure 1: Category-wise distribution of Component output (%)

Source: (ACMA, 2024)

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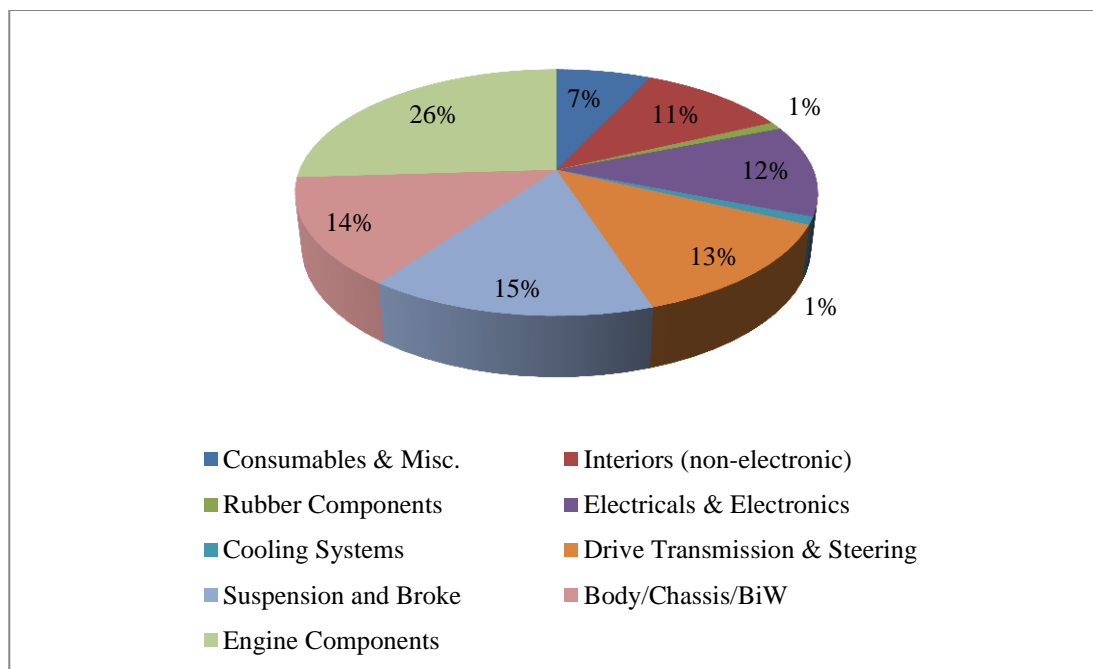
The distribution of component supply within the Indian automotive industry in Figure 1 reveals critical insights into the functional categories driving production. The largest segment is categorized as "Consumables & Miscellaneous," accounting for 26% of the total component supply, indicating a significant reliance on these parts for operational efficiency. Following this, "Interiors (non-electronic)" and "Body/Chassis/B&W" components each represent 15%, illustrating the demand for both structural integrity and aesthetic functionality in vehicle manufacturing. In addition to these categories, "Cooling Systems" contribute 14% to the supply distribution, reflecting their essential role in vehicle performance. The increasing integration of electronics in modern vehicles is highlighted by the 12% share of "Electricals & Electronics." The importance of mechanical components is underscored by the 13% share attributed to both "Drive Transmission & Steering" and "Engine Components." Additionally, the "Rubber Components" category, comprising 11% of the total supply, reinforces the necessity of diverse

materials in automotive systems. Notably, the "Suspension and Brake" category holds the smallest share at 1%, suggesting potential areas for innovation and growth. These distribution patterns provide a nuanced understanding of the complex landscape of component supply in the Indian automotive sector and highlight critical areas for future investment and development.

The aftermarket sector also showcases substantial growth, particularly in the context of the evolving vehicle landscape. Sales reached 74,203 units in FY2022, reflecting a 15% increase, with a steady market share of 10%. The continued growth trend was evident in FY2023, where sales climbed to 85,333 units, again registering a 15% increase and expanding market share to 10.6%. A peak in FY2024, with sales hitting 93,866 units, further illustrates robust growth of 10% and an elevated market share of 11.3%. This trend emphasizes the increasing importance of vehicle maintenance and repair, especially as consumers opt to retain older vehicles for longer periods.

Table 2: Change in value from the last FY (Percentage Points)

Fiscal Year	Domestic	Aftermarket	Import	Export	Overall
2019 to 2020	-9.40%	+2.8%			-11.70%
2020 to 2021	-6.90%	-7.00%	-11%	-8.20%	-2.50%
2021 to 2022	21.50%	+15.0%	+33%	30.70%	23.70%
2022 to 2023	29.50%	+15.0%	+11%	+5%	32.80%
2023 to 2024	5.20%	+10.0%	+3%	+5%	9.80%

Source: (ACMA, 2024)

Furthermore, in Table 2 the trends in Indian auto component exports from FY2020 to FY2024 showcase significant shifts, illustrating resilience amidst global challenges. Exports began at 13.3 billion USD in FY2020 and increased to 14.5 billion USD in FY2021, despite global disruptions. This 8.2% growth during a tumultuous period indicates the sector's ability to adapt and maintain competitiveness. The export landscape improved markedly in FY2022, with exports rising to 19.1 billion USD, reflecting a substantial increase of 30.7%. This growth is indicative of a recovery in global automotive demand as manufacturers resumed operations and international markets sought Indian auto components.

The upward trend continued into FY2023, with exports reaching 20.1 billion USD, marking a 5% increase. Projections for FY2024 indicate a further rise to 21.2 billion USD, sustaining the growth trajectory. These consistent increases in exports underscore the competitiveness of India's auto component industry, driven by enhancements in quality, cost efficiency, and compliance with international standards.

Conclusion

The Indian automotive component industry has exhibited remarkable resilience and adaptability, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which initially led to a turnover decline from ₹395,902 crores in FY2019 to ₹340,733 crores in FY2021. However, the sector rebounded with a turnover growth of 32.8% in FY2023, reaching ₹559,748 crores, highlighting the pivotal role of technological advancements and strategic partnerships. To sustain this momentum, several policy recommendations are essential. Enhanced support for research and development is crucial, as exemplified by Tata AutoComp's investments in electric vehicle technologies, which align with global trends. Streamlining regulatory frameworks will facilitate smoother operations for both startups and established firms, thereby fostering innovation. Additionally, significant investment in transportation infrastructure, like the government's focus on developing logistics parks, can improve supply chain efficiency. Implementing skill development programs tailored to modern manufacturing demands will prepare the workforce for emerging technologies, while promoting

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sustainability in production processes, akin to initiatives by companies like Mahindra to utilize eco-friendly materials, will enhance competitiveness.

Future research should focus on the impact of digital transformation through Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial intelligence(AI), understanding shifting consumer behaviours towards sustainable products, and analyzing global supply chain dynamics to build resilience. Comparative studies with other emerging markets could provide insights into best practices, while longitudinal analyses will offer a deeper understanding of industry evolution in response to policy changes and technological advancements. Collectively, these insights and actions will position the Indian automotive component industry for continued growth and global competitiveness.

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Literature Review on the Gendered Impacts of Unemployment on Marital Life

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Abstract
This study explores the gendered impact of unemployment on marital life, with a focus on the distinct economic, emotional, and social pressures faced by men and women during periods of joblessness. Through an extensive literature review, the research identifies key differences in how unemployment affects marital satisfaction, communication, and stability, emphasizing the heightened stress and stigma experienced by men due to traditional provider expectations. For women, although the psychological impact varies, dual-income households often feel significant financial strain when women are unemployed, leading to relational tension. The study examines coping mechanisms and support networks that couples utilize to mitigate these challenges, highlighting the effectiveness of gender-sensitive counseling, community support, and financial assistance programs. The findings underscore the need for tailored social support that addresses specific gender-related stressors, offering valuable insights for policymakers and mental health professionals seeking to enhance marital resilience in the face of economic hardship.

Keywords: Unemployment, Gender Differences, Gender Roles, Marital Life, Marital Stability

Introduction

Unemployment often has far-reaching consequences beyond the economic realm, affecting one's emotional and psychological well-being, while also impacting their social relationships. One area where its effects are felt profoundly is within one's marital life. The strain of joblessness extends beyond financial hardship, often leading to emotional turmoil, psychological stress, and shifts in traditional gender roles within the family. Marriages, as primary social units, are highly susceptible to the pressures that unemployment brings, especially in contexts where economic stability is a cornerstone of familial well-being.

From a gendered perspective, the impact of unemployment on marital life is multifaceted. Given the complex interplay of emotional, social, and economic factors, understanding the gendered dynamics of unemployment's impact on one's marital life is crucial. This study aims to explore these dynamics, examining how men and women experience job loss differently and how unemployment reshapes marital relationships, often pushing them towards dissatisfaction and, in severe cases, breakdown.

Objectives

The main objectives for extensively reviewing the available literature on the topic are :-
- To examine how unemployment impacts men and women psychologically and emotionally
- To examine how unemployment impacts marital stability in single income vs dual income households
- To identify the coping mechanisms used by each gender to mitigate the negative impacts of unemployment on their marital life

Literature Review

1. (Cohen, 2013) aims to study the impact of unemployment on the rates of marital dissolution. The researcher uses secondary data from the United States Census Bureau, along with data from longitudinal household surveys. The study analyses the data using statistical analysis tools like logistic regression and survival analysis. The study found that economic hardships, especially lead to higher incidences of marital hardships, and higher rates of divorces, especially amongst the lower income families. Loss of job was linked with both psychological and financial strain, often leading to marital conflict.

2. (Johnson, 2012) aims to explore the personal experiences of people regarding how their joblessness impacts their marital life. The study uses primary data collected through personal interviews of 30 unemployed individuals who had been married for a period of at least five years. The researcher uses qualitative method using thematic analysis for the study. The findings show that majority of couples faced increased incidences of marital conflict, increased financial strain and loss of self-esteem post losing a job.

3. (Dimitris & Yannis, 2016) aims to study the impacts of economic insecurity on relationship quality across different European countries. The study uses secondary data from European Social Survey, having respondents from around at least 15 European countries. The study uses cross national comparison using multivariate regression and factor analysis. The findings show that unemployment negatively impacts quality of marital relationships, with the impact being highly mitigated by the social welfare policies in few countries.

4. (Smith & Harris, 2018) aims to study the psychological impacts of unemployment and former's effects on marital life in the long term. The study uses secondary data from a longitudinal study on family life. The researcher employs time series analysis using fixed effects models. The study found that psychological consequences of joblessness such as depression lead to increased levels of marital dissatisfaction, with the latter being mitigated through counselling and having lesser impact on couples with pre-existing strong communication skills.

5. (Olsen, 2019) aims to study the interrelationship between unemployment induced financial strain and divorce rates in Denmark. The researcher uses primary data from a national household survey. The study employs statistical tools like logistic regression and event history analysis. The findings showed that unemployment induced financial stress did indeed increase the likelihood of divorces but to a much lesser extent owing to the social security schemes such as the unemployment benefits given by the state of Denmark.

6. (Cherlin, 1979) aims to understand the relationship between unemployment and marital dissolution through divorce in the United States. The study is based on secondary data obtained from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). The study uses Cox regression models. The study found that unemployment significantly increased the probability of divorces, especially amongst the lower income groups.

7. (Kalmijn & et al, 2005) aims to explore the various economic factors such as unemployment related to marital dissolution. The researcher uses secondary data from the European Community Household Panel. The data is analyzed using statistical tools such as logistic regression analysis. The findings show that job loss significantly increased the probability of marital instability, but the effect was often mitigated through the various country specific social welfare schemes.

8. (Amato & Previti, 2003) aims to investigate the influence of factors such as unemployment and financial stress on divorces. The study uses primary data from a survey of divorced persons. The researchers use qualitative techniques such as content analysis and descriptive statistics to analyze the data. The study found that economic and financial strains were amongst the top reasons for divorce, especially amongst men who had gone through a job loss.

9. (Charles & Stephens, 2004) aims to understand the relationship between job displacement and divorce rates. The study uses secondary data from the Displaced Worker Survey and the Current Population Survey. The study uses hazard models and regression analysis to examine the data. The study found that job displacement increases the likelihood of divorce especially amongst younger couples.

10. (Bowen & Orthner, 1983) aims to develop a theoretical framework to understand the link between economic instability and marital stability. The researchers use secondary data from various economic and marital studies. The study is mainly based upon theoretical analysis of the past literature. The results show that economic and financial stress, especially ones caused due to unemployment were a major factor for marital instability and divorce.

11. (Jensen & Foster, 1990) aims to investigate the relationship between job loss and marital stability amongst the rural populace. The study uses primary data collected through interviews of rural households. The data thus collected is analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using logistic regression analysis. The results show that loss of job leads to higher levels of marital stress, which increases emotional distance which ultimately lead to divorce.

12. (Zimmerman, 1980) aims to compare the marital life of employed and unemployed husbands. The researcher uses primary data collected through personal interviews with married couples. The researcher does comparative analysis of the data using thematic coding. The findings show that married men who were unemployed experienced lower levels of marital satisfaction, increased marital conflict, and had repeated feelings of being emasculated.

13. (Liker & Elder, 1983) aims to study the impact of the economic hardship rampant during the Great Depression on marital relationships. The study uses secondary data from historical records and collected through life-history interviews. The data thus collected is analyzed using longitudinal analysis and regression. The findings show that economic hardships experienced during the Great Depression lead to long term marital instability, with loss of jobs increasing marital conflicts amongst couples.

14. (Moen & Shibusawa, 2004) aims to explore how the marital relationships of different socio-demographic groups are affected by unemployment. The study uses secondary data from the General Social Survey (GSS). The researchers use statistical techniques like multivariate regression analysis to analyze the data. The results show that negative

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impacts of unemployment were more pronounced amongst couples of the lower income and minority groups.

15. (Rogers & Amato, 2001) aim to understand the impact of job loss on the satisfaction rates amongst married couples. The researchers collected primary data using panel interviews of married couples. The data thus collected is analyzed using various techniques like Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The findings showed that lack of emotional support coupled with financial pressure, increased marital dissatisfaction, especially amongst jobless men.

16. (Conger & et al, 1990) aim to explore the connection between quality of marital life and economic stress. The study uses primary data collected through interviews with rural families. The researchers analyzed the data using techniques like Path Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The findings showed that job loss and financial stress was directly linked with increased marital conflicts and stress.

17. (McLanahan & Adams, 1988) aimed to study the impacts of unemployment on family structure, marriage and divorce rates across Europe. The researchers used secondary data from the European Union's census reports. The study did a cross national comparison of the data from the various countries of the European Union and also used statistical tools like regression analysis to examine the data. The findings were consistent with other research, with higher rates of unemployment being directly correlated with lower marriage rates and higher divorce rates throughout Europe, especially in countries lacking strong social safety provisions.

18. (South, 1992) aimed to explore the relationship between unemployment, job related stress and divorces. The researcher used secondary data from the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). The study uses qualitative techniques like event history analysis along with quantitative techniques like logistic regression analysis. The study reported that work related stress and unemployment were significant predictors of marital dissolution.

19. (Lancker, Wim, & Nieuwenhuis, 2016) aims to do a gender specific study of how unemployment affected family well-being in Europe. The researchers used secondary data from the European Social Survey (ESS). The study uses multivariate regression analysis to analyze the data. The results show that marital satisfaction rates for men were impacted negatively significantly more than women, due to unemployment, especially in countries having traditional gender roles.

20. (Schweitzer & et al, 1994) aims to study the existing literature to understand the impacts of unemployment on family relationships like marriage. The researchers use secondary data from pre published studies on the subject. The data is analyzed qualitatively using meta-analysis and thorough review of the literature. The findings show that financial stress caused by unemployment was a major cause for increased marital conflicts, increasing rates of marital dissatisfaction and divorce.

21. (Doiron & Kalb, 2005) aims to understand the impacts of unemployment on family relationships, family time and overall quality of family life. The study uses secondary data from the Australian Time Use Survey. The data is analyzed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The findings show that alterations in family time due to unemployment lead to higher rates of marital dissatisfaction and conflicts, especially when one spouse was forced to take up more responsibilities within the house.

22. (Liker & Elder Jr., 1981) aims to study the long terms effects of economic hardships on marital quality during the Great Depression. The study uses primary data collected through life history interviews from respondents. The data thus collected is analyzed longitudinally. The findings show that marital life's quality of couples who had been unemployed for long term during the Great Depression, deteriorated, with higher propensity for divorce, compared to those with stable employment.

23. (Rauer & et al, 2018) aims to explore how economic stress and loss of job, influenced marital life quality over time. The data being used was primary, collected from married couples through longitudinal surveys. The data is analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling. The findings showed that rates of marital satisfaction deceased amongst couples who had experienced job loss, with financial stress being the major cause.

24. (Khawaja & Habib, 2007) aims to study the impacts of unemployment on marital instability in the conflict prone zones of Palestine. The researchers use primary data collected through household surveys of Palestinian territories. The data is analyzed using logistic regression analysis. The findings show that unemployment significantly increased rates of marital dissatisfaction especially in the conflict prone zones which had higher rates of economic insecurity.

25. (Hardie, Jessica, & Lucas, 2010) aims to explore the impacts of job loss on the relationship quality amongst low-income group couples. The data used is primary, collected through longitudinal interviews of low-income group couples. The data is analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis. The results show that unemployment significantly increased the likelihood of divorce, increased rates of marital dissatisfaction and conflicts; with men's unemployment having stronger impact than women's.

26. (Krug & Blair, 2007) aims to understand how unemployment affected divorce rates over time. The

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study uses secondary data from National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLYSY). The data thus collected is analyzed qualitatively using event history analysis. The findings show that prolonged periods of unemployment were likely to increase the likelihoods of divorces especially for younger couples having fewer financial resources.

27. (Patterson, 1987) aims to explore the interrelationship between financial strain, marital satisfaction and unemployment. The study uses primary data collected through surveys of married US couples. The data thus collected is analyzed using Path Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling. The findings show that unemployment coupled with increased financial strain significantly decreased marital satisfaction rates with strong support from spouses often ameliorating the negative impacts.

28. (Umberson & Montez, 2010) aims to study how social support mediated the lives of couples impacted by financial stress owing to unemployment. The data being used is primary, collected through interviews with unemployed individuals and their spouses. The data is analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling and thematic analysis. The study found that social support helped couples negatively affected by unemployment and helped sustain the quality of marital life, thereby reducing the likelihood of marital dissolution.

29. (Cherlin, 1990) aims to explore the impacts of economic uncertainties particularly due to unemployment, on family life. The data being used is primary, collected from US Census reports and longitudinal surveys. The data is analyzed using quantitative statistical techniques like longitudinal regression analysis. The findings show that marital stability was negatively impacted significantly, due to economic uncertainties arising due to unemployment, often resulting in higher rates of divorces and separation.

30. (Wilkinson, 1992) aims to explore the interrelationship between marital stress, unemployment and economic inequality. The researcher uses secondary data from international surveys on income inequality and marital satisfaction. The data is analyzed using statistical tools like multivariate regression analysis. The findings show that economic inequality and unemployment were strongly correlated with increased levels of marital stress which often lead to increased likelihood of marital conflicts and divorces.

31. (Larson & Holman, 1994) aims to understand how marital stability was impacted by various premarital factors and unemployment of a spouse. The data being used is primary, collected through longitudinal study of pre-married couples. The data thus collected is analyzed through Structural Equation Modeling. The study's findings show that

pre-existing financial stress due to unemployment was a significant predictor of marital instability and marital dissatisfaction, particularly for unemployed men.

32. (Wilson & Strom, 2002) aims to study the impact of financial strain and job loss on the marital interactions of middle aged couples. The study uses primary data collected through interviews of middle aged couples who had experienced unemployment. The data is analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings show that financial strains caused due to loss of livelihood, lead to higher instances of marital conflicts, spousal withdrawal, lack of communication, amongst middle aged couples.

33. (Kinnunen & Feldt, 2004) aims to explore how dual earning married couples were impacted by unemployment. The data being used is secondary, which was collected through longitudinal surveys of Finnish couples. The data is analyzed using cross-lagged panel analysis. The study found that unemployment of either spouse negatively impacted marital satisfaction levels, with men's unemployment having stronger negative impacts on marital satisfaction levels compared to that of women's unemployment.

34. (Booth & Amato, 2001) aims to explore the mediating role played by economic hardships between marital dissolution and job instability. The data being used is secondary, collected from the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). The data is analyzed using logistic regression analysis. The findings show that economic hardships caused due to job instabilities and unemployment, were major factors directly linked to increased marital dissolution.

35. (Leopold & Schneider, 2012) aims to understand how economic hardships like unemployment, influence the timing of divorce. The data being used is secondary, collected from the German Socio-economic Panel. The data is analyzed qualitatively using event-history analysis. The findings show that economic hardships and unemployment often precede divorce, with economic hardships which have increased with time, coupled with job loss accelerating the timing of divorces.

36. (Moen & et al, 2006) aims to explore the impact of economic instabilities like that of job loss on family life and marital relations. The research uses primary data collected through surveys and interviews of couples going through experiences of job loss. The data thus collected is analyzed using longitudinal analysis and thematic coding. The findings show that couples who were experiencing job loss had increased instances of marital conflicts, emotional and communication distances, and higher rates of separation, especially where re-employment was delayed.

37. (Pryor, 2006) aims to explore how marital life's satisfaction levels are impacted by unemployment in

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the US and other developed countries. The research uses secondary data from the General Social Survey (GSS) and international databases. The data is analyzed using comparative regression analysis. The results show that economic stress induced due to unemployment had a significant impact on marital satisfaction rates in the US, especially when compared with nations having stronger social welfare programs than the US.

38. (Hansen, 2005) aims to study the impact of unemployment on marital dissolution in Norway. The study uses secondary data from the Norwegian National Panel Survey. The study analyses the data using panel data analysis and logistic regression analysis. The findings show that long term unemployment had a stronger correlation with marital dissolution with men's unemployment having a stronger impact than that of women's. The effect was somehow mitigated through Norway's social safety nets.

39. (Dew, 2009) aims to explore the impacts of financial stress, job loss and work hours on relationship outcomes. The study uses primary data collected through surveys of married couples in the US. The data thus collected is analyzed using Path Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling. The findings show that financial stress caused by job loss was directly correlated with lower rates of marital satisfaction with longer working hours exacerbating the issues.

40. (Ludwig-Mayerhofer & et al, 2014) aims to understand the impacts of long term unemployment on marital satisfaction and stability. The study uses secondary data from European labor market surveys. The data is analyzed using longitudinal regression analysis. The findings show that long term unemployment was having a direct significant negative impact on marital satisfaction, often increasing divorces and separations, especially when chances of getting re-employed were slim.

41. (Griffiths, 2012) aims to explore how marital dissatisfaction rates are affected by unemployment and workplace stress. The study uses primary data collected through workplace surveys and interviews with employees and their spouses. The study analyses the data using multilevel regression analysis. The findings show that both unemployment and workplace stress were significant predictors of marital dissatisfaction, with unemployment being a greater influencing factor for marital dissatisfaction and spousal emotional withdrawal.

42. (Sayer & Bianchi, 2013) aims to explore the effects of unemployment on household labor division and marital conflict from a gendered perspective. The study uses secondary data from the American Time Use Survey. The data is analyzed using regression analysis and time-use modeling. The study's findings show that unemployment increased marital conflict with unemployed men experiencing higher levels of conflict when they contributed less to housework.

43. (Hetherington & Kelly, 1987) aims to study the long term impacts of unemployment amongst families undergoing transition. The data being used is primary, which was sourced from longitudinal interviews with families experiencing unemployment. The data was analyzed using techniques like longitudinal thematic analysis. The results show that families having unemployment inter-spousal conflicts increased, higher levels of emotional withdrawal, with the effects increasing as unemployment persisted.

44. (Gottman & Levenson, 1991) aims to study how unemployment induced economic stress impacted marital interaction over a 10 year period. The study uses primary data collected over a 10 year period from a longitudinal survey of married couples. The data is analyzed qualitatively using observational analysis and quantitatively using regression modeling. The findings show that couples going through economic stress due to job loss, had more negative interactions between each other and showed higher likelihood for divorce within 10 years.

45. (Coltrane & Adams, 2001) aims to study the impact of gender as a mediating factor in marital stress caused due to economic stress induced because of unemployment. The data being collected is secondary sourced from national surveys on marital conflict. The data is analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using regression analysis. The findings show that unemployment exacerbated gender-based conflicts in marriages, with men having higher levels of frustration and marital dissatisfaction than women.

46. (Sayer & Bianchi, 2013) aims to understand how the division and household labor and marital conflict is affected by unemployment from a gendered perspective. The study uses secondary data from the American Time Use Survey. The data is analyzed using regression analysis and time-use modeling. The results show that unemployment of both men and women had a negative impact on division of household labor which often increased marital conflicts, more emotional stress, while also noting that men's unemployment was more influential than women's.

47. (Kinnunen & Feldt, 2004) aims to examine the impact of unemployment on marital satisfaction levels of dual earner couples. The study uses primary data sourced from a longitudinal survey of dual earning couples of Finland. The study analyses the data using cross-lagged panel analysis. The results show that marital satisfaction levels decreased with unemployment irrespective of the spouse's gender, but had a more significant impact

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due to men's unemployment, possibly because of different societal expectations.

48. (Booth & Amato, 2001) aims to understand the role of economic hardships in causing marital dissolution due to job instability of men and women. The research uses secondary data from the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). The study uses logistic regression analysis to analyze the impact of economic hardships on marital dissolution. The results show that men's job instability increased the chances of marital stress and divorce, than that of women's, with economic hardships increasing the impacts.

49. (Griffiths, 2012) aims to explore how job stress and unemployment impact men and women's marital satisfaction levels. The study uses primary data collected through interviews of employed and unemployed couples. The data is analyzed quantitatively using multilevel regression analysis. The study finds that men's unemployment had a greater negative impact on men's marital satisfaction levels, and increased feelings of inadequacy and frustration. Women's unemployment didn't have a significant impact on the relationship unless coupled with serious financial strains.

50. (Rauer & et al, 2018) aims to analyze the impact of financial stress and loss of job on marital quality of men and women over time. The study uses primary data from longitudinal surveys of married couples. The data is analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling. The findings show that men's job loss had a more significant negative impact on marital satisfaction levels compared to women's, with women's job loss often getting increased spousal support unlike that of men. This phenomenon was attributed to traditional gender roles seeing men as financial providers.

51. (Schoon & et al, 2013) aims to explore how gender differences of either gender, affects marital satisfaction levels with a focus on social support's mediating role. The data being used is secondary, sourced from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). The data is analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling. The findings show that men's unemployment had a far more detrimental impact on marital satisfaction levels, mainly because of societal expectations and the stigma associated with male unemployment. The effects were however mitigated to a large extent through the presence of social support for women.

52. (Dew J. , 2009) aims to understand the impact of financial stress and unemployment on the relationship outcomes for men and women. The study uses primary data sourced from surveys of married couples in the US. The data is analyzed using Path Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling. The results show that economic pressures faced by men as the primary breadwinners, lead to men experiencing more severe levels of marital dissatisfaction than that of women. Women also faced increased levels of marital strain due to financial stress but it was not as severe as that of men.

53. (Hetherington & Kelly, 1987) aims to do a gendered analysis of how unemployment impacts men and women differently in families over a long period of time. The study uses primary data sourced through interviews of families going through unemployment. The data is analyzed using longitudinal thematic analysis. The results show that men were more adversely affected by unemployment than women, with men experiencing more psychological issues like emotional withdrawal and stress due to family conflicts. Women, although affected, often assumed caregiving roles within families which lessened their marital dissatisfaction.

54. (Umberson & Montez, 2010) aims to do a gendered analysis of how social support during phases of unemployment helped lessen the hardships. The study uses primary data obtained through interviews of employed individuals and their spouses. The data thus collected is analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling. The results show that social support couldn't help mitigate the negative effects of unemployment for men as efficiently as it could for women. The study found that unemployment led to increased instances of marital conflict and emotional isolation for men, whereas women benefited from emotional and social support.

Findings and Suggestions

From a gendered perspective the extensive literature review done on the topic, reveals distinct experiences for both men and women during unemployment. It has been discussed individually for either gender below -

- **Men**
- **Psychological strain** - Men face greater psychological pressures when unemployed, mainly due to societal norms which cast them as primary providers. This often leads to men experiencing intense feelings of inadequacy, stress and depression, all of which negatively impacts their marital satisfaction levels.
- **Marital conflict** - stress induced due to men being unemployed, often results in increased arguments, emotional withdrawal, and feelings of frustration. The disruption of men's role as the principle provider and financial supporter within the institution of marriage, leads to heightened likelihood of divorces.
- **Social stigma** - men face the unique challenge of proving their traditional masculinity, by being the provider and financial supporter. Being unemployed leads men to be socially stigmatized and isolated, which often exacerbates their feelings of depression and

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isolation. This further strains all their relationships, including marital relationships.

- **Women**
- **Buffering effects** - women tend to shift to their household chores even when unemployed, thus getting emotional validation which acts as a buffer for the psychological impacts. This usually decreases and sometimes nullifies the chances of marital conflicts.
- **Financial pressure** - in dual income households, women's unemployment increases marital dissatisfaction and conflicts due to increase in financial strain. However women often get shielded from the extreme negative psychological impacts of unemployment unlike men, as women switch to caregiving and emotional roles.

Long-term marital stability is highly influenced by men's duration of unemployment and the severity of its impacts. Women's unemployment did increase the chances of marital conflicts while also putting more strain on women juggling roles as job seekers and homemakers; but men's long term unemployment was strongly associated, globally, with higher rates of marital dissatisfaction, marital conflict and increased divorce rates. To sum up, the gendered impacts of unemployment on marital life, it's worth noting that men bear the brunt of societal expectations, emotional and psychological distress, while women although less impacted do suffer from financial stress in dual income households, with both coping with marital instability in their unique ways. Through a gendered lens, the topic underscores the need for tailored social support mechanisms that address the specific emotional and psychological needs of both men and women facing unemployment in marital contexts. The following recommendations regarding social support are being made :-

- Provide gender sensitive counseling services
- Provide accessible financial and employment support programs
- Offer training for adaptive coping mechanisms
- Create community support networks

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Scientific Temper and Superstitions: Legal Incentives for Promoting Rational Thinking

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Abstract:

Superstition originating from fear, ignorance, or misinterpreted causality has historically impeded societal progress and rational thinking. It manifests in various forms and influences critical decisions in healthcare, education, matrimony, governance, and jurisprudence. Conversely, a scientific temper, characterized by a rational and evidence-based approach to problem-solving, is crucial for fostering logical reasoning and societal advancement. The Constitution of India enshrines the promotion of scientific tempers as a fundamental duty for every citizen. However, the deeply entrenched nature of superstitious customs and the lack of consistent nationwide legislation hinder the effective implementation of legal frameworks targeting superstitious practices. Existing laws, such as the Drug and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act of 1954 and state-specific legislation against witch-hunting and black magic, face challenges in terms of enforcement and comprehensiveness. Legal incentives can be employed to bridge the gap between legislation and the eradication of superstitious beliefs. These include stringent sanctions against harmful superstitious practices, educational initiatives promoting critical thinking, media regulations fostering scientific temperament, and fiscal incentives supporting scientific literacy. A comprehensive national legislative framework coupled with legal incentives in education, media, and community programs is imperative for cultivating a rational society and catalyzing social, economic, and political progress.

Keywords: Scientific Temper, Rationalism, Critical Thinking, Superstition, Legal Incentives

Introduction

Superstition has historically impeded societal progress, originating from fear, magical thinking, or religious doctrines, and manifesting in forms ranging from lethal witch hunts to innocuous practices, such as hanging lemons and chili. In numerous countries including India, superstitious beliefs influence critical decisions in healthcare, education, matrimony, governance, and jurisprudence. These beliefs hinder the development of logical thinking in developing nations, where scientific reasoning is crucial. Conversely, scientific temper, characterized by a rational and evidence-based approach to problem-solving, stands in opposition to superstition. Cultivating a scientific temper is essential for fostering rational societies, and legislative initiatives promoting it are imperative to challenge superstitious beliefs by encouraging logical reasoning.

Superstition: A Barrier to Social Progress and Rational Thinking

Superstition refers to beliefs or practices that lack a foundation in reason, scientific understanding, or logical reasoning, originating from irrational fears, cultural customs, or misinterpretations of causality. Such beliefs frequently involve attributing mystical or supernatural explanations to ordinary events. Superstitions manifest as rituals, prohibitions, or beliefs concerning fortunate or unfortunate objects, numbers, or behaviors, and are typically transmitted through generations or cultural groups, persisting without empirical support. These beliefs can influence behavior and decision-making processes, leading individuals to act or avoid certain situations based on unfounded assumptions rather than rational considerations.

Superstition originating from fear, ignorance, or misinterpreted causality can detrimentally impact society. Although it may provide certain individuals with reassurance or a perceived sense of control, it frequently results in adverse consequences for individuals and communities. Its influence extends beyond personal beliefs, affecting social and economic dimensions, perpetuating prejudice, inciting aggression, and infringing on fundamental human rights.

Superstitions have a significant impact on society by promoting fear-based or magical reasoning over critical thinking and empirical evidence. This impedes individuals from questioning unfounded beliefs and pursuing rational evidence-based solutions. Furthermore, superstitions are frequently exploited to manipulate less educated

or vulnerable populations. For instance, spiritual healers, astrologers, or fortune-tellers may capitalize on individuals' anxieties and uncertainties for personal or financial gain, resulting in financial losses and perpetuating cycles of poverty and ignorance.

Superstitious beliefs perpetuate detrimental social hierarchies such as gender bias and caste discrimination. For instance, witches hunt target women, accusing them of practicing sorcery or causing misfortune. Similarly, certain ethnic groups or castes are designated as "impure" or "ill-fated," resulting in their exclusion and the perpetuation of structural inequalities. These practices exacerbate social injustice and intensify societal division.

Adherence to superstitious beliefs can lead individuals to reject contemporary medical practices in favor of traditional or unsubstantiated remedies, which may be ineffective or detrimental. In communities where beliefs in sorcery, malevolent spirits, or hexes are prevalent, superstition can precipitate violence, often targeting women, children, or minority groups. These individuals may be held accountable for misfortunes and subjected to severe punishment, including physical abuse, social exclusion, or even homicide. Such actions engender fear and discord, and undermine community cohesion and trust. Furthermore, superstitious practices can result in resource misallocation, with funds expended on rituals, sacrifices, or supernatural cures instead of essential areas, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Reliance on superstitions, such as consulting fortune-tellers for business decisions or auspicious dates, can lead to irrational financial choices, potentially impacting individual enterprises and broader economic systems.

Superstitions have a detrimental effect on educational systems. Intellectual curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge are impeded in societies where superstitious beliefs are prevalent. Families or communities may discourage children from pursuing scientific education, thus favoring traditional beliefs and practices. Superstitions reinforce outdated customs, thereby resisting changes and impeding progressive social reform. Nations dominated by superstitious thinking may experience developmental delays owing to reduced investment in scientific research, technological advancements, and educational initiatives. Decision-making influenced by superstitious beliefs negatively affects various sectors, including healthcare, infrastructure, and governance, ultimately hindering economic growth and societal progress.

Superstitions impede individual development, societal advancement, scientific progress, and national growth. It engenders anxiety, perpetuates ignorance, and exacerbates social disparities, diverting attention and resources from rational methodologies that can enhance living standards. Addressing superstitious thinking through education, promoting scientific principles, and cultivating analytical reasoning skills is imperative for fostering an enlightened and equitable society.

Scientific Temper and Its Importance

Scientific temperament encompasses a rational, logical, and inquisitive approach to knowledge acquisition, in contrast to superstitions that arise from irrational fears, traditions, or religious beliefs. This approach involves objective observation and analysis, the challenge of established notions, receptiveness to novel ideas and evidence, rejection of unsubstantiated claims, application of scientific methodologies in problem solving, emphasis on empirical data and logical reasoning, promotion of critical thinking, recognition of the provisional nature of scientific knowledge, and advocacy for intellectual integrity in research. This mindset, which prioritizes evidence-based decision-making and continuous learning, facilitates the expansion of knowledge and societal advancement. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his famous work Discovery of India (1946), articulated the term "scientific temper" as, "a way of life, a process of thinking, method of acting and associating with our fellowman."

Scientific tempers are essential to individual growth, societal progress, and national development. This confers benefits in both personal and collective domains. At the individual level, it fosters objective analysis, critical inquiry, and evidence-based decision-making in preference to emotional or superstitious judgments. It stimulates intellectual curiosity, prompting exploration and comprehension of the world. Furthermore, problem-solving capabilities are enhanced through a systematic approach to challenges. Scientific tempers also promote intellectual openness, encouraging the acceptance of novel ideas and perspectives, while cultivating skepticism toward unsubstantiated claims. Moreover, it facilitates the articulation of ideas with clarity and logical coherence.

The cultivation of a scientific mindset is essential for societal advancement. It catalyzes technological progress and economic growth. A scientifically literate population demonstrates enhanced engagement in democratic processes and supports evidence-based policies, thereby counteracting misinformation and unscientific beliefs. This approach contributes to a reduction in superstitious thinking, enhances environmental awareness, and promotes sustainability. Scientific understanding facilitates improvements in public health through enhanced disease prevention and healthcare practices. Furthermore, it challenges traditional discriminatory systems, advocating for

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social equality and cultural progression, by critically examining outdated customs and beliefs.

The cultivation of a scientific temper promotes analytical reasoning and logical decision-making, thereby encouraging individuals to critically examine ideas, challenge assumptions, and base judgments on empirical evidence. This approach enhances problem-solving skills and leads to more informed choices as opposed to relying on emotions or unfounded beliefs. By emphasizing evidence and logic, scientific tempers serve to dispel superstitions and myths, foster skepticism toward unsubstantiated claims, and encourage fact-based explanations.

The promotion of scientific thinking contributes to the development of more knowledgeable, adaptable, and progressive communities, thus yielding benefits for both individuals and society. This approach enhances the capacity of people and societies to address complex issues, thereby fostering an enlightened, advanced, and equitable world.

Legal Framework for Promoting Scientific Temper

The Constitution of India, under Article 51A(h), explicitly enshrines the promotion of scientific tempers as a fundamental duty of every citizen. It mandates the cultivation of scientific tempers, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry as obligations for all citizens. While this provision is not legally enforceable, it establishes a foundation for legislative and educational initiatives aimed at fostering rationality.

Legal structures play a pivotal role in addressing social issues. Legislation that targets the most deleterious aspects of superstitious beliefs is essential for fostering a scientific mindset. Although India's legislative approach is progressing, consistent laws to mitigate harmful superstitions are lacking, except in Maharashtra and Karnataka. The deeply entrenched nature of superstitious customs in numerous communities complicates the effective enforcement of the current legal frameworks. India lacks specific nationwide legislation regarding superstitions. However, various existing legal frameworks provide indirect mechanisms to address negative ramifications.

The Drug and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act of 1954 constitutes the primary national legislation addressing superstitious practices in India. Its objective is to regulate drug advertisements in specific instances and prohibit the promotion of remedies purporting to possess magical properties. The Act proscribes the advertisement of talismans or incantations for particular ailments, enumerating 56 such conditions, and restricts the marketing and distribution of alleged miracle cures. However, enforcement remains infrequent, and numerous such products continue to be accessible. The legislature has insufficiently updated the Act, including 14 now-treatable diseases, while omitting more recent conditions, such as AIDS. Penalties include imprisonment for up to six months and extending to one year for repeat offenders. Nevertheless, the Act lacks an effective implementation mechanism.

The Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023, constitutes significant legislation addressing violent acts. Key provisions within the BNS, such as Section 103 (murder penalties), Section 109 (attempted murder), and Section 115 (punishment for intentional injury) can be applied to superstition-related violence. For instance, ritual killings or harm perpetrated through black magic practices can be prosecuted. In cases where superstitious beliefs result in harm to minors, such as child sacrifices or abusive ceremonies, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, can protect vulnerable children against exploitation and mistreatment.

Witch hunting results in violence against accused individuals, and remains a significant societal concern. Six Indian states—Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Assam—have enacted legislation to address witchcraft. These include Bihar's Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act, 1999; Jharkhand's Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act, 2001; Chhattisgarh's Tonahi Pratadna Nivaran Act, 2005; Rajasthan's Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2015; Odisha's Prevention of Witch Hunting Act, 2013; and Assam's Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention, and Protection) Act, 2015. These legislations have not been properly implemented because of their intrinsic lacunas.

In Maharashtra, the State Assembly passed specific anti-superstition legislation in 2013: the Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil, and Aghori Practices, and the Black Magic Act. This legislation sanctions superstitious activities that cause physical, financial, or dignity-related harm, enumerating 12 punishable acts including human sacrifice, exploitation through black magic, and harmful rituals. Additionally, it criminalizes the use of charms, talismans, and purported 'miracle cures' for monetary deception. Offenses under this Act are classified as cognizable and non-bailable, with penalties extending up to seven years of imprisonment. The legislation authorizes the government to appoint vigilance officers to police stations; however, its implementation faces challenges owing to governmental indifference. Karnataka also enacted the Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act (2017) to curtail inhumane practices.

These legislative measures have demonstrated their efficacy as crucial legal

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mechanisms for fostering scientific rationality by directly addressing various aspects of superstitious beliefs.

Challenges in Implementing Legal Measures

Despite the presence of robust legal frameworks, their implementation has encountered substantial impediments. The principal obstacle is the resistance grounded in cultural traditions. Superstitious beliefs are frequently deeply interwoven with cultural and religious practices, rendering their eradication through legislation alone a challenge. Efforts to enact laws targeting these customs may encounter vehement opposition from specific communities or religious factions.

Individuals in diverse regions may be unaware of legislation that prohibits superstitious practices and promotes scientific thinking. Furthermore, these populations often lack access to educational opportunities to cultivate critical and rational cognitive processes. Inadequate enforcement presents a substantial impediment to the implementation of anti-superstitious legislation. Law enforcement agencies and other regulatory bodies may be insufficiently trained or motivated to execute these laws effectively, particularly when superstitious beliefs are endorsed by influential entities or deeply embedded within local communities.

The implementation of legal consequences may not consistently prove to be the most efficacious approach for addressing an issue that is fundamentally rooted in social and psychological factors. The disparity between rural and urban areas is an additional challenge. In rural regions where educational opportunities and legal resources are limited, superstitious beliefs exert a more significant influence. Efforts to promote scientific thinking through legal means may not achieve comparable success in these areas relative to urban centers. To effectively combat superstition, a comprehensive strategy is imperative that integrates robust anti-superstition legislation with the promotion of scientific reasoning.

While certain legislation targets specific deleterious superstitions, such as witchcraft or black magic, these laws may not address the fundamental issue, which frequently originates from inadequate scientific education and a deficiency in critical thinking skills.

Legal Incentives for Promoting Rational Thinking

Governments and institutions employ legal incentives to influence behavior through legislation and regulatory measures, including rewards, advantages, or punishments. These incentives can be financial (e.g., tax incentives or fines) or nonfinancial (e.g., rights or restrictions). The objective is to guide actions that support societal goals such as public health, scientific advancement, environmental protection, or economic growth.

Various legal strategies can be implemented to bridge the divide between legislation and the elimination of superstitious beliefs.

1. Legislation to Mitigate Detrimental Superstitious Practices: Stringent sanctions should be implemented for individuals propagating superstitions that result in physical, psychological, or financial detriments. A comprehensive national legislative framework is required to address the superstitious practices that lead to corporeal, emotional, and economic exploitation.

2. Governments can promote scientific temperament and logical reasoning in education by implementing appropriate curricula, providing scholarships, allocating grants, and recognizing exemplary educators. These initiatives may cultivate a questioning mindset at an early age. Emphasizing critical thinking, logic, and scientific methodologies will contribute to the development of a generation capable of challenging unfounded beliefs and superstitions.

3. Media Regulation and Critical Thinking: Media can significantly promote rational thought. Governmental bodies can establish guidelines that require media outlets encompassing digital, print, and social platforms to foster a scientific temperament and logical reasoning. These regulatory measures can also impose sanctions on the dissemination of superstitious beliefs, particularly in advertisements and entertainment content.

4. Fiscal Incentives for Promoting Scientific Literacy: The government can implement tax incentives or financial support mechanisms for entities engaged in scientific education and anti-superstitious initiatives. Such measures would incentivize rationalist organizations, educational institutions, and media outlets to promote scientific thinking and rational perspectives.

The proposed incentives necessitate meticulous planning and implementation to effectively promote scientific thinking while considering the essential legal and ethical aspects.

Conclusion

Promoting a scientific mindset constitutes both a cultural and legal objective. Legal mechanisms, including comprehensive legislation, fiscal incentives for awareness initiatives, media regulatory frameworks, and educational policies, are fundamental to cultivating critical thinking and mitigating superstitious beliefs. A national legislative framework is required to impose sanctions on deleterious superstitions and advocate scientific reasoning. Legal incentives should be incorporated into educational systems, media

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platforms, and community programs to prioritize evidence-based cognitive processes. Legal reforms that support scientific temperament can enhance intellectual freedom, diminish the influence of superstitions, and catalyze social, economic, and political advancement.

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Isolation, Characterization and Identification of Azorhizophilus Paspali SHF1

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Abstract:

The symbiotic relationship between nitrogen-fixing bacteria and plants plays a crucial role in improving soil fertility and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This study focuses on the isolation, characterization, and molecular identification of a nitrogen-fixing bacterial strain, Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1, obtained from the rhizosphere of *different plant species*. Soil samples were collected from agricultural fields of Latur region known for high productivity, and bacterial isolation was performed using nitrogen-free selective media, specifically Jensen's medium, to enrich nitrogen-fixing bacterial colonies. The isolated strain SHF1 underwent a series of morphological and biochemical characterizations. Gram staining revealed the strain to be a Gram-negative, rod-shaped bacterium, with colony morphology being mucoid and circular. Biochemical assays, including catalase, oxidase, nitrate reduction, and indole production tests, were conducted to further characterize the isolate. The strain exhibited nitrogen-fixing capabilities, as indicated by positive nitrogenase activity using the acetylene reduction assay (ARA). For molecular identification, 16S rRNA gene sequencing was employed. The sequence obtained was compared against the GenBank database using BLAST, which confirmed a close similarity to **Azorhizophilus paspali**, with 99% sequence identity. Phylogenetic analysis also confirmed the taxonomic position of SHF1 within the Azorhizophilus genus. The strain demonstrated significant nitrogenase activity, indicating its potential application in biofertilizer production. Additionally, plant growth-promoting attributes such as the production of indole acetic acid (IAA) and phosphate solubilization were observed, highlighting the strain's ability to enhance plant growth. The findings of this study suggest that **Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1** could serve as an effective biofertilizer, contributing to nitrogen cycling in agricultural ecosystems and reducing reliance on synthetic fertilizers. Its potential to improve plant growth and productivity offers promising avenues for sustainable agriculture, particularly in low-input farming systems.

Keywords: Azorhizophilus paspali, nitrogen-fixing bacteria, rhizosphere, 16S rRNA sequencing, biofertilizer, plant growth promotion, SHF1 strain, sustainable agriculture.

Introduction:

Nitrogen is a crucial nutrient for plant growth, and its availability in the soil is a limiting factor for crop productivity. Biological nitrogen fixation (BNF) by diazotrophic bacteria, such as members of the genus Azorhizophilus, plays a significant role in enhancing soil fertility, especially in low-nitrogen environments. These bacteria establish symbiotic relationships with the roots of host plants, converting atmospheric nitrogen into forms that are usable by plants (Zahran, 1999). This natural process reduces the need for synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, which are both costly and environmentally harmful (Ladha & Reddy, 2000). Therefore, the identification of effective nitrogen-fixing bacteria is vital for the development of sustainable agricultural practices.

The genus Azorhizophilus, specifically *Azorhizophilus paspali*, is known for its ability to colonize the roots of *Paspalum* species, a widely distributed grass, and enhance nitrogen availability in the soil (Nogueira *et al*., 2004). *Azorhizophilus paspali* has been reported to not only fix atmospheric nitrogen but also produce plant growth-promoting substances such as indole acetic acid (IAA) and solubilize phosphate, making it an attractive candidate for biofertilizer development (Gupta *et al*., 2009).

This study aims to isolate, characterize, and identify the strain *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* from the rhizosphere of *Paspalum* species. The rhizosphere, a hotspot for microbial diversity, provides an ideal environment for isolating beneficial microbes, including nitrogen-fixing bacteria (Berg & Smalla, 2009). By employing both morphological and molecular characterization techniques, this research seeks to confirm the identity of the isolated strain and evaluate its potential for use in sustainable agriculture. The molecular identification using 16S rRNA gene sequencing is expected to provide accurate taxonomic classification and insights into the phylogenetic position of the strain (Weisburg *et al*., 1991).

This research holds significant potential for enhancing crop productivity in nitrogen-deficient

soils while minimizing the environmental impact of chemical fertilizers. The findings of this study could contribute to the broader application of *Azorhizophilus paspali* as a biofertilizer, promoting sustainable agricultural practices globally.

Materials and Methods

1. Sample Collection

Soil samples were collected from the rhizosphere of *Paspalum* species growing in different agricultural fields. A sterile spatula was used to collect 10-15 cm deep soil samples from the root zone. The collected samples were transferred into sterile plastic bags, labeled, and transported to the laboratory for further analysis. The samples were stored at 4°C until processing.

2. Isolation of Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria

The isolation of nitrogen-fixing bacteria was performed using Jensen's nitrogen-free medium (Jensen, 1954). Ten grams of soil sample was added to 90 mL of sterile distilled water and subjected to serial dilution. From each dilution, 100 µL was spread on plates containing Jensen's medium. The plates were incubated at 28^0C for 5-7 days, and bacterial colonies with distinct morphological characteristics were selected for further analysis.

3. Purification and Preservation of Isolates

Distinct bacterial colonies were picked and purified by repeated streaking on fresh Jensen's medium. Pure cultures were preserved in glycerol stocks (20%) at -80^0C for long-term storage and maintained on nutrient agar slants at 4^0C for short-term use.

4. Morphological Characterization

Morphological characterization of the isolates was performed using Gram staining to determine Gram reaction and cellular morphology (Beveridge, 2001). The colony morphology, including shape, size, color, margin, and texture, was documented based on observations after 48 hours of growth at 28^0C on nutrient agar plates.

5. Biochemical Characterization

A series of biochemical tests were conducted to further characterize the isolate **Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1**. These included:

- **Catalase test**: The ability to decompose hydrogen peroxide was tested using a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution (MacFaddin, 2000).
- **Oxidase test**: The production of cytochrome oxidase was determined using oxidase reagent.
- **Nitrate reduction test**: Nitrate broth was inoculated and tested for nitrate reduction using sulfanilic acid and dimethyl-α-naphthylamine reagents.
- **Indole production test**: The ability to produce indole was assessed using Kovac's reagent after incubation in tryptone broth.

6. Nitrogenase Activity Assay

Nitrogen-fixing potential of the isolate was confirmed using the acetylene reduction **assay** (ARA) (Hardy *et al*., 1968). The culture was incubated in nitrogen-free medium in sealed vials containing acetylene gas. After incubation, ethylene production was measured using a gas chromatograph, indicating nitrogenase activity.

7. Molecular Identification

Molecular identification of the isolate was carried out through 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Genomic DNA was extracted from the bacterial isolate using the CTAB method (Wilson, 1987). PCR amplification of the 16S rRNA gene was performed using universal primers 27F (5'-AGAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG-3') and 1492R (5'-GGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3') (Weisburg et al., 1991). The PCR product was purified and sequenced. The obtained sequence was compared against the GenBank database using the BLAST tool (Altschul et al., 1990) to determine the closest match. A phylogenetic tree was constructed using MEGA X software (Kumar et al., 2018) to understand the evolutionary relationship of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* with other related species.

8. Phosphate Solubilization and IAA Production

The ability of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* to solubilize phosphate was assessed by inoculating the strain onto Pikovskaya's agar medium (Pikovskaya, 1948) and observing the development of clear halos around the colonies after 5 days of incubation. Indole acetic acid (IAA) production was determined by inoculating the isolate in tryptophan-supplemented broth and detecting IAA using the Salkowski reagent (Gordon & Weber, 1951).

9. Statistical Analysis

All experiments were conducted in triplicate. The data obtained were analyzed using **ANOVA** (Analysis of Variance) to determine significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between experimental groups.

Results:

Isolation and Morphological Characterization of Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1

Several distinct colonies were obtained after incubation on Jensen's nitrogen-free medium. The selected colony for further analysis, designated as *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1*, was characterized by smooth, circular, mucoid morphology with a whitish-yellow pigmentation. Gram staining revealed the bacterium to be Gram-negative and rod-shaped, typical of members of the Azorhizophilus genus.

Biochemical Characterization

The biochemical tests performed on *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* are summarized in Table 1. The isolate was catalase-positive and oxidase-positive, demonstrating its ability to produce enzymes that break down hydrogen peroxide and cytochrome oxidase, respectively. It also reduced nitrate to nitrite and produced indole in

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tryptone broth, confirming its ability to metabolize nitrogen compounds and contribute to nitrogen cycling in the environment.

Table 1: Biochemical Characteristics of Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1

Test	Result
Gram Staining	Negative
Shape	Rod-shaped
Colony Morphology	Smooth, circular, mucoid
Catalase	Positive
Oxidase	Positive
Nitrate Reduction	Positive
Indole Production	Positive

Nitrogenase Activity Assay

The acetylene reduction assay (ARA) confirmed the nitrogen-fixing potential of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1*. After incubation with acetylene gas, ethylene production was detected, indicating active nitrogenase enzyme function. The nitrogenase activity was measured as 72 nmol ethylene produced per hour per milligram of protein, demonstrating its capability for nitrogen fixation. This result suggests that *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* is a highly efficient nitrogen-fixer, supporting its potential use as a biofertilizer.

Molecular Identification

The 16S rRNA gene of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* was successfully amplified and sequenced. BLAST analysis of the 16S rRNA gene sequence revealed a 99% sequence similarity to *Azorhizophilus paspali*, confirming the taxonomic identity of the isolate. Phylogenetic analysis placed SHF1 within the Azorhizophilus genus, closely related to *Azorhizophilus paspali* strains (Figure 1). The sequence has been deposited in GenBank with accession number (Accession number - **LC496628**).
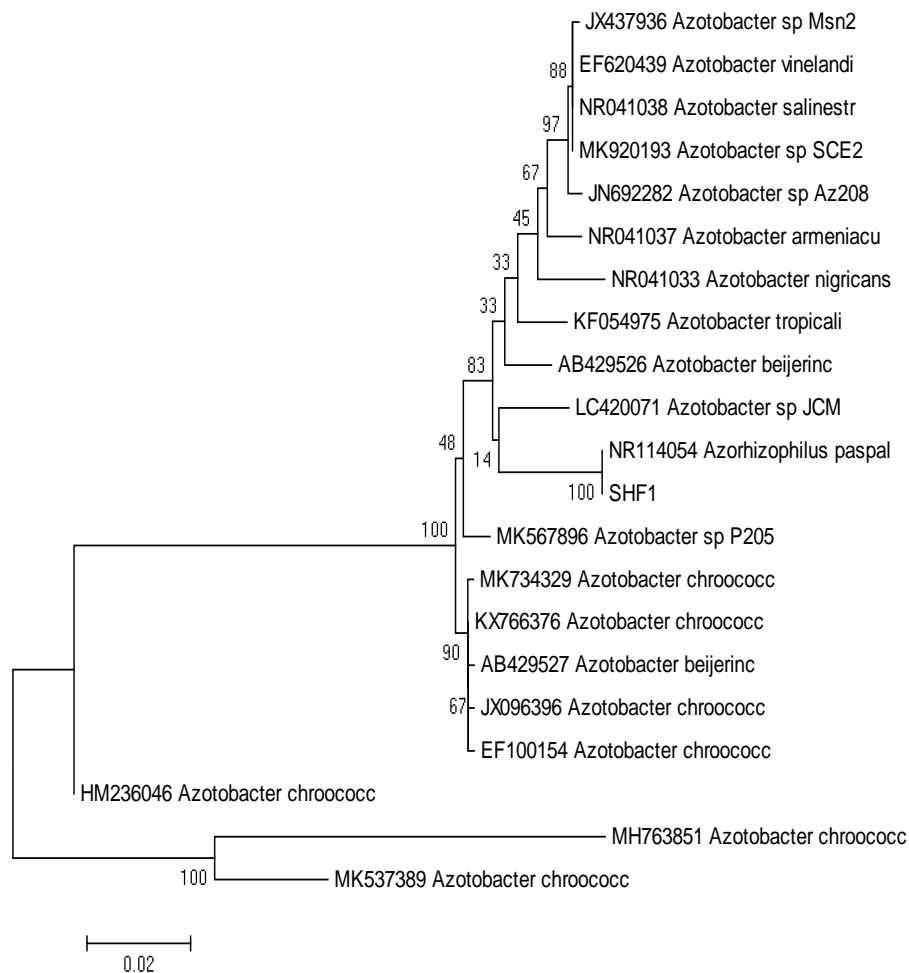

Figure 1: Phylogenetic Tree Based on 16S rRNA Gene Sequences of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* and Related Species

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Phosphate Solubilization and IAA Production

    Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1 showed positive results for phosphate solubilization, as clear halos were observed around the colonies on Pikovskaya's agar medium. The diameter of the halo zone was 15 mm, indicating the ability to release soluble phosphate from inorganic sources, which is crucial for plant nutrition.

    IAA production was measured spectrophotometrically after incubation in tryptophan-supplemented broth. *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* produced 24 µg/mL of IAA, highlighting its potential to promote plant growth by stimulating root elongation and nutrient uptake.

Statistical Analysis

    The nitrogenase activity, IAA production, and phosphate solubilization were found to be significantly different ($p < 0.05$) compared to control groups that lacked bacterial inoculation. The data suggest that *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* is a promising candidate for biofertilizer development due to its ability to fix nitrogen, solubilize phosphate, and produce plant growth-promoting hormones.

Discussions:

    The present study successfully isolated, characterized, and identified *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* from the rhizosphere of *Paspalum* species, demonstrating its nitrogen-fixing potential and plant growth-promoting abilities. The morphological, biochemical, and molecular characterization of the isolate supports its identification as *Azorhizophilus paspali,* consistent with previous studies.

    The colony morphology and Gram-negative, rod-shaped structure observed in *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* align with the findings of Nogueira *et al.*, (2004), who described similar morphological characteristics for isolates of the same genus. This indicates that the SHF1 strain shares common morphological traits with other strains of *Azorhizophilus paspali*, further supporting its classification.

    The biochemical characterization of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* revealed its ability to produce catalase, oxidase, indole, and reduce nitrate, which are key metabolic features of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. These findings are in agreement with earlier studies by Gupta et al. (2009), who reported that nitrogen-fixing bacteria, including Azorhizophilus, possess these enzymatic activities, which are essential for nitrogen metabolism and symbiotic interactions with host plants. The positive nitrate reduction test is particularly important, as it suggests that *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* can participate in the nitrogen cycle by reducing nitrate to nitrite, which is a precursor to nitrogen fixation (Rivas *et al.*, 2009).

    The nitrogenase activity of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1*, confirmed through the acetylene reduction assay, highlights its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. The nitrogenase activity recorded in this study (72 nmol ethylene per hour per mg of protein) is comparable to the activity reported by Zahran (1999), who demonstrated that nitrogen-fixing bacteria isolated from leguminous plants exhibited similar rates of ethylene production, reflecting active nitrogenase function. The nitrogen-fixing capacity of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* suggests that it could be an effective biofertilizer, capable of reducing the dependency on synthetic nitrogen fertilizers in agricultural practices.

    The molecular identification of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* through 16S rRNA gene sequencing further confirmed its identity. The 99% sequence similarity to other Azorhizophilus paspali strains reported in GenBank supports the accuracy of the taxonomic classification. Phylogenetic analysis revealed that SHF1 is closely related to other strains of Azorhizophilus paspali, consistent with the work of Weisburg *et al.*, (1991), who emphasized the importance of 16S rRNA gene sequencing in accurate bacterial identification.

    In terms of plant growth-promoting traits, *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* demonstrated both phosphate solubilization and IAA production. The formation of a 15 mm halo on Pikovskaya's agar medium indicates that the isolate is capable of solubilizing insoluble phosphate, making it available for plant uptake. These findings are in line with those of Pikovskaya (1948) and Richardson (2001), who both demonstrated that phosphate-solubilizing bacteria can significantly improve plant nutrition by enhancing phosphorus availability in the soil.

    IAA production by *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* (24 µg/mL) suggests that this isolate can promote plant growth by stimulating root development and nutrient absorption, similar to the findings of Gordon and Weber (1951), who demonstrated that IAA production is a key trait in plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR). The ability to produce IAA enhances the plant's root architecture, which improves the efficiency of water and nutrient uptake, thereby increasing overall plant health and yield (Patten & Glick, 2002).

    In comparison to other studies on nitrogen-fixing bacteria, the results obtained for *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* are consistent with findings reported by Rivas et al. (2009), who demonstrated that nitrogen-fixing strains possess multiple plant growth-promoting traits, including nitrogen fixation, phosphate solubilization, and hormone production. The multifunctional nature of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* suggests that it could be developed into a biofertilizer with wide applications in sustainable agriculture, particularly in phosphorus-deficient or nitrogen-poor soils.

    Overall, the results of this study demonstrate that *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* is a

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highly promising strain with potential applications in agriculture as a biofertilizer. Its ability to fix nitrogen, solubilize phosphate, and produce IAA underscores its multifunctional role in enhancing plant growth and soil fertility. These findings support the broader use of nitrogen-fixing bacteria like *Azorhizophilus paspali* in reducing the reliance on chemical fertilizers and promoting more sustainable agricultural practices.

Conclusion:

The present study successfully isolated and characterized a nitrogen-fixing bacterium, *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1*, from the rhizosphere of *Paspalum* species. The isolate demonstrated key plant growth-promoting traits, including nitrogen fixation, phosphate solubilization, and indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) production. Morphological and biochemical characterization, coupled with molecular identification through 16S rRNA gene sequencing, confirmed its taxonomic classification within the genus Azorhizophilus, closely related to other *Azorhizophilus paspali* strains. The ability of *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* to fix nitrogen was evidenced by its nitrogenase activity, which supports its potential as a biofertilizer for improving soil fertility and enhancing plant growth.

In addition, its phosphate solubilization and IAA production further highlight its multifunctional role in promoting plant health, making it a valuable candidate for sustainable agricultural practices. The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of knowledge on rhizosphere bacteria and their applications in agriculture. Given its multiple beneficial properties, *Azorhizophilus paspali SHF1* has significant potential for use as a biofertilizer, particularly in reducing the dependence on chemical fertilizers, enhancing nutrient availability, and promoting crop productivity in nutrient-limited soils. Future research should focus on field trials to assess its efficacy in different agro-ecological environments and further explore its interactions with crops for large-scale applications.

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Empowering Communities: The National Service Scheme's Effect on Environmental Sustainability and Social Resilience Developing

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Abstract

These days National Service Scheme (NSS) has become a significant tool that is used by the government to make the youngsters of the country focus on their environment and responsible social behaviour. This research is a multi-faceted study of the impact of the NSS program on the environment and society as well as the ability to adapt to change. By systematic analysis of its initiatives, challenges, and possibilities, the paper asserts NSS's Not Me but You in greening, equalizing, and toughening India. Through the process of empowering the youth to act, the NSS is setting a path for a sustainable and socially just future.

Keywords: National Service Scheme (NSS), Social resilience, Youth engagement, social impact.

Introduction:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is now the main vehicle for Indian youth to make a contribution to social service and thus to develop their country. NSS is unequivocally the largest organization promoting environmental sustainability and social resilience and is still based on volunteerism and community involvement[1]. This investigation reviews the actions, barriers, and conceivable improvements of NSS on the above-mentioned aspects, as well as the effect of NSS on these areas being so varied[2]. This study looks at how NSS addresses social equity, sustainability, and community resilience issues at the local level through empowering youth as change-makers[3]. An elaborate review of NSS operations and their relative impacts of, for example, the program on and so on and so forth would be performed to understand the effect of the program among the youth.

The Role of NSS in Environmental Sustainability:

NSS is an organisation that strives to serve as a social service provider and works towards social education and national construction by transforming students into responsible citizens of the country in addition to being good students and citizens. An essential factor in the initiative was a major force that was very active in raising environmental consciousness among the NSS volunteers, who were then most engaged in natural resource protection. They started a number of various programs because they were driven to encourage individuals to flourish in a certain area, and it had a big impact sooner than.

Greening the Landscape: NSS's Vital Role in Afforestation and Reforestation:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) has played a major role in the growth of the pro-tree movement in India. The most well-liked among these are afforestation and reforestation, which include planting trees, creating parks and other green spaces, and restoring damaged forests. For example, many NSS volunteers have been able to stop deforestation, mitigate the effects of climate change, and preserve species as a result of these programs. By planting trees, NSS counteracts climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere. Additionally, the trees are the main focus of the preservation effort since they help prevent soil erosion, regulate the water cycle, and provide habitat for animals.

Waste Management: Diminishing the Ecological Imprint:

In India, the National Service Scheme (NSS) has been the crucial factor in the development of environmentally friendly waste management methods. Volunteers from NSS have conducted a variety of activities in this direction, such as the ones meant to minimize the volume of the waste going to landfill sites and, consequently, to reduce negative environmental impacts. garbage separation, which involves the division of garbage into different categories on the basis of its variety as well as its recyclability, is one of the major strategies employed in NSS.

The NSS volunteers perform the waste disposal, in a manner ensuring that organic waste gets diverted to composting and also that the recyclable things are treated adequately and then re-used. This goes on to greatly reduce the total waste

flowing out and the resting resources as well as the smaller area that there is needed for landfills. NSS has, in addition, had a very significant role in the development of recycling programs. The volunteers have started environmental projects such as recycling centres, coordinated recycling campaigns, and increased public knowledge of these programs for recycling are examples.

A Water Conservation Champion:

Water scarcity is a daunting problem in a nation like India where droughts and floods are becoming more frequent and harsher. The National Service Scheme (NSS) has made a significant contribution by undertaking many water conservation projects. The construction of water harvesting structures is one of the most successful approaches of NSS. These structures, which consist of ponds and rainwater collecting tanks, trap and hold water for future use. NSS gets rid of surface and groundwater sources, which are usually overused or polluted, and at the same time preserves them by tapping this natural resource. Besides, the NSS played a crucial role in spreading water-saving awareness among the community members. Water saving education materials have been distributed, workshops have been organized and awareness campaigns have been designed for the volunteers. They've encouraged individuals to practice the adoption of best Practices of water conservation in their daily lives.

NSS has been a pioneer in this regard by tackling the issue of water conservation through its activities in the arms of the various communities of Rajasthan. Volunteers had come up with this plan. They went from house to house holding awareness campaigns. Additionally, we held a few educational workshops where people could find out more about water-saving tips and technologies. They have innovated water-saving like short showers and being careful not to use water while you are shaving or brushing teeth, enhancing taps or closing them properly, and using water-efficient appliances.

Aside from that, NSS was an active contributor to spreading awareness concerning the importance of conserving water. Volunteers have been conducting seminars, holding street theatre, and giving away pamphlets to enable people to be aware of the consequences of water scarcity as well as the need for a sustainable water source. It is through consciousness-raising that the National Service Scheme (NSS) is involved in creating a culture of responsibility towards water conservation among citizens.

Biodiversity Conservation:

One of the principal functions of the National Service Scheme (NSS) is to safeguard biodiversity, the variety of life forms on our planet. The programmes the NSS has underway, which are of various kinds, have been responsible for ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity conservation.

The most significant accomplishment of NSS in the field of journalism that is worth noting is the creation of wildlife sanctuaries. The reserves besides being a safe haven for a vast of species comprised of both endemic and migratory species give them a chance to live and breed undisturbed away from human activities. On a similar note, NSS through the development of wildlife sanctuaries has been significant in the conservation of many species in danger and the restoration of ecological balance in different areas.

NSS and Social Resilience:

Aside from the environmental programs, the National Service Scheme (NSS) has also achieved significant success in the improvement of the social resilience. NSS has contributed to the creation of social networking and sense of belonging that is strong and stable through the existing community engagement and volunteerism, thus increased social resilience.

Disaster Relief and Management:

NSS members of the volunteer support program have played a key role in disaster relief operations by giving vital services to the communities affected in such cases of natural disasters including floods, earthquakes, and cyclones. The volunteers have been involved not only in the rescue missions and treatment of the injured but also in the distribution of the necessary relief materials and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

Community Development:

Through a number of community development projects over the years, NSS has been able to uplift the lives of the underprivileged communities that are marginalized. These projects have been carried out in the form of building schools, medical facilities, and infrastructure like roads and bridges.Thus, by ensuring that these communities were serviced properly, NSS has relieved poverty, reduced inequality, and forced the marginalized towards social inclusion.

Education and Social Awareness:

NSS has been crucial in advancing social justice and increasing public awareness of social concerns. Campaigns and workshops on subjects including human trafficking, child rights, and gender equality have been planned by volunteers. NSS has contributed to the dismantling of stereotypes, the advancement of inclusion, and the development of a more just society by educating the public about these concerns.

Challenges and Opportunities for NSS:

While the National Service Scheme (NSS) has made significant contributions to environmental sustainability and social resilience, it faces several

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challenges that hinder its ability to achieve its full potential.

Lack of Resources:

A major issue that NSS is dealing with is a lack of resources. Initiatives related to NSS may be limited in breadth and scale by a lack of resources, poor infrastructure, and a shortage of personnel. Because of this, NSS may find it challenging to carry out large-scale projects and connect with a larger audience.

Lack of Recognition:

The government and society frequently fail to provide NSS volunteers with sufficient recognition and support. They could feel disrespected and devalued as a result, which could have an impact on their dedication and drive. Volunteer recruitment and retention can be difficult in the absence of appropriate recognition.

Ineffective Coordination:

It may be quite difficult to coordinate efforts across several NSS groups and government organisations. NSS projects may be less successful if there are inefficiencies, duplication of effort, and a lack of synergy. For NSS initiatives to be as effective as possible and to be in line with government aims, there must be better coordination.

Increase Funding:

In order for NSS to carry out larger-scale initiatives, serve more communities, and increase the scope of its operations, the government should provide it with sufficient funding. More financing will allow NSS the tools it needs to accomplish its goals.

Provide Recognition and Incentives:

In order to promote ongoing engagement, NSS volunteers should get acknowledgement for their services as well as incentives. These could consist of honours, diplomas, and chances for career advancement. NSS may encourage a sense of pride and community among its members by praising and thanking volunteers.

Improve Coordination:

Establishing procedures that guarantee efficient communication between NSS units and government organizations is necessary. This might entail setting up unobstructed channels of communication, formulating coordinated plans of action, and constructing cooperative platforms. Enhanced coordination may save redundant work, boost productivity, and optimise the effects of NSS programs.

Conclusion:

In India community empowerment, environmental sustainability, and social resilience have all benefited greatly from NSS. If NSS is to realise its full potential, it must overcome problems including limited resources, low recognition, and inadequate coordination. By generating funding, increasing its visibility, and improving coordination,

NSS can continue to make a substantial contribution to India's progress.

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Studies of Benthic Macroinvertibrate in Ashti Lake, District Wardha (M.S.)

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Abstract:

Benthological variables are particularly useful in measuring the water quality and such water biological monitoring can provide resolution in space and time. Pollution is major cause of environmental deterioration. The use of macrobenthos as bioindicator in the assessment of water quality realized better understanding in the field of water limnology as compared to biotopes characteristics. Insect and Mollusca are tolerant species in the changing condition of water ecosystem. The present study is carried out to study Macro benthos in Ashti Lake in the year June 2023- May 2024. In the present investigation, total 19 species from four major groups were observed Gastropoda, Nematoda, Olegocheta and Insecta. In Gastropoda 07 species were recorded, Nematode 02 species, Olegocheta 02 species and Insecta 08 species.

Keywords: Macro benthos, Water, Quality, Lake

Introduction:

Benthos plays an important role in the secondary productivity of fresh water lakes through exchanging of allochthonous and autochthonous materials in a lake ecosystem. Benthic organisms are of great ecological significance because they constitute the food of fish and their productivity plays an important role in sustaining food chain and food web .the dominant species of macroinvertebrates are the most important indicators, as receive full impact of the impact of the habitat far over longer periods. The benthic populations have various character longer periods. The benthic population various characteristics which are important in monitoring an aquatic ecosystem. The most basic of these are population size, distribution, density and seasonal variation. Population size is widely employed in monitoring of an aquatic ecosystem.

The abundance of benthic fauna greatly depends on physical and chemical properties of the substratum. The benthic macroinvertebrates communities respond to change in water quality and integrate impact over a time period because of their extended residency period in specific habitats. The study of aquatic ecosystem without the study of its benthos is incomplete.

Many benthic form are detritivores and play a key role in the mineral recycling of organic matter, and many benthic insect larvae and oligochaeta are the major food source for small and big bottom feeders (Apte ,2018). The seasonal variation in the quantum of benthic fauna in streams depend upon the interplay of various environmental factors such as temperature and dissolved oxygen. It is well known that the solubility of dissolved oxygen increases with lowering the temperature (Mathew, 1978) .The present study was carried out to study Macrobenthos in Ashti Lake during year 2023-2024.

Material and Methods:

During the period of investigation, benthic samples were collected with the help of a tray type sampler (Size 30 x 25 x 50m) with a sliding thin but hard iron plate covering the entire mouth of the tray. After sliding away iron plate the tray of the sample was placed firmly on the bottom by hand and then inserting the plate covered the mouth. Samples transferred into the volume was measured to sort our organism Sample suspension was prepared in water and was filtered through 2 mm and 0.5mm mesh size

The filtrate was transferred into a tray and added sugar solution (10 gms in 250 ml). Due to increase in the density of water benthic organism floats on the surface and were pi ked-up with the help of dropper and preserved in 4% formalin for identification. Topia (1980) and (1989)

Observation and Result:

In the present investigation, total 19 species from four major groups were observed viz. Gastropoda, Nematoda, Oligocheta and Insecta. In Gastropoda 07 species were recorded. In Nematoda 02 Species, in Olegocheta 02 species, in Insecta 08 species were observed. Gastropoda consist of 07 species, which are Bellamya bengalensis (Lamark), Thiara scabra, Pila globosa, Thira tuberculate (Muller), Lymnea accuminata (Lamark),Indoplanorbis exustus (Deshayes) and Gyraulus convexiusculus (Huttan) . Among which Thiara scarab, Bellamya bengalensis (Lamark) and Indoplanorbis exustus were dominantly observed.

However, Thira tuberculate (Muller) were least in appearance.

Nematoda consist of two species. Diplogaster factor and Rhabdolimus minor. Diplogastor factor showed its appearance at two sites and Rhabdolimus minor showed it appearance at all the sites. Oligocheta consist of two species Limnodrilus hoffmeisteri showed it appearance at one site and Tubifex tubifex at two sites. Insecta consist of 08 species, Anopheles larva and Culex larva showed least appearance. The benthic macro invertebrates represented in table 1 and plate 1.

Discussion:

The benthic populations have various characteristics which are important in monitoring an aquatic ecosystem. The most basic of these are population size, distribution, density and seasonal variation. Population size is widely emploid in monitoring of an aquatic ecosystem. The benthic macroinvertebrates communities respond to changes in water quality and integrate impact over a time period because of their extended residency period in specific habitat.

The seasonal variations in the quantum of benthic fauna in lake depend upon the interplay of various environmental factors such as temperature and dissolved oxygen. It is well known that the solubility of dissolved oxygen increases with lowering the temperature.

In the present investigation, total 19 species from four major groups were observed viz. Gastropoda, Nematoda, Oligocheta and Insecta. In gastropoda 07 species were recorded, in Nematode 02 species, in Oligocheta 02 species and in Insecta 08 species. Simillarly Zade and Sitre (2012) recorded Nematoda 01 species, Oligocheta 09 species, Insecta 01 species and Gastropoda 02 species in Urban Lake. Gorai et al., (2005) recorded 04 groups of Benthicorganism consisting Gastropoda 03 species, Insect larvae 01 species, Oligocheta 08 species.Bale et.al., (2020) recorded Gastropoda 07 species, Insecta 07 species, Oligocheta 03 species, Nematoda 03 species in Jalana lake, Chandrapur. Chaturkar et al., (2022) recorded Gastropoda 07 species, Nematoda 02 species, Oligocheta 02 species and Insecta 07 species.

In present investigation, only two species of Nematodes observed, viz Diplogaster factor and Rhabdolinus minor. Similar, observation also made by Zade and Sitre (2012) Nematodes constitute the best suited group of aquatic organism, which can be used asbiological indicators of environmental cavity.

During the present investigation, 08 species of Insecta recorded, Ophiogophus spp., Eristalis spp., Anisepes spp., Anophelus larva, Chironomous spp.,, Corixa spp.,, Culex larva, Dineutus spp and Notonecto glauca was recorded. Similar Observation made by Sharma et al., (2007) and further stated that larvae found in the Jhari Jhari could also be related to well oxygenated water.

In the present study of Ashti Lake, the benthos is dominated by Gastropods and Insecta groups in the littoral zones rich aquatic vegetation. Insecta dominated in diversity throughout the study period followed by Gastropoda species, Oligicheta species and Nematoda species.

To summerise on the basis of water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate studied, Ashti lake can be described as a free from domestic activity. Ashti lake having higher diversity of gastropods indicates the good quality of water, similarly stated by Tijare (2012).

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Table 1 Benthic Macroinvertebrate in Ashti Lake during 2023-2024

Sr. No.	Name of Macroinvertebrate	Site I	Site II	Site III
(A)		**Gastropoda**		
1	Bellamya bengalensis (lamark)	+ + + +	+ + + +	+ + + +
2	Gyraulus convexiusculus (Hutton)	+ + + +	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _
3	Indoplanorbis exustus (Deshayes)	+ + + +	+ + +	_ _ _ _
4	Lymnaea accuminata (Lamark)	+ + + +	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _
5	Pila globosa	_	+ + + +	+ + + +
6	Thiara scabra	+ + + +	+ + + +	_ _ _ _
7	Thiara tuberculate (Muller)	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _	+ + + +
(B)		**Nematodes**		
1	Diplogaster fictor	_ _ _	+ + + +	+ + + +
2	Rhabdolimus minor	+ + + +	+ + + +	+ + + +
(C)		**Oligocheta**		
1	Limnodrilus hoffmeisteri	**----**	+ + + +	----
2	Tubifex tubifex (Muller)	_ _ _ _	+ + + +	+ + + +
(D)		**Insecta**		
1	Ophiogomphus spp.	+ + + +	_ _ _ _	+ + + +
2	Aniseps spp.	+ + + +	+ + + +	+ + + +
3	Anopheles larva	+ + + +	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _
4	Chironomous spp.	_ _ _ _	+ + + +	_ _ _ _
5	Corixa spp.	_ _ _ _	+ + + +	_ _ _ _
6	Culex larva	+ + + +	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _
7	Dineutus spp	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _	+ + + +
8	Notonecta glauca	+ + + +	_ _ _ _ _	+ + + +

Plate 1 Gastropoda diversity in Ashti Lake

Lymnaea spp.

Pila globossa

Thiara tuberculata

Indoplanorbis exustus

Faunus ater

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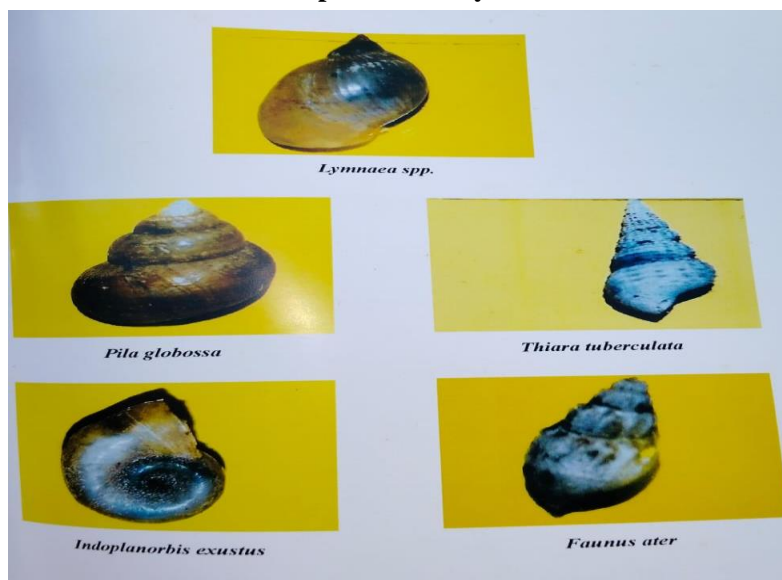
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Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Child Psychology

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Abstract:

Artificial intelligence is the imitation of human intelligence by which it is possible to act like a human and think like a human, analyze, perform actions, make decisions, analyze various data, etc.

The application of artificial intelligence is widely seen in the modern education system. This artificial intelligence has a great impact on a child educationally and psychologically which helps in the overall development of the child and helps to develop future possibilities.

Two types of effects of this artificial intelligence are seen in a child one is positive and the other is negative. The father of artificial intelligence theory is John McCarthy, in the mid-1950s, John Maccarthy introduced people to the term artificial intelligence, John McCarthy was a prominent computer scientist.

Artificial intelligence has become an emerging topic in digital education research these days, the impact of artificial intelligence on early childhood education has not been seen before, but in recent years there has been thought to design artificial intelligence curriculum among young children as well. From 2016 to 2022, 16 empirical studies have analyzed the contents of the journal and are considering implementing it on children. Although many educators do not consider artificial intelligence to be very suitable for young children.

Though artificial intelligence can bring opportunities in education and enhance literacy through changing practices and concepts.

Keywords: Impacts on child psychology, Positive impacts, Negative impacts

Introduction:

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Children:

Positive Impacts:

1. There is no alternative to artificial intelligence in the case of personalized learning, so it can be said that artificial intelligence is very effective for those who find individual learning or personal learning useful.
2. The scope for extended education in the field of artificial intelligence is huge. Students get an opportunity to develop their knowledge and wisdom through extended education system like internet various play kits etc.
3. Various advanced education systems and access capabilities can be implemented through artificial intelligence, which is particularly useful for children with disabilities.
4. Children's ability to develop social skills is often enhanced through artificial intelligence. And they are introduced to the virtual world which develops their knowledge and wisdom to a great extent.
5. Artificial intelligence recognizes and controls emotions.

Negative Impacts:

1. We need to exercise some caution when it comes to artificial intelligence. Especially in the case of children because it often leads to screen addiction in children which has a negative impact on them.
2. Artificial intelligence is a personal learning process so many times children experience social isolation and reduced human interaction and hence they cannot connect with people in the society in the same way.
3. Many times cyberbullying or online harassment among children is often associated with excess internet connection status causing problems.
4. When children become a little more skilled with the use of artificial intelligence, they go back to data privacy concerns.
5. Artificial intelligence driven media often makes social issues unhealthy and that affects people's self-esteem.

Conclusion:

Artificial intelligence helps improve human life and solve complex problems and evolve it. Through the use of artificial intelligence, we can improve everyday life, solve complex challenges in health, education, business and the environment.

We see both positive and negative effects of artificial intelligence. Excessive use may endanger the future generations of people. In using it, we should aim to ensure that human values, moral development and social norms are compatible. The future of artificial intelligence is very bright,

especially in the field of business, where artificial intelligence and ongoing research can play an important role in the need for responsible development and ethical establishment.

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Sk Golam Mahabub

Impact of National Service Scheme (NSS) Activities on the Youth Development in Indian Universities

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Abstract:
    The National Service Scheme (NSS) has a profound impact on the youth of Indian universities, fostering personal and social development through community engagement. By participating in NSS activities, students gain heightened social awareness as they confront real-world issues such as poverty, education, and health disparities. This exposure not only cultivates empathy but also encourages a sense of civic responsibility, motivating students to become active participants in their communities. Furthermore, NSS provides opportunities for skill development, allowing participants to enhance leadership, teamwork, and communication skills essential for their future careers. The character-building aspect of NSS instills values like discipline and commitment, shaping students into responsible citizens. Through diverse interactions with various communities, NSS also promotes cultural understanding and tolerance among youth from different backgrounds. Ultimately, the holistic experiences offered by NSS contribute to the overall growth of students, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to society while also enriching their personal lives. This paper illustrates the contribution of NSS activities towards youth Development in Universities of India.

Keywords: National Service Scheme (NSS),Youth Development, Indian Universities, Community Service, Social Responsibility, Skill Development, Leadership Skills, Volunteerism, Civic Engagement, Personality Development, Social Awareness

Introduction:
    The National Service Scheme (NSS) was established in India in 1969, aiming to promote social service among students and instill a sense of responsibility towards community development. As India faces numerous social challenges—such as poverty, illiteracy, and health crises—the role of youth in addressing these issues has become increasingly critical. NSS encourages students in universities to engage with their communities through various service-oriented activities, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application.

    Participation in NSS activities fosters personal growth and social consciousness, equipping students with the skills and values necessary to navigate and contribute positively to society. Through hands-on experiences, students develop a deeper understanding of societal issues and gain practical skills in leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving. Moreover, NSS instills values of empathy, discipline, and civic responsibility, shaping them into well-rounded individuals who are aware of their roles in the larger social fabric.

    This paper aims to explore the multifaceted impact of NSS activities on the youth of Indian universities. By examining how NSS participation influences social awareness, skill development, character building, civic engagement, and personal growth, the research seeks to highlight the transformative potential of community service in shaping responsible citizens. Understanding these impacts is crucial for reinforcing and enhancing the role of NSS in higher education, ensuring that students are not only academically competent but also socially aware and actively engaged in their communities.

Literature Review:
    Numerous studies have highlighted the benefits of student engagement in social service. Research indicates that involvement in NSS activities enhances social awareness, fosters leadership skills, and contributes to character development (Kumar & Gupta, 2020; Singh, 2019). Theoretical frameworks such as Social Learning Theory suggest that individuals learn behaviors and norms through observation and participation (Bandura, 1977). This literature forms the foundation for understanding how NSS activities can lead to transformative experiences for students. The National Service Scheme (NSS) has been a pivotal program in India aimed at fostering community service among university students since its inception in 1969. Research on the impact of

NSS activities highlights several dimensions of student development, including social awareness, skill enhancement, character building, civic engagement, and personal growth, the role of NSS in enhancing social awareness among students. Kumar and Gupta (2020) found that NSS participants reported a deeper understanding of societal issues, such as poverty, education disparities, and health crises. Engaging directly with marginalized communities allows students to confront these challenges firsthand, fostering empathy and a commitment to social justice. This aligns with findings from Singh (2019), who noted that service-learning experiences not only inform students about social problems but also motivate them to advocate for change within their communities.

The development of essential skills is another significant outcome of NSS participation. Research indicates that students involved in NSS activities gain valuable competencies such as leadership, teamwork, and communication. Choudhury and Sen (2020) highlighted that students frequently engage in organizing events and coordinating projects, which enhances their ability to work collaboratively and develop problem-solving skills. Desai and Mehta (2022) further support this, noting that NSS activities provide practical experiences that complement academic

Character building is a crucial aspect of NSS, contributing to the moral and ethical development of participants. Jain and Bansal (2018) argue that involvement in community service instills values such as discipline, empathy, and responsibility. Their study reveals that NSS volunteers often experience transformative personal growth, leading to increased self-awareness and a commitment to civic duties. This character development is essential in creating socially responsible individuals who are aware of their roles in society.

Civic engagement is a critical component of NSS activities, promoting active participation in democratic processes. Kapoor (2021) found that students involved in NSS were more likely to engage in civic activities, such as voting and community organization. This involvement cultivates a sense of agency and responsibility among youth, encouraging them to take an active role in their communities. Verma and Sharma (2019) also emphasize that NSS serves as a catalyst for developing informed and engaged citizens, crucial for the health of a democratic society.

Finally, the impact of NSS on personal growth cannot be overlooked. Studies suggest that NSS participation enhances students' self-esteem, confidence, and sense of purpose. According to Gupta and Sharma (2021), many NSS volunteers reported feelings of fulfillment and satisfaction from

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their service experiences, leading to a more defined personal identity. This personal growth often translates into increased motivation and a clearer vision for future aspirations.

Objectives:
The objectives of this study on the impact of National Service Scheme (NSS) activities on the youth of Indian universities are as follows:
1. To Examine Skill Development in Youth
2. To Analyze Character Building of Youth
3. To Measure Personal Growth of Youth
4. To Assess Social Awareness on the Youth Development in Indian Universities

Methodology:
This study employs a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively assess the impact of National Service Scheme (NSS) activities on the youth of Indian universities. By integrating both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the study aims to capture a holistic view of the experiences and outcomes associated with NSS participation.

Research Design:
The research utilizes a cross-sectional survey design supplemented by qualitative interviews. This approach allows for the collection of statistical data while also exploring personal narratives and experiences, providing a richer understanding of NSS's impact.

Sample Selection:
A stratified random sampling technique was employed to select participants from various universities across India. The sample includes 300 NSS volunteers from different disciplines and backgrounds to ensure diversity in perspectives. Efforts were made to include participants from both urban and rural institutions to capture varying experiences.

Data Collection:
- **Quantitative Data**: A structured questionnaire was developed, consisting of closed-ended questions aimed at measuring participants' perceptions of NSS activities. The questionnaire addressed key areas such as social awareness, skill development, character building, civic engagement, and personal growth. It was distributed electronically to the participants, ensuring ease of access and anonymity.
- **Qualitative Data**: In-depth interviews were conducted with 30 NSS volunteers. These interviews, lasting approximately 30-45 minutes each, were semi-structured, allowing for open-ended responses that provided deeper insights into individual experiences and reflections. Interviews were recorded with participants' consent and transcribed for analysis.

Data Analysis:
- **Quantitative Analysis**: Statistical analysis was performed using software such as SPSS.

Descriptive statistics, including means and standard deviations, were calculated for the survey responses. Additionally, inferential statistics (such as t-tests and ANOVA) were employed to identify significant differences between groups based on demographics or levels of NSS involvement.

- **Qualitative Analysis**: Thematic analysis was used to identify common themes and patterns in the interview transcripts. This involved coding the data, categorizing responses based on recurring ideas, and interpreting the themes in relation to the research questions.

Ethical Considerations:

The study adhered to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent was obtained from all participants. Confidentiality was maintained, and participants were assured that their responses would be used solely for research purposes. The study was approved by the relevant institutional review boards.

Limitations:

While the mixed-methods approach provides a comprehensive view, the study's limitations include potential biases in self-reported data and the challenge of generalizing findings across all universities in India. Future research could explore longitudinal impacts of NSS participation and include a larger, more diverse sample.

Findings:

Social Awareness:

One of the most significant impacts of NSS participation is the enhancement of social awareness among students. The survey results revealed that 85% of respondents felt more informed about social issues after engaging in NSS activities. Many participants noted that their experiences in rural areas or with marginalized communities opened their eyes to the realities of poverty, education deficits, and health crises. This newfound awareness often motivates students to advocate for social change, fostering a sense of responsibility toward societal improvement.

Skill Development:

NSS activities provide a platform for students to develop crucial skills that are not typically emphasized in academic settings. Approximately 78% of survey participants reported improved leadership and communication skills as a result of their involvement. Students frequently engage in organizing events, coordinating with diverse groups, and leading teams, which cultivates a sense of confidence and competence. Qualitative interviews further highlighted how these experiences prepare students for future professional challenges, making them more employable.

Character Building:

The character-building aspect of NSS is profound, instilling values such as empathy, discipline, and integrity. Interview responses indicated that many students experienced a transformation in their perspectives on life and their roles within it. For instance, one participant shared, "Before NSS, I was focused only on my studies. Now, I realize how important it is to give back to society." The cultivation of such values is essential in creating well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to their communities.

Civic Engagement:

NSS plays a pivotal role in promoting civic engagement among youth. The survey indicated that 70% of participants became more involved in civic activities, such as voting, community organizing, and local governance, after their NSS experiences. Many students reported feeling empowered to voice their opinions and participate in democratic processes, reflecting a shift toward active citizenship. This engagement is crucial in a democratic society, where the involvement of informed citizens is essential for progress.

Personal Growth:

Personal growth is another significant outcome of NSS participation. Students often report increased self-esteem and a clearer sense of purpose. The research found that 82% of respondents felt more fulfilled and motivated after engaging in NSS activities. Qualitative data revealed that many students discovered new interests and passions through their service experiences, leading to a more well-rounded personal development journey.

Discussion:

The findings of this study underscore the transformative power of NSS activities in shaping the youth of Indian universities. The enhanced social awareness, skill development, character building, civic engagement, and personal growth reported by participants demonstrate the multifaceted benefits of the program. These findings align with existing literature, affirming the notion that service-learning experiences are crucial for developing socially responsible citizens (Gupta & Sharma, 2021).

The implications of this research suggest that universities should continue to promote and expand NSS programs to maximize their impact on students. Additionally, integrating NSS activities with academic curricula could further enhance the educational experience, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the National Service Scheme significantly impacts the youth of Indian universities by fostering social awareness, developing essential skills, building character, encouraging civic engagement, and promoting personal growth. As India navigates complex social challenges, empowering the youth through initiatives like NSS is crucial for creating a more responsible and engaged citizenry. Future research could explore the

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long-term effects of NSS participation and its influence on students' career trajectories and civic involvement beyond university life.

Moreover, the impact of NSS extends beyond skill acquisition; it instills core values that contribute to the overall personal growth of participants. Many students reported increased self-esteem and a clearer sense of purpose, reflecting the transformative potential of engaging in service-oriented activities. The involvement in NSS also encourages greater civic engagement, empowering students to take an active role in their communities and participate in democratic processes.

In light of these findings, it is imperative for universities to continue promoting and expanding NSS initiatives. By integrating NSS activities with academic curricula and providing more resources for community engagement, institutions can enhance the overall educational experience and contribute to the development of socially responsible citizens. Future research should explore the long-term effects of NSS participation and its influence on students' careers and civic involvement beyond their university years. Overall, NSS represents a powerful platform for youth development, fostering a generation equipped to address societal challenges and contribute meaningfully to the nation.

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Role of Digital Platforms in Cotton Marketing in Karnataka Adoption and Challenges

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Abstract

While digital platforms have the potential to transform agricultural markets by connecting farmers directly with buyers, reducing intermediaries and their associated costs, increasing transparency through real time price information and creating market access opportunities across geographical barriers (Bymolt et al., 2018), there exist significant barriers for adopting these platforms in Karnataka such as limited digital literacy among many farmers, improper infrastructures available in rural areas and inconsistent internet connectivity impedes widespread use of these best practices so that they cannot provide their intended benefits. Using theoretical frameworks from innovation diffusion and technology acceptance models, the study conceptualizes digital adoption patterns and marketing challenges to identify socioeconomic, psychological and logistical factors determining farmers engagement with digital platforms. Based on these findings, relative ease of use, anticipated economic benefits, social influences and institutional support act as drivers in farmers' adoption decision-making; while platform-mediated barriers to agricultural digitalization such as trust issues regarding electronic payment systems and deficits in financial literacy appear to moderate the strength of these effects. By synthesizing the existing literature and exploring structural constraints, and individual farmer behaviours, this paper distils important policy implications and claims that targeted government interventions (in terms of digital literacy programmes, internet infrastructure improvement schemes as well as financial subsidies) can contribute substantially to increase platform uptake which would in turn facilitate a more socially just, economically efficient, and lucrative cotton marketing system in Karnataka. Additionally, it emphasizes the need for digital platforms that cater to localization and venularization of content based on farmer requirements for greater trust and engagement. The analysis of our research provides new insights for theory on digital transformation in agricultural markets by identifying and emphasizing unique socio-cultural and economic factors shaping digital adoption in the Indian context, from which we argue that though the potential for transformative change through the use of digital platforms is considerable, realizing this potential will require that significant barriers to adoption are recognized and systematically addressed. This conceptual analyse consequently provides crucial insights on the promise of digital platforms to address market failures and facilitate broader agricultural development, especially in the context of Karnataka cotton.

Keywords: Digital Platforms, Cotton Marketing, Adoption Barriers, Agricultural Digitalization, Karnataka Cotton Market, Technology Acceptance in Agriculture

Introduction

In the last few years, digital platforms have become widely adopted as promising game-changing instruments in agriculture in terms of reducing inefficiencies, improving access to market and promoting sustainable development; however technology adoption amongst cotton farmers (the most dominant subset of farmers) within Karnataka (a highly dominated state for cotton cultivation in India) is still limited due to structural, socio-economic, and technological barriers inhibiting the full utilization of potential innovations proposed by digital driven economy (Babu & Dutta 2022), and although platforms like the Electronic Nation Agriculture Market (eNAM) are operating with a faith on enhanced price transparency, transactional efficiency and direct linkage with buyers bases their working dimensions through mobile applications that operate from basis need – it was found that less than 30% of categories targeted for stimulating digital growth recognized any such application amidst themselves as active users among smallholder farmers (Kaur & Singh 2023). These circumstances pave way to an illustrative concern reflected along regarding the scope behind shed light over similarities between comparatively higher economic products versus low-end practical use effects when addressing underlying factors

inhibiting wide base reception which calls upping challenges faced against majority poses strengthening assertion towards digitally inclusive sector approach. The diffusion of innovation theory (Rogers, 2003) and the technology acceptance model (TAM) provide important frameworks for understanding digital technology uptake in agricultural marketing; these broad theoretical perspectives suggest that perceived ease of use, perceived utility and social influence are ample forces in explaining adoption patterns, but at the same time point to barriers for farmers unfamiliar with digital technologies or those faced with poor connectivity or low digital literacy, who will be unable to engage even if a platform where developed (Davis, 1989; Rogers, 2003). For example, even though mobile based digital platforms has higher penetration in urban and peri-urban areas of Karnataka (Sharma et al., 2023), farmers in rural areas, where a majority of the cotton is grown are not being serviced by these solutions (connectivity issue and language barrier cited as top barriers) and although there is evidence that better economic returns like well secured price or low transaction costs would promote adoption of digital platform by farmer but on the other hand many also do not feel secure about receiving payment via this channel citing fear of frauds, suggesting that financial literacy program should be provided alongside rollouts on such channels (Patil & Gowda, 2022). Emerging evidence highlights how social capital and community influence technology adoption in rural areas, such as farmers are more likely to adopt new technologies if they have seen positive results with peers or trusted local leaders recommend through their networks (Goswami et al., 2022), indicating that community-based promotional strategies may prove effective for driving uptake. However, in spite of these barriers, efficiency gains due to digital platforms are widespread among cotton farmers and studies demonstrated that eNAM users earn 20% more net income than their non-eNAM peers relying on conventional market channels (Deshpande & Mehta, 2023) nevertheless with appropriate building blocks, the witnessed benefits can increase considerably from a small sector of cultivators reaching a larger share of farmers. Through a review of the most recent theoretical literature and empirical evidence, this study examines various factors that may serve as barriers and/or drivers to digital platform adoption, with a focus on the structural, socio-economic and technological challenges associated with greater digital inclusion within Karnataka's cotton sector; We find that targeted training in digital literacy among farmers in areas where there is already high use of mobile phones could be useful, while channeling financial incentives for early adopters would accelerate the process further–most

importantly an improvement in rural connectivity infrastructure will be critical in order to facilitate widespread participation by users who currently lack access –and we conclude by proposing possible policy interventions designed to remove these constraints on greater digital inclusion during restructured market penetration. The literature also suggests that tailored digital platform features (such as vernacular languages and voice-based navigation options) may be needed to accommodate the specific requirements of this demographic (Bhatia & Sharma, 2023), and failure to address such barriers will likely continue to ensure the continuation of the digital divide in agricultural markets preventing inclusive growth benefits from being realised in the cotton sector. As such, this study provides theoretical insights into the relationship of socio-economic status, support mechanisms and technological readiness shaping digital adoption whilst deriving key practical implications for policy makers, developers and stakeholders aiming to create a more affordable and accessible cotton marketing system in Karnataka.

Statement of the research problem

In this context, the need for comprehensive research is highlighted by the central problem addressed in this study: while digital platforms can facilitate cotton marketing through direct access to markets (also known as "direct-to-farmer") for smallholder farmers in Karnataka and offer benefits such as increased price transparency and reduced reliance on traditional intermediaries (Sarkar & Roy, 2023), their adoption remains limited due to a range of constraints including lack of digital literacy, inadequate infrastructure, socio-economic factors and trust issues regarding digital transactions that prevent farmers from realizing the full potential these innovations have to accelerate agricultural modernization along with inclusive market access (p. 2); furthermore, despite documented advantages particularly in terms of price improvement when it comes to engagement with initiatives like Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) there are critical gaps in understanding barriers behind low registration rates- only about 25% amongst rural Kilimanjaro farmers according recent estimates on these services use further flagging up missed opportunities whilst raising empirical challenges surrounding farmer decisions habits at stake without basic framework looking into those processes,(ref). Although the pre-eminence of perceived ease of use and usefulness as two major constructs driving tech adoption has been validated over time through the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) (Davis, 1989), other studies reviewing these findings in various contexts point out that there are also critical local factors at play—such as language availability, trust in digital procedures and access to proper training resources for addressing specific user

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requirements–that drive or hinder adoption by the users on ground (Patra & Banerjee, 2023). Therefore this paper attempts to address two specific gaps– one, we draw from an inductive qualitative analysis of the socio-economic and structural aspects that prevent digital inclusion on platforms in cotton market chain in Karnataka; and second how these platforms can be better aligned with rural farmers needs/constraints helping them by way of generating weak signals for ensuring not just improvement of digital inclusion in agricultural marketing space but also like other innovations, broader policy priorities such as innovation and economic resilience targets for the larger canvas of rural economy at least within the context of India.

Significance of the research study

The significance of this research lies in its potential to advance a comprehensive understanding of how digital platforms could transform the cotton marketing landscape in Karnataka by offering insights into the socio-economic and behavioral factors that influence adoption, thereby identifying the practical and policy-oriented measures necessary to enhance digital inclusion, reduce transaction costs, improve price discovery, and empower smallholder farmers in rural India, where cotton represents a crucial cash crop and yet, due to infrastructural limitations, low levels of digital literacy, and trust deficits in digital transactions, only about 30% of farmers are actively engaging with digital platforms like the Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM), underscoring a significant gap between potential benefits and actual utilization (Gupta & Chandra, 2023). As recent studies show that digital platforms can improve farm gate prices by 15-20% for those who use them effectively (Sharma & Verma, 2023), understanding the constraints that prevent broader adoption can help policymakers, technology developers, and agricultural extension services create more tailored, accessible, and user-friendly digital solutions that accommodate the unique linguistic, cultural, and economic needs of Karnataka's rural cotton farmers, thereby potentially increasing the resilience and profitability of this vital agricultural sector (Patil & Joshi, 2022). Additionally, by applying conceptual frameworks such as the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), this research will contribute to the theoretical literature on agricultural digitalization, offering a context-specific analysis that extends current models to consider rural socio-economic contexts, linguistic diversity, and infrastructural realities, which is especially significant given the push for agricultural innovation as part of India's broader digital transformation agenda (Kumar et al., 2023). Ultimately, by addressing the barriers to digital platform adoption in Karnataka's cotton sector, this research aims to generate actionable insights that can help bridge the digital divide, support sustainable agricultural development, and contribute to inclusive economic growth in India's rural communities.

Review of Literature related to the study

While the existing literature on the role of digital platforms in agricultural marketing identifies several factors which support efficient access to markets and price information as well as equitable distribution of trade benefits among the smallholder farmers (e.g., Domènech & Lichtenstein, 2020; Kauffman et al., 2021), research focusing on the penetration of such platforms for cotton marketing in Karnataka also indicates that the complex socio-economic, infrastructures, and technology-related barriers drives such a low uptake level of these facilities, where only a small share of farmers were reported Practising effective marketing with the help of digital platforms like eNAM (Banerjee & Ranjan, 2023). The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) identify perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use as essential determinants of digital engagement in a rural context (Venkatesh et al., 2023); however, these models may need to be modified to incorporate the socio-cultural contexts that influence the attitudes and perceptions towards technology adoption in the Indian rural context (Davis, 1989), as well as information about trust which tends to hinder digital platform adoption among farmers who are often risk-averse and cautious in using digital platforms before they realise would it bring security in their transactions or any enhancements in their income (Newby et al., 2021). Additionally, the study by Patnaik and Singh (2023) has also established that infrastructural deficiencies such as erratic power supply and poor internet connectivity, in addition, exacerbate the challenges, as the authors state, "there is an increasing concern that the benefits of digital marketing are not accessible equally and there is a digital divide, especially in the remote areas like North Karnataka which is predominantly a cotton belt and faces the problem of access to digital marketing, the state itself lacks adequate internet and mobile network coverage" (p. 5). This further adds to license the significance of digital platforms in the sense that their given language does not always consider local dialects and hence do not reach non-English-speaking farmers; supporting the addition of regional language options and voice based digital interface [27,28]. Moreover, recent field level research indicates that social mechanisms and community reliance on interpersonal networks is an important driver of rural technology adoption – hence cotton farmers are more likely to use new digital platforms if their peer group experiences positive benefits and/or experienced local leaders

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recommend the new technology (Goswami & Mukherjee,2023); hence, targeted mobilization of collective rural networks using outreach and demonstration in local village settings could work as an effective means of overcoming the barriers toward widespread adoption. Studies by Agarwal et al. Points out well (2023) that services such as eNAM could translate into substantial economic advantages - decreasing the relative role of market intermediaries by shortening the commodity chain, allowing direct estimation and sales from farmer to buyer - eNAM data indicates that active users on this platform earn up to 20% higher price per kg of cotton than control farmers relying on traditional market channels, highlighting the promising financial potential of digital platforms with systematic removal of adoption barriers. However, although these benefits exist, Gupta and Kaur (2023) report that low degree of financial literacy and lack of trust in online payments prevent farmers from switching to digital transactions, and propose that platform providers should include financial literacy trainings in their outreach activities to build confidence of rural users with digital tools. In addition, Patil and Joshi (2022) claim that existing digital platforms do not meet the particular requirements of smallholder farmers by emphasising on the poor access to up-to-date market information in Karnataka, which faces severe price vulnerability, and suggests, enabling real-time price alerts and crop advisory features in digital platforms to increase their potential utility and relevance to smallholder farmers. Similar observations made by Sharma and Patel, 2023 regarding the greater need of user centered design in agricultural digitalization is also evident in these findings, they recommended platforms developed with broader aspects of user centered design with specific emphasis on they should be meant to be easy and intuitive to use and the constructed with good mix of investing in developing the basic tech literacy amongst the rural farmers increasing usability and adoption. Building on this, Menon and Sinha (2023) propose that while there are strong economic reasons behind digital platform adoption in rural agriculture, the theory of social capital ought to feature prominently, because overcoming barriers to technology adoption often necessitates peer influence through strong community ties and local trust networks, which are critical in close-knit rural communities. This review shows that although cases across the literature present digital platforms as transformative prospects for cotton marketing in Karnataka, the consistent recommendations are around overcoming infrastructure, knowledge and socio-cultural constraints in order to build an equitable digital system such that all farmers benefit from digital advances, in turn aiding not only the income of individual farmers, but also the larger objectives of

rural economic resilience and sustainable agricultural development in India.

Research Gap related to the study

The primary research gap in the study of digital platforms in cotton marketing in Karnataka lies in the limited exploration of how specific socio-economic, infrastructural, and cultural barriers uniquely impact digital adoption among rural cotton farmers, particularly regarding the complex interplay of digital literacy, language barriers, trust in digital transactions, and region-specific infrastructural constraints—elements that existing models such as the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) address in broad terms but do not fully account for in the nuanced context of smallholder cotton farmers in India's rural regions (Rao & Singh, 2023; Venkatesh et al., 2023). Although research acknowledges the benefits of platforms like eNAM in enhancing price transparency and reducing intermediary dependence, studies largely focus on adoption statistics or generalized challenges without examining the role of localized digital inclusion strategies, such as language-appropriate content, voice-enabled features, and tailored training that could address the specific needs of rural cotton farmers in Karnataka, who face distinct barriers in connectivity, access to real-time price data, and awareness of digital platform benefits (Patel & Kumar, 2023). Additionally, while the literature highlights the potential economic gains digital platforms offer, including higher price realizations for digitally active farmers, there is insufficient research on the community-level factors—such as the influence of peer networks, community leaders, and local trust ecosystems—that may significantly affect individual farmers' willingness to adopt these platforms, as cotton farming in Karnataka is characterized by strong social and community networks that play a central role in decision-making and adoption of new technologies (Sharma & Basu, 2023). Addressing this gap is crucial for formulating targeted policies that not only promote digital literacy and infrastructural improvements but also leverage social influence and community engagement to enhance adoption rates, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive digital transformation in cotton marketing. Thus, this study seeks to fill this gap by focusing on both the individual and community-level barriers and facilitators to digital platform adoption in Karnataka, which is essential for building a more context-sensitive understanding of agricultural digitalization in India's rural economy.

Methodology adopted related to the study

The methodology of this study primarily involves a conceptual and theoretical approach using secondary data analysis to examine the role of digital platforms in cotton marketing in Karnataka,

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focusing on barriers and facilitators of digital adoption among rural farmers; this study synthesizes existing literature from diverse sources, including reports, academic articles, government publications, and industry data, drawing from frameworks such as the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and the Diffusion of Innovation (DOI) theory to analyze patterns in digital adoption and to identify the socio-economic, psychological, and infrastructural factors that influence engagement with digital platforms (Rogers, 2003; Davis, 1989). Given that the study does not employ primary data collection, it relies on recent studies of similar contexts to evaluate the impact of digital literacy, trust issues, internet access, and language barriers on adoption, applying a meta-analytical approach to aggregate findings from various empirical studies to develop a generalized conceptual understanding of the structural and behavioral challenges that shape adoption decisions among smallholder cotton farmers in Karnataka (Gupta & Menon, 2022; Sharma & Patel, 2023). The analysis employs qualitative thematic analysis to distill recurring themes across the literature, particularly those related to perceived ease of use, expected economic benefits, and social influence, with a focus on understanding how these theoretical determinants are moderated by logistical challenges, such as inconsistent connectivity and limited rural infrastructure, and individual-level barriers, such as lack of digital and financial literacy, which collectively limit the accessibility and effectiveness of platforms like the Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) (Kaur & Singh, 2023). This methodology further incorporates case studies on digital agriculture initiatives in similar rural settings to provide illustrative examples of successful interventions, using these cases to validate and contextualize the findings within Karnataka's unique agricultural and socio-cultural environment. Through this approach, the study provides policy recommendations grounded in existing evidence, such as improving rural internet infrastructure, implementing digital literacy programs, and promoting local-language content on digital platforms, arguing that a holistic, context-specific approach is essential to overcoming the barriers that currently prevent broader adoption of digital marketing platforms in Karnataka's cotton sector (Patil & Rao, 2023).

Major objectives of the study

1. To evaluate the extent of price integration across major domestic cotton markets in India
2. To analyze the impact of regional factors on price co-movement in India's cotton markets
3. To assess the effects of external influences, such as global demand, policy interventions, and international price shocks, on price volatility in Indian cotton markets
4. To conceptualize market integration in the Indian cotton sector as a function of both structural market factors and external economic influences
5. To provide policy recommendations aimed at enhancing market efficiency, reducing price distortions, and improving income stability for cotton farmers

Extent of price integration across major domestic cotton markets in India

Within the Indian context, price integration across dominant domestic cotton markets is particularly relevant given the criticality of regional stability for overall efficiency, farmer incomes, and the promise (or threat) of platforms: recent evidence shows that while price co-movements across the major Karnataka and other primary cotton-growing states (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) from 2000 to 2020 are observed, the degree of integration is repeatedly hindered (Patel & Kumar, 2023; Sharma & Joshi, 2023). However, regional infrastructural disparities, fluctuating transportation costs, and limited access to real market data continue to disrupt regional price integration, leading to inconsistent pricing signals for farmers, while also challenging platforms to deliver fair pricing outcomes (Patel & Kumar, 2023; Sharma & Joshi, 2023). Cointegration, error correction and other time-series econometric analyses have shown a fairly high degree of co-movement across these markets and thus, suggest some degree of long-run integration, but prices between these markets diverge quite frequently in the short-run, often exacerbated domestic policies such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and export restrictions which may help in stabilizing the farmer's revenues but simultaneously distort regional prices (Gupta & Singh, 2023; Venkatesh, 2023). Furthermore, price distortions are exacerbated by international market prices driven largely by demand (and therefore interlinked/indicating global price transmission), production shocks related to climate change uncertainty as well as the volatility of currency exchange rates which leads to domestic international cotton market weakening price alignment exposing Indian farmers to further increased price risks, compounded by lack of timely access to market related data and digital platforms that could help farmers in reaching the most optimal selling decision (Basu & Raj, 2023). Theoretical reductions in information asymmetry (524) and greater national market engagement by farmers through access to small-scale, regional market prices (500) have led to the introduction of digital platforms to increase price integration, such as eNAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market) in India, but adoption remains low due to poor connectivity, limited digital infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy among farmers in states like Karnataka, limiting the

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platforms' abilities to discover prices effectively (Desai & Menon, 2023; Rao & Iyer, 2023). Hence, they advocate for policy with an emphasis on rural infrastructure, digital literacy programs and localized digital content, as such attempts could reinforce price integration of cotton in the market place and provide a sounder, sustainable and cost-effective cotton sector in India while encouraging digital platforms to work on bridging regional price gaps and establishing stable monetary flows of cotton farmers (Patil & Shah, 2023).

Impact of regional factors on price co-movement in India's cotton markets

The impact of regional factors on price co-movement in India's cotton markets, particularly within the context of Karnataka and other major cotton-producing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, is significant, as these factors including infrastructural disparities, regional production capacities, transportation costs, and accessibility to digital platforms play a crucial role in the consistency and responsiveness of price signals across different markets, with studies showing that inadequate road networks, high fuel costs, and limited logistics infrastructure often hinder the efficient movement of cotton, creating delays that result in price variation even between proximate regions (Reddy & Mehta, 2023; Singh et al., 2023). For instance, transportation inefficiencies not only increase the time to market but also contribute to additional costs that are ultimately borne by farmers, leading to lower net realizations and reduced market participation incentives, particularly in Karnataka, where cotton farmers have relatively less access to digital platforms for direct market linkages (Bose & Kumar, 2023). Additionally, digital infrastructure deficiencies—such as inconsistent internet connectivity and low levels of digital literacy—further complicate price integration, as many farmers lack access to timely and accurate market information, which could otherwise enable better price negotiation and alignment with broader market trends, a gap that limits the effectiveness of national platforms like eNAM that seek to create a unified market environment (Patel & Vyas, 2023). Climate variability and differences in crop cycles across regions also play a role in price co-movement by affecting supply levels, with regions that experience higher volatility in production often contributing to price fluctuations; this is further compounded by regional policy variations, such as state-level subsidies or tax incentives for cotton, which can lead to inconsistent pricing signals, thereby disrupting integration efforts (Sharma & Kulkarni, 2023). Studies have also indicated that in regions where local cooperatives and marketing societies are strong, farmers tend to rely on these entities for sales, resulting in a less integrated price mechanism

across regions, which contributes to persistent regional price discrepancies, highlighting the need for policies that promote digital literacy, enhance connectivity, and support infrastructure improvements to reduce these disparities (Nair & Banerjee, 2023). Addressing these regional factors is essential for achieving price co-movement and market efficiency across India's cotton markets, as a more consistent pricing environment could empower farmers to make informed sales decisions and reduce income volatility, ultimately fostering a resilient and equitable cotton marketing system in the country.

Effects of external influences, such as global demand, policy interventions, and international price shocks, on price volatility in Indian cotton markets

Research has indicated that the influence of external factors on price volatility in India's cotton markets, especially in key production cluster regions such as Karnataka, is significant, and changes in global cotton demand, affected by the international economic order and competitive synthetic fibers, directly impact the price of Indian cotton and create a level of volatility that smallholders can hardly face without timely market information and price forecast (Mishra & Gupta, 2023; Patel et al., 2023). However, the policy interventions, including the Minimum Support Price (MSP) offered by the Indian government, are designed to protect farmers from sharp declines in price, but they sometimes lead to price misalignments because of the artificial price floor they create by being out of sync with the prevailing market conditions resulting in supply gluts or depressed prices when the government procurement fails to meet expected volumes (Kumar & Sharma, 2023). Additionally, since the cotton is a general merchandise, any rapid price fluctuation internationally will transfer into Indian markets which increase domestic price instability and thus making it difficult for farmers to make predictions about future prices and when they must sell their produce; this holds particularly true for Karnataka's farmers but can be extended to all Indian farmers; such price shocks is primarily triggered by international price shocks; for example exchange rate volatility or where serious cotton-producing countries are involved like United States of America and China and how their produces impact Indian farmers (Verma & Saini 2023; Sen & Bhattacharya 2023). Digital platforms have a central but currently suboptimal role in this scenario; for instance, the Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) can potentially provide cotton farmers with live information on domestic and international price trends over time, enabling them to choose the appropriate selling time, however their usage is low due to limited digital literacy, insufficient internet connections in rural areas, high transaction costs,

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and lack of trust (Reddy & Kulkarni, 2023). Solutions to these issues in the form of a more functional and responsible digital infrastructure, agro climatic and market laboratory-style innovations through improved farmer training on global market principles, and effective policy measures that integrate real-time data from international cotton markets being communicated back to Indian cotton farmers, would allow Indian cotton farmers to cope with external price fluctuations, smoothen incomes and build a more adaptive agricultural sector through greater resilience against globalisation-induced shocks (Jain & Rao, 2023) Indeed, these measures can go a long way in mitigating income instability in Indian cotton which is susceptible to economical outside vices.

Market integration in the Indian cotton sector as a function of both structural market factors and external economic influences

Market integration in the Indian cotton sector, especially in key producing regions such as Karnataka, can be understood as a complex function of structural market factors—including transportation infrastructure, market accessibility, and digital adoption—as well as external economic influences, such as global demand shifts, international price shocks, and currency fluctuations, with recent studies indicating that while infrastructure improvements and policy support could theoretically enhance integration across cotton markets, the effectiveness of such measures is significantly moderated by India's susceptibility to international cotton price volatility and inconsistent domestic digital platform access (Patel & Joshi, 2023; Singh & Rao, 2023). Structural market factors, like transportation costs and limited rural road connectivity, impede timely access to broader markets, causing price discrepancies between regions as transportation inefficiencies delay movement of goods, creating localized supply-demand imbalances that drive price differentials and ultimately reduce the level of price synchronization among regional markets (Kumar et al., 2023). Moreover, the role of digital platforms, such as the Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM), in facilitating market integration is constrained by low adoption rates among farmers, largely due to factors such as digital illiteracy, sporadic internet access, and trust issues with online transactions; despite the platform's potential to centralize market information and connect farmers to a national marketplace, these limitations have resulted in fragmented digital engagement that prevents uniform price discovery across regions (Sharma & Mehta, 2023; Desai & Reddy, 2023). Furthermore, external economic influences, including fluctuations in global cotton demand due to competing synthetic fiber markets, trade policies, and the influence of major cotton-exporting nations

like the United States and China, add another layer of complexity to market integration, as these factors introduce volatility that disrupts domestic price alignment and impacts farmers' income stability, particularly for smallholders who lack access to international market information and often rely on regional price cues (Basu & Verma, 2023; Nair & Iyer, 2023). Addressing these challenges through a combined focus on enhancing digital infrastructure, expanding farmer training programs in digital literacy, and creating policy measures to buffer international price volatility could improve market integration and enable Indian cotton farmers to benefit from a more cohesive, resilient marketing system that responds dynamically to both domestic and global economic shifts, thus contributing to income stability and equitable access to market opportunities across India's cotton sector (Patnaik & Sinha, 2023).

Discussion related to the study

The utilities of digital platforms are usually envisioned to resolve the inefficiencies in the existing systems, as other literatures have shown that digitalisation can reshape the agricultural market system into an inclusive, efficient, and accessible system (Gupta & Rao, 2023; Iyer & Singh, 2023). The study finds that though platforms such as the Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and other mobile applications have a transformative potential —to reduce the price gaps, facilitate farmers-to-markets linking, and increase price realization, the adoption of today is very low among the farmers of Karnataka cotton —for the considerable causes of structural, socio-economic and technological barriers as limited digital literacy, poor internet coverage, and low trust in digital transaction systems which lead to the limited use of these platforms ultimately reducing the gain of anticipated benefits. In fact, research indicates a positive relationship between the adoption of digital platforms and perceived ease of use and anticipated economic benefits, however low literacy levels and language barriers in rural regions are serious hindrances, and that most platforms do not have vernacular language availability or voice-based features to encourage non-English-speaking users, demonstrating a gap in inclusively designing digital ag solutions (Sharma & Mehta, 2023; Patel et al., 2023). Further, infrastructural constraints in rural Karnataka characterized by deficient network connectivity and intermittent electricity prevents farmers from accessing real time market news and conducting online transactions, thereby perpetuating the tendency to rely on traditional intermediated market channels where price realization is lower and price fluctuations are higher (Desai & Kumar, 2023). On top of tech hurdles, digital adoption is inextricably tied to trust, and many of the farmers are hesitant about digital payments as they are

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unknown to using the online mode of transactions and not confident of its security, which necessitates digital literacy campaigns that can enable digital tools by educating and informing farmers on safe transacting practices along with platform benefits through demos to gain the confidence in using digital technology (Basu & Verma, 2023). Third, policy-level support is the most critical factor for nurturing a regional digital agricultural ecosystem, and suggested government interventions include providing subsidies for improvements in digital literacy, internet infrastructure improvements, and development of region-specific platforms that enhance local socio-economic conditions (Reddy & Patel, 2023); thus such measures would contribute to a more equitable cotton marketing environment in Karnataka by enabling its farmers to sufficiently aver domestic and external market fluctuations. Hence, it concludes that although digital platforms can be a game-changer for cotton marketing in Karnataka, increasing access to digital platforms will require concerted efforts to address extensive socio-economic and infrastructural barriers that currently inhibit adoption and restrict digital inclusion.

Managerial implications related to the study

In terms of managerial implications, the study highlights that agricultural managers, platform developers and policymakers need to design region-specific strategies to address the socio-economic and infrastructural constraints which hinder digital adoption among Karnataka's cotton farmers, including improving digital literacy, enhancing platform accessibility in local languages and reinforcing internet and technological infrastructure in rural areas, as research shows that localization of content and easy-to-use interfaces significantly enhance engagement due to specific demands of smallholder farmers (Sharma & Iyer, 2023; Basu & Singh, 2023). For wider adoption, managers should focus on incorporating vernacular languages and voice-driven functionalities to digital platforms, as low literacy and unfamiliarity with the English-based digital interface acts as major barriers to rural adoption, restricting farmers to the benefits of real-time pricing information and direct access to market for maximizing income with minimized dependence on intermediaries (Rao & Kumar, 2023; Patel et al., 2023). In addition, the authors draw attention to the existing need for reliable internet access and telephone network infrastructure and stable electricity in rural Karnataka, and suggest that both telecommunications and agricultural managers engage with government authorities to strengthen the digital infrastructure in underserved regions, while implementing offline functions that enable farmers to access main functionalities despite internet connectivity issue and help reduce transaction costs and promote more resilient market

integration (Gupta & Desai, 2023). Furthermore, since farmers frequently develop security concerns with online transactional methods, this study indicates that agricultural managers should make efforts to establish trust between this group of stakeholders in digital payments, which can be achieved through training sessions that support safe transaction practices alongside digital platforms' financial gain, and provision of customer support to quickly resolve farmers' issues and reaffirm consumers' usage confidence (Verma & Joshi, 2023; Nair & Prasad, 2023). Governments too are suggested to support digitalisation through investment in digital literacy development and financial supports as these would close down the knowledge gap and affordability for farmers and promote an inclusive digitalisation of agriculture (Sen & Rao, 2023). In sum, these managerial strategies can not only improve the rate with which digital platforms are being adopted in cotton marketing but also a more integrated and efficient agri-market system enabling the capacity of Karnataka cotton farmers to seize domestic and international market options and in turn, stimulate sustainable economic development while alleviating price fluctuation vulnerability.

Conclusion

This study concludes with the message that, while the underlying concept of digital platforms holds significant promise to transform cotton marketing in Karnataka through price transparency, diminished dependence on intermediaries, and direct market access, the potential benefits are still not fully realized as higher order adoption hurdles rooted in socio-economic, infrastructural, and technological bases, remain to be solved, evidence re-iterates limited digital literacy, language barriers, intermittent internet access and reluctance for embracing risks in digital payment processes as motor for moderated usage by smallholder farmers (Patel & Singh, 2021; Rao & Iyer, 2020). In theory, the digital platforms like Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) are meant to connect regional market, provide time-stamped information and create a sense of national market (Basu et al., 2018), but they do not provide equal access to rural farmers without addressing affordability, inclusivity, user accessibility, integrating regional markets (by cohesive policy level action) and other issues (Desai et al., 2019; Verma & Sharma, 2020). Moreover, infrastructural barriers in rural Karnataka represent a major obstacle since the farmers cannot depend on the digital solutions due to problems such as lack of connectivity and inadequate power supply which highlight the need for the platform developers, government and telecom operators to work together to build basic infrastructure improvements that enable digital access in remote areas (Gupta & Kumar 2019). Moreover, trust becomes a critical

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component in getting farmers to adopt online payment methods instead of their old practices of skipping online channels due to the fear of security and fraud; an aspect that can be aided by digital literacy schemes focusing on safe practices and encouraging direct market participation through clear evidence of economic benefits associated with it (Sen & Prasad, 2021). Thus this study underscores that overcoming these barriers is important to attaining a truly inclusive, efficacious digital agricultural system underpinned by targeted policy intervention (e.g. digital literacy initiatives, subsidies for digital tools and infrastructure development) to ensure that the cotton sector in Karnataka can take advantage of digital platforms to build a marketing system that is more resilient, equitable, and efficient, raising farmer income and contributing to the wider development of agriculture through digital transformation (Iyer & Desai, 2020).

Scope for further research and limitations of the study

The scope for further research includes an exploration of comparative adoption patterns across different states in India to provide a broader understanding of how regional variations in digital infrastructure, socio-economic conditions, and agricultural practices impact digital platform engagement, with potential studies employing multi-state comparative analyses to assess whether digital adoption is influenced differently by factors such as literacy levels, government policies, and local market structures (Patel & Verma, 2020; Singh & Rao, 2019). Additionally, future research could expand on this study's findings by investigating the role of behavioral factors, such as farmers' attitudes toward technology and risk perception, which may affect the adoption of digital transactions and online platforms; a mixed-methods approach incorporating both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews would allow for a more nuanced understanding of these psychological influences and their impact on technology adoption in rural agricultural settings (Kumar & Joshi, 2021). Furthermore, longitudinal studies examining the long-term economic impact of digital platform usage on income stability and market resilience for smallholder cotton farmers could yield valuable insights into the effectiveness of these platforms over time, particularly in the face of fluctuating global market conditions and climate-related production challenges (Desai & Nair, 2019). On the other hand, the study's limitations include its reliance on secondary data and theoretical frameworks, which, while providing a solid conceptual foundation, may lack the contextual specificity and depth that primary data could offer; this limitation suggests a need for field-based research that directly engages with Karnataka's cotton farmers to gather first-hand insights into the specific barriers and facilitators affecting their

digital platform use, which could refine the theoretical models employed (Reddy & Iyer, 2020). Another limitation is that the study primarily focuses on structural and technological factors without fully addressing the potential effects of cultural and social dynamics, such as the influence of local community networks and farmer cooperatives, on digital platform adoption; subsequent research could investigate how community-driven information sharing or collective action influences farmers' willingness to engage with digital tools, especially in rural areas where such networks play a central role in economic decision-making (Gupta & Sharma, 2021). Overall, by addressing these limitations and expanding the scope of research to include primary data collection, regional comparisons, and behavioral analyses, future studies could develop a more comprehensive understanding of digital platform adoption in cotton marketing, thereby supporting more targeted and effective digital interventions in India's agricultural sector (Mehta & Prasad, 2020).

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The Impact of ICT on Digital Literacy and Inclusivity in Library Services: A Global Perspective on Empowering Underserved Communities

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Abstract:
This study illustrates how Information and Communication technology (ICT) had integrated into libraries to make information and services more accessible. This research looks at the crucial role of ICT in promoting digital literacy and making library services more inclusive, targeting for example the underserved communities, people with disabilities and people in remote areas. Existing research on adoption of ICT in libraries highlights important aspects of leveraging ICT for digital literacy programs; this paper contributes to an innovative understanding of ICT digital literacy program in use in the context of library service, with a view to implement innovative strategies and challenges addressing issues of accessibility, inclusivity. The aim of this research is to influence library service design in the digital age and the design of more inclusive services through case studies, global trends and emerging technologies. The work also aims to examine the appropriate ICT strategies used in developing library environments that can be accessible to all, especially persons with disability, and those in remote locations. Informed by an international focus, this paper integrates best practices from libraries across the world and articulates ICT as a key lever to close digital gaps, promote information equity, and support the role of libraries as community institutions. The implication is to offer an exemplar of how ICT-enhanced library programs that drive equitable and differential digital literacy and access can be delivered, thus setting new best practice benchmarks for libraries as digital commons internationally.

Keywords: Digital Libraries, ICT, Computer & Information Technology, Information Literacy, Digitalization and Automation.

Introduction:

Generally, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been redefining the way in which libraries provide information and services. Old libraries are now dynamic digital places to discover resources and opportunities. And as digitalization is bleeding into everything in society, libraries found themselves in the forefront of pushing towards digital literacy and inclusivity. Despite the enormous potential benefits of ICT in libraries, there is still a gap in understanding how to implement and scale digital literacy programs that cater to the needs of a global, diverse population.

The intention of this study is to understand how ICTs have changed the perception of digital literacy in libraries and inclusivity in libraries and how libraries can leverage technology to support underserved communities, people with disabilities and people in remote areas. In this paper, through an exploration of innovative practices and case studies from around the world, will provide some insights into how ICT allows libraries to target becoming universally accessible digital hubs.

Objectives:

The purpose of this research study is to bring out and analyse how Information and Communication Technology (ICT) impacts digital literacy and inclusiveness of library services across the world. The study is guided by the following objectives: -

- To examine the role of ICT in enhancing digital literacy among diverse user groups in libraries: It also involves a review of how ICT driven programs can be modified to make the process digitally literate for those underserved communities such as low-income families, the elderly, rural residents and the rest of the marginalized. The research will be aimed at identifying what sort of ICT tools and programs are being used by libraries to make it easier for people to learn digital skills and access information.

- To investigate ICT strategies for accessibility and inclusivity in library services: This objective looks at how libraries are leveraging ICT to build spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all users, focusing on the disabled. Assistive technologies, adaptive tools, and other

digital resources will be studied to see how they can help meet the special requirements of patrons with visual, auditory or physical impairments.

- To analyse the role of ICT in extending library services to remote and rural areas: The objective of this is to understand the ways ICTs help the libraries connect with users in constrained or under serviced areas. The research will look at case studies in the use of mobile libraries, virtual services and online platforms so that library services and resources are made available to people who may not have the capacity to visit a physical library.

- To identify global best practices and innovative ICT applications in library services: The research will look at successful ICT models from different nations to learn more about successful ICT models to support digital literacy, accessibility and inclusion. An example practice ICT in different cultural and socio-economic contexts will be the case of this study.

- To highlight the challenges and barriers faced by libraries in adopting ICT for digital literacy and inclusivity: This objective attempt to investigate how funding and technological infrastructure issues and policy gaps hinder the effective use of ICT to support digital literacy and inclusive services by or in libraries. The research suggests strategies for overcoming these challenges by identifying them.

- To provide recommendations for libraries globally on implementing ICT solutions that promote digital literacy and inclusivity: The results from the analysis will yield a set of strategic recommendations for libraries to implement ICT effectively in order to enhance equitable access to digital skills and resources towards the attainment of universally accessible library services.

Finally, this research aims to provide libraries with a widescale ICT framework to help them exploit ICT in ways that promote digital literacy and inclusivity in response to global and local needs. The study seeks to contribute to the body of the knowledge on ICT transformative potential in the provision of library services and to set new standards for libraries as a digital first, accessible community hubs.

Litreature Review:

These days, libraries are offering workshops and classes on basic computer skills, using the internet, using email and social media. Public libraries have used ICT to develop training programs that enable marginalised groups, such as low-income families, elderly persons, immigrants and refugees, to take part in training in regions within North America, Europe and parts of Asia.

For instance, based on an American Library Association (2019) study,

ICTs were used by the U.S. public libraries to develop the courses on digital literacy to help millions of people develop the basic digital skills. ICT is used to train elderly Finnish citizens' digital skills in libraries. So far, these programs have been very successful in leveraging seniors' online participation and enabling elders to communicate with services such as e-health and government websites (Finland Library Association, 2020).

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA, 2019) report showed that most of the libraries in low-income countries find it difficult or impossible to deliver adequate digital literacy programming, because of technological and financial hurdles.

The World Blind Union (2018) found in a global survey that libraries in Europe, North America and Australia are able to successfully implement assistive technologies to make their services more inclusive. In the United Kingdom for example, the 'Talking Books' program in libraries makes audiobooks and e-resources available to users who are visually impaired, enabling them to get into the digital literacy ship.

Research Body:

1. **ICT is Having the Role in Improving the Digital Literacy in Libraries**- In the modern world digital literacy is an essential skill by which an individual can navigate, evaluate and communicate information effectively in the digital space. But libraries, as community hubs, could be prime digital literacy players. ICT enables libraries to offer diverse programs and services, including:

- Digital Literacy Training Programs: ICT can help libraries establish and provide comprehensive training programs which cover simple digital skills such as accessing the internet; using email and productivity tools. They are flexible enough to suit different age groups, different literacy levels, and particular needs.

- Online Learning Platforms and E-Resources: Digital learning platforms, e-books, research databases and multimedia resources are available via libraries and, as such, users can learn at their time. It democratizes access to an education and supports lifelong learning.

- Collaboration with Local Communities: The use of ICT tools can support collaboration with schools, community centres and NGOs to develop educational resource which address specific needs locally. By doing so, digital literacy initiatives will be reaching the right people.

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2. **Accessibility and Inclusivity through ICT in Libraries:-** ICT has the capability to turn libraries into ubiquitous spaces, where information and services are available for everyone equally. However, libraries are key elements of bridging the digital divide and building inclusive spaces for the disabled, elderly, and for people in rural or underserved areas.

- Library Services Inclusive Design: By incorporating accessibility features in their ICT infrastructure, libraries can ensure that their services are usable by everyone, including:

- Assistive Technologies: They also often have a whole range of assistive devices: screen readers, magnifiers and voice recognition software, available for use by users with visual or physical impairments.

- Accessible Websites and Digital Content: Web accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG) must be met by libraries when they add website and digital content, making sure that alternative image text, closed captions on videos, and keyboard navigation features are found.

- Mobile Accessibility: Since individual with mobility challenges can acquire mobile applications which will enable them to get access to library resources and services from anywhere, libraries can develop mobile applications given the increasing use of smartphones to ensure they have access to information.

2.Part 2: Reaching Remote and Underserved Populations: - In areas inaccessible by physical libraries, ICT offers the means to supply services and resources virtually. It is particularly important in marginalized groups living in rural or low-income regions.

- Virtual Library Services: Virtual reference services; digital book lending and online educational programs can be provided to persons in remote places by libraries. Librarians can connect users with them (users or not) through the Internet based platform to avail research assistance, career counselling, educational resources among others.

- Community Outreach via ICT: ICT driven outreach programs can be used by libraries to engage underserved populations. You can see how, for example, rural libraries in Africa and South America have used mobile libraries with satellite internet to bring library services to isolated communities

3. **Challenges and Barriers to the Use of ICT in Libraries: -** while ICT potentially offers great promise, libraries have encountered a number of challenges in their efforts to deliver digital literacy and accessibility programs. These barriers include:

- Technological Infrastructure: Indeed, many libraries, especially in developing countries, do not have the necessary infrastructure (e.g. diversity of internet, access to modern computers) to deliver the ICT program in good way.

- Digital Divide: Yet there's still a digital divide; not all communities have equal access to the technologies. ICT resources are not easily accessible to low-income populations, or populations living in rural or remote areas.

- Training and Skill Development: Library staff and librarians have to be well trained in ICT use and teaching ICT. However, the successful implementation of digital literacy programs may be impaired by a lack of training for library staff.

- Cultural and Linguistic Barriers: When it comes to creating accessible content in the global contexts, the challenge is with language diversity and cultural differences that may block content reach to all audiences.

4. **Global Best Practices and Innovations in ICT for Libraries: -** Thus libraries elsewhere can learn from successful ICT programs in the world. The approach to ICT in libraries that are successful, however, tend to emphasize localized strategies and partnerships, regular staff training.

- Localized Content and Language Support: That digital content is also vital for rural users, who make up at least 80 percent of library users in India and at least 90 percent in South Africa. The libraries make use of ICT to develop online tutorials, e-books, and digital literacy resource using ICT for regional language and cultural needs.

- Collaborative Partnerships: ICT resources and expertise for libraries that work with technology companies, government agencies, and nonprofits are available. The Gates Foundation's Global Libraries Initiative has provided funding and support to libraries in over 50 countries investing technology and ICT to improve digital literacy and accessibility.

- Continuous Staff Training: ICT programs that are successful are often backed by well trained staff that are able to use digital tools and help patrons who have different levels of ICT literacy. Where ICT skills are taught to library personnel to provide these digital literacy programs, and assist users with disabilities, there are training programs.

5. **An Approach to Enhancing Digital Literacy for Underserved Communities:-**

- To overcome the digital divide that many low-income families, elderly populations, immigrants, and rural residents face, libraries around the world are using ICT to train

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underserved communities with no digital literacy.

- Utilization of E Learning Platforms and other Digital resources: - By its power, ICT enables libraries to provide access to the vast array of the digital resources, e-learning platforms and other online courses, all in order for users to develop their skills beyond the traditional library services.

- Challenges and Barriers:- ICT supports libraries in expanding the range of digital literacy programs, but there are still issues. Infrastructure problems, like poor internet access and out-dated technology, constrain developing region libraries. Moreover, many libraries do not possess the financial support and staff training required to use their IT infrastructure in the most sophisticated manner. Research points to the urgent need to get more investment and focused policies to tackle these barriers.

Conclusion:

In defining their role in society, libraries have become keenly aware of the power technology has over people and the potential for social and digital exclusion, with ICT being one of the most outstanding and profound impacts on library services through the impact of ICT on digital literacy and inclusivity. Through the use of technology, libraries can use that as a way to empower underserved communities such as those with disabilities, senior populations and people in remote areas. Although there remain challenges, libraries will be able to meet their mission as information hubs in the digital age for the public and as repositories of knowledge and culture in the digital age if we continue to invest in needed infrastructure and engage in innovative strategy and global collaboration.

The main focus of this research is ICT's transformative potential in libraries, plus, the importance of investing more in inclusive library services, which empower all individuals in the digital world. This study demonstrates the need for more research into scalable, cost-effective ICT solutions libraries can adopt globally. Additionally, policy frameworks focused on including digital access and helping ICTs efforts would be needed to enable libraries to still achieve the path they currently walking as a community centred and accessible places in the digital age. With libraries playing a more important role as digital literacy and inclusivity hubs libraries can become examples of equitable access to knowledge as we move towards more interconnectivity.

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A Critical Study of feministic Survival and feministic Progress in India

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Abstract:

　　　　The main objective of this paper is to search real survival of Indian women progress in Indian society and as an Indian woman her identity progress in male dominated society to prove her Feminist Progress in India. The promotion of Gender Equality and Woman Empowerment is the most important status of our Nation to build Nationalism and Nation Building. Swami Vivekananda had said that "Country and that nation which did not respect women have never become great nor will ever in future." In recent decades this issue came up in the light when United Nation declares 1975 be 'International Women's Year' and our India celebrated year 2001 as 'Women Empowerment Year'.

　　　　Added to this, if we look at the Gender Equality it is nothing but the equal treatment of justice to equitable values of sexes. Therefore, Gender Equality is a fundamental human right and the basic problem is related to Indian social set up with regard to gender justice or gender equality. So in present paper my purpose is to illustrate the constitutional contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to build our nation with Nationalism and Nationality with Gender Equality and Empowering Women in various ways in male dominated society. Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social or economic strength of individuals and communities.

Keywords: Feminist, Survival, Indian woman, Feministic Progress, Male-dominated Society, Gender-Equality, Women-Identity, Empowerment of women, Liberation and Education, Nationalism and Nation Building, Constitutional contribution, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Jyotiba Fule and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar etc.

Introduction:

　　　　In the Empowerment of Indian women an immense contribution is given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He was always aware of the problems of the cotemporary Indian women community as a keen observer of the society. He was known completely about poverty and humiliation with his own born brought up in a family of downtrodden.

　　　　Hence, he knew the worst suffering of Indian women. He strongly advocated the need of law for the empowerment of women. He always opined that the men and women together could solve any problem and that too in a shorter span. The best example of it is Mahad Movement in which he had arranged a special gathering of about five thousand women. He was only one a staunch supporter of women education in India who expressed the need of women's involvement in the freedom struggle. He believed that the society would develop only when the women make progress.

　　　　Today's problem of women has its origin in the Vedic times. Women those days were considered inferior to women. They were equated with the shudras/anti-shudras, the fourth/fifth varnas of the Vedic religion. Women were not considered

fit for spiritual attainment as they were not allowed to read Vedas. All the law books of Hindus have very distinctly written about their degraded status. Few verses from these Hindu law books are mentioned here. There are many a verses in the Vedas, Smritis, and Puranas etc., which are very derogatory and obscene in nature and are avoided here.

　　　　As stated above the women were not allowed to read Vedas during the Vedic times. Gautam Buddha was the first master who gave women, status equal to men. Secondly he provided women access to knowledge and learning by providing them entry into the Buddha's order. He considered women capable of attaining spirituality.

　　　　Many women under the Buddha's order attained very high level of learning and intellect; so much so that their contribution in the name of "Therigathas" (the songs of the Buddhists sisters) occupies a prominent place in Buddhist Canonical Scriptures. With the decline of Buddhism and subsequently its extinction from the land of its origin, position of women went back to its original low grade position as was in vogue during the Vedic times.

During the19th century Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's effort plays most important role in the life development and liberation of women. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and his wife, Savitribai Phule did pioneering work for providing access to education for women. Jyotiba Phule first taught his wife at home and then she in turn started teaching in the school, which was started by Jyotiba Phule for girls. They are also the ones who started the school for the girls of untouchable communities in 1850; probably the first of its kind for the untouchable girls in the country.

If we look at the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Women's liberation and empowerment we knew how he continued the pioneering work of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and his wife with devotion. Right from beginning of his struggle for the eradication of caste prejudices, he started involving women in the struggle. He realized that the real progress of the dalits could not be achieved without liberating the women themselves. He started motivating the women. His first demand of adult franchise, which was met in the early 20's after resistance from the Brahmins, gave voting rights to untouchables as well as to women. That was the beginning of an era of liberation for women. Dr. Ambedkar then brought women, the dalit women in particular into the struggle.

Similar to this In December 1972 during the Mahad Tank Struggle he addressed women to participate in struggle against the tyranny of caste system. He emphasized to them that men alone cannot fight this menace. The main theme of the speech was "Importance of participation of women in the struggle of dalits." He also wanted to prepare the women for a cultural change. The main reason for the suffering of women even today is the grant of low grade status to women in the law books of Hindu religion like Vedas, Manu Smrities, Bhagwad Geeta,Ram Charitra Manas etc.

Though these law books are superseded by the Constitution of India in the last 50 years legally, the Hindu Shastras still control the mindsets of the people. Gautama Buddha was the first preacher who revolted against discrimination against the women in the society. He then gave them equal status by allowing them to enter his order. He allowed women to have access to knowledge and spirituality. Prior to his time, women are not allowed to read Vedas. Women were not considered fit for spiritual attainment. Buddha removed all these restrictions

In Indian scenario Dr. Ambedkar contemplated on the social, economical, political, caste and creed based identity of the women. The tradition social hierarchy never consented women to establish. Their identity as a woman in the society with the clash of social and cultural reform changed stream of women identity. Before independence the conditions of social, political and cultural of the people were under imprisoned in bad tradition.

Especially women's conditions were quite worst. Many social reformers such as Raja ram Mohan Roy, G.G. Agarkar, Maharshi Karve, Mahatma Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj have put truthful effort to change women's condition in pre-independence period. But Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the good follower of all them belonging to the same tradition. His awareness about social changes reflects tradition of Mahatma Phule and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj with devotion.

The central idea of the women empowerment movement first started in 18th century in the European Country and thereafter its effect fallen all over the world. For our Indian society, social reformer and political reformer played active role to change women's condition in Maharashtra. They run school for women against many bad traditions.

The most important work of reformation for the women's welfare is done by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He rejected earlier traditions with his thoughts to do for the welfare of women's empowerment. To improve the status of the Indian women he rejected traditional injustice given to them such as i) ban on remarriage ii) restriction of women education iii) use of women for sex satisfaction and women are used for domestic life only. It was the effect of Indian traditions before independence in the male dominated society so women always get secondary position.

But as a constitutional maker and Law reformer in post independent era women reformed socially and culturally by different acts such as: The Hindu Marriage Act-1955, The Hindu Succession Act-1956, The Dowry and Prossive Act-1961, The Maternity Benefit Act-1961, The equal remulation Act-1976 etc. Added to this he also offer some basic reform in Indian constitution about women's empowerment for example Six Freedoms Article-19, Equality before a law article-14, Right of personal liberty Article-21, Right of Religious Freedom Art-25 and Right Education Art-45 played vital role to give reformation in the life of Indian Women.

Objectives:

If we look at the objectives of Research Paper one may always prefer i) To understand the concept of women empowerment and liberation ii) To search the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in women empowerment and in education iii) To search the goal of women empowerment with contribution of educational thoughts of B.R.Ambedkar

Conclusion:

Towards the end, when i prefer to conclude my research paper and when i look at the objectives of my Research Paper as per the title significance given to it by me. I assured you the feministic

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approach of Indian woman with her survival and progress in male dominated Society as an Indian woman hence it was the concept to understand women empowerment with her progress in liberation.

Similar to that, i studied the Feministic Progress in India with her education and progress in her Indian women empowerment in our Indian Society was indirectly survivable. The contribution of Swami Vivikananda, Mahatma Jyotiba Fule and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was really helped Indian Women to survive her Indian life with her feministic progress in Indian male dominated society. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as a social Reformer and his contribution for the Indian women's empowerment we may affirm that really it was great. If we look at the prominent features of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's role in women's empowerment the first and foremost is about the moral education given to women, offer permission to remarriage, respectful and life of equality to women, equality of man-women relationship, religious reformation and reformation for bad social tradition.

In this way Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave ideological thinking to Indian society especially for Indian women's empowerment. His work enabled to erect new way to achieve Indian women's identity in social order. At lasts the result of the devotional work of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar concludes important features in our Indian women's empowerment. In this women empowerment 63% women became literate, provision of 50% reservation given in Panchayat Raj, women given active role in the government and in the administration with Equal role in all parts as given to men etc.

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A Comparative Study on Human Rights Education in School Curriculum of Assam and Northeastern States

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Abstract:

The concept of Human Right encompasses the basic right and freedom to which all human are entitled for civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. A number of International treaties and declarations guarantee these rights including the UDHR, which stresses the inherent worth and equal, inalienable rights of every human being. The constitution of India as well as UN declaration has enriched us all kinds of rights and responsibilities. Education is the only way by which we can create awareness among people about their rights and responsibilities. So, it is very important to incorporate human rights in school education system. Human brain is most malleable during childhood and as we grow older, we keep becoming more rigid and set in our ways. Therefore, it is easier to raise children with a uniform belief in the dignity of fellow human beings rather than striving to correct adults who have become habitual to committing misdeeds i.e. earlier the intervention, more lasting the impression. In the present study, the investigator seeks to analyze and compare the course content of human rights education imparted at different levels of education (primary, secondary and higher secondary) in Assam and other Northeastern states, exploring both direct and indirect contexts.

Key words: Human rights, Education, school curriculum

Introduction:

The concept of Human Right encompasses the basic right and freedom to which all human is entitled, including civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights. Human rights education is all learning that develops the knowledge, skills, and values of human rights[9].

A number of international treaties and declarations guarantee these rights including the UDHR, which stresses the inherent worth and equal, inalienable rights of every human being. Human rights are the rights which every human being is entitled to enjoy and to have protected. But to enjoy our rights and responsibilities we must have awareness about it. Education is the only way to make the people aware about their rights and responsibilities. Human rights education is the education which helps an individual to know about their rights and its need and importance. So it is very important to incorporate human rights in school education system[1,2,3].

Human rights education is a vital component of modern education, empowering individuals to recognize, respect and promote the inherent dignity and respect of all persons. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011) emphasizes the importance of integrating HRE into school curricula to foster a culture of human rights and promote social justice.

In India, the National Curriculum framework (NCF) 2005 and the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 mandate the inclusion of human rights and value education in school curricula[6,7]. There are three dimensions to the promotion of human rights education[5]:

(i)   Knowledge: - providing information about human rights and the mechanisms that exist to protect those rights;

(ii)   Values, beliefs and attitudes: - promoting a human rights culture through the development of these processes; and

(iii)   Action: -encouraging people to defend human rights and prevent human rights abuses.

The Northeastern region of India is characterized by diverse cultures, language and ethnic groups. The region has witnessed significant human rights concerns, including: Ethnic conflicts and insurgency, Displacement and migration, Socio-economic disparities, Gender- based violence.[4]

Effective Human rights education can address these concerns by promoting cultural sensitivity and understanding, encouraging critical thinking and empathy and fostering a culture of human rights and social justice.

Objective of the study:

The present study is carried out with the following objectives:

(i)   To analyze the course content of human rights education imparted at different levels of education from class I to Class XII in Assam in direct and indirect context.

(ii) To make a comparative study of the course content of human rights education imparted by the school boards of Assam and other north eastern states.

Methodology of the present study:

The present study is descriptive and qualitative in nature. The present study has been carried out on the basis of secondary data. The data has been collected from research papers, books on human rights, Government reports, and various articles and from relevant websites.

Results and Discussions:

The course content of human rights education imparted at different levels of education from class I to Class XII in Assam

In the present Study according to the 1st Objective it has been observed that in school curriculum the human rights are imparted with two different approaches such as direct and an indirect. The analysis of course content at different levels (Class I – Class XII) of school curriculum is presented in the Table 1. The findings of the course content of human rights education imparted in Assam at different levels of education (Class I to Class XII) are as follows

Class: I to V

Direct Context:

In direct context, the students are taught about the fundamental rights, government policies like right to free education, sarva shiksha abhiyan, mid –day meal and law against cutting trees.[10]

Indirect Context:

In indirect context, students are taught about the importance nature in our lives. They are also taught about different religion. The students are told about the economic disparity existing in our country by telling the stories of people belonging to different strata. They are also taught about environmental pollution and the various causes of pollution.

Class: VI to VIII

Direct Context:

Among the direct references, they are taught fundamental rights. The students are taught about their democratic and political rights to participate in the functioning of the government and also about their cultural and social rights. They are also told about different schemes initiated by the Government like Anganwadi's, child care centres etc. The students are also made aware of the problem of child labour and are told about various laws framed by the government for prevention of child labour and regulating the safety laws in factories. They are also made aware of consumer rights.

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Indirect context

Among indirect references they are told about the stories of great freedom fighters and about the freedom struggle of India. They are also taught about the cultural harmony and freedom of religion. They are also made aware of the social issues prevalent in the society in old times like "sati system", slavery, untouchability and caste discrimination. The students are told about different professions and means of earning livelihood. The students are also told about the duty of the government to provide public facilities. The knowledge about environment degradation and natural disasters helps in sensitizing children towards environment. The students are encouraged to live life with dignity[10].

Class: IX to X

Direct Context:

They are taught the human rights and fundamental rights in direct context. They are told about the covenant on economic, social and cultural rights and are told about the National Human Rights Commission and the mechanism to approach this commission. They are also taught about their democratic and political right to participate in the functioning of the government directly and indirectly and also about their cultural and social rights. The students are taught about the equality in matters of reservation of seats for socially and educationally backward classes in employment. The students are told about their right to education and about the different schemes initiated by the government to promote education in India like National education Policy, Sarva shiksha Abhiyan. The students are made aware of consumer's rights and are also informed about different forums where a consumer can approach in case of grievance[10].

Indirect context

Among indirect references they are told about the freedom movement of India. They are told about the right of girls to get equal education with boys.

Class: XI to XII

Direct Context:

The students are taught about the human rights and fundamental rights in detail including the right to liberty, equality, freedom of speech and expression, freedom to form association, freedom of movements, untouchability constitutional remedies etc. The students are told about the various social problems prevalent in the country together with the government initiatives to tackle those problems. The students are informed about various laws like right to Education Act, Hindu Re marriage Act, Child Marriage Act etc. They are informed about the various international organization that have been formed at global level in order to ensure peaceful existence of mankind

Indirect context

Among the indirect references they are told about the freedom struggle of India and the world revolution. They are also taught about the problem of deforestation and population. The students are told about the evolution and growth of different socio-political movements in India meant for the upliftment of different classes of people. The students are taught about the problems that exist in society like child marriage, sati, exploitation of people on the basis of caste, colour and creed etc. They are further sensitized towards the environmental issues and sustainable development.

Comparative Study of Human Rights Education taught in different State Board Syllabus
Class I - V

According to the 2nd objective of our study, the comparison of the course content of human rights education taught in various classes by the school boards of Assam and other north eastern states has been carefully observed (Table 1) and revealed that in class I and class II, no state conveys human rights directly while in Class III and Class IV merely 2 and 3 states have a miniscule presence of direct references. A major improvement was noticeable in **class V** as all the North Eastern states have significant presence of direct context. The upward trends in indirect references persist in class V, with three states exceeding 9%. Nagaland showed the highest level of indirect human rights education (14.87%), while Manipur reported the lowest, with only 5.8% of class V[10]. The graphical representation for indirect context is shown in Fig1.

Table 1:Class(I-V) Wise Comparative Study of Human Rights Taught In State Board Syllabus

State	Human RightsTaught In Various Classes (FiguresIn%)									
	Direct Context					Indirect Context				
	I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV	V
Assam	0	0	0	0	1.17	2.60	2.13	7.54	9.63	9.93
Manipur	0	0	0.20	0	0.20	1.36	5.34	4.29	6.76	5.8
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0.01	6.86	4.45	6.41	6.36	9.07
Mizoram	0	0	0	1.08	1.12	4	4.25	5.39	8.51	8.22
Nagaland	0	0	0.45	0.60	0.36	2.94	13.28	5.45	6.66	14.76
Tripura	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1.09**	**0.88**	**3.05**	**1.72**	**5.97**	**7.05**	5.76
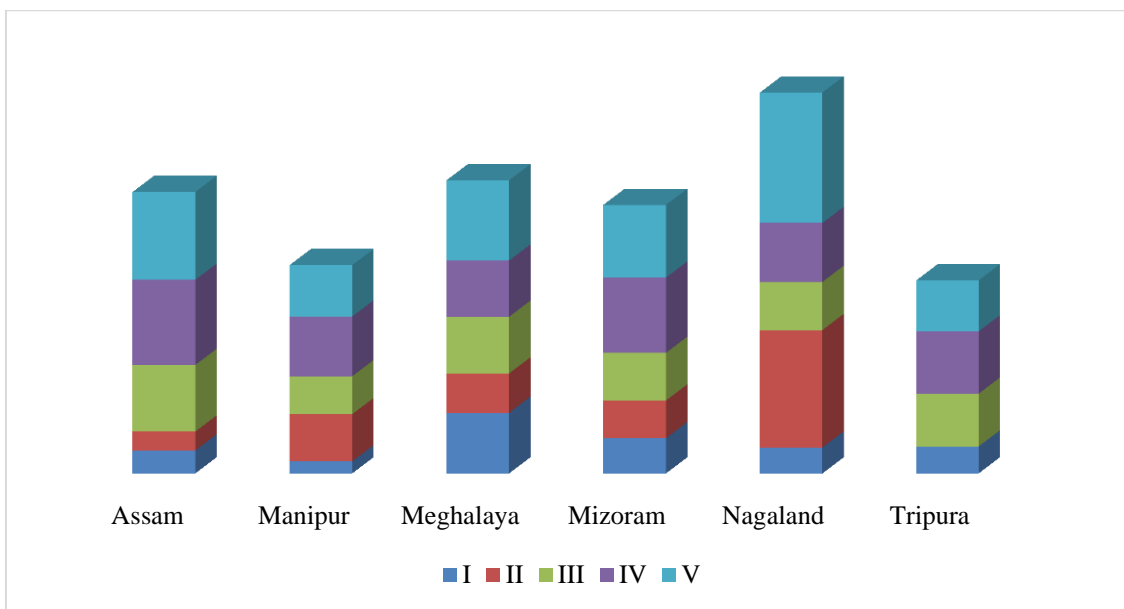
Fig1: The graphical representation of human right education taught for indirect context in Class I - V

Class VI - VIII

As far as data (Table 2) for class **VI,** direct human rights education is below 1% in all states except two. Notably, class VII data shows all states exceeding this percentage. Class VIII shows a significant increase in the percentage of prescribed syllabus conveying human rights directly surpassing

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all preceding classes. Manipur leads with 9.64% of its prescribed syllabus dedicated to human rights, conveying the highest percentage of human rights education in a direct context.

Class VI records indirect human rights references ranging from 4.82% (Assam) to 9.82% (Manipur). In Class VII, Manipur maintains its lead

with 9.86%, while Meghalaya has the lowest percentage at 4.34%. Except Assam and Meghalaya, all states achieve double digits percentages of prescribed syllabus conveying human rights, with

Manipur recording the highest at 14.14% across all analyzed classes. The graphical representation for direct and indirect context is shown in Fig2.

Table 2: Class (VI -VIII) Wise Comparative Study of Human Rights Taught in State Board Syllabus

States	Human RightsTaught in Various Classes (FiguresIn%)					
	Direct Context			Indirect Context		
	VI	VII	VIII	VI	VII	VIII
Assam	0.59	1.88	2.37	4.82	9.03	9.78
Manipur	0.96	1.36	9.64	9.82	9.86	14.14
Meghalaya	1.62	1.28	3.87	7.83	4.34	10.71
Mizoram	0.79	1.37	6.46	9.18	8.31	11.39
Nagaland	1.03	1.20	2.46	6.95	7.48	5.33
Tripura	0.64	1.30	6.30	5.80	7.32	10.01
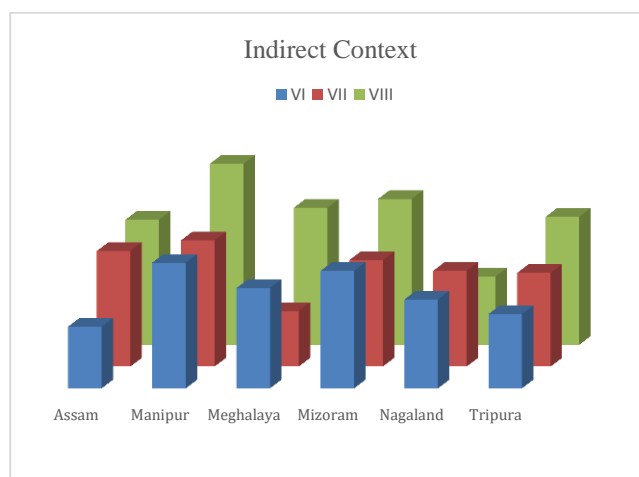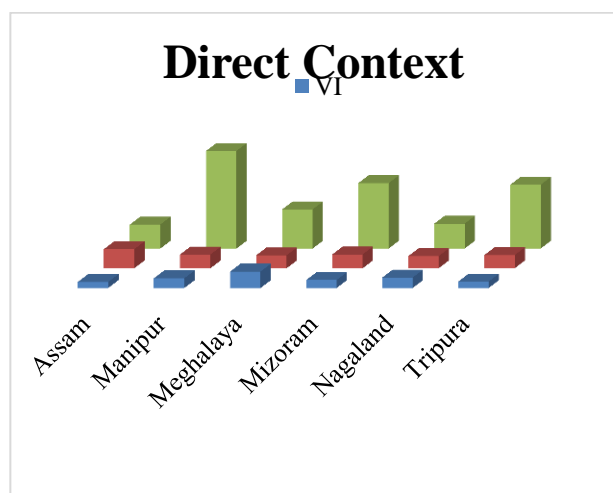
Fig2: The graphical representation of human right education taught for direct and indirect context in Class VI - VII

Class IX – XII

There is a significant decline in the overall percentage of prescribed syllabus conveying human rights directly in class X compared to the previous class. More than half of the states surpass the 2% benchmark, with Nagaland leading at 2.99%, having the maximum percentage of syllabus conveying human rights directly. The class XII figures are disappointing; with almost all states, except Meghalaya, falling below the 1% mark for human rights education. Meghalaya with 2.41% of its prescribed syllabus conveying human rights is the

only state to cross the 2% mark.

The graphical representation of human right education taught for direct context is shown in Fig3. Class XII experiences a significant decline in human rights references compared to class XI. It is to be noted that human right education is total absent in the course curriculum for class XII in Tripura. A major improvement in indirect references is noticeable when compared to the preceding classes. Nagaland tops the list, allocating 12.67% (Class IX) and 18.52% (Class X) of its prescribed syllabus to indirect human rights education.

Table 3: Class (IX -XII) Wise Comparative Study of Human Rights Taught In State Board Syllabus

States	Human Rights Taught in Various Classes (Figures in %)							
	Direct Context				Indirect Context			
	IX	X	XI	XII	IX	X	XI	XII
Assam	0.51	0.85	7.41	1.04	6.52	13.51	11.41	9.50
Manipur	2.49	1.25	7.44	1.46	8.10	7.43	6.37	8.81
Meghalaya	3.19	2.15	1.28	2.41	11.94	10.57	7.04	9.50
Mizoram	2.30	0.92	5.58	1.23	7.40	9.64	6.12	8.94
Nagaland	2.75	2.99	3.68	1.24	12.67	18.52	4.06	8.25
Tripura	2.46	0.55	4.57	0	1.54	3.07	2.28	2.89

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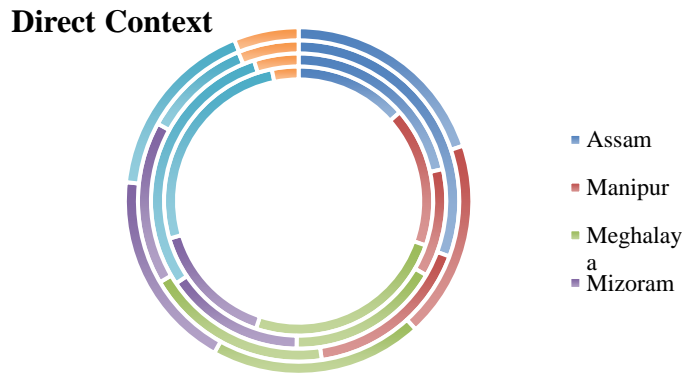
Direct Context

*Fig3: The graphical representation of human right education taught for direct context
in Class IX – XIII*

The Table 4 shows the human rights education taught at various levels of school education in different northern -eastern states. This study categorizes educational levels into three tiers: Level 1(Class I-V) Level 2 (VI –VIII), and Level 3(Class IX – XII). The variation human right education at various levels for different north eastern states is shown in fig 4. According to the table, in Assam no human rights education is taught in level one (I-V) in direct context but in level two (VI-VII) 1.64% schools and in level three only 2.07% have taught human rights education in direct context. But in indirect context the percentage of human rights education taught in level one (I-V) is 6.66% and in Level Two (VI-VII) the percentage is 7.94 while in level Three it is 10.3%. It has been observed that for direct context, the highest human right education taught in Meghalaya (0.77%) and lowest in Manipur (0.1%) while for Indirect context also Meghalaya taught maximum (7.78%) and minimum in Tripura (5.05%) for level one (1 – V). Again, for level Two (VI – VIII), the syllabus conveying human rights maximum in Mizoram with 3.17% and minimum with 1.62% in Nagaland for direct reference while for indirect reference the highest in Manipur with 10.78% and lowest in Nagaland with 6.51%. For level Three (IX-XII), the human right education is significantly low for direct context which ranges minimum 0.93%(Manipur) to maximum 2.61% (Nagaland). Again Meghalaya board syllabus covered highest 11.33% and Tripura lowest 2.62% in indirect context.

**Table 4: Overall Level Wise Comparative Study of Human Rights taught in
State Board Syllabus**

States	HumanRightsTaught in Various Levels (Figures in%)					
	Direct Context			Indirect Context		
	I-V	VI-VIII	IX - XII	I-V	VI-VIII	IX - XII
Assam	0	1.64	2.07	6.66	7.94	10.3
Manipur	0.10	2.91	0.93	5.23	10.78	7.74
Meghalaya	0.77	2.12	2.34	7.78	7.29	11.33
Mizoram	0.61	3.17	2.44	6.71	9.92	7.98
Nagaland	0.33	1.62	2.61	9.28	6.51	10.99
Tripura	0.49	2.88	1.8	5.05	7.80	2.62
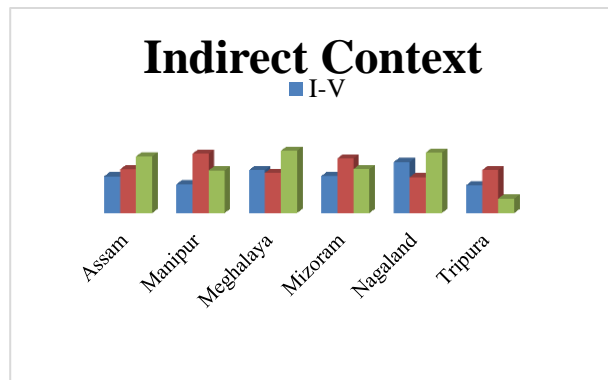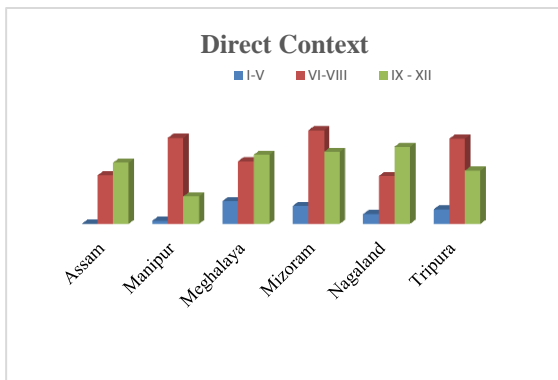
Fig4 : Variation human right education at various levels for different North Eastern states

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Conclusion:

The human rights education has been significantly imparted at various levels of school curriculum in different northern -eastern states with direct and indirect context. In the present study it has been observed that the human right education taught indirectly is more dominant in comparison to the direct approach. It has been observed that the human right education in course curriculum at various levels is significantly high in other north eastern states in comparison to the Assam for both direct and indirect context. greater commitment from all sectors and preparation of a sound, realistic plan of action can help toimplement   human rights education for all and transform the human rights movement into a mass movement to achieve a better social order and peaceful coexistence.

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The Role of National Social Services in Sustainability: Alleviating Poverty and Inequality and Promoting Health and Well-Being

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Abstract:
As the world grapples with the challenges of sustainability, national social services emerge as pivotal instruments in fostering socioeconomic stability and environmental sustainability. By providing a safety net for vulnerable populations, promoting social cohesion, and facilitating access to resources, national social services contribute to both social equity and environmental sustainability. This paper explores the dual objectives of alleviating poverty and inequality while promoting health and well-being through national social services. By addressing these intertwined issues, social services not only enhance individual quality of life but also contribute to the broader goals of a sustainable future.

Keywords: National Social Services, Sustainability, Poverty, Inequality, Health.

Introduction:

Sustainability has emerged as a critical concept in addressing global challenges such as climate change, social inequality, and resource depletion. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize the need for integrated approaches to achieve economic, social, and environmental sustainability. National social services, encompassing health care, education, housing, and welfare support, are vital in promoting holistic development and social well-being.Sustainability encompasses an array of interrelated environmental, economic, and social dimensions. National social services play a crucial role in this framework by targeting systemic issues such as poverty and inequality and promoting the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Recognizing that social disparities and health inequalities threaten both individual potential and collective sustainability, social services provide the scaffolding for inclusive growth and environmental stewardship.This paper examines how national social services can contribute to sustainability efforts and advocates for a more integrated approach to policy-making.

The Concept of Sustainability:

Sustainability refers to the capacity to endure in a relatively ongoing way across various domains of life, including environmental, social, and economic dimensions. The Brundtland Report defines sustainable development as meeting "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Therefore, sustainability involves not only ecological preservation but also social equity and economic development.

Environmental Sustainability:

Environmental sustainability focuses on responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources. This includes reducing carbon footprints, conserving biodiversity, and promoting renewable energy sources. National social services can foster environmental sustainability by encouraging efficient resource use and sustainable community practices.

Social Sustainability:

Social sustainability emphasizes social equity, justice, and the potential for communities to thrive. This aspect includes access to essential services, health care, education, and social welfare programs, which help ensure that all individuals can lead fulfilling lives. When these services are equitably distributed, communities are more likely to be resilient against socio-economic challenges.

Economic Sustainability:

Economic sustainability entails fostering economic growth while ensuring that it doesn't harm social and environmental systems. National social services can stabilize economies by supporting employment, reducing poverty, and promoting educational opportunities. By investing in human capital, governments can drive sustainable economic development.

Alleviating Poverty and Inequality

Defining Poverty and Inequality:

Poverty and inequality manifest in various forms—economic, social, and spatial disparities that hinder access to resources, opportunities, and services essential for a dignified life. National social services aim to address these disparities by providing financial assistance, educational

opportunities, and workforce development programs.

Economic Support Programs:

Social safety nets, such as unemployment benefits, food assistance programs, and housing support, are vital in alleviating the immediate impacts of poverty. By ensuring a basic standard of living, these programs enable individuals to meet their fundamental needs and invest in their future, breaking the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, targeted programs aimed at marginalized groups, such as low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, help mitigate the effects of systemic inequality.

Education and Workforce Development:

Social services also focus on promoting access to quality education and training opportunities, which are pivotal in bridging the income gap. Initiatives that support vocational training and higher education for economically disadvantaged populations not only empower individuals but also contribute to a more skilled workforce, ultimately supporting sustainable economic growth.

Social Inclusion:

By fostering social inclusion and cohesion through community programs, national social services can reduce stigma and discrimination, empowering marginalized communities. Inclusive policies that promote participation in decision-making further enhance the effectiveness of social services by ensuring that the needs and perspectives of all citizens are acknowledged and addressed.

Promoting Health and Well-Being

Understanding Health Inequities:

Health inequities are closely linked to poverty and social determinants, including income level, education, and access to healthcare. National social services are integral in addressing these disparities through comprehensive health policies that prioritize preventive care, mental health support, and health education.

Access to Healthcare:

Universal healthcare initiatives and subsidized health services provided by national social services ensure that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, can access essential medical care. This access not only improves individual health outcomes but also contributes to community resilience and productivity.

Mental Health and Well-Being:

Mental health services are a critical component of national social services, recognizing that well-being encompasses more than physical health. Programs focusing on mental health awareness, treatment accessibility, and community support networks are essential for addressing the rising mental health crisis, particularly in vulnerable populations. Mental well-being contributes to a healthier workforce and social stability, which are vital for sustainable development.

Community Health Initiatives:

By promoting community-based health initiatives that address local needs—such as nutritional programs, preventive screenings, and wellness education—national social services foster proactive health management. Such initiatives help prevent chronic diseases and promote healthy lifestyles, ultimately reducing the long-term burden on healthcare systems.

Integrating Sustainability into Social Services

Environmental Considerations:

Sustainable development requires integrating environmental considerations into social services. Programs that promote green jobs, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship are essential in aligning social services with sustainability goals.

Cross-Sector Collaboration:

An effective approach to sustainability necessitates collaboration between various sectors, including healthcare, education, housing, and environmental services. National social services can act as a bridge, facilitating cooperation and resource sharing among different stakeholders to achieve comprehensive sustainability outcomes.

Recommendations for Policymakers:

To enhance the role of national social services in promoting sustainability, the following recommendations are proposed:

Integrate Sustainability into Social Service Policies: Policymakers should explicitly incorporate sustainability goals into social service frameworks, ensuring that programs are designed with both social equity and environmental consideration in mind.

Enhance Community Involvement: Foster participatory processes that engage communities in decision-making, prioritizing local needs and promoting ownership of sustainability initiatives.

Invest in Education and Awareness Campaigns: Increase funding for educational programs focused on sustainability, empowering citizens to adopt environmentally friendly practices and understand their social responsibilities.

Evaluate and Adapt Programs: Continuously monitor and evaluate social service programs to assess their impact on sustainability goals, making necessary adjustments to improve effectiveness.

Conclusion:

The role of national social services in promoting sustainability through the alleviation of poverty and inequality and the promotion of health and well-being is undeniable. By investing in equitable and accessible social services, governments can create resilient societies capable of facing environmental and economic challenges. The interconnectedness of social issues with sustainability demands a holistic approach, where

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social services not only address immediate needs but also lay the groundwork for a sustainable future. For nations to thrive, it is imperative to foster an inclusive and supportive social safety net that empowers individuals and communities to realize their full potential, thus contributing to a more sustainable world.

National social services are crucial in supporting sustainable development by addressing poverty, enhancing health and education, fostering community engagement, and promoting social equity. To maximize their potential, policymakers must deliberately integrate sustainability into social service frameworks, ensuring they not only respond to immediate social needs but also support long-term environmental and economic goals. The synergy between social service provision and sustainability is essential for building resilient communities capable of facing future challenges.

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'वामनावतार' उपन्यास में चित्रित किसान जीवन

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सारांश :

भारत एक कृषिप्रधान देश है, जिसकी अर्थव्यवस्था कृषि पर निर्भर है। तकनीकी चाहे अपना रूप कितना भी क्यों ना फैला दे परंतु कृषि और किसान के बिना देश की आबादी जीवित नहीं रह सकती। यही वजह है कि किसान को 'धरतीपुत्र' की उपाधि से नवाजा गया है। परंतु आज यही धरतीपुत्र खुद के अस्तित्व के लिए लड़ रहा है। भारतीय राजनीति, भ्रष्ट प्रशासन व्यवस्था, सामाजिक और धार्मिक आडंबर के कारण किसान को हर कदम पर समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। यही है भारतीय किसान का यथार्थ।

मुख्य शब्द : भारतीय किसान, मजदूर, गरीबी, अन्नदाता, ईमानदार, जमींदार, परिवार, इज्जत, अनपढ़

प्रास्ताविक :

लेखक भानुदास जिवणे यथार्थवाद को लेकर हिंदी साहित्यधारा में पदार्पण करनेवाले नव निर्वाचित लेखकों में से एक हैं। उन्होंने मराठी और हिंदी दोनों भाषाओं में लेखन कार्य किया है। उनका जन्म 14 अगस्त,1954 में यवतमाल के दहेगाव नामक एक देहात में गरीब किसान परिवार में हुआ। उनका पूरा नाम भानुदास अर्जुन जिवणे हैं। किसान परिवार, अनपढ़ और अशिक्षित होने के बावजूद उनके पिता बडे समझदार इन्सान थे। अंधश्रद्धा और कुप्रथाओं के विरोध में प्रचार करते थे। गरीबी के कारण लेखक का बचपन असुविधाओं में बीत गया। उनका जादातर समय खेतों में ही गुजरता था। लेकिन लेखक ने परिस्थिति से हार नहीं मानी। खेतों के काम संभालकर पढाई करने के कारण लोगों की नजरों में वे एक होनहार बालक बन चुके थे। पढाई के बाद एक सरकार पुरस्कृत बैंक में बाबू की नौकरी करने लगे। अपनी मेहनत और लगन से वे वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक के पद तक पहुंच गए।

उनका बचपन से पढने-लिखने का शौक सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद फिर से उभरकर आ गया और उन्होंने लिखना शुरु कर दिया। किसान परिवार से होने के कारण किसान का जीवन और किसान की समस्याओं से वे परिचित थे। दुनिया के अन्नदाता के हालातों को वे नजदीक से देख चुके थे। हमारे अन्नदाता के बारे में लेखक माधव पटेल अपनी 'किसान समस्याएं और समाधान' किताब में किसान की भूमिका को स्पष्ट करते हुए कहते है कि "देश की आर्थिक उन्नति में कृषि और किसानों का स्थान बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में किसानों की भूमिका अत्याधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। देश के कुल निर्यात व्यापार में कृषि क्षेत्र काफी प्रतिशत अधिक रहता है।"[i] लेकिन किसान का व्यक्तिमत्व इतना महत्वपूर्ण होने के बावजूद हर तरफ से उन्हें निराशा का सामना करना पडता है। नेता लोग चुनाव नजदिक आते ही आश्वासनों पे आश्वासन देते है। किसानों के लिए ऐसा करेंगे, वैसा करेंगे लेकिन वास्तव कुछ अलग ही होता है। चुनाव जितने के बाद किसानों को दिए आश्वासनों को भुलकर अपनी और अपने सगे-संबंधियों कि जेब भरने में ही सब व्यस्त होते है। तब न उन्हे जितानेवाले किसान किसान दिखाइ देते है न आम जनता। किसान की इसी दशा को लेकर किसानों के प्रति लेखक के मन में एक अपनापन है, सहानुभूति है। इसी सहानुभूति को दिखाते हुए लेखक ने 'वामनावतार' उपन्यास के जरिए किसान जीवन के यथार्थ का चित्रण किया है।

उपन्यास में चित्रित किसान जीवन:

सन 2017 में नोशन प्रेस द्वारा प्रकाशित 'वामनावतार' भानुदास जिवणे का यथार्थवादी उपन्यास है। उपन्यास में लेखक ने परिस्थिति से बेहाल होकर आत्महत्या का रास्ता अपनाने वाले किसान का चित्रण किया है। उपन्यास में कचरु, आनंदी, रामराव, रावसाहब, साहेबराव, धनकु महाजन, इरफान, यादव, माधव, विजय, चपरासी, पटेल, कचरु के माता-पिता आदि अनेक पात्रों का समावेश हैं। इन सभी पात्रों में प्रमुख किसान पात्र के रुप में कचरु तो प्रमुख किसान नारी पात्र के रुप में आनंदी दिखाई देती है। कचरु और आनंदी की करुण कहानी से भारतीय किसान का वास्तव चित्रण स्पष्ट हो जाता है। कचरु एक गरीब किसान है, जो खेतों में काम कर अपने परिवार का पालन करता है। एक गरीब किसान होने के बावजूद गांव के जमींदार कचरु से डरते थे। कचरु समस्याओं से भरा जीवन जी रहा है पर मनुष्यता उसके अंदर कुटकुटकर भरी है। "एक औरत की

इज्जत बचाना कोई गुनाह तो नहीं – कचरु ने खडे होकर जवाब दि या।"[ii] लोगों की मदद करते समय उसे परिणामों की चिंता नही है। जमींदार अपने स्वार्थ के अलावा तो किसी की सहायता नहीं करते तो फिर उनसे डरना क्यों? किस बात से डरकर अपनी बहू-बेटियों की इज्जत से खिलवाड करना। उनसे सामना कर कचरु अपनी निडरता साबित करता है।

गांव के जमींदार का बेटा रावसाहेब जब आनंदी की इज्जत के साथ खिलवाड करता है, भरी पंचायत में उसके चरित्र पर कीचड उछालने का प्रयास करता है तब कचरु आनंदी को पूरे गांव के सामने अपनी पत्नी के रुप में स्विकार करता है। कचरु और आनंदी दोनों अपने खेतों में काम कर अपना जीवनयापन करने का काम करते थे। पर कोई किसान आसानी से दिन बिताए तो उसे किसान कैसे कहे? कचरु संयुक्त परिवार में रहता था। घर का मुखिया होने के नाते अपनी दो बेटियां और एक बेटे के साथ पूरे परिवार की जिम्मेदारी कचरु पर थी। खेती कर अकेले इतनी जिम्मेदारियों को निभाना इतना आसान नही था। "शादी के पहले पांच बरस में ही अपनी ईमानदारी और कडी मेहनत के बलबूते, कचरु ने आनंदी के पिता की जमीन महाजन से छुडवा ली।"[iii] आज आनंदी और कचरु मजदुर से किसान तो बन गए है पर खेतों में अनाज उगाने के लिए उनके पास पानी नहीं है। पानी की कमी के कारण बारिश के इंतजार में खाली हाथ बैठना पडता है। कचरु इन समस्याओं से छुटकारा पाने के लिए बोअरवेल लगाने का निर्णय लेता है। बोअरवेल लगाने के लिए पैसों की जरुरत थी लेकिन पहले का कर्जा भी तो था। उधारी चुक्ती करने के लिए घर की गौ माता को बेचना पडता है। "बाबा आ गए कहते रोहिणी ने कचरु के तरफ दौड लगाई और बताया, बाबा अपनी गऊ मां ले गए। कचरु बडी इत्मीनान से धीरे धीरे घर की तरफ चल रहा, जैसे उसने कुछ सुना ही नहीं। घर आ कर हमेशा की तरह हाथ पैर धोने की बजाय सीधे घर में घुस गया।"[iv] घर की गाय को बाजार में बेचना कचरु को भी मंजूर नहीं पर उसके पास दूसरा कोई रास्ता भी तो नही है। घर की इज्जत बचाने के लिए आनंदी भी इस बात पर मौन धारण करती है। "आनंदी सब समझ गयी, वो भी घर की इज्जत बचाए रखना जानती थी घर से ज्यादा उसे कचरु के इज्जत की फिकर थी। वह चुपचाप गऊ के गोठे के अंदर चली गयी और वहाँ बैठकर रोते रही।"[v] किसान की पत्नी चाहे पढी-लिखि हो या फिर अनपढ हो, हरएक कठीन प्रसंग में वो अपने पति का साथ कभी नहीं छोडती। आनंदी भी कचरु के बारे में सोचकर शांत हो जाती है। खेतों में बीज बोया पर बारिश न होने के कारण बीज खराब हो गया। नया बीज बोने के लिए पैसे नहीं हैं। सरकार ने मदद मंजूर की है पर वो किसानों तक पहुंची ही नहीं।

कचरु अब शहर की बैंक में बोअरवेल के ऋण के लिए बार-बार शहर के चक्कर काट रहा है। पर कोई उसे दाद नहीं दे रहा है। "कुछ नहीं, कुछ नहीं- कचरु को पता

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था ये कमिशन खा के काम करता रहता है लेकिन उसे कमिशन देकर काम कराना बिलकुल पसंद नहीं है। ये बात उसके फिदरत में नहीं थी। वहाँ से इरफान की तरफ अनदेखी करके निकल जाना उसने उचित समझा। पर इरफान उसे छोडने वाला नहीं था।"[vi] जैसे ही कचरु ने इरफान कि सहायता ली कचरु के सारे काम सहजता से होने लगे। पर इसके लिए कचरु को हर वक्त किमत चुकानी पडती। इन अधिकारियों को गरीब किसानों से कोई लेनदेन नहीं। इन्हें मतलब है अपनी जेब भरने से। कचरु अब इरफान के कहने पर चलने लगा। इरफान पर भरोसा रख कचरु आश्वस्थ था। जैसे दुनिया को जीत लिया हो। पर आगे अनेक मुश्किलों का सामना कचरु को करना पडा। इरफान बोअरवेल का लालच दिखाकर कचरु से पैसे निकाल रहा था। "चालीस हजार, तुमने तो कहाँ था कि, सब मैं देख लूंगा- कचरु इरफान के तरफ देखते कहने लगा।"[vii] कचरु हालात से तंग आ चुका था और आनंदी उसे संभालने की कोशिश करती। उतने में कचरु की बडी बेटी की शादी तय हो जाती है। शादी के लिए दो-ढाई लाख का खर्चा था, जिसके लिए फिर से कर्जा लिया जाता है। कचरु कर्ज के चंगुल में फसता ही जाता है। इस चंगुल से बाहर निकलना इतना आसान नही था। कचरु ने बैंक से जो कर्जा लिया था वो बैंक पैसों के बदले सीधा खेत में सामान पहुंच जाता है। सामान से बोअरवेल को पानी तो आ जाता है पर पानी निकालने के लिए मोटर और बिजली कहाँ थी। बोअरवेल की लालच में ली गन्ने की फसल बीना पानी के जल रही थी। कचरु के सामने आज दो समस्याएं मेहमान बनकर खडी है। एक तो कचरु को खेत में गेहूँ की फसल लेनी है और दूसरी आनंदी की बिमारी। पर कचरु के पास पैसे नहीं है।"डाक्टर ने कहा विषम ज्वर हो गया, पंद्रह दिन की दवा लिखकर दी, और पंद्रह दिन आराम करने की सलाह दी। कचरु के पास डाक्टर को देने के लिये पैसे नहीं, दवा लेने के लिये पैसे नहीं, डाक्टर को कैसे तो भी बाद में देने का अस्वासन देकर मना लिया, लेकिन दवा उधार देनेको दुकानदार तैयार नहीं, हाथ जोडकर दो दिनकी दवा ली गयी।"[viii] जो किसान पूरी दुनिया का पेट भरता है उसे अपनी जरुरतों के लिए दूसरों के सामने हाथ फैलाने पडते है। इन समस्याओं से छुटकारा पाने के लिए कचरु अपने बैल बेचता है। "कचरु को रात भर निंद नहीं आयी। आज उजाला होने के पहले वो जाग गया।बैल बाहर निकाले और चारा डाला। बैलों के चारा खाने तक वो उनको सहलाते रहा। सबेरा हो गया बैलों का चारा खतम हो गया, कचरु ने सबके साथ चाय पी ली। वो उठा और बैल छोडकर चलने लगा।"[ix] किसान के लिए घर के बैल अपने बच्चों के बराबर होते है, तो उन्हें बेचते समय किसान के दिलपर क्या गुजरती होगी? यही हमारे किसान की वास्तविकता है।

कचरु की मानसिकता अब समाप्त हो रही थी। जीवन का हिसाब-किताब बिगडने लगा था। लेकिन उसने हार नहीं मानी, गेहूँ की फसल खेतों में झूमने लगी।

कचरु की मेहनत रंग लायी खेत हराभरा हो गया पर शायद कचरु का आनंद भगवान से भी देखा नहि गया। रात के अंधेरे में तुफानी बारिश होने लगी "थोडी देर मे बारिश शुरु हो गयी और थोडी देर मे तेज हो गयी, गडगडाहट जोरों पर है, इतने में एक इतना जोरका हवा का झोका आया कि घर के सभी पत्ते हिल गये।"ˣ बारिश रुक नहीं रही थी। आनंदी के आखों से पानी बह रहा था। कचरु को सुबह का पता न था। "कचरु दरवाजे की चौकट के सहारे बैठा रहा उसने अपने पैर मोड लिये, अपने हाथ घुटने पर रख दिये, और हाथ पर सर रख दिया। उसके आखों से न जाने कब तक पानी झरता रहा, और कब सुख गया इसका पता ना कचरु को लगा न घरवालों को सबेरे सब जाग गये तो देखते है कचरु अभी भी बैठा है।"ˣⁱ शायद ये बारिश कचरु के परिवार को तहस-नहस करके ही छोडेगी। कचरु के सामने बडा सा प्रश्नचिन्ह है अब परिवार को संभालेंगे कैसे, सालभर खाएंगे क्या और परिवार को कर्जमुक्त करेंगे कैसे? इन्ही विचारों में कचरु की जिंदा लाश घुटनों में सिर रखकर बैठी है। दूसरे दिन से गांव मे आत्महत्याएं शुरु हो गई। आत्महत्या शुरु होते ही सरकार के आश्वासनों के आवाज तेज होने लगे- "हमारी सरकार किसानों की सरकार है, हमारी सरकार ने किसानों के लिये बहुत कुछ किया है, और भी बहुत कुछ करेंगे।"ˣⁱⁱ यहाँ स्पष्ट होता है कि सरकार ने किसानों को नुकसान भरपाई के रुप में, किसान आत्महत्या रोकने के लिए मदद करने का आश्वासन किया है। सरकार द्वारा नुकसानग्रस्त किसान की फाइल बनाइ गयी। पर उस फाइल में कचरु का नाम ही नहीं था। पूछने पर अधिकारी से कचरु को जवाब मिलता है- "मतलब तुम्हारी फसल बरबाद नहीं हुयी-कोतवाल ने फाइल के पन्ने उलटते पुलटते कहा।"ˣⁱⁱⁱ यहाँ स्पष्ट होता है कि सालभर मेहनत करने के बाद जब प्राकृतिक आपदा के कारण फसल बरबाद हो जाती है और उसी किसान से अधिकरी अपने फायदे के लिए कहते है कि तुम्हारी फसल बरबाद नहीं हुई तो सोचने की बात है कि उस किसान पर क्या गुजरती होगी। कचरु इस सदमे को सहन नहीं कर सका। "दौडते दौडते वह औंधे मुह गिर पडा आनंदी पीछे से दौडते आयी वह बुरी तरह से हाँफ रही थी, हाँफते हाँफते उसने कचरु को उठाने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन कचरु को नहीं उठा पायी उसने कचरु को बडी ताकत लगाकर सीधा किया, तो आनंदी के मुहसे एक जोर की चीख निकली।"ˣⁱᵛ इसी सदमे में कचरु की मृत्यु हो जाती है। पूरी दुनिया को जीवन देने वाला, दुनिया का पेट भरने वाला किसान दो वक्त की रोटी भी भरपेट खा नहीं सकता। यही भारतीय किसान की सच्चाई है।

निष्कर्ष :

वामनावतार उपन्यास में चित्रित किसान का जीवन चित्रण देखने के पश्चात कह सकते हैं कि 21वीं सदी में प्रवेश करने के बाद भी भारतीय किसान सामान्य जीवन नहीं जी सकता। आज भी उसका जीवन मुश्किलों से भरा है। उसके साथ साथ उसके परिवार को भी इन मुश्किलों का

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सामना करना पडता है। किसान के साथ उसका पूरा परिवार इन समस्याओं में पिसता रहता है। कर्ज में जन्मे बेटे की मृत्यु भी कर्ज के ढेर में ही होती है। पिता के कर्ज को सरपर लेकर किसान जन्म लेता है और बेटे के कंधेपर कर्जा रखकर चला जाता है।

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डिजिटल मीडिया का महिलाओं के सामाजिक जीवन पर प्रभावः समाजशास्त्रीय विश्लेषण।

डॉ. अरूण कुमार यादव

सहायक आर्चाय, गाँधी स्मारक डिग्री कॉलेज सुरजननगर, जयनगर, मुरादाबाद
(एम.जे.पी. रोहेलखंड विश्वविद्यालय बरेली)।
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सारांश:

डिजिटल मीडिया का बढ़ता हुआ प्रचलन हमारे समाज में आने वाले अभूतपूर्व परिणामों के लिए उत्तरदायी है। इसका प्रभाव युवाओं पर बहुत अधिक हो रहा है। परन्तु इसको प्रयोग करने वालो में महिलाये भी पीछे नही दिखाई देती है। आज के वर्तमान समय में हमारे देश की अधिकतर महिलाये डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग ये परिचित हो चुकी है। महिलाओं के द्वारा डिजिटल मीडिया का प्रयोग अपनी रोजमर्रा की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के अलावा,मनोरंजन के साधन के रूप में भी किया जाता है। कई महिलाओं के द्वारा इसका प्रयोग रूपये कमाने के लिए फेसबुक,इस्टाग्राम,यूट्यूब आदि सोशल मीडिया एप पर अपने दिन–प्रतिदिन की दिनचर्या या नृत्य–गायन, हास्य, शिक्षा, प्रेरणादायक विचार, चित्रकला, तरह–तरह के व्यंजनो को बनाने की विधि,महिलाओं को अपने सौन्दर्य की देखभाल हेतु उपाय बताकर किया जा रहा है। कई सारे सोशल मीडिया एप अधिक से अधिक व्यूज के लिए रूपये अदा करते है। रोजगार के तौर पर महिलाओ को इस कार्य में उनके पति एवं परिवार वाले भी साथ में सहयोग करते है। ग्रामीण परिवेश की महिलाये अपनी कला का प्रर्दशन सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्म पर करके राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रसिद्धी पा रही है। परन्तु डिजिटल मीडिया के अधिकतम प्रयोग का प्रभाव उनके पारिवारिक जीवन पर भी पड़ रहा है कई सारे ऐसे मामले सामने आये हैं कि महिलाओं पर डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग की लत इस कदर हावी हो चुकी है कि वह अपने परिवार व बच्चों की समुचित देखभाल नही कर पा रही हैं जिसके प्रभावस्वरूप उनके पारिवारिक सबंधों में कडवाहट आ गई है। डिजीटल मीडिया के युवाओं,बच्चों तथा महिलाओं पर कई सकारात्मक एवं नकारात्मक प्रभाव देखने को मिल रहे है जिनका अवलोकन कर निदान प्रस्तुत करने की आवश्यकता महसूस की जा रही है। प्रस्तुत अध्ययन का उद्देश्य महिलाओं के जीवन पर डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रभावों को जानना है यह प्रभाव सकारात्मक तथा नकारात्मक दोनो ही प्रकार के हो सकते है। उक्त शोध परिमाणात्मक प्रकृति का है तथा प्राथमिक एवं द्वैतीयक स्त्रोतो पर आधारित है। तथ्य संकलन हेतु साक्षात्कार प्रविधि का प्रयोग किया गया है एवं अध्ययन की प्रकृति वर्णनात्मक है।

शब्द कुंजी: डिजिटल मीडिया,सोशल मीडिया,इटंरनेट,सोशल एप, महिलायें

प्रस्तावना:

डिजिटल मीडिया का तात्पर्य –डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी का प्रयोग करते हुए इंटरनेट के द्वारा सोशल मीडिया के प्रयोग को करने से है। जबकि परपंरागत मीडिया केवल रेडियो तथा टेलीविजन जैसे पुरातन मीडिया के प्रयोग से सबंधित था। डिजिटल मीडिया में अन्तरकियाशीलता तथा पहुँच जैसे तत्व विद्यमान है जो उसे परपंरागत मीडिया से काफी अलग करते है। डिजिटल मीडिया में बेबसाइट, ब्लॉग,सोशल मीडिया, ऑनलाईन संचार, मोबाईल, एप्लीकेशन, व्हाट्सप, इंटरनेट, टेलीफोनी, डिजिटलकैमरे, वीडियोकॉन्फ्रेसिंग, इत्यादि के बढ़ते हुए प्रयोग से संचार के क्षेत्र में अप्रत्याशित परिवर्तन देखने को मिल रहे है। डिजिटल मीडिया में हम डिजिटल तकनीक का प्रयोग करते हुए अपने विचारो, अवधारणाओं इत्यादि को डिजिटल माध्यम से अभिव्यक्त करने के कार्य को सरलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न करते है। सम्पूर्ण संसार डिजिटल मीडिया के माध्यम से एक सूत्र में बंध सा गया है। कोरोना काल के दौरान वर्कफ्रॉम होम डिजिटल मीडिया के सबसे सकारात्मक परिणाम के रूप में पूरे विश्व के समक्ष प्रस्तुत हुआ। जिसने सम्पूर्ण विश्व एवं देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को विद्यटन की ओर ना जाने में काफी मदद की है। आज भी कई कम्पनियां केवल डिजिटल माध्यम से आनलाईन कार्य कर रही है। डिजिटल मीडिया मार्शल मैकलूहान के वैश्विक गाँव की अवधारणा को यथार्थ रूप में सम्पूर्ण विश्व के समक्ष प्रस्तुत कर रहा है। यह डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रभाव का ही परिणाम था कि वर्षों से सबरीमाला मन्दिर के भीतर महिलाओं के प्रवेश को लेकर लगायी गयी पाबन्दी के खिलाफ महिलाओ ने आन्दोलन चलाया जिससे सरकार को भी विवश होना पड़ा तथा कानूनी रूप से मन्दिर में महिलाओं के प्रवेश सबंधी पाबंदी को हटाया गया। आजकल किसी भी प्रकार के अपराध या उससे सबंधित घट रही घटनाओं को कैमरे के माध्यम से लाईव जनता को संचार के कई सारे माध्यमों से दिखाया जाता है। वर्तमान में विश्व तथा देश दुनिया में घट रही घटनाओं को देखकर लोग जागरूक एवं सचेत होने लगे है। महिलाये सोशल मीडिया का इस्तेमाल अपने साथ हो रहे किसी भी प्रकार के उत्पीड़न या अत्याचार के विरूद्ध आवाज उठाने के लिए कर रही है। जिन महिलाओं पर एसिड अटैक किया गया या जिन्हे घरेलू हिंसा,दहेज उत्पीड़न, या यौन शोषण का शिकार बनाया गया अब वह महिलाये भी अपने प्रति हुए अपराध को सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से समाज के सामने ला रही है तथा अपनी कहानी बताकर व्यूज के माध्यम से रूपये भी कमा रही है इस प्रकार यह कहा जा सकता है कि सोशल मीडिया महिला सशक्तिकरण का एक महत्वपूर्ण साधन बन गया है।

एफ आईसीसीआई एमई सेगमेंट द्वारा जारी की गई रिर्पोट के अनुसार वर्ष 2023 में इंडियन मीडिया एंड एंटरटेनमेंट सेक्टर की रेवेन्यू 8 प्रतिशत से 2.32 ट्रिलियन

रूपये हो गई है। सर्वे में यह तथ्य भी सामने आया है कि चीन के पश्चात सबसे अधिक इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल भारत देश में किया जा रहा है। भारत देश में वर्ष 2023 में 82.1 करोड़ इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले उपभोक्ता है। मीडिया एवं एंटरटेनमेंट सेक्टर नित नई विकास की उँचाईयों को छू रही है।

डिजिटल युग में महिलाये:

आज के डिजिटल युग में कोई विरले ही ऐसी महिला होगी जो मोबाईल फोन का इस्तेमाल ना करती हो। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की महिलाये भी किफायती दाम पर कपड़ा तथा अन्य उत्पाद उपलब्ध कराने वाली मीशो एप का उपयोग कर रही है। नगर की महिलाओं की तरह ही ग्रामीण महिलाये भी आनलाईन शापिंग कर रही है। गाँव की महिलाये वीडियो बनाकर सोशल मीडिया में पोस्ट करने में काफी पारंगत हो चुकी है। सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से आज हर महिला अपने अधिकार एवं उनको प्राप्त करने के तरीके एवं अपने विरूद्ध हो रहे अत्याचार के लिए क्या कदम उठाने चाहिए इस प्रकार के प्रश्नों का उत्तर उनको सोशल मीडिया एप्स के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो रहा है।

सामाजिक प्रभाव:

डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओ को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में काफी सहयोगी साबित हुआ है। जब महिला सबल तथा आत्मनिर्भर होती है तब वह वचंना एवं दमन को सहना नही चाहती है। इतिहास के आरंभ से ही हम यह देखते आ रहे है कि हर युग में महिला किसी ना किसी रूप में शोषित की जा रही है। वर्तमान युग में डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओ के लिए उनके विचारो की अभिव्यक्ति देने का कार्य कर रहा है जिससे अब महिलाये किसी ना किसी रूप में अपनी वंचना को समाज के समक्ष लाने का कार्य कर रही है।

शोध साम्रागी की समीक्षा:

वैश्विक डिजिटल आँकड़ो का विश्लेषण करने वाली बेबसाइट कॉमस्कोर के अनुसार हमारे देश में इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले करीब 51 करोड़ उपभोक्ता है जिनमें से 29.3 करोड़ महिलायें तथा 43 प्रतिशत महिलाये है। इस प्रकार 57 प्रतिशत पुरूष एवं 43 प्रतिशत महिलाये भारत में इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल कर रही है।

डिजिटल 2023 वैश्विक अवलोकन रिर्पोट के अनुसार" वर्ष 2023 के शुरूवाती दिनो में भारत में इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करने वाले तकरीबन 692.0 मिलियन उपभोक्ता थे, उस समय इंटरनेट केवल मात्र 48.7 प्रतिशत लोगो की पहुँच के अन्दर था। वर्ष 2023 के जनवरी माह में भारत देश में सोशल मीडिया का उपयोग करने वालो की संख्या 467.0 मिलियन आँकी गई जो कुल जनसंख्या का तकरीबन 32.8 प्रतिशत रहा। वर्ष 2023 के शुरूवाती दिनो में लोगो के द्वारा तकरीबन 1.10 बिलियन सेलुलर मोबाईल के उपयोग किया गया। कुल मिलाकर 77.0 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या द्वारा सेलुलर मोबाईल फोन का उपयोग किया जा रहा था।

कुमार विकास(2022)के अनुसार"डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओं को आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बना रहा है। जिससे वह आर्थिक रूप से किसी पर निर्भर ना रहकर स्वयं अपने पाँव पर खड़ी हो रही है। डिजिटल मीडिया के माध्यम से महिलाओ के लिए विकास के नये द्वार खुल रहे है। कई सारे अध्ययनो से भी यह तथ्य सामने आया है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के माध्यम से महिलाओ का सशक्तिकरण संभव हो सका है।

डॉ. अरूण कुमार यादव

एंथोनी गिडेंस(2000) के अनुसार" डिजिटल मीडिया इक्कीसवी सदी के उन उपकरणों में से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण हें जो सम्पूर्ण विश्व को एक मंच से जोड़कर ज्ञान प्रदान करने का कार्य करता है। डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओ के अधिकारो के विरूद्ध होने वाली किसी भी प्रकार की घटना में उनके लिए लड़ाई लड़ने का कार्य करता है।

कुप्पूस्वामी सुनीथा (2010)" आपके द्वारा आज की युवा पीढ़ी एवं उसकी शिक्षा पर सोशल नेटवर्किंग बेबसाइट का क्या असर अथवा प्रभाव पड़ता है उसका विश्लेषण किया गया है। आपके द्वारा किये गसे अध्ययन के माध्यम से यह तथ्य सामने आया है कि फेसबुक एवं यूट्यूब जैसी सोशल नेटवर्किंग बेबसाइट नौजवानो एवं बच्चों तथा महिलाओं में बहुत ही प्रसिद्ध होती जा रही है। आपके द्वारा किये गये अध्ययन में यह पाया गया है कि लोगो में इन सोशल नेटवर्किंग बेबसाइट के इस्तेमाल का चलन उनकी दिनचर्या बन चुका है जो उनके जीवन को नकारात्मक रूप से भी प्रभावित कर रहा हें परन्तु इसके अतिरिक्त इसका सकारात्मक प्रभाव भी देखने को मिलता है इससे लोगो के ज्ञान में भी वृद्धि होती जा रही है।

अध्ययन की सैद्धातिक पृष्ठभूमि–डिजिटल मीडिया का महिलाओं के सामाजिक जीवन पर प्रभाव विषय पर अध्ययन हेतु एम.एन.श्रीनिवास की पुस्तक इंडियाज विलेजेस एवं ए.सी.दुबे की पुस्तक इंडियाज चेंजिग विलेज में प्रयोग किये गये संरचनात्मक एवं प्रकार्यात्मक परिपेक्ष का प्रयोग किया गया है। जिससे महिलाओं के जीवन के प्रत्येक पक्ष पर डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रभावों का वास्तविक अवलोकन किया जा सके।

अध्ययन क्षेत्र एवं शोध प्रविधि–प्रस्तुत अध्ययन की प्रकृति परिमाणात्मक है तथा आँकड़ो के संकलन के लिए साक्षात्कार अनुसूची का प्रयोग किया गया है। अध्ययन वर्णनात्मक प्ररचना पर आधारित है। अध्ययन का क्षेत्र सीतापुर जिले के कमलापुर ग्राम है अध्ययन के लिए 18–45 आयु वर्ग की 50 उन विवाहित महिलाओं को उद्देश्यपूर्ण निर्दशन प्रविधि का प्रयोग करते हुए चुना गया है जो अपने दैनिक जीवन में डिजिटल मीडिया का उपयोग करती है।

शोध उपकरण– प्रस्तुत शोध में तथ्यों के संकलन हेतु साक्षात्कार अनुसूची का प्रयोग किया गया है। द्वैतीयक स्त्रोतों में पत्र– प्रत्रिकाओं में प्रकाशित लेख, अखबार , इंटरनेट आधारित साम्रागी एवं वर्तमान में इस विषय पर किये गये अध्ययनों के माध्यम से भी विषय आधारित साम्रागी का संकलन किया गया है।

शोध के उद्देश्य :

1. महिलाओं में डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से उनके सामाजिक जीवन पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का अध्ययन करना।
2. महिलाओं के द्वारा डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग से महिलाओं की उनके अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूकता का अध्ययन करना।
3. डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग से महिलाओं के पारिवारिक जीवन पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावो का अध्ययन करना।

परिकल्पना–

1. डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग से महिलाओं के पारिवारिक सबंधो में कटुता आई है।
2. डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रभावस्वरूप महिलाओं का सशक्तिकरण हुआ है।

अध्ययन की सीमाएं

1. प्रस्तुत शोध में केवल विवाहित महिलाओं को ही शामिल किया गया है।
2. अध्ययन में सीतापुर जिले के कमलापुर ग्राम की ही महिलाओं को लिया गया है।

तथ्यों का विश्लेषण एवं विवेचन– प्रस्तुत शोध में 18–45 आयु वर्ग की उन महिलाओं को शामिल किया गया हें जो डिजिटल मीडिया के किसी ना किसी नेटवर्किंग बेबसाइट का अपने दैनिक जीवन में प्रयोग करती ही है। साक्षात्कार अनुसूची द्वारा प्राप्त किये गये ऑकड़ो का विश्लेषण निम्नवत है।

सारणी स0–1 उत्तरदाताओं की सामाजिक–आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि

आयु का विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
18–25	8	16.0
25–35	33	66.0
35–45	9	18.0
परिवार का स्वरूप		
सयुंक्त	41	82.0
एकाकी	9	18.0
शैक्षणिक प्रस्थिति		
प्राइमरी	21	42.0
माध्यमिक	27	54.0
स्नातक	2	4.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि तकरीबन 8 महिलाये 18–25 आयु वर्ग के मध्य की है जबकि 33 महिलाये 25–35 आयु वर्ग के मध्य की है जबकि 9 महिलाये 35–45 आयु वर्ग के मध्य ही है। इसी प्रकार 41 महिलाओं के परिवार का स्वरूप संयुक्त है जबकि 9 महिलाओं के परिवार का स्वरूप एकाकी है।

वही शैक्षणिक प्रस्थिति का विश्लेषण करने पर यह पता चलता है कि 21 महिलाओं ने प्राईमरी तक शिक्षा ग्रहण की है जबकि 27 महिलाओं ने माध्यमिक स्तर तक शिक्षा ग्रहण की है। इसी प्रकार 2 महिलाओं ने स्नातक तक शिक्षा प्राप्त की है। इस आधार पर यह कहा जा सकता हें कि अंधिकाश महिलाओं ने माध्यमिक शिक्षा प्राप्त की हुई है।

सारणी स0–2
डिजिटल मीडिया का अपने दैनिक जीवन में प्रयोग की आवृत्ति

	समय	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
प्रतिदिन डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग की आवृत्ति	1 घंटे से कम	3	6.0
	1–2 घंटे	11	22.0
	2–4 घंटे	9	18.0
	4–6 घंटे	7	14.0
	6–8 घंटे	11	22.0
	8 घंटे से अधिक	9	18.0
कुल		50	100.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि तकरीबन 3 महिलाये डिजिटल मीडिया का 1 घंटे से कम उपयोग दिन भर में करती है। जबकि 11 महिलाये डिजिटल मीडिया का दिन में कम से कम 1–2 घंटे तक उपयोग करती है। इसी प्रकार 9 महिलाये दिन में 2–4 घंटो तक डिजिटल मीडिया का उपयोग करती है। 4–6 घंटो तक डिजिटल मीडिया का उपयोग करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या 7 है इसी प्रकार तकरीबन 6–8

घंटो तक इसका उपयोग करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या 11 पायी गई तथा अधिकतम 8 घंटे से अधिक इसका उपयोग करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या 9 है जो कई सोशल बेबसाइट पर रील एवं ब्लागिंग से सबंधित कार्य करती है। अतः यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया का प्रयोग महिलाओं के द्वारा सर्वाधिक 2–4 घंटे किया जाता है।

सारणी स0–3
सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफार्म का उपयोग सबंधी विवरण

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
फेसबुक	23	46.0
व्हाट्सएप	25	50.0
यूट्यूब	2	4.0
कुल	50	100.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि 23 महिलाये अपने दिन प्रतिदिन की दिनचर्या में फेसबुक पर समय बिताना पंसद करती है। जबकि 25 महिलाये व्हाट्सएप के इस्तेमाल को पंसद करती

है। इसी प्रकार 2 महिलाये यूट्यूब का इस्तेमाल करती है। इस प्रकार यह स्पष्ट होता है कि अंधिकाश महिलाये व्हाट्सएप का इस्तेमाल करती है।

डॉ. अरूण कुमार यादव

सारणी स0—4
डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग से परिवार को कम समय देना

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	31	62.0
नही	19	38.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि 31 महिलाये इस बात को स्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया का उपयोग करने के कारण वह अपने परिवार को पहले की अपेक्षा कम समय दे पा रही है। इसी प्रकार 19 महिलाये इस बात को अस्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया का उपयोग करने से उनके पारिवारिक दायित्वों के निर्वहन में किसी भी प्रकार की कमी नही आई है। अतः यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के प्रयोग के कारण वह अपने परिवार को कम समय दे पा रही है इस तथ्य को स्वीकार करने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या अधिकाश है।

सारणी स0—5
डिजिटल मीडिया पर समय देने के कारण करीबी सबंधियो से दूरी

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	36	72.0
नही	14	28.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि 36 महिलाये इस बात को स्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया पर अधिक समय व्यतीत करने के कारण उनके अपने करीबी सबंधियो के साथ दूरी बढ़ गई है जबकि 14 महिलाये इस बात को सही नही मानती कि उनके डिजिटल मीडिया पर अधिक समय व्यतीत करने के कारण उनके अपने करीबी सबंधियो के साथ किसी भी प्रकार की दूरियां आई हैं। अतः यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया को करीबी सबंधो में दूरी का कारण मानने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या अधिकाश है।

सारणी स0—6
डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से अवैध सबंधो में वृद्धि

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	29	58
नही	21	42

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि 29 महिलाये इस बात को स्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग के कारण अवैध सबंधो अथवा विवाह के पश्चात अन्य महिला या पुरुषों के साथ सबंधों में वृद्धि हुई है। जबकि 21 महिलाये इस तथ्य को अस्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग के कारण अवैध सबंधो अथवा विवाह के पश्चात सबंधो में वृद्धि हुई है। इस प्रकार यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग को अवैध सबंधो का कारण मानने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या अधिकाश है।

सारणी स0—7
डिजिटल मीडिया के अधिक उपयोग से पारिवारिक सबंधों में तनाव

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	33	66.0
नही	17	34.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता है कि 33 महिलाये इस बात को स्वीकार करती है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के अधिक उपयोग के कारण पारिवारिक सबंधो में कड़वाहट अथवा तनाव अधिक उत्पन्न हुआ है। इसी प्रकार 17 महिलाये डिजिटल मीडिया को परिवार में तनाव का कारण नही मानती है। इस प्रकार यह स्पष्ट होता है डिजिटल मीडिया को परिवार में तनाव का कारण मानने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक है।

सारणी स0—8
डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से अधिकारो के प्रति जागरूकता में वृद्धि

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	31	62.0
नही	19	38.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता हैं 31 महिलाये इस तथ्य को स्वीकार करती हें कि डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से महिलाओ में उनके अधिकारो के प्रति जागरूकता में वृद्धि हुई है। इसी प्रकार 19 महिलाये इस तथ्य से असहमति जताती है। इस प्रकार यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से महिलाओ में उनके अधिकारो के प्रति जागरूकता में वृद्धि हुई हैं।

डॉ. अरूण कुमार यादव

सारणी स0—9
डिजिटल मीडिया रोजगार हेतु सहायक

विवरण	आवृत्ति	प्रतिशत
हाँ	12	24.0
नही	38	76.0

उपरोक्त सारणी का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य स्पष्ट होता हैं कि 12 महिलायें डिजिटल मीडिया को रोजगार में सहायक मानती है। जबकि 38 महिलायें डिजिटल मीडिया द्वारा रोजगार से सबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी से इन्कार करती है। अतः यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया को रोजगार में सहायक मानने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या अधिकांश है। इस प्रकार यह स्पष्ट होता है कि डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओं की रोजगार प्राप्ति में भी सहायक सिद्ध हुआ है।

निष्कर्ष

प्रस्तुत अध्ययन में साक्षात्कार अनुसूची द्वारा प्राप्त तथ्यों का विश्लेषण करने पर यह तथ्य प्रकाश में आया है कि डिजिटल मीडिया के बढ़ते हुए प्रचलन से जहाँ मनुष्य का जीवन आसान हो गया है वही उसके जीवन में कटुता और तनाव भी उत्पन्न हुआ है। जहाँ एक ओर महिलाओं में डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूकता आई है वही दूसरी ओर डिजिटल मीडिया के अधिक उपयोग से उनके पारिवारिक सबंधो में संघर्ष उत्पन्न हुआ है। डिजिटल मीडिया के उपयोग से कई महिला और पुरुष विवाह के पश्चात भी अन्योत्तर सबंध बना रहे है जिससे उनका विवाहित जीवन संकट में पड़ गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त डिजिटल मीडिया के द्वारा कई महिलाये रोजगार के साधन के रूप में भी इसका उपयोग रूपये कमाने के लिए कर रही है। डिजिटल मीडिया महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण के रूप में उभरा है।

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डॉ. अरूण कुमार यादव

भारत में मीडिया ट्रायल : एक समाजशास्त्रीय विश्लेषण

कुलदीप व्यास[1]   डॉ. सुरेश चन्द[2]

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[2]शोध निर्देशक, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर, समाजशास्त्र विभाग, श्री वेंकटेश्वर विश्वविद्यालय,रजबपुर गजरौला अमरोहा।

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सारांश

न्यायालय में विचाराधीन मामलों में दोषी बनाये गये व्यक्ति को भी बिना न्यायालय द्वारा दोषी करार किये जाने से पूर्व ही मीडिया ट्रायल में दोषी ठहरा दिया जाता है। चूँकि मीडिया ट्रायल के कुछ सकारात्मक प्रभाव भी हमारे समाज के सामने दृष्टिगोचर होते है जिनमें पीड़ित के अथक प्रयास के बावजूद भी प्रशासन के द्वारा उसकी समस्या पर कोई कार्यवाही नही की जाती है परन्तु जैसे ही उस घटना का मीडिया ट्रायल होने लगता है प्रशासन तुरंत हरकत में आ जाता है और पीड़ित की समस्या के निदान हेतु त्वरित कार्यवाही की जाती है। जिस भी घटना का मीडिया ट्रायल होता है वह लोगो के लिए आकर्षण का केन्द्र बन जाती है। लोग अपने दिन–प्रतिदिन के जीवन में आपस में उस घटना के विषय में चर्चा– परिचर्चा करते है। अधिकतर मामलों में मीडिया ट्रायल के दोषी बताये जाने वाले व्यक्ति को समाज के द्वारा दोषी मान लिया जाता है। जबकि तब तक उसका दोष न्यायालय के समक्ष सिद्ध भी नही हुआ होता है। इस प्रकार दोषी ठहराये गये व्यक्ति के जीवन पर इसका बहुत ही बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है उसका व्यक्तिगत जीवन तथा उसका कैरियर नष्ट हो जाता है। लोगो के द्वारा उनके साथ अपराधी जैसा व्यवहार किया जाता है एवं उनसे दूरी बना ली जाती है जिसका उनके मन–मस्तिष्क प्रभावित होता हें उनका जीवन सामान्य नही रह जाता। कई घटनाओं को मीडिया अभिव्यक्ति देने कार्य करता है जो समाज या प्रशासन की दृष्टि में नही होते है सामान्यतः ऐसी घटनाओं की ओर हमारा ध्यान मीडिया ट्रायल के बाद ही जाता है। कई घटनाओं के मीडिया ट्रायल के कारण उस संस्था विशेष पर बिकाऊ होने तथा किसी विशेष राजनैतिक दल के इशारो पर कार्य करने का आरोप तक लगा दिया जाता है। सत्य भले ही जो भी हो परंतु मीडिया ट्रायल द्वारा दिखाई गई एक–एक बात जो पूर्वाग्रह पर आधारित होती है लोगो के द्वारा सत्य मान लिया जाता है जो कि सही नही है।

शब्द कुंजी– मीडिया ट्रायल,पूर्वाग्रह,न्यायालय की अवमानना, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता

प्रस्तावना

भारत देश में मीडिया का प्रारंभ अठाहरवी सदी में 1780 में जेम्स ऑगस्टस हिक्की के द्वारा प्रकाशित द बंगाल बजट से होता है। बीसवीं सदी के आते–आते टेलीविजन अखबार और रेड़ियो मीडिया के प्रमुख अंगो के रूप में प्रस्तुत हुए। 1913 में पथम भारतीय चलचित्र राजा हरिशचन्द्र बनी इसके पश्चात 1959 में टेलीविजन के द्वारा दूरदर्शन कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ हुआ। मीडिया के इन सभी उपकरणो को वर्तमान में पुरातन मीडिया के नाम से पुकारा जाता हैं। 21 वीं सदी के आते–आते सोशल मीडिया या डिजिटल मीडिया का उद्भव हुआ जो आनॅफलाइन नेटवर्किंग साइटो के माध्यम से सूचना एवं मनोरंजन प्रदान करने का कार्य कर रही है। हांलाकि मीडिया पर इस प्रकार के आरोप भी लगते रहे है कि वह राजनैतिक दलो के इशारे पर घटना को तोड़–मरोड़ कर जनता के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करता है परन्तु इस बात का अब तक कोई भी ठोस प्रमाण प्रस्तुत नही हुआ है। वास्तविकता चाहे जो भी हो परंतु इस बात से इंकार नही किया जा सकता कि मीडिया ट्रायल में दिखाये हर एक तथ्य पर जनता विश्वास करती है इसलिए यह मीडिया की नैतिक जिम्मेंदारी हो जाती है कि वह न्यायालय के निर्णय के पूर्व घटना से सबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के निष्कर्ष पर ना पहुँचे।

मीडिया ट्रायल

मीडिया ट्रायल शब्द बीसवीं सदी के अन्तिम दिनों में एवं इक्कीसवीं सदी के प्रारंभ में प्रचलन में आया। मीडिया ट्रायल का तात्पर्य न्यायालय में लंबित किसी घटना के निर्णय के पूर्व अथवा पश्चात अभियुक्त को अपराधी ठहरा कर उसके मान–सम्मान को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित करना है। मीडिया ट्रायल के लिए मीडिया को संविधान के द्वारा कोई विशेषाधिकार प्रदान नही किया गया है बल्कि वह संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(1) के तहत जो विचारो की अभिव्यक्ति का अधिकार हर भारतवासी को प्राप्त है उसी का प्रयोग करता है। मीडिया ट्रायल में जिस व्यक्ति को दोषी ठहरा दिया जाता है यह आवश्यक नही है कि वह व्यक्ति ही वास्तविक दोषी हो। कई मामलों में मीडिया ट्रायल में दोषी ठहराये गये व्यक्ति को न्यायालय के द्वारा निर्दोष बताकर बरी किया गया है। मीडिया ट्रायल के द्वारा विश्लेषण करके किसी भी घटना के अन्तिम निर्णय तक पहुँचना मीडिया का कार्य नही है बल्कि न्यायपालिका का कार्य है तथा न्यायपालिका के कार्य में हस्तक्षेप करना न्यायालय की अवमानना करना है। इसलिए मीडिया को केवल अपनी टी.आर.पी बढ़ाने के लिए जनता तक मनगढ़त बाते पहुँचना तर्कसंगत नही है। मीडिया ट्रायल की अवधारणा ट्रायलबाय टेलीविजन शो में 1967 में प्रयोग में लाई गई। इसमें जनता के लिए किसी मामले को चुनकर उसका विश्लेषण करके जनता के समक्ष निर्णय प्रस्तुत किया जाता था।

साहित्य की समीक्षा

सृष्टि सिंह और कौसर हुसैन(2016)"मीडिया ट्रायल न्यायिक प्रकिया के लिए खतरा"इस पुस्तक में मीडिया को देश के चौथे स्तंभ के रूप में उसके कर्तव्यों,

अधिकारो और सीमाओं का विश्लेषण किया गया। आपके अनुसार मीडिया ट्रायल का उद्देश्य जनता में जागरूकता उत्पन्न कर अपनी और ध्यान आकर्षित करना रहा है। हमारे देश में लोकतंत्र तभी तक सुरक्षित है जब तक मीडिया अपना कार्य भली–भांति करता रहे अन्य किसी संस्था के कार्य में हस्तक्षेप ना करे।

मोनरो एडविन प्राइस,स्टीफन जी,वेरहल्स्ट(2001)"भारत में सूचना प्रसार में सुधार एक वैश्विक संभावना" मीडिया ट्रायल फ्रीडम ऑफ स्पीच बनाम फेयर ट्रायल द्वारा प्रत्रकारिता जगत में नित नये हो रहे परिवर्तनो का विश्लेषण करना रहा है। इस पुस्तक में वास्तविक सत्य एवं गोपनीयता पर विशेष ध्यान केन्द्रित किया गया है। इस पुस्तक में मीडिया से जुड़े लोगो को और अधिक शिक्षित करना एवं भारत में मीडिया की स्थिति में सुधार लाने जैसे सुझाव प्रस्तुत किये गये है।

जेहरा हबीबुल्लाह शेख बनाम स्टेट ऑफ गुजरात"इस मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के द्वारा यह कहा गया कि सत्यता पर आधारित मीडिया रिपोर्ट वह होगी जो न्यायालय के फैसले के बाद न्यायाधीशों के वास्तविक आकलन पर आधारित हो ; ना कि मीडिया के प्राथमिक आकलन पर। किसी भी अभियुक्त के साथ न्याय तभी होगा जब न्यायालय के उसे अपराधी ना ठहराये जाने तक मीडिया द्वारा उसे अपराधी ना घोषित किया जाये।

रविन्दर कुमार, गौरव गोयल केस में"न्यायालय के द्वारा विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता एवं निजता के अधिकारो के हनन पर विस्तारपूर्वक चर्चा की गई है। न्यायालय के अनुसार विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति के अधिकार का प्रयोग करके किसी व्यक्ति की निजता का हनन नही किया जा सकता है। इसके लिए संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(2) के तहत ऐसे किसी भी प्रकार के कार्य को प्रतिबंधित किया गया है।

अध्ययन के उद्देश्य

1. भारत में मीडिया ट्रायल के उद्भव से सबंधित जानकारी प्राप्त करना।
2. क्या विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति का अधिकार मीडिया को किसी घटना की गोपनीयता भंग करने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
3. मीडिया ट्रायल का अभियुक्त एवं न्याय-प्रकिया पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का विश्लेषण करना।

परिकल्पना

1. मीडिया ट्रायल न्यायिक प्रकिया को प्रभावित करता है।
2. मीडिया ट्रायल का उद्देश्य मीडिया द्वारा अपनी टीआरपी को बढ़ाना है।

अध्ययन पद्धति–प्रस्तुत शोध में प्राथमिक के द्वारा अध्ययन से सबंधित आँकड़ो को संकलित करने का कार्य किया गया है। कानूनी केस, उच्च न्यायालय एवं सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णयों, आर्टिकल, उस समय के समाचार प्रत्रों का विश्लेषण करके तथ्यों को संकलित किया गया है।

मीडिया ट्रायल के प्रमुख केस–

1. शीना बोहरा हत्याकांड–उक्त केस में अभियुक्त तथा पीड़िता के व्यक्तिगत जीवन को इस प्रकार से दिखाया गया जिसका उसके व्यक्तिगत जीवन पर बहुत ही गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा। शीना बोहरा के शव मिलने के स्थान एवं उससे जुड़े साक्ष्यों का विश्लेषण मीडिया के द्वारा किया गया। मीडिया के उस कृत्य से घटना की

गोपनीयता भंग हो जाने और वास्तविक अपराधी को साक्ष्य मिटाने का अवसर प्राप्त होने का खतरा बढ़ गया।

2. सुनंदा पुष्कर मृत्यु केस–उक्त केस में भी मामले को हत्या दर्शाया गया तथा बढ़ा–चढ़ा कर दिखाया गया जिससे जनता का इस घटना के प्रति आकर्षण एवं उत्सुकता को बढ़ाया जा सके।
3. सुशांत सिंह केस–इस मामले को मीडिया द्वारा काफी लंबे समय तक दिखाया गया इस मामले में आत्महत्या के केस को हत्या दर्शाया गया जिसमें अभियुक्त रिया चक्रवती को न्यायालय के निर्णय के पूर्व ही आरोपी ठहरा दिया गया जिसे बाद में न्यायालय के द्वारा निर्दोष बताकर बरी कर दिया गया परन्तु मीडिया ट्रायल ने रिया चक्रवती के करियर को बर्बाद करने में कोई कसर नही छोड़ी।
4. संजय दत्त आर्म्स एक्ट केस– प्रसिद्ध अभिनेता संजय दत्त को वर्ष 1993 में मुबंई सीरीयल ब्लास्ट मामले में मुख्य आरोपी बनाया गया उस समय के समाचार प्रत्रों ने उनके आतंकवादियो के साथ कनेक्शन पर मोहर लगा दी थी जिससे उनका फिल्मी करियर पूरी तरह से तबाह हो गया। उस समय के समाचार प्रत्रों में उनपर जो भी आरोप लगाये गये उसे न्यायालय द्वारा निराधार बताया गया। आर्म्स एक्ट के तहत वह पाँच वर्षो की सजा काट चुके है। परन्तु मीडिया ट्रायल ने उनके करियर के साथ–साथ उनके व्यक्तिगत जीवन इसके अतिरिक्त उनके मन–मस्तिष्क को बहुत बुरी तरह से प्रभावित किया जिससे उबरने में उनको वर्षो लग गये।
5. जेसिका लाल हत्याकांड–वर्ष 1999 में दिल्ली के बोना रमानी के रेस्तरा की एक महिला कर्मचारी के द्वारा मनु शर्मा उर्फ सिद्धार्थ वशिष्ठ के द्वारा हत्या कर दी गई कारण केवल इतना था कि महिला कर्मचारी के द्वारा उनको शराब परोसने से मना कर दिया गया था। आरोपी को ट्रायल कोर्ट के द्वारा बरी कर दिया गया परन्तु बाद में मीडिया के इस मामले में काफी दखल देने के बाद दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के द्वारा आरोपी को आजीवन कारावास की सजा सुनाई गई इस कार्य में मीडिया का बहुत योगदान रहा जिसके लिए उसकी काफी सराहना की गई।
6. निर्भया बलात्कार केस–16 दिसंबर 2012 की सर्द रात में निर्भया (काल्पनिक नाम) के साथ चलती बस में उसके पुरुष मित्र के सामने काफी बर्बर तरीके से उसे मार–पीट कर उसके साथ सामुहिक बलात्कार किया गया। इस घटना का जब मीडिया में ट्रायल किया गया तब पूरे देश की जनता आक्रोशित होकर सड़को पर आ गई जगह–जगह प्रर्दशन किये जाने लगे। तत्पश्चात सरकार के द्वारा किशोर न्याय अधिनियम में संशोधन करके 18 वर्ष की आयु के स्थान पर 16 वर्ष तक की आयु के व्यक्ति के द्वारा किये जाने वाले अपराध को किशोर अपराध में सम्मिलित किया गया। मीडिया ट्रायल के बाद पीड़िता को सरकार द्वारा सिंगापुर ले जाकर बचाने की कोशिश की गई परन्तु पीड़िता के शरीर के अंगो को इतनी बर्बरता से क्षत–विक्षत किया गया था कि उसे बचाया नही जा सका। परन्तु वह मामला मीडिया ट्रायल के बाद जनता के समक्ष आया उसके बाद सरकार के द्वारा प्रत्येक

शहर में महिला सुरक्षा को लेकर तमाम तरीके के प्रयास किये गये है।

7. आरूर्षि हत्याकांड– आरूर्षि हत्याकांड मामले में प्रथम दृष्टया उसके नौकर हेमराज के साथ आरूर्षि के संबधो की भी चर्चा हुई। आरूर्षि के माता–पिता को दोनो का कातिल बताया गया जिसमें आगे चलकर साक्ष्य के अभाव में उसके माता–पिता को निर्दोष करार देते हुए अदालत के द्वारा बरी कर दिया गया। इस प्रकार के मामले में उस परिवार की काफी बदनामी हुई उसके माता–पिता को वर्षा तक जेल में रहना पड़ा। मामले की वास्तविकता ना जानकर न्यायालय के निर्णय के पूर्व ही किसी अभियुक्त को अपराधी ठहरा देना कदापि उचित नही है इससे केवल वह व्यक्ति ही नही बल्कि उसका पूरा परिवार नष्ट हो जाता है।

8. अयोध्या राम मन्दिर विवाद–अयोध्या राम मन्दिर विवाद जैसा की सर्वविदित हें कि दो समुदायो के द्वारा राम जन्म भूमि पर स्वामित्व सबंधी विवाद था जिस पर फैसला अठारह वर्षो के पश्चात आया परन्तु इन अठारह वर्षो में मीडिया के द्वारा मामले को बढ़ा–चढ़ा कर जनता के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया जिससे दोनो ही समुदायो के मध्य वैमनस्य की भावना और भड़क उठी। इस प्रकार कुछ मामलों में मीडिया के द्वारा हस्तक्षेप से पीड़ितो को न्याय की प्राप्ति हुई है परन्तु अंधिकाश मामलो में मीडिया ट्रायल अभियुक्त के लिए अभिशाप साबित हुआ है।

मीडिया ट्रायल एवं न्याय प्रणाली में हस्तक्षेप–

चूँकि भारत एक लोकतांत्रिक देश है जहाँ मीडिया को चौथे स्तंभ के रूप में जाना जाता है परन्तु मीडिया जब तक स्वंय का कार्य करता रहे तब तक ही वह देश के लिए हितकर होता है परन्तु यदि वह दूसरी संस्थाओ के मामले में हस्तक्षेप करना प्रारम्भ कर दे तब वह देश के लिए हितकारी नही होता। अतः मीडिया को अपने कर्तव्य को समझना आवश्यक है जिससे वह केवल टीआरपी के लिए लोगों के जीवन या भविष्य के साथ ना खेले।

सबल कुमार गुप्ता बनाम बी के सेन और अन्य 1961 में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा है कि मीडिया का स्वंय किसी मामले में दखल देकर किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचना सही नही है। उनका यह कार्य न्यायिक प्रकिया को बाधित करने का कार्य करता है।

एक्सप्रेस न्यूजपेपर्स बनाम यूनियन ऑफ इडिया 1959 मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता के विषय में अनु019(1) को भाषण और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता को मौलिक अधिकार में सम्मिलत किया है। परन्तु मीडिया द्वारा इसका अनुचित प्रयोग ना किया जाये इसके लिए अनु0 19(2) के तहत मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की भी व्यवस्था की गई।

अभियुक्त के व्यक्तिगत जीवन पर मीडिया ट्रायल का प्रभाव–

यदि किसी भी अभियुक्त को न्यायालय के निर्णय से पहले ही मीडिया ट्रायल करके अपराधी घोषित कर दिया जाता है मीडिया के उसके प्रति पूर्वाग्रह के कारण अगर न्यायालय द्वारा उसे निर्दोष भी ठहरा दिया जाता है तब भी मीडिया द्वारा उसके बारे में फैलायी भ्रामक बातों को समाज सत्य मानता है और उसकी प्रतिष्ठा मान–सम्मान सब नष्ट हो जाता है जिसे काफी प्रयत्नो के पश्चात भी पूर्व की तरह स्थापित नही किया जा सकता है।

कुलदीप व्यास, डॉ. सुरेश चन्द

निजता का उल्लघंन–

संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत भारत के प्रत्येक निवासी को निजता का अधिकार प्राप्त है। जिसे मीडिया को भी भंग करने का अधिकार नही है। मीडिया को अपने कर्तव्य को समझने की आवश्यकता है न्यायिक प्रकिया में हस्तक्षेप या किसी अभियुक्त के व्यक्तिगत जीवन पर टीका–टिप्पणी करने का उसे अधिकार नही है। उदाहरण के लिए उत्तरप्रदेश में किसी महिला प्रशासनिक अधिकारी के वैवाहिक मतभेद को सरेआम उसके और उसके तथाकथित प्रेमी का नाम उजागर करके किया गया। मीडिया में यह भी बात सामने आई की उक्त महिला के पति ने उसे पढ़ा–लिखा कर प्रशासनिक अधिकारी बनाने में मदद की थी जो कि अब अधिकारी बन जाने के बाद अपने पति को छोड़कर किसी अन्य के साथ विवाह करना चाहती है। इस मामले का समाज में इतना गलत संदेश गया कि अखबारो में आये दिन यह खबर छपने लगी कि जिन पतियो ने अपनी पत्नियों को बाहर भेजकर पढ़ने–लिखने सबंधी स्वतंत्रता दी थी उन्होने इस घटना के कारण भयवश कि कही उनकी पत्नी भी अधिकारी बनने के बाद उनको छोड़ ना दे उनको घर वापिस बुला लिया है। उक्त घटना के मीडिया ट्रायल से ना केवल उस महिला प्रशासनिक अधिकारी उनके तथाकथित प्रेमी बल्कि समाज की अन्य महिलाये जो पढ़–लिखकर अपने पैरो पर खड़ा होना चाहती थी उनके विकास के मार्ग को भी अवरूद्ध कर दिया है। मीडिया में तो उस घटना का स्थान अन्य नयी घटनाओं ने ले लिया है परन्तु पुरुषों के मस्तिष्क से उस घटना को भूला पाना बहुत मुश्किल है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति की एक निजता है जिसे भंग नही करना चाहिए मीडिया को अपने कार्य क्षेत्र की सीमाओं और अधिकारो को समझने की आवश्यकता है।

जनतंत्र को हानि पहुँचाना–

मीडिया पूर्वाग्रह एवं भ्रामक खबरो को फैलाकर लोकतंत्र को विकास के मार्ग पर ले जाने की बजाय अवनति की ओर ले जाने का कार्य कर रहा है। चंद्र प्रधान बनाम भारत संघ(1996)6 एससीसी 354 के प्रकरण का उदाहरण देकर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के द्वारा यह बताया गया कि जब तक न्यायालय के द्वारा किसी को अपराधी घोषित नही किया जाता है तब तक उसके निर्दोष होने की पूरी संभावना बनी रहती है। मीडिया ट्रायल के द्वारा इसे न्यायालय में आने से पूर्व ही नष्ट नही किया जाना चाहिए। इसका असर संविधान के अनु0 21 के तहत अभियुक्त को दिये जाने वाली वास्तविकता आधारित न्यायिक प्रकिया के अधिकार पर भी पड़ेगा। न्यायालय की गरिमा बनी रहे और मीडिया उसकी गरिमा को खण्डित करने का प्रयास यदि किसी मामले में करता है तो अनु0 129 एवं 215 न्यायालय की अवमानना अधिनियम 1971 के तहत दोषी मीडिया एंजेसी पर कार्यवाही करने का अधिकार भी देता है।

सामुदायिक हिंसा का खतरा–

भारत देश में विभिन्न धर्मा एवं संस्कृतियो के लोग रहते है। मीडिया के द्वारा सम्प्रदायों के मध्य नफरत की आग भड़काने का कार्य नही करना चाहिए। संवेदनशील मामलो पर मीडिया ट्रायल द्वारा देश में दंगे भड़कने का खतरा बना रहता है। मीडिया केवल प्राथमिक जानकारी के आधार पर ही सूचनायें प्रसारित करने का कार्य करता है जिससे भ्रामक सूचनायें फैलती है एवं देश में साम्प्रदायिक हिंसा फैलने की आंशका बनी रहती है। अतः मीडिया को संवेदनशील मामलो पर भ्रामक सूचनाये प्रसारित करने से बचना चाहिए।

विधि आयोग 200वीं रिपोर्ट– न्यायमूर्ति एम.जगन्नाथ राव की अध्यक्षता में अगस्त 2006 में इस रिपोर्ट में कुछ बिन्दुओं पर ध्यान केन्द्रित किया गया। मीडिया के द्वारा अभियुक्त की प्रतिष्ठा को ठेस पहुँचाने वाली किसी भी प्रकार की सामग्री के प्रकाशन पर रोक लगायी जानी चाहिए। सर्वोच्च न्यायालय व उच्च न्यायालय को किसी भी प्रकार के आपराधिक मामले में मीडिया को ट्रायल करने से रोकने का अधिकार है। मीडिया के द्वारा ऐसी खबरे जिससे शासन प्रशासन को हानि पहुँचती हो उसे चलाये जाने पर प्रतिबंध लगाना। किसी भी मामले पर जब तक अभियुक्त की गिरफ्तारी नही हो जाती उससे संबंधित पूर्वाग्रह से बचना चाहिए।

निष्कर्ष

मीडिया जैसा कि हम जानते है कि चौथे स्तंभ के रूप में जाना जाता हैं। मीडिया के लिए यह जानना बहुत जरूरी है कि उसके कर्तव्य, अधिकार एवं सीमाऐं क्या है। मीडिया जनता की राय को जानने के लिए विचारो की अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार का दुरूपयोग कर रहा है। मीडिया ट्रायल का उद्देश्य अपने चैनल के लिए टीआरपी बढ़ाना होता है उसे इस बात से कोई प्रभाव नही पड़ता कि न्यायिक प्रकिया भंग हो रही है एवं किसी व्यक्ति के व्यक्तिगत जीवन पर उसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। 17 वे विधि आयोग के द्वारा प्रस्तुत 200 वीं रिपोर्ट में मीडिया के द्वारा ट्रायल का अभियुक्त एवं न्यायिक प्रकिया पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ रहा है इस समस्या पर ध्यान केन्द्रित किया गया है। मीडिया को अपने द्वारा विश्लेषित आँकड़ो के आधार पर किसी अभियुक्त को अपराधी ठहराये जाने का कोई अधिकार नही है न्यायिक प्रकिया के अधीन मामलो पर मीडिया का यह विश्लेषण न्यायालय की अवमानना करता है। किसी–किसी मामले पर जनता की राय को इस प्रकार से दिखाया जाता है कि जिससे न्यायिक प्रकिया पर दबाव बन जाये और वे निष्पक्ष निर्णय ना दे सके। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को निजता का अधिकार प्राप्त है जिसे खण्डित करने का मीडिया को कोइ अधिकार नही है। मीडिया का एक मात्र उद्देश्य जनता के समक्ष चटपटी खबरे रखकर अपने चैनल की टीआरपी को बढ़ाना है भले ही वो भ्रामक खबरे ही क्यों ना हो। मीडिया ट्रायल ना केवल व्यक्ति के व्यक्तिगत जीवन को प्रभावित करता है बल्कि न्यायिक प्रकिया को भी प्रभावित करने का कार्य करता है। मीडिया लोकतंत्र के लिए खतरा पैदा करने का कार्य कर रहा है जिसे रोकने हेतु सरकार और न्यायपालिका को कठोर कदम उठाये जाने की आवश्यकता है।

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कुलदीप व्यास, डॉ. सुरेश चन्द

कन्नड संतों की वाणी में सामाजिक एकता की भावना

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संक्षेप सार:

भारतीय साहित्य में कन्नड संतों की वाणी का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। आज हम सब आजदी का अमृत महोत्सव मनारहे हैं, हर राष्ट्रीय पर्व पर वे समस्याएँ जो हमारे देश को परेशान करती है, उन के समधान के बारे में गंभीर विचार करने में प्रजा का मन चिंतित हो जाता है।विभिन्न भाषा,धर्म, संस्कृति,विश्वास पर बना भारत दुनिया का सब से बडा 'लोकतांत्रिक' राष्ट्र है। स्वतंत्रता के बिना समानता संभव नहीं और समानता के बिना भाईचारा संभव नहीं। क्योंकि ये तीनों सिध्दांत एक दूसरे को पूरक है। सामाजिक लोकतंत्र का प्राणस्वरुप है स्वतंत्रता, समानता और भाईचारा जब ये तीनों कार्यशील रहें गे तो राष्ट्रीयता अपने आप फ़लते फूलते दिखाई देगी । १२ वि सदी के कन्नड शरणों नें जिस कल्याण देश का निर्माण करना चाहा वह इन्हीं शिध्दांतो पर आधारित था।यही दर्शाना इस पत्र का मुख्य उद्धेश्य रहा है

संकेतशब्द: दासोह, कायक, शरण, आचार, शून्यपीठ, वचन

प्रस्तावना:

शरणों (संतों) की समानता की कल्पना- सभी को एकत्रित करने वाली सर्व समानता युक्त की प्रणालिका लाना शरणों का उद्धेश्य था । राजनैतिकेतर जन शक्ति का सकल जीवराशियों की भलाई चाहने वाली शरण संस्कृती के व्दारा संगठन कर के व्यक्ति और व्यक्तित्व, अंतरंग और बहिरंगशुद्धी के व्दारा अनुभव मंडप में स्त्री पुरुष सब मिल कर सामाजिक जीवन को स्वातंत्र्य, समानता, और राष्ट्रप्रेम के तहत निर्णायित मूल्य आज हमें उनके वचनों के रूप में देखने को उपलब्ध है। वे केवल नीति नियमों के ही ग्रंथ नही थे, वे जीवन की अविभाज्य अंग थे। इस लिए शरणों का मानवप्रेम सर्व काल के लिए आदर्श नमूने तथा आचरण योग्य तत्वों से भरा है।

> यह कौन है? यह कौन है? यह कौन है?
> ऐसा न कहने दीजिए।
> यह अपना है। यह अपना है। यह अपना है-
> ऐसा कहने दीजिए।
> हे कूडल संगम देवा
> आप का पुत्र कहलाने दीजिए ।

इस प्रकार के भाव से प्रत्येक प्रजा को विश्वकुटुंबी बनाया गया है। शरणों के वचन सकल जीवों की भलाई चाहने वाले थे।वे समाज में भाईचारे से रहने वाले शरणों के ही सर्व नाम थे ।

बसवण्णा के शोध व्दारा रूपित और आचरित लिंगायत सन्मार्ग एक सर्वोनमुखी विकास और समानता का प्रतीक है। शरणों के वचनों में निरुपित तत्व लोकतंत्र के परिपूर्ण स्वरूप दिखते हैं । वे केवल वैयक्तिक,सामाजिक,आर्थिक और धार्मिक क्षेत्र केलिए ही नहीं राष्ट्रप्रेम की भावना से ओतप्रोत रहे हैं ।

लिंग समानता- भौतिक भिन्नता को छोडकर सभी अंशो में स्त्री पुरुष के लिए समरूप रहने पर भी समाज स्त्रियों को हीन भाव से देखते आया है। पुरूष प्रधान समाज ने स्त्री को विविध क्षेत्रों में समान अवसर न देकर शोषण किया है ।आज भी राजनीतिक क्षेत्रों में स्त्री को समान अवसर नहीं मिला है । लेकिन १२ वि सदी के कन्नड शरणों ने महिलाओं को स्वतंत्रता और समान देने के फ़ल स्वरूप महिलाओं ने जो उपलब्धि दिखाई है वह आज के समाज केलिए आदर्श होना चाहिए । उस समाज में कार्तिक के अंधेरे में आकाश दीप की

तरह जलकर ऊंच नीच, अमीर गरीब और स्त्री पुरुष जैसे शोषण व्यवस्था को काटते हुए कहा गया है कि-**"स्तन उभरे तो स्त्री कहते हैं। मूंछ निकले तो पुरुष कहते हैं 'अंदर की आत्मा पुरुष भी नहीं और स्त्री भी नहीं"**। ,विश्व के सभी संसाधन पर सभी को समान अधिकार है, शरणों ने अनजान में एक कल्याण राज्य परिकल्पना को साकार किया। स्वतंत्रता, समानता, विश्वबंधुत्व, और राष्ट्रप्रेम उन के क्रांती के मूल उद्धेश्य थे ।

मानव को अन्नती की अपेक्षा सामाजिक एकता महत्व पूर्ण है। स्वतंत्रता ही लोकतंत्र का आधार है। स्वतंत्रता याने बंधन मुक्त होना। मानव सभी प्रकार से बंधन मुक्त होकर आत्मसाक्षी के अनुसार विवेक पूर्ण जीवन बिताना और सभी के हित में अपना हित देखना ही नैतिक आधार की सहज स्वतंत्रा और राष्ट्रीयता का लक्षण वे मानते थे । बसवण्ण की खोज का इष्ट लिंग केवल आध्यात्मिक उपलब्धि का संकेत ही नहीं, वरना समाज के सभी प्रकार की असमानता को दूर करने का बुलडोजर बन गया है। जिन के अंग पर लिंग है, वे सब श्रेष्ठ कुल के होकर,स्त्री-पुरुष, जाति-लिंग, वर्गभेद बिना, सभी अनुभव मंडप रूपी संसद में समान रूप से भाग लेकर अभिव्यक्ति स्वातंत्र्य के माध्यम से समानता के समुध्द समाज के निर्माण केलिए कारण बन गए हैं ।

> ब्राह्मण से लेकर श्वपच तक
> सभी के लिए जन्म एक ही प्रकार का है,
> आहार,निद्रा,भय मैथुन भी एक ही प्रकार।
> पाप-पुण्य,स्वर्ग-नरक एक ही
> 'अन्य है' समझने वाले अज्ञानी तुम सुनो,
> ज्ञानी ही सत्कुल है,अज्ञान ही दुकुल है
> आगम से आचार, आचार से समज,
> अपने आप को जान लिया तो शरण,　भूल जावोतो
> मानव,।

इस प्रकार शरणों ने अष्पृश्यता निवारण केलिए क्रियात्मक लडाई लडी थी। धर्म निरपेक्ष राष्ट्र निर्माण केलिए हमारे संविधान व्दारा लागू विविध कानून शरणों के युग में ही सक्रीय होते देखा जा सकता है। १२ वि सताब्दी में अनेक प्रकार के भेद भावाव से समाज टुकडों में चूर-चूर था। निम्न जातीय महिलाओं का जीवन अत्यंत दुख मयी था। वास्तव में मेहनती लोग दास्य श्रंखला से जकडे थे ।सभी क्षेत्र में असमानता तीव्र रुप मेंथी।

डॉ.दयानंद सालुंके

ऐसे में शरण लोग मनुष्य के हृदय परिवर्तन व्दारा सामाजिक परिवर्तन इन कवियों का मूल उद्धेश्य था। व्यष्टि परिकार से समष्टि परिष्कार की प्राप्ति की अभिव्यक्ति इन संतों के काव्य में देख सकते हैं ।चरित्रवान व्यक्तियों की अवष्यकता स्वास्थ समाज और देशकी एकता के लिए अनिवार्य है, यह संत लोग जान चुके थे। **शून्यपीठादीश संत अल्लमप्रभु कहते हैं-**

> आशा के लिए करोंडों, लोभ केलिए करोडों, कंचन, कांता मिट्टी के लिए करोंडो मर गए ।
> हे, गुहेश्वर ! आपके लिए मरनेवालों को देखा नहीं मैं ने।

इस प्रकार कन्नड ि्भाषी संतों ने अत्यंत प्रामाणिकता से मानव मन के विकारों का चित्रण किया है। और व्यक्तित्व के विकास केलिए सत्संग की अवष्यकता जरूरी है, इस का प्रतिपादन वे व्यक्त किये हैं ।इस लिए इनका काव्य सजीव और युग युग का काव्य है।

स्वावलंबन, कायक और दासोह : संत कालीन समाज में धर्म के नाम से सामान्य लोगों का शोषण तो होता हिथा । इसलिए इन कवियों ने शारीरिक परिश्रम तथा स्वावलंबन का उपदेश दिया था। शरण नूलिन चंदय्या ने 'गुर भी कायक से ही जीवमुक्त है' कहा है । 'कोई भी परिश्रम हो भावशुद्धि से करनेवाली, गुरु लिंग जंगम की सेवा ही शिवपूजा है।' कायक जीवी आयदक्कि मारय्या नें भी 'कायक ही कैलास बताया है'।कायक करते समय गुरुदर्शन, लिंगपूजा, जंगम सेवा भी मुख्य नहीं है। ये शरण परिश्रमी तथा स्वावलंबी थे । संतो ने स्वावलंबि बनने केलिए शारीरिक परिश्रम को ही मानते हुए 'कायक ही कैलास' तत्व को ही श्रेष्ठ कहा है।

परिश्रम और उसके फल को अध्यात्मिक विकास और सामाजिक हित के प्रति लगादेने के इनके विचार स्वास्थ समाज निर्माण का प्रामाणिक प्रयत्न है। धन संग्रह बुद्धि से मानव मानवियता भूल कर पशु बन ता है। अपने पास अवष्यकता से ज्यादा धन और धान्य रखना देश के प्रति अन्याय कह कर उस का विरोध किये हैं । **(संत) शरण अंबिगार चौडय्या कहते हैं-**

> "परधन, परसति, परनिंदारत को,
> भविष्य में नरक मिलेगा यह उपदेश गुरु का है।
> परधन, परसति परभूमि की दुराशा से
> हत्या हुई दुर्योधन की……"

संत बसवेश्वर जी का मानना है कि- 'पापि का धन प्रयश्चित के लिए है न कि सत्कार्य केलिए। कुतिया का दूध पिल्लों

केलिए है न कि पंचामृत के लिए..' शरन मान ते थे कि संग्रह प्रवृत्ति की भूक ही आर्थिक असमानता कि जड है । इसलिए संतों ने इस का खंडन किया है। इस प्रकार शिवशरणों ने साहित्य कार के रूप में समाज के प्रति अपने उत्तर दायित्वों को भली-भांति निभाया। वे समाज के प्रति सच्चे अर्थों में सजग प्रहरी थे । इन संतों केलिए 'काव्य-चेतना' और 'राष्ट्रीय चेतना' दोनों सुमन में सुगंध की तरह है।

भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध- अनुभव मण्डप में सक्रिय भाग लेनेवाली वचनकार्त्री सत्यक्का शरणों के घर के आंगन में झाडू लगाने का कायक करती थी। यह एक देओपासना मे निष्ठा रखनेवाली शरणी है। कथनी के अपेक्षा करनी को, विचार के अपेक्षा आचार को प्रधानता देनेवाली **सत्यक्का** के वचन आज भी प्रासंगिक है-

> रिश्वत-प्रवंचना को हाथ न लगाने की शपथ
> रास्ते में सोना,वस्त्र पडा हो तो
> छूकर उठा लूँ तो हे देव, आप की शपथ
> आप ने जो दी, उस भिक्षा में हूँ मैं
> हे शंभुजक्केश्वर देवा, आपकी शपथ।

इस तरह १२ विशताब्दी में कन्नड शरणों ने देश में एकता और समानता लाने केलिए भर सक प्रयास किये हैं ।

जातिय वाद का विरोध- धीर महान बसवेश्वर ने ऐसी अमानवीय हिंसा एवं जाति प्रथा का विरोध किया और बिजली जैसे कडक कर उत्तर देते हुए बसवेश्वर ने कहा है कि किसी भी मनुष्य का गौरव होता है, मूल्य होता है,प्राणों से बडा होता है व्यक्तित्व का गौरव, उन का आदर करना हमारा कर्तव्य होना चाहिए। इसी प्रकार वे ध्वनि विहीन की ध्वनि बनते हुए बसवेश्वर कहते हैं—"

> "पिता मेरे मोची चेन्नय्य,
> ताऊ मेरे चमार कक्कय्या;
> देखिए पितामह मेरे चिक्कय्या-
> भाई मेरे किन्नर बोम्मय्या
> आप मुझे कैसे नहीं जानते कूडलसंगमदेवा ।"

इस पद में जिसे जाती से अपमानित किया जातातथा और जिसके साथ तुच्छ व्यवहार किया जाता था, ऐसे जन अमुदाय को भ्राता,पितामह, चाचा कह कर बसवेश्वर उन लोगों को प्रधान मंत्री के महा गृह में आदर पूर्वक लेकर आता है। अंत्यज कहते हुए उसपर शूद्रत्व का आरोप कर, अपमान एवं दु:ख से नोच-नोचकर सदियों से दिनंप्रति अपमानित लोगों को अपने इस वचन से अपना

डॉ.दयानंद सालुंके

संबंध रचा कर समाज के सामने जातिप्रथा का विरोध करते हैं ।

इस तर्ह से १२ वि सदी के सभी कन्नड के शरण संतों ने अपने विशिष्ट वचनों के साथ भारतीय समाज और साहित्य में अपना एक छाप छोड गए हैं।

सहायक ग्रंथ:

1. वचन साहित्य और संत साहित्य का समाज शास्त्र, डा. काशिनाथ अंबलगे.
2. बसव मार्ग पत्रीका २०२१ जुलाई,
3. अक्क महादेवी-डा सिद्धय्या पुराणिक
4. बसव पथ कन्नड पत्रीका-२०१८

आरोग्य विषयक जाणीव जागृती

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सारांश:

प्रस्तुत संशोधन अभ्यासामध्ये अहिल्यानगर (अहमदनगर) जिल्ह्यातील उच्च प्राथमिक स्तरावरील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या मानसिक आरोग्य जाणीव जागृतीचा अभ्यास करण्यात आला आहे. संशोधनाची उद्दिष्टे साध्य करण्यासाठी संशोधकाने विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी मानसिक आरोग्यावर आधारीत सर्वेक्षण चाचणी तयार केली. सदर चाचणीची सप्रमाणता, विश्वसनियता, वस्तुनिष्ठता, पर्यासिता, उपयुक्तता व भेदभाव क्षमता संशोधकाने तज्ज्ञांच्या मदतीने तपासली. सदर चाचणी शहरी भागातील 24 शाळा व त्यातील इयत्ता आठवीचे 565 मुली व 716 मुले असे एकूण 1281 विद्यार्थी आणि ग्रामीण भागातील 55 शाळा व त्यातील इयत्ता आठवीचे 1100 मुली व 1051 मुले असे एकूण 2151 विद्यार्थ्यांना देऊन माहिती गोळा केली व शेकडेवारी व वारंवारिता ही साधने वापरुण माहितीचे विश्लेषण केले व निष्कर्ष काढले.

मुख्य शब्द : मानसिक आरोग्य, जाणीव जागृती

प्रस्तावना:

भारतात विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये मानसिक आरोग्याच्या प्रामुख्याने, मानसिक आरोग्य माहितीचा अभाव, ताण तणाव, चिंता, फोबिया, इर्षा, अंधश्रद्धा, रोड हिप्रोटिस विषयक माहितीचा अभाव, अभ्यासात मन न लागणे, विस्मरण, दंगाप्रवृत्ती व आडदांड वृत्ती, मोबाईल आसक्ती विषयक समस्या जाणवतात.

या सर्वांचा प्रतिकूल परिणाम त्याच्या आरोग्यावर झाला आहे. कोणताही रोगी व्यक्ती जीवनाचा आनंद घेऊ शकत नाही. आनंदी जीवन जगण्यासाठी त्यास उत्तम आरोग्य असणे अत्यंत गरजेचे आहे. म्हणून मानसिक आरोग्य अभ्यासाची अत्यंत गरज आहे.

संशोधनाची उद्दिष्टे:-

1. उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालयातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या मानसिक आरोग्य समस्यांचा शोध घेणे.
2. उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालयातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या मानसिक आरोग्य जाणीव जागृतीचा अभ्यास करणे.

संशोधन जनसंख्या:-

सदर संशोधनासाठी महाराष्ट्र राज्यातील उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालयातील इयत्ता आठवीचे विद्यार्थी संशोधनाची जनसंख्या आहे.

संशोधन न्यादर्श:-

सारणी 1.1

अ.न.	क्षेत्र	शाळा संख्या	इ. 8 वी विद्यार्थी संख्या		
			मुली	मुले	एकूण संख्या
1	शहरी	24	565	716	1281
2	ग्रामीण	55	1100	1051	2151
3	एकूण-	79	1665	1767	3432

प्रस्तुत संशोधन पद्धती-

सर्वेक्षण पद्धती.

संशोधन माहिती विश्लेषण संख्याशास्त्रीय साधने-

वारंवारिता व शेकडेवारीचा वापर केला.

विद्यार्थी सर्वेक्षण चाचणीमध्ये खालील प्रमाणे प्रश्नाचे तीन भागात विभाजन केले.

सारणी 1.2

अ.न.	प्रश्न प्रकार	मानसिक आरोग्य समस्या प्रश्न संख्या (विद्यार्थी)
1	बहुपर्यायी	16
2	होय/माहित नाही /नाही	10
3	मुक्त	होय
4	एकूण	26 प्रश्न

कोष्टक क्रमांक- 1.3

विद्यार्थी मानसिक आरोग्य सर्वेक्षण चाचणी- आरोग्य घटकाचे शहरी व ग्रामीण क्षेत्र प्राप्तांक निहाय वर्गीकरण.

अ.न.		शहरी भाग				ग्रामीण भाग			
		घटक समस्या असलेले प्रतिसादक % प्रमाण		घटक समस्या नसलेले प्रतिसादक % प्रमाण		घटक समस्या असलेले प्रतिसादक % प्रमाण		घटक समस्या नसलेले प्रतिसादक % प्रमाण	
		मुली	मुले	मुली	मुले	मुली	मुले	मुली	मुले
1	मानसिक आरोग्य ज्ञान	78	77	22	23	79	78	21	22
2	मानसिक कणखरता	57	56	43	44	52	64	48	36
3	मानसिक आरोग्य उपचार	3	7	97	93	2	3	98	97
4	ताणतणाव	54	52	46	48	52	54	48	46
5	अंधश्रध्दा, न्यूनगंड	59	57	41	43	58	38	42	62
6	वैफल्यग्रस्तपणा	36	39	64	61	34	36	66	64
7	दंगाईवृत्ती	59	58	41	42	49	59	51	41
8	भावनात्मकता	38	38	62	63	36	38	64	62
9	मोबाईल आसक्ती	60	60	40	40	60	60	40	40
10	फोबिया	65	64	35	36	62	65	38	35
11	हिप्टोनिझम	49	49	51	51	49	49	51	51
12	ईर्षा	48	48	52	52	31	48	69	52

अर्थनिर्वचन:-

वरील निरीक्षणावरुन शहरी व ग्रामीण विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये असलेल्या मानसिक आरोग्य समस्या विषयी पुढीलप्रमाणे निष्कर्ष निघतात.

1. विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक आरोग्य ज्ञान या घटकाविषयी तीव्र प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

2. विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक कणखरता या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

3. विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक आरोग्य उपचार या घटकाविषयी अल्प प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

4. विद्यार्थ्यांना ताणतणाव या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

5. विद्यार्थ्यांना अंधश्रध्दा, न्यूनगंड या घटकाविषयी तीव्र प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

6. विद्यार्थ्यांना वैफल्यग्रस्तपणा या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

7. विद्यार्थ्यांना या दंगाईवृत्ती घटकाविषयी तीव्र प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

8. विद्यार्थ्यांना या भावनात्मकता घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

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9. विद्यार्थ्यांना या मोबाईल आसक्ती घटकाविषयी तीव्र प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

10. विद्यार्थ्यांना फोबिया या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

11. विद्यार्थ्यांना हिप्टोनिझम या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

12. विद्यार्थ्यांना ईर्षा या घटकाविषयी काही प्रमाणात समस्या आहेत.

कोष्टक क्रमांक- 1.4

विद्यार्थी मानसिक आरोग्य सर्वेक्षण चाचणी- आरोग्य घटकाचे शहरी व ग्रामीण क्षेत्र मानसिक आरोग्य समस्यांचे एकत्रित वर्गीकरण.

अ.न.	समस्या घटक	घटकातील विद्यार्थ्यांना जाणवणाऱ्या समस्या
1	मानसिक आरोग्य ज्ञान	मानसिक आजाराची पूर्ण माहिती नसणे, मानसिक आजार म्हणजे अतिवेडसर माणूस ही कल्पना इ. समस्या.
2	मानसिक कणखरता	धीटपणा, हळवेपणाने निर्णय घेणे, विचारपूर्वक निर्णय न घेणे. निर्णयात दबाव असणे, इ. इ. समस्या.
3	मानसिक आरोग्य उपचार	चिंताग्रस्तपणा, बरळणे, झोपेतून दचकून उठणे, निद्रा नाश इ.
4	ताणतणाव	चुकीच्या किंवा जास्त अपेक्षेखाली दबणे, कोणत्याही गोष्टीचा ताण येणे, सतत छातीत धडधड होणे इ.
5	अंधश्रद्धा, न्यूनगंड	नवस, बुवाबाजी, दोरे गंडे, आपल्याला कोणीतरी झपाटलेची भावना, करणी इ.
6	वैफल्यग्रस्तपणा	कशातच मन न लागणे, जेवणावर परिणाम होणे, निस्तेज, निराशावादी असणे इ.
7	दंगाईवृत्ती	भांडण करणे, इतरांच्या खोडी करणे, रस्त्याने विनाकारण दंगा करणे इ.
8	भावनात्मकता	हळवेपणा, कशाचेही वाईट वाटणे.
9	मोबाईल आसक्ती	सारखे मोबाईल वर तासनतास गेम खेळत बसणे. मोबाईल नसल्यास चैन न पडणे इ.इ.
10	फोबिया	सारखी कशाची न कशाची भीती वाटणे.
11	हिप्टोनिझम	संमोहनाची माहिती नसणे, त्यामुळे समस्या निर्माण होणे.
12	ईर्षा	दुसऱ्याचे चांगले न देखावणे, आपल्यापेक्षा कोणी प्रगती करु नये असे सारखे वाटणे. मत्सर वाटणे इ.इ.

मानसिक आरोग्य घटक निष्कर्ष-

संख्याशास्त्रीय विश्लेषणावरुन खालील प्रमाणे निष्कर्ष आढळले.

1. शहरी व ग्रामीण भागातील विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक आरोग्य ज्ञान, अंधश्रद्धा, न्यूनगंड, दंगाईवृत्ती, मोबाईल आसक्ती या समस्या तीव्र प्रमाणात आहेत.

2. शहरी व ग्रामीण भागातील विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक कणखरता, ताणतणाव, वैफल्यग्रस्तपणा, भावनात्मकता, फोबिया, हिप्टोनिझम व ईर्षा समस्या काही प्रमाणात आहेत.

3. शहरी व ग्रामीण भागातील विद्यार्थ्यांना मानसिक आरोग्य उपचार समस्या अल्प प्रमाणात आहेत.

सारांश:

प्रस्तुत संशोधनामध्ये संशोधकाने उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालयातील इयत्ता आठवीच्या विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये आसणाऱ्या मानसिक आरोग्य समस्यांचा संशोधनाच्या सर्वेक्षण पद्धतीचा वापर करुण शोध घेतला. या आरोग्य समस्यांचे मानसिक आरोग्य उपघटक समस्यामध्ये वर्गीकरण केले. संख्याशास्त्रीय विश्लेषणाच्या आधारे निष्कर्ष काढले.

श्री. पाटोळे उत्तम महादू

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श्री. पाटोले उत्तम महादू

प्रेम विवाह आणि संमत विवाहातील जोडप्यांवर ताण आणि संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाचा परिणाम – एक अध्ययन

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सारांश:

वैवाहिक जीवनात तणाव आणि संघर्ष अपरिहार्य असतात. तर त्याच व्यवस्थापन प्रत्येक स्वरूपांवर वेगवेगळ्या पद्धतीने परिणाम करतात. प्रेम विवाह आणि संमत विवाह या दोन प्रकारातील जोडप्यांमध्ये तणाव आणि संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाचे तंत्र, त्यांचे परिणाम आणि त्यामुळे होणारे वैवाहिक समाधान याचा अभ्यास करण्यात आलेला आहे.

Keywords: विवाह, प्रेम विवाह, संमत विवाह , ताणतणाव, संघर्ष व्यवस्थापन.

प्रस्तावना:

विवाह ही एक सामाजिक संस्था असून ती दोन व्यक्तींमध्ये नातेसंबंध निर्माण करण्यासाठीची परंपरा आहे. प्रेम विवाहात जोडप्यांचा स्वतःचा निर्णय महत्त्वाचा असतो, तर अरेंज मॅरेजमध्ये कौटुंबिक समन्वय आणि सहमती आवश्यक असते. दोन्ही प्रकारच्या विवाहात ताण आणि संघर्ष निर्माण होऊ शकतात. या अभ्यासाचा उद्देश म्हणजे प्रेम विवाह आणि अरेंज मॅरेज या दोन्ही प्रकारांमध्ये जोडप्यांवर होणाऱ्या ताण आणि संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाचे परिणाम तपासणे.

अध्ययनाचे उद्दिष्ट:

1. प्रेम विवाह आणि अरेंज मॅरेजमध्ये ताण आणि संघर्षांचे प्रमाण तपासणे.

2. दोन्ही प्रकारच्या विवाहांमध्ये तणाव व्यवस्थापनाचे वेगवेगळे पैलू आणि त्यांचा परिणाम शोधणे.

3. विवाहातील संतुलन राखण्यासाठी जोडप्यांकडून वापरल्या जाणाऱ्या तणाव व्यवस्थापनाच्या तंत्रांचा अभ्यास करणे.

साहित्य समीक्षा:

विविध अभ्यासांवर आधारित, प्रेम विवाह आणि अरेंज मॅरेजमध्ये तणाचे स्वरूप वेगळे असते. काही अभ्यास सुचवतात की प्रेम विवाहात नात्यातील आपुलकी आणि सवांद जास्त असल्याने ताण कमी होतो, तर अरेंज मॅरेजमध्ये कौटुंबिक अपेक्षा आणि जबाबदाऱ्यांमुळे ताण अधिक असतो. संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाच्या तंत्रांवर देखील अभ्यास केले गेले आहेत, ज्यात संवाद, सल्लामसलत आणि सामोपचार महत्त्वाचे ठरतात.

संशोधन पद्धती:

नमुना: नागपूर शहरातील 50 प्रेम विवाह आणि 50 संमत विवाह मध्ये असलेल्या जोडप्यांची निवड केली.

साधने: प्रश्नावली आणि वैयक्तिक मुलाखती घेतल्या.

विश्लेषण: जोडप्यांच्या ताण आणि संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाच्या पद्धतींचे तुलनात्मक विश्लेषण करण्यात आले.

निष्कर्ष:

अध्ययनात असे दिसून आले की, प्रेम विवाहात तणाव व्यवस्थापनात संवादाचे महत्त्व जास्त आहे, तर संमत विवाहात कौटुंबिक पाठिंबा महत्त्वाचा ठरतो. प्रेम विवाहात ताणाचे प्रमाण तुलनेने कमी असले तरीही, तणावाची कारणे अधिक वैयक्तिक स्वरूपाची असतात. संमत विवाहामध्ये तणावाचे कारण प्रामुख्याने कौटुंबिक अपेक्षांमुळे असते. संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनात प्रेम विवाहातील जोडप्यांमध्ये सामंजस्य आणि संवादाचा वापर अधिक आढळतो.

शिफारसी:

दोन्ही प्रकारच्या विवाहांमध्ये ताण आणि संघर्ष कमी करण्यासाठी संवादाची गरज आहे.

जोडप्यांना संघर्ष व्यवस्थापनाच्या तंत्रांची माहिती देण्यासाठी सल्लामसलत आणि मार्गदर्शन शिबिरे आयोजित करावीत.

कौटुंबिक अपेक्षा आणि जबाबदाऱ्यांचा ताण कमी करण्यासाठी कौटुंबिक संवादाची जागरूकता वाढवावी.

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शितल क्रिष्णा मेंढे, प्रोफेसर संपदा अमित नासेरी

मूल्यों को चुनौती देती वर्तमान पीढ़ी और मन्नू भंडारी की कहानियां

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सारांश :

सांप्रत समय में बदलती जीवन दृष्टि, शिक्षा, औद्योगिकरण आदि ने मानव जीवन में परिवर्तन की आंधी उपस्थित की है। आज शिक्षा एवं आजीविका की वजह से युवा, परिवार से दूर रह रहे हैं। उनके लिए पैसा कमाना, मूल्य और मानव जोड़ने से कई अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। आधुनिक लेखिका मन्नू भंडारी की कहानियों में इसी कसक को पूरी अभिव्यक्ति प्राप्त हुई है। मन्नू जी ने अपनी कहानियों में भौतिकता में डूबी हुई वर्तमान पीढ़ी के रिश्तों में जो जहर घुल गया, और मूल्य रूपी अमृत स्रोत सूख गया है, उसे बेबाकी से उकेरा है। आपने कहानियों में दो पीढ़ियों के मध्य वैचारिक असमानता, असामंजस्य के कई चित्र अंकित किए हैं। वर्तमान दांपत्य जीवन, परिवार के अन्य रिश्तों से निकलती हुई आत्मा आपकी कहानियों के कथ्य है। आपकी कहानियां वर्तमान प्रगतिशीलता की आड़ में चल रही स्वच्छंदता को उकेरते हुए, मूल्यों के टूटन को ध्वनित करती है।

संकेत शब्द : शिक्षित पीढ़ी, वैचारिक असमानता, शहरीकरण, स्व-केंद्रित विचारधारा, मूल्य विघटन

प्रस्तावना:

सांप्रत समय में पाश्चात्य शिक्षा, औद्योगिकरण एवं नगरीकरण के फलस्वरुप लोगों में नए विचारों का आगमन हुआ है। नई एवं पुरातन पीढ़ी के विचारों में जमीन-आसमान का अंतर हो गया है। नई पीढ़ी हर चीज को तथ्यों की कसौटी पर कसना चाहती है, तो पुरातन पीढ़ी संस्कार, भावना, आदर्श एवं मूल्यों को अपने जीवन का अभिन्न अंग मानती है। इस वैचारिक असमानता ने दोनों पीढ़ियों में संघर्ष उत्पन्न कर दिया है। नई पीढ़ी जीवन मूल्यों को अप्रासंगिक करार देते हुए स्वार्थ केंद्रित हो चुकी है। परिणामस्वरूप पीढ़ियों में संघर्ष, परिवार विघटन, स्त्री-पुरुष संबंधों के नए प्रतिमान, बदलाव, अकेलापन, संत्रास, तनाव, कुंठा, घुटन, नारी की बदलती दृष्टि, जीवन मूल्यों का ह्रास, इन सबसे होती, यंत्रवत जिंदगी ने, मनुष्य जीवन की दशा एवं दिशा ही बदल दी है। इन सब बातों की गूंज आधुनिक युग की लेखिका मन्नू भंडारी की कहानियों में सुनाई देती है। मन्नु जी ने अपनी कहानियों में वर्तमान मानवीय संबंधों की इस अनिश्चितता को मुखरित किया है। आपने भौतिकता की चकाचौंध में डूबे रिश्तों से आज जो अमृत-तत्व लुप्त हो गया है, उसकी अत्यंत सुंदर व्याख्या अपनी कहानियों में प्रस्तुत की है।

मन्नू भंडारी ने आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता, बढ़ती महंगाई, अर्थ केंद्रित प्रवृत्ति, पाश्चात्य व्यक्तिवादी भावना और अहं के कारण परिवार में आए विघटन एवं संघर्ष का अत्यंत सजीव अंकन अपनी कहानियों में किया है। आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता एवं शिक्षा के फलस्वरूप ग्राम सिमट गए हैं एवं शहरों का विस्तार हो गया है। साथ ही दो पीढ़ियों के विचारों में मतभिन्नता हो गई है, जिससे पीढ़ियों का संघर्ष खुलकर सामने आ रहा है। अब परिवार की संकल्पना में दादा-दादी, चाचा-चाची, भूवा, आदि समाहित नहीं है। परिवार शब्द के मायने अब मात्र नाभिक परिवार से है। इस संदर्भ में डॉ उषा मंत्री वर्तमान परिस्थितियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए लिखती है कि - "संयुक्त परिवार का स्थान अब नाभिक परिवार ने ले लिया है। नाभिक परिवार अर्थात पति-पत्नी और अवयस्क संतान का परिवार।"[1] किंतु वर्तमान अवस्था को देखते हुए मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि आज तो इस नाभिक परिवार में भी प्रेम का निर्झर सूख गया है। वर्तमान पढ़े-लिखे, आधुनिक बेटे-बहु को भी पारिवारिक सदस्यों की उपस्थिति, उनकी एकाधिकार भावना में खलल लगती है। आज युवा पीढ़ी का शिक्षा एवं रोजगार हेतु गांव से शहर की ओर स्थलांतर हो रहा है और शहरों की चमक-दमक, अति महत्वाकांक्षा एवं अहं के कारण आज परिवार भी बेगाना लगने लगा है। 'कमरे, कमरा और कमरे' कहानी की नायिका नीलू नौकरी करने हेतु दिल्ली जाती है। वह निरंतर आगे बढ़ते रहती है और अपनी इच्छाओं को ही सर्वोपरि मानते हुए परिवार को बहुत पीछे छोड़ देती है-" वह अपने मनोवांछित रास्ते पर

जितनी आगे बढ़ी जा रही थी, घर से, घरवालों से अनजाने और अनचाहे उतनी दूर होती जा रही थी। पहले की तरह उसने हर छुट्टी में घर जाना बंद कर दिया। लंबी छुट्टियों में भी वह केवल पाँच-सात दिनों के लिए ही घर जाती थी और हर बार उसे यह लगता था कि घर और उसके बीच की खाई बढ़ती जा रही है।"2 इस तरह बढ़ती महत्वाकांक्षा के कारण, नीलू के, अपने जन्मदाता माता-पिता से भी, रिश्ते कमजोर हो जाते हैं। नीलू की तरह ही कई युवा जीवन-यापन के संसाधन ढूंढते हुए शहर पहुंचते हैं और एक बार स्वतंत्र रहने के पश्चात उन्हें घर-परिवार का शासन, नियम बोझ लगने लगता है। ऐसे ही उस युवा की सोच फिर पूरी तरह परिवर्तित हो जाती है और वर्तमान चित्र दृष्टिगत होते हैं।

पुरातन एवं अधुनातन शिक्षित पीढ़ी की वैचारिक असमानता ने रिश्तों के बीच एक शून्य निर्माण किया है, जिसका भुगतान दोनों पीढ़ियों को करना पड़ रहा है। इस बात की पुष्टि डॉ बैजनाथ प्रसाद शुक्ल के निम्नलिखित कथन से होती है- " परिवार का सबसे बड़ा व्यक्ति अब उसका स्वामी नहीं रह गया। घर की मालकिन अब सांस नहीं बहू हो गई, क्योंकि उसका पति कमाता है और पूरे परिवार का भरण-पोषण करता है।"3 अर्थात अब बड़ों का स्वाभिमान,सम्मान सब दांव पर लग चुका है। जो घर का भरण-पोषण करेगा उसके नियमों के अनुसार घर चलने लगा है। वर्तमान पीढ़ी अहं एवं निर्णय के द्वंद में उलझी हुई है। अब तो अपने भविष्य के महत्वपूर्ण विवाह जैसे फैसले के अधिकार की प्रत्यंचा भी युवाओं ने अपने हाथ में थाम ली है। इसी होड़ में 'त्रिशंकु' कहानी की मुरला माता-पिता की इच्छाओं को दरकिनार कर प्रेम-विवाह करती है। मुरला की माता जब उसके विवाह संबंधी सपने पिरोती है तो, मुरला मां से कहती है - "ममी, तुम भी कमाल करती हो। अपनी जिंदगी को लेकर भी तुम सपने देखो और मेरी जिंदगी के सपने भी तुम्ही देख डालो.......कुछ सपने मेरे लिए भी छोड़ दो।"4 माता-पिता बच्चों के लिए एक खुशहाल जिंदगी और अच्छा जीवनसाथी चाहते हैं। बच्चों के विवाह के तन्तु उनकी भावनाओं से जुड़े होते हैं। समाज की इकाई परिवार है। इसके मूल्य संरक्षण एवं सभ्य आचरण से ही समाज की दिशा निर्धारित होती है। इसलिए हर बालक की प्राथमिक पाठशाला परिवार होती है। किंतु वर्तमान युग में तो 'नाभिक परिवार' नामक संस्था का अस्तित्व भी क्षीण हो गया है । वर्तमान पीढ़ी सिर्फ इतना एकाधिकार जानती है कि हमारी जिंदगी केवल हमारी है।

आज प्रेम, त्याग, सेवा, कई मूल्य तथा हृदय के रिश्ते आदि, चिरंतन भावनाओं में भी कृत्रिमता आ गई है, जिससे व्यक्ति कई स्तरों पर विभाजित हो गया है। इसीलिए तो 'जीती बाजी की हार' कहानी की नायिका विवाह जैसे पवित्र बंधन को नकारते हुए आशा से कहती है- "यह सब

तुम लोगों को ही मुबारक हो, शादी करके मैं अपने व्यक्तित्व को नहीं बेच सकती।"5 आज आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता ने स्त्री को कुछ ऐसा स्वच्छंद बना दिया है कि उसे अब परिवार बोझ लगने लगा है। स्त्री-पुरुष के लिए जीवन जीने का मतलब अब 'एक दूसरे की सहायता से आगे बढ़ना' नहीं रहा, बल्कि स्वच्छंदता एवं अविवेक का समन्वय हो गया है। अब स्त्री विवाह के पश्चात जीवन भर के लिए किसी के साथ बंधन में बंधना नहीं चाहती। 'भविष्य क्या होगा' इसकी उसे कोई चिंता नहीं। 'कील और कसक' कहानी की पात्र रानी, विवाह को जी का जंजाल समझती है-" सच पूछो तो जीजी, क्या रखा है ब्याह में भी? एक बंधन ही तो है, जी का जंजाल। बिना ब्याह के तो कैसे मस्ती रहती है, नहीं तो पचास झंझट।"6 वर्तमान युवा नारी के लिए रिश्ते-नाते बेमानी है। वह अपनी स्वतंत्रता में मदमस्त रहना चाहती है। पहले स्थिति यह थी कि स्त्री वैवाहिक जीवन में पूरी तरह से रच-बस जाती थी किंतु वर्तमान औद्योगिक विकास एवं यांत्रिक युग ने हमारे सामाजिक मूल्य में आमूल-चूल परिवर्तन किया है। मन्नू भंडारी की 'तीसरा हिस्सा' कहानी इन्हीं टूटे मूल्यों की गूंज है; जिसमें पिता-पुत्र, पति-पत्नी सब रिश्ते बिखर कर रह गए हैं। कहानी के पात्र शेरा बाबू अपने पुत्र सुधीर से रात को देर से लौटने पर जब पूछते हैं- "यह टाइम है घर लौटने का?-- वह उत्तर देता है -- टाइम। अरे घर लौटने के टाइम का नियम तो इमरजेंसी के दौरान भी नहीं बना था। जाइए, जाकर सो रहिए।"7 अपने बड़ों से इसतरह बदतमीजी से बात करना हमारे संस्कारों का हिस्सा नहीं रहा है किंतु वर्तमान अवस्था में बदतमीजी तो जैसे बच्चों का प्राथमिक गुण बनती जा रही है। आज स्त्री-पुरुष के स्वच्छंद वर्तन के कारण, प्राचीन जीवन मूल्य तार-तार हो गए हैं। 'ऊंचाई' नामक कहानी की पात्र शिवानी, एक पुरुष को पति के रूप में और दूसरे को प्रेमी के रूप में एक साथ स्वीकार करती है। अतः मुझे लगता है वर्तमान अवस्था में मूल्य विघटन का इससे अधिक अच्छा उदाहरण कोई हो ही नहीं सकता। आज विवाहित स्त्री- पुरुष के, विवाहेत्तर स्त्री-पुरुष से संबंधों में कोई अनैतिकता नहीं मानी जाती। 'यही सच है', 'आते जाते यायावर' आदि मन्नू जी की अनेक कहानियों में इसी तरह मूल्यों के चटखने की ध्वनि सुनाई देती है।

इतना ही नहीं वर्तमान स्त्री ने वैवाहिक बंधन को तो नकारा ही है किंतु जीवन की सबसे अनमोल धरोहर मातृत्व भाव से भी वह परे रहना चाहती है। इसी बात की अभिव्यक्ति मन्नू जी की 'जीती बाजी की हार' कहानी करती है-" सहारा उसे चाहिए जो अपने को अबला समझे। मैं सबला हूं, मुझे किसी का सहारा नहीं चाहिए। बच्चों को तो मैं अपने उन्नति का बाधक समझती हूं।"8 अर्थात जहां मातृत्व को एक ओर वरदान माना जाता रहा है, वहीं दूसरी ओर

डॉ ज्योति सी. भूतड़ा (मंत्री)

वर्तमान युवा, उसे अभिशाप के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। आज स्त्री- पुरुष दोनों भी शिक्षा एवं स्वतंत्रता का गलत उपयोग कर रहे हैं। आज युवा अपने जीवन में किसी की भी सलाह सुनना नहीं चाहते। अब पारिवारिक उत्तरदायित्व, नैतिकता, मूल्य, आदर्श, विश्वास आदि शब्द खोखले हो गए हैं। वर्तमान युवा, परिवार के बुजुर्गों की बातों को भी मानने से साफ इनकार करते हुए कहते हैं - " समझ में नहीं आता कि यह लोग दूसरों की जिंदगी में इतना दखल क्यों देते हैं ? अरे भाई, तुमको जैसे रहना हो, तुम रहो -- हम जैसे रह रहे हैं, हमें रहने दो -- हम कोई बच्चे हैं जो बात-बात में उपदेश पिलाते रहोगे।"9 यहां हम कह सकते हैं की वर्तमान अवस्था में मनुष्य पर स्वच्छंदता हावी हो गई है। वर्तमान बेकाबू युवा के लिए अब बड़ों की बातों का अर्थ अथवा मूल्य नहीं रहा, अतः वह उनकी उपेक्षा करता है। आज पारंपरिक मूल्यों के विघटन से भौतिकतावादी जीवन दृष्टि घोर व्यक्तिवादी दर्शन की ओर बढ़ रही है।

वर्तमान महंगाई एवं निश्चित आय ने मनुष्य की कमर तोड़ कर रख दी है, जो कि अब माता-पिता को साथ रखने की इजाजत भी नहीं देती। 'मजबूरी' कहानी की बूढ़ी मां, पुत्र, बहू, पोता रहते हुए भी, पुत्र एवं परिवार के शहर में अर्थोपार्जन के लिए जाने से अकेली रहने हेतु विवश हो जाती है। दादी, पोते के जन्म के बाद बहुत खुश होती है किंतु बूढ़ी दादी के लाड़-प्यार से पोता बिगड़ जाएगा इसलिए बहू उसे शहर ले जाना चाहती है और सांस से कहती है-"आपके इस जरूरत से ज्यादा प्यार ने हीं तो इसे बिगाड़ कर धूल कर दिया है। एक भी आदत तो इसमें अच्छी नहीं है। इसका भला चाहती है तो इसे मेरे साथ भेज दीजिए और इसके साथ दुश्मनी ही निभानी है तो रखिए इसे अपने पास।"10 बहू के इस दो टूक जवाब से दादी मन मसोस कर रह जाती है। दादी अपने पोते के साथ रहना, खेलना चाहती है किंतु यहां आर्थिक अभाव एवं पुरानी और नई विचारधारा का टकराव होता है। नई पीढ़ी, पुरातन संस्कार, प्रेम, आनंद, मूल्य आदि बच्चों को बिगाड़ने के संसाधन मानती है।

इसी तरह मन्नू जी की 'शायद' और 'सजा' कहानी मूल्य तथा आर्थिक अभाव में टूटते-बिखरते परिवार एवं उससे उपजे संत्रास, टूटन, घुटन और अकेलेपन का लेखा-जोखा है। 'एक कहानी यह भी' इस आत्मसंस्मरण में स्वयं मन्नू जी परिवार के इस टूटन को महसूस करते हुए लिखती है-" उस जमाने में घर की दीवारें घर तक ही समाप्त नहीं होती थी, बल्कि पूरे मोहल्ले तक फैली रहती थी, इसलिए किसी के घर जाने में कोई पाबंदी नहीं थी, बल्कि कुछ घर तो परिवार का हिस्सा ही थे। आज तो मुझे बड़ी शिद्दत के साथ यह महसूस होता है कि अपनी जिंदगी खुद जीने के इस आधुनिक दबाव ने महानगरों के फ्लैट में रहनेवालों को हमारे इस परंपरागत 'पड़ोस कल्चर' से विच्छिन्न करके हमें

डॉ ज्योति सी. भूतड़ा (मंत्री)

कितना संकुचित, असहाय और असुरक्षित बना दिया है।"11 वर्तमान शिक्षित पति-पत्नी अपने अहम् के चलते अपने परिवार को एक झटके में तोड़ आजीवन एकाकीपन झेल सकते हैं किंतु अपना अहम् नहीं छोड़ सकते। 'दरार भरने की दरार', 'बन्द दरवाजों का साथ', 'बिना दीवारों के घर' मन्नू जी की इसीतरह के समस्याओं को बिम्बित करती कहानियाँ है। 'बिना दीवारों के घर' में शोभा और अजीत मूल्य की सारी मर्यादाओं को पीछे छोड़ अपने अहम् के चलते अलग हो अपना बसा बसाया घर उजाड़ देते हैं। अतः मुझे लगता है, वर्तमान में पति-पत्नी या परिवार के पारस्परिक विश्वास, सौहार्द ने जैसे दम ही तोड़ दिया है।

वर्तमान प्रगतिशीलता के लिबास में भारतीय संस्कार, संस्कृति एवं मूल्यों को बुरी तरह रौंदा जा रहा है। अब समाज में नैतिकता, सतीत्व एवं पातिव्रत्य की मान्यताएं, धारणाएं खोखली हो गई है। पति-पत्नी मात्र आवश्यकता पूर्ति का माध्यम बनकर रह गए हैं। नैतिकता से संबंधित धारणाओं एवं यौन शुचिता को तिलांजलि देकर आधुनिक बोध से संपन्न वैचारिकता का ढोल पीटा जा रहा है -" दाम्पत्य जीवन संबंधी परंपरागत नैतिक मान्यताओं में परिवर्तन आ गया है। एकनिष्ठा की मांग अब अनुचित प्रतीत होती है। अब यह स्वीकार्य है कि पति और प्रेमी दो पृथक-पृथक व्यक्ति हो सकते हैं।"12 वर्तमान स्वच्छंदता के नग्न रूप ने दांपत्य जीवन की नींव हिलाकर रख दी है। जिस बात को हम पहले सोच भी नहीं सकते थे, उसे वर्तमान में कृतित्व में उतारा जा रहा है। इस तरह वर्तमान युग ने हमें तनाव, घुटन और कुंठा की सौगात प्रदान की है और मनुष्य लक्ष्यहीनता का शिकार बन गया है। आर्थिक संकट ने एकल परिवार की कमर तोड़ कर रख दी है। पति-पत्नी के रिश्ते में भी प्रेम, समर्पण, त्याग की भावना का स्थान कटूता ने ले लिया है। अर्थ के आगे मनुष्य संवेदन शून्य हो गया है। मेरे अनुसार वर्तमान महानगरीय जीवन एवं भागम-भाग की जिंदगी में यह वातावरण और अधिक कष्टदायक एवं मानसिक रूप से विकलांग करने वाला सिद्ध हो रहा है। 'बंद दरवाजों का साथ' की नायिका मंजरी तथा नायक विपिन का जीवन सुख में चलते हुए भी मात्र मेज की तीसरी दराज में ताला होने से; नायिका के संदेह की वजह से बिखर जाता है। नायिका दूसरा विवाह कर लेती है किंतु भूतपूर्व पति की यादें न छोड़ पाने की वजह से वह वर्तमान से भी नहीं जुड़ पाती और मात्र बिखर कर रह जाती है। इस कहानी की यथार्थता को आंकते हुए देवी शंकर अवस्थी लिखते हैं -" आज के तनाव को यह कहानी पूरी गहराई से आँकती है। मनुष्य न तो छुटी हुई ज़िंदगी को छोड़ पाता है और ना चुनी हुई ज़िंदगी को अपना सकता है। दोनों और खींचा जाकर वह क्षत-विक्षत हो जाता है।"13

सांप्रत मनुष्य के पास सब कुछ है किंतु नहीं है तो केवल मनःशांति, जिसके चलते वह भीड़ में भी अकेला है। उसके पास अब दुख-दर्द में सर टिकाने अथवा अश्रु बहाने किसी अपने का कंधा नहीं है। इसी अकेलेपन की पीड़ा को मन्नू जी ने अपनी 'एखाने आकाश नाई', 'शायद' एवं 'अकेली' कहानी के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत किया है। मन्नू जी के अनुसार वर्तमान आधुनिकता ने माता-पिता और बच्चों के रिश्तों में भी जहर घोल दिया है। इतना ही नहीं दांपत्य भी उनके लिए अब एक ऐसा रिश्ता बन गया है, जिसे ना चाहने पर वे लिबास की तरह उतारकर फेंक सके। शिक्षा एवं औद्योगीकरण के चलते इस समय परिवार के सदस्य, परिवार से अलग होकर बड़े-बड़े शहरों में अपनी शिक्षा पूर्ण कर, आजीविका के संसाधन प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। बच्चों के इस तरह घर से बाहर रहने से मूल्यों का उनसे कम ही परिचय होता है। आज का मानव समाज सापेक्ष न रहकर केवल आत्मकेंद्रित अर्थात् आत्मसापेक्ष हो गया है।

निष्कर्ष:

अंततः मैं यही कहना चाहूंगी कि सांप्रत समय में पाश्चात्य संस्कृति के अंधानुकरण की वजह से हमारी पारिवारिक एवं सामाजिक व्यवस्था ध्वस्त हो चुकी है। कपड़ों की तरह वर्तमान आधुनिक पीढ़ी रिश्ते बदलने लगी है। युवा के लिए वर्तमान अवस्था में विवाह भी धार्मिक संस्कार न रहकर एक समझौता मात्र रह गया है। वर्तमान मानव अहंकारी, स्वार्थी एवं संकुचित दृष्टिकोण के साथ भौतिकता की चकाचौंध में फंसा हुआ है। आज मनुष्य-मनुष्य के बीच का अपनापन, आदर, सद्भाव शिथिल हो गए हैं। मनुष्य के अहम् के कारण परिवार की आपसी बात आम होकर अदालत में भी जाने लगी है; जिससे रिश्ते लहू-लुहान हो गए हैं। परिवार विघटित हो गए हैं। पारंपरिक मूल्य एवं संस्कार आज इतिहास बनकर रह गए हैं। वर्तमान अवस्था में पुरातन मूल्यों को नए प्रतिमानों पर कसकर देखा जाने लगा है। मूल्यों से नैतिकता गायब हो गई है अथवा नैतिकता का पारंपरिक अर्थ नष्ट हो गया है। इन सभी की कसक, पीड़ा, मन्नू जी के साहित्य का प्रतिपाद्य है।

संदर्भ ग्रंथ सूची :

1. हिंदी उपन्यास में पारिवारिक संदर्भ- उषा मंत्री, नेशनल पब्लिशिंग हाउस, नई दिल्ली, पुस्तक परिचय से

2. संपूर्ण कहानियाँ (संग्रह), कमरे, कमरा और कमरे - कहानी - मन्नू भंडारी, राधाकृष्ण प्रकाशन प्रा लि, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 296

3. भगवतीचरण वर्मा के उपन्यासों में युग चेतना - डॉ बैजनाथ प्रसाद शुक्ल, प्रेम प्रकाशन मंदिर, दिल्ली, पृष्ठ क्र 67

4. संपूर्ण कहानियाँ (संग्रह), त्रिशंकु - कहानी - मन्नू भंडारी, राधाकृष्ण प्रकाशन प्रा लि, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 480

5. मैं हार गई (कहानी संग्रह), जीती बाजी की हार- कहानी - मन्नू भंडारी, अक्षर प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, पृ क्र 38

6. संपूर्ण कहानियाँ (संग्रह), कील और कसक-कहानी - मन्नू भंडारी, राधाकृष्ण प्रकाशन प्रा लि, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 95

7. त्रिशंकु (कहानी संग्रह), तीसरा हिस्सा-कहानी, राधाकृष्ण प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 94

8. मैं हार गई (कहानी संग्रह), जीती बाजी की हार- कहानी - मन्नू भंडारी, अक्षर प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, पृ क्र 39

9. हिंदी उपन्यास : सामाजिक परिवर्तन की प्रक्रिया और स्वरूप - प्रभा वर्मा, क्लासिकल पब्लिशिंग कंपनी, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 145

10. मेरी प्रिय कहानियां (कहानी संग्रह), मजबूरी-कहानी, राजपाल एण्ड सन्स, दिल्ली, पृ क्र 169

11. एक कहानी यह भी - मन्नू भंडारी, राधाकृष्ण प्रकाशन प्रा लि, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 19

12. हिंदी उपन्यास: सामाजिक परिवर्तन की प्रक्रिया और स्वरूप - प्रभा वर्मा, क्लासिकल पब्लिशिंग कंपनी, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 145

13. कथाकार मन्नू भंडारी - अनिता राजूरकर, नेशनल पब्लिशिंग हाउस, नई दिल्ली, पृ क्र 222

डॉ ज्योति सी. भूतड़ा (मंत्री)

ग्रामीण कवितांमधून प्रकट होणार 'आत्मभान व अस्मितादर्शन'

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नूतन कला महाविद्यालय राजापूर,

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सारांश:

समारोप १९८० नंतरची बहुजन समाजातून आलेली लेखकाची पिढी उदरनिर्वाहासाठी शहरात आलेली होती. परंतु तिची ओढ खेड्याकडेच कायम राहिली. शिक्षणामुळे जागी झालेली त्यांची अस्मिता; आलेले आत्मभान आत्मशोध घेऊ लागली. जीवनातील अनुभव घटनांकडे ते अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठतेने आणि गांभीर्याने पाहू लागले. याविषयी डॉ. सुधाकर शेलार म्हणतात, "१९६० नंतर उदयाला आलेले विविध वाडमयप्रवाह म्हणजे बहुजनांचा अविष्कार होता. या वाडमयप्रवाहाना जेव्हा प्रस्थापित साहित्य धारेकडून विरोध झाला तेव्हा या साहित्य प्रवाहांनी चळवळीचे स्वरूप धारण केले. संघटित होऊन स्वतःचे अस्तित्व व स्वतःची अस्मिता शोधण्याचा हा त्यांचा प्रयत्न होता.

आपल्या वाटा आता आपणच शोधल्या पाहिजेत या जाणिवेतून बहुजनांचे वेगवेगळे गट स्वातंत्र्य उत्तर कालखंडात कार्यरत झाले. त्यातून विविध सामाजिक चळवळींना प्रारंभ झाला. या सामाजिक चळवळींच्या सांस्कृतिक आघाड्या म्हणून मग वाडमयीन चळवळी सुरू झाल्या."५

१९६० नंतर उदयाला आलेल्या या विविध वाडमयप्रवाहातील या साहित्यीकाना सतत निर्माण होणारी दुष्काळी स्थिती आणि स्वातंत्र्य उत्तर कालखंडानंतर खेड्यांची होणारी दुर्दशा व्यथित करणारी ठरली. महाराष्ट्र राज्याच्या निर्मितीनंतरही महाराष्ट्रातील खेड्यांची अवस्था अधिकच दयनीय होत आहे, हे पाहून आत्मभान आलेल्या, अस्मिता जागी झालेल्या लेखकांची पिढी आत्मशोध घेताना दिसून येते. १९८० च्या नंतरच्या साहित्यात हे पडसाद अधिक तीव्रतेने उमटलेले दिसून येतात.

कवी ना.धो. महानोर यांच्या सुरुवातीच्या काव्यसंग्रहातून याचे पडसाद त्रोटकपणे दिसून येतात. 'प्रार्थना दयाघना', 'पावसाळी कविता', 'पानझड' मधून हे पडसाद तीव्रतेने उमटलेले दिसून येतात. तर 'गाथा शिवरायाची' मधून आदर्श राज्यकर्त्यांचे उत्तम उदाहरण आजच्या राज्यकर्त्यांना ते देऊ इच्छितात असे दिसून येते.

कवी विठ्ठल वाघांची कविता आपल्या जाग्या झालेल्या आत्मभानातून कास्तकार वर्गाचे प्रतिनिधित्व करताना दिसते. स्वातंत्र्यानंतरही शेतकऱ्यांची शेती आणि कष्ट ही कझ्झी बाजारपेठच कशी राहिली हे पटवून देते. 'भारत हा कृषिप्रधान देश आहे' हे आता फक्त नावापुरतेच उरले आहे, हे सत्य ज्यांची कविता सांगते, व्यवस्थित कडे न्यायाची मागणी करते.

स्वातंत्र्याने ग्रामाला काय दिले? याचा शोध घेणारी इंद्रजीत भालेराव यांची कविता आहे. पोटातून येणारी ही कविता शेतकऱ्याच्या पोटातली आग ओकणारी आहे.कवी महानोरं यांच्याप्रमाणे ग्रामीण स्त्री - जीवनाचा वेध घेताना पुरुषांपेक्षा सगळ्याच गोष्टीत काकणभर सरस ठरणाऱ्या स्त्रीच्या जीवनातील दुःखाची किनार स्पष्ट करते. शेतकऱ्याला आत्महत्येपर्यंत पोहोचविणाऱ्या त्याच्या जीवनातील ठसठसणाऱ्या दुःखाची वेदना तीव्र शब्दात व्यक्त करते.

कवी नारायण सुमंत यांची कविता शेतकऱ्यांच्या या स्थितीस जबाबदार असणाऱ्या आणि व्यवस्थेने निर्माण केलेल्या शोषक कारणांचा वेध घेत ही व्यवस्थाच शेतकऱ्याच्या आत्महतेस कशी कारणीभूत आहे हे दाखवून देते. 'वृक्षवेद' मधून माणसातील हरवलेल्या माणूसपणाचा शोध घेण्याचा कवी प्रयत्न करतो. वृक्षाचे गुणधर्म माणसांच्या अंगी यावेत अशी अपेक्षा ठेवतो.

कवी श्रीकांत देशमुख कुणब्याच्या जीवनातील वर्तमान वास्तवाचा वेध घेणारे कवी आहेत; त्याच्या जीवनातील श्रद्धेची पाळेमुळे शोधण्याचा कवी प्रयत्न करतो. कुणब्याची अध्यात्मिक लोकशाही त्याला बळ, ऊर्जा देणारी का आणि कशी ठरल, याचा कवी शोध घेतो; तर गांधीजी आणि यशवंतराव यांच्या भारतातील ग्रामजीवनाच्या सुख स्वप्रांच्या आजच्या लोकशाहीने कसा धुव्वा उडवला हे कवी दाखवून देतो.

कवी प्रकाश होळकर नैसर्गिक कोरडेपणापेक्षा मानवी मनातील संपुष्टात आलेल्या ओलाव्याने निर्माण झालेल्या कोरडेपणाने अधिक अस्वस्थ होतात. मानवी मनातील जिव्हाळ्याची संपुष्ट आलेली भावना कवीला अस्वस्थ करते. त्याला कारणीभूत असणारी व्यवस्था कवीच्या मनात चिड निर्माण करते.

१९६० नंतर निर्माण झालेल्या स्वतंत्र्य महाराष्ट्राच्या अस्मितेने ग्रामाच्या बदलत्या अस्मितेला काय दिले? याचा शोध घेताना जागे होणारे कवीचे आत्मभान तीव्रतेने नाराजी व्यक्त करताना दिसते. १९८० नंतरच्या कवितेत याचे पडसाद तीव्रतेने उमटताना दिसतात. कुणब्याच्या या स्थितीत जबाबदार असणाऱ्या व्यवस्थेकडे कवी न्यायाची मागणी करताना दिसतात. तर

वर्तमान वस्तव स्थितीला हतबल झालेल्या कुणबी झालेला कुणबी पुन्हा पारंपारिक श्रद्धेतून प्राप्त परिस्थितीशी सामना करण्यासाठी लागणारी ऊर्जा मिळवताना दिसतो. औद्योगिकीकरणाच्या मागे धावणारे या कृषी प्रधान देशाचा इतिहास कुणब्यांच्या रक्ताने माखलेला नसावा. हा देश कृषी प्रधानच राहावा हा ठेवा जपण्याचा या व्यवस्थेने प्रयत्न करावा अशी या कवीची इच्छा दिसून येते.

मुख्य शब्द : आत्मभान व अस्मितादर्शन, देशाचा इतिहास, ग्रामीण साहित्य

प्रास्ताविक:

कविता म्हणजे व्यक्तीची खाजगी स्वरूपाची निर्मिती असली तरी ती एक सामाजिक दस्तऐवज म्हणूनही अभ्यासता येते. कवीचा अनुभव किंवा त्यांचे हेतू यांना महत्त्व असते त्या काळात कवीने घेतलेला आत्म शोध महत्त्वाचा आहे डॉ.रवींद्र ठाकूर म्हणतात, "जीवनशोध आणि आत्मशोध हे साहित्य निर्मितीचे मूलभूत प्रेरणास्त्रोत आहेत. जीवन विशाल आहे तसेच मानवी मन हेही अथांग आहे. त्यामुळे कितीही साहित्य लिहिले गेले तरी लेखकांना विषयाची वानवा कधीच पडत नाही; परंतु साहित्य निर्मितीसाठी एवढेच पुरेसे नसते. जीवन शोध आणि आत्मशोध मागील लेखकाची भूमिका कोणती आहे, म्हणजेच कोणत्या जीवन जाणिवेतून किंवा भूमिकेतून तो जीवन शोध घेतो आहे. हेही तेवढेच महत्त्वाचे असते."१ साहित्य निर्मिती मागील लेखकाची भूमिका आत्मशोधातून कळू शकेल. तसेच लेखकाला आलेले आत्मभान या बाबत कैलास सार्वेकर म्हणतात. "नव्वदनंतर चा कवी स्वतः 'मी' चे अनुभव कवितेतून मांडू लागला. तो स्वतः कष्टकरी सामान्य शेतकऱ्याचा मजुराचा मुलगा, खेड्यातले जीवन त्याने जन्मापासूनच अनुभवलेले त्यानंतरचे त्याचे वास्तवही खेड्यातच गेलेले. काहीं ना काही नोकरी व्यवसाय मिळाला नाही. असे नाही; पण त्यांची नाळ मात्र आपल्या माय मातीशी खेड्याशी कायम राहिली. सर्वात महत्त्वाचे म्हणजे आत्मभान आल्याने तो स्वभावतालच्या घटनांकडे अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठ गांभीर्याने पाहू लागला. प्रस्थापित प्रवाहाचा पगडा झुगारल्याने स्वतःच्या पद्धतीने तो कवितेच्या रूपाने आपले अनुभव विश्व मांडू लागला. 'मी' चे अनुभव आल्याने कवितेत येणाऱ्या उपऱ्या बाबी आपोआप गळून पडल्या. कवीने स्वतः अनुभवलेले उस्फूर्त अस्सल ग्रामजीवन घेऊन ही कविता अवतरली."२

१९८०नंतरची लेखकांची पिढी बहुजन समाजातून आलेली होती.त्यांची ओढ शहरात राहूनही खेड्याकडेच राहिली; पण आत्मभान आल्याने तो सर्व अनुभवांकडे,घटनांकडे अधिक वस्तुनिष्ठतेने,गांभियनि पाहू लागला; कारण त्याची अस्मिता जागी झाली होती. याविषयी आनंद यादव म्हणतात, "देशाला स्वातंत्र मिळून गेले होते . बहुजन समाजाची अस्मिता जागी होत होती. आजवर 'आपले जिणे लाजिरवाणे' ही जी बहुजन समाजाची भावना होती,ती कमी कमी होत लोप पावली. जगण्याच्या हक्काची अस्मिता जागी झाली. लोकशाहीने दिलेले अधिकार या जागृतीला कारणीभूत झाले.नवे शिक्षण,नवे हक्क, नव्या सुख सोयी, नवे नवे कायदे, नवी अधिकार क्षेत्रे उपलब्ध

डॉ. हांडे मंगल नामदेव

झाली. त्यामुळे दारिद्र्यात जगणे, अज्ञानात खीतपत पडणे, मागासलेले राहणे, परिस्थितीशी झगडत असता आलेले अनुभव इत्यादी सर्वांना नव्याने वाचा फुटली. समाजातील अनेक थरात हे घडून आले. दुसऱ्या बाजूने साहित्यात अनुभवनिष्ठा, आत्मनिष्ठ, कालनिष्ठा यांना विशेष स्थान प्राप्त झाले होते. त्याचाही वेडा वाकडा परिणाम झाला. आणि बहुजन समाजातून प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव असलेले अनेक ग्रामीण लेखक जाणता अजाणता निर्माण झाले"३.

आत्मभान आलेल्या लेखकाचे अस्मिता जागी झाली होती. लोकशाहीने दिलेले अधिकार यामुळे अधिक जागरूकता आलेली दिसून येते. म्हणूनच १९८० नंतरच्या कवितेतून आत्मभान, अस्मितादर्शन किती प्रमाणात दिसून येते याचा शोध इथे घ्यावयाचा आहे.

कवी ना.धों.महानोर यांच्या काव्यातून प्रकट होणारे 'आत्मभान अस्मितादर्शन'-

कवी ना. धों. महानोर यांच्या पहिल्या पर्वातील कवितांमधून रान, निसर्ग यांच्याशी एकरूप झालेले महानोर दिसून येतात. 'रानातल्या कविता' मधील 'नांगरून पडलेली जमीन' यातून काहीसे अस्मिता दर्शन घडून येते. पुन्हा महानोर निसर्गात हरवलेले दिसतात. 'पावसाळी कविता' रोहिणी नक्षत्रातले/ओथंबलेले आभाळ ही कविता कवीला आलेले आत्मभान आणि त्याची जागी झालेली अस्मिता यांचे दर्शन घडविते. त्यातून कवीने घेतलेला आत्मशोध प्रकट करते.

"इतक्या स्वच्छ निसर्गात इतकी बरबटलेली माणसे"
"किळस यावी इतके सगळेच नीतीचे व्यवहार"(पावसाळी कविता पृ.४६)

या संग्रहातील 'हा गोंधळ, हे गडबड, गुदमरलेलं नवं गाव' ही कविता ही कवीच्या जाग्या झालेल्या असमितेचे, आत्मभाना चे दर्शन घडविते. 'प्रार्थना दयाघना' मधील सर्वच कवितांमधून कवीची जागी झालेली अस्मिता, आत्मभान आणि त्यातून कवीने घेतलेला जीवनशोध दिसून येतो.

"वण वण भटकताना | नवा कोंभ रुजवताना
चिनगारीसारखा | पेटलेला कास्तकार
खेड्यातल्या रानावनात | अभिमान जपताना"(प्रार्थना दयाघना –पृ.११)

स्वातंत्र्याची सगळी फळ शहराला चाखायला मिळाली.

खेड्याच्या वाट्याला परिधानतच आली असे कवीला वाटते. दुष्काळी परिस्थितीतही हे राज्यकर्ते खेड्याकडे लक्ष देत नाहीत. म्हणून कवी सार्वभौम शक्तिमान आभाळाची प्रार्थना करू लागतो.

'पंचनामा' मधील 'आता मी कोणाचीच गय करणार नाही| त्याशिवाय हे राज्य चालणार नाही' असं म्हणणाऱ्या साहेबाला कवी सांगू इच्छितो

"हे राज्य खरे तर गरीब दुबळ्यांचे| तळागाळातल्या
झोपडीतल्या माणसांचे| हे राज्य खरे ज्यांचे
त्यांनाच इथे नीट जगता येत नाही| हे राज्य कोणा एका
धर्माचे नाही|
हे राज्य खरे तर| रयतेचे (प्रार्थना दयाघना –पृ.४२)

कवीचा लोकशाहीवर विश्वास आहे. माणसातील माणूसपण शिल्लक असणाऱ्या माणसांना चांगले काम करण्याची शक्ती मिळावी म्हणून कवी प्रार्थना करतो.

'पानझड' मध्ये कवीचे जीवन शोध घेणारे मन पालखीच्या अभंगातून दिसून येते.

"कोरड्या शेतीची| पंढरीची वाट
तुझा भीमा काठ | कारुण्याचा
ओस झाला सारा | चिमणासंसार
डोळ्यात अंधार | पांडुरंगा || (पानझड – पृ.५८)

कवी पांडुरंगाची प्रार्थना करतो. या गोरगरिबांच्या उद्धारासाठी पुन्हा जन्म घेण्याची विनंती करतो.या गोरगरिबांच्या उद्धारासाठी पुन्हा जन्म घेण्याची विनंती करतो. कवीची विठ्ठलाबरोबरच जीवनावरील श्रद्धाही प्रकट होते.

कवीची जागृत झालेली अस्मिता 'तिची कहाणी' मध्ये ग्रामीण स्त्री च्या वाटेला आलेल्या दुःखभुगाचे वर्णन करते. ग्रामीण स्त्रीच्या वाट्याला सर्वात जास्त दुखते ते कधी वांझपणाचे तर कधी वंशाला दिवा नाही म्हणून.दारू प्यायला पैसे नाहीत म्हणून बायकोला मारणारा नवरा,तर कधी ऐन तारुण्यात तिच्या वाट्याला वैधव्य येत.

" सुंदर हिरव्याशा पंचविशीत
विषयाचं कालवण झालं
कुठल्या जन्माच्या पापान नशिबी वैधव्य आलं."
(तिची कहाणी पृ.-२८)

'गाथा शिवरायांची' मधून कवीची जागरूक झालेली अस्मिता आणि आत्मभान एकेकाळी रयतेच राज्य चालविणाऱ्या छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराजांच्या सामाजिक कार्यातील बारकावे शोधत, राजाला आजच्या सामाजिक, राजकीय परिस्थितीशी तुलना करत गौरवत जात. याच महाराष्ट्राच्या इतिहासाची जिवंत गाथा पुन्हा जिवंत व्हावी; पुन्हा रयतेचे राज्य व्हावं अशी अपेक्षा करणार कवीमन शिवरायांच्या गाथेतून व्यक्त होताना दिसत. म्हणून कवी म्हणतो -

'इतिहास तुझा मरगळल्या मातीचा
प्रेरणा महाराष्ट्राला ||"(गाठ शिवरायांची-पृ.४५)

महानोरांच्या काव्याच्या पहिल्या पर्वात आत्मभान, अस्मितादर्शन घडविणाऱ्या कविता फारशा दिसत नाहीत. "पावसाळी कविता" पासून पुढे मात्र कवीची जागरूक झालेली अस्मिता, आलेले आत्मभान दिसून येते. 'पावसाळी कवितांमधील काही कवितांमधून कवीच्या

बदललेल्या मनस्थितीचा प्रत्यय येतो. 'प्रार्थना दयाघना' मध्ये याची तीव्रता अधिक जाणवते. 'पानझड' मधील अभंगातून कवी आत्मशोध घेताना दिसून येतो. तर महानोर यांची अस्मिता, जागृत झालेली मन 'तिची कहाणी' मधून ग्रामीण स्त्रीच्या दुःखाचा वेध घेते. शिवरायांच्या गाथेमधून महाराष्ट्राच्या राज्यकर्त्यांना प्रेरणा मिळण्याची अपेक्षा ठेवते.

कवी विठ्ठल वाघ यांच्या कवितेतून प्रकट होणारे 'आत्मभान व अस्मितादर्शन' –

विठ्ठल वाघ हे कास्तकार वर्गाचे खरे खुरे प्रतिनिधी असल्याचे त्यांच्या कवितेतून जाणवते. दुष्काळ आणि साहेबराव पाटील यांची आत्महत्या या गोष्टीमुळे कवीची अस्मिता जागी झालेली दिसून येते आत्मभान आलेला कवी जीवन शोध घेऊ लागतो. दुष्काळाने शेतकऱ्याला जगणे नकोसे केले आहे; पण त्याहीपेक्षा राजकीय आणि सामाजिक व्यवस्थेने जगणे नकोसे केले आहे. म्हणूनच कवी म्हणतो -

"खरं म्हणजे साहेबराव तुया आत्महत्या केलीच नाही
आमीच तुहा खून केला.... तूहा अन तुझ्या
बायकोपोराईचाही" (काया मातीत- पृ.३६)

अनेकांनी शेतकऱ्यांच्या चळवळी उभारल्या पण बहुतेकांनी या सामाजिक कार्याचे मूल देऊन सत्तेत सहभाग मिळवला. त्यामुळे शेतकऱ्याच्या नशिबी बेरजे ऐवजी सगळ्या वजाबाकीच आल्या. स्वतंत्र्यापूर्वीही आणि स्वतंत्र्यानंतरही शेतकऱ्यांची शेती आणि त्याचे कष्ट ही कच्ची बाजारपेठच राहिली. विकासाच्या नावाखाली स्वातंत्र्याची फळे औद्योगीकरणानेच चाखली. कृषिप्रधान देश नावापुरताच उरला आहे. हे सत्य विठ्ठल वाघांची कविता सांगते. शेतकऱ्यांना कृषि मूल्यांसाठी संघर्ष करण्यास प्रवृत्त करणारी अशी ही कविता आहे. 'कपाशीची चंद्र फुले' मधूनही रास्त भाव मिळत नाही. म्हणून कापूस जाळणारा शेतकरी, कपाशीसाठी रात्रंदिन खपणाऱ्या माऊलीचीच उघडी राहणारी मांडी या गोष्टी कवीची अस्मिता, आत्मभान जागृत झाल्याच्या निदर्शक आहेत. या जीवनानुभवातूनच 'कपाशीची चंद्रफुले' लिहिण्याची प्रेरणा कवीला मिळाली असावी. 'वृषभसुक्त' मधील आयुष्यभर शेतकऱ्याची सेवा करणारा आनंद देणारा बैल काम करेनासा झाल्यावर डंगरा बैल म्हणून त्याला बाजारात नेणाऱ्या शेतकऱ्या विषयी कवीला चीड निर्माण होते पाऊस पाणी आणि 'वृषभसुक्त' आत्मशोध घेणारे काव्यसंग्रह आहेत. पावसाचे गुणधर्म,बैलाचे गुणधर्म माणसात यावे असे कवीला वाटते. तरच शेतकऱ्याचे जीवन सुखी होईल.

कवी इंद्रजीत भालेराव यांच्या काव्यातून प्रकट होणारे 'आत्मभान व अस्मितादर्शन' –

इंद्रजीत भालेरावांच्या कवितेतून कवी ची अस्मिता जागृत होऊन आत्मभान आल्याने पहिल्या 'पीकपाणी' काव्यसंग्रहात दिसून येत.त्यातूनच कवी आत्मशोध घेऊ लागतो.शेतकरी म्हणून व्यवस्थेने ग्रामला स्वातंत्र्यानंतर काय दिले याचा शोध घेऊ लागतो.त्यातून कविता अंकुरत जाते असे दिसून येते. पहिल्याच कवितेत कवी त्याचा उल्लेख करतो.

डॉ. हांडे मंगल नामदेव

"खारी-आंबट-तुरट
माझ्या कवितेची चव
उर फोडूनिया माझा
तिन पोटातून याव" (पीकपाणी-पृ. ९)

कवीच्या पोटातून येणारी ही कविता पोटातील आग दाखविणारी आहे. मनातील सल दाखविणारी आहे. गोऱ्या कुंभाराप्रमाणे मुलांचं प्रेत ओलांडून आधी शेत रुजविणाऱ्या बापाचा ही व्यवस्था बळी घेते. त्यामुळे मातीचा हा वसा प्रामाणिकपणे कसा पाळायचा असा प्रश्न कवीला पडतो 'दूर राहिला गाव' मधील कवी गाव सोडून आलेला आहे; पण मातीची ओढ, शेतकऱ्याची अवस्था त्याला स्वस्त बसू देत नाही. त्यातूनच या काव्याची निर्मिती झालेली दिसून येते या दुःखाचा निर्माता देव नाही हे कुणब्याला माहीत आहे. म्हणून तो पांडुरंगाला शरण जातो कारण त्याने दुभंगून न जाता अभंग व्हावे असे कवीला वाटते.

'आम्ही कबाडाचे धनी' या दीर्घकाव्यात कवीला आलेले भान व जागी झालेली अस्मिता अतुलनीय आहे. हरी नरके यांनी याविषयी म्हटले आहे. "१८८२ साली आमचा एक बाप 'शेतकऱ्याच्या आसूड' हेच गदगदला होता. हे शब्द कोणा एकाचे कसे राहणार ? ते इंद्रजीतच्या लेखणीतून आले असले तरी त्याचं नातं किती सर्वदूर! सर्वेसर्वी! डोळे झड लावणार!

'कोण राबतो शेतात
कोण करतया राज

हे शब्द आमच्या काळजाचा आक्रोश होऊन येतात. मराठी कवितेला नवीन ओळख देणारे हे शब्द आहेत. 'आलो कुणब्याच्या पोटी' तुकाराम, कबीर यांच्या धाग्याचं एक टोक धरून नेमकेपणाने पुढे जाऊ शकणारे तुझे सामर्थ्य त्यांचा धागा ओळखू शकणं आणि तोच नेमका पकडणे एवढेच नाही, त्यालाही एक युगधार देण्याचं तुझं बळ मला फार फार मोठे वाटतं.

"माझ्या बाळाचा मातर
तुवा गिळलास घास"

व्यक्तिशः माझ्या ताज्या जखमेची खपली काढून जाणार, जिव्हारी घाव घालणार, हृदय पिळवटून टाकणार हे भावकाव्य, दीर्घकाळ खूप खूप देऊन गेलं. आपलेपणाची ओल. हरवलेले दिवस. जगणं समृद्ध करून गेलं."४ कवीला यात आलेले आत्मभान ज्योतिबाचा असूड उभारण्याची पातळी गाठताना दिसते.

महानोरांप्रमाणेच इंद्रजीत भालेराव यांची जागी अस्मिता आत्मभान ग्रामीण स्त्रीच्या दुःखाचा वेध घेताना दिसते. परंतु महानोरांच्या 'तिची कहाणी' प्रमाणे ही स्त्री फक्त सोशिक मायाळू, पण तरीही स्वतःचं अस्तित्व निर्माण करणारी आहे. आत्महत्या करणाऱ्या बापाला बळ देणारी, त्याच्या पश्चात त्याचा संसार सांभाळणारी. बापाच्या बरोबरीने खस्ता खाऊनही त्याच्यापेक्षा कांकणभर सरस

डॉ. हांडे मंगल नामदेव

ठरणारी आहे. थोडक्यात पुरुषापेक्षा काकणभर सगळ्याच गोष्टीत सरस ठरणारी ग्रामीण स्त्री 'कुळबीणीची कहाणी' मध्ये दिसून येते.

'पेरा' हा इंद्रजीत भालेराव यांचं पारंपारिक सांस्कृतिक रूढी परंपरा, रितीरिवाज यांचा बदलत्या दृष्टिकोनातून आत्मशोध घेणारा काव्यसंग्रह आहे. उदाहरणार्थ

"अरे आपलं बालपण काय बालपण होतं ?
ते तर मुलखाचं बकाल पण होतं
पण बाप सांगायचा गोष्टी माय म्हणायची गाणी
मग भूक भागायला पर पुरायचं फक्त काळ पाणी"(पेरा पृ.१)

काढलेली नख चिमण्यांनी खाल्ली तर आतडी फाटतील. चिमण्यांच्या आतड्याची काळजी करणाऱ्या बापाच्या आतड्याची काळजी या स्वातंत्र्योत्तर व्यवस्थेने का केली नाही? हा प्रश्न कवीला पडतो. या व्यवस्थेत कर्ज बुडवणारे अनेक आहेत. मग कुणबीच असा का? या प्रश्नातच 'टाहो' ची बीजे सापडतात. 'टाहो' मध्ये कवीची जागी झालेली अस्मिता, आत्मभान विकोपाला गेलेले दिसते. शेतकऱ्यांच्या आत्महत्या या आत्महत्या नाहीत तर व्यवस्थेने घेतलेले बळी आहेत. त्यामुळे विठ्ठल वाघ यांच्या कवितेप्रमाणे इंग्रजीत भालेराव यांची कविताही हेच सांगते की, 'तुझा खून आम्ही केलाय'; या व्यवस्थेचं हात तुझ्या खुनाने बरबटलेले आहे. या आजच्या वामनाना गाडल पाहिजे.म्हणजे ते आपल्या विषयी विधायक विचार करतील,असे कवीला वाटते. परंतु अश्या कु बोद्धीने वागणे कुणब्याच्या स्वभावात नाही.म्हणून हे वर्तमान वास्तव बदलण्य साठी कवी श्रद्धे कडे वळतो.

"रानमाळातल्या देवा| ऐक लेकरांचा धावा|
दुष्ट दुर्जनांचा कावा| नष्ट हो ओ"| (टाहो पृ.८८)

अशा अभंगातून जगण्यासाठी चांगले दिवस येईपर्यंत टिकून राहण्यासाठी बळ मागतो.

आत्मभान जागृत झालेली इंग्रजीत भालेराव यांची कविता 'पीक पाणी' पासूनच आत्मशोध घेण्यास सुरुवात करते. या व्यवस्थेने स्वातंत्र्यानंतर ग्रामाला काय दिले? याचा शोध कवी घेऊ लागतो. मुलांचं प्रेत ओलांडून शेत रुजवणाऱ्या बापाचा व्यवस्था बळी घेते. 'दूर राहिला गाव' मधील कवी अस्वस्थ आहे. 'आम्ही कबाडाचे धनी' मधील कवीला आलेले आत्मभान ज्योतिबाचा असूड उभारण्याची पातळी गाठताना दिसते. मनोहरांच्या काव्याप्रमाणे ग्रामीण स्त्रीच्या दुःखाचा वेध घेण्याचा प्रयत्न इंद्रजीत भालेरावांनी केला आहे. त्यांच्या काव्यातील ग्रामीण स्त्री सोशिक, कष्टाळू, मायाळू, याबरोबरच कणखर पुरुषांपेक्षा सगळ्याच गोष्टीत कांकणभर सरस ठरलेली दिसून येते. 'पेरा' मधील कवीच्या आत्मशोधातच 'टाहो'ची बीजे सापडतात. 'टाहो'मध्ये कवीचे अस्मिता विकोपाला गेलेली दिसते. शेवटी कवी हे वर्तमान वास्तव बदलावे म्हणून श्रद्धे कडे वळतो चांगले दिवस येईपर्यंत टिकून राहण्यासाठी बळ मागतो.

कवी नारायण सुमंत यांच्या काव्यातून प्रकट होणारे 'आत्मभान, अस्मितादर्शन' –

नारायण सुमंत यांच्या पहिल्या 'रानभैरी' या काव्यसंग्रहातून आत्मभान प्रकट करणाऱ्या कवितांची संख्या त्रोटक स्वरूपात दिसून येते. 'माढा एक संदर्भ' यात दुष्काळातील दुःखात वर्णन करणारा बाप तीव्र संवेदनशील व कर्तव्यनिष्ठ तरीही दुष्काळाचा बळी ठरलेला दिसून येतो. कवीची जागरूक झालेली अस्मिता त्यातून आलेले आत्मभान यातून 'सातबारा' काव्यसंग्रह साकार झालेला दिसतो. 'सातबारा' मध्ये कवी कुण्याच्या आत्महत्ये मागील आजच्या बदलत्या ग्रामातील बारीक-सारी कारणे शोधताना दिसतो. या कारणांमधून शेतकऱ्यांच्या आत्महत्येला ही व्यवस्थाच जबाबदार असल्याचे दाखवून देतो.

त्यात एन.ए.आणेवारी, ग्रीनहाऊस, डोंगर सपाट करून पिकासाठी जमीन तयार करणारे, दोन नंबरच्या पैशावाले, उपग्रह वाले, राजकीय चिन्हांकित, याबरोबरच शहरात राहून काल्पनिक ग्रामाचे चित्र रंगविणाऱ्या कवी नाही कवी सोडत नाही. बापूजींच्या बकरी प्रमाणे चरणारे पुढारी, कागदी घोडे नाचविणाऱ्या सामाजिक व राजकीय संस्था या सर्वांवर तो ताशेरे ओढतो शेतकऱ्याच्या सहनशीलतेचा अंत पाहणाऱ्या संसदेवर तो उद्या जोडा भिरकवायलाही कमी करणार नाही, असा इशारा कवी देतो. कवी ज्योतिबाचा आसूड अशा वामनांच्या पायावर ओढण्याचा सल्ला देतो शेतकऱ्यांच्या दुर्दशेची कारणे सांगून त्यावरचे उपायही सांगत जातो. कुणब्याची गाथाच त्यातून स्पष्ट होते. शेवटच्या कवितेत कवी म्हणतो-

"अक्षरांचं त्रिपुर चांदणं माथ्यावर
कुऱ्याचे बेसूर रडणे शाळेच्या कट्ट्यावर
गाव वाट पाहतोय उजाडण्याची
भाकरीचा सूर्य उगवण्याची" (सातबारा –पृ.४८)

असे सातबाराच्या कंसातले शेतकऱ्याचे जगणे कवी स्पष्ट करतो. 'नारायण पासष्टी' मधील 'मी' ही आत्मशोध घेणारी कविता आहे. असा 'मी' जेव्हा जेव्हा माझ्या झंकारतो तेव्हा विश्व थिटे वाटते. 'मी' ने पुन्हा एकदा झंकार ने गरजेचे आहे, असे कवीला वाटते 'नारायण पासष्टी' मधूनही कवी शेतकऱ्यांच्या आत्महत्ये मागील कारणांचा शोध घेतो. कुणब्याच्या मृत्यूच्या वेदनेस सर्जनांचे रूप मिळू दे!' अशी इच्छा प्रकट करतो. 'वृक्षवेद' म्हणूनही कवी व्यवस्थेवर टीका करीत जीवनभाष्य करताना दिसतो. कवी म्हणतो -

"झाडे शोधित नाहीत झाडपण
कुराणात, बायबलात किंवा गीतेत"(वृक्षवेद-मलपृष्ठ)
मग माणसालाच का शोधावे लागते माणूसपण कुराणात,
बायबलात.

कवी नारायण सुमंत यांची जागी झालेली अस्मिता, आत्मभान, यातून आत्मशोध घेणाऱ्या त्रोटक कविता 'रानभैरी' मध्ये दिसून येतात. 'सातबारा' मध्ये मात्र कुणब्याच्या घडून येणाऱ्या आत्महत्येस व्यवस्थाच कशी जबाबदार आहे हे कवी संवेदनशीलतेने कवी दाखवून देतो.

डॉ. हांडे मंगल नामदेव

नारायण पासष्टी मध्ये ही कवी शेतकऱ्यांच्या आत्महत्ये मागील कारणांचा शोध घेतो. कुणब्याच्या मृत्यूला तरी सर्जनांचे रूप मिळून दे! म्हणून इच्छा प्रकट करतो. 'वृक्षवेद' मधून माणूसपणाच्या भावनेचा शोध घेण्याचा प्रयत्न करतो.

कवी श्रीकांत देशमुख यांच्या कवितेतून प्रकट होणारे 'आत्मभान, अस्मिता दर्शन' :-

श्रीकांत देशमुख यांच्या कवितेत खेड्याला एक वेगळे स्थान आहे. स्वातंत्र्य उत्तर कालखंडातील खेड्याची झालेली दुरवस्था; होत असलेले शोषण आणि त्यात होरपळणारा कुणबी या गोष्टींकडे पाहताना कवीची जागी झालेली अस्मिता, आत्मभान यामुळे कवी जागरूकतेने त्याकडे पाहतो. आत्मशोध घेऊ लागतो. त्याच्या कवितेतील बाप हा आपल्या शेतावर, कष्टावर निष्ठा असणारा साधा शेतकरी आहे. मातीशी त्याचे नाते मरणोत्तर असल्याचे कवी सांगतो मरणानंतरही तो पाखरू बनून तिथेच बसणार आहे. समाजाभिमुख असणारी त्यांची कविता ग्रामीण जीवनाचे विटत चाललेले रंग दाखवते. या कृषीप्रधान देशाला कृषी आणि कृषक यांची किंमत उरलेली नाही औद्योगिकरणाच्या नावाखाली ही व्यवस्था सर्वच कष्टकरी जनतेची पिळवणूक करू लागली आहे. या मिरवणुकीत पिसला जाणारा कुणबी आषाढ मातीत श्रद्धेकडे वळलेला दिसून येतो. कवीच्या दृष्टिकोनातून तो श्रद्धेच्या आहारी गेलेला आहे.

जागतिकीकरणाच्या वादळात सापडलेले खेडे आणि कुणबी उद्ध्वस्तेच्या गर्तेत अडकले जातात. अशावेळी मानसिक बळ शोधण्यासाठी तो पंढरपूरच्या वाटेकडे वळतो. श्रद्धाही त्याची शक्ती आहे. त्याचीही श्रद्धा अधिक डोळस असावी असे कवीला वाटते. म्हणून कवी म्हणतो.

"तुका थेट आकाशात आकाशाएवढा
हे तसं ना काही खरं नसतं
तुकारामाची असते झालेली माती
यासाठी गाथा तरली का बुडाली
हे सार भाकड" (आषाढमाती –पृ.१८)

'या जगात विठ्ठल चराचरात भरला आहे'. संतांची या वचनाप्रमाणे कवीने कुणब्याला; त्याच्या कामाला; शेताला विठ्ठलाचे रूप दिले आहे. कवीला चकित करते ती आठरा पगड जाती धर्माची रांग, सामाजिक एकतेचा एकात्मतेचा संदेश देणारी ही रांग अध्यात्मिक लोकशाहीचे प्रतिक बनून जाते. या वर्तमान वास्तवात अध्यात्मिक लोकशाहीची होत असलेली विटंबना कवीला सहन होत नाही, तेव्हा तो म्हणतो –

"तुझा संतमेळा   असा कसा झाला
अध्यात्मचा काला   लोकशाही" (आषाढ माती –पृ ३७)

वर्तमान वास्तवात कुणब्याला आधार देणाऱ्या देवाला कवी म्हणतो

"उबगला जीव तरी वाऱ्याशी झुंजतो आहे
गाभाऱ्यात अभंग ओला देवाशी भांडतो आहे"

(आषाढ माती पृ.९३)

अशा या कुणब्याला उजळ माथ्याने कुणबी पण करण्याइतकी ऊर्जा या देवाने द्यावी असे कवीला वाटते. जाता जाता हे सर्व मांडण्याचं बळ देणाऱ्या कुणब्याच्या आधारस्तंभ असलेल्या 'यशवंतराव' यांना कवी आदरांजली अर्पित करतो.

वर्तमान वास्तवातील शेतकऱ्याच्या स्थितीचे वर्णन करणारा मी शेतकऱ्याचा मुलगा आहे; पण शेतकरी नाही या गोष्टीचा कवीला अभिमान वाटतो. तो त्याच्यासाठी ती त्याला या व्यवस्थेच्या शोषणाचा बळी व्हावं लागलं नाही. परंतु या खेड्याविषयी आज्ञातून बोलणारा महात्मा पुन्हा निर्माण व्हावा असे कवीला वाटते. कवीची ही अपेक्षा आणि कुणब्याची विठ्ठलाने पुन्हा जन्मास यावे ही अपेक्षा या दोन्ही एकच आहेत. आजच्या वर्तमान वास्तवात कुनब्याला न्याय मिळावा ही अपेक्षा श्रीकांत देशमुखांची कविता व्यक्त करते. कुणब्याला आणि खेड्याला उध्वस्त करणारी व्यवस्था कवीला अस्वस्थ करते.

कवी प्रकाश होळकर यांच्या कवितेतून व्यक्त होणारे 'आत्मभान, 'अस्मिता दर्शन' :-

'कोरडे नक्षत्र' या काव्यसंग्रहातून कवीला जाणवणारा कोरडेपणा हा अनेक ठिकाणी नैसर्गिक तेने आलेला आहे. तर अनेक ठिकाणी तो स्वातंत्र्य उत्तर कालखंडानंतर आजच्या कालखंडापर्यंत झालेल्या ग्रामाच्या स्थिती अंतरातून निर्माण झालेला आहे. हा कोरडेपणा कवीच्या अस्मितेला, आत्मभानाला आव्हान करतो. बदलत्या राजकीय आणि सामाजिक स्थितीने झालेल्या कुणब्याच्या स्थितीचे कवी वर्णन करतो.

"इथे रात्र येते कोरीत दुखाला
तरी तू उजेडी सांगतो स्वतःला (कोरडे नक्षत्र पृ.५७)

खेड्यातील सर्वांना सामावून घेणाऱ्या संस्कृतीत कवीला एकटेपणाचे जिने जगावे लागते. या माणुसकीच्या कोरडेपणाची व्यथा कवी कवितेतून व्यक्त करतो.

'जीवन झालं बोराटीचं'
बांधावरल्या बाभळीचं" (कोरडे नक्षत्र पृ.५१)

अशी अवस्था खेड्याची झाली आहे. कुणब्याची झाली आहे. आणि या स्थितीस जबाबदार आजची व्यवस्था आहे. असे कवीची अस्मिता कवीला सांगते. आत्मशोध घेणारा कवी शेवटच्या कवितेत अधिकच अस्वस्थ झालेला दिसून येतो. तो नैसर्गिक कोरडेपणापेक्षा मानवी कोरडेपणाने जास्त अस्वस्थ होतो. 'खपली खालची ओल सुखावी तसे जिव्हाळे तुटत गेले' कवीच्या मनात चीड उत्पन्न होण्याची इथे तो व्यतीत होताना दिसतो. 'ज्योतिबा' आणि 'वैभवाचे पांगळे बैल' या कविता मात्र व्यवस्थेच्या विरोधात कवीच्या मनातील चीड व्यक्त करतात. तर 'भरू दे यंदा मृगाचा आभाळ' यातून कुणब्याच्या मनातील श्रद्धा व्यक्त होते. वर्तमान वास्तवात बदल न करू शकणारा कुणबी आपल्या श्रद्धेतून या परिस्थितीवर मात करू इच्छितो.

संदर्भ सूची

डॉ. हांडे मंगल नामदेव

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गोंदिया जिल्ह्यातील आदिवासी बालकांमध्ये आरोग्य आणि पोषणाच्या समस्यांचे विश्लेषण

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सांरांश
या अभ्यासाचा उद्देश गोंदिया जिल्ह्यातील आदिवासी मुलांच्या आरोग्य आणि पोषण समस्यांचे विश्लेषण करणे आहे. 50 आदिवासी मुलांचा नमुना मूल्यांकन करून त्यांच्या शारीरिक आरोग्याच्या स्थिती, कुपोषण, वाढीच्या पद्धती आणि रोगांची प्रचलनता यांचा अभ्यास करण्यात आला. निष्कर्ष दाखवतो की कुपोषण या समुदायातील मुलांच्या शारीरिक आणि मानसिक विकासावर गंभीर नकारात्मक प्रभाव टाकतो, ज्यामुळे गंभीर आरोग्य समस्यांचा सामना करावा लागतो. या संशोधनातून काढलेले निष्कर्ष स्थानिक आरोग्य धोरणे आणि आदिवासी मुलांच्या एकूण कल्याणासाठी सुधारणा करण्याच्या उपक्रमांसाठी मौल्यवान साधन ठरू शकतात.

मुख्य शब्द: गोंदिया जिल्हा, आदिवासी, आरोग्य आणि पोषण, समस्या, ग्रामीण

प्रस्तावना

गोंदिया जिल्हा हा महाराष्ट्र राज्यातील एक ग्रामीण आणि आदिवासी बहुल जिल्हा आहे. या भागातील लोकसंख्या प्रामुख्याने आदिवासी आहे, ज्यांच्या जीवनशैलीत आणि आरोग्याच्या सोयी सुविधांमध्ये मर्यादा आहेत. विशेषतः आदिवासी बालकांमध्ये आरोग्य आणि पोषणाच्या समस्यांचे प्रमाण जास्त आहे. या समस्या त्यांच्या शारीरिक आणि मानसिक विकासावर गंभीर परिणाम करतात.

या भागातील कुपोषण ही सर्वात मोठी समस्या आहे. गरीब आर्थिक परिस्थिती, अन्नधान्याची कमतरता, आणि संतुलित आहाराचा अभाव यामुळे अनेक बालके कुपोषित होतात. याचा परिणाम म्हणून बालकांमध्ये वजन आणि उंचीचे प्रमाण कमी असते, आणि त्यांच्या शारीरिक क्षमतांवर परिणाम होतो. कुपोषणामुळे त्यांची रोगप्रतिकारक शक्ती कमी होते, ज्यामुळे अनेक बालकांना संसर्गजन्य आजार होतात. विशेषतः मुलींमध्ये अशक्तपणाची (ॲनिमिया) समस्या अधिक प्रमाणात आढळते.

आदिवासी भागातील अशिक्षण आणि अज्ञान देखील मोठ्या प्रमाणात या समस्यांना कारणीभूत आहे. पोषणाविषयीच्या अपुरी माहितीमुळे, लोक त्यांच्या मुलांना योग्य आहार देण्यास असमर्थ ठरतात. तसेच, वैद्यकीय सुविधा नसणे, किंवा दूर अंतरावर असणे हे देखील एक मोठे आव्हान आहे. परिणामी, अनेक वेळा बालकांना आरोग्यसेवा मिळवण्यासाठी लांब प्रवास करावा लागतो, जो त्यांच्या कुटुंबांसाठी खर्चिक आणि अवघड असतो.

सरकारकडून आदिवासी भागासाठी पोषण आहार योजना आणि बालविकास कार्यक्रम राबवले जातात, जसे की "आंगणवाडी" आणि "मध्यान्ह भोजन योजना." या योजनांचा उद्देश आदिवासी बालकांना पोषण आहार पुरवणे आणि त्यांच्या आरोग्याची काळजी घेणे हा आहे. परंतु, जागरूकतेच्या अभावामुळे आणि कधी कधी अपुऱ्या सुविधांमुळे या योजनांचा प्रभाव कमी होतो. पालक आणि कुटुंबांना या योजनांविषयी आणि पोषणाविषयी अधिक माहिती दिली जाणे गरजेचे आहे.

आदिवासी बालकांच्या आरोग्य आणि पोषणाच्या समस्यांवर प्रभावी उपाय करण्यासाठी, या भागात आरोग्यविषयक जागरूकता मोहीम, संतुलित आहारविषयी प्रशिक्षण, आणि आरोग्यसेवांची उपलब्धता वाढवणे आवश्यक आहे. तसेच, कुपोषण आणि अशक्तपणाच्या समस्यांचे निराकरण करण्यासाठी बालकांना योग्य आहार, स्वच्छ पाणी, आणि आरोग्य सेवांचा लाभ मिळावा यासाठी प्रयत्न करणे गरजेचे आहे.

गोंदिया जिल्ह्यातील आदिवासी बालकांमध्ये आरोग्य आणि पोषणाच्या समस्यांचे निराकरण केल्यास त्यांच्या भविष्यावर सकारात्मक परिणाम होऊ शकतो, आणि त्यांचे जीवनमान उंचावण्याची संधी मिळेल.

संशोधन आडावा

(Rokade et al., 2020) भारतातील आदिवासी समाज सामाजिक, आरोग्य आणि शैक्षणिक विकासाच्या दृष्टीने खूप संवेदनशील आहे. महाराष्ट्रातील आदिवासी महिलांचे आरोग्य सुधारण्यासाठी सरकारने स्थानिक आणि

समुदायावर आधारित विकासाच्या दृष्टिकोनावर लक्ष केंद्रित करणे आवश्यक आहे. यामुळे धोरणकर्त्यांना समाजात, विशेषतः आदिवासी महिलांमध्ये, आरोग्याचा सर्वांगीण विकास घडवण्यासाठी योग्य धोरणे तयार करण्यास मदत होईल.

(March, 2022) कोरोनाच्या काळात गोंदिया जिल्ह्यात कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण वाढले आहे. जिल्ह्यात 376 कुपोषित बालके आढळून आली, त्यापैकी 247 बालकांची स्थिती सुधारत आहे, तर 129 बालके तीव्र कुपोषित आहेत. मात्र, केवळ 13 बालकांना पोषण पुनर्वसन केंद्रात दाखल करण्यात आले आहे. ग्रामीण भागातील लोकांना या केंद्रांबद्दल फारशी माहिती नाही. गोंदिया हा आदिवासीबहुल जिल्हा असून, शासनाच्या योजना दुर्गम भागांतील आदिवासी लोकांपर्यंत पोहोचत नाहीत. कुपोषण कमी करण्यासाठी अनेक योजना राबवल्या जात असल्या तरी, बालकांमधील कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण कमी होताना दिसत नाही. जिल्ह्यात 129 तीव्र कुपोषित बालके असूनही, केवळ 13 बालकांवर उपचार सुरू आहेत. ग्रामीण भागातील पालकांना पोषण केंद्रांची माहिती नाही आणि केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्यासाठी प्रवास करणेही कठीण आहे. कुपोषित बालकांसाठी गोंदिया येथील बाई गंगाबाई रुग्णालयात 14 दिवसांच्या उपचारांची योजना आहे. बालकांना योग्य आहार, दूध, आणि पौष्टिक खिचडी दिली जाते. तसेच, त्यांच्या मातांना देखील आहार, समुपदेशन आणि आर्थिक मदत दिली जाते, परंतु अनेक पालकांना या सुविधांची माहिती नसल्याने, कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण वाढत आहे.

(Gomati & Boopathy, 2023) भारतीय समाजाचे मुख्य दोन प्रकार म्हणजे ग्रामीण आणि शहरी समाज आहेत. या समाजांपासून वेगळा असा एक समाज म्हणजे आदिवासी समाज आहे. राज्य घटनेत आदिवासींना 'अनुसूचित जमात' असे म्हटले जाते. आदिवासी लोक जंगलाच्या जवळपास राहतात, ज्यामुळे त्यांना अनेक समस्या भेडसावतात. त्यापैकी एक मोठी समस्या म्हणजे आरोग्यविषयक समस्या आहे. आदिवासी समाजातील लोकांना अनेक आरोग्य समस्या असतात, विशेषत: या समस्या महिलांमध्ये अधिक प्रमाणात दिसतात.या समस्यांमागे अनेक कारणे आहेत, जसे की सामाजिक आणि धार्मिक रूढी, अज्ञान, परंपरा, अस्वच्छता आणि गरीबी. गडचिरोली जिल्ह्याचा 76% भाग जंगलांनी व्यापलेला आहे, त्यामुळे तिथे नैसर्गिक समस्या आणि दळणवळणाच्या अडचणी आहेत. यामुळे आदिवासी महिलांपर्यंत आरोग्यसेवा पोहोचत नाहीत, आणि त्यांना आरोग्याच्या समस्या सोडवण्यात अडचणी येतात.आदिवासी महिलांच्या आरोग्याच्या समस्या सोडवण्यासाठी सरकारने अनेक आरोग्य योजना राबवल्या आहेत. या योजनांच्या माध्यमातून माता, बालक, गरोदर स्त्रिया, स्तनदा माता, आणि किशोरींना आवश्यक सेवा दिल्या जातात. यामुळे आदिवासी महिलांचे जीवनमान सुधारण्यास मदत होते.

संशोधन पद्धती

या अभ्यासात प्राथमिक आणि द्वितीयक दोन्ही प्रकारचे डेटा गोळा केले गेले. 50 आदिवासी मुलांचा नमुना मूल्यांकन करून त्यांच्या शारीरिक आरोग्याच्या स्थिती, कुपोषण, वाढीच्या पद्धती आणि रोगांची प्रचलनता यांचा अभ्यास करण्यात आला. या अध्ययनात प्राथमिक स्रोतांमधून गोळा केलेल्या डेटा विश्लेषणासाठी गॅरटरँकिंग पद्धतीचा वापर करण्यात आलेला आहे.

आदिवासी बालकांमध्ये कुपोषणाच्या प्रमुख कारणांची ओळख करणे
तक्त्याक्रमांक ०१

रँक	F1		F2		F3		F4	
	वारंवारता	गॅरटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरटस्कोअर
1	8	10.24	8	10.24	16	20.48	18	23.04
2	8	8.16	13	13.26	21	21.42	8	8.16
3	13	9.88	24	18.24	5	3.8	8	6.08
4	21	3.78	5	0.9	8	1.44	16	2.88
GM	50	32.06	50	42.64	50	47.14	50	40.16

अवलोकन:

वरील गॅरटक्रमवारी तक्त्यामधून आदिवासी बालकांमधील कुपोषणाची प्रमुख कारणे स्पष्ट होतात. **अपुरी आरोग्यविषयक माहिती (F3)** हा सर्वात प्रभावी घटक आहे, ज्याचा GM स्कोअर 47.14 असून यामुळे कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक परिणाम होत आहे. त्यानंतर **अन्नाची उपलब्धता (F2)** हा दुसरा महत्त्वाचा घटक आहे, ज्याचा GM स्कोअर 42.64 आहे. **असंतुलित आहाराची प्रथा (F4)** या घटकाचा GM स्कोअर 40.16 आहे, ज्यामुळे कुपोषणावर तिसऱ्या क्रमांकाचा प्रभाव पडतो. **आर्थिक परिस्थितीची मर्यादा (F1)** हा घटक सर्वात कमी प्रभावी ठरतो, ज्याचा GM स्कोअर 32.06 आहे. या विश्लेषणावरून कळते की कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक परिणाम करणारा घटक म्हणजे अपुरी आरोग्यविषयक माहिती आहे, तर आर्थिक मर्यादा यापेक्षा कमी प्रभावी आहे.

दीक्षा आर. बडोले, प्रोफेसर डॉ. संपदा नासेरी

तक्त्याक्रमांक. ०२

Four Factors	Percent Position	garret score/ value
1st रँक	23.75	64
2nd रँक	48.75	51
3rd रँक	73.75	38
4th रँक	98.75	9

अवलोकन:

वरील गॅरेटपद्धतीत चार घटकांच्या रँकिंगच्या टक्केवारी आणि गॅरेटस्कोअर दिले आहेत. पहिल्या रँकसाठी टक्केवारी स्थिती 23.75 असून त्याला 64 गॅरेटस्कोअर मिळाला आहे, म्हणजे तो सर्वात प्रभावी आहे. दुसऱ्या रँकसाठी टक्केवारी स्थिती 48.75 असून त्याला 51 गॅरेटस्कोअर आहे. तिसऱ्या रँकसाठी टक्केवारी 73.75 असून त्याला 38 गॅरेटस्कोअर मिळाला आहे. चौथ्या रँकसाठी टक्केवारी 98.75 असून त्याला केवळ 9 गॅरेटस्कोअर मिळाला आहे, जो सर्वात कमी प्रभावी आहे.

तक्त्याक्रमांक. ०३

Factors	Total SCORE	AVERAGE	रँक
आर्थिक परिस्थितीची मर्यादा	1603	32.06	4
अन्नाची उपलब्धता	2132	42.64	2
अपुरी आरोग्य विषयक माहिती	2357	47.14	1
असंतुलित आहाराची प्रथा	2008	40.16	3

अवलोकन:

वरील तक्त्याच्या विश्लेषणातून कुपोषणाच्या कारणांची रँकिंग स्पष्ट होते. **अपुरी आरोग्यविषयक माहिती** या घटकाला 2357 एकूण स्कोअर आणि 47.14 सरासरीसह पहिला क्रमांक मिळाला आहे, ज्यामुळे तो कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक प्रभाव टाकणारा घटक ठरतो. **अन्नाची उपलब्धता** हा दुसऱ्या क्रमांकावर असून त्याचा एकूण स्कोअर 2132 आणि सरासरी 42.64 आहे. **असंतुलित आहाराची प्रथा** या घटकाला 2008 एकूण स्कोअर आणि 40.16 सरासरीसह तिसरा क्रमांक मिळाला आहे. **आर्थिक परिस्थितीची मर्यादा** हा घटक सर्वात कमी प्रभावी आहे, ज्याचा एकूण स्कोअर 1603 आणि सरासरी 32.06 आहे, ज्यामुळे तो चौथ्या क्रमांकावर आहे. यावरून दिसते की कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक परिणाम अपुरी आरोग्य विषयक माहितीमुळे होतो, तर आर्थिक परिस्थितीची मर्यादा तुलनेने कमी प्रभावी ठरते.

१) आरोग्यविषयक सेवांवर आदिवासी बालकांचा प्रवेश व त्यांचे प्रभावीपण तपासणे:

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रँक	F1		F2		F3		F4	
	वारंवारता	गॅरेटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरेटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरेटस्कोअर	वारंवारता	गॅरेटस्कोअर
1	16	20.48	7	8.96	9	11.52	18	23.04
2	16	16.32	8	8.16	9	9.18	17	17.34
3	9	6.84	18	13.68	16	12.16	7	5.32
4	9	1.62	17	3.06	16	2.88	8	1.44
GM	50	45.26	50	33.86	50	35.74	50	47.14

अवलोकन:

वरील गॅरेटतक्त्याच्या आधारे आदिवासी बालकांच्या आरोग्य सेवांवरील प्रवेश आणि त्यांच्या प्रभावीतेचे विश्लेषण केले आहे. या तक्त्यात चार घटकांचा विचार केला आहे. शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याची सोय (F1), पोषण विषयक शासकीय योजनांची अंमलबजावणी (F2), आरोग्यसेवांची गुणवत्ता (F3), आणि वैयक्तिक आरोग्यविषयक जागरूकता (F4). वैयक्तिक आरोग्य विषयक जागरूकता (F4) याघटकाचा GM स्कोअर 47.14 असून हा सर्वाधिक प्रभावी ठरतो, म्हणजे वैयक्तिक आरोग्य विषयक जागरूकता हा कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक परिणाम करणारा घटक आहे. शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याची सोय (F1) या घटकाचा GM स्कोअर 45.26 आहे, ज्यामुळे तो दुसऱ्या क्रमांकावर आहे. आरोग्य सेवांची गुणवत्ता (F3) याचा GM स्कोअर 35.74 आहे, जो तिसऱ्या क्रमांकावर आहे. पोषण विषयक शासकीय योजनांची अंमलबजावणी (F2)

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याघटकाचा GM स्कोअर 33.86 असून तो चौथ्या क्रमांकावर आहे. यावरून कळते की आदिवासी बालकांमध्ये वैयक्तिक आरोग्यविषयक जागरूकता आणि शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याची सोय या घटकांचा

कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक प्रभाव आहे, तर पोषण विषयक योजनांची अंमलबजावणी तुलनेने कमी प्रभावी आहे.

तक्त्याक्रमांक. ०५

Four Factors	Percent Position	garret score/ value
1st रँक	23.75	64
2nd रँक	48.75	51
3rd रँक	73.75	38
4th रँक	98.75	9

अवलोकन:

वरील गॅरेट पद्धतीत चार घटकांच्या रँकिंगसाठी टक्केवारी आणि गॅरेटस्कोअर दिले आहेत. पहिल्या रँकला 23.75 टक्केवारी स्थितीसह 64 गॅरेटस्कोअर आहे, म्हणजे हा घटक सर्वात प्रभावी ठरतो. दुसऱ्या रँकसाठी 48.75 टक्केवारी असून त्याला 51 गॅरेटस्कोअर आहे. तिसऱ्या रँकसाठी 73.75 टक्केवारी स्थितीसह 38 गॅरेटस्कोअर आहे. चौथ्या रँकसाठी 98.75 टक्केवारी असून त्याला केवळ 9 गॅरेटस्कोअर मिळाला आहे, जो सर्वात कमी प्रभावी आहे. यावरून कळते की पहिल्या रँकचा घटक कुपोषणाच्या समस्येसाठी अत्यंत महत्त्वाचा आहे, तर चौथ्या रँकचा घटक या समस्येमध्ये कमी प्रभावी आहे.

तक्त्याक्रमांक. ०६

Factors	Total SCORE	AVERAGE	रँक
शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याची सोय	2263	45.26	2
पोषण विषयक शासकीय योजनांची अंमलबजावणी	1693	33.86	4
आरोग्य सेवांची गुणवत्ता	1787	35.74	3
वैयक्तिक आरोग्य विषयक जागरूकता	2357	47.14	1

अवलोकन:

वरील तक्त्यातील आकडेवारी नुसार आदिवासी बालकांच्या आरोग्य सेवांवरील प्रवेश आणि प्रभावीतेची रँकिंग स्पष्ट होते. **वैयक्तिक आरोग्य विषयक जागरूकता** या घटकाला 2357 एकूण स्कोअर आणि 47.14 सरासरीसह पहिला क्रमांक मिळाला आहे, ज्यामुळे तो सर्वाधिक प्रभावी घटक ठरतो. **शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्रांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याची सोय** या घटकाचा 2263 एकूण स्कोअर आणि 45.26 सरासरीसह दुसरा क्रमांक आहे. **आरोग्य सेवांची गुणवत्ता** या घटकाला 1787 एकूण स्कोअर आणि 35.74 सरासरीसह तिसरा क्रमांक मिळाला आहे. **पोषणविषयक शासकीय योजनांची अंमलबजावणी** हा घटक सर्वात कमी प्रभावी आहे, ज्याचा एकूण स्कोअर 1693 आणि सरासरी 33.86 आहे. यावरून कळते की वैयक्तिक आरोग्यविषयक जागरूकता हा कुपोषणावर सर्वाधिक परिणाम करणारा घटक आहे, तर पोषण विषयक योजनांची अंमलबजावणी तुलनेने कमी प्रभावी आहे.

शोध

1. कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण: गोंदिया जिल्ह्यातील आदिवासी मुलांमध्ये कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण चिंताजनक आहे, जे त्यांच्या शारीरिक आणि मानसिक विकासात अडथळा आणते.

2. आरोग्य सेवा उपलब्धता: अनेक आदिवासी समुदायांमध्ये आरोग्य सेवांची अनुपलब्धता किंवा कमी गुणवत्ता आढळते, ज्यामुळे मुलांचे आरोग्य धोक्यात येते.

3. आर्थिक अडचणी: कुटुंबांचा आर्थिक स्तर कमी असल्यामुळे, आवश्यक पोषण मिळवण्यास अडथळा निर्माण होतो.

4. जागरूकता अभावी: पोषण आणि आरोग्याबाबत कमी जागरूकता असल्यामुळे, आदिवासी समुदायात आरोग्याच्या समस्यांचा प्रभाव वाढतो.

सूचना

1. आहार आणि पोषण कार्यक्रम: आदिवासी मुलांच्या आहाराची गुणवत्ता सुधारण्यासाठी स्थानिक स्तरावर विशेष पोषण कार्यक्रम सुरू केले पाहिजेत.

2. आरोग्य सेवांची सुधारणा: आरोग्य सेवांचे प्रमाण वाढवण्यासाठी सरकारने आणि स्थानिक संघटनांनी विशेष लक्ष केंद्रित करणे आवश्यक आहे.

3. शिक्षण व जागरूकता: कुटुंबांमध्ये पोषण व आरोग्याबाबत जागरूकता वाढवण्यासाठी शैक्षणिक कार्यशाळा आयोजित करणे आवश्यक आहे.

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4. आर्थिक मदत: आदिवासी कुटुंबांना आर्थिक सहाय्य देणे, ज्या द्वारे त्यांना पोषणीय अन्न मिळवता येईल.

5. समुदाय सहभाग: स्थानिक समुदायाच्या सहभागाने आरोग्य व पोषण कार्यक्रमांची प्रभावी अंमलबजावणी करणे.

निष्कर्ष

गोंदिया जिल्ह्यातील आदिवासी मुलांच्या आरोग्य आणि पोषण समस्यांचे विश्लेषण करून, हे स्पष्ट झाले आहे की कुपोषण ही एक गंभीर समस्या आहे, जी त्यांच्या शारीरिक आणि मानसिक विकासावर विपरीत प्रभाव टाकते. संशोधनातील डेटा दर्शवितो की आरोग्य सेवांपर्यंत पोहच, पोषणाच्या जागरूकतेची कमतरता, आणि आर्थिक स्थिती या सर्व घटकांचा कुपोषणावर मोठा प्रभाव आहे. आदिवासी समुदायात मुलांच्या आरोग्याच्या स्थितीत सुधारणा करण्यासाठी स्थानिक आरोग्य धोरणांमध्ये सुधारणा करणे आवश्यक आहे. याशिवाय, आदिवासी मुलांच्या एकूण कल्याणासाठी शैक्षणिक, आर्थिक, आणि आरोग्यदायी कार्यक्रमांची अंमलबजावणी केली पाहिजे, ज्यामुळे या समुदायातील मुलांना चांगले भविष्य प्राप्त होईल.

संदर्भग्रंथ सूची

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दीक्षा आर. बडोले, प्रोफेसर डॉ. संपदा नासेरी

मराठा साम्राज्याच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक : महाराणी ताराबाई – एक ऐतिहासिक अभ्यास

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सांराश :

मराठा साम्राज्याचा इतिहासातील महाराणी ताराबाई एक महत्वपूर्ण व्यवतीमत्व आहे. त्यांचे जीवन मराठा साम्राज्याच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक आहे. महाराणी ताराबाई यांनी अंत्यत कठीण परिस्थितीत मराठा साम्राज्याला सावरण्याचे काम केले. स्वराज्याच्या रक्षणासाठी आणि विस्तारासाठी अथक परिश्रम घेतले. अंत्यत धैर्यशील आणि नेतृत्वगुण असलेल्या ताराबाईनी औरंगजेबाशी यशस्वी लढाई केली आणि मराठा साम्राज्याला संकटातून बाहेर काढले. त्यांच्या धाडशी नेतृत्वामुळे मराठा साम्राज्य अधिक मजबूत झाले. त्यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली मराठा साम्राज्याने अनेक महत्वपूर्ण युद्धे जिंकली आणि मुघल सत्तेला कमजोर केले. ताराबाईंची राज्यकारभाराची कुशलता रणनीतीविषयक चातुर्य आणि प्रजेसाठी असलेली आत्मीयता विशेषत्वाने दिसून येते . ताराबाई यांच्या कार्याचा आणि त्यागाचा आदर्श आजही प्रेरणादायक आहे.

मुघल सम्राट औरंगजेबाने दक्षिणेत मोठ्या प्रमाणात आक्रमण केले होते. परंतु ताराबाईच्या धैर्यामुळे आणि कुशल नेतृत्वामुळे मराठा साम्राज्य टिकून राहिले . ताराबाई केवळ एक योद्धा नव्हत्या तर कुशल राजकारणी आणि प्रशासक देखील होत्या. त्यांच्या योगदानामुळे मराठा साम्राज्याचे भविष्य सुरक्षित झाले आणि पुढील काळात ते विस्तारले.महाराणी ताराबाईचे धैर्य, शौर्य, आणि कर्तृत्व मराठा इतिहासातील एक गौरवशाली अध्याय आहे .त्यांच्या संघर्षातून आणि नेतृत्वातून त्यांनी मराठा स्त्रीयासाठी एक आदर्श निर्माण केला . तसेच स्वराज्याच्या रक्षणात अतुलनीय योगदान दिले.

बीजशब्द : मराठा साम्राज्य , शौर्य , रणरागिनी ,युद्धनीती ,नेतृत्व ,धाडस , स्वातंत्र्य , मुघल सैन्य , पराक्रम ,संरक्षण

प्रस्तावना :

मराठा साम्राज्याच्या इतिहासातीत एक अतिशय महत्वपूर्ण साहसी धैयशील प्रभावशाली व कर्तबगार स्त्री म्हणून गाजलेले असं व्यक्तीमत्व म्हणजेच महाराणी ताराबाई.महाराणी ताराबाईनी आपल्या शौयाने आणि नेतृत्वगुणाने मराठा साम्राज्याला नवी उर्जितावस्था प्राप्त करून दिली. छत्रपती संभाजी महाराजाच्या मृत्यूनंतर मराठा साम्राज्य संकटात सापडले असताना महाराणी ताराबाईनी आपल्या प्रखर बुद्धीमत्तेचा आणि चातुर्याचा परिचय करून देत मराठा साम्राज्याचे प्राणपणाने रक्षण केले. महाराणी ताराबाई यांनी मराठा साम्राज्याच्या राजकारण आणि प्रशाषनात अंत्यत महत्वाची भूमिका बजावली .

वयाच्या पंचविशीत वैधव्याची कु-हाड कोसडली तरी डगमगून न जाता महाराणी ताराबाई ने मराठा साम्राज्याचे नेतृत्व केले. ताराबाईने आपल्या नेतृत्वगुणाने मुघल साम्राज्याशी धडाडीने लढा दिला. त्यांनी युद्धनिती, राजनैतिक कौशल्य आणि प्रजाहित दक्षतेच्या माध्यमातून स्वराज्याचे रक्षण केले, एकंदरीतच पाहता ताराबाई यांचे जीवन आणि कार्य हे मराठा साम्राजाच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक आहे ,महाराणी ताराबाईने स्वराज्यारक्षणासाठी केलेले कार्य अतिशय प्रेरणादायक आहे. त्यांच्या कार्याचे महत्व आजही स्त्रियांना मार्गदर्शक आहे. थोडक्यात त्यांच्या नेतृत्वगुणांचा आणि धाडसाचा अभ्यास करणे हे भारतीय इतिहासाच्या दृष्टीकोनातुन अतिशय महत्वाचे आहे .

महाराणी ताराबाईचे जीवन म्हणजे संघर्ष, साहस आणि दृढतेचे प्रतीक आहे मराठा साम्राज्यातील योगदानामुळे आजही त्यांचे नाव मराठ्याच्या इतिहासात अजरामर आहे. महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या मराठा साम्राज्याच्या इतिहासात एक अत्यंत कर्तबगार आणि शौर्यशाली राणी म्हणून ओळखल्या जातात. छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराजाच्या नंतर मराठा साम्राज्यावर आलेल्या संकटाच्या काळात त्यांनी आपले धैर्य, नेतृत्व आणि राष्ट्रानिष्ठा दाखवत मराठा साम्राज्याचे रक्षण केले. महाराणी ताराबाई यांचे जीवन आणि त्यांचे कार्य हे केवळ एक शौर्यगाथा नसून एका कर्तृत्ववान स्त्रीचे जीवनदर्शन आहे. ज्यामुळे त्या इतिहासात अजरामर ठरल्या आहेत.

महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराजांचे जेष्ठ पुत्र छत्रपती संभाजी महाराजाच्या मृत्युच्या नंतर उभ्या राहिल्या. संभाजी महाराजांची हत्या औरंगजेबाने केल्यानंतर मराठा साम्राज्याला मोठा धक्का बसला होता .औरंजेबाने मराठ्यांचा अंत करण्यासाठी सर्वतोपरी प्रयत्न केले. परंतु त्याच वेळी महाराणी ताराबाई यांनी मराठ्यांच्या अस्तित्वासाठी आणि स्वराज्याच्या रक्षणासाठी धाडसी भूमिका घेतली. त्या काळात ताराबाई चे पती राजाराम महाराज यांचे हि निधन झाले होते.

ज्यामुळे त्यांची परिस्थिती अधिकच कठीण झाली होती. तथापि महाराणी ताराबाई यांनी या सर्व परिस्थितीना तोंड देत मराठ्यांचे स्वराज्य टिकवून ठेवण्याचा निर्धार केला.

ताराबाई यांनी आपला अल्पवयीन मुलगा शिवाजी द्वितीय यांच्या नावे सत्ता हाती घेतली आणि स्वतः सर्वोच्च नेता म्हणून मराठा साम्राज्याचे नेतृत्व केले. त्यांनी आपल्या कुशल नेतृत्वाने मराठ्यांच्या सैन्याचे पुनर्गठन केले आणि औरंगजेबाविरुद्ध सशक्त लढा दिला. त्या काळात औरंगजेबाने मोठ्या प्रमाणात सैन्याच्या जोरावर मराठ्यांचा पराभव करण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. परंतु ताराबाई यांनी चातुर्याने आणि धैर्याने त्याला अनेक वेळा पराभूत केले, त्याच्या रणनीतीमुळे औरंगजेबाला अनेक वर्षे महाराष्ट्राच्या भूमीत रोखून ठेवण्यात मराठे यशस्वी झाले. .

ताराबाईच्या शौर्याच्या आणि नेतृत्वाच्या कथा आजही प्रेरणा देणाऱ्या आहेत. त्यांनी केवळ सैन्य नेतृत्वातच नव्हे तर राजकीय डावपेचांमध्ये आपले कौशल्य दाखविले. मराठ्यांच्या स्वातंत्र्यासाठी त्यांनी केलेल्या योगदानामुळे त्या मराठा साम्राज्याच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक बनल्या आहेत. त्यांनी स्त्रीप्रधान समाजात एक शक्तीशाली नेत्या म्हणून आपले स्थान निर्माण केले.

संशोधनाचे उद्देश:-

१] महाराणी ताराबाईचा जन्म ,पार्श्वभूमी आणि कुटूंबाच्या इतिहासात अभ्यास करणे.

२] संभाजी महाराजांच्या निधनानंतर ताराबाईच्या राज्यकारभाराची भूमिका तपासणे.

३] ताराबाईच्या नेतृत्वाखाली झालेल्या प्रमुख युद्धांचा आणि रणनीतीचा अभ्यास करणे.

४] ताराबाईच्या राज्यकारभारातील महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयांचा अभ्यास करणे.

५] मुघल साम्राज्याविरुद्धच्या ताराबाईच्या संघर्षाचा अभ्यास करणे.

६] मराठा साम्राज्याच्या राजकीय, सामाजिक आणि सांस्कृतिक विकासात ताराबाईच्या योगदानाचा आढावा घेणे.

क्षेत्र आणि मर्यादा :-

१] महाराणी ताराबाई यांच्या जीवनाचा आणि कार्याचा सखोल अभ्यास करणे.

२] ताराबाईच्या जीवनातून महिलांच्या सक्षमीकरणाचा संदेश समजून घेणे.

३] ताराबाईच्या युद्धनिती आणि नेतृत्वाचे विश्लेषण करणे.

४] ताराबाई आणि औरंगजेब यांच्यातील संघर्षाचा अभ्यास करणे.

५] ताराबाईच्या कार्याचा मराठा साम्राज्यावर झालेल्या प्रभावाचा अभ्यास करणे .

संशोधन पद्धती व साधने :-

प्रस्तुत शोधनिबंधासाठी ऐतिहासिक संशोधन पद्धतीचा अवलंब करण्यात आलेला असून प्राथमिक आणि दुय्यम संदर्भ साधन पद्धतीचा वापर करण्यात आलेला आहे .

प्रा. डॉ भुवनेश्वरी मिताराम वाघाये

महाराणी ताराबाईचे जीवन व कार्य :-

महाराणी ताराबाईचा जन्म दि. १४ एप्रिल १६७५ रोजी महाराष्ट्रातील सातारा जिल्ह्यात झाला. त्या मराठा सरदार हंबीरराव मोहिते यांच्या कन्या होत्या. "त्यांचे बालपण समृद्ध आणि राजकीय वातावरणात व्यतीत झाल्याने त्यांना लहानपणापासूनच राजकारण, युद्धकला आणि प्रशासनाचे धडे मिळाले."१ मार्च १६८० मध्ये त्यांचा विवाह राजारामाशी झाला. "वयाच्या अवघ्या पंचविसाव्या वर्षी ताराबाईस वैधव्य प्राप्त झाले तरी त्यांनी आपले वैयक्तिक दुःख बाजूला ठेवून आपला मुलगा दुसरा शिवाजी यास गादीवर बसवून मराठा राज्याच्या कारभाराची सूत्रे आपल्या हाती घेतली आणि स्वातंत्र्य लढयाचे नेतृत्व केले."२ मराठा साम्राज्याच्या इतिहासात त्यांनी आपल्या अद्वितीय धाडसाने आणि नेतृत्वाने एक अमूल्य स्थान मिळवले आहे .

ताराबाईच्या जीवनात अनेक आव्हाने होती. परंतु प्रत्येक आव्हानाला धैर्याने सामोरे जात मराठा साम्राज्याच्या सत्तेचे आणि स्वातंत्र्याचे रक्षण केले. त्यांच्या पराक्रमामुळे मराठा साम्राज्याच्या इतिहासात त्यांना "रणरागिणी" म्हणून ओळखले जाते. त्या केवळ एक महान योद्धा नाहीत तर महिलांच्या सक्षमीकरणाचे एक ज्वलंत उदारण आहेत. राज्य कारभाराची सूत्रे हाती आल्यानंतर ताराबाईने आपला विलक्षण दरारा निर्माण केला. "सरदारांच्या नेमणुका त्यांच्या बदल्या, बादशाही मुलुखावरील मराठा सरदारांचे हल्ले आणि राज्यकारभार या सर्व गोष्टी ताराबाईच्या निर्णयानुसार चालू लागल्या."३ महत्वाकांक्षी आणि राजकारण पटू असलेल्या ताराबाईने स्वराज्याच्या कारभारावर आणि पराक्रमी सरदारांवर पाहता पाहता आपले जबरदस्त नियंत्रण प्रस्थापित केले.

महाराणी ताराबाईच्या जीवनातील सर्वात महत्वाची आणि आव्हानात्मक वेळ औरंगजेबाच्या दक्षिण दिग्विजय काळात झाली. त्यांच्या कर्तृत्वाची कहाणी इतिहासात सुवर्ण अक्षरांनी लिहिली गेली आहे. ताराबाई ह्यांचे नेतृत्व, धैर्य, आणि राष्ट्रनिष्ठा आजही आदर्श आहे. मराठा साम्राज्याच्या संघर्षमय काळात त्यांनी दाखवलेले शौर्य आणि त्याग हे मराठ्यांच्या स्वाभिमानाचे प्रतीक ठरले आहे. त्यांचे योगदान फक्त मराठा इतिहासापुरते मर्यादित नसून, भारतीय इतिहासातील एका महान नेत्या म्हणून त्यांची आठवण कायम राहील. महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या केवळ एक शूर आणि कुशल नेत्या नव्हत्या तर त्या एका प्रेरणादायी स्त्री व्यतिमत्व होत्या .ज्यांनी आपल्या धैर्याने आणि कर्तृत्वाने मराठा साम्राज्याचे भविष्य घडविले.

ताराबाईच्या आक्रमक मोहिमा :-

राजनीती व रणनीतीत पारंगत असलेल्या महाराणी ताराबाईने मुघलांशी लढा देताना नव्या तंत्राचा वापर केला. मोगल बादशहा यांचे लक्ष स्वराज्याच्या मोहिमावरून कमी करण्यासाठी ताराबाईने मोघलांना किल्ल्यांच्या वेढ्यात अडकवून ठेवायचे व त्यांच्या प्रदेशात धुमाकूळ माजवायचा अशी योजना आखली. "इ. सन. १७०२ मध्ये आक्रमक पवित्रा घेवून महाराणी ताराबाईने आपले सरदार मोघलांच्या गुजरात, माळवा आंध्र ,कर्नाटक , तामिळनाडू इ. भागात पाठवण्याचा सपाटा लावला."४

यामुळे गुजरात व माळवा या सारख्या संपन्न सुभ्यात अराजके निर्माण होऊन बादशाही व्यवस्थ्या खिळखिळी होण्यास प्रारंभ झाला.

मुघलांनी मराठ्यांचे जे किल्ले जिंकून घेतले होते. ते मराठ्यांनी ताराबाईच्या नेतृत्वाखाली पुन्हा जिंकून घेतले. "इ. सन. १७०५ मध्ये लोहगड व सिंहगड हे किल्ले मराठ्यांनी पुन्हा हस्तगत केले".५ स्वातंत्र्ययुद्धातील ताराबाईचे कार्य खास अभ्यासनीय आहेत . पंचवीस वर्षांची एक विधवा राणी औरंगजेबासारख्या मुरब्बी सम्राटाशी लष्करी संघर्ष करावयास उभी राहते आणि सतत सात वर्षे तो संघर्ष चालवून त्यास जेरीस आणते. ही घटनाच महाराणी ताराबाईच्या कर्तृत्वाची साक्ष देते. त्यामुळे सर्व लोकांना अभिमानास्पद व स्फूर्तीपद वाटते. तसे पाहिले असता महाराणी ताराबाईने आपल्या सरदारांची मने आपल्याकडे ओढून घेतली. त्यांनी आपल्या सैन्याची व्यवस्थ्या अशा पद्धतीने केली कि, "दक्षिणेचे सहा सुभे, सिरोंज, मंदसोर, आणि माळवा या प्रांताच्या सरहद्दीपर्यंत मराठ्यांनी धामधूम उडविली."६ एकंदरीतच मोगल बादशहा औरंगजेबाने आपले आयुष्य मोहिमा करणे आणि मराठ्यांचे किल्ले घेणे यात घालविली. महाराणी ताराबाईविरुद्ध तो शेवटपर्यंत लढत राहिला पण मराठ्यांचे बळ आणि बंड हि दिवसेंदिवस वाढतच गेले.

सारांशरित्या, मराठ्यांच्या स्वातंत्र्ययुद्धाने महाराष्ट्रात शौर्यशाली पुरुषांची एक पिढी निर्माण झाली. तिचा उपयोग पुढे मराठ्यांचे साम्राज्य वाढवण्यासाठी झाले. महाराणी ताराबाई अत्यंत बुद्धिमान आणि राजकारणात पारंगत असल्यामुळे त्यांनी राज्यकारभारातील महत्वाच्या निर्णयामध्ये आपली चतुराई दाखवली व शत्रूच्या रणनीतीना यशस्वीपणे तोंड दिले. महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या एक प्रेरणादायी व्यक्तिमत्व होत्या. त्यांनी आपल्या लोकांना आणि सैनिकांना सदैव प्रोत्साहित केले. त्यांनी मराठा साम्राज्याच्या प्रतीष्ठेला कधीही धक्का लागू दिला नाही आणि आपल्या साम्राज्याच्या सन्मानासाठी त्या सदैव तत्पर राहिल्या. या गुणामुळे महाराणी ताराबाई यांचे नेतृत्व मराठा साम्राज्यातील एक उज्ज्वल आणि प्रेरणादायी पर्व ठरले.

इ.सन.१७०० साली छत्रपती राजाराम महाराजांचे निधन झाल्यानंतर ताराबाईंनी मराठा साम्राज्याचे नेतृत्व स्वीकारले. त्यावेळी मुघल सम्राट औरंगजेबाने संपूर्ण दक्षिण भारतावर आक्रमण केले होते. त्यामुळे मराठा साम्राज्य संकटात सापडले होते. राजाराम महाराजाच्या मृत्युनंतर अनेकांनी मराठा साम्राज्य संपुष्टात येईल असे गृहीत धरले होते. परंतु ताराबाईच्या धाडसामुळे मराठ्यांनी हा संघर्ष कायम ठेवला. "इ.सन.१७०० ते १७०७ या काळातील 'मोगल मराठा संघर्ष' हा महाराणी ताराबाईच्या काळात झालेला संघर्ष होय."७ छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराजांची स्वराज्य कल्पना पुढे नेण्यासाठी ताराबाईंनी आपला अल्पवयीन मुलगा शिवाजी दुसरे यांच्या नावे स्वराज्याचे नेतृत्व हाती घेतले. त्या काळात त्यांनी मराठा सेनानीना संघटित केले. राजकीय रणनीती आखली आणि स्वराज्याच्या रक्षणासाठी निर्णायक भूमिका

प्रा. डॉ भुवनेश्वरी मिताराम वाघाये

बजावली. त्यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली मराठा साम्राज्याने अनेक लढाया जिंकल्या आणि औरंगजेबाच्या मुघल सैन्याला कडवी झुंज दिली. त्यांचे नेतृत्व इतके प्रभावी होते की, अनेक इतिहासकार त्यांना 'मराठ्यांची लढाऊ राणी' म्हणून संबोधतात.

ताराबाईच्या तेजस्वी कारकिर्दीचा अभ्यास केला असता, "अकबर बादशहाच्या फौजांशी त्वेषाने लढणाऱ्या व आपल्या किल्ल्यांचा ढासळलेला तट रातोरात बांधून काढणाऱ्या अहमदनगरच्या चांदबिबिशी, त्यात बादशहाच्या साम्राज्यवादी लष्कराशी लढत असता रणांगणावर आत्मसमर्पण करणारी गोंडवनातील राणी दुर्गावतीची आणि इंग्रज साम्राज्याविरुद्ध तलवार उपसून रणांगणावर मृत्यूला कवटाळणाऱ्या राणी लक्ष्मीबाईची आठवण झाल्याशिवाय राहत नाही."८ या सर्व स्त्रिया जुलमी व साम्राज्यवादी आक्रमणाविरुद्ध आपल्या स्वातंत्र्याच्या रक्षणासाठी लढल्या. स्वातंत्र्याच्या होमकुंडात त्यांनी आपल्या प्राणांची आहुती दिली आणि त्या भारतीय इतिहासात अमर झाल्या. महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या याच थोर परंपरेतील एक तेजस्वी रणरागिणी होत्या .

ताराबाईची युद्ध नीती अतिशय प्रभावी होती. त्यांनी गनिमी काव्याचा वापर करत मुघल सैन्यावर आक्रमण केले. लहान सैन्य असूनही त्यांनी चपळाई आणि युद्धतंत्राचा वापर करून मुघल सैन्याला पराभूत केले. मराठा सरदारांनी आणि प्रजाजनांनी ताराबाईच्या शौर्यावर आणि नेतृत्वावर विश्वास ठेवला. त्यामुळे त्यांनी स्वराज्यासाठी लढणे सुरु ठेवले. त्यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली मराठ्यांनी औरंगजेबाच्या २७ वर्षांच्या दक्षिण मोहिमेला कडवा प्रतिकार केला .ताराबाईच्या कुशल नेतृत्वामुळे मराठा साम्राज्याने आपली सत्ता टिकवून ठेवली. आणि स्वराज्य अधिक मजबूत केले.

औरंगजेबाशी एकच निर्णायक लढाई न देता त्यांनी त्यांच्या मृत्यूपर्यंत त्यांच्याशी गनिमी काव्याचे युद्ध चालविले व शेवटी त्यास अगतिक करून टाकले. वास्तविक पाहता, औरंगजेबाशी लढताना ताराबाईंनी फिनिक्स पक्ष्याप्रमाणे मराठी राज्य शून्यातून जिवंत केले. हि त्यांची अभूतपूर्व कामगिरी मराठी इतिहासाला कधीही विसरता येणार नाही. "राजा नाही राजधानी नाही पैसा नाही आणि नेताही नाही. अशा अवस्थेत हजारो मराठे संघटित केले. व स्वातंत्र्याला उद्युक्त केले आणि समरांगण गाजविले".९ महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या मराठ्यांच्या इतिहासातील एक अतिशय कर्तबगार व महत्वाकांशी राज्यकर्ती होत्या. त्यांनी अंतर्गत गटबाजीवर मात करून औरंगजेबासारख्या शक्तिशाली सम्राटाचा यशस्वीपणे पराभव घडवून आणला.

महाराणी ताराबाईचे कर्तृत्व केवळ युद्धक्षेत्रापुरते मर्यादित नव्हते. त्यांनी मराठा राजांच्या प्रशासनातही महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिले. त्या कुशल राजकारणी होत्या. त्यांनी मराठा साम्राज्याची अर्थव्यवस्था आणि प्रशासन सुरळीत चालवले .तसेच त्यांनी मराठा सरदारांना आणि प्रजेला संघटित करून स्वराज्याची भावना कायम ठेवली . ताराबाईच्या नेतृत्वामुळे मराठा साम्राज्याने आपले

स्वातंत्र्य टिकवून ठेवले . आणि भविष्यातील मराठा साम्राज्याच्या विस्तारासाठी एक मजबूत पाया तयार केला . जनतेतील स्वातंत्रप्रेमाची व त्यागाची प्रवृत्ती कायम ठेविली . त्यामुळेच मोगलांना मराठ्यांचे राज्य नष्ट करण्याची इच्छा अर्धवट सोडून देणे भाग पडले .

वास्तविक पाहता, ताराबाईचा उदय घडून आला नसता तर काही काळापुरते का असेना मराठ्यांची सत्ता लोप पावली असती असे म्हटल्यास अप्रस्तुत ठरणार नाही. महाराष्ट्रात मराठ्यांची अस्मिता व स्वतंत्रता ताराबाईच्या रूपाने प्रकटली होती. महाराणी ताराबाईंनी अनेक अडचणींना, आपत्तींना व संकटांना तोंड देवून मराठेशाहीचे रक्षण केले. मराठेशाहीत धुमाकूळ घालणाऱ्या मोगली फौजांचा बंदोबस्त केला तसेच अंतर्गत शत्रूंचाही बंदोबस्त केला. असामान्य मनोनिग्रह, संयम, हुशारी व स्वातंत्र प्रेम या गुणांच्या आधारावर त्यांनी अत्यंत प्रतिकूल परिस्थितीवर मात करून कोसळणारे मराठेशाहीचे राज्य सावरण्याची मोठी जबाबदारी पार पाडली.

ताराबाईच्या नेतृत्वाखाली मराठ्यांनी औरंगजेबाचा पराभव केला आणि मराठा साम्राज्याचे अस्तित्व टिकवून ठेवले. त्यांच्या लढवय्या वृतीने आणि आत्मविश्वासाने त्यांनी सिद्ध केले कि, स्री सुद्धा एका शक्तिशाली साम्राज्याची नेतृत्व करू शकते. ताराबाई यांचा धाडस आणि त्यांचे समर्पण मराठा स्रीयांना स्वत:च्या कर्तृत्वावर आणि धैर्यावर विश्वास ठेवण्याची प्रेरणा मिळाली ताराबाईच्या कार्यामुळे महिलांना केवळ कुटुंबातच नव्हे तर राजकारणात आणि युद्धातही महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका बजावण्याची प्रेरणा मिळाली ताराबाईचे शौर्य आणि नेतृत्व हि महाराष्ट्राच्या इतिहासातील महत्वपूर्ण गोष्ट आहे. त्यांच्या नेतृत्वामुळे मराठा साम्राज्याने केवळ मुघलांच्या आक्रमणाला तोंड दिले नाही तर स्वराज्याच्या विस्ताराची संधी देखील साधली औरंगजेबाच्या मृत्यूनंतर मुघल साम्राज्याचे पतन होऊ लागले आणि त्यात ताराबाईच्या प्रयत्नांचा मोठा वाटा आहे .

निष्कर्ष :

महाराणी ताराबाई ह्या मराठा साम्राज्याच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक आहेत. त्यांच्या शौर्याने आणि धैर्याने त्यांनी मराठा साम्राज्याला परकीय आक्रमकापासून वाचविले. स्वत:च्या सामर्थ्यांच्या जोरावर त्यांनी मराठा साम्राज्याला मजबूत केले. ताराबाईचे नेतृत्व , धैर्य आणि त्याग यांचे आजही स्मरण होत आहे. त्यांनी दाखवलेले शौर्याचे आदर्श हे पुढील पिढ्यांसाठी प्रेरणादायी आहे. त्यांच्या या महान कार्यामुळेच त्या मराठा साम्राज्याच्या शौर्याचे प्रतीक ठरल्या आहेत. त्यांच्या पराक्रमाच्या कथा आजही स्रीयांना प्रेरणा देत आहेत. ताराबाईचे बलिदान आणि त्याग यांची आठवण ठेवून त्यांचे शौर्य नेहमीच आदर्श राहील. अशा पराक्रमी राणीस मानाचा मुजरा आहे.

ताराबाईच्या नेतृत्वाने आपल्याला असे दिसून येते कि, असत्यावर विजय मिळवण्यासाठी धैर्य आणि दृढनिश्चय आवश्यक आहे. त्यांच्या जीवनाने आपल्याला हेही शिकवले कि, संकटाच्या काळात संयम , साहस आणि धाडसानेच विजय प्राप्त केला जाऊ शकतो .त्यांच्या नेतृत्वाच्या आणि

प्रा. डॉ भुवनेश्वरी मिताराम वाघाये

धाडसाच्या गोष्टी आजही आपल्याला प्रेरणा देतात. तसेच आपल्याला संघर्षांना सामोरे जाण्याची शक्ती देतात .

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पारंपारिक साधने व ताण व्यवस्थापन

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सांराश :

सभोवतालच्या वातावरणात जो झपाट्याने बदल होते चालला आहे. त्याचा थेट परिणाम आपल्या मानवी जीवनावर होत असल्याचे दिसून येते. आपले दैनंदिन जीवन हे नेहमीच अगदी शांत व सुरळीतपणे चालू असते असे म्हणणे चुकीचे किंवा अतिशोक्तीचे वाटते कारण त्या दैनंदिन जीवनात मानवाला विविध प्रकारच्या समस्यांना, संकटाना, ताणतणावांना सामोरे जावे लागत आहे. आजच्या मानवी जीवनाने औद्योगिकरण, शहरीकरण, यांत्रिकीकरण, संगणकीकरण माहिती तंत्रज्ञान इत्यादीचा स्विकार केलेला आहे. त्यामुळे त्याचा थेट परिणाम मानवी वर्तनावर व मानवी जीवनावर दिसून येत आहे. या आधुनिक काळात 'ताण-तणाव' हे या गतिमान युगाचे एक प्रमुख वैशिष्ट्य बनले आहे. पुरातन काळापासून ताणतणाव हा मानवी जीवनाचा अविभाज्य भाग बनून राहिला आहे. आपण सगळेजण ताणतणावाचा अनुभव वेगवेगळ्या प्रकारे घेत असतो. अगदी अबलापासून ते वृद्धापर्यंत घेत असतो. सजीव प्राणी मात्रामध्ये ताण अनुभवताना दिसून येतो. व्यक्तिपरत्वे, स्थलपरत्वे ताणाचा अनुभव बदलत जातो. आपण एखाद्या घटनेचे प्रसंगाचे संवेदन कसे करून घेता यावर ताणाचे प्रमाण, ताणाची तीव्रता अवलंबून असते.

बीज शब्द: ताण परिहार, ताण निरसन, तणाव मुक्ती

प्रस्तावना :

या ताणतणाची प्रत्यक्ष-अप्रत्यक्षपणे आपल्याला फार मोठी किंमत मोजावी लागते. पहाटे जाग आल्यापासून रात्री झोपी जाईपर्यंत उद्योग, व्यवसायातील अडचणी, समस्या, उत्पादनावरील परिणाम कार्यक्षमेंतेतील घट, कामगार-मालक संबंध, विविध आजारपण, प्रचंड जीवघेणी स्पर्धा, वाढते कौटुंबिक कलह, महागाई, भ्रष्टाचार, दहशतवाद, अस्थिर राजकीय वातावरण, बेकारी, दारिद्य, बलात्कार, खुन दरोडे, कौटुंबिक विघटन, वाढती व्यसनाधिनता, आत्महत्तेचे वाढते प्रमाण अशा तणावजन्य परिस्थितीतून घेतला जाणारा अनुभव बदलत जातो. व्यक्ती एखाद्या परिस्थितीचे संवेदन कसे करून घेतो. यावर ताणाचे परिणाम अवलंबून असते. त्याप्रमाणे ती व्यक्ती कशा प्रकारे प्रतिक्रिया देते यावर ताणाची तीव्रता अवलंबून असते. आपला दृष्टीकोन कसा आहे. प्रसंगाचे गांभीर्य कितपत आहे यावर ताणनिर्मिती अवलंबून असते. शिवाय व्यक्तीचे वय, संस्कार, संस्कृती, शिक्षण, अनुभव, व्यक्तिमत्त्व प्रकार, कौटुंबिक पार्श्वभूमी, आई-वडील यावर ताण अवलंबून असतो.

जीवनाच्या सर्वच क्षेत्रात प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला ताण-तणावाला तोंड द्यावे लागते. सततच्या ताणामुळे व्यक्तिच्या मनामध्ये अस्वस्थता निर्माण होते. हुरहूर अनामिक भिती असुरक्षिततेची भावना, अनिश्चितता, काहीच सुचत नाही.

कशात मन रमत नाही, न कळत व्यक्तिमत्वाची अलिसता, एकाकीपणा, जनमाणसापासून दूर जाणे, अनुत्पादनांची वृत्ती, चालढकलपणा, नंतर बघू करू, कंटाळा आलाय अशी ग्रामीण सार्वत्रिक मानसिकता हा ताणाचा परिणामच दर्शवितो हे आयुष्यभर लागलेलच हाय, यातून सुटका करून घेण्यासाठी विरंगुळा, गप्पा, वेशीतील कट्ट्यावरील गप्पा यातून थोडा विरंगुळा मिळतो. डोक्यातील ओझ कमी होतयं, भार हालका होतो. सवंगडी, मित्रत्व, चल उद्या अमावस्या आहे. जाऊन येवूया, आमक्या गावात नाटक हाय, कुस्त्या, बैलगाड्यांच्या शर्यती, भजन, सोंगीभजन, किर्तन, प्रवचन, ससे, पारायणे, प्रसाद, महाप्रसाद, कवाडे, शाहिरकी, कवाली, तमाशा, यात्रे, जत्रे म्हाया इ. मानसिक ताण कमी करण्यासाठी ग्रामीण मनुष्य या साधनांचा, उपायाचा, मार्गाचा ताणमुक्तीसाठी वापर करित असतो. शिवाय शहरी मनुष्य व्याख्यानमाला, प्रदर्शन सर्कस, महानाटक, विविध सभा, संम्मेलने, साहित्य संम्मेलने, विविध पुष्प प्रदर्शन, चित्रकला प्रदर्शन, महाउत्सव,अन्नोत्सव इ. उपस्थित राहून ताण कमी करण्याचा प्रयत्न करित असतो. शिवाय ग्रामीण महिला हळदी-कंकू, ओटी भरणे, पडल्या भरणे, वटपोर्णिमा, उपवास, व्रत-वैकल्य, उपास-तपास, पूजा अर्चा सुवासिनीची ओटी भरणे, नागपंचमीची गाणी, ओव्या, कोडी, झिम्मा-फुगडी, नैवद्य ओवाळून टाकणे, आरती- ओवाळणी नामकरण सोहळा, बारसे अशा प्रथा-पद्धती आदरतिथ्य, विवाहसोहळा हळदीचा समारंभ

आदरतिथ्य, पाहुणचार इ. मधून कळत न कळत ताण व्यवस्थापन, प्रथा, पद्धती, रितीरिवाज कर्मकांडे या पारंपारिक पद्धतीमधून ताण- व्यवस्थापन होत असते.

प्रत्येकाला आपआपल्या क्षेत्रात, घरात, घराबाहेर समाजात वावरताना, ताण-तणावाला तोंड द्यावे लागते, अस्वस्थ वाटणे, चिडचिड होणे, घाबरून जाणे, गुदमरून जाणे, कुचंबना होणे, काही सुचत नाही, अनिश्चित वाटणे यासारख्या अनुभवाच्या माध्यमातून आपण आपले ताण-तणाव व्यस्त करित असतो. रोजच्या जीवनात आपले ताण-तणाव व्यक्त करित असतो. रोजच्या जीवनात आपण काही घटना अनुभवतो. जसे आर्थिक स्थिती नसल्याने पक्षपात होणे, ह्दयविकाराचा त्रास, परीक्षेवेळी आजारी पडणे अशा अनेक घटना घडताना दिसून येतात काही व्यक्तिच्या शारिरीक आजाराची लक्षणे जरी दिसत असली तरी त्यामागचे कारण मानसिक असते. ताण-तणाव प्रत्येकाच्या आयुष्यात येतात ते चुकविता येत नाही. ताण निर्माण झाल्यास कमी करण्यासाठी त्याचे व्यवस्थापन माहित असणे आवश्यक आहे तसेच त्यासाठी जागरूक राहावयाचे व त्या दिशेने प्रयत्न करणे आवश्यक आहे.

सण आणि उत्सव

१) **पोळा** – महाराष्ट्र व कर्नाटक बैलपूजे निमित्त साजरा केला जाणारा एक हिंदूंचा सण सर्वसामान्यत: श्रावणी अमावस्येच्या दिवशी शेत करी वर्ग हा सण मोठ्या उत्साहाने साजरा करतो.

२) **राखी पोर्णिमा:** रक्षाबंधनाच्या विधीमुळे श्रावण पोर्णिमेला मिळालेले एक नाव 'रक्षा' या संस्कृत शब्दाचा 'रक्षण' असा अर्थ होतो 'राखी' हे त्या शब्दाचेच मराठी उत्तर होय, अलीकडच्या प्रथेनुसार यादिवशी बहिण भावाला राखी बांधते ही राखी अक्षता मोहऱ्या व सोने एकत्र बांधून तयार करतात.

३) **श्री गणेश चतुर्थी** – 'गणपती बाप्पा मोरया, मंगलमूर्ती मोरया' या जय घोषाने संपूर्ण जन-सागर गणपती बापाच्या आगमनात बुडून जातो.

४) **रंगपंचमी** – फाल्गुन वद्य पंचमीला प्रामुख्याने महाराष्ट्रात साजरा केला जाणारा हिंदूंचा एक उत्सव. या दिवशी एकमेकाच्या अंगावर रंग उडवून लोक आनंदोत्सव साजरा करित असल्यामुळे या पंचमीला 'रंगपंचमी' हे नाव प्राप्त झाले आहे.

५) **नवरात्रोत्सव** – अश्विन शुद्ध प्रतिपदा हे नवमी देवी उपासनेचा काळ यालाच 'नवरात्र उत्सव' असे म्हणतात. नवरात्री या सणामध्ये घरोघरी घटस्थापना केली जाते.

६) **दसरा** - दसरा म्हणजे विजयादशमी अज्ञाञाने ज्ञानाने शत्रुवर पराक्रमाने, वैऱ्यावर प्रेमाने विजय मिळवायचा, आनंद, समाधान आणि सोबत संपत्ती मिळवून आणायची यश किर्ती प्राप्त करायची, धनसंपदा लुटावयाचा दिवस.

७) **होळी**- आपण साजरा करत असलेल्या सणाना धार्मिक महत्व तर असतेच पण शास्त्रीय महत्व देखील असते.

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होळी दहन मनुष्याला आपल्या मनातील वाईट विचारांना होळीप्रमाणे आगीत जळून राख करावी या गोष्टीचे प्रतिक आहे.

८) सर्वसाधारणपणे ताण म्हणजे काय? त्याचे स्वरूप पहाणे आवश्यक आहे.

व्याख्या

मनातील अनावश्यक व नकारात्मक विचाराच्या गर्दीमुळे मनाची जी स्थिती होते तिला 'तणाव' असे म्हणतात.

"शारिरीक समतोल बिघडविणाऱ्या आणि समायोजन होण्यासाठीची क्षमता वाढविणाऱ्या उद्दीपक घटकांना जीवनाकडून विशिष्ट किंवा अविशिष्ट पद्धतीला ज्या प्रतिक्रिया दिल्या जातात त्यास ताण असे म्हणतात". (झिंबार्डो १९८८)

सर्वसाधारणपणे ताण म्हणजे एक प्रकारचा मानसिक दबाव/दडपण होय. ताण म्हणजे असुखकारक भावना, थकवा आणणारी वंचितता निर्माण करणारी अवस्था होय.

ताणाचा अर्थ:

ताण ही व्यक्तीच्या जीवनातील गतिशिल अवस्था असून जी समायोजनाच्या गरजा पूर्ण न झाल्यास उद्भवते. त्यामुळे प्रत्येक जीवमात्र प्राणी सातत्याने कमी-अधिक प्रमाणात तणाव ग्रस्त असतो. तसे पाहता ताण निर्माण होण्यासाठी काही कारणे ही जबाबदार असतात. कारणाशिवाय ताण निर्माण होत नाही. आपण सर्वसाधारण कारणे कोणती ती पुढीलप्रमाणे पाहू -

ताणतणावाचे कारणे

१) **बाह्य कारणे** – एकूण तणाव निर्मितीमध्ये बाह्य घटकाचा केवळ ५ ते १० % एवढाच वाटा असतो. उदा. कामाच्या ठिकाणचे व घरातील वातावरण, आर्थिक स्थिती, सामाजिक समस्या इ.

२) **आंतरिक कारणे** – एकूण तणाव निर्मितीमध्ये बाह्य आंतरिक घटकांचा ९०-९५% वाटा असतो परंतु कोणतीही परिस्थिती ही स्वत: तणावपूर्ण नसते.

एखाद्या स्वभावनुरूप त्या परिस्थितीकडे पाहण्याच्या त्याच्या दृष्टीकोनावर सर्व अवलंबून असते. स्वभावातील काही दोषामुळे नेहमीची परिस्थिती देखील कशी तणाव निर्माण करू शकते याची काही उदा. १) आत्मविश्वासाचा अभाव- आव्हानात्मक परिस्थिती निर्माण झाली की व्यक्ति तणावग्रस्त होते.

३) हळवेपणा- रस्त्यात भेटलेला मित्र हसला नाही म्हणून तणाव

४) लाजणे – अपरिचीत व्यक्तीशी बोलताना तणाव निर्माण होतो.

५) न्यूनगंड असणे- आपल्यापेक्षा श्रेष्ठ व्यक्तिच्या सानिध्यात तणाव

सर्वसाधारण ताणतणावाची लक्षणे

I) शारिरीक लक्षणे :

आपल्याभोवती घडणाऱ्या बदलाशी आपण सातत्याने जुळवून घेत असतो. त्या बदलाला आपल्या

जीवनामध्ये सामावून घेतो व पुढे जातो परंतु आपण बदलाशी जुळवून न घेतल्यास अगर बदल जीवनामध्ये सामावून घेतल्यामुळे जो रोष राहतो तो मानसिक तणाव होय. लक्षणे पुढीलप्रमाणे -

१) झोपेमध्ये बदल :

अनेकदा बिछान्यावर पडल्या-पडल्या झोप लागत नाही. कधी-कधी सुरवातीला डुलकी लागते आणि वारंवार जाग येत राहते व जाग आल्यानंतर झोप लागत नाही. सकाळी जाग आल्यानंतर ताजेतवानं आणि टवटवीत वाटत नाही.

२) डोकेदुखी :

लक्ष एकाग्र करून काम करीत राहिल्यामुळे डोक्याच्या स्नायूवर ताण पडतो आणि पाठ आवळून धरल्यासारखे होते. डोकं दुखतं तसेच अर्धशिशी सारखं डोक दुखल्याची सवय असल्यास एक प्रकारची ॲटयाकच वाटते.

३) भूकेमध्ये बदल :

आपली भुकेची गरज रोजची वेळ सर्वसाधारणपणे ठरलेली असते. अनियमित कामामुळे भुकेच्या दैनंदिन चक्रामध्ये बदल होतो. कडकडून भूक लागत नाही असे आपल्याला जाणवू लागते.

४) पचनसंस्थेवर परिणाम :

अपुरी भूक, अपुरी झोप आणि अयोग्य खानपिन या गोष्टी एकत्र आल्या की पचनसंस्था वारंवार बिघडत राहते. पोटात गॅसेसचा त्रास होतो वजन कमी होते.

५) छातीतील अस्वस्थपणा : कामाचा ताण जाणवू लागला की आपण योग्य पद्धतीने श्वासोच्छ्वास करू शकत नाही. आणि त्यामुळे छातीत दबल्यासारखे दु:खू लागते.

६) पोटातील मळमळ :

७) पाठदुखी

८) हातपाय बधीर होणे :

मनावर ताण पडणाऱ्या छोट्या –मोठ्या गोष्टी पुन्हा पुन्हा होत राहिल्यातर हातापायाला मुंग्या येतात. अशा विचित्र आणि अनोळखी संवेदनेमुळे आपण गोंधळून जातो इतकेच नव्हे तर बधिर होणाऱ्या जाणिवेकडे आपलं लक्ष केंद्रित होत व या गोष्टीकडे लक्ष दिल्यामुळे एकाग्रता टळते.

९) हातपाय गळून जाणे : बधिर होणाऱ्या जोडीला कधी-कधी हातपाय गळून गेल्यासारखे वाटते तर कधी हातापायाचे स्नायू आखडल्यासारखे वाटतात.

१०) हाता पायांची थरथर :

II) मानसिक लक्षणे :

१) आराम न करता येणे :

सातत्याने तणावाचे दडपण जाणवत राहिल्यामुळे इच्छा असून देखील आराम करता येत नाही. अंग सैलसर सोडून मोकळा श्वास घ्यावा म्हटल तर ते जमतच नाही. डोळे मिटून पडले कि नको असलेली घटना आणि संवाद मनाला टोचणी देत राहतात.

२) बौद्धिक थकवा जाणवण:

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आपल्या शरीरातील स्नायू काम करून अति श्रमाण दु:खू लागतात त्याचप्रमाणे बौद्धिक श्रम केल्यानंतर थकवा जाणवू लागतो. हा थकवा मानसिक असतो अशा बौद्धिक थकल्यामुळे कामात लक्ष, एकाग्र करण्याची कुवत क्षीण होते. अशा अवस्थेत नवीन कल्पना सुचत नाहीत. समस्यांना उत्तर सापडत नाही. एखादी नविन गोष्ट शिकायची असेल तर जमत नाही.

३) चिडचिड होणे :

बारीकसारीक कारणावरून संताप येतो ज्या माणसाला आपल्याला दुखवायचं नसत सहकारी पत्नी, मुल, आई-वडिल आणि कुटुंबिय यांच्याशी संघर्ष होवू लागते त्याची मन आपण दुखावणे आणि अरेरे, उगिचच मी माझ्या माणसाना दुखावलं अस म्हणायची आपल्यावर वेळ येते.

४) वैफल्यग्रस्तता आणि उदासीनता :

मानवी जीवनात आपल्यापैकी प्रत्येकालाच ताण अनुभवावा लागतो. संपूर्णपणे ताण नाहीसा करता येत नाही हे जरी खरे असले तरी ताणाची तीव्रता कमी करता येऊ शकतो. जीवनात अनेक मार्ग व उपाय असतात. त्याचा आपल्याला विसर पडलेला असतो. ताणजन्य प्रसंगाना तोंड देण्यासाठी, सहनशीलता वाढविण्यासाठी, आशावाद राहण्यासाठी आपण विविध उपाय वापरले जाऊ शकतो.

मानवी जीवनात ताणविरहीत अवस्था असणे शक्य नाही. थोड्याफार प्रमाणात ताण हा असणारच. विविध उपायांचा वापर करून त्याची तीव्रता कमी करता येते. ताण सुसह्य कसा होईल या दिशेने विचार/ प्रयत्न केला पाहिजे. यालाच 'ताण व्यवस्थापन' असे म्हणतात.

५) तक्रारखोरपणा वाढला -

तणावमुक्त राहण्यासाठी उपाययोजना /व्यवस्थापन / परिहार :

ताण अनुभवणे ही एक वास्तवता आहे. ताणाची तीव्रता कमी कसा करता येईल या दिशेने प्रत्येकाने प्रयत्न केले पाहिजे. विविध प्रयत्न करतो त्यालाच 'ताणाचे व्यवस्थापन' म्हणतात. ताणाचे व्यवस्थापन प्रभावीपणे करण्यासाठी पुढील मार्गांची थोडक्यात माहिती करून घेवू.

१) सभोवतालची परिस्थिती बदलणे.

२) ध्यान :

ही धारणेची प्रगत अवस्था आहे. या अवस्थेत एकाच प्रत्ययावर दीर्घकाळ मन एकाग्र करावे, देहभान विसरून आपण त्या प्रत्ययावर मन एकाग्र करावयाचे असते.

३) धारणा ही ज्ञानाची प्राथमिक अवस्था: शरीराबाहेरील एखाद्या वस्तुवर मन एकाग्र करण्याच्या प्रक्रियेला 'धारणा' असे म्हणतात. मनाला गुंतवून ठेवणे म्हणजे 'धारणा'. उदा. कोणत्याही प्रतिमेवर एकाग्र करणे.

४) हास्ययोग :

सततच्या चिंता व काळजी यामध्ये गुरफटल्यामुळे चेहऱ्यावरील हास्य निघून गेले आहे. दिवसातून कमाल थोडावेळ जरी जोर जोरात हसण्यात वेळ घालविला तर तणाव नाहीसा होतोच. पण शरीरामध्ये एक विशिष्ट स्त्राव निर्माण होऊन व्याधिरहीत जीवन जगता येते.

५) विविध छंद जोपासणे :

जीवनात ताण-तणावापासून मुक्त होण्यासाठी वाचन, संगीत, नृत्य, कला, पेंटिंग, टी.व्ही. पहाणे, सिनेमा पाहणे तसेच चांगली संगत निर्माण करणे आवश्यक असते. यातून जीवनाकडे सकारात्मक दृष्टीकोनातून पहाता येते.

६) विपश्यना :

विपश्यना म्हणजे मौनाचे महत्त्व पटवून देणारे माध्यम किंवा तंत्र आहे. मौनातून मानसिक तणावाचे व्यवस्थापन करण्यासाठी मनाची एकाग्रता हा उत्तम मार्ग आहे. तणावपूर्ण स्थितीमध्ये चिडणे, रागावणे, त्राग करून घेणे यामध्ये आपली शक्ती वाया जाते. विपश्यना व्यक्ती मौन पाळून आपल्या कृती विषयी सकारात्मक व नकारात्मक दोन्ही बाजूंनी विचार करू शकतो. आपले मन म्हणजे एक उत्कृष्ट न्यायाधीश आहे. आपली कृती चुक की बरोबर ठरविण्यासाठी किंवा आपल्या वर्तमान दिशा देण्यासाठी विपश्यना उत्तम मार्ग आहे. विपश्यना म्हणजे एक प्रकारचे आत्म परीक्षणच होय.

ताण-व्यवस्थापन मानसशास्त्रातून :

मानसशास्त्रातून ताण-व्यवस्थापन ताण अनुभवला जात असताना विविध प्रकारच्या शारिरीक प्रतिक्रिया घडून या प्रतिक्रियांची वेळीच जाणीव होवून नियंत्रण करता येते अशा व्यक्ती ताण नियमन करू शकतात. ताण नियंत्रणासाठी प्रत्येक व्यक्तीकडून निरनिराळ्या पद्धतीचा अवलंब केला जातो. त्यात व्यक्तीभिन्नता दिसून येते.

I) सामान्य ताण व्यवस्थापन

अ) संघर्षमय परिस्थितीचा त्याग करणे.

ब) भावविवेचन

क) स्व-व्यवस्थापन

ड) स्व-टिका

ई) संरक्षक यंत्रणांचा वापर

II) मूल्यमापन केंद्रित विधायक व्यवस्थापन

अ) अलबर्ट एलिस यांची तर्कसंगत विचारसरणी

ब) सकारात्मक पूनर्मूल्यांकन

III) समस्या केंद्रित – विधायक व्यवस्थापन

अ) पद्धतशीर समस्या परिहार

ब) वेळेचा परिणामकारक वापर

IV) भावनाकेंद्रित विधायक व्यवस्थापन

अ) भावनिक गुणाकांचे संवर्धन.

ब) भावनिक कोंडमारा कमी करणे.

क) अनाक्रमण व क्षमाशिलता :

वरील 'मूल्यमापन केंद्रित विधायक व्यवस्थापन' आणि 'समस्या केंद्रित विधायक व्यवस्थापन' याही पद्धतीपेक्षा जीवनातील भावनिक गुंता सोडवून ताण नियंत्रणासाठी स्वत:च्या भावना तपासून पाहिल्या पाहिजेत. काही मानसशास्त्रज्ञ 'भावनिक गुणांक' महत्त्वाचा मानतात.

सर्वसाधारणपणे भारतीय सण, उत्सवातून रूढी, प्रथा-पद्धतीतून ताण व्यवस्थापन तर होतेच. शिवाय आनंदी जीवनासाठी एक संजीवनी ठरते. खऱ्या अर्थाने सन, उत्सवातून ताणाचे उत्तम व्यवस्थापन करण्यास मदत होते.

प्रा. डॉ. बी.एस. पाटील

सर्वसामान्य मनुष्य आपल्या दैनंदिन व्यापारातून सुटका करून घेण्यासाठी सण उत्सवाचाच आधार घेतो. मजूर, शेतकरी, कष्टकरी, व्यापारी विशेष करून ग्रामीण वर्ग आपल्या प्रचंड कामाच्या व्यापातून कामधंद्यातून सण उत्सव, यात्रा, जत्रा या ठिकाणी आपली हजेरी लावतो. थोडा विरंगुळा मिळवून ताण- व्यवस्थापन करत असतो. ऐन हंगामाच्यावेळी प्रेरणा व सुगीच्या वेळी सुद्धा आपल्या ठरावीक प्रथा पद्धती, रूढी, परंपरा तो सोडत नाही. याचे कारण विचारल्यास किंवा माहिती करून घेतल्यास सर्व सामान्य मनुष्य व वर्ग अशा प्रतिक्रिया देतोय तसे चुकविता येत नाही. तसा आमच्या घरच्या पद्धती, रिवाज, प्रथा आहेत. तसे केल्याने मनाला एक वेगळे समाधान मिळते, सारा क्षीण निघून जातो. मनाला हलकं वाटतं. अशा प्रतिक्रिया मिळतात. याचा अर्थच असा निघतो. सण उत्सवातून आनंद मिळतो व त्या आनंदातून एक उत्कृष्ट प्रकारे ताण व्यवस्थापन होते हे नक्कीच!

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द्विवेदी युगीन अनूदित साहित्य : एक परिचय

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शोध सारांश:

खड़ी बोली को अपने साहित्यकर्म की भाषा बनने के साथ ही हिंदी साहित्य की उन्नति हेतु मौलिक सृजन के साथ-साथ अंग्रेजी, संस्कृत, बांग्ला और अन्य देशी एवं विदेशी भाषाओं की कृतियों का अनुवाद भी किया है। द्विवेदी युग में अनुवाद कर्म एक प्रवृत्ति विशेष के रूप में रही है। इस युग का प्रत्येक साहित्यकार अनुवाद कर्म से संबद्ध दिखाई पड़ता है, जिसका मूल उद्देश्य पाश्चात्य ज्ञान-विज्ञान से हिंदी पाठकों को जोड़ना तथा हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य को नवीन कलेवर प्रदान करना था। रीतिकालीन काव्यशास्त्रीय एवं श्रृंगारिकता के बंधन से मुक्ति का जो प्रयत्न भारतेंदु युग में प्रारंभ किया गया था, उसको क्रांतिकारी स्वरूप द्विवेदी युग में प्राप्त हुआ है। भाषा और साहित्य में अपेक्षित सुधार करके साहित्य को आदर्श और उपयोगिता के पथ पर लाने में द्विवेदी युगीन साहित्यकारों का महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान है।

बीज शब्द: अनुवाद, भाषा, साहित्य, रचना, भावानुवाद, शब्दानुवाद, आदि।

प्रस्तावना:

वर्तमान युग में अनुवाद के माध्यम से विश्व साहित्य की परिकल्पना साकार हो रही है। विश्व की किसी भी भाषा में लिखित श्रेष्ठ कृतियां अनुवाद के माध्यम से अन्य भाषाओं के पाठकों को आसानी से सुलभ हो रही है। हिंदी साहित्य के इतिहास में द्विवेदी युग को हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य के परिष्कार, परिमार्जन, संवर्धन एवं नवीनीकरण का युग कहा जाता है। इस युग में हिंदी भाषा को व्यवस्थित, व्याकरणसम्मत और त्रुटि रहित करने का सफलतापूर्वक प्रयास किया है। भाषा सुधार के साथ-साथ साहित्य को व्यावहारिक और उपयोगी बनाने का महत्तम कार्य इस युग में हुआ है। भाषा और साहित्य के विकास में द्विवेदी युगीन अनूदित रचनाकारों का अहम् योगदान है। द्विवेदी युगीन साहित्यकारों ने व्यापक स्तर पर अंग्रेजी, बांग्ला, संस्कृत, उर्दू आदि अन्य भाषाओं की रचनाओं का हिंदी में अनुवाद किया है। इस युग के प्रत्येक साहित्यकार का किसी-न-किसी रूप में अनुवाद से संबद्ध था, चाहे वह युग निर्माता महावीर प्रसाद द्विवेदी हो अथवा प्रख्यात आलोचक एवं इतिहासकार रामचंद्र शुक्ल, खड़ी बोली में कविता का सूत्रपात करनेवाले श्रीधर पाठक अथवा मैथिलीशरण गुप्त हो। सभी ने भाषा, भाव, छंद और शैली में नवीनता का समावेश करने हेतु मौलिक लेखन के साथ-साथ अनूदित सृजन भी किया है। आधुनिक हिंदी साहित्य की ऐसी कोई विधा नहीं है, जिसका आरंभ अनुवाद के माध्यम से न हुआ हो। जिसका विवेचन निम्नांकित रूप में प्रस्तुत है।

अनूदित रचनाओं के माध्यम से हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य को समृद्ध करने की प्रक्रिया केवल भारतेंदु युग तक ही सीमित नहीं रही, अपितु बाद के साहित्यकारों ने भी व्यापक स्तर पर अनूदित रचनाओं के माध्यम से हिंदी को अत्यधिक व्यावहारिक और आधुनिक बनाने का कार्य किया है। हिंदी के शिखर पुरुषों में एक महावीर प्रसाद द्विवेदी हिंदी साहित्य के विकास हेतु अंग्रेजी और संस्कृत जैसी समृद्ध साहित्यिक भाषा के कृतियों का अनुवाद करने की अपील करते हैं। सरस्वती पत्रिका में 'ग्रंथकारों से विनय' नामक कविता प्रकाशित हुई, जो उनके काव्य संग्रह 'सुमन' में

संकलित है, जिसमें अनुवाद करने के लिए वे साहित्यकारों से अनुरोध करते हुए लिखते हैं -

"अंग्रेजी ग्रंथ-समूह बहुत भारी है।
अति विस्तृत जलधि समान देहधारी है।
संस्कृत भी इनके लिए सौख्यकारी है।
उसका भी ज्ञानगार हृदयहारी है।
इन दोनों में से अर्थ-रत्न ले लीजे।
हिंदी अर्पण उन्हें प्रेमयुत कीजे ।।"[1]

उपर्युक्त कथन से स्पष्ट है कि द्विवेदी ने हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य को अत्यधिक गम्भीर और व्यावहारिक बनाने के लिए अनुवादकार्य को महत्त्व दिया है, जिसके लिए स्वयं उन्होंने अनेक अंग्रेजी और संस्कृत ग्रंथों का हिंदी अनुवाद किया और अपने समकालीन साहित्यकारों को इस कार्य के लिए प्रेरित किया। द्विवेदी युग के साहित्यकारों ने अनुवाद के माध्यम से भाषा और साहित्य दोनों का संस्कार किया। अनूदित कृतियों के माध्यम से जहां एक ओर नवीन शब्दों के समावेश से शब्द भंडार में वृद्धि हुई, वहीं भाषा को अत्यधिक व्यवस्थित, परिष्कृत और व्याकरणसम्मत बनाने का प्रयास किया है।

अनूदित साहित्य लेखन में महावीर प्रसाद द्विवेदी का योगदान उल्लेखनीय है। उन्होंने संस्कृत और अंग्रेजी की लगभग बीस रचनाओं का अनुवाद किया है। द्विवेदी की सभी अनूदित कृतियों का स्वरूप भावप्रधान है। मूलकृति के भाव को ग्रहण कर सामान्य हिंदी पाठकों को संस्कृत और अंग्रेजी की श्रेष्ठ कृतियों के रसास्वादन के लिए द्विवेदी ने स्वतंत्र रूप से अनुवाद किया है। उन्होंने गद्यात्मक और पद्यात्मक दोनों साहित्य प्रकारों का प्रभावशाली एवं सुचारू ढंग से अनुवाद किया है। गद्यात्मक अनुवाद में मूलकृति के भावों को ग्रहण कर स्वतंत्र रूप से सामान्य हिंदी पाठकों हेतु सरल खड़ीबोली में अनुवाद किया है, जबकि पद्यात्मक अनुवाद में दोहा, मालिनी, शिखरिणी द्रुतविलम्बित, मंद्राकांता, वसंततिलका आदि संस्कृत वृत्तों का प्रयोग कुशलतापूर्वक किया है। उनके अनुवाद के संदर्भ में भारत यायावर लिखते हैं- "द्विवेदी ने जो भी अनुवाद किए हैं, उनमें शब्दानुवाद किसी का नहीं। केवल भाव का अनुसरण करते हुए हिंदी में अपनी तरह से उसे लिखा है यानि ये अनुवाद अन्य अनुवादों से इसलिए भिन्न है कि इनमें द्विवेदी की मौलिकता भी झलकती है। मूलपाठ द्विवेदी कृत अनुवाद में पूरी तरह से

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खुल जाता है।"[2] स्पष्ट है कि द्विवेदी ने शब्दानुवाद की अपेक्षा भावानुवाद पर विशेष बल दिया है।

अनुवाद के माध्यम से खड़ी बोली कविता की शुरुआत करने वाले श्रीधर पाठक की अनूदित कृतियों का युगांतकारी प्रभाव हिंदी साहित्य पर पड़ा है। श्रीधर पाठक ने ऑलिवर गोल्डस्मिथ कृत 'हरमिट' का 'एकांतवासी योगी' के नाम से अनुवाद किया है। उन्होंने इस रचना का खड़ी बोली में अनुवाद करके हिंदी कविता को एक नवीन भाषा परिधान ग्रहण करने की ओर उन्मुख ही नहीं किया, बल्कि वण्य विषय की दृष्टि से भी युगांतर उपस्थित कर दिखाया है। उन्होंने अनुवाद के लिए एक ऐसी प्रेम कहानी का चयन किया, जिसकी कथा सार्वभौमिक मार्मिकता से युक्त थी। जिसमें देश के नर-नारी के यथार्थ जीवन के स्वाभाविक प्रेम को चित्रित किया है। 'हरमिट' के अनुवाद में उन्होंने मौलिकता और स्वतंत्रता का परिचय दिया है। मूल रचना 'हरमिट' में 40 पद है, जबकि श्रीधर पाठक द्वारा अनूदित रचना लावनी छंद में 59 पद है। पाठक ने प्रस्तुत रचना का अनुवाद करते समय भाव को महत्त्व दिया है। शब्दानुवाद को उन्होंने बिल्कुल भी महत्त्व नहीं दिया है। उनके द्वारा अनूदित 'एकांतवासी योगी' में खड़ी बोली का ऐसा परिपक्व रूप दिखाई पड़ता है कि रचना अनूदित न होकर मौलिक दिखाई देती है। जैसे -

"Surprised he sees new beauties rise.
Swift montling to the view.
Like colours o'er the monrning skies.
As bright, as transient too.
The bashful look. the rising breast.
Alternate spread alarm:
The lovely stranger stands canfess'd.
A maid in all her charms"[3]

उपर्युक्त पंक्तियों का अनुवाद श्रीधर पाठक ने कितनी साफ सुथरी खड़ी बोली में किया है, जिसे निम्नलिखित रूप में देख सकते हैं-

"अति आश्चर्य दृश्य योगी को वहाँ दृष्टि अब आता है,
परम ललित लावण्य रूपनिधि, पथिक प्रगट बन जाता है।
ज्यों प्रभात अरुणोदय वेला मिलन वर्ण आकाश,
त्योंही गुम बटोही की छवि, क्रम क्रम हुई प्रकाश।
नीचे नेत्र, उच्च वक्षस्थल, रूप-छटा फैलाता है,
शनैः शनैः दर्शक के मन पर निज अधिकार जमाता है।
इस चरित्र से बैरागी को हुआ ज्ञान तत्काल,
नहीं पुरूष यह पथिक विलक्षण, किंतु सुंदरी बाला।"[4]

स्पष्ट है कि 40 पदों का 59 पदों में अनुवाद करने पर भी श्रीधर पाठक मूल के प्रति पूरी तरह से निष्ठावान बने रहे, जो उनकी असाधारण प्रतिभा का परिचायक है।

अनूदित साहित्य की लेखन परंपरा में ठाकुर जगमोहन सिंह का नाम बड़े सम्मान के साथ लिया जाता है, यद्यपि सीताराम भूप के साथ इनका समय भारतेंदु युग की परिधि में आता है फिर भी द्विवेदी युगीन अनूदित साहित्य की परंपरा की पूर्व पीठिक के रूप में इनकी अनूदित कृतियों के स्वरूप का विवेचन अपेक्षित है। ठाकुर जगमोहन सिंह ने कालिदास के द्वारा रचित 'ऋतुसंहार' तथा 'मेघदूत' का ब्रजभाषा में अनुवाद किया है। उन्होंने शब्दानुवाद की अपेक्षा भावानुवाद पर अधिक बल दिया है। वे लिखते हैं- "मेरी इच्छा थी कि जहाँ तक हो सके भाषा पाठकों के निमित्त ठीक-ठीक उल्था हो और समय और प्रकृति के अनुसार हुआ भी है, हाँ शब्द के लिए शब्द तो नहीं लिखा, पर जिसमें पाठकों को उतनी ही बातें ज्ञात हों जो संस्कृत मूल के पढ़ने से जान पड़े।"[5] ठाकुर साहब की भाषा ब्रज होने के साथ अपना पुरातन स्वरूप ग्रहण किए हुए है। इनके द्वारा अनूदित मेघदूत की कविता में सवैया छंद का प्रयोग हुआ है, जिसकी प्रशंसा प्रसिद्ध आलोचक आचार्य रामचंद्र शुक्ल ने भी की है। वे लिखते हैं- "ठाकुर ने कवित्त सवैया में 'मेघदूत' का बहुत सरल अनुवाद किया है।"[6] स्पष्ट है कि ठाकुर जगमोहन की अनूदित रचनाओं का स्वरूप मुख्य रूप से भावप्रधान है।

कालिदास की कालजयी रचना 'मेघदूत' का अनुवाद विश्व की प्रायः सभी प्रमुख भाषाओं में हुआ है। हिंदी में इस रचना का सर्वप्रथम अनुवाद राजा लक्ष्मणसिंह ने किया है। राजा लक्ष्मणसिंह ने इस कृति का काव्यानुवाद सन 1882-84 ई० में किया था। ब्रजभाषा में अनूदित इस कृति का व्यापक प्रभाव परवर्ती साहित्यकारों पर पड़ा। राजा लक्ष्मणसिंह का ही अनुसरण करते हुआ अनेक साहित्यकारों ने इस कृति को अपने अनुवाद का विषय बनाया। प्रस्तुत कृति में सरल एवं सहज ब्रजभाषा प्रयुक्त हुई है। यद्यपि राजा लक्ष्मणसिंह ने इससे पूर्व कालिदास कृत अभिज्ञान शाकुन्तलम् एवं रघुवंशम् में खड़ीबोली का प्रयोग किया था, किंतु काव्यानुवाद हेतु उन्होंने ब्रजभाषा का चयन किया था। इसका कारण शायद यही हो सकता है कि उस समय तक काव्य में खड़ीबोली का प्रयोग नहीं हो रहा था। सार्थक शब्दों का चयन, मूल-भाव को अत्यधिक निकट रहने एवं भाव को

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अच्छी तरह स्पष्ट करने में सामर्थ होने के कारण राजा लक्ष्मणसिंह को इसके अनुवाद में पूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई है। यहाँ तक की सूक्तियों का अनुवाद भी उन्होंने बहुत सुंदर ढंग से किया है। जिसका उदाहरण निम्नलिखित रूप में प्रस्तुत है –

"कामात्तंहि प्रकृति कृपणाश्चेतनाचेतनेषु"[7]
प्रस्तुत उदाहरण का अनुवाद निम्न प्रकार से किया है-
"कामातुर होत है सदा ही मतिहीन तिन्हें
चैत और अचेत माहँ भेद कहाँ पावेगौ।"[8]

प्रस्तुत अनूदित कृति का यद्यपि खड़ी बोली विकास में कोई योगदान नहीं रहा, फिर भी अनूदित साहित्य की विकास परंपरा में इस कृति के योगदान को किसी प्रकार से इंकार नहीं किया जा सकता है।

रुबाइयात उमर खैयाम फारसी के सुप्रसिद्ध कवि उमर खैयाम की रूबाइयों का एडवर्ड फिट्जजेरल्ड द्वारा अंग्रेजी में किए गए अनुवाद का खड़ी बोली में किया गया अनुवाद है। जिसका प्रकाशन सन् 1829 ई० में हुआ था। प्रकाशन तिथि के आधार पर यह रचना द्विवेदी युग की परिधि से बाहर की है परंतु मैथिलीशरण गुप्त द्विवेदी युग के सशक्त हस्ताक्षर होने के साथ-साथ इनके द्वारा अनूदित कई कृतियों का प्रकाशन द्विवेदी युग की परिधि के अंतर्गत आता है।

खड़ीबोली में अनूदित 'रुबाइयात उमर खैयाम' उमर खैयाम की रुबाइयों का प्रथम हिंदी रूपांतरण है। मैथिलीशरण गुप्त ने एडवर्ड फिटजजेरल्ड द्वारा किए गए रुबाइयात उमर खैयाम का अंग्रेजी काव्यानुवाद अपने अनन्य मित्र रामकृष्ण दास की आग्रह पर किया था। गुप्तजी द्वारा किया गया यह अनुवाद उनकी काव्य प्रतिमा का उत्तम परिचायक है, क्योंकि मैथिलीशरण गुप्त ने अपने मित्र से मूलकृति के भाव को समझकर अनुवाद किया है। उन्होंने अनुवाद करते वक्त अनूदित पाठ का भारतीयकरण करने का प्रयास किया है। जिसका उदाहरण निम्नलिखित रूप में प्रस्तुत है।

"You know. My friends, how fong since in my house.
For a new marriage i did make carouse.
Divorced old borren reason from my bed.
And took the daughter of the vine to spousse"[9]

प्रस्तुत उदाहरण का अनुवाद मैथिलीशरण गुप्त ने इस प्रकार किया है-

"मित्रों, एक नये परिणय के

हेतु, तुम्हें यह है मालूम

की थी मैंने अपने घर पर

राग-रंग की कितनी धूम

बाझ तर्कना का जब मैंने

त्याग कर दिया और सहर्ष

द्राक्षा-दुहिता को निज पत्नी

बना लिया उसका मुँह चूम।"[10]

मूल कृति के प्रति निष्ठावान रहकर अनुवादक ने यथासंभव हिंदी पाठकों को उमर खैयाम की रुबाइयों से परिचय कराने का प्रथम प्रयत्न किया, जो जनकी मातृभाषा के प्रति अनन्य भक्ति और समर्पण का द्योतक है।

निष्कर्ष रूप में अनूदित साहित्य की महत्ता का अनुमान इसी से लगाया जा सकता है कि आधुनिक हिंदी भाषा और साहित्य के स्वरूप का निर्धारण अनूदित कृतियों के माध्यम से होता है। जनता की रूचियों का परिष्कार करने एवं साहित्य में नवीनता और आधुनिकता लाने के लिए न केवल मौलिक रचनाओं का सृजन किया गया, अपितु रचनाकारों ने अनुवाद के माध्यम से भी व्यापक स्तर पर प्रयास किया है। अतः द्विवेदी युगीन साहित्यकारों ने अपनी विद्वत्ता, अनुभव कुशलता और कठिन परिश्रम के बल पर हिंदी साहित्य को समृद्ध बनाने के लिए अनुवाद कर्म को अपने साहित्य सृजन का अभिन्न अंग बनाया है।

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पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची सामाजिक स्थिती

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सांराश :

कोणत्याही राष्ट्राच्या मानवी समाजाच्या सर्वांगीण विकासासाठी प्रशासन व्यवस्था अखंडपणे काम करीत असते. प्रशासन व्यवस्थेची उभारणी ही त्या देशातील संस्कृती, राजकीय व सामाजिक व्यवस्था, इतिहास व आर्थिक मूल्यांशी सखोल अभ्यास करूनच निर्माण झालेली असते. विशेष म्हणजे प्रशासकीय वर्ग हा संघटीत असतो. हा प्रशासकीय वर्ग गुणवत्ता सिद्ध करून समानतेच्या तत्त्वाने प्रशासनात काम करत असतो. यातूनच नवीन मानके किंवा मापदंड निर्माण होतात यावरून प्रशासनातील अधिकारी व कर्मचार वर्गाचा दृष्टीकोन, वर्तन आणि मानसिकता कळते.[1]

बीज शब्द: कौटुंबिक कलह, सामाजिक नकारात्मकता, सामाजिक दर्जा, भूमिका संघर्ष, राजकीय वाढता हस्तक्षेप, वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांकडून होणारा ताण- तणाव.

प्रस्तावना :

"कर्मचारीवर्ग प्रशासन हे कार्य करणाऱ्या लोकांच्या कार्याची पूर्तता करण्याचे नियोजन, संघटन, निर्देशन व नियंत्रन करते."

"कर्मचारीवर्ग प्रशासन म्हणजे सेवकवर्गाचा असा एक समूह किंवा असे एक तंत्र की, जे आपल्या क्षमतेनुसार, योग्यतेनुसार विशिष्ट अशा परिस्थितीत व विशेष अशा क्षेत्रात प्रशासकीय कार्यांची पूर्तता करतात."

"कायम, पगारी व कुशलप्राप्त कर्मचारीवर्ग, जो व्यावसायिक समूहाच्या स्वरूपात असतो, त्याला 'नागरी सेवक' असे म्हणतात" - हरमन फाईनर.[2]

पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना सामाजिक प्रश्न सोडवत असताना शारीरिक व मानसिक स्थितीला सामोरे जावे लागते. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कर्तव्य बजावत असताना जनता, प्रसार माध्यमे, पुढारी, पत्रकारिता, वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांकडून दबाव, ताण-तणाव, सणासुदीला रजा न मिळणे, कुटुंबियांना वेळ न देणे, कमी पगारात जास्त काम, वैयक्तिक आरोग्याच्या समस्या, इच्छा व अपेक्षा अशा समस्यांना तोंड दयावे लागते.

पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कामात पूर्ण सुख-सुविधा दिल्या तरी ही पोलीस कर्मचारी योग्यरित्या काम करील याची शाश्वती देता येत नाही कारण कौटुंबिक कलहामुळे निर्माण होणारे मानसिक ताण-तणाव यामुळे सदैव पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या मनात अशांतता चलबिचल असते त्यामुळे कार्यालयाने कामकाजात विपरित परिणाम होऊन अशा स्थितीत पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वर्तन बदलते व आलेला राग लोकांवर काढणे, लोकांवर ओरडणे, व्यसनाधिनता,

आत्महत्या, कौटुंबिक गरजा भागवण्यासाठी चूकीच्या मार्गाचा अवलंबन करणे अशा वाईट मार्गाने निर्गयन करतात.[3]

संशोधन विषयाची गरज:

पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांवर मोठ्या प्रमाणात संशोधन झालेले नाही आहे. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या सामाजिक स्थितीवर प्रकाश टाकण्याचे काम संशोधकाने केले आहे. जेणेकरून पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या मुलभूत गोष्टीकडे लक्ष देता येईल व शासनाला पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या स्थितीत सुधारणा करण्यास मदत होईल, पोलीस कर्मचारी वर्ग मजबूत असेल तर समाजात शांतता व सुव्यवस्था नांदेल व समाजाला आपली ध्येय-धोरणे व उद्दिष्ट प्राप्त करता येईल.[4]

संशोधनाची व्यासी:

1. प्रस्तुत अध्ययन क्षेत्र छत्रपती संभाजीनगर शहर (औरंगाबाद शहर) या भौगोलिक क्षेत्रापुरते मर्यादित आहे.

2. अध्ययन विषयाचा केंद्रबिंदू पोलीस कर्मचारी वर्गापुरता मर्यादित आहे.

संशोधनाची उद्दिष्ट्ये:

1. पोलीस प्रशासनातील पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कौटुंबिक जीवन जाणणे.

2. पोलीस प्रशासनातील पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची सामाजिक स्थिती जाणणे.

3. पोलीस अधिकारी व पोलीस कर्मचारी यांच्यातील संबंध जाणणे.

संशोधनाची गृहितके :

1. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कौटुंबिक जीवन विस्कळीत आहे.
2. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची सामाजिक दर्जा चांगला नाही.
3. पोलीस अधिकारी व पोलीस कर्मचारी यांचे संबंध सलोख्याचे नाही.

नमुना निवड :

छत्रपती संभाजीनगर (औरंगाबाद शहर) पोलीस आयुक्तालय अंतर्गत 41 पोलीस ठाणे[5] व 3149[6] पोलीस कर्मचारी येत असून संशोधनासाठी 200 उत्तरदाते निवडण्यात आलेले आहे.

सदर संशोधनात 'सहेतूक किंवा उद्देशपूर्ण' नमुना निवड पद्धतीचा उपयोग करण्यात आलेला आहे.[7]

तथ्य् संकलन :

1. **प्राथमिक तथ्य् संकलन :** सदर संशोधनात प्रत्यक्षरित्या पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना भेटून प्रश्नावलीद्वारे तथ्य संकलन करण्यात आले आहे. प्रश्नावलीत 'मिश्र पद्धती' चा वापर करण्यात आला आहे.

2. **दुय्म्म तथ्य् संकलन :** सदर संशोधनात शासकीय अहवाल, संदर्भ, साहित्य, मासिके, लेख, वृत्तपत्रे व इंटरनेट चा उपयोग करण्यात आलेला आहे.[8]

संशोधन आराखडा :

सदर संशोधनात संशोधकाने 'वर्णनात्मक संशोधन आराखडा' पद्धतीचा उपयोग केला आहे.[9]

संशोधन पद्धती :

सदर संशोधन संशोधकाने 'वर्णनात्मक संशोधन' पद्धतीचा उपयोग केला आहे.[10]

सैद्धांतिक आधार :

सदर संशोधनात 'सामाजिक नियंत्रण' पद्धतीने विषय मांडला आहे.[11]

तक्ता क्र. 1.1
पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची वैयक्तिक माहिती
छत्रपती संभाजीनगर शहर (औरंगाबाद शहर), एकूण उत्तरदाते 200, मार्च-मे 2023

अ. क्र.	प्रश्नावली	पर्याय	सदस्य संख्या	टक्केवारी
1.1	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे लिंग	पुरुष	155	77.8
		स्त्री	45	22.5
		LGBT	00	00.00
1.2	पोलीस कर्मचारी यांची वैवाहिक स्थिती	विवाहीत	191	95.5
		अविवाहीत	07	3.5
		विधवा	00	00
		विधूर	00	00
		घटस्फोट	02	01
1.3	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वयोगट	19 ते 24 वर्षे	08	04
		25 ते 30 वर्षे	14	07
		31 ते 36 वर्षे	52	26
		37 ते 42 वर्षे	44	22
		43 ते 48 वर्षे	36	18
		49 ते 54 वर्षे	31	15.5
		55 ते 60 वर्षे	15	7.5
1.4	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा धर्म	हिंदू	153	76.5
		इस्लाम	13	6.5
		बौद्ध	26	13
		जैन	01	0.5
		ख्रिश्चन	01	0.5
		शिख	00	00
		इतर (आदिवासी)	06	0.3
1.5	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा प्रवर्ग	खुला वर्ग (General Category)	64	32
		अनुसुचित जाती (SC)	33	16.5
			22	11

तुषार किशोर कांबळे

		अनुसुचित जमाती (ST)	34	17
		इतर मागास वर्ग (OBC)	08	04
		विशेष मागास वर्ग SBC)	10	05
		भटक्या जाती (VJ/DT)	08	04
		भटक्या जमाती (NT-B)	08	04
		भटक्या जमाती (NT-C)	11	5.5
		भटक्या जमाती (M-D)		
1.6	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची मातृभाषा	इंग्रजी	00	00
		मराठी	180	90
		हिंदी	08	04
		उर्दू	05	2.5
		इतर	07	3.5
		(तेलगू, भिल्लारी, बंजारा, धनगर, परदेशी)		
1.7	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे शिक्षण	प्राथमिक	00	00
		माध्यमिक	19	9.5
		उच्च माध्यमिक	57	28.5
		पदवी	97	48.5
		पदव्युत्तर	27	12.5
		प्रौढ शिक्षण	00	00
1.8	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची पदश्रेणी	सहाय्यक पोलीस उपनिरिक्षक	19	9.5
		पोलीस हवालदार	46	23
		पोलीस नाईक	32	16
		पोलीस शिपाई	103	51.5
1.9	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा पूर्ण झालेला सेवाकाळ	1 ते 5 वर्षे		
		6 ते 10 वर्षे	05	2.5
		11 ते 15 वर्षे	61	25.5
		16 ते 20 वर्षे	40	20
		21 ते 25 वर्षे	14	07
		26 ते 30 वर्षे	25	12.5
		31 ते 35 वर्षे	38	19
		36 ते 40 वर्षे	20	10
			07	3.5

तक्ता क्र. 1 मधील अ. क्र. 1.1 पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे लिंग प्रमाण पाहता पुरुष 77.8 टक्के आहे. स्त्री 22.5 टक्के आहे. पोलीस प्रशासनात स्त्रीयांचे प्रमाण वाढवण्याची गरज आहे. LGBT प्रमाण दिसून आले नाही. अ. क्र. 1.2 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची वैवाहिक स्थिती पाहता विवाहित 95.5 टक्के आहे, अविवाहीत 3.5 टक्के आहे, घटस्फोट 1 टक्के आहे तर विधवा व विधूर यांचे प्रमाण दिसून आले नाही. यावरून असे दिसून येते की, विवाह करणे समाजात दर्जा व भूमिका दर्शविते. अ. क्र. 1.3 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वयोगट पाहता 19 ते 24 वर्षे वयोगटातील 04 टक्के, 25 ते 30 वर्षे वयोगटातील 07 टक्के, 31 ते 36 वर्षे वयोगटातील 26 टक्के, 37 ते 42 वयोगटातील 22 टक्के, 43 ते 48 वयोगटातील 18 टक्के, 49 ते 54 वर्षे वयोगटातील 15.56 टक्के, 55 ते 66 वर्षे वयोगटातील 7.5 टक्के पोलीस कर्मचारी असून 31 ते 36 वयोगटातील कर्मचारी जास्त असून तरुण लोकांचे प्रमाण जास्त दिसून आले आहे. अ. क्र. 1.4 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा धर्म पाहता हिंदू धर्म मानणारे 76.5 टक्के, इस्लाम धर्म मानणारे 6.5 टक्के, बौद्ध धर्म मानणारे 13 टक्के, जैन धर्म मानणारे 0.5 टक्के, ख्रिश्चन धर्म मानणारे 0.5 टक्के व इतर (आदिवासी) धर्म मानणारे 03 टक्के व शिख धर्म मानणारे दिसून आलेले नाही यावरून असे समजते की पोलीस प्रशासनात हिंदू धर्म मानणारे जास्त

तुषार किशोर कांबळे

असून पोलीस प्रशासनात विविधता दिसून येते. अ. क्र. 1.5 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा प्रवर्ग पाहता खुला प्रवर्ग (General Category) मध्ये 32 टक्के, अनुसुचित जाती (SC) मध्ये 16.5 टक्के, अनुसुचित जमाती (ST) मध्ये 11 टक्के, इतर मागास वर्ग (OBC) मध्ये 17 टक्के, भटक्या जमाती

(NT-B) मध्ये 04 टक्के, भटक्या जमाती (NT-C) मध्ये 04 टक्के व भटक्या जमाती (NT-D) मध्ये 5.5 टक्के आहे. यावरून असे दिसून येते की, वंचित घटकांचे प्रमाण कमी आहे.

तक्ता क्र. 2.2

पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची सामाजिक स्थिती

(छत्रपती संभाजीनगर शहर (औरंगाबाद शहर), एकूण उत्तरदाते 200, मार्च-मे 2023)

अ. क्र.	प्रश्नावली	पर्याय	सदस्य संख्या	टक्केवारी
2.1	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा कौटुंबिक प्रकार	संयुक्त कुटुंब	137	68.5
		विभक्त कुटुंब	63	31.5
2.2	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबातील सदस्य संख्या	1 ते 2 सदस्य		
		3 ते 4 सदस्य	02	01
		5 ते 6 सदस्य	06	03
		7 ते 8 सदस्य	30	15
		9 ते 10 सदस्य	94	47
		11 ते 12 सदस्य	32	16
			20	10
2.3	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबियांना समाजात सन्मानाची वागणूक मिळते का?	होय	192	96
		नाही	08	04
		तटस्थ	00	00
2.4	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कौटुंबिक जबाबदारी पार पाडण्यात अपयश आले आहे का?	होय	30	15
		नाही	170	85
		तटस्थ	00	00
2.5	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कुटुंबियासोबतचे संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे आहे	चांगले स्वरूपाचे	152	76
		मध्यम स्वरूपाचे	34	17
		अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे	07	3.5
		नेहमी ताण-तणाव	04	02
		मारहाण व शिवीगाळ	03	1.5
2.6	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे पती व पत्नी सोबतचे संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे आहे.	चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे	159	79.5
		मध्यम स्वरूपाचे	27	13.5
		अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे	07	3.5
		अजिबात चांगले संबंध नाही	07	3.5
2.7	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना साप्ताहिक सुट्टी मिळते का?	होय	182	91.5
		नाही	17	8.5
		तटस्थ	00	00
2.8	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कामाचे तास	12 तास		
		12 ते 15 तास	15	7.5
		15 तास ते 18 तास	125	62.5
		18 तास ते 21 तास	40	20
		21 तास ते 24 तास	07	3.5
			12	6.5
2.9	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांसोबतचे संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे	चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे	144	72
		मध्यम स्वरूपाचे	41	20.5
			13	6.5

		आहे	02	01
		अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे		
		अजिबात चांगले संबंध नाही		
2.10	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांकडून होणारा ताण आहे का?	होय नाही तटस्थ	47 144 09	23.5 72 4.5
2.11	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना अतिरिक्त कामामुळे निर्माण होणारे ताण कोणते आहे.	शारीरिक ताण मानसिक ताण कौटुंबिक ताण	32 141 27	16 70.5 13.5
2.12	पोलीस प्रशासनात संख्याबळ कमी असल्यामुळे पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांवर अतिरिक्त कामाचा ताण आला आहे का?	होय नाही तटस्थ	185 11 04	92.5 5.5 02
2.13	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या अतिरिक्त कामामुळे निर्माण होणारे ताण कोणते आहे.	शारीरिक ताण मानसिक ताण कौटुंबिक ताण	32 141 27	16 70.5 13.5
2.14	पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कर्तव्य येणारे अडचणी कोणत्या आहे.	वरिष्ठ अधिकारी वर्ग जनता राजकीय लोक प्रसार माध्यमे मुलभूत सुविधा आरोग्य स्थिती	70 128 116 78 98 139	35 64 58 39 49 69.5
2.15	पोलीस व जनता यांच्यामध्ये दुरावा वाढत चालला आहे का.	होय नाही तटस्थ	95 92 13	47.5 46 6.5
2.16	पोलीसांच्या तपास कामात जनतेकडून राजकीय हस्तक्षेप केला जातो का	होय नाही तटस्थ	127 60 13	63.5 30 6.5
2.17	पोलीस प्रशासनात राजकीय हस्तक्षेप वाढला आहे का	होय नाही तटस्थ	133 48 19	66.5 24 9.5
2.18	पोलीस प्रशासनाची प्रतिमा प्रसार माध्यमाद्वारे खराब झाली आहे का	होय नाही तटस्थ	126 59 15	63 29.5 7.5
2.19	पोलीस प्रशासन कामाचे प्रसार माध्यमे योग्य रितीने दखल घेतात का	होय नाही तटस्थ	79 111 10	39.5 55.5 05
2.20	पोलीस प्रशासनाची समाजासमोर प्रसार माध्यमाद्वारे दाखवण्यात येणारी प्रतिमा खराब व कशी दाखवली जाते	होय नाही तटस्थ बदनामी करणारी वाईट गोष्ट दाखवणे	126 59 15 64 57 27 18 24	63 29.5 7.5 32 28.5 13.5 09 12

तुषार किशोर कांबळे

		सहकार्य स्वरूपाची	10	05
		असहकार्य स्वरूपाची		
		समाधानकारक		
		तटस्थ स्वरूपाची		

तक्ता क्र. 2 मधील अ. क्र. 2.1 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांमध्ये कौटुंबिक प्रकार पाहता संयुक्त कुटुंब असणारे 68.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे व विभक्त कुटुंब असणारे उत्तरदाते 31.5 टक्के आहे. यावर असे दिसून येते की, पारंपारिक पद्धतीने आजही एकत्र राहतात. अ. क्र. 2.2 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबातील सदस्य 1 ते 2 सदस्य असणारे 01 टक्के उत्तरदाते 2 ते 4 सदस्य असणारे 03 टक्के उत्तरदाते, 5 ते 6 सदस्य असणारे 15 टक्के उत्तरदाते, 7 ते 8 सदस्य असणारे 47 टक्के उत्तरदाते, 9 ते 10 सदस्य असणारे 16 टक्के उत्तरदाते व 11 ते 12 सदस्य असणारे 10 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे. 7 ते 8 सदस्य असणारे 47 टक्के उत्तरदाते असून कर्तवर भरणपोषणची जबाबदारी आहे. अ. क्र. 2.3 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबियांना समाजात सन्मानाची वागणूक मिळते का यात 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 96 टक्के उत्तरदाते व 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 04 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे यावरून असे दिसते कि पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना समाजात मान सन्मान आहे. अ. क्र. 2.4 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कौटुंबिक जबाबदारी पार पाडण्यात अपयश आले आहे का तर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 15 टक्के उत्तरदाते व 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 85 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे. यावरून असे दिसते की कर्तव्या व्यतिरिक्त कौटुंबिक जबाबदारी पाडण्यात यश आले आहे. अ. क्र. 2.5 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कुटुंबियासोबत संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे आहे यात 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' असणारे उत्तरदाते 76 टक्के आहे, 'मध्यम स्वरूपाचे' असणारे उत्तरदाते 17 टक्के आहे, 'अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे' असणारे उत्तरदाते 3.5 टक्के आहे, 'नेहमी ताण-तणाव' असणारे उत्तरदाते 02 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे व 'मारहाण-शिवीगाळ' असणारे उत्तरदाते 1.5 टक्के आहे, 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' असणारे उत्तरदाते 76 टक्के असून पोलीस कर्मचारी व कुटुंबात समन्वय दिसून येतो. अ.क्र. 2.6 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे पत्नी व पती सोबतचे संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे आहे यात 'चांगले स्वरूपाचे' असणारे संबंध उत्तरदाते 79.5 टक्के आहे, 'मध्यम स्वरूपाचे' संबंध असणारे उत्तरदाते 13.5 टक्के आहे, 'अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे' संबंध असणारे उत्तरदाते 3.5 टक्के आहे व 'अजिबात चांगले संबंध नाही' असणारे उत्तरदाते 3.5 टक्के आहे, 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' संबंध असणारे जास्त सदस्य असून पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कुटुंब भग्र नाही हे दिसून येते. अ. क्र. 2.7 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना साप्ताहित सुट्टी मिळते का यात 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 91.5 टक्के आहे व 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 8.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे यावरून असे दिसते की, सरकारच्या नियमात बदल झालेले दिसते. अ. क्र. 2.8 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कामाचे तास यात 12 तास काम करणारे उत्तरदाते 7.5 टक्के, 12 ते 15 तास काम करणारे उत्तरदाते

62.5 टक्के, 15 तास ते 18 तास काम करणारे उत्तरदाते 20 टक्के, 18 ते 21 तास काम करणारे उत्तरदाते 3.5 टक्के व 21 तास ते 24 तास असणारे उत्तरदाते 6.5 टक्के यावरून असे समजते पोलीस कर्मचारी अतिरिक्त काम करत आहे. अ. क्र. 2.9 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांसोबतचे संबंध कशा स्वरूपाचे आहे यात 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' संबंध असणारे उत्तरदाते 72 टक्के आहे, 'मध्यम स्वरूपाचे' संबंध असणारे उत्तरदाते 20.5 टक्के आहे, अत्यल्प स्वरूपाचे संबंध असणारे उत्तरदाते 6.5 टक्के आहे, अजिबात चांगले संबंध नाही असणारे उत्तरदाते 01 टक्के आहे. काळानुसार पोलीस कर्मचारी व वरिष्ठ अधिकारी यांच्या समन्वय वाढत चालला आहे असे दिसून येते. अ. क्र. 2.10 पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांकडून होणारा ताण आहे का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 23.5 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 72 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 4.5 टक्के आहे. यावरून असे समजते की वरिष्ठ अधिकारी वेळोवेळी समस्येचे निराकरण करतात. अ. क्र. 2.11 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना अतिरिक्त कामाचा मोबदला दिला जातो का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 05 टक्के आहे व 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 95 टक्के आहे यावरून असे समजते की अजून इतर शासकीय खात्याप्रमाणे पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना सुख-सुविधा दिल्या जात नाही. अ. क्र. 2.12 नुसार पोलीस प्रशासनात संख्याबळ कमी असल्यामुळे पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांवर अतिरिक्त कामाचा ताण आला आहे का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 92.5 टक्के आहे व 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 5.5 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 02 टक्के आहे यावरून असे समजते की पोलीस भरती वेळोवेळी होणे गरजेचे आहे. अ. क्र. 2.13 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या अतिरिक्त कामामुळे निर्माण होणारे ताण कोणते आहे यावर 'शारीरिक ताण' असणारे उत्तरदाते 16 टक्के आहे, 'मानसिक ताण' असणारे उत्तरदाते 70.5 टक्के आहे व 'कौटुंबिक ताण' असणारे उत्तरदाते 13.5 टक्के आहे यावरून असे समजते की, संख्यांबळ वाढवल्याने येणारे पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांवरील ताण कमी होईल. अ. क्र. 2.14 नुसार पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कर्तव्य बजावत असताना येणाऱ्या अडचणी कोणत्या यावर 'वरिष्ठ अधिकारी वर्ग' म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 35 टक्के आहे, 'जनता' म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 64 टक्के आहे, 'राजकीय लोक' म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 58 टक्के आहे, 'प्रसार माध्यमे' म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 39 टक्के आहे, 'मुलभूत सुविधा म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 49 टक्के आहे व 'आरोग्य स्थिती' म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 69.5 टक्के आहे यावरून असे समजते पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या आरोग्यावर लक्ष देणे गरजेचे आहे जेणेकरून चोखपणे कर्तव्य बजावता येईल.   अ. क्र. 2.15 नुसार पोलीस व जनता

तुषार किशोर कांबळे

यांच्यामध्ये दुरावा वाढत चालला आहे का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 47.5 टक्के आहे. 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 46 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 6.5 टक्के आहे. दुरावा कमी करण्यासाठी जनतेमध्ये जनजागृती करणे गरजेचे आहे, अ. क्र. 2.16 नुसार पोलीसांच्या तपास कामात जनतेकडून राजकीय हस्तक्षेप केला जातो का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63.5 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 30 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 6.5 टक्के आहे. जो पर्यंत राजकीय दबाव जाणार नाही तो पर्यंत तपास कामात पारदर्शकता येणार नाही. अ. क्र. 2.17 नुसार पोलीस प्रशासनात राजकीय हस्तक्षेप वाढला आहे का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 66.5 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 24 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 9.5 टक्के आहे. राजकीय नियंत्राणापासून पोलीस व्यवस्थेला मुक्त करणे गरजेचे आहे जेणेकरून पोलीस प्रशासनाला मुक्तपणे काम करता येईल, अ. क्र. 2.18 नुसार पोलीस प्रशासनाची प्रतिमा प्रसारमाध्यमाद्वारे खराब झाली आहे का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 29.5 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 7.5 आहे. प्रसार माध्यमांनी चांगली बाजू दाखवणे सुद्धा गरजेचे आहे जेणेकरून समाजात पोलीसांविषयीची नकारात्मक प्रतिमा बदलणार नाही.   अ. क्र. 2.19 नुसार पोलीस प्रशासन कामाचे प्रसार माध्यमे योग्य रितीने दखल घेतात का यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 39.5 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 55.5 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 05 टक्के आहे. प्रसार माध्यमे पोलीस प्रशासनाच्या कामाचे दखल घेत नाही यावरून पक्षपातपणा दिसून येतो. अ. क्र. 2.20 नुसार पोलीस प्रशासनाची समाजासमोर प्रसार माध्यमाद्वारे दाखवण्यात येणारी प्रतिमा खराब व कशी दाखवली जाते यावर 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63 टक्के आहे, 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 29.5 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 7.5 टक्के आहे आणि 'बदनामी करणारी' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे 32 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे, 'वाईट गोष्ट दाखवणे 'प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 28.5 टक्के आहे, 'सहकार्य स्वरूपाची' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 13.5 टक्के आहे, 'असहकार्य स्वरूपाची' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 09 टक्के आहे, 'समाधानकारक' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 12 टक्के आहे व 'तटस्थ स्वरूपाची' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 05 टक्के आहे. यावरून असे समजते की प्रसार माध्यमांची भूमिका निपक्षपाती असणे गरजेची आहे.

प्रमुख निष्कर्ष :

1. पोलीस कर्मचारी यांच्या लिंगनिहाय पाहता पुरुष पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची संख्या जास्त असून 77.8 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
2. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची वैवाहिक स्थिती पाहता विवाहितांची संख्या जास्त असून 95.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.

3. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वयोगट नुसार 31 ते 36 वर्षे यातील कर्मचाऱ्यांची संख्या जास्त असून 26 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
4. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा धर्म मानणारे पाहता हिंदू धर्म मानणारे सदस्य संख्या जास्त असून 76.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
5. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा प्रवर्ग पाहता खुला वर्ग (General Category) मध्ये असणारे सदस्य संख्या जास्त असून 32 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
6. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची मातृभाषा पाहता मराठी मातृभाषा असणारे सदस्य संख्या जास्त असून 90 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
7. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे शिक्षण पाहता पदवी पर्यंत शिक्षण पूर्ण करणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 48.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
8. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांची पदश्रेणीनुसार पोलीस शिपाई यांची संख्या जास्त असून 51.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
9. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा सेवाकाळ 6 ते 10 वर्षे पूर्ण झालेल्यांची संख्या जास्त असून 25.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
10. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचा कौटुंबिक प्रकार पाहता संयुक्त कुटुंब असणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 68.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
11. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबातील सदस्य संख्या पाहता 7 ते 8 सदस्य असणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 47 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
12. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या कुटुंबियांना समाजात सन्मानाची वागणुक मिळते. 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 96 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
13. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कौटुंबिक जबाबदारी पार पाडण्यात अपयश आले 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 85 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
14. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कुटुंबियासोबतचे संबंध 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' आहे असे सदस्य जास्त असून 76 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
15. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे पती व पत्नी सोबतचे संबंध 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे' आहे असे सदस्य जास्त असून 79.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
16. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना साप्ताहिक सुट्टी मिळते असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे सदस्य जास्त असून 91.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
17. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे कामाचे तास 12 ते 15 तास आहे असे सदस्य जास्त असून 62.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.
18. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांचे वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांसोबतचे संबंध 'चांगल्या स्वरूपाचे आहे असे उत्तरदाते 72 टक्के आहे.
19. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांकडून ताण 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 72 टक्के आहे.

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20. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना अतिरिक्त कामाचा मोबदला दिला जात 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 92.5 टक्के आहे.

21. पोलीस प्रशासनात संख्याबल कमी असल्यामुळे पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांवर अतिरिक्त कामाचा ताण आला आहे असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रीया देणारे 92.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.

22. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या अतिरिक्त कामामुळे निर्माण होणारे ताणात 'मानसिक ताण' असणारे उत्तरदाते 70.5 टक्के आहे.

23. पोलीस कर्मचाऱ्यांना कर्तव्य बजावत असताना येणारे अडचणीत 'आरोग्य स्थिती' असणारे 69.5 टक्के उत्तरदाते आहे.

24. पोलीस व जनता यांच्यामध्ये दुरावा वाढत चालला आहे असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 47.5 टक्के आहे.

25. पोलीसांच्या तपास कामात जनतेकडून राजकीय हस्तक्षेप केला जातो असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63.5 टक्के आहे.

26. पोलीस प्रशासनात राजकीय हस्तक्षेप वाढला आहे असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 66.5 टक्के आहे.

27. पोलीस प्रशासनाची प्रतिमा प्रसार माध्यमाद्वारे खराब झाली आहे 'होय' प्रतिक्रीया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63 टक्के आहे.

28. पोलीस प्रशासन कामाचे प्रसार माध्यमे योग्य रितीने दखल घेत 'नाही' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 55.5 टक्के आहे.

29. पोलीस प्रशासनाची समाजासमोर प्रसार माध्यमेद्वारे दाखवण्यात येणारी प्रतिमा खराब आहे असे 'होय' प्रतिक्रिया देणारे उत्तरदाते 63 टक्के असून 'बदनामी करणारी' प्रतिमा दाखवतात म्हणणारे उत्तरदाते 32 टक्के आहे.

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तुषार किशोर कांबळे

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सांराश :

1942 की क्रांति भारत के इतिहास की एक महत्त्वपूर्ण घटना थी। इसकी प्रकृति एवं स्वरूप के विषय में ब्रिटिश राजनीतिज्ञों एवं भारतीय राष्ट्रवादियों का एकमत नहीं रहा है। इस आन्दोलन को ब्रिटिश राजनीतिज्ञों ने भी अलग—अलग दृष्टिकोण से देखा। अतः हम यहाँ कुछ महत्त्वपूर्ण तथ्यों का अध्ययन करेंगे जो सर्वाधिक विवादास्पद रहे हैं।

प्रस्तावना :

ब्रिटिश राजनीतिज्ञों ने आन्दोलन के दौरान हुई हिंसा के लिए गाँधी जी को जिम्मेदार माना है और कहा गया कि यह सब गाँधीजी के इशारे पर हुआ। भारत सचिव एमरी ने कांग्रेस पर संचार माध्यमों पर आक्रमण करने और तोड़—फोड़ की योजना बनाने का आरोप लगाया था।[35] गाँधी की आत्मकथा के सरकारी लेखकों ने भी गाँधी को उद्धृत करते हुए लिखा था कि 'आन्दोलन का कार्यक्रम स्वयं गाँधी ने तैयार किया तथा 7 अगस्त को कांग्रेस कार्यसमिति के समक्ष विचारार्थ रखा। अतः गाँधी एवं कांग्रेस कार्य समिति हिंसात्मक आन्दोलन के लिए दोषी है।[36] इसी तरह का दूसरा दृष्टिकोण यह रहा है कि यह स्वतः स्फूर्त उपद्रव था और इस संघर्ष के दौरान हुई हिंसा के कारण इसे कांग्रेस की परम्परागत अहिंसक लड़ाई से नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता। लेकिन आन्दोलन के दौरान हुई हिंसा की जिम्मेदारी से भी कांग्रेस नहीं बच सकती। इन मान्यताओं के प्रमाण में कहा गया कि 14 जुलाई, 1942 के कांग्रेस समिति के प्रस्ताव तथा 8 अगस्त के मुम्बई अधिवेशन ने गाँधी, नेहरू एवं पटेल ने बार—बार यह दोहराया कि यह आन्दोलन भारत की स्वतंत्रता के लिए अन्तिम संघर्ष होगा। ग्वालिया टेंक (मुम्बई) के मैदान में 'करो या मरो' का नारा दिया गया अर्थात् 'भारत को स्वतंत्र करवाओं अथवा मर जाओ'। कांग्रेसी नेताओं के गिरफ्तार हो जाने की स्थिति में प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को आन्दोलन का नेतृत्व स्वयं करने की सलाह दी। उपरोक्त मत के समर्थन में पालग्रीनो ने यह तर्क प्रस्तुत किया है कि आन्ध्रप्रदेश कांग्रेस समिति द्वारा जारी परिपत्र से लोगों को हिंसात्मक आन्दोलन चलाये जाने की सलाह दी गई अर्थात् परिपत्र के माध्यम से लोगों को उपद्रव का सन्देश मिला।

आर० सी० मजुमदार ने ब्रिटिश राजनीतिज्ञों की मान्यताओं को खण्डन कई तथ्यों के आधार पर करने की चेष्टा की है। उनके अनुसार मौलाना आजाद ने इसका जिक्र किया और जिसका नेहरू जी ने भी समर्थन किया था कि : न तो कांग्रेस कार्य समिति ने एवं न ही जनता में, आन्दोलन के दौरान क्या रणनीति अपनाई जानी है। इसका संकेत गाँधी जी ने किया, केवल इसके कि एक दिन सामान्य हड़ताल रखी जानी है। इसलिए स्वयं गाँधी एवं न ही कांग्रेस समिति को इस तरह के दिशा—निर्देश जारी करने के लिए दोषी ठहराया जा सकता है, यह अवश्य कहा गया था कि शान्ति एवं अहिंसा की नीति को अपनाते हुए जनता को हर तरह से तैयार रहना चाहिए।[37] दूसरे राष्ट्रवादी नेताओं ने कभी हिंसात्मक आन्दोलन का जिक्र अपने भाषणों में नहीं किया, फिर उन्हें इसके लिए दोषी कैसे ठहराया जा सकता है। यह भी सर्वविदित है कि आन्दोलन के दौरान कांग्रेस के सभी प्रमुख नेता जेलों में बंद थे फिर वे हिंसक उपद्रवों का कारण कैसे हो सकते हैं।

कांग्रेस दृष्टिकोण के अनुसार हिंसा भड़काने का प्रमुख कारण जनता के प्रिय नेता गाँधी जी एवं अन्य नेताओं की गिरफ्तारी था। तीसरे हिंसात्मक उपद्रवों की पूर्व निर्धारित योजना नहीं थी यह स्वतः स्फूर्त आन्दोलन था। हिंसात्मक उपद्रवों की किसी पूर्व निर्धारित योजना की जानकारी नहीं मिलती। नेताओं को जेल में डाल दिये जाने से कांग्रेस संगठन नेतृत्वहीन हो गया और लोगों पर नियंत्रण नहीं रहा जो कुछ घटित हुआ वह किसी सुनिश्चित योजना का अंग न था। अतः पालग्रीनो के तर्क को भी मान्यता नहीं दी जा सकती। चन्दन मित्र ने जिक्र किया है कि आन्ध्र परिपत्र से ऐसा कोई संकेत नहीं मिलता कि अगस्त के बाद हुए जन विद्रोह को इस दस्तावेज से प्रेरणा मिली।[38] यह अवश्य स्वीकार किया गया कि अक्टूबर 1942 में जयप्रकाश नारायण एवं उनके साथी हजारी बाग जेल से बच निकले और उन्होंने गुप्त रूप से प्रादेशिक कांग्रेस कमेटियों को अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस समिति की ओर से क्रान्ति के संचालन हेतु दिशा निर्देश जारी किये थे। जयप्रकाश नारायण ने स्वीकार किया था कि एक छोटा कांग्रेस संगठन कलकत्ता में इकट्ठा हुआ और वहां 'अनाधिकृत कांग्रेस संगठन' की नींव रखी जो पूरी आन्दोलन की अवधि तक कार्यरत रहा। इस संगठन ने अहिंसा की नीति को पूरी तरह त्यागने का निर्णय किया।[39] सरकार ने खुले विद्रोह पर दो माह की अल्प अवधि (सितम्बर 1942) में काबू पा लिया था, लेकिन गुप्त संगठन काफी समय तक कार्यरत रहा था। अतः यह कहना सर्वथा अनुचित होगा कि इस कार्यक्रम को हिंसात्मक स्वरूप प्रदान करने में गाँधीजी या कांग्रेस कार्य समिति का कोई हाथ था।

भारतीय जनता की हिंसात्मक गतिविधियों का कारण सरकारी आतंकवाद था। 10 अगस्त तक लोगों ने पूर्णतः शान्त प्रदर्शन किये, किन्तु जब सरकार ने लाठी चार्ज एवं गोलीबारी के आदेश दिये तो तो भीड़ ने हिंसा द्वारा प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की। नेहरू जी ने भी यह बात स्वीकार की थी और कांग्रेस के इतिहास में भी इसका जिक्र

आया है।[40] चन्दन मित्र लिखते हैं कि खबरों पर कड़ाई से सेंसर लगाए जाने के फलस्वरूप शहरों में होने वाले उपद्रवों की कोई खबर गाँवों में नहीं पहुँच सकी। पूर्वी संयुक्त प्रान्त और बिहार के अनेक कांग्रेस कार्यकर्ताओं का कहना है कि उन्हें आन्दोलन के बारे में सर्वप्रथम स्पष्ट जानकारी एमरी के भाषण से मिली, जिसका व्यापक प्रसारण किया गया था जिसमें आरोप लगाया था कि कांग्रेस की योजना तोड़–फोड़ करने की है।[41] यदि यह कहा जाए कि सरकार ने अपने प्रसारणों द्वारा ग्रामीण किसानों को हिंसात्मक कार्रवाई करने के लिए भड़काया तो अतिशयोक्ति न होगी।

भारत छोड़ों आन्दोलन की प्रकृति के विषय में एक दूसरा दृष्टिकोण ब्रिटिश राजनीतिज्ञों ने प्रस्तुत किया है जिसके अनुसार यह उन लोगों का विद्रोह था जिनके अधिकार छिन चुके थे, इसके समर्थक थे स्टीफन कैनिंघम, जिन्होंने विद्रोह के दौरान हुई लूटपाट का यही अभिप्राय लिया है। आन्दोलनकारियों द्वारा 'इन्कलाब जिंदाबाद' का नारा लगाये जाने को निम्नता का बोध माना गया। डेविड हार्डीमैन ने अपने अप्रकाशित लेख में यह सिद्ध करने का प्रयत्न किया है कि जिन क्षेत्रों में अच्छी फसलें हुई थीं अर्थात् जहाँ समृद्धि बढ़ी थी उन प्रदेशों में आन्दोलन उग्र नहीं हुआ। इन विद्वानों ने यह दर्शाने का प्रयास किया कि इस आन्दोलन में राष्ट्रीयता की भावना कम, व्यक्तिगत मामलों को लेकर लूटपाट अधिक हुई तथा देश के जिन हिस्सों में लोग कम परेशान थे वहाँ उपद्रव कम हुआ।

इस सम्बन्ध में गुजरात जैसे अन्य प्रदेशों का अध्ययन किया जाना शेष है जहाँ कि आन्दोलन अधिक उग्र न था, लेकिन आन्दोलन की उग्रता या क्षेत्र विशेष में शान्ति रहने के कारणों को व्यक्तिगत मामलों से नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता। यह अनुमान अवश्य किया जा सकता है कि जिन भागों में अधिकांश नेताओं को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया था वहाँ सामान्यतः उपद्रव कम प्रभावी था और जिन भागों में कम से कम दूसरे स्तर के नेता गिरफ्तारी से बच गये थे या जेल से निकल भागे उन ब्रिटिश प्रदेशों में आन्दोलन में तेजी रही। साथ ही यह भी कहा जा सकता है कि जहाँ स्थानीय नेताओं ने आन्दोलन में अधिक रुचि नहीं ली वहाँ के लोगों की भी प्रतिक्रिया अधिक उग्र न थी जैसा कि तमिलनाडु में हुआ। राजगोपालचारी जैसे कांग्रेसी नेता आन्दोलन में शामिल नहीं हुए और जिन्होंने युद्ध प्रयासों का समर्थन किया।

इस आन्दोलन के विषय में ब्रिटिश नौकरशाही ने अनेक प्रकार के मत व्यक्त किये हैं लेकिन तीसरा एवं सर्वमान्य दृष्टिकोण यह है कि 1942 के भारत छोड़ो आन्दोलन को भारत के लगभग सभी राजनीतिक दल एक अविस्मरणीय घटना के रूप में स्वीकार करते हैं। इस क्रान्ति के दौरान शहीद हुए लोगों को 9 अगस्त को प्रतिवर्ष सम्मान प्रदर्शित किया जाता है तथा जनान्दोलन को 'अगस्त क्रान्ति' के रूप में स्मरण किया जाता है। चन्दन मित्र ने लिखा है : यद्यपि यह आन्दोलन भारत के अधिकांश भागों में एक हिंसक जन–विद्रोह के रूप में प्रकट हुआ था फिर भी इसे स्वतंत्रता आन्दोलन के मिथक में सहज भाव से सम्मिलित कर लिया गया है : ऐसा करने से इस कथन की पुष्टि करने में सहायता मिलती है कि स्वतंत्रता की प्राप्ति खून बहाए बिना नहीं हुई। यद्यपि हिंसक होने के कारण इस आन्दोलन को आरम्भ में अनेक कांग्रेसी नेताओं ने अपना मानने से इन्कार कर दिया था, किन्तु अब वे उसकी विरासत का दावा करते हैं क्योंकि इससे 'मातृभूमि'

की अभिनेता का चित्र प्रस्तुत करने में सहायता मिलती है।[42] विद्वानों ने इस आन्दोलन को दो अवस्थाओं में विभाजित किया है : प्रारम्भ में यह बड़े शहरों में शुरू हुआ और दूसरी अवस्था में शहरों से गाँवों की ओर अग्रसर हुआ। आन्दोलन ने अँग्रेजों को इस तथ्य का बोध करवाया कि उनकी सत्ता के लिए चुनौती केवल नगरों तक सीमित नहीं थी वरन् गाँवों के लोग भी उनके विरूद्ध हो गये थे। इस तरह उपद्रव से यह स्पष्ट हो गया कि अंगरेजों को अब शासन का वैध अधिकार न था। गाँवों में महिलाओं, छात्रों, निम्न आय वर्ग के लोगों, व्यापारियों ने जुलूस, प्रदर्शन एवं हड़ताल द्वारा अपना विरोध व्यक्त किया। आरम्भिक अवस्था स्वतः प्रेरित थी क्योंकि अधिकांश कांग्रेस जनों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया था। बिपिनचन्द्र इसकी विशेषता दर्शाते हुए लिखते हैं : इस ऐतिहासिक आन्दोलन की एक बड़ी खूबी यह रही कि इसके द्वारा आजादी की माँग राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन की पहली माँग बन गई। 'भारत छोड़ो' के बाद अब पीछे नहीं मुड़ा जा सकता था।[43]

प्रारम्भ से ही इसका रूप भी उग्र ही रहा। यद्यपि यह जिस रूप में विकसित हुआ वह पूर्व नियोजित नहीं था। गाँधी जी अथवा अन्य किसी ने आन्दोलन संचालन के लिए कोई रूपरेखा तैयार नहीं की, लेकिन जिस उग्रता से प्रस्फुटित हुआ इससे 1857 का स्मरण हो आता है। 1857 के विप्लव की भाँति पहली बार भीड़ ने यूरोपीय लोगों को बेइज्जत किया और उनकी हत्या की। फतवा (पटना) में जिस क्रूरता से शाही वायुसेना के अफसरों को मारा गया उससे साम्राज्यवादी शासन के प्रति घोर विरोध की भावना का आभास होता है। यह भी उल्लेखनीय है कि 1857 की भांति 1942 में पुनः अँग्रेजों ने राष्ट्रीय विद्रोह को भारतीयों की ही सहायता से कुचल दिया। 1857 के बाद जन विरोध को दबाने के लिए पूर्व में अँग्रेजों को पहले कभी सेना का प्रयोग नहीं करना पड़ा था। 1942 के जनविद्रोह को दबाने के लिए पहली बार अँग्रेजों ने वायुयानों एवं मशीनगनों का उपयोग भी किया। सरकार ने आन्दोलन का दमन करने के लिए तैयारी पहले ही कर ली थी। जबकि राष्ट्रवादी नेताओं ने आन्दोलन की योजना सावधानी से नहीं बनाई। भारतीय आन्दोलनकारियों को बदनाम करने के लिए जापान से सहायता के लिए षड़यंत्र सिद्ध करने की बात भी सरकार द्वारा सोची जा रही थी। दूसरे शब्दों में, साम्राज्यवादी सरकार आन्दोलन को कुचलने के लिए किसी भी प्रकार के आरोप लगाने की बात सोच सकती थी।

कांग्रेसी राष्ट्रवादियों की गिरफ्तारी के फलस्वरूप कांग्रेस संगठन नेतृत्वहीन हो गया और लोगों ने अपने नेताओं की गिरफ्तारी से क्षुब्ध होकर सरकारी सम्पत्ति की तोड़–फोड़ करनी शुरू कर दी तथा जब सरकार ने फायरिंग के आदेश दिए तो लोग हिंसा पर उतर आये। जनता पर कोई नियंत्रण नहीं रहा। यद्यपि जयप्रकाश नारायण ने इस आन्दोलन को नेतृत्व देने का प्रयास किया था, किन्तु वे जेल से निकलकर भागे थे अतः भूमिगत रहकर ही वे कार्य कर पाये अर्थात् उनके प्रयासों की भी सीमा थी। बिहार के प्रारम्भिक दौर में अंगरेजी प्रशासन का नामो–निशान भी नहीं रहा। लेकिन कुछ समय पश्चात अँग्रेजी सेना एवं पुलिस ने पुनः नियंत्रण स्थापित कर लिया। सेना की सहायत से ही सरकार स्थिति पर काबू कर पाई थी। इसीलिए ब्रिटिश नौकरशाही ने बाद में यह स्वीकार किया था कि वरिष्ठ कांग्रेसी नेताओं को जेल में डालकर बड़ी भूल की गई। बनारस के एक मजिस्ट्रेट

हूलेन ने कहा था : 'विख्यात कांग्रेस जन जेल में भेज दिए गए जिससे उन लोगों को उपद्रव का षड़यंत्र करने का पूरा अवसर मिला जो वास्तव में षड़यंत्र करने वाले व्यक्ति थे।'

यह विदित है कि कांग्रेस नेताओं के जेल में होने से आन्दोलन को सही नेतृत्व नहीं मिल पाया और प्रत्येक जगह लोगों ने अपने ढंग से ब्रिटिश–विरोधी भावना को भड़काया, अर्थात् आन्दोलन में सैद्धांतिक एकरूपता का अभाव रहा। जनता से जहाँ जैसा बन पड़ा वही कार्रवाई की, किसी योजनाबद्ध तरीके से संचालन न होना, इसकी कमी रही। कुछ लोग गिरफ्तारी से बच गये थे और जयप्रकाश नारायण जैसे युवा नेताओं ने नेतृत्व देने का प्रयास किया तथा एक क्षेत्र से दूसरे प्रदेश में सूचना भेजवाने के लिए परिपत्र (सरकुलर) पद्धति का इस्तेमाल किया गया था और इसमें छात्रायें एवं महिलाओं ने अपनी बहुमूल्य सेवायें देश को अर्पित की, तथापि जिसे हम सैद्धान्तिक एकरूपता कह सकते हैं उसकी कमी रही।

अंत में, इस आन्दोलन ने कृषक आन्दोलन का स्वरूप ग्रहण कर लिया। हमने बिहार, महाराष्ट्र, हैदराबाद एवं बंगाल के किसान आन्दोलनों का अन्य अध्याय में जिक्र किया है जो इस आन्दोलन के बाद ही विकसित हुए थे। सितम्बर 1942 के बाद विविध क्षेत्रों में किसानों के उपद्रव शुरू हो गये थे।

अगस्त क्रांति की एक विशेषता यह थी कि जनता में यह धारणा बन चुकी थी कि ब्रिटिश राज समाप्त हो रहा है। राज भी समाप्ति निकट मान कर उसके प्रत्येक चिह्न को नष्ट करना, उसे हानि पहुँचाना लोगों ने अपना उद्देश्य बना लिया। 1857 के विप्लव की भाँति प्रत्येक समुदाय, वर्ग के लोगों ने इसमें भाग लिया। समाज के सभी वर्गों की भागीदारी इसकी उच्च राष्ट्रीयता का प्रतीक थी।

क्रांति का महत्त्व : यद्यपि सरकारी दमन नीति से लोगों को दबाया गया, लेकिन ब्रिटिश सरकार इस क्रान्ति से यह समझ गई थी कि भारत में व्याप्त असन्तोष कितना व्यापक है। अतः आन्दोलन को असफल नहीं कहा जा सकता क्योंकि इस क्रान्ति ने यह सिद्ध कर दिया कि भारत की स्वाधीनता का मामला अब कांग्रेस दल तक सीमित न रह कर भारत की जनता का मसला बन गया है। क्रांति की लहर एक साथ देश के अधिकांश भागों में फैल गई और लोग देश के लिए बलिदान करने को तैयार हो गये। लोगों की इस इच्छा से साम्राज्यवादी शासकों को यह सोचने के लिए बाध्य कर दिया कि भारत पर अब अधिक समय तक नियंत्रण नहीं रखा जा सकता। अतः इस आन्दोलन को अत्याचारी ब्रिटिश सरकार के विरुद्ध अपूर्व साहस एवं अभूतपूर्व धैर्य का प्रतीक कहा जा सकता है। इसके बारे में डॉ0 ईश्वरीप्रसाद ने लिखा है : अगस्त की क्रान्ति सरकार के विरुद्ध प्रजा का विद्रोह था। इसकी तुलना फ्रांस के इतिहास में बैस्तिल के पतन या रूस की अक्टूबर क्रान्ति से की जा सकती है। इसमें हिंसा तथा अहिंसा का विचित्र मिश्रण था। अँग्रेज शासकों के प्रति भारतीयों की घृणा से इस विद्रोह को प्रेरणा तथा प्रोत्साहन मिलता रहा। लोगों का उद्देश्य भारत को अँग्रेजों से मुक्त कराना था। इसके लिए हिंसा तथा प्रशासनिक मशीनरी की तोड़–फोड़ को साधन रूप में अपनाया गया। अतः यह जनता में उत्पन्न नये उत्साह तथा गरिमा का सूचक था।[44] आन्दोलन ने धुरी राष्ट्रों के विरुद्ध ब्रिटिश युद्ध प्रयासों को भी प्रभावित किया। संचार व्यवस्था को अस्त–व्यस्त किये जाने से पूर्वी भारत में यातायात के साधनों में अव्यवस्था पैदा हो गई तथा

सैनिकों के लिए आवश्यक वस्तुओं को भेजना कठिन हो गया।

मजदूर हड़तालों से देश की उत्पादन व्यवस्था प्रभावित हुई जैसे चमड़ा, खाकी, कपड़ा, कागज, सूती धागा, सिगरेट के उत्पादन में कमी आई। बर्मा के मोर्चे पर अँग्रेजी सेना की हार के कारणों में 1942 की क्रान्ति भी एक कारण मानी गई है। अन्त में, हम डॉ0 सुभाष कश्यप के शब्दों में कह सकते हैं : 1942 का भारत छोड़ो आन्दोलन सचमुच 1857 की असफल क्रान्ति के बाद, भारत में अँग्रेजी राज की समाप्ति के लिए किया गया सबसे बड़ा प्रयास था। जिस प्रकार 1857 की क्रान्ति मूलतः अँग्रेजी शासन के विरुद्ध सिपाहियों का विद्रोह थी, उसी प्रकार 1942 का आन्दोलन मूलतः युवा वर्ग का, मजदूरों का और विद्यार्थियों का विद्रोह था।

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पंकज कुमार

महात्मा जोतिबा फूले और किसानों की पीड़ा

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सांराश :

अपनी **'उक्ति के अनुरूप कृति'** करने वाले महात्मा जोतिबा फुले निःसंदेह अपनी सदी के एक महान व्यक्ति थे। इतने महान कि जिनके व्यक्तित्व की ऊंचाई किसी पहाड़ से कम नहीं थी।

उन्नीसवीं सदी में समाज सुधार विषयक कई आंदोलन हुए। उपदेशात्मक लेखन हुआ। लेकिन इस तरह जो कुछ भी होता रहा, वह उच्चवर्णियों के हित में ही होता रहा। इस संदर्भ में फुले अकेले व्यक्ति हैं जिनके विचार और कार्य के केंद्र में आम आदमी था। भारतीय किसान, मजदूर, युग–युग से प्रताड़ित स्त्री एवं शूद्रातिशूद्र समाज था। शूद्रातिशूद्रों के बारे में विचार करते समय फुले ने मात्र किसी की जाति या जाति–विशेष द्वारा दुर्भावना की आड़ में होने वाले शोषण पर ही विचार नहीं किया अपितु जाति–विशेष भंडौली की आड़ में किस तरह बहुजन समाज और विशेष रूप से निम्नस्तरीय जाति के लोगों का आर्थिक नुकसान हुआ, उस बात पर भी उन्होंने गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार किया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि फुले सृजनशील विचारक थे।

प्रस्तावना :

फुले युगीन शताब्दी में कई संदर्भों में महाराष्ट्र का चित्र बदल रहा था। कृषि व्यवसाय से लेकर न्याय व्यवस्था तक अंग्रेजों ने यहां एक नई संरचना गठित करने का प्रयास किया था। इस नई संरचना और परंपरागत संरचना के बीच जब संघर्ष पैदा हुआ तब परंपरागत स्थापित ही पुनः एक बार नए सिरे से स्थापित हो गए। परंपरागत व्यवस्था के शिकार अलबत्ता इस नई संरचना में भी उपेक्षित ही रहे। उनकी दुर्गति में कोई विशेष फर्क नहीं पड़ा। फिर भी नई सरकार और सरकार की शिक्षा विषयक नीति के परिणामस्वरूप जो एक अच्छी बात सामने आई वह यह कि उपेक्षितों कोय अपने जीवन की ओर देखने की नई दृष्टि मिली। उनमें सचेतनता जाग गई। उपेक्षित भी आखिर मनुष्य ही हैं, शूद्रातिशूद्र भी आखिर मनुष्य ही हैं, इस तरह उनमें अस्तित्व और अस्मिता का भाव जाग गया। वे इस बात को भी समझने लगे कि उनकी दुर्गति के लिए एक विशिष्ट समाज जिम्मेदार है। अभिव्यक्ति की दृष्टि से उनकी आवाज और जबान मुखरित होने लगी। महात्मा फुले स्वयं इस बात के प्रमाण हैं।

फुले ने अपने जीवन में सदैव उपेक्षितों का साथ दिया है। उन्हीं का पक्ष लिया है, उन्हीं की वकालत की है। चाहे सार्वजनिक सत्यधर्म की स्थापना हो या उनके द्वारा ग्रंथकार सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए लिखा गया पत्र हो... उपेक्षित ही उनकी प्रेरणा हैं। आर्थिक दृष्टि से निम्नस्तरीय किसान, रूढ़ियों और परंपराओं की बेड़ियों में जकड़ी स्त्री, विभिन्न व्यवसायों पर गुजर–बसर करने वाले कारीगर, दलित, पीड़ित एवं मेहनतकश लोगों के बारे में फुले अत्यंत संवेदनशील रहे हैं। अपने साहित्य के माध्यम से उन्होंने इन सभी की पीड़ा को स्वर दिए हैं। पीड़ा से मुक्ति के उद्देश्य से उपाय भी सुझाए हैं। उपेक्षितों की दरिद्रता या उनकी समस्याओं को लेकर लिखते समय, किस तरह समकालीन समस्याओं की जड़ें इतिहास में घनीभूत हैं, उन जड़ों की ऐंठन कितनी मजबूत है तथा क्या किए जाने पर वह ऐंठन खुल सकती है, आदि कई स्तरों से होकर फुले सोचते रहे हैं, लिखते रहे हैं।

यकीनन फुले महान विचारक हैं। महान लेखक एवं युगद्रष्टा हैं। 'किसान का कोड़ा' उनका लिखा एक अत्यंत महत्त्वपूर्ण ग्रंथ है। इस ग्रंथ में उनका कृषि विषयक चिंतन अभूतपूर्व है। उनसे पहले खेती और खेतिहर की समस्याओं को लेकर किसी ने भी इतना विस्तृत अध्ययन नहीं किया था। कृषि और कृषक के बारे में किसी ने भी इतनी सहानुभूति नहीं जतलाई थी। अपवादस्वरूप विष्णुबुवा ब्रह्मचारी का उल्लेख किया जा सकता है जिन्होंने खेती से संबंधित एक निबंध लिखा था। किंतु केवल खेती इस निबंध का विषय नहीं था प्रत्युत किस तरह 'सामूहिक जीवन' को सुखकर बनाया जा सकता है, इस तरह का चिंतन भी उसमें कहीं शामिल था। फुले के समकालीन अन्य किसी भी समाज सुधारक को खेती व्यवस्था से संबंधित प्रश्न महत्त्वपूर्ण नहीं लगे। उलटा कुछ सुधारकों ने तो खेती और खेतिहर को लेकर मजाक भी उड़ाया है। उदाहरणस्वरूप– *किसानों की स्थिति अब पहले से भी बेहतर है', 'अपने घर संपन्न हो रहे शादी आदि मंगल कार्यों में किसान जरूरत से भी ज्यादा खर्च करते हैं" आदि।* किसान और मेहनतकश लोगों के बारे में प्रकट सार्वजनिक सभा की प्रतिक्रिया भी यहां उल्लेखनीय है। जैसे–सभा के मतानुसार *"कोई किसान हो या मेहनतकश, इनके संदर्भ में नजरअंदाजी मात्र स्वाभाविक ही नहीं, प्राकृतिक भी है।", "समाज पर सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से श्रेष्ठ अल्पसंख्यकों की ही सत्ता बनी रहती है। यह इतिहास है जिसमें अस्वाभाविक कुछ नहीं"* आदि। सार्वजनिक सभा द्वारा प्रकट इन प्रतिक्रियाओं का विश्लेषण करते समय, किस तरह वे सुधारक मेहनतकश किसानों के शोषणादि प्रश्नों के संदर्भ में लापरवाही बरतते थे, प्रत्यक्ष–अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से चश्मपोशी का भाव जतलाते थे आदि बातों को लेकर, डॉ. ज. रा. शिन्दे ने अपने एक लेख में बहुत ही खुलकर, बेबाक चित्रण किया है। और तो और, तत्कालीन राजकीय जीवन में स्थापित मान्यवर लोग भी किसानों के विपक्ष में ही बात करते थे। अकाल और लगान

की नई पद्धति के परिणामस्वरूप किसान खस्ताहाल हो गए थे। आर्थिक स्थिति इतनी कमजोर कि कर्ज की अदायगी भी उनसे मुश्किल थी। इस स्थिति में वे अपनी भूमि को किसी महाजन के पास रेहन में रखकर भूमिविहीन होने लगे थे। भूमि के इस तरह के हस्तांतरण को रोकने के लिए अंग्रेज सरकार ने तब (1879 में), 'डेक्कन एग्रिकल्चरल रिलीफ एक्ट' पास किया था। वस्तुतः किसानों की दृष्टि से यह एक्ट बड़ा ही कल्याणकारी था, किंतु तेली–तमोलियों के नेता लोकमान्य तिलक इस एक्ट के खिलाफ थे।

कोंकण में, जब जमींदार और पट्टेदार (रैयत, कर्जदार) के बीच विवाद की स्थिति पैदा होने लगी, तब अंग्रेज सरकार ने, उल्लिखित दोनों के संबंधों पर अंकुश लगाने की दृष्टि से कानून बनाने का निर्णय लिया। तब विचारणीय है, लोकमान्य तिलक ने जमींदार के पक्ष को लेकर 'केसरी' में छह लेख प्रकाशित (1897) किए थे। अपने एक लेख के माध्यम से तो उन्होंने, कॉफी के बगीचे में काम करने वाले कामगार और पट्टेदार के बीच तुलना की है। सारांश मात्र इतना कि मेहनतकश किसानों के प्रति तिलक में जरा भी सहानुभूति नहीं थी। अब तक के विवेचन से बात साफ है, मेहनतकश किसानों की समस्याओं के बारे में न तो फुले से पहले किसी ने लिखने का प्रयास किया है, न ही उनके समकालीन किसी लेखक ने। और अगर किसी ने कुछ लिखा भी है तो किसानों के हित में नहीं लिखा है। जाहिर है, फुले अकेले ऐसे लेखक और विचारक हैं, जिन्होंने किसानों के बारे में तहेदिल से सोचा, उनकी समस्याओं का अध्ययन किया और समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु पर्याप्त लेखन किया।

किसानों की दुर्दशा को लेकर फुले ने जो कुछ और जितना कुछ लिखा है, अत्यंत प्राणवान लिखा है। चूंकि वे किसानों की रोजमर्रा की जिंदगी से वाकिफ थे, उनकी पीड़ाओं तथा समस्याओं से वाकिफ थे। आर्थिक असहायता के परिणामस्वरूप उनकी जिंदगी में आई बेबसी से वाकिफ थे। अंग्रेजों ने यहां की जमीन और लगान के बारे में 'रैयतवारी पद्धति' का सहारा लिया था। इस नई पद्धति के अनुसार लगान (महसूल) का चुकता करना किसान का दायित्व था। वैसे आय की तुलना में यह लगान भी कुछ ज्यादा ही था। खुद एलफिन्स्टन ने भी इस बात को कबूल किया है। अकाल की सांकल भी अभी बरकरार ही थी। एक और बात भी यहां उल्लेखनीय है। बात यह है कि किसान परिवार के कई सदस्य, जो पहले सेना में थे, अंग्रेजी अमल में उन्हें वापस घर आना पड़ा, क्योंकि सामंतों को अब सेना की जरूरत ही नहीं रही। मतलब यह कि सेना से वापस आए किसान परिवार के सदस्य भी उसी खेती पर आश्रित, खेती के लिए भार होने लगे। अपढ़ और जरूरतमंद किसान की इस स्थिति से लाभान्वित होने के लिए उधर महाजन तथा महाजन से सांठगांठ रखने वाले भटजी तैयार ही थे। किसान को कर्ज देना और बदले में उनकी जमीन को अपने पास गिरवी रखना, इस तरह उनका धंधा जोरों पर था। अपने कर्ज पर किसान को जो सूद चुकता करना होता था, उस संदर्भ में, महान विचारक एवं समाजचिंतक प्रा. ग. बा. सरदार ने अपने एक लेख में सविस्तार तथा सोदाहरण लिखा है। यातायात के साधन सुलभ हुए थे, पर वैश्विक मंदी बरकरार थी। अंग्रेजों को उनके माल पर कोई चुंगी नहीं देनी पड़ती थी। लेकिन यहां के माल पर चुंगी बरकरार थी। कुल विवेचन का तात्पर्य मात्र यह है कि किसान सर्वथा बेहाल थे। हालात ने उन्हें बेचारा बना दिया था। न केवल किसान, प्रत्युत सभी मेहनतकश लोगों का

डॉ. कृष्णा सिंह

यही हाल था। इस तरह फुले ने किसान के बारे में जो कुछ लिखा है, सचाई के अनुरूप लिखा है। और यही कारण है कि किसानों से संबंधित उनका समग्र विवेचन अत्यंत प्रभावशाली बन पड़ा है।

फुले इस बात को भी भली भांति जानते थे कि किसान की उक्त दशा मात्र उनके समकालीन किसानों की नहीं थी बल्कि पहले भी किसान कभी निश्चिंत, सानंद एवं संपन्न नहीं थे। न तो पेशवाकालीन किसान सुखी थे, न उनसे पूर्व–इतिहास में भी वे कभी सुखी थे। यह विडंबना ही है कि किसान सदैव अभावग्रस्त रहा है, अन्य–अनेक समस्याओं से ग्रस्त रहा है। दीनता और अन्याय से पीड़ित इतिहासकालीन किसान को फुले ने अपने एक ग्रंथ 'इशारा' के माध्यम से अच्छी तरह चित्रित किया है।

जहाँ तक किसान का सवाल है, फुले इस बात को बहुत अच्छी तरह से समझ चुके थे कि किसान से संबंधित संघर्ष का स्वरूप सामाजिक न होकर आर्थिक है। वे इस बात को भी जानते थे कि किसान को यदि दुर्दशा से उबारना है, तो हर हाल में उन्हें शिक्षित कराना होगा। अब यह बात और है कि फुले की उक्त बात तत्कालीन ब्राह्मणों को जरा भी पसंद नहीं थी। वे नहीं चाहते थे कि किसान शिक्षित हो जाएं, क्योंकि उनके अपढ़ रहने में ही उनका (भट–ब्राह्मणों का) हित था।

किसान यदि बुद्धिमान हो जाता है तो कोई संदेह नहीं कि वह भट–ब्राह्मणों के घर पानी भर रही लक्ष्मी को कोड़ा दिखाकर अपने घर ले जा सकता है। अपने घर रहने या टिकने के लिए वह उसे विवश कर सकता है। और इसी कारण भट–ब्राह्मण नहीं चाहते थे कि किसान पढ़–लिखकर बुद्धिमान हो जाएं।

समाज सुधारक चाहे तो बहुत कुछ कर सकते थे। समाज को ऊपर उठाने की दृष्टि से उन्नायक क्या नहीं कर सकते? लेकिन उन्हें इस कार्य में कोई रुचि नहीं थी। चाहे तो अंग्रेज अधिकारी भी बहुत कुछ कर सकते थे, लेकिन उनमें भी इच्छाशक्ति का अभाव था। समाचार–पत्रों की तो खैर छोड़िएय वे 'गुलाबी' ही थे। मतलब किसी से भी सहयोग की उम्मीद नहीं थी। इस स्थिति में फुले को कार्य करना था। किसान के आक्रोश को प्रकट करना था। महज इतना ही नहीं, प्रत्युत किसान और शूद्रातिशूद्रों के जीवन में उन्हें सूर्योदय लाना था। बिना शिक्षा के वह सूर्योदय संभव नहीं था। अशिक्षा के कारण ही किसान आदि निम्नस्तरीय लोग हर तरह के शोषण का शिकार होते रहे हैं।

इस संदर्भ में फुले का निम्नलिखित वक्तव्य नितांत उद्बोधक है। यथा–

यह कि अशिक्षा के कारण मनुष्य, **'मति, नीति, गति, वित्त** आदि सब कुछ गंवाता है। सबसे बड़ी बात, वह अपनी उम्मीदों से भी हार जाता है। वाकई फुले का उक्त चिंतन हर युग के लिए उद्बोधक है। सार्वकालिक एवं सार्वदेशिक सत्य है। कोई किसान हो, या शूद्रातिशूद्र, अगर वे शिक्षा ग्रहण कर पाते हैं तो जिंदगी में बहुत कुछ हासिल कर सकते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें किस तरह शिक्षित किया जाए, यह एक अहम सवाल था। एक तो वे पढ़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं, तैयार हैं तो औकात नहीं और मान लो कि औकात भी है तो भट–ब्राह्मण नहीं चाहते कि वे पढ़ें और पढ़–लिखकर अक्लमंद बन जाएं। लिहाजा उनका विरोध था। हां, यदि कोई किसान या कोई शूद्र मनगढ़ंत पुराणकथाओं का अध्ययन करना चाहे तो उनसे विरोध की कोई संभावना

नहीं थी चूंकि इस तरह का अध्ययन उनके हित में हुआ करता था। यानी कि शोषण की दृष्टि से पूरक था।

'किसान का कोड़ा' के माध्यम से फुले ने इस बात को भी बहुत अच्छी तरह समझाया है कि किस तरह धर्म के नाम पर भट-ब्राह्मणय भोले-भाले किसानों का आर्थिक आदि शोषण करते थे। मसलन... मानो किसी किसान की बेटी को ऋतुप्राप्ति हुई (यानी कि वह सयानी हो गई या नाबालिग से बालिग बन गई) तो भट-ब्राह्मण उसके घर जाकर उसे समझाता था कि 'ऋतुशांति' करना अब उसके लिए बहुत जरूरी है। और इस तरह वे उससे कमोबेश धन वसूलते। वस्तुतः विशिष्ट उम्र के बाद लड़की को ऋतुप्राप्ति होना प्रकृति का नियम है, प्राकृतिक धर्म है। इसमें 'ऋतुशांति' की बात केवल पाखंड है, लेकिन बेचारा किसान धर्म-कर्म वाले आडंबरों में विश्वास करता और भट-ब्राह्मणों द्वारा बताई गई समस्त विविधों की पूर्ति करता। फिर आर्थिक दृष्टि से वह चाहे जितना दुर्बल क्यों न हो। इस तरह किसान के घर पैदा हुई संतति जन्म से ही भट-ब्राह्मणों द्वारा शोषण का शिकार हो जाती थी। ठीक इसी प्रकार किसान के घर पैदा हुई संतान की जन्मपत्री बनाने के बहाने भी ब्राह्मण उससे धन वसूलते। विवाह आदि कार्यक्रमों में, मकान बनवाते समय तथा किसी के मर जाने के बाद भी विभिन्न विधियों की आड़ में पंडे लोगों का लूटना जारी ही रहता था। चौत में पड़ने वाली वर्षप्रतिपदा, रामनवमी, हनुमान जयंती, नागपंचमी, सावनी पूर्णिमा, सावन में आने वाले सभी सोमवार, हरितालिका, गणेशचतुर्थी, ऋषिपंचमी, अनंतचतुर्दशी, विजयादशमी, अमावस की लक्ष्मीपूजा, बलिप्रतिपदा, तुलसीविवाह, मकरसंक्रांति, महाशिवरात्रि, होली एक या दो नहीं, लूटने के लिए कई निमित्त, व्रत और त्योहारादि उत्सव थे। प्रसंग चाहे तीर्थयात्रादि से संबंधित हो अथवा चंद्रग्रहण या सूर्यग्रहण से संबंधित हो, बिना पुरोहित के मानो किसान की खैर नहीं। यों समझो कि पंडों की दृष्टि में किसान, मानो सोने का अंडा देने वाली मुर्गी थी।

धर्म-कर्म के अलावा किसानों के साथ छल-कपट करने वाला पुरोहितों से भी भयंकर एक और वर्ग था अंग्रेज प्रशासन में विद्यमान उच्चपदस्थ ब्राह्मण अधिकारी तथा कर्मचारियों का। उल्लेखनीय है कि प्रशासकीय सुविधा की दृष्टि से अंग्रेजों ने सेवा के कई नवीन विभाग शुरू किए थे। जैसे– महसूल विभाग, वन विभाग, न्याय विभाग, शिक्षा विभाग, पुलिस विभाग आदि। इन सभी विभागों में कार्यरत ब्राह्मण कर्मचारी तथा अधिकारी भी किसान के हितैषी नहीं थे। किसानों को स्पर्श न करना, उन्हें तुच्छातितुच्छ समझना, दो किसानों के बीच झगड़ा करा देना, झगड़ा सुलटाने के लिए रिश्वत लेना, संबंधित उच्चाधिकारी को गलत जानकारी देना आदि। कई किस्म के दुर्व्यवहार करके स्वयं लाभान्वित होने में ये भट-ब्राह्मण अधिकारी माहिर थे। किसानों के साथ अपमानजनक व्यवहार करने वाले तथा अपने आप को पाक समझने वाले वे ब्राह्मण कितने नापाक थे, इस संदर्भ में फुले लिखते हैं– **जरायमपेशा औरतों के होंठों का चुंबन लेने में, या उन गंदी औरतों का थूक गटकने में इन्हें कोई शर्म नहीं आती थी।** "किसान का कोड़ा' में महाशोषक के रूप में वर्णित एक और घटक भी यहां उल्लेखनीय है... महाजनों और मारवाड़ियों का। किसान की दीनता, हीनता, विवशता और उनकी स्वभावगत धर्मभीरुता से लाभान्वित होना ही मानो इनका धर्म था। जरूरतमंद किसानों को कर्ज देना और

जमीन सहित उनके ईमान को अपने पास गिरवी रखना–इसमें वे निपुण थे।

सारांश यह कि धर्म की आड़ में शोषण करने वाला कोई पुरोहित हो, उच्चपदस्थ भट-ब्राह्मण अधिकारी हो, या कोई बनिया किस्म का महाजन, मारवाड़ी हो... ये सभी आपस में एक-दूसरे से मिले हुए, किसानों के हित के शत्रु थे। तरह-तरह की उपाधियां प्रदान करके अंग्रेजों को खुश करने में तथा उन्हें अपने पक्ष में बनाए रखने में वे बड़े अभ्यस्त थे। हर तरह से किसान को लूटने वाले ये शातिर खुश, अंग्रेज भी खुश। सही बात तो यह है कि अकाल और टिड्डियों के हमले से होने वाले नुकसान की कसर कभी न कभी निकल जाएगी, लेकिन जिस तरह किसान का नुकसान हो रहा है, इससे उबरने की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं थी।" 'किसान का कोड़ा' में फुले ने किसान की दुर्गति को लेकर वाकई पूरी आत्मीयता से लिखा है, शोकसंतप्त होकर लिखा है, लेकिन जो कुछ लिखा है, अपनी जगह सचेत रहकर नीर-क्षीर-विवेक बुद्धि से लिखा है। भले-बुरे में स्पष्ट भेद करते हुए, निर्भयतापूर्वक लिखा है। किसानों के पक्ष में लिखते समय मात्र उनकी समस्याओं को ध्यान में रखना और उनके अवगुणों के संदर्भ में किसी तरह फालतू पुताई करना, ऐसा वे नहीं कर सके हैं। इसी कारण संभवतः उनके लेखन को साफ-साफ, बेबाक एवं निर्भीक कहा जाता है। किस तरह किसान खुद अपनी दुर्गति के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं, इस बात को बताते समय उन्होंने किसानों कोय उनके अवगुणों पर बख्शा नहीं है। वे लिखते हैं, टुच्ची-सी जिंदगी में तीन-तीन औरतें रखना कहां का न्याय है!... घर में तीन-तीन औरतें होंगी तो फाकाकशी तो होगी ही। खेती से मिलता ही कितना है... लाख इज्जत से खाने पर भी जहां भुखमरी की संभावना बनी रहती है, वहां तीन-तीन औरतों का घर में होना, अपने हाथों, अपने पैरों में पत्थर बांधने जैसा है। किसान की इस उपहासास्पद वृत्ति पर खुलेआम निंदा करते हुए वे लिखते हैं, "सही में देखा जाए तो किसानों को तीन औरतों के साथ नहीं, पांच औरतों के साथ शादी करनी चाहिए, चूंकि उसके मर जाने के बाद, उसकी अरथी में कंधा लगाने के लिए चार और पांचवीं... कितना अच्छा होगा... उसकी औलाद के लिए कोई भार बचेगा ही नहीं !..." किसान के उल्लिखित व्यवहार का फुले ने जिस तरीके से विरोध किया है, इससे जाहिर है–किसानों में जो अवगुण देखने में आते हैं, उनके वे हिमायती नहीं हैं। जो लोग औरतों की कमाई पर जीते हैं, इस-उस कारण की आड़ में औरत के साथ झगड़ा करते हैं, मां से मिलने उसे नैहर जाने से रोकते हैं, उन लोगों का भी फुले ने जमकर मजाक उड़ाया है। मतलब यह कि बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर किसान खुद अपनी दुर्गति के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं।

किसान की खेती ऊपर वाले के भरोसे है। ऊपर वाला मेहरबान रहा तो धर्म के नाम पर पुरोहित उसका शोषण करता है। पुरोहित से बच गया तो सरकार में जो उच्चपदस्थ अधिकारी होते हैं, वे उसका शोषण करते हैं। और उन अधिकारियों से बच गया तो इसकी जान लेने के लिए उधर महाजन कमर कसकर तैयार है। अंग्रेजों को गाय और बैलों का मांस प्रिय है। लिहाजा इसके गाय-बैल अंग्रेज खा जाते हैं। अब खेती के लिए बैल वह कहां से लाएगा?... इस तरह प्रश्न ही प्रश्न हैं, जिनके समाधान मुश्किल हैं। अपने हालात के लिए बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर खुद किसान भी जिम्मेदार हैं। इस तरह मानना ही पड़ता है कि फुले ने, 'किसान का कोड़ा' में, किसान से संबंधित इतने

डॉ. कृष्णा सिंह

सारे प्रश्नों को छेड़ा–झकझोरा है कि इनसे पहले ऐसा किसी ने नहीं किया।

'किसान का कोड़ा' में तीसरे प्रकरण के अंतर्गत, 'किस तरह किसान मजहबी प्रलोभन की आड़ में' या 'धर्म–कर्म के चक्कर में' ब्राह्मणों द्वारा शोषित रहा और दुर्गति को पहुंचाय इस बात को लेकर फुले द्वारा किया गया ऐतिहासिक विश्लेषण विचारणीय है। महात्मा फुले द्वारा किया गया उक्त ऐतिहासिक विश्लेषण जैसा कि डॉ. ज. रा. शिन्दे'' कहते हैं, 'सदोष एवं अशास्त्रीय' हो सकता है, लेकिन फिर भी मेरी दृष्टि में उल्लिखित ऐतिहासिक विश्लेषण का अपना महत्त्व है। चूंकि इस विश्लेषण के माध्यम से फुले ने इतिहास लेखन की एक नई कला, नई प्रणाली, नई दृष्टि या नई शैली प्रदान की है। उन्होंने इस बात को सिद्ध किया है कि इतिहास मात्र राजनीतिक पुरुषों का, सम्राटों या राजमहलों का नहीं होता, प्रत्युत 'आम आदमी' का भी हो सकता है। दूसरी बात यह कि केवल कागजात के आधार पर लिखा गया इतिहास भी सही हो सकता है। अर्थात् लोकरूढ़ियों और लोकपरंपराओं को विचार में लेते हुए अगर हम अतीत में पहुंच जाते हैं, तो निश्चित रूप से एक नया और महत्त्वपूर्ण इतिहास सामने आ सकता है। जहां तक इतिहास लेखन का सवाल है, फुले के लेखन में ये दोनों बातें विचारणीय हैं। उनकी 'गुलामगिरी' रचना भी लगभग इसी कोटि में आती है। इतिहास लेखन से संबंधित फुले की इस नई दृष्टि और इस दृष्टि से संपन्न इतिहास का आगे चलकर वि. रा. शिन्दे और इरावतीबाई कर्वे इत्यादि ने अपनी तरफ से खुलकर समर्थन किया है। अब अलग से यह बात सिद्ध करने की मानो जरूरत ही नहीं कि इस वक्त समाज में जो संघर्ष दिखाई देता है, उसकी जड़ें सदी दर सदी चले आए आर्य और अनार्यों के बीच वाले संघर्ष में हैं। फुले की यह दृष्टि और उनका अनुमान यकीनन उनकी प्रखर बुद्धिमत्ता के प्रमाण हैं। फुले द्वारा सामाजिक इतिहास का जो नया पन्ना खुल चुका है, इसी के जरिये बहुजन समाज को उनकी अस्मिता के दर्शन हो गए हैं।

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सांराश :

अंग्रेजी शासन काल में आधुनिक उद्योग धंधों, यातायात के आधुनिक साधनों और बागानों की स्थापना हुई, परिणामस्वरूप आधुनिक मजदूर वर्ग का जन्म हुआ। जैसे–जैसे बागानों, आधुनिक कल कारखानों, खनिज उद्योगों, आवागमन के साधनों आदि में वृद्धि हुई, वैसे वैसे इस वर्ग की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई। भारतीय सर्वहारा वर्ग मुख्यतः उन किसानों और हस्तशिल्पकारों से निर्मित हुआ जो दरिद्र हो गए थे और अब मजदूरी कमाने लगे थे। कच्चे माल की बहुतायत और सस्ते श्रम की उपलब्धि के कारण भारत में ब्रिटिश पूँजीपतियों ने 1839 के बाद चाय बागान और 1850 के बाद जूट, कोयला उत्खनन एवं रेल उद्योग तथा 1890 ई. में गोदी (जहाजरानी) उद्योग पर पैसा लगाना शुरू कर दिया था। कपड़ा उद्योग ही मात्र ऐसा उद्योग था जिसमें भारतीय उद्योगपतियों ने ही पूँजी का विनियोजन किया। कपड़ा उद्योग लगभग 1850 ई. में शुरू हुआ और बम्बई अहमदाबाद के निकट ही इसका विस्तार हुआ।

प्रस्तावना :

प्रारम्भ में आधुनिक उद्योगों में मजदूर वर्ग अर्द्धनग्न स्थिति में कार्य करते थे। 15 से 16 घण्टे तक काम करने के बावजूद उन्हें बहुत कम वेतन दिया जाता था और महिला तथा बाल मजदूर पीटे भी जाते थे। आसाम घाटी के चाय बागानों में बसे मर्द मजदूरों की औसत मासिक आमदनी कुल 7 रूपया 3 आने थी, औरतों और बच्चों की क्रमशः 5 रूपये 14 आने और 4 रूपया 4 आने थी। इसी प्रकार रजनीपाम दत्त ने ए॰ ए॰ परसेल और जे॰ हाल्सवर्थ की 'रिपोर्ट आन लेबर कंडीशंस इन इण्डिया, ट्रेड यूनियन कॉंग्रेस' 1928 को उद्धृत किया है जिसके अनुसार भारत के मजदूरों की एक विशाल संख्या को लगभग 1 शिलिंग प्रतिदिन से अधिक मजदूरी नहीं मिलती है। बंगाल प्रान्त में औद्योगिक मजदूरों का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा है और इस सूबे में जाँच से यही पता लगाया जा सका है कि यहाँ के 60 प्रतिशत मजदूरों की अधिकतम मजदूरी 1 शिलिंग 2 पैंस प्रतिदिन से अधिक नहीं है। यही राशि पुरुषों के लिए कहीं कहीं तो 7 पैंस प्रतिदिन और महिलाओं तथा बच्चों के लिए 3 से 7 पैंस प्रतिदिन तक हैं। 1939 ई. में इंटरनेशनल लेबर कॉन्फेंस जेनेवा में आयोजित की गई जिसमें भारतीय मजदूरों का प्रतिनिधित्व एस॰ पी॰ परुलेकर ने किया। उनकी रिपोर्ट से ज्ञात होता है कि मजदूरों की हालत अत्यधिक बदतर थी : 'भारत में मजदूरों को अधिकांश को जितनी मजदूरी मिलती है उससे वे अपनी मामूली से मामूली जरूरत भी पूरी नहीं कर सकते थे।' 1921 में श्री फिडले शिराज ने बंबई मजदूरों के मासिक आय–व्यय की जाँच के बाद बताया था कि औद्योगिक मजदूर उतना ही अनाज खाता है जितना अकाल संहिता के अंतर्गत सरकार अकाल पीड़ितों को देती है, लेकिन बंबई की जेल संहिता के अंतर्गत कैदियों को जितना भोजन दिया जाता है, मजदूरों को उससे कम ही अनाज मिल पाता है। बीमारी, बुढ़ापा और मृत्यु के विरूद्ध भारतीय मजदूरों को कोई सुरक्षा प्राप्त नहीं थी। दूसरे शब्दों में कारखानों, बागानों एवं खदानों के मजदूरों को जितनी मजदूरी मिलती थी उससे वे अपने और अपने परिवार का भरण पोषण करने में असमर्थ थे। इसलिए उनमें से अधिकांश ऋणग्रस्त थे। हिटले कमीशन ने अनुमान लगाया था कि अधिकांश औद्योगिक केन्द्रों में कम–से–कम दो–तिहाई मजदूर या उनके परिवार ऐसे हैं जो कर्ज से लदे हुए हैं और इनमें से अधिकांश मजदूरों का कर्ज उनकी तीन महीने की तनख्वाह से ज्यादा है। मद्रास की रिपोर्ट से पता चला कि संगठित उद्योगों के 90 प्रतिशत मजदूरों पर कर्ज का बोझ था और औसतन प्रत्येक का कर्ज छः महीने की तनख्वाह से ज्यादा थी।

1928 में ब्रिटिश ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस के प्रतिनिधि मण्डल ने भारत की यात्रा के दौरान मजदूरों के आवासों को भी देखा एवं अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की: 'हमने मजदूरों के क्वाटरों को देखा और यदि हमने स्वयं यह सब नहीं देखा होता तो हमें यह यकीन नहीं होता कि ऐसी गंदी जगहें भी हैं... यहाँ लाइनों में मकानों के समूह हैं जिनके मालिक इन मकानों के किरायेदारों से किराए के रूप में प्रतिमाह 4 शिलिंग 6 पैंस लेते है। मकान के नाम पर यह 9 फीट लंबी और 9 फीट चौड़ी एक अंधेरी कोठरी है जिसकी दीवालें मिट्टी की हैं और टूटी–फूटी छत हैं।...रहने के मकान में कोई खिड़की नहीं है, केवल दरवाजे के ऊपर छत को तोड़कर एक सुराख बनाया गया है जिससे रोशनी और हवा आ सकती है। इन कोठरियों के बाहर एक लंबी संकरी नाली है जिसमें हर तरह का कूड़ा कचरा डाला जाता है और जिस पर ढेर सारी मक्खियाँ भिनभिनाती रहती हैं।... गलियों को लोग, खास तौर से बच्चे शौचालय के रूप में इस्तेमाल करते हैं।

कारखानों में काम करने के समय की कोई सीमा निश्चित नहीं थी। गर्मी में कार्य की अवधि बढ़ा दी जाती थी और सर्दी में छोटा दिन होने के कारण बारहमासी कारखाने में शीत ऋतु में दिनभर अर्थात साढ़े ग्यारह घण्टे प्रतिदिन अथवा साढ़े अस्सी घण्टे प्रति सप्ताह काम होता था और ग्रीष्म ऋतु में 14 घण्टे प्रतिदिन अथवा 98 घण्टे प्रति सप्ताह काम चलता था। लगभग 1887 के बाद जब कारखानों में बिजली की रोशनी प्रचलित हो गई तो बेचारे कारीगरों के प्रतिदिन काम के घंटे बढ़कर विभिन्न इलाकों

में साढ़े बारह से सोलह घण्टे के बीच हो गए। इस संबंध में सबसे अधिक दुष्प्रभावित कलकत्ता के पटसन कारखानों के बुनकर थे, जिन बेचारों को 15–16 घण्टे प्रतिदिन काम करना पड़ता था। 1885 ई. में बाम्बे फैक्ट्री लेबर कमीशन ने टिप्पणी की कि भारत के कारखानों में सारे वर्ष में दी जाने वाली छुट्टियाँ औसतन पन्द्रह हैं, जबकि इंग्लैंड में 10 अवकाश के अतिरिक्त 52 रविवारों को पूरी छुट्टी और 52 शनिवारों की आधी छुट्टी रहती है। इस प्रकार कुल मिलाकर वहाँ 88 दिनों का अवकाश रहता है। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि श्रमिकों की शारीरिक शक्ति पूर्णतः क्षीण हो गई। वे बेचारे कभी–कभी मशीनों से हटते ही कारखानों के दरवाजे से बाहर निकल पाने से पहले ही फर्श पर गहरी नींद सो जाते थे।

श्रमिकों के हाथों कारखानों में किसी प्रकार का नुकसान हो जाने, देर से आने और कम उत्पादन के लिए उनसे कई सालों तक जुर्माना वसूल किया जाता था। भविष्य निधि और पेंशन की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी। वृद्ध होने पर श्रमिकों को काम से हाथ धोना पड़ता था। अतः उन्हें बुढ़ापे में अपने भरण–पोषण के लिए बच्चों पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता था। इस संबंध में रजनीपाम दत्त लिखते हैं : आधुनिक अर्थों में जिसे सामाजिक कानून कहते हैं, उसका पूरी तरह अभाव है। मजदूरों के स्वास्थ्य का बीमा नहीं होता, बीमारी के समय चिकित्सा की उन्हें कोई सुविधा नहीं मिलती, बुढ़ापे के दिनों का कोई इंतजाम नहीं है।...उनके लिए शिक्षा का कोई प्रबंध नहीं है। मजदूर बस्तियों में जन स्वास्थ्य, सड़कों की सफाई, पानी की सप्लाई, बिजली आदि की बुनियादी जरूरतें भी नहीं पूरी की जाती। इन बदबूदार गंदी बस्तियों में रहनेवाले लोगों को तरह–तरह की बीमारियाँ हो जाती हैं और वे जल्दी मौत के शिकार होते हैं और इनके मालिकों को प्रतिवर्ष 30 से 40 प्रतिशत का नियमित फायदा है, सरकारी अधिकारी भी इन गंदी बस्तियों की ओर से आँखें मूँदे रहते हैं।

इन विपरीत परिस्थितियों में सैकड़ों श्रमिक प्रतिदिन इकट्ठे काम करते एवं प्रतिदिन मिलते थे। इससे उन्हें अपनी समस्याओं की चर्चा करने और अपने विचार मालिकों के सामने रखने का अवसर मिला। प्रारंभ में अधिकांश श्रमिक अशिक्षित थे अतः उनमें स्वयं को संगठित करने और उनका ट्रेड यूनियन (मजदूर संगठन) बनाने का विचार नहीं था। उन्हें संगठित करने एवं अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक करने के लिए बुद्धिजीवी आगे आये और ट्रेड यूनियनों में संगठित किया। जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने अपनी जीवनी में लिखा है: ट्रेड यूनियन आंदोलन हिन्दुस्तान में अभी अपनी जवानी की तरफ बढ़ रहा था। वह कमजोर था और जो लोग उसे चला रहे थे उनमें से ज्यादातर खुद मजदूर नहीं थे। ऐसी हालातों में हमेशा बाहरवालों में यह प्रवृत्ति होती है कि मजदूरों को इस्तेमाल करके अपना मतलब गाँठें। हिन्दुस्तान की ट्रेड यूनियन काँग्रेस में और मजदूर संघों में यह प्रवृत्ति साफ–साफ दिखायी देती है।

श्रमिकों की दयनीय स्थिति देखकर उनके काम करने की परिस्थितियों में सुधार लाने के लिए कुछ लोग आगे आए। सर्वप्रथम ब्रह्म समाज के परिवर्तनवादी नीति के समर्थक शशिपाद बनर्जी ने कलकत्ता के बड़ानगर नामक उपनगर में बंगाली पटसन–मजदूरों के लिए एक क्लब बनाया। उन्होंने 1874 में "भारत श्रमजीवी" (भारतीय श्रमिक) नामक अखबार प्रकाशित किया और पटसन मिल श्रमिकों में शिक्षा का प्रसार करने के लिए रात्रिकालीन स्कूलों की व्यवस्था की। उनका उद्देश्य श्रमिकों में मद्यनिषेध विचारों का

प्रचार करना, मितव्ययिता एवं अन्य नैतिक गुणों को विकसित करना था। उन्होंने ट्रेड यूनियन की स्थापना नहीं की। इसी प्रकार एन० एम० लोखण्डे ने (जो ज्योति बा फुले के सहयोगी रहे थे) 'दीनबंधु' नामक साप्ताहिक पत्रिका प्रारम्भ की तथा 1890 में बम्बई मील हैंड्स एसोसिएशन की स्थापना की। लोखण्डे ने मजदूरों की माँगों का एक ज्ञापन भी तैयार किया था जिसमें काम के घण्टों में कमी, साप्ताहिक अवकाश और कारखानों में काम के दौरान घायल हुए श्रमिकों के लिए मुआवजे आदि की माँग थी। रजनीपाम दत्त लोखण्डे द्वारा गठित संघ को मजदूर संगठन नहीं मानते। उन्होंने लिखा है– यह बात स्पष्ट कर दी जानी चाहिए कि हालांकि श्री एन० एम० लोखण्डे, जिन्होंने पिछले फैक्ट्री आयोग में काम किया था, खुद को बम्बई मजदूर एसोसिएशन का अध्यक्ष बताते थे, लेकिन इस एसोसिएशन का कोई संगठित अस्तित्व न था। इसका एक भी सदस्य नहीं था। न ही कोई इसका अपना कोष था और न कोई कायदा कानून था। लोखण्डे शहर के ऐसे परोपकारी व्यक्तित्त्व थे जो मजदूरों की भलाई चाहते थे और इस कोशिश में रहते थे कि मजदूरों के हित में कानून बनवाए जाएँ। वह मजदूरों के संगठन या मजदूरों के संघर्ष के अग्रदूत नहीं थे। मजदूर वर्ग द्वारा अपना असंतोष व्यक्त करने के लिए आंदोलन के प्रारंभिक संकेत 1870 के बाद मिलने लगे। नागपुर की एम्प्रेस मिल में 1877 में मजदूरों ने अपने मालिकों के विरुद्ध हड़ताल की। बंबई और मद्रास प्रेसीडेंसियों में 1882–90 के बीच 25 हड़तालें हुई जो अनियोजित एवं असंगठित हड़तालें थी। प्रारंभ में स्थिति अधिक बिगड़ने पर मजदूर उसका समाधान हड़ताल से नहीं करते थे प्रत्युत संबंधित मिल या उद्योग को छोड़कर चले जाते थे।

कहा गया है कि "ये हड़तालें इसलिए भी असंगठित थीं कि मजदूर अपनी ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के कारण अपने साथ बहुत से ग्रामीण निषेध तथा विशेषक लेते आए थे, जिनकी वजह से वे अपने आप को संगठित करने में असमर्थ थे। वंशानुगत सामाजिक फूट के साथ–साथ अनेक परंपरागत बाधाएँ इस कार्य को और ज्यादा कठिन बना रही थी।" इसके अतिरिक्त मजदूरों की प्रारंभिक पीढ़ियाँ दरिद्र किसान और बर्बाद ग्रामीण कारीगर थे जो शहरों में आने और मजदूर हो जाने के बाद भी गाँवों के पिछड़ेपन से आक्रांत रहे। बाद में भी अधिकांश मजदूरों के संबंध गाँवों से बने रहे। प्रारंभिक मजदूर आंदोलनों की एक अन्य विशेषता सामुदायिक भावना का विकास रही है। सुमित सरकार दीपेश चक्रवर्ती (कम्युनल रायट्स एण्ड लेबरः बंगाल्स जूट मिल हैंड्स इन द 1880) को उद्धृत करते हुए लिखते हैं: चक्रवर्ती ने जिस महत्वपूर्ण बात पर बल दिया है वह यह है कि किस प्रकार ये अपरिपक्व श्रमिक प्रतिरोध वर्ग की स्पष्ट पहचान के स्थान पर प्रायः एक प्रकार की 'सामुदायिक चेतना' का रूप धारण कर लेते थे। मुसलमान मजदूर ईद या मुहर्रम की छुट्टी की मांग करते थे तो हिन्दू रथयात्रा की छुट्टी की। दोनों समुदायों के बीच प्रायः गौ हत्या या विवादग्रस्त भूमि पर मंदिर या मस्जिद का निर्माण को लेकर झगड़े होते रहते थे, जैसा कि 1896–97 में कलकत्ते एवं आसपास के क्षेत्रों में हुए दंगों से स्पष्ट है।... भारत में जो दरिद्र हुए किसान अथवा बर्बाद कारीगर कारखानों में समाते जा रहे थे, उनकी प्रवृत्ति अपने क्षेत्र, जाति, रक्त संबंध अथवा धर्म के संकीर्ण संबंधों का सहारा लेने की होती थी। वस्तुतः नया परिवेश ऐसी पुरानी आस्थाओं को दृढ़ ही करता था। इसका कारण यह था कि

डॉ. रश्मि

नया अप्रवासी अपने आपको अतिरिक्त श्रम बाजार की तीव्र प्रतिद्वंदिता में घिरा पाता था जहाँ अकुशल श्रमिकों को नौकरी पाने के लिए एक दूसरे से संघर्ष करना पड़ता था। नौकरी प्रायः 'सरदारों' के माध्यम से ही मिलती थी और स्वाभाविक था कि ये सरदार अपने समुदाय वालों या सगे-संबंधियों का ही अधिक ध्यान रखते थे।

इस प्रकार मजदूर संगठनों के विकास में प्रारम्भ में अनेक बाधाएँ थी और मजदूर वर्ग की कमी थी तथापि मजदूर वर्ग में संगठन की भावना का विकास तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से कम हुआ। ए० आर० देसाई ने हमारा ध्यान आकृष्ट करते हुए इससे संबद्ध अनेक तथ्यों का उल्लेख किया हैः सर्वप्रथम सर्वहारा सम्पत्तिहीन होने के कारण किसान से अधिक लड़ाकू होता है। किसान के पास थोड़ी ही सही जमीन तो होती है जिससे उसका लगाव हो जाता है और वह विद्रोह से हिचकता है। दूसरे कारखानों और मिलों में एवं अन्य औद्योगिक केंद्रों में मजदूर बहुत बड़ी तादाद में एक साथ रहते हैं। इसके कारण किसानों की अपेक्षा मजदूरों का संगठित होना आसान होता है। किसान बहुत बड़े क्षेत्र में फैले होते हैं और एक संघ की छत्रछाया में नहीं लाये जा सकते। फिर, मजदूर आधुनिक शक्तिचालित यंत्रों से काम लेते हैं और अपने श्रम की सिद्धि के लिए वे प्रकृति की स्वेच्छाचारी शक्तियों पर निर्भर नहीं हैं। इसलिए जहाँ किसान के मन में आत्मसंशय और पराजय घर किए हुए हैं, वहाँ मजदूर इसके विपरीत आत्मविश्वासी, तर्कशील और साफ सोचने वाला होता है। श्रम की जिस प्रक्रिया में मजदूर लगे हैं वहाँ जटिल और व्यापक श्रम विभाजन लागू है। रोज-रोज आपस में एक साथ मिलकर काम करने की जरूरत के चलते धीरे-धीरे मजदूरों में सामूहिक भाव और सहयोग की योग्यता आ जाती है। यही कारण है कि मजदूर संगठन तेजी से उत्पन्न होते हैं और किसान संगठन और किसान आंदोलनों की तुलना में मजदूरों की हड़तालें और सामूहिक संघर्ष अधिक जल्दी-जल्दी होते हैं। मजदूर वर्ग मिलों, कारखानों, रेलवे, बसों को चलाता है, गैस और बिजली जैसे शक्ति स्त्रोतों का सृजन करता है आधुनिक समाज के संचालन के लिए ये कार्य सामाजिक और आर्थिक दृष्टियों से अत्यंत महत्त्व के हैं। इसके कारण अपनी सांख्यिक शक्ति की तुलना में आधुनिक मजदूर वर्ग का विशिष्ट सामाजिक बल बहुत अधिक है।

इन तथ्यों के परिपेक्ष्य में ट्रेड यूनियनवाद धीरे-धीरे लोकप्रिय हुआ। प्रत्येक कारखानों में ट्रेड यूनियन का गठन होने लगा, जैसे 'ऐमल्गमेटिड सोसायटी ऑफ रेलवे सर्वेंट्स ऑफ इण्डिया एण्ड बर्मा' जिसमें प्रमुखतः ऐंग्लो एण्डियन तथा यूरोपीय कर्मचारी शामिल थे। 1905 में 'प्रिन्टर्स यूनियन', 1907 में बंबई की 'पोस्टल यूनियन' आदि। इनमें से किसी यूनियन ने मजदूरों के संघर्ष को आंदोलन के रूप में व्यक्त नहीं किया। लेकिन संगठन की कमी के बावजूद मजदूर निष्क्रिय नहीं रहे। उदाहरण के लिए 1895 में बजबज पटसन कारखाने की हड़ताल, इसी वर्ष अहमदाबाद मिल मालिक संघ के खिलाफ 8000 बुनकरों की हड़ताल, से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि मजदूरों की कार्यवाही में एकता एवं संगठन की भावना थी और अपने हितों के प्रति बुनियादी चेतना का विकास हो रहा था।

मजदूरों के सवाल पर प्रारंभिक राष्ट्रवादी नेताओं का रुख काफी ढीला ढाला था। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय काँग्रेस के दूसरे अधिवेशन (1886) में दादाभाई नौरोजी ने यह बात स्पष्ट कर दी थी कि काँग्रेस को उन सवालों तक ही सीमित रखना चाहिए जिनमें पूरे राष्ट्र की भागीदारी हो तथा सामाजिक सुधारों और विभिन्न वर्गों के पारस्परिक समायोजन का कार्य काँग्रेस की उपसमितियों के हवाले कर देना चाहिए। इसके अतिरिक्त काँग्रेस का एक हिस्सा तो मजदूर संघ के पुराने लोगों का था जो राजनीति में माडरेट था और सचमुच इस बात को संदेह की दृष्टि से देखता था कि उद्योग धंधों के मजदूरों और मिल मालिकों के झगड़ों में राजनीति को मिलाया जाय। उनका विश्वास था कि मजदूरों को अपनी शिकायतें दूर कराने से आगे नहीं जाना चाहिए... इन लोगों का उद्देश्य यह था कि धीरे-धीरे मजदूरों की हालत को सुधारा जाय। अधिकांश राष्ट्रीय अखबारों ने काम की स्थितियों के बारे में सरकार द्वारा कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता को अस्वीकार किया और 1881 तथा 1891 के फैक्टरी अधिनियम का सक्रिय होकर विरोध किया। इसी तरह भारतीय सूती कपड़ा मिलों में होने वाली हड़तालों को आमतौर पर समर्थन नहीं मिला। राष्ट्रवादी नेताओं की धारणा थी कि साम्राज्यवाद विरोधी आंदोलन में किसी तरह की फूट पैदा न हो एवं राष्ट्रवादी नेता यह भी मानते थे कि ब्रिटिश उत्पादकों के हितों की रक्षा को ध्यान में रखकर सरकार ने श्रम कानून बनाने की पहल की थी। ब्रिटिश उत्पाद को भारतीय उत्पादकों की प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करना पड़ रहा था, इसलिए उन लोगों ने ही भारत में फैक्टरी अधिनियम बनाने के लिए सरकार पर दबाव डाला। इस अधिनियम से श्रमिकों के काम के घण्टे कम होने से भारतीय उत्पादकों की बाजार में पहले बढ़ी हुई प्रतिस्पर्धा की ताकत कम हो जाती। उस समय के राष्ट्रवादी नेता तीव्र औद्योगिकरण को देश की गरीबी और अधोगति के लिए एकमात्र औषधि मानते थे और ऐसा कोई कदम नहीं उठाना चाहते थे जिससे औद्योगिकरण की प्रक्रिया में खलल पड़े।

लेकिन उस समय भी 'मराठा' नामक राष्ट्रवादी अखबार, जो क्रांतिकारी विचारक जी.एस. आस्कर के प्रभाव में था ने मजदूरों का समर्थन किया तथा मिल मालिकों को मजदूरों को रियायतें देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। यह भी देखा गया कि ब्रिटिश मालिकों के उद्योगों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों का जब सवाल आया तो राष्ट्रवादी नेताओं ने मजदूरों को समर्थन देने में कोई हिचक नहीं की। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय काँग्रेस एवं राष्ट्रवादी समाचार-पत्रों ने बागान मालिकों के विरुद्ध जोरदार अभियान चलाया। औपनिवेशिक शासकों की मदद से विदेशी पूँजीपतियों की बेरोक-टोक इस लूट के विरुद्ध आवाज उठाने हेतु राष्ट्रीय सम्मान तथा प्रतिष्ठा के नाम पर अपील जारी की। इसका प्रभाव यह हुआ कि मजदूर वर्ग की पहली संगठित हड़ताल ब्रिटिश स्वामित्व और प्रबंध में संचालित रेलों में हुई। 1899 में ग्रेट इण्डिया पेनिन्सुलार (जी.आई.पी) रेलवे में सिग्नल पर काम करने वाले मजदूरों की हड़ताल ने रेलवे को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया। मई के प्रथम सप्ताह में 800 सिग्नल कर्मचारियों ने पहली बार एक सुनियोजित हड़ताल की। 'मराठी' और 'केसरी' जिसका सम्पादक बालगंगाधर तिलक करते थे, ने इस हड़ताल के समर्थन में महिनों अभियान चलाया। बम्बई (मुम्बई) में फिरोजशाह मेहता एवं डी.ई. वाचा ने तथा बंगाल में सुरेन्द्रनाथ टैगोर एवं मासिक भारत की सम्पादिका सुश्री घोषाल ने हड़ताली मजदूरों की मदद के लिये धन इकड़ा किया और नागपुर, अहमदाबाद, अमरावती आदि में हड़ताल के समर्थन में सार्वजनिक सभाएँ आयोजित की गई एवं उनकी सहायता के लिए कोष बनाया गया। नौकरी से निकाले गए लोगों को अन्य प्रतिष्ठानों में

डॉ. रश्मि

लगाये जाने के प्रयास किये गये। विपिनचंद्र लिखते हैं : भारतीय नेताओं के उग्र रूप से हड़ताल समर्थक दृष्टिकोण को समझने की कुंजी संक्षेपतः उनके राष्ट्रवाद में निहित है। हड़ताली सिग्नलर भारतीय थे और नियोक्ता शोषक विदेशी था। यह तथ्य ही आंदोलन का समर्थन करने के लिए पर्याप्त था।

बीसवीं सदी के प्रारंभ होते–होते मजदूर वर्ग के संगठन में विकास के साथ राष्ट्रवादी बुद्धिजीवियों में एक नई प्रवृत्ति का आविर्भाव होता हुआ देखते हैं। उदाहरण के रूप में बिपिनचंद्र पाल और जी. सुब्रमण्यम अय्यर ने कमजोर वर्गों और मजदूर वर्ग के हितों की शक्तिशाली पूँजीपतियों से रक्षा के लिए कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।

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सारांशः

पर्यावरण (कृषि पर्यावरण सहित) नियोजन एवं प्रबन्धन एक व्यापक बिषय है जिसके अन्तर्गत मनुष्य एवं पर्यावरण के मध्य अन्तःप्रक्रियाओं (Interactive processes), इन अन्तर्प्रक्रियाओं से उत्पन्न पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं तथा उनके नियंत्रण एवं प्रबन्धन के सभी पक्षों को सम्मिलित किया जाता है।

परिचयः

''पर्यावरण प्रबन्धन एक तंत्र होता है जो पर्यावरण एवं संसाधन के संरक्षण (Conservation) की समस्याओं का पूर्वानुमान करके
उनसे बचाव करता है या उसका सामाधान करता है। ''
................डी० थाम्पसन (2002)

''पर्यावरण प्रबन्धन का सम्बन्ध प्रकृति को न्यूनतम क्षति पहुचाये पोषणीय (Sustainable) आधार पर मनुष्य की आवश्यकताओं एवं मांगों को पूरा करने तथा उनमें सुधार से है।''
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"Environmental planning refers to the optimal utilization of the earth's resources, both renewable and non-renewable, for development activities, conservation of resources is rare and precious in nature and preservation of the quality of environment for the healthy growth of life".

"Environmental planning and management is, therefore, compromise between eco-system and ecological balance and human material progress and thus environmental management must take into consideration the ecological principles and socio-economic needs of the society".

मृदा कटाव एवं संरक्षण (Soil erosion and conservation): मिट्टी (Soil) शब्द लेटिन भाषा के Solum शब्द से बना है जिसका अर्थ होता है सतह अथवा मैदान (Ground) । वर्तमान समय में भू–पटल की ऊपरी मृदा सतह (topmost soil) को मिट्टी कहते हैं। कृषि वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, ''मिट्टी चीका (Clay), बालू (Sand), चूना (Lime), हयूमस (Humus), आदि का मिश्रण है जोकि पौधों (Planets) की उत्पत्ति का माध्यम होता है।''

मिट्टी अपरदन (Soil erosion) मिट्टी अपरदन एक ऐसी प्रक्रिया है जिसके द्वारा मिट्टी के कण किसी एक अथवा एक से अधिक भौगोलिक कारकों द्वारा एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान में ले जाये जाते हैं। मिट्टी अपरदन की प्रक्रिया पृथ्वी तल के लगभग सभी क्षेत्रों में देखने को मिलती है पर अलग–अलग क्षेत्रों में अलग–अलग भौगोलिक कारक सक्रिय होती है।

मृदा अपरदन के अनेक प्रकारों में से पृष्ठ अपरदन (Sheet&erosion)) अपरदन का प्रभाव अध्ययन क्षेत्र में देखा जा सकता है। यह अपरदन सबसे पहली अवस्था है। इससे भू–पटल के विशाल क्षेत्र की मिट्टी की परत कटकर बह जाती है। इससे मिट्टी की उर्वरता तथा स्थायित्व में मन्दगति से विनाश होता है। वनस्पति विहीन हल्के ढाल वाले (Gentle slope) क्षेत्र में इस प्रकार का अपरदन अधिक देखा जाता है। राष्ट्रीय योजना आयोग के अनुसार, ''इस प्रकार का अपरदन लकड़ी के लिये वनों को अत्यधिक काटने, अत्यधिक पशुचारण और स्थानान्तरण कृषि द्वारा होता है।''

भूमि तथा मृदा प्रदूषण (Land and Soil Pollution) प्राकृतिक स्त्रोतों या मानव–जनित स्त्रोतों या दोनों स्त्रोतों से मिट्टियों की गुणवत्ता में ह्रास होने को मृदा प्रदूषण कहते हैं। मृदा की गुणवत्ता में ह्रास या अवनयन के अनेक कारण हैं जैसे तीव्र गति से मृदा अपरदन, मिट्टियों में रहने वाले सूक्ष्म जीवों में कमी, मिट्टियों में नमी की आवश्यकता से अधिक या बहुत कम होना, तापमान में अत्यधिक उतार–चढ़ाव, मिट्टियों में हयूमस की मात्रा में कमी तथा मिट्टियों में विभिन्न प्रकार के प्रदूषकों का प्रवेश एवं सान्द्रण।

मृदा प्रदूषण के कारणः– भौतिक कारक, जैविक कारक, वायुजात (Airborn) कारक, जीवनाशी (Biocides) तथा रासायनिक उर्वरक, नगरी एवं औद्योगिक स्त्रोत।

शहरों व गाँवों के बसाव के किनारों पर शहरी व ग्रामीण कूड़ा–कचड़ा, (लौह अंश, शीशा आदि) के मिट्टी में मिल जाने से वहाँ की मिट्टी कृषि के लिए बेकार हो जाती है।

फिर खुले में शौच (हालाकि इस पर इधर रोक लगाया जा रहा है) से भी मिट्टी प्रदूषण होता है।

पराली : मिट्टी तथा भूमि के प्रदूषण का कारण है (PRALI : Cause of Soil/ Land Pollution)

'नेशनल पराली पॉलीसी' राज्य सरकारों द्वारा लागू नहीं किया गया है। पराली (फसल काटने के बाद खेतों में बचे हुये भाग) को राज्यों में प्रति वर्ष इसे जला दिया जाता है। इस परम्परा के कारण अति मूल्यवान कृषि भूमि बर्बादी के कगार पर है। इससे वहाँ की भूमि बंजर तथा अकृषि भूमि (Barren and uncultivable) भूमि में परिवर्तित होती जा

रही है। इससे धुयें से वायु प्रदूषण भी बढ़ जाता रहा है। इसका कुप्रभाव कृषकों के आर्थिक जीवन पर अति हानिकारक होती है।

गेहूँ तथा धान के अतिरिक्त गन्ने के पत्तों को अधिकांशतः जला दिया जाता है। एक अनुमान के अनुसार भारत देश में 50 करोड़ टन पराली उत्पन्न होता है। जिसमें 36 करोड़ टन का उपयोग जानवरों के चारा के रूप में उपयोग किया जाता है तथा 9.28 करोड़ टन को कृषि भूमि में ही जला दिया जाता है। यह क्रिया सर्वाधिक उत्तर प्रदेश, इसके बाद पंजाब, हरियाणा तथा पच्छिमी बंगाल का स्थान आता है। बिहार के भिन्न–भिन्न भागों में यही क्रिया की जाने लगी है।

कृषि–विज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, कृषि फसलों से, खाद्यान्नों के अतिरिक्त, पराली में अनेक उपयोगी तत्व पाये जाते हैं जिसे चारा, कम्पोस्ट खाद तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आवासों के छाने (छतों को) में उपयोग में लाया जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त इसका उपयोग बायो मास (Biomass) ईंधन, मशरूम की खेती, ईंधन तथा औद्योगिक उत्पाद इत्यादि में किया जाता है।

जलाने का कारण (Causes of burning)

"नेशनल पराली पॉलिसी" के अनुसार पराली जलाने के अनेक कारण हैं।

● खेतों को फसल काटने के बाद शीघ्रातिशीघ्र साफ करना,
● कृषि–श्रमिकों का अभाव,
● कृषि–भूमि से पराली के हटाने में बढ़ता खर्च,
● आधुनिक तकनीकों से फसलों की कटाई।

जलाने से उत्पन्न कुप्रभाव (Harm to burn)

● पराली जलाने से, पर्यावरण के कुप्रभाव से भी अधिक मिट्टी को क्षति होती है।
● एक टन पराली जलाने से 5.5 किलोग्राम नाइट्रोजन, 2.3 किलोग्राम फासफेट, 25 किलोग्राम पोटाशियम, 1.2 किलोग्राम सल्फर (Sulpher) उत्पन्न होता है।
● फिर, जलाने से उत्पन्न ताप के कारण अनेक उपयोगी बैक्टिरिया एवं जीवांश नष्ट हो जाते हैं।

मृदा प्रदूषण के कुप्रभाव (III&effect of Soil Pollution):

मिट्टियों में विभिन्न स्त्रोतों से प्रदूषण के कारण मानव एवं जैव समुदाय पर दूरगामी प्रभाव पड़ते हैं। प्रदूषण के कारण मिट्टियों की गुणवत्ता में ह्रास होने से उनकी उर्वरता शक्ति घट जाती है। जिस कारण कृषि उत्पादन में भारी कमी हो जाती है। कभी–कभी गिट्टियों का प्रदूषण इतना अधिक हो जाता है कि मिट्टिया कृषि के लिए अनुपयुक्त हो जाती है।

मृदा प्रदूषण पर नियोजन के उपाय (Ways to control Soil crosion): मृदा प्रदूषण पर नियंत्रण कृषि विकास के लिए अनिवार्य है। मानव समुदाय तथा समस्त जैव जगत का अस्तित्व मिट्टियों पर ही निर्भर करता है। मृदा प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने के लिए निम्न उपायों को बताया गया हैः–

● मृदा अपरदन से होने वाले मृदा प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने के लिए मृदा अपरदन की रोकथाम के विभिन्न उपायों तथा विधियों को अपनाना पड़ेगा।
● रासायनिक उर्वरकों तथा जैवनाशी कृत्रिम रसायनों (biocides) का नियंत्रण एवं विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।

● ऐसे कीटनाशी रसायनों का विकास किया जाना चाहिए जो मानव समुदाय के लिए हानिकारक न हो।
● डी० डी० टी० (D.D.T.) के प्रयोग पर शीघ्र रोक लगा देना चाहिए।
● नगरीय तथा कारखानों के मलजल, का फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए प्रयोग उसके शोधन के बाद ही किया जाना चाहिए।
● उचित भूमि उपयोग तथा फसल प्रबन्धन।
● रासायनिक उर्वरकों तथा जैवशाकी रसायनों के समुचित उपयोग के लिए किसानों को शिक्षित किया जाना चाहिए।
● मिट्टियों के विभिन्न प्रदूषकों बिशेषकर जहरीले रसायनों के प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिक तंत्र के विभिन्न संघटकों (Components) पर पड़ने वाले प्रतिकूल प्रभावों के निर्धारण के लिए गहन शोध (Intensive research) की आवश्यकता है।

वन विनाश तथा पर्यावरण (Deforestation and Environment)

वनों का महत्व हम सभी जानते हैं। वन एवं मनुष्यों का अति प्राचीनकाल से गहरा संबंध है। पर मानव सभ्यता के विकास के साथ–साथ एवं निजी स्वार्थों की पूर्ति हेतु तथा व्यावसायिक आधार पर मनुष्य वनों को काटता जा रहा है। वनों की लकड़ी की लगातार बढ़ती आवश्यकताओं तथा जलाऊ (Fuel) लकड़ी की बढ़ती मांग ने वनों का विनाश करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। खगड़िया जिला में कुल क्षेत्रफल के दृष्टिकोण से वन–क्षेत्र नगण्य है। सिर्फ गाँवों में तथा किनारों पर कुछ वृक्ष तथा बाग–बगीचे देखे जाते हैं।

वन–विनाश का पर्यावरणीय कुप्रभाव (Environmental III effect of Deforestation)

● पर्यावरण असन्तुलन
● फोटो डिस्सोसियेशन द्वारा
● भूक्षरण की समस्या
● स्थानीय वातावरण पर प्रभाव
● वन्य जीवों पर प्रभाव
● ईंधन की समस्या
● कृषि पर विपरीत प्रभाव
● चारागाहों पर प्रभाव

मानव तथा वनों के सह अस्तित्व (co-existence) के लिये वर्तमान समय में विश्व के सभी देश (भारत सहित) में चिंतन चल रहा है। इस संबंध में अनेक योजनायें भी बनाई गयी हैं। हमारी भोगवादी (consumerism) सभ्यता ने देश के अधिकांश वन क्षेत्रों को काटकर अन्य उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति के लिए उन क्षेत्रों का उपयोग किया जाता रहा है। दूसरी ओर उद्योगों तथा बढ़ती हुई आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति का भार भी वनों पर पड़ रहा है। भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद् (Indian Research Council) के वैज्ञानिकों ने सुझाव दिया है कि यदि पेड़–पौधों का कटाव (विनष्टीकरण) नहीं रोका गया तो इससे समस्त देश को गंभीर परिस्थितियों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। वन एक ऐसा प्राकृतिक संसाधन है जिसे इसी अनुपात में बढ़ावा व पैदा (लगाया) किया जा सकता है जिस अनुपात में जनसंख्या बढ़ रहा हैः–

डॉ. सुरेन्द्र कुमार

- जलाऊ लकड़ी के स्थान पर अतिरिक्त वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्त्रोत (Alternative energy sources) विकसित किये गये हैं जैसे सौर ऊर्जा, वायु ऊर्जा,

- ये वृक्ष प्रजातियाँ जो पर्यावरण संरक्षण (Environment conservation) के दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण है, उन्हें सुरक्षित वृक्ष प्रजातियाँ (Reserved Tree species) घोषित की जानी चाहिये,

- तीव्र व मन्द बालों (Steep and Gentle) के क्षेत्रों में वनों के कटाव पर पूर्णरूप से प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाये।

- ग्रामीण समाज (Rural society) की आधारभूत आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए बस्तियों के चारों ओर खाली पड़ी सामुदायिक भूमि तथा कृषि उपयोग हेतु बेकार पड़ी भूमि में वन विकास की योजनायें प्रारम्भ की जाये। वृक्षारोपण कार्यक्रम (Afforestation Programme) में उन वृक्ष प्रजातियों की वरीयता (Priority) दी जाय जिनकी पर्यावरणीय उपज, जैसे आक्सीजन, जल, मृदा, फल, बागमती व रेशा आदि उपज अधिक हो। वृक्षारोपण में प्रजातियों का चुनाव उनके बाजार मूल्य की अपेक्षा उनके पारिस्थितिकी लाभों के आधार पर होनी चाहिए।

- सामाजिक वानिकी (Social Forestry), कृषि वानिकी (Agro&Forestry) तथा वन खेती (Forest Farming) से वन क्षेत्रफल बढ़ाकर वनों की क्षतिपूर्ति की जाये,

- पशु संख्या को नियंत्रित (Limited) किया जाए तथा उनकी नस्लों में सुधार किया जाय,

- चारागाह क्षेत्रों (Pasture lands) का विनाश होने से बचाएँ। चारागाहों के संरक्षण व विकास से पशुओं द्वारा वनों की बर्बादी कम होगी।

- वन्य जीव–जन्तुओं के संरक्षण व विकास हेतु अभ्यारण्य (Sanctuary) स्थापित किये जायें।

- वनों पर आधारित उद्योग–धंधों के कच्चे माल के लिए सामाजिक वानिकी की योजनायें प्रारम्भ की जाये।

- इमारती लकड़ी (House&wood) व फर्नीचर के स्थान पर लोहे की बनी चीजों को– वरीयता दी जाए।

- लकड़ी के शवदाह (Funeral) गृहों की अपेक्षा विद्युत शवदाह गृहों का विकास किया जाय।

- होली, लोहड़ी व अन्य त्योहारों में लकड़ी को व्यर्थ में न जलाया जाय। इसके लिये व्यक्तियों की सांस्कृतिक व धार्मिक मान्यताओं में परिवर्तन होना आवश्यक है।

- जिन योजनाओं से वनों के अत्यधिक क्षेत्रफल का विनाश हो रहा है, उनके निर्माण/स्थापना पर कम महत्व दिया जाए।

उपरोक्त सुझावों के मद्देनजर कार्य करके हमारे प्रदेश के वनों का विनाश होने से बचाया जा सकता है, साथ ही वहाँ पर्यावरणीय विकास भी हो सकता है।

जल संरक्षण (Water conservation)

जल समस्या : प्रकृति ही इलाज : इंजीनियरिंग आधारित उपयोगों के पदले पोखर, झील, कुओं, ताल तलैया, जंगलों और बेकार पड़ी भूमि को शहरों का अभिन्न अंग बना दिया जाय, तो प्रकृति आधारित उपायों से इस समस्या को खत्म किया जा सकता है।

देश के छोटे–बड़े सब शहर तेजी से पानी की कमी की तरफ बढ़ रहे हैं। पानी का लगातार गिरता स्तर लोगों की चिंता, चिड़चिड़ाहट, आपसी बैर व लडाई–झगड़ों और पानी

के दाम को बढ़ा रहा है। तेजी से होता शहरीकरण जिसके बिना किसी योजनाबद्ध तरीके के तहत गाँवों से लोग शहरों की ओर पलायन करते हैं, तेजी से बढ़ती जनसंख्या और पानी के इस्तेमाल की बदलती पद्धतियों द्वारा पानी का अधिक उपयोग। इसके अतिरिक्त अधिकतर शहरों में जल प्रबंधन की टिकाऊ प्रणाली मौजूद नहीं है।

पानी की यह समस्या भले ही हमारे देश में गंभीर हो, लेकिन इससे पूरा विश्व जूझ रहा है। विश्व बैंक ने अपनी हालिया रिपोर्ट में इस स्थिति से बचने के लिए पंचमुखी उपाय सुझाया है :–

- पानी को विभिन्न स्त्रोतों से जमा करना, पुनर्भरण किए गए एक्वीफर्स (Aquifers),

- ऐसे उपायों पर निर्भर करना जो जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरे से दूर हो, जैसे डीसैलिनेशन और दूषित जल शोधित करना,

- बहरी प्रतिद्दिता से जलीय स्त्रोतों को बचाना,

- किसी संकट से निपटने के लिए जल प्रबन्धन के डिजाइन और प्रणाली तैयार करना।

हमारी परिस्थितियों में इस समस्या से बचने के लिए कई अहम कदम उठाने होंगे। जैसे नगरपालिकाओं की जवाबदेही बढ़ाना। इनकी तकनीकी और प्रबंधन क्षमता को बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए। सप्लाई किये जाने वाले पानी को विभिन्न स्त्रोतों से लिया जाना चाहिए। जैसे भूजल. सतह पर मौजूद जल, संरक्षित किया हुआ बर्षाजल और शोधित किया हुआ दूषित जल। शहर या कस्बों के निर्माण की योजना बनाते समय चाहे अमीरों के लिए गगनचुम्बी इमारतें बनाई जाएं, उसमें साफ और सस्ते पानी की उपलब्धता अनिवार्य होनी चाहिए। शोध बताते हैं कि शहरों में सप्लाई होने वाले पानी की मात्रा 10 फीसद ही इस्तेमाल होता है, शेष 90 प्रतिशत दूषित जल की तरह बहा दिया जाता है। हमारे शहरों में तो सप्लाई का 40 प्रतिशत पानी लीकेज (Likage) में बह जाता हौ। पाइपों की मरम्मत करना और उनका प्रबन्धन करना सस्ता पड़ता है। केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड नेशनल एक्वीफर्स मैपिंग (Central Underground Board National Acquifers Mapping) नाम से प्रोग्राम शुरू करने जा रहा है जिससे देश के अधिकतर राज्यों में उपलब्ध जल की सटीक जगह और मात्रा पता लगाई जा सकेगी। आगे आने वाले कई वर्षों में उन स्थानों पर जल संसाधनों का विकास किया जा सकेगा। पहाड़ी इलाकों (अध्ययन क्षेत्र में नहीं है) में मल्टिपल वॉटर यूज सिस्टम प्रणाली (Multiple Water Use System) का प्रयोग काफी सफल रहा है। इसके तहत घरेलू काम और खेतों में सिंचाई के पानी की जरूरत एक साथ पूरी हो जाती है। पर, आखिर में लोगों तथा पानी का इस्तेमाल करने वाले उद्योगों को यह समझना होगा कि जल सबसे कीमती प्राकृतिक संसाधन है लेकिन वह सीमित मात्रा में है और उसका उपयोग समझदारी और उत्पादक तरीके से करने से ही जीवन खुशहाल हो सकेगी।

गुम हो गए जलाशय :– जलाशय हमारी जीवनशैली, कृषि, प्रकृति और पशु–पक्षियों के अस्तित्व की अनिवार्यता है। माफिया व भ्रष्ट तंत्र द्वारा जलाशय पर अतिक्रमण करके निर्माण कर लिया गया है। इन्हें पुनर्जिवित करने के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश की भी अनदेखी हो रही है।

कुछ साल पहले सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया था कि राज्य सरकारें उन सभी जलाशयों को चिन्हित करके

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अतिक्रमण मुक्त कराये। इसके बावजूद बिहार के संदर्भ में जिनपर बिल्डरों और भू–माफिया ने कब्जा कर रखा है। ऐसा एक भी उदाहरण नहीं है जिसमें किसी जलाशय के अतिक्रमण मुक्त करवाकर पुनर्जीवित किया गया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जलाशयों की महत्ता रेखांकित करते हुए अपने आदेश में यह भी कहा था कि यदि किसी जलाशय को पाटकर बहुमंजिला भवन खड़ा कर दिया गया है तो उसे ध्वस्त करके जलाशय पुनर्जीवित किया जाए। कुछ दशक पहले देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह बिहार में भी बड़ी संख्या में जलाशय थे, पर धीरे–धीरे इन पर कब्जा करके माफिया ने आवासीय और व्यावसायिक कॉम्प्लेक्स या औद्योगिक कारखाने खड़े कर दिए। आज शहरों को तो छोड़िए, गाँव–कस्बों में भी जलाशय नहीं मिलते। बिडम्बना है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बावजूद शासन–प्रशासन ने एक भी जलाशय को पुनर्जीवित नहीं करवाया। अधिकारियों ने इस बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट को क्या रिपोर्ट दी, वही बता सकते हैं, पर जलाशयों पर माफिया का कब्जा बरकरार है।

बिहार / अध्ययन क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में जलाशयों का महत्व इसलिए भी है क्योंकि यहाँ की कृषि, पशु और बागवानी आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था बिना जलाशयों के विकलांग हो जाएगी। बिहार (खगड़िया जिला) उन भाग्यशाली राज्यों में है जहाँ गंगा गुजरती है। इसके बावजूद राज्य के तमाम इलाकों में भूगर्भ जल स्तर में तीव्र गिरावट खतरे की घंटी है। यह खतरा आम नागरिक से लेकर राज्य के नीति निर्धारकों तक को महसूस करना चाहिए। यदि जलाशय नहीं होंगे तो बारिश का पानी इसी तरह नदियों में जाता रहेगा। जलसंग्रह और भूगर्भ जल रिचार्ज के लिए जलाशय अनिवार्य है। बेहतर होगा कि इमानदारी के साथ अभियान चलाकर गुम जलाशयों की तलाश की जाए और उन्हें माफिया के कब्जे से मुक्त करवाकर पुनर्जीवित किया जाए। इसमें विलम्ब का हर क्षण अब आत्मघाती साबित होगा।"

भूमि को उर्वर रखने में कारगर है निम्न युक्ति : कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र बलियापुर (धनबाद) के एक वैज्ञानिक ने बताया कि प्रदेश भर के किसान खराब सिंचाई साधनों की समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं। टांड़ इलाकों में वर्षा जल का संचयन बड़ी चुनौती है।

सारांश एवं निष्कर्ष (Summary and Conclusion)

आज भी कृषि विश्व की अधिकांश जनसंख्या का प्रमुख व्यवसाय है। मनुष्य ने आधुनिक तकनीक में विकास, प्रगत औद्योगिकी, रासायनिक खादों (Chemical fertilizers) के उत्पादन तथा उपयोग में वृद्धि, सिंचाई के साधनों एवं सुविधाओं, में वृद्धि तथा विस्तार, अधिक उत्पादन वाले बीजों के विकास आदि के माध्यम से कृषि में पर्याप्त विस्तार एवं विकास अर्थात् कृषि क्षेत्रों में विस्तार, कृषि उत्पादकता में वृद्धि किया है तथा निरन्तर बढ़ती मानव जनसंख्या के कारण खाद्यानों की मांग की पूर्ति तो कर दी है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ घातक पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं को भी जन्म दिया है। उर्वरकों का ज्यादा इस्तेमाल मिट्टी के उपयोगी तत्त्वों को खत्म करने के साथ ही सेहत को भी नुकसान पहुँचा रहा है। खगड़िया जिला का निर्माण 10 मई, 1981 में पुराने मुंगेर जिला से निकाल कर किया गया है। इस जिला का क्षेत्रफल 1,485.8 वर्ग किलोमीटर है जिसपर 2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार 16,66,886 व्यक्ति निवास करते थे। खगड़िया जिला सात नदियों से घिरा है जो गंगा, कमला बालन, कोसी, बूढ़ी गंडक, कर्च (Karch), काली कोसी और बागमती है। इसका धरातल गंगा तथा उसकी सहायक नदियों के द्वारा जमा की गई उपजाऊ कॉप मिट्टी

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से बना है जिस पर अनेक फसलों का उत्पादन किया जाता है। यहाँ का शुद्ध बोया गया क्षेत्र 63.72 प्रतिशत है। क्षेत्र में सड़क, रेलमार्ग, जल परिवहन विकसित है। खगड़िया यहाँ का सबसे बड़ा शहर एवं जिला मुख्यालय भी है।

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औद्योगीकरण एवं पर्यावरण नियोजन खगड़िया जिला के विशेष संदर्भ में।

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सारांश:

औद्योगीकरण का प्रत्यक्ष एवं सकरात्मक प्रभाव रोजगार और आय में वृद्धि तथा संसाधनों के उपयोग के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। लेकिन इसके ऋणात्मक (Negative) प्रभाव भी देखने को मिल रहे हैं। यह ऋणात्मक या कुप्रभाव वायु, जल और ध्वनि प्रदूषण के साथ-साथ पर्यावरणीय अवनयन के रूप में वर्दमान होते हैं।

पेस्टीसाइड, बेवरीज, फार्मास्युटिकल, डाइंग, टायर, कागज, घी, कोयला फरनेस, डिस्टीलरी, उर्वरक, विद्युत गृह, चीनी इत्यादि औद्योगिक इकाइयों विभिन्न प्रकार के वायु प्रदूषकों को छोड़ती (Emit) है। इन प्रदूषकों में नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड (Nitrogen & Oxide), सल्फर डायोक्साइड (Sulpher Dyoxide), कार्बन मोनोक्साइड (Carbon Monoxide), पार्टिकुलेट्स (Particulates), (मरकरी एवं लेड Mercury and Lead) तथा हाइड्रोकार्बन (Hydrocarbon) प्रमुख हैं। प्रदूषकों का प्रभाव से दमा, पक्षधात, आँख और नाक की बीमारी, श्वास की बीमारी, लिवर, किडनी तथा बच्चों पर मानसिक कुप्रभाव उत्पन्न होते हैं। देश में बहुत कम इकाइयाँ वायु प्रदूषण से बचाव हेतु उपाय कर पाई है। आज प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर आवश्यकतानुरूप ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है, जिसके निम्न कारण

● प्रदूषण नियंत्रण से सम्बद्ध स्थानीय सरकारी कर्मचारियों के प्रशिक्षण का अभाव

● राज्य एवं केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण कर्मचारियों/अधिकारियों के प्रशिक्षण का अभाव

● राज्य एवं केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण बोर्ड को धन की अत्यन्त कमी

● पर्यावरण शिक्षा का दयनीय स्तर

● राज्य एवं केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण बोर्ड में जिम्मेदारी का अभाव

● जनसामान्य में जागृति (Consciousness) का अभाव

● परती खेतों में उगाई जाएगी वैकल्पिक फसल

● मिट्टी की जाँच अनिवार्य कार्यशाला में दिया गया प्रशिक्षणः गरमा 2018 व मिट्टी जांच अभियान के लिए जिलास्तरीय कार्यशाला सह प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन रविवार को कृषि प्रौद्योगिकी प्रबंध अभिकरण (आत्मा) द्वारा किया गया।

इसमें हरी खाद योजना गरमा 2018 एवं मिट्टी जांच पर विशेष बल दिया गया। उन्होंने जिले में ऐसे खेतों को चिन्हित करने का निर्देश दिया, जो धान की खेती के बाद परती रहते हैं। उनमें अन्य वैकल्पिक फसल लगाने के लिए किसानों को प्रोत्साहित किया जाएगा। मिट्टी जांच के लिए नमूना एकत्र करने का सबसे अच्छा समय गेहूँ की कटाई के बाद खाली खेत होते हैं। कृषि समन्वयक एवं किसान सलाहकारों को अपने-अपने क्षेत्र के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्य के अनुसार ग्रिड से मिट्टी का नमूना समय पर एकत्र कर प्रयोगशाला को उपलब्ध कराने का निर्देश दिया गया। किसानों को मृदा स्वस्थय कार्ड भी मुहैया कराना है। आत्मा के परियोजना निदेशक ने बताया कि 10 से 30 अप्रैल तक किसान चौपाल का आयोजन जिले की सभी पंचायतों में किया जाएगा। पौधा संरक्षण के सहायक निदेशक ने मिट्टी का नमूना लेने का तरीका बताया। आत्मा के उप परियोजना ने बताया कि प्रत्येक प्रखंड में कम से कम एक किसान उत्पादक कंपनी (एफपीओ) गठित करने का लक्ष्य है। एफपीओ की मदद से किसानों को उत्पादन से लेकर विपणन तक में सहायता होती है। एक एफपीओ कम से कम 50 किसानों के संगठित होने से बनता है। इसमें सरकार द्वारा किसानों को दस लाख रूपये की सहायता दी जा रही है।''

सभी फसलों पर मिलेगा अग्रिम इनपुट अनुदानः-

पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के सफल होने पर पूरे प्रदेश में लागू होगी योजनाः जैविक सब्जी की खेती के लिए शनिवार को बिहार में ऐतिहासिक आगाज हुआ है। देश में सबसे पहले बिहार ने अग्रिम इनपुट अनुदान देना शुरू किया है। मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने बापू सभागार में क्लिक करके चार जिलों के 20 हजार किसानों के खाते में छह-छह हजार रूपये का ई-कैश भेजा। साथ ही एलान भी किया कि पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के तहत चार जिलों में शुरू की गई यह योजना अगर सफल हो गई तो पूरे प्रदेश में सभी फसलों पर लागू होगी। अनुदान की राशि भी बढ़ेगी।

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि अनुदान का लाभ सभी किसानों, बटाईदारों एवं खेतिहर मजदूरों को मिलेगा। अगले सीजन में आलू की जैविक खेती के लिए भी इससे ज्यादा अग्रिम अनुदान किया जाएगा। सीएम ने कहा कि उत्पादकता कम होने से पहले बिहार का मजाक उड़ाया जाता था, किन्तु कृषि रोडमैप के जरिए खेती से जुड़े सभी सेक्टर का विकास हो रहा है। दूसरे कृषि रोडमैप में संबंधित 18 विभाग को शामिल किया गया। इससे धान उत्पादकता का विश्व रिकॉर्ड बना। गेहूं एवं मक्के के उत्पादन में भी राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड बना। सब्जी उत्पादन में बिहार अभी तीसरे स्थान पर है, लेकिन हमें पहले नंबर पर आना है। इसके लिए काम किया जा रहा है। किसानों को अत्यधिक लाभ दिलाने के लिए सहकारी समितियों का गठन किया जा रहा है।

प्रसंस्करण एवं मार्केटिंग की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि किसानों की आमदनी बढ़ाने के लिए जरूरी है कि कृषि लागत कम की जाए। इसके लिए राज्य सरकार बिजली से सिंचाई की व्यवस्था करने जा रही है। कृषि के लिए अलग फीडर का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। इससे सभी खेतों को कम से कम आठ घंटे बिजली मिल सकेगी। भूमि विवाद निबटाने लिए सर्वे सेटलमेंट किया जा रहा है। "चकबंदी होने से जोत का आकार बढ़ेगा तो लागत अपने–आप कम हो जाएगी।"

फूलों ने बदली जीने का 'राह' कैसे रोपा जाता है फूल खेत को चार–पांच बार बारीकी से जुताई का काम किया जाता है। खेत की जुताई के एक सप्ताह बाद केयारी बनाकर फूल के पौधे को रोपाई की जाती है। पौधे को रोपाई के बाद सिंचाई जल्द से जल्द कर देना है। और प्रत्येक सप्ताह खेती की सिंचाई करना पड़ता है। सिंचाई के साथ–साथ खेत का कोड़ाई का काम किया जाता है।

कहाँ से आते हैं पौधे फूल के पौधे कलकता से लाया जाता है। जहाँ पौधे की कीमत 500 रूपया प्रति हजार में मिलता है। एक कट्टा में 2 सौ से 250 सौ पौधे का रोपाई किया जाता है।

कितने दाम में बिकते हैं. फूल फूल का प्रति किलो 20 से 25 रूपया के दर से बेचा जाता है। शादी, नवरात्र तथा दिवाली में अधिक कीमत मिलता है।

पिपरामेंट की खेती से बढ़ी किसानों की आय परंपरागत खेती से. क्षेत्र के किसान अब आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। किसानों ने अब खेती को व्यवसाय के रूप में बदलते सब्जी की खेती शुरू किया है। किसान बताते हैं कि पहले धान एवं गेहूं के साथ चना, मसूर, खेसारी सहित अन्य तेलहनी एवं दलहनी फसल के साथ गन्ना की खेती करते थे। लेकिन, अब बड़े पैमाने पर पिपरामेंट (जपानी पुदीना) की खेती की जा रही है।

पिछले वर्ष उत्पादित इसके तेल से फायदे को देखते हुए इस बार बड़े पैमाने पर किसान इसकी खेती कर रहे हैं। किसानों ने बताया कि दो माह से पिपरमेंट का बिचड़ा डाला गया है। बिचड़ा के लम्बाई में वृद्धि के बाद से ग्रास हापर टिंडा नामक कीट से किसान परेशान है।

इन किसानों का कहना है कि पौधे को काट देते हैं। जिससे पौधे के बिचड़े में बढ़ोतरी नहीं हा पा रही है। किसानों का कहना है कि महंगे डीजल खरीद कर पटवन करा रहे हैं। जिससे लागत बढ़ रहा है। ऐसे में क्या करें, समझ में नहीं आ रहा है।

कहते हैं अधिकारी प्रखण्ड कृषि पदाधिकारी मो० शौकत अली का कहना है कि कीटनाशकों के प्रयोग से टिड्डे मरते नहीं उड़ जाते हैं। दवा का असर खत्म होते ही फिर वापस आ जाते हैं। इनसे निजात के लिए फिनरेट या मिथाइल पारथियान दवा जो पाउडर तथा लिक्विड में आता है। इसका उपयोग करने पर काबू पाया जा सकता है।

सारांश एवं निष्कर्ष (Summary and Conclusion)

आधुनिक हुई खेती हाल के दिनों में खेती से जुड़ी जो खबरें मिलीं, उसमें लगता है कि राज्य सरकार ने जब से कृषि रोडमैप पर जोर देना शुरू किया है, तब से खेतों का नजारा तेजी से बदला है। किसान आधुनिकीकरण की तरफ मुड़ रहे हैं। इसे बढ़ावा देने के लिए कृषि विभाग ने समय–समय पर कृषि मेले आयोजित किये। इन मेलों ने नये उपकरणों से किसानों का परिचय बढ़ाया, उनकी समझ विकसित हुई और उन्हें यह समझ में आया कि यंत्रीकरण से उत्पादकता बढ़ाई जा सकती है। अब वह दिन दूर नहीं,

डॉ. सुरेन्द्र कुमार

जब किसान धान की रोपाई में अति नवीनतम तकनीक का प्रयोग कर सकेंगे। इससे एक तरफ धान की खेती में लागत कम आएगी तो दूसरी ओर उत्पादन भी बढ़ेगा। इसमें 'पैडी ट्रांसप्लांटर' के उपयोग से धान की रोपाई की जाती है। बिचड़े की तैयारी पालीथीन सीट पर की जाती है। सैल्फ चालित पैडी ट्रांसप्लांटर से एक दिन में 4–5 एकड़ में धान की रोपाई आराम से की जा सकती है। इसके लिए दो–तीन व्यक्तियों की ही जरूरत पड़ती है। एक ऐसे दौर में, जब गाँव से लेकर नगर–महानगर तक मजदूरों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर बढ़े हैं और यातायात के विभिन्न साधनों ने श्रमिकों का बड़े श्रम बाजार में पहुंचना आसान कर दिया है, गाँव में खेती से जुड़े काम करने वाले मजदूर कम पड़ रहे हैं, मशीनों का उपयोग बढ़ाना खेती को लाभकर बनाये रखने के लिए आवश्यक हो गया है।

दूसरी ओर मजदूरों के सामने खेत में काम करने से कहीं ज्यादा आकर्षक विकल्प हैं। किसान के पास विकल्प सीमित हो गए हैं। वे मशीन की मदद लेकर ही खेती बचा सकते हैं। बीमारू से विकासशील बने इस प्रदेश में कृषि का आधुनिकीकरण ध्यान आकृष्ट कर रहा है। सोमवार को पटना के निकट भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के शाबाजपुरा फार्म पर पहुंचीं अमेरिकी राजदूत नैंसी पावेल ने देखा कि उनका देश कृषि क्षेत्र में जो सहायता दे रहा है, उसका कितना बेहतर उपयोग यहाँ से हो रहा है। सीरियल सिस्टम्स इनिशिएटिव फार साउथ एशिया (सीसा) प्रोजेक्ट का जायजा लेने आयी पावेल को दिखाया गया कि खेत जोते बिना एवं उससे पुआल हटाए बगैर बुआई की टर्बो सीडर मशीन किस तरह काम करती है। पानी का कम इस्तेमाल करते हुए धान की नर्सरी बनाने के लिए, 'राइस प्लांटर' कैसे काम करता है। यह मशीन पहले कोरिया से आई थी, अभी चीन से मंगाई गई है। स्वदेशी–विदेशी मशीनें भी खेतों के आसमान पर इंद्रधनुष रचने में लगी मालूम पड़ रही है। पावेल ने शायद इसे महसूस किया हो।

लौटें परंपरागत खेती की ओर :–बढ़ते प्रदूषण पर दुनिया भर में चिंता अवश्य व्यक्त की जा रही है, किन्तु उसके समाधान के मूलभूत पहलू की उपेक्षा हो रही है। भौतिक सुख की बढ़ती भूख के कारण आधुनिकता और प्रगतिशीलता के नाम पर प्रकृति के शोषण पर विराम लगे बिना समाधान खेजना अंधेरे में सुई खोजने से भी कठिनाई भरा है। नित्य प्रति हम अपने आचरण से प्रकृति का संतुलन बिगाड़ रहे हैं। हरे–भरे वनों का तो अभाव हो ही रहा है, न जाने कितनी नदियां सूख गई और जो हैं भी उनमें 20 वर्ष पूर्व के मुकाबले आधा भी जल प्रवाहित नहीं हो रहा है। दूसरी ओर धुआं उगलने वाली गाड़ियों, कृषि में काम आने वाले यांत्रिक उपकरणों, उपज बढ़ाने के लिए रासायनिक खादों और कीटनाशकों के उपयोग की अधिकता से ऐसे पौधे और कीड़े मकोड़ों की अधिकता बढ़ रही है जो केवल नुकसान ही पहुंचाते हैं। जहाँ दुनियाभर के देश वर्ष में एक बार किसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजन में अपने प्रतिनिधियों को भेजकर प्रदूषण पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं वहीं धरती ही नहीं अंतरिक्ष को भी प्रदूषित करने वाले वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान के लिए होड़ में भी लगे रहते हैं। पिछले दिनों दिल्ली और उसके आसपास छाए प्रदूषण के चलते स्कूल बंद कर दिए गए और देश भर में बढ़ते प्रदूषण के आंकड़े पेश किये जाने लगे। इसी बीच सामने आया कि जड़ के बजाय पत्तियों को सींचने से हरियाली बनाए रखने के समान ही वर्षा जल संचयन के लिए राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण यानी एनजीटी के

आदेश को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए किए गए उपाय अभी तक अनुपयोगी साबित हुए हैं और फिर भी उन्हें अपनाने की अनिवार्यता की ओर बढ़ा जा रहा है।

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डॉ. सुरेन्द्र कुमार

औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनता

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लोकसंख्येच्या वैशिष्ट्यांचा अभ्यास करीत असताना लोकसंख्येचे वितरण आणि घनता यांचा अभ्यास अत्यावश्यक आहे. कारण लोकसंख्येच्या वितरणावर आणि घनतेवरच लोकसंख्येची इतर वैशिष्ट्ये अवलंबून असतात. लोकसंख्येचे वितरण म्हणजे केवळ लोकसंख्येची विभागणी नसून विविध भौगोलिक घटकांचा एकत्रित परिणाम होऊन झालेली एक क्रिया आहे. त्यामुळे लोकसंख्या वितरणातील व घनतेतील विविध प्रदेशातील भिन्नता ही प्राकृतिक घटक, आर्थिक घटक, सांस्कृतिक विकास आणि ऐतिहासीक विकास यांना अनुसरुन अभ्यासणे आवश्यक आहे. लोकसंख्येची घनता व वितरण हे शब्द एकाच अर्थाने वापरले जातात. परंतू या दोन्ही शब्दाचा अर्थ वेगळा आहे. लोकसंख्येच्या पृथ्वीवरील वाटणीला किंवा विभागणीला लोकसंख्येचे वितरण असे म्हणतात. लोकसंख्या वितरणामध्ये प्रत्यक्षात लोकांच्या स्थानाला महत्व असते. तर लोकसंख्येची घनता म्हणजे लोकसंख्या आणि क्षेत्रफळ यांचे गुणोत्तर असते. लोकसंख्येची घनता ही दर चौ. किलोमीटर क्षेत्रावर किती लोक राहतात हे दाखविते औरंगाबाद जिल्हा हा औद्योगिक क्षेत्रासाठी देखील प्रसिध्द आहे. जिल्ह्यात चार प्रकारचे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र आहेत. १) औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, रेल्वे स्टेशन रोड २) चिकलठाणा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र ३) वाळूज औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, व ४) शेंद्रा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र इ. आढळतात. वरील घटकांचा विचार करता औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्याकडे ग्रामीण भागाच्या स्थलांतरामुळे नगरांच्या घनतेत बदल आढळतो. सन २००१ ते २०२१ या संशोधन कालावधीत औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांच्या लोकसंख्या घनतेचा अभ्यास केला असता एकूण नगरांच्या घनतेत ३१७० प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी वाढ झाली असून सर्वाधिक वाढ वडगाव कोल्हाटी नगरात १७५ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. असून सर्वाधिक घट औरंगाबाद (कॅं) नगरात -१८९ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. निदर्शनास येते.

बीजसंज्ञा : नगर, लोकसंख्या, घनता.

प्रस्तावना :

लोकसंख्येच्या वैशिष्ट्यांचा अभ्यास करीत असताना लोकसंख्येचे वितरण आणि घनता यांचा अभ्यास अत्यावश्यक आहे. कारण लोकसंख्येच्या वितरणावर आणि घनतेवरच लोकसंख्येची इतर वैशिष्ट्ये अवलंबून असतात. लोकसंख्येचे वितरण म्हणजे केवळ लोकसंख्येची विभागणी नसून विविध भौगोलिक घटकांचा एकत्रित परिणाम होऊन झालेली एक क्रिया आहे. त्यामुळे लोकसंख्या वितरणातील व घनतेतील विविध प्रदेशातील भिन्नता ही प्राकृतिक घटक, आर्थिक घटक, सांस्कृतिक विकास आणि ऐतिहासीक विकास यांना अनुसरुन अभ्यासणे आवश्यक आहे. लोकसंख्येची घनता व वितरण हे शब्द एकाच अर्थाने वापरले जातात. परंतू या दोन्ही शब्दाचा अर्थ वेगळा आहे. लोकसंख्येच्या पृथ्वीवरील वाटणीला किंवा विभागणीला लोकसंख्येचे वितरण असे म्हणतात. लोकसंख्या वितरणामध्ये प्रत्यक्षात लोकांच्या स्थानाला महत्व असते. तर लोकसंख्येची घनता म्हणजे लोकसंख्या आणि क्षेत्रफळ यांचे गुणोत्तर असते. लोकसंख्येची घनता ही दर चौ. किलोमीटर क्षेत्रावर किती लोक राहतात हे दाखविते.

लोकसंख्येची गणितीय घनता काढण्यासाठी प्रदेशातील एकूण लोकसंख्येस एकूण भौगोलिक क्षेत्राने भागून आलेले उत्तर लोकसंख्या गणितीय घनता दर्शविते. लोकसंख्या घनता म्हणजे दर चौ.कि.मी. क्षेत्रावर राहणाऱ्या लोकसंख्येची संख्या होय. गणितीय घनता काढल्यामुळे लोकसंख्येच्या वितरणाची व केंद्रीकरणाची कल्पना येते. महाराष्ट्रातील ऐतिहासिक जिल्हा म्हणून औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्याची ओळख असून खाम नदीच्या किनाऱ्यावर वसलेले मराठवाडा प्रशासकीय विभागाचे मुख्यालय आहे. तसेच आशियातील सर्वात वेगाने वाढणारे शहर आहे. औरंगाबाद जिल्हा हा औद्योगिक क्षेत्रासाठी देखील प्रसिध्द आहे. जिल्ह्यात चार प्रकारचे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र आहेत. १) औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, रेल्वे स्टेशन रोड २) चिकलठाणा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र ३) वाळूज औद्योगिक क्षेत्र, व ४) शेंद्रा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र इ. आढळतात. वरील घटकांचा विचार करता औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्याकडे ग्रामीण भागाच्या स्थलांतरामुळे नगरांच्या घनतेत बदल आढळतो.

अभ्यासक्षेत्र :

भौगोलिक दृष्ट्या औरंगाबाद जिल्हा हा महाराष्ट्र राज्याच्या मध्यवर्ती भागात स्थित आहे. औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यांचा अक्षवृत्तीय व रेखावृत्तीय विस्तार १९१८' उत्तर ते २०० ४०' उत्तर अक्षांश असून रेखावृत्तीय विस्तार

७४°४०' पूर्व ते ७६°४०' पूर्व रेखांश दरम्यान आहे. जिल्ह्याच्या पूर्वेस जालना, पश्चिमेस नाशिक व अहमदनगर, उत्तरेस जळगाव जिल्हा असून दक्षिणेस बीड व अहमदनगर जिल्ह्याचा काही भाग येतो. जिल्ह्याचे एकूण क्षेत्रफळ १०,१३७.६१ चौ.कि.मी. असून ते महाराष्ट्र राज्याच्या ३.२८ टक्के आहे. या क्षेत्रफळापैकी ३०९.३५ चौ.कि.मी. क्षेत्र शहरी असून ९८२८.२६ चौ.कि.मी. क्षेत्र ग्रामीण आहे. सन २०११ च्या जनगणने अनुसार एकूण लोकसंख्या ४५,०१,२८२ एवढी आहे. यापेकी १६,२०,१७०

लोकसंख्या शहरी असून २८,८१,११२ लोकसंख्या ग्रामीण भागात राहते. औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यात, औरंगाबाद, फुलंब्री, सिल्लोड, सोयगांव, कन्नड, खुलताबाद, वैजापूर, गंगापूर व पैठण इ. नऊ तालुक्यांचा समावेश आहे. जिल्ह्यात गोदावरी ही नदी प्रमुख असून याच खो‍ऱ्यात औरंगाबाद स्थित आहे.

उद्दिष्ट : औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांच्या लोकसंख्या घनतेत बदल आढळतो.

नकाशा क्र.१
औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्याचे स्थान आणि विस्तार
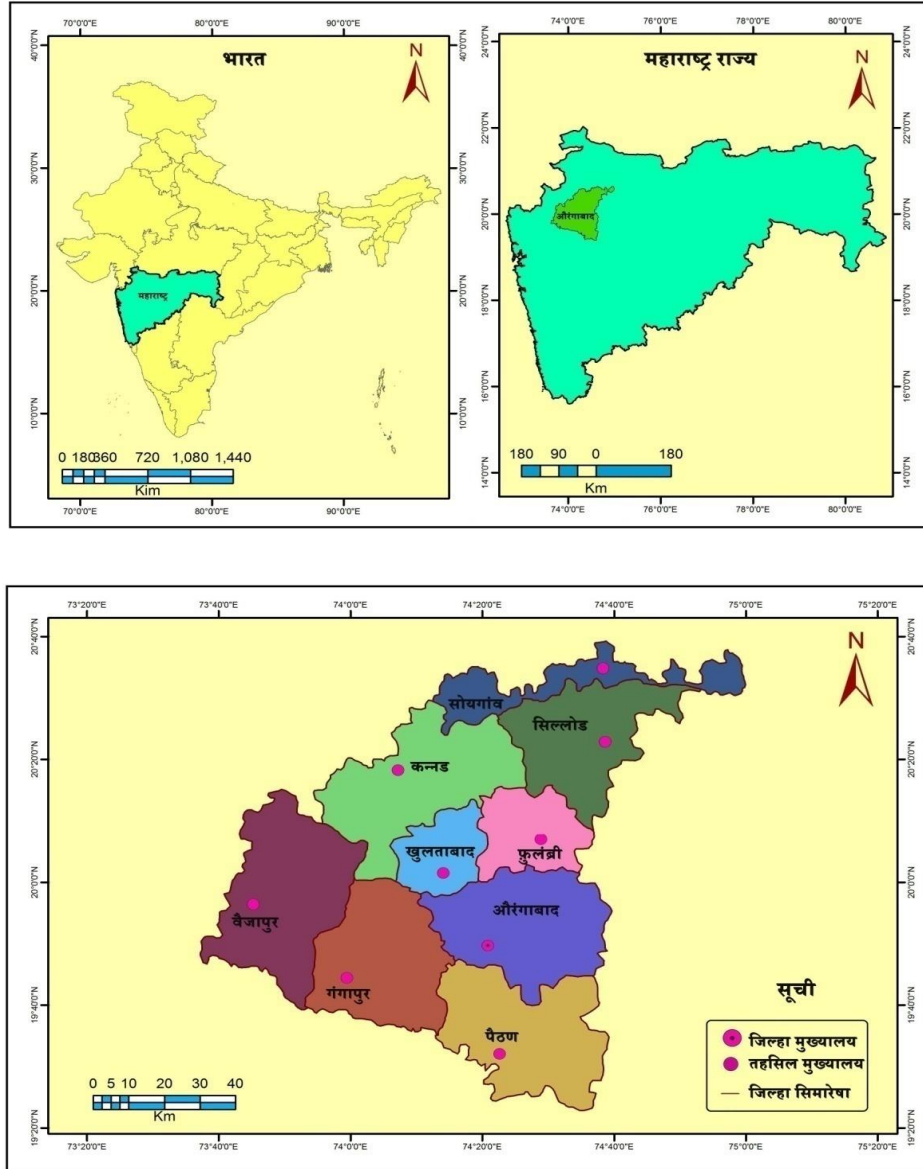
संशोधन पद्धती : सदरील शोधनिबंध दुय्यम माहितीवर आधारीत असून यासाठी औरंगाबाद जिल्हा सामाजिक आर्थिक समालोचन, जनगणना अहवाल यातील माहितीचे विश्लेषण करण्यात आले आहे. संबंधित संशोधन निबंधात सन २०२१ ची लोकसंख्या प्रक्षेपित लोकसंख्या आहे तर लोकसंखेची घनता खालील सूत्राद्वारे काढण्यात आली आहे
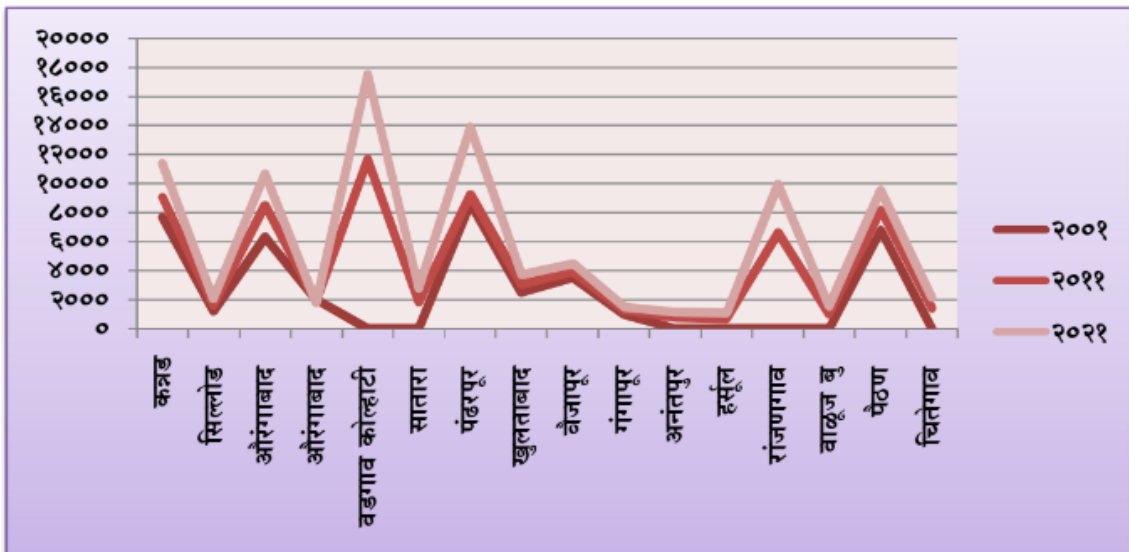
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$$\text{लोकसंख्या घनता} = \frac{\text{एकूण लोकसंख्या}}{\text{एकूण क्षेत्रफळ}}$$

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सारणी क्र.१

औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांची घनता सन २००१ ते २०२१

</div>

अ. क्र.	नगरांचे नाव	२००१	घनता	२०११	घनता	२०२१	घनता	फरक
१	कन्नड	३४४०३	७६४५	४०७५९	९०५८	५१९९९	११३७८	३७३३
२	सिल्लोड	४३८६७	१२२४	५८२३०	१६२५	७२९०१	२०३५	८११
३	औरंगाबाद	८७३३११	६३०५	११७५११६	८४८५	१४७६५०३८	१०६५७	४३५२
४	औरंगाबाद	१९९१७२	१९९३	१८०५१	१८७६	१७३५८	१८०४	-१८९
५	वडगाव कोल्हाटी	०	०	६५६२०	११६७६	९८४३०	१७५१४	१७५१४
६	सातारा	०	०	३९९७३	१८४२	५९९६०	२७६३	२७६३
७	पंढरपूर	९६९६	८६५७	१०३४६	९२३८	१५४९९	१३८४६	५१९९
८	खुलताबाद	१२७९४	२४९९	१५७४९	३०७६	१९०२८	३७१६	१२१७
९	वैजापूर	३७०६४	३५२३	४१२९६	३९२५	४७१४२	४४८१	९५८
१०	गंगापूर	२२३२५	१००२	२७७४५	१२४६	३३०४१	१४८४	४८२
११	अनंतपुर	०	०	६१६६	७४२	९२४९	१११३	१११३
१२	हर्सूल	०	०	४९७९	७२०	७४६९	१०७९	१०७९
१३	रांजणगाव	०	०	४२८७७	६६२७	६४३१६	९९४१	९९४१
१४	वाळूज बु	०	०	२०२२०	१०२४	३०३३०	१५३६	१५३६
१५	पैठण	३४५१८	६७९५	४१५३६	८१७६	४८४४५	९५३६	२७४१
१६	चितेगाव	०	०	११५०७	१४३३	१७२६१	२१५०	२१५०
	एकूण	१०८७१५०	३५१४	१६२०१७०	५२३७	२०६७६८६	६६८४	३१७०

स्त्रोत : औरंगाबाद जिल्हा जनगणना अहवाल २००१,११,

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आलेख क्र. १

औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांची घनता

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सन २००१ मध्ये अभ्यास क्षेत्रात एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनता ३५१४ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती, तर तहसिल निहाय सर्वाधिक नगर घनता पंढरपूर ८६५७ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती. तर सर्वात कमी नगर रचना गंगापूर नगराची १००२ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. आढळून आली. एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनतेच्या तुलने अधिक असलेली घनता अनुक्रमे पैठण ६७९५, वैजापूर ३५२३, औरंगाबाद
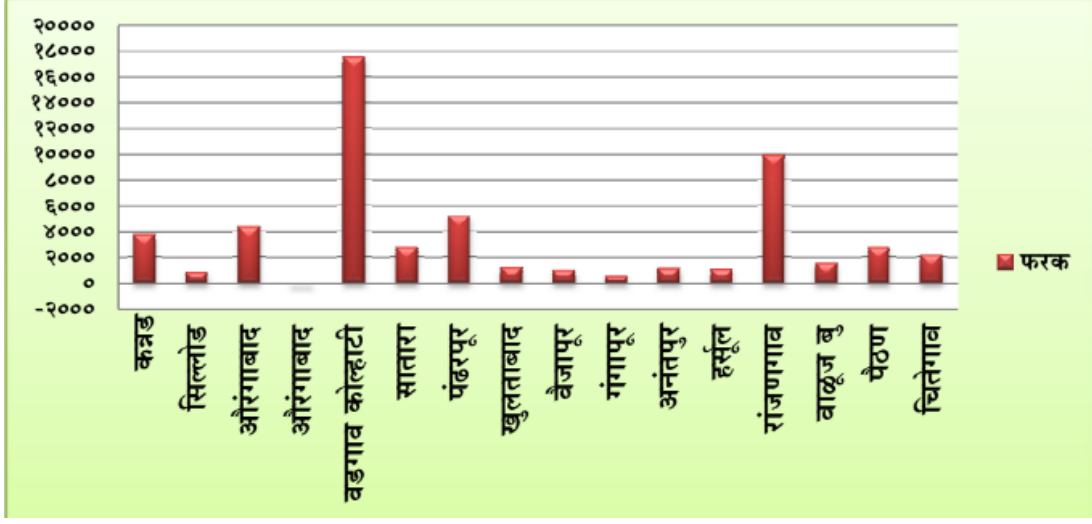
Dr.Jagannath Dhondiram Chavan

महानगर पालिका ६३०५, कन्नड ७६४५ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. या नगरांमध्ये आढळून येते. तर सन २०११ मध्ये अभ्यास क्षेत्रात एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनता ५२३७ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती सर्वाधिक नगर घनता वडगाव कोल्हाटी ११६७६, तर सर्वात कमी नगर घनता हर्सल ७२० या नगरांची होती. तर सन २०२१ मध्ये औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील एकूण नगरांची घनता वाढून ६६८४ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी झाली असून नगरांच्या क्रमानुसार

सर्वाधिक नगर लोकसंख्या घनता वडगाव कोल्हाटी १७५१४ या नगराची असून सर्वात कमी नगर लोकसंख्या घनता हर्सल नगरात १०७९ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. निदर्शनास आली आहे. एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनतेच्या अधिक घनता अनुक्रमे कन्नड ११३७८, औरंगाबाद (म) १०६५७, पंढरपूर १३८५६, राजणगाव ९९४१, पैठण ९५३६ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. या नगरांची आढळून येते.

आलेख क्र. २
औरंगाबाद जिल्हयातील नगरांच्या लोकसंख्या घनतेतील फरक

तर सन २००१ ते २०२१ या संशोधन कालावधीत औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांच्या लोकसंख्या घनतेचा अभ्यास केला असता एकूण नगरांच्या घनतेत ३१७० प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी वाढ झाली असून सर्वाधिक वाढ वडगाव कोल्हाटी नगरात १७५ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. असून सर्वाधिक घट औरंगाबाद (कॅ) नगरात -१८९ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. निदर्शनास येते.

निष्कर्ष :

सन २००१ मध्ये अभ्यास क्षेत्रात एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनता ३५१४ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती, तर तहसिल निहाय सर्वाधिक नगर घनता पंढरपूर ८६५७ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती. तर सर्वात कमी नगर रचना गंगापूर नगराची १००२ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. आढळून आली.

एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनतेच्या तुलने अधिक असलेली घनता अनुक्रमे पैठण ६७९५, वैजापूर ३५२३, औरंगाबाद महानगर पालिका ६३०५, कन्नड ७६४५ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. या नगरांमध्ये आढळून येते.

सन २०११ मध्ये अभ्यास क्षेत्रात एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनता ५२३७ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी होती सर्वाधिक नगर घनता वडगाव कोल्हाटी ११६७६, तर सर्वात कमी नगर घनता हर्सल ७२० या नगरांची होती.

तर सन २०२१ मध्ये औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील एकूण नगरांची घनता वाढून ६६८४ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी

झाली असून नगरांच्या क्रमानुसार सर्वाधिक नगर लोकसंख्या घनता वडगाव कोल्हाटी १७५१४ या नगराची असून सर्वात कमी नगर लोकसंख्या घनता हर्सल नगरात १०७९ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. निदर्शनास आली आहे. एकूण नगरांची लोकसंख्या घनतेच्या अधिक घनता अनुक्रमे कन्नड ११३७८, औरंगाबाद (म) १०६५७, पंढरपूर १३८५६, राजणगाव ९९४१, पैठण ९५३६ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. या नगरांची आढळून येते.

सन २००१ ते २०२१ या संशोधन कालावधीत औरंगाबाद जिल्ह्यातील नगरांच्या लोकसंख्या घनतेचा अभ्यास केला असता एकूण नगरांच्या घनतेत ३१७० प्र.चौ.कि.मी. एवढी वाढ झाली असून सर्वाधिक वाढ वडगाव कोल्हाटी नगरात १७५ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. असून सर्वाधिक घट औरंगाबाद (कॅ) नगरात -१८९ प्र.चौ.कि.मी. निदर्शनास येते.

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ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের বিকাশে গণমাধ্যমের ভূমিকা

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সংক্ষিপ্তসারঃ

জাতীয়তাবাদ একটি রাজনৈতিক,সামাজিক এবং সাংস্কৃতিক আদর্শ যা কোন জাতি বা জনগোষ্ঠীর স্বার্থ, সংস্কৃতি এবং পরিচয়ের উপর জোর দেয় এবং জাতি রাষ্ট্রের প্রতি আনুগত্য ও ভক্তিকে প্রদর্শন করে। জাতীয়তাবাদের সূচনা হয় সপ্তদশ ও অষ্টাদশ শতাব্দীর মাঝামাঝি সময়ে ইউরোপ এবং পশ্চিমা দেশগুলিতে। তবে ভারতে এর সূচনা হয় ঊনবিংশ শতাব্দীর শেষের দিকে ব্রিটিশ শাসনের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলনের মধ্যে দিয়ে। ব্রিটিশদের নিপীড়নমূলক নীতি, অর্থনৈতিক শোষণ, সাংস্কৃতিক বিচ্ছিন্নতা এবং রাজনৈতিক পরাধীনতা ভারতীয়দের মধ্যে সম্মিলিত প্রতিরোধের বোধ জাগিয়ে তুলেছিল যা ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের উন্মেষ ঘটায়। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের উত্থানের বিভিন্ন কারণগুলির মধ্যে অন্যতম ছিল গণমাধ্যম গুলির ক্রম উন্নয়। এক্ষেত্রে বিভিন্ন গণমাধ্যম গুলি বিভিন্ন শ্রেণীর মানুষের মধ্যে জাতীয়তাবাদী আদর্শ গড়ে তুলতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছিল। এই সময় বিভিন্ন গণমাধ্যম যেমন ইংরেজি এবং আঞ্চলিক ভাষায় প্রকাশিত সংবাদপত্র পত্র-পত্রিকা, ম্যাগাজিন এবং নাট্যাভিনয় গুলি সরকারের বিভিন্ন নীতি দমনমূলক নীতি ও স্বৈরাচারী শাসনকে উন্মোচিত করে এবং বিভিন্ন জাতীয়তাবাদী কার্যকলাপ এবং দেশাত্মবোধক ঘটনা ও কাহিনীগুলি জনসাধারণের কাছে তুলে ধরতে শুরু করে, যা ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনকে গতি প্রদান করে।

Keywords: জাতীয়তাবাদ, জাতীয় আন্দোলন, সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকা, নাট্যাভিনয়, ব্রিটিশ শাসন

ভূমিকা:

ভারতে জাতীয়তাবাদের ধারণা সাম্প্রতিক ঘটনা নয়; এর উত্স প্রাচীন বৈদিক যুগে ফিরে পাওয়া যায়। ঋগ্বেদ রাষ্ট্রের প্রতি জনগণের ভক্তি ও দায়িত্ববোধের বিকাশের বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা করে। উপরন্তু, মহাভারত ভারতকে একটি ঐক্যবদ্ধ জাতি হিসেবে উল্লেখ করেছে। ঐতিহাসিক এবং ধর্মীয় গ্রন্থগুলি প্রমাণ দেয়, যে ভারত প্রাচীনকালে বিভিন্ন সম্রাট ও শাসনের অধীনে একত্রিত হয়েছিল। তদুপরি, মৌর্য, গুপ্ত, মারাঠা এবং মুঘল আমলে একটি সমন্বিত রাষ্ট্র প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রচেষ্টা লক্ষ্য করা যায়। যাইহোক, জাতীয়তাবাদের আধুনিক উপলব্ধি ইউরোপে প্রথম আবির্ভূত হয়েছিল, উল্লেখযোগ্য আর্থ-সামাজিক ও রাজনৈতিক পরিবর্তনের ফলে যা জাতি ও জাতি-রাষ্ট্র গঠনের দিকে পরিচালিত করেছিল। সংগঠিত কৃষি, শিল্পায়ন, সাংস্কৃতিক সমজাতকরণ এবং রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে একটি সাধারণ ভাষা ও শিক্ষার ব্যাপক ব্যবহার ইউরোপে জাতি ও ভ্রমণকারীদের উত্থানে অবদান রাখে। এই জাতি-রাষ্ট্রগুলি তাদের বাসিন্দাদের আনুগত্য এবং তাদের ধারাবাহিকতা নিশ্চিত করতে ব্যক্তির ভূমিকার উপর জোর দেয়, যা আধুনিক জাতীয়তাবাদের উত্থানকে চিহ্নিত করে।

কিন্তু ভারতের ক্ষেত্রে এমনটা ছিল না ভারতবর্ষে জাতীয়তাবাদের অস্তিত্ব প্রাক উপনিবেশিক শাসনকালের আগে পাওয়া গেলও এর পরিপূর্ণ বিকাশ ঘটেছিল ১৯ শতকের শেষের দিকে ব্রিটিশ শাসনের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন এর মধ্যে দিয়ে। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের বিবর্তন ইউরোপের তুলনায় উল্লেখযোগ্য ভাবে ভিন্ন। ইউরোপে এক ভিন্ন পরিস্থিতিতে জাতীয়তাবাদের উদ্ভব হয়েছিল। ভারতে না ছিল ইউরোপের মতো শিল্পায়ন, না সর্বসাধারণের জন্য এক-ভাষা। অর্থনীতি ছিল কৃষিভিত্তিক, সমাজ ছিল জাতি-ধর্ম-বর্ণে বিভক্ত, যদিও দেশ ভক্তির মনোভাব মারাঠা ও রাজপুতদের মধ্যে ছিল, তাও সীমিত। কিন্তু, আধুনিক অর্থে আমরা, জাতীয়তাবাদ বলতে যা বুঝি অর্থাৎ একত্রিত প্রশাসনিক ব্যবস্থা, সাধারণ ভাষা, একই সংস্কৃতি বা সমজাতীয় সংস্কৃতি এবং রাজনৈতিক একত্রীকরনের অস্তিত্ব ১৯ শতকের মধ্যভাগের আগে পর্যন্ত ছিল না। ভারতবর্ষে জাতীয়তাবাদের অস্তিত্ব প্রাক উপনিবেশিক শাসনকালের আগে পাওয়া গেলও এর পরিপূর্ণ বিকাশ ঘটেছিল ১৯ শতকের শেষের দিকে ব্রিটিশ শাসনের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন এর মধ্যে দিয়ে। উনিশ শতকের শেষের দিকে বিভিন্ন ইংরেজি এবং দেশীয় ভাষায় প্রকাশিত সংবাদপত্র -পত্রিকা এবং নাট্য অভিনয় গুলি ক্রমশ বৃদ্ধি পেতে থাকে যা জনমত গঠন, শিক্ষার প্রসার, রাজনৈতিক আন্দোলন ও কার্যকলাপ, সরকারের স্বৈরাচারী ও দমন মূলক আইন-নীতি ব্যাখ্যা এবং প্রদর্শনের

মাধ্যমে সর্বসাধারণের মধ্যে জাতীয়তাবাদী আদর্শ গড়ে তোলার ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে।

ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ গঠনে গণমাধ্যমের ভূমিকা দেশের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের সময় এবং সমসাময়িক উভয় সময়েই মুখ্য। উনিশ শতকের গোড়ার দিকে, ভারতীয় সংবাদপত্র, জার্নাল এবং প্যামফলেট জাতীয়তাবাদী নেতাদের ঐক্য এবং আত্ম-সংকল্পের ধারণা ছড়িয়ে দেওয়ার জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্ল্যাটফর্ম হিসেবে কাজ করেছিল। তৎকালীন বিভিন্ন জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনের নেতাগণ, যেমন দাদাভাই নওরোজি, বালগঙ্গাধার তিলোক, মহাত্মা গান্ধী, সুভাষচন্দ্র বোস এবং জহরলাল নেহেরু, এক্ষেত্রে বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায়ের মানুষের মধ্যে ব্রিটিশ বিরোধী মনোভাব গড়ে তুলতে গণমাধ্যমকে হাতিয়ার হিসেবে ব্যবহার করেছিলেন।

জাতীয়তাবাদ:

জাতীয়তাবাদ একটি রাজনৈতিক, সামাজিক এবং সাংস্কৃতিক আদর্শ যা একটি ভাগ করা জাতীয় পরিচয়ের ধারণাকে কেন্দ্র করে। এটি একটি জাতি বা গোষ্ঠীর স্বার্থ, সংস্কৃতি এবং পরিচয়ের উপর জোর দেয় যারা নিজেদেরকে একটি স্বতন্ত্র সম্প্রদায় হিসাবে দেখে। জাতীয়তাবাদ বিভিন্ন উপায়ে প্রকাশ পেতে পারে এবং রাজনৈতিক আন্দোলন, সামাজিক কাঠামো ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুশীলনকে প্রভাবিত করে। "জাতীয়তাবাদ" শব্দটি 'জাতি' থেকে এসেছে, যা ল্যাটিন শব্দ 'ন্যাটিও' থেকে এসেছে, যার অর্থ "জন্ম" বা "উৎপত্তি" এবং একটি সাধারণত উৎস বা ঐতিহ্যের সাথে একদল লোককে বোঝাতে ব্যবহৃত হয়েছিল। ইংরেজিতে জাতীয়তাবাদ শব্দটি "একটি নির্দিষ্ট জাতির প্রতি ভালোবাসা" বোঝাতে প্রথম ব্যবহার করা হয়েছিল 1794 সালে। "জাতীয়তাবাদ" শব্দটি 19 শতকের গোড়ার দিকে একটি জাতি-রাষ্ট্রের ধারণার চারপাশে রাজনৈতিক ও সামাজিক আন্দোলনগুলি প্রাধান্য লাভ করার সময় আত্মপ্রকাশ করে। একটি জাতির ধারণার সাথে সম্পর্কিত একটি নির্দিষ্ট 'আদর্শ বা আন্দোলন' বোঝাতে "-ism" প্রত্যয়টি যুক্ত করা হয়েছিল।

জাতীয়তাবাদকে কোন একটি নির্দিষ্ট সংজ্ঞায় সংজ্ঞায়িত করা খুবই কঠিন। যেহেতু, এটি মানব ভাবধারার সমন্বয়ে গঠিত, তাই বিভিন্ন সামাজিক বিজ্ঞানী বিভিন্ন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিতে এর সংজ্ঞা দেওয়ার চেষ্টা করেছেন। যেমন অধ্যাপক ল্যাস্কির মতে, "জাতীয়তাবাদ সাধারণত এক মানসিক ঐক্যবোধে উদ্বুদ্ধ জনসমষ্ট, যে ঐক্যবোধ কোন জনসমাজকে অন্য জনসমাজ হতে পার্থক্য করেন"। বিখ্যাত দার্শনিক জন স্টুয়ার্ট মিল জাতির জাতীয়তাবাদ সম্পর্কে বলেন, "একটি ভৌগলিক সীমায় সহ অবস্থান এক রাজার শাসনেই বাস এবং ভাষা ধর্ম সাহিত্য প্রকৃতি জাতীয়বাদের মূল ভিত্তি পরাধীন হলে তারা পরিবর্তে স্বাধীনতা প্রতিষ্ঠার

আকাঙ্ক্ষা এবং পরস্পরের মধ্যে সহানুভূতি স্বাধীনতা প্রতিষ্ঠার আকাঙ্ক্ষা এবং পরস্পরের মধ্যে সহানুভূতি ঐক্যের মনোভাব"। যেমন, দেসাই (A. Desai) তার "Recent Trends in Indian Nationalism" বইতে বলেছেন "Nationalism is a movement of various classes and groups comprising a nation, attempt to remove all economic, political, social and cultural obstacles which impede the realisation of their aspirations"। রাষ্ট্র বিজ্ঞানী হায়েস (Hayes) তার "Essays on Nationalism" এ জাতীয়তাবাদের সংজ্ঞা দিতে গিয়ে বলেন "Nationalism Consists of modern emotional fusion and exaggeration of two very cold phenomena Nationality and Patriotism".

সুতরাং, "জাতীয়তাবাদ" মূলত সেই আদর্শ বা আন্দোলনকে বোঝায় যা একটি নির্দিষ্ট জাতির স্বার্থ এবং সংস্কৃতির উপর জোর দেয়, প্রায়শই অন্যান্য জাতির বিপরীতে বা প্রতিযোগিতায়।

ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের গতি-প্রকৃতি

ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ একটি জটিল বিষয় যা সময়ের সাথে সাথে দেশের বিভিন্ন ঐতিহাসিক, সাংস্কৃতিক এবং আর্থ-রাজনৈতিক প্রেক্ষাপটকে প্রতিফলিত করার জন্য পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে। এখানে কিছু মূল দিক রয়েছে যা ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের প্রকৃতিকে সংজ্ঞায়িত করে:

ঐতিহাসিক বিবর্তন, ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ প্রাথমিক ভাবে ব্রিটিশ ঔপনিবেশিক শাসনের প্রতিক্রিয়া হিসাবে আবির্ভূত হয়। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের প্রাথমিক পর্যায়গুলি স্বাধীনতার জন্য সংগ্রাম এবং বিদেশী আধিপত্যের অবসানের অন্বেষণ দ্বারা চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছিল। মহাত্মা গান্ধী, জওহরলাল নেহেরু এবং সুভাষ চন্দ্র বসুর মতো নেতারা এক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছিলেন। 1947 সালে স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর, ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ জাতি গঠন, বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল ও সম্প্রদায়কে একীভূত করা এবং অর্থনৈতিক ও সামাজিক উন্নয়নকে উৎসাহিত করার দিকে মনোনিবেশ করে।

বৈচিত্র্যপূর্ণ এবং অন্তর্ভুক্ত, ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের একটি সংজ্ঞায়িত বৈশিষ্ট্য হল বৈচিত্র্যের মধ্যে ঐক্যের উপর জোর দেওয়া। ভারত ভাষা, ধর্ম, সংস্কৃতি এবং নৃতাত্ত্বিক গোষ্ঠীগুলির একটি বিশাল সমষ্টি দ্বারা চিহ্নিত করা হয়। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ ঐতিহাসিকভাবে এই বৈচিত্র্যময় উপাদানগুলিকে একটি সমন্বিত জাতীয় পরিচয়ে একীভূত করার চেষ্টা করেছে। ভারতীয় সংবিধান ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতাকে ধারণ করে, যার লক্ষ্য রাষ্ট্র দ্বারা সকল ধর্মের প্রতি সমান আচরণ নিশ্চিত করা। জাতীয়তাবাদের এই দিকটি ধর্মীয় ও জাতিগত বিভেদ অতিক্রম করে এক আত্মীয়তার অনুভূতি তৈরি করার চেষ্টা করে।

Suman Mandal

সাংস্কৃতিক ও রাজনৈতিক মাত্রা,
সাংস্কৃতিক জাতীয়তাবাদ ভারতীয় ঐতিহ্য, ভাষা এবং সাংস্কৃতিক অনুশীলনের পুনরুজ্জীবন ও সংরক্ষণের উপর জোর দেয়। স্বামী বিবেকানন্দ এবং রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুরের মতো ব্যক্তিত্বরা ভারতীয় সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্যকে প্রচার করে, এই দিকটিতে বিশেষ অবদান রেখেছেন। অন্যদিকে রাজনৈতিক জাতীয়তাবাদ একটি গণতান্ত্রিক এবং প্রজাতন্ত্র রাষ্ট্র তৈরি, এবং টিকিয়ে রাখার উপর দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ করে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে রাজনৈতিক স্থিতিশীলতা বজায় রাখা, অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নের প্রচার এবং সামাজিক বৈষম্য দূর করার প্রচেষ্টা। ভারতীয় জাতীয় কংগ্রেস (আই.এন.সি) এবং অন্যান্য রাজনৈতিক দলগুলি ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের রাজনৈতিক ল্যান্ডস্কেপ গঠনে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করেছে।

আঞ্চলিক এবং জাতিগত মাত্রা,
ভারতের বিশাল আঞ্চলিক বৈচিত্র্য, আঞ্চলিক পরিচয় এবং আন্দোলনের উত্থান ঘটিয়েছে। তামিলনাড়ু, পাঞ্জাব এবং আসামের মতো রাজ্যগুলির নিজস্ব স্বতন্ত্র আঞ্চলিক পরিচয় রয়েছে, যা কখনও কখনও বৃহত্তর স্বায়ত্তশাসন বা বিশেষ মর্যাদার দাবির দিকে নিয়ে যায়। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদকে বিভিন্ন জাতিগত এবং ভাষাগত পরিচয় মিটমাট করতে হয়েছে। ভাষাগত রাষ্ট্র এবং আঞ্চলিক স্বায়ত্তশাসনের আন্দোলন ভারতীয় সমাজের বৈচিত্র্যময় এবং বহু-জাতিগত প্রকৃতিকে প্রতিফলিত করে।

সমসাময়িক চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং প্রবণতা,
সাম্প্রতিক দশকগুলিতে, হিন্দু জাতীয়তাবাদের উত্থান ঘটেছে, বিশেষ করে ভারতীয় জনতা পার্টি (BJP) এবং রাষ্ট্রীয় স্বয়ংসেবক সংঘ (RSS) এর মতো সংগঠনগুলির সাথে যুক্ত । জাতীয়তাবাদের এই রূপটি হিন্দু সাংস্কৃতিক মূল্যবোধের উপর জোর দেয় এবং ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতা এবং সংখ্যালঘু অধিকার নিয়ে বিতর্কের জন্ম দিয়েছে। সমসাময়িক ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ রাজনৈতিক মেরুকরণ এবং পরিচয়, শাসন এবং সামাজিক ন্যায়বিচার নিয়ে বিতর্ক দ্বারা চিহ্নিত। অর্থনৈতিক অসমতা, ধর্মীয় উত্তেজনা এবং রাজনৈতিক দুর্নীতির মতো বিষয়গুলি প্রায়শই বর্তমান জাতীয়তাবাদী আলোচনাকে রূপ দেয়। সম্প্রতি বিশ্বায়ন এবং আধুনিকীকরণ ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদকে ব্যাপকভাবে প্রভাবিত করছে। অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধি, প্রযুক্তিগত অগ্রগতি, এবং বৈশ্বিক পরিমণ্ডলে ভারতের ভূমিকাকে কেন্দ্র করে। এটি জাতীয়তাবাদের একটি রূপের দিকে পরিচালিত করেছে যা জাতীয় স্বার্থ জাহির করার সময় বিশ্বব্যাপী প্রভাবকে একীভূত করে।

সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকার ভূমিকা

1780 সালে জেমস আকাশটা হিকি কর্তৃক 'বেঙ্গল গেজেট' প্রতিষ্ঠার মাধ্যমে ভারতে মুদ্রণ সাংবাদিকতার সূচনা হয় । প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে

স্বাধীনভাবে সংবাদ প্রকাশনা শুরু করলে ব্রিটিশ ইস্ট ইন্ডিয়া কোম্পানি 1782 সালে, এটি নিজেদের দখলে নিয়ে আসে। এবং 1821 সালে ভবানীচরণ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের 'সংবাদ কৌমুদী' ছিল বাংলা ভাষায় প্রকাশিত প্রথম দেশীয় সংবাদপত্র, এবং 1822 সালে রাজা রামমোহন রায় ফার্সি ভাষায় 'মিরাত-উল-আকবার আকবর' প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন। দ্বারকানাথ ঠাকুর প্রসন্নকুমার ঠাকুর এবং রাজা রামমোহন 1830 সালে যৌথভাবে ইংরেজি বাংলা ফার্সি এবং হিন্দি ভাষায় প্রকাশ করেন 'বঙ্গদূত' । বোম্বেতে ফার্দুঞ্জি মুর্জবান এর গুজরাতি ভাষায় 'বোম্বে সমাচার' (1822); প. ম. মতিলাল এর দ্বারা 'জামে মসজিদ' (1831) ;এবং দাদাভাই নওরজি কর্তৃক 'রাস্ত গুপ্তার' (1851) সংবাদপত্র ছিল অন্যতম । দেশীয় এবং ইংরেজি ভাষায় প্রকাশিত এই সংবাদপত্র পত্রিকা গুলি তার প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে বিভিন্ন সমাজ সংস্কার মূলক এবং দৈনন্দিন কার্যাবলীর দেশবাসীর কাছে তুলে ধরে, ঐক্যবদ্ধ জনমত গঠনে সাহায্য করে।

প্রকৃতপক্ষে অক্ষয় কুমার দত্তের "তত্ত্ববোধিনী" (1843) পত্রিকার আমল থেকেই স্বদেশী ভাবের প্রচার শুরু হয়। তিনি দেশের অতীত গৌরবের কাহিনী প্রকাশ করে, সর্বপ্রথম সর্বসাধারণের মনে দেশানুরাগ উদ্দিপ্ত করেছিলেন । ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র বিদ্যাসাগর তার 1858 সালে "সোমপ্রকাশ" সংবাদপত্রের মাধ্যমে তৎকালীন নীল চাষের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ জানাই এবং নীল চাষীদের পক্ষে বিভিন্ন মতামত প্রকাশ করেন। হেমচন্দ্র কুমার শিশির কুমার এবং মতিলাল ঘোষ ঘোষের যৌথ উদ্যোগে 1868 সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত "অমৃতবাজার" পত্রিকা ছিল ব্রিটিশ বিরোধী কার্যকলাপের মধ্যে দিয়ে দেশবাসীর দেশাত্মবোধক মনোভাব জাগিয়ে তোলার মধ্যে অন্যতম। 1860 দশকের পরে ইংরেজি জাতীয়তাবাদী সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকা এবং ম্যাগাজিনের সংখ্যা ক্রমশ বাড়তে থাকে। যেমন, Times of India (1861); The Pioneer (1865); Madras Mail (1868); The Statesment (1875); Military Gadget (1876).

1885 সালে জাতীয় কংগ্রেস প্রতিষ্ঠার ফলে ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ এক সাংগঠনিক রূপ লাভ করে এবং এর প্রসার ক্রমশও বাড়তে শুরু হয়। সেই সময় জাতীয় কংগ্রেসের অধিকাংশ সদস্যই কোন না কোন ভাবে সংবাদমাধ্যমের সাথে যুক্ত ছিলেন। যেমন, বালগঙ্গাধর তিলকের "কিশোরী" এবং "মারাঠা"; ঘোষ ভ্রাতৃদ্বয়ের "যুগান্তর" এবং "বন্দেমাতারাম"; মহাত্মা গান্ধীর "ইয়ং ইন্ডিয়া" এবং "হরিজন" এবং জহরলাল নেহেরুর "ন্যাশনাল হেরাল্ড" সুরেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় এর "দ্যা বেঙ্গলী"। সংবাদপত্র গুলি ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের ধ্যান ধারণাকে সর্বভারতীয় স্তরে পৌঁছে দিতে সক্ষম হয়েছিল।

Suman Mandal

ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের বিকাশে সংবাদপত্র প্রতিক্রিয়াগুলি কিরকম প্রভাব ফেলেছিল তা ব্রিটিশ সরকারের বিভিন্ন সংবাদপত্র নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী আইন থেকে ও বোঝা যায়। সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকা গুলি জনগণের মধ্যে জাতীয়তাবাদী মনোভাব গড়ে তুলতে শুরু করলে, ব্রিটিশ সরকার বিভিন্ন মুদ্রণ নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী আইন জারি করে জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনের প্রচারকে রোধ করতে চেয়েছিলেন।

লর্ড ওয়েলেসলি 1799 সালে মুদ্রণ প্রকাশনার উপর প্রথম বিধি নিষেধ আরোপ করেন এবং 1833 সালে লর্ড অ্যাডাম সংবাদপত্রের স্বাধীনতার খর্ব করার জন্য বিভিন্ন পন্থা অবলম্বন করলে, রাজা রামমোহন রায়, দ্বারকানা ঠাকুর, চন্দ্র কুমার ঠাকুর এর মত মনীষীরা এর তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানাই এবং আদালতে এর বিরুদ্ধে মামলা দায়ের করেন। এসকল বিধি নিষেধের পরেও যখন সংবাদপত্র গুলির জাতীয়তাবাদী কার্যকলাপ কে রোধ করা সম্ভব হয়নি। ফলে ব্রিটিশ ভাইসরয় লর্ড ক্যানিং 1857 সালে "Press Act 1857" জারি করলে, এর প্রতিবাদে তৎকালীন ভারতীয় বুদ্ধিজীবি মহল এই আইনকে "**শ্বাস রোধ**" বলে ব্যঙ্গ করেন।

ব্রিটিশদের বিরুদ্ধে দেশবাসীর ক্রমবর্ধমান ক্ষোভ দেশীয় পত্র-পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হতে শুরু করে। সংবাদপত্র পত্র পত্রিকা গুলির কণ্ঠস্বর রোধ করার জন্য 1878 সালে লর্ড লিটন "দেশীয় সংবাদপত্র আইন" (Vernacular Press Act) পাস করে। এই আইনে বলা হয় সরকার বিরোধী কোন খবর দেশীয় ভাষার সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা যাবে না এবং আইন লঙ্ঘনে কোন মামলা-মোকদ্দমা ছাড়াই সম্পাদককে শাস্তির নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়। এই আইনের প্রতিক্রিয়ায় তৎকালীন বাংলা ভাষায় প্রকাশিত "**অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা**" রাতারাতি ইংরেজি দৈনিক রূপান্তরিত হয়, জাতীয়তাবাদী কার্যকলাপকে অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য। দ্বারকানাথ বিদ্যাভূষণ তার 'সোমপ্রকাশের' প্রকাশনা বন্ধ করে দিয়েছিলেন। এসব ঘটনার কারণে দেশব্যাপী বিভিন্ন জাতীয়তাবাদী সংবাদপত্র পত্র-পত্রিকা এই আইনের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ জানায়।

উনিশ শতকের প্রথম দিকে যখন সংবাদপত্র পত্রিকার মধ্যে দিয়ে ব্রিটিশ বিরোধী কার্যকলাপ ক্রমাঙ্গ ক্রমাগত বাড়তে থাকে। সরকার সংবাদপত্রের বাক-স্বাধীনতা হরণ করতে 1908 সালে "The News Paper (Incitement to Offences) Act" এবং 1910 সালে "Indian Press Act" চালু করেন। 1931 সালে জাতীয়তাবাদী কার্যকলাপ যখন চরম গতি লাভ করলে ব্রিটিশ সরকার মুদ্রণের স্বাধীনতা খর্ব করার জন্য ব্রিটিশ সরকার মুদ্রণ এর ওপর "The Indian Emergency Press Act" জারি করেন।

নাট্য-অভিনয়ের ভূমিকা

ভারতে আধুনিক থিয়েটার এর বিকাশ শুরু হয় ব্রিটিশ ঔপনিবেশিক শাসনের মধ্যে দিয়ে। প্রথমদিকে, শিক্ষিত এবং উচ্চবৃত্তীয়দের মধ্যেই এটি সীমাবদ্ধ ছিল। উনিশ শতকের মাঝামাঝি সময়ে অনেক নাট্যকার নাট্য সাহিত্যে সমকালীন জাতীয় ভাবনাকে স্থান দিয়ে নতুন করে নাট্য রচনা করেন। ফলে জন্ম নেয়, অনেক জাতীয় চেতনা সমৃদ্ধ নাটক। এই নাটকগুলি 'জাতীয়তাবাদী নাটক' নামেই পরিচিত। প্রাথমিক পর্যায়ে বিনোদনের জন্য ব্যবহার করা হলেও পরবর্তীকালে ব্রিটিশ শাসন এবং সামাজিক কুসংস্কারের বিরুদ্ধে জনগণের মধ্যে সামাজিক রাজনৈতিক এবং অর্থনৈতিক তথা দেশাত্মবোধক চিন্তাধারা বিকাশে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মাধ্যমে পরিণত হয়েছিল। এই নাটক গুলি ধীরে ধীরে বাংলা তথা মহারাষ্ট্র এবং উত্তর ভারতের বিভিন্ন অংশে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে এবং ব্রিটিশ শাসনের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদের বাহন হয়ে ওঠে। ।

নাটকগুলি জাতীয়তাবাদী মনোভাব গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে ভিন্ন সৃজন শীল কৌশল তৈরি করেছিল। যেমন, রাজনৈতিক ভাষ্য প্রবাদ, তামাশা এবং কীর্তনের মত লোক কর্ম অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়েছিল। নাটকগুলি প্রাচীন পুরান এবং শাস্ত্রীয় সাহিত্যের গৌরবকে তুলে ধরে তৎকালীন সমসাময়িক পরিস্থিতিকে জনসম্মুখে তুলে ধরা হয়। যেমন, প্রথম বাংলায় অভিনয় করা হয়, 1857 সালে রাম নারায়ণ তারকরত্ন দ্বারা "**কুলিন কুলাসর্বস্ব**" নাটকটি তৎকালীন কুলীন ব্রাহ্মণদের দুষ্কর্ম, মেয়েদের দুরবস্থা ও বিভিন্ন কুসংস্কারকে তুলে ধরে। মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্ত তার '**অ্যাংলো সেকশন এন্ড হিন্দু**' (1854) নাটকের মাধ্যমে ইংরেজদের আগমনের ফলে কীভাবে, ভারতের সভ্যতা সংস্কৃতি ধ্বংসের সম্মুখীন হয় তা তুলে ধরেন।

জাতীয়তাবাদী নাটক গুলির মধ্যে অন্যতম ছিল দীনবন্ধু মিত্রের "**নীল দর্পণ**" (Mirror of Indigo,1860) যা নীল চাষীদের উপর ব্রিটিশদের অকথ্য অত্যাচারকে বর্ণিত করে, সারা দেশব্যাপী আলোড়ন সৃষ্টি করেছিল। এই নাটকটি কেন্দ্র করে সৃষ্টি হয়, **সমুদ্র দর্পণ,** ভারতীয় সমুদ্র জেলেদের উপর ব্রিটিশ সামুদ্রিক নাবিকদের অত্যাচার; **চাকর দর্পণ,** আসামের চা বাগানের কর্মীদের উপর ব্রিটিশদের অত্যাচার; **জামিনদার দর্পণ,** কৃষকদের জমিদারের বিরুদ্ধে বিদ্রোহ কে কেন্দ্র করে। এ সকল নাটক গুলির মধ্যে ছিল সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে সরাসরি বিদ্রোহের বার্তা। নাটকের মধ্যে দিয়ে জনগণের মধ্যে যে জাতীয়তাবাদী এবং দেশাত্মবোধক মনোভাব গড়ে উঠেছিল তা বন্ধ করা; ব্রিটিশ সরকারের জনপ্রিয়তা এবং ভাবমূর্তি অক্ষত রাখা; যেকোনো রাজনৈতিক বিষয় নাটক বা অভিনয় নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার উদ্দেশ্যে, 29 ফেব্রুয়ারি 1876 সালে লর্ড নর্থক্রুক সারা দেশব্যাপী "**নাট্যাভিনয়**

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নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন" চালু করে। এই আইনের মাধ্যেমে সরকার বিরোধী নাটক মঞ্চস্থ করার জন্য বিনা মামলা-মোকদ্দমার ভিত্তিতে আইনি শাস্তির নির্দেশ দেওয়া হলে সারা দেশব্যাপী চরম অসন্তোষ, তীব্র প্রতিক্রিয়া ও গণ আন্দোলনের সূচনা হয়। বিভিন্ন সংস্থা, যেমন; 'সাধারণ', 'বেঙ্গলী' প্রভৃতি সংবাদ পত্র, এবং বিভিন্ন রাজনৈতিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বিশেষত 'ব্রিটিশ ইন্ডিয়ান অ্যাসোসিয়েশন', ও 'ভারত সভা' এর বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদ জানায়।

ব্রিটিশ সরকারের বিভিন্ন বিধি-নিষেধ থাকা সত্ত্বেও জনগণের মধ্যে জাতীয়তাবাদী সচেতন বৃদ্ধি করতে এবং জাতীয় আন্দোলনকে নাটক মাধ্যেমে চালানোর উদ্দেশ্যে নাট্য রচয়িতা গন এবং অভিনেতারা এই সময় বিভিন্ন পন্থা অবলম্বন করেন। বাংলায় গিরিশচন্দ্র ঘোষ বাংলায় ব্রিটিশ নিপীড়নের বিষয়বস্তুতে **'সিরাজউদ্দৌলা'** (1906) এবং **'মীরকাসিম'** (1907) এর মতো ঐতিহাসিক নাটকের একটি সিরিজ রচনা করেছিলেন। এছাড়া **শাহাজাহান**-এর মতো ঐতিহাসিক নাটক মঞ্চস্থ করে ব্রিটিশ সরকারের নগ্ন চরিত্রকে জনসম্মুখে তুলে ধরা হয়। ব্রিটিশ শাসকদের ঘৃণা, অসম্মানজনক ও বৈষম্যমূলক আচরণ, জাতিগত শ্রেষ্ঠত্বের অহংকারে ইংরেজদের ভারতীয়দের প্রতি প্রচন্ডভাবে অবজ্ঞা করা, প্রশাসনিক, সামরিক ক্ষেত্র থেকে শুরু করে দৈনন্দিন জীবনযাত্রাতেও ভারতীয়দের প্রতি ইংরেজদের তীব্র ঘৃণা, বিদ্বেষ ও অবজ্ঞা, সর্বসাধারণের ব্যবহারের জায়গা যথা— রেল, স্টিমার. হোটেল, খেলার মাঠ, ক্লাব, রাজপথ প্রভৃতি ক্ষেত্রে ইউরোপীয়দের জন্য সংরক্ষণ, বিচারব্যবস্থায় শ্বেতাঙ্গ ও কৃষ্ণাঙ্গদের মধ্যে প্রকট বৈষম্য, স্কুল, কলেজ, হাসপাতাল প্রভৃতি স্থানে ভারতীয়দের প্রকাশ্যে লাঞ্ছনা, অপমান, ইংল্যান্ডের স্বেচ্ছাচারী অর্থনৈতিক শোষণ, ভারতকে কাঁচামাল সরবরাহের উৎস ও ভোগ্যপণ্যের খোলা বাজারে পরিণত করা, উপযুক্ত যোগ্যতা ও শিক্ষা থাকা সত্ত্বেও সরকারি চাকরি থেকে মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণির বঞ্চনা, নারী-নিগ্রহ ইত্যাদি নানান ঘটনা জাতীয়তাবাদী নাটকের মাধ্যেমে জনগণের সীমাহীন দুর্দশার জ্বলন্ত চিত্র তুলে ধরা হয়। ফলে ক্রমপুঞ্জিত অসন্তোষ ও ক্ষোভ তীব্র ব্রিটিশ বিরোধী প্রতিক্রিয়ার সৃষ্টি করেছিল যা, ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের বিকাশে সাহায্য করে।

উপসংহার:

ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদের ইতিহাসে সংবাদ পত্র-পত্রিকা এবং নাট্য-অভিনয়ের গুলির ভূমিকা ছিল গভীর এবং অপরিসীম। ভারতীয় জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনের নেতাগন গণমাধ্যমগুলিকে জাতীয়তাবাদী ধ্যান-ধারণা ছড়িয়ে দিতে, হাতিয়ার হিসেবে ব্যবহার করেছিলেন। জাতীয়তাবাদী সংবাদপত্র পত্র-পত্রিকা এবং নাটকগুলি উপনিবেশিক দুঃশাসনকে উন্মোচিত করে এবং

জাতীয়তাবাদী কার্যকলাপকে উৎসাহিত করে। এগুলি বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলের কথ্য ভাষায় পরিবেশন করায় সাধারণ মানুষ সহজেই এর বিষয়বস্তু বুঝতে পারে। তৎকালীন গণমাধ্যমগুলি শুধুমাত্র রাজনৈতিক স্বাধীনতার উপর দৃষ্টি নিবন্ধন করেনি বরং সামাজিক অত্যাচার,অসমতা এবং কুসংস্কার মোকাবিলের লক্ষ্য ও ছিল। জাতীয়তাবাদী আন্দোলনের নেতারা বিভিন্ন গণমাধ্যমের মধ্যে দিয়ে অস্পর্শিতা দূরীকরণ, নারীদের সমান অধিকার এবং প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠীর উন্নয়ন সহ সামাজিক সংস্কারের পক্ষে ছিলেন। গণমাধ্যম গুলির এ সকল উদ্যোগ ভারতীয়দের মধ্যে জাতীয়তা বোধ এবং জাতীয় চেতনা গড়ে তুলতে সাহায্য করেছিল।

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