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- ❖ **China Factor in India-Africa Trade Relations:
Horn of Africa**
- ❖ **Right to Information Act, 2005:**
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Electoral Bonds

On February 15, 2024, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India delivered a milestone verdict. It declared anonymous political donations via 'Electoral Bonds' are unconstitutional as it violates the right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. The Court also struck down the amendments made to Income Tax Act and Section 29C of The Representation of People Act, 1951 which had enabled the political donations through electoral bonds. The Court also held that amendment of Section 182 of the Companies Act, 2013 sounds arbitrary as it permits unlimited political contributions by companies. It was made at par with the donations made by individuals.

Supreme Court accordingly directed: SBI to stop immediately the issuance of electoral bonds; provide details of bonds transacted since April 12, 2019 to the Election Commission of India (ECI) by March 6, 2024; ECI to put all information received on its website by March 13, 2024; electoral bonds not encashed thus far to be returned in equivalent cash to purchaser's account. Supreme Court rightly observed that Electoral Bonds cannot be justified for purposes of curbing black money; rather there are many other alternatives to do so. Another significant observation of Supreme Court was that the right to privacy includes citizens' right to political privacy and affiliation. Almost all arguments of the ruling party favouring 'electoral bonds' were countered and settled in the judgment.

Several advantages have been enumerated by legal, political and constitutional experts. Firstly, it would facilitate level-playing field to political parties contesting elections either in centre or in states; secondly, it would facilitate electorates to make more informed choice at the time of voting; thirdly, it shall make government increasingly accountable to the people and the nation; fourthly, it would strengthen participatory democracy; fifthly, it would reduce the chances of quid pro quo between economic and political powers; last and the most important it would contain the role of money in politics.

Meanwhile the issue within the largest democracy on planet earth continues to remain alive: How to evolve transparent and clean political funding system? This is essential to break the strong nexus between political and economic power. So long this nexus continues Indian democracy would continue to be an 'Oligarchy' where wealth is the main qualification for becoming a ruler. This seems to be emerging trends within Indian democracy, as the businesses that were supportive of political leadership are now entering into politics themselves. Probably, they are doing so to mitigate any threat to their ill-gotten wealth. Political participation provides strategic security to their wealth.

Political parties are the vehicle of democracy. They need to contest elections. Elections and electoral competitions necessitate money. Arun Jaitley was right when he pointed out that parties have hundreds of expenditures to make: from salary to staffs, traveling expenses, establishment costs, election campaigns, to publicity etc. Hence, an imperative for clean and transparent political funding is a necessity for political parties. How it could be done is a question that remains?

— BK

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China Factor in India-Africa Trade Relations: Horn of Africa

Prof. Pranav Kumar* & Dharmendra Kumar**

[Since the 1990s, the rapid pace of globalization has facilitated trade without barriers and provided a level playing field to all stakeholders. India and China have historical trade and cultural links with African nations. India's trade with Africa (particularly in the Horn of Africa) has opened up new horizons in bilateral relations. However, China has also emerged as a dominant player, profoundly influencing India's trade. This article examines various factors that affect India's trade in the Horn of Africa.]

India's relation with Africa is built upon a strong historical foundation, a shared colonial past and a similar post-independence development experience. M. K Gandhi and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) leaders played a pivotal role in consolidating this enduring relation (Beri, 2014). Historical links laid the foundation for a long-term partnership between India and Africa, fostering mutual understanding and promoting solidarity and cooperation in foreign policy, trade, investment, and socio-cultural exchanges. Indeed, India's engagement with Africa has been expanding since becoming a WTO member (1995) (Broadman, 2008; Singh, 2015). Trade between India and Africa has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, trade between India and Africa grew by 9.26% in the financial year 2022-23, reaching almost \$100 Billion, and it is expected to increase bilateral trade to US\$200 billion by 2030 (Deng, 2023).

India's engagement with the Horn of Africa is driven by its strategic location and connectivity to vital maritime trade routes. The region's proximity to the Suez Canal makes it a critical transit point for trade between Asia, Europe and the Middle East. This strategic advantage is crucial for India in accessing global markets and ensuring maritime security and trade efficiency. The Suez Canal route significantly benefits India's trade, offering a shorter and more efficient path for Indian ships to travel between Europe and the Mediterranean. (Desai, 2009; Rondos, 2016). Additionally, the Horn of Africa allows India to access Africa's mainland through Djibouti-Ethiopia transit routes, fostering rail and road connectivity. This transit route opens up potential trade and investment opportunities for India to expand its economic engagement in Africa and tap into the continent's

unexplored markets and resources such as minerals, oil and gas. India's engagement in the region is driven by its interest in accessing and securing these resources to meet its growing energy needs and industrial requirements. By forging closer ties with countries in the Horn of Africa, India aims to ensure long-term energy supplies and establish mutually beneficial partnerships for development (Mohapatra, 2017).

India also has strategic implications with the Horn of Africa, and regional stability and security are of great concern to India due to its proximity to the Indian Ocean and its impact on maritime security. India has been actively involved in the region's counter-piracy operations and maritime security initiatives, including naval patrols and capacity-building efforts (Chatterjee, 2014). On the other hand, China has emerged as a major factor in India's trade relations with the Horn of Africa. Over the past decade, China has been increasing its economic and strategic presence in the region through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China's engagement in the Horn of Africa has been primarily driven by its quest for natural resources, energy security, and strategic influence. China has made substantial investments in infrastructure projects, including ports, railways, roads, and industrial zones, aiming to enhance connectivity and facilitate trade in the region (Blanchard, 2021). Further, understanding the multiple dynamics, this study explores factors affecting India-Horn of Africa trade relations. It utilizes a mixed-method approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data from the primary (government trade data) and secondary sources to draw the desired outcome.

India-Horn of Africa Trade

India-Horn of Africa trade refers to the economic activities between India and Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia. Trade, however, between these countries has been witnessed in wider sectors, including agriculture, textiles, machinery, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods. India is a major importer of

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agricultural products from the Horn of Africa, including coffee, tea, spices, and fruits. On the other hand, India exports a range of goods to the region, including vehicles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and machinery, to the Horn of Africa. In recent years, bilateral trade between India and Ethiopia has witnessed significant growth and changes. In 2016, the bilateral trade stood at US\$1.37 billion, with India's exports to Ethiopia amounting to US\$1.30 billion and imports at US\$68.4 million. India primarily exported primary and semi-finished iron and steel products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, machinery and instruments, and metal manufacturers. Major imports from Ethiopia included pulses, precious and semi-precious stones, vegetables and seeds, leather, and spices.

Among India's exports to Ethiopia, sugar and pharmaceuticals were the major items, accounting for 14.5% and 13.0% of India's total exports to Ethiopia, respectively. This was followed by iron and steel products (12.1%), rice (12.0%), and machinery (4.8%). Pulses were the major items imported from Ethiopia, constituting 38.8% of India's total imports. Other significant imports included seeds (29.8%), oil seeds (11.0%), precious and semi-precious stones (6.6%), leather (5.1%), and spices (4.4%) (India-Ethiopia Relations, 2017). In 2021, bilateral trade between Ethiopia and India increased to USD 1.8 billion, with Ethiopia's exports amounting to approximately USD 75.13 million. In 2020, the bilateral trade between the two countries was USD 1.14 billion, with India's exports to Ethiopia valued at USD 1.08 billion and imports at USD 56.55 million. These figures indicate continued growth in bilateral trade, albeit with a significant trade imbalance in favour of India. India is the second-largest trading partner for Ethiopia, accounting for 10.2% of Ethiopia's global trade. This highlights the importance of the trade relationship between the two countries (India-Ethiopia Bilateral Relations, 2022).

Bilateral trade between India and Eritrea has shown fluctuating trends in recent years. In 2014-15, the bilateral trade stood at around USD244.73 million, with Indian exports amounting to USD14.06 million and Indian imports from Eritrea at US\$230.68 million. Exports from India to Eritrea mainly include electrical and miscellaneous engineering equipment, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn, and fabrics. India is among the largest exporters to Eritrea, along with Italy and the UAE. Eritrea, on the other hand, primarily exports leather, hides (excluding raw hides), and skins

to India. Eritrea qualifies for India's unilateral duty-free tariff preferential market access for exports of goods and services to India. This scheme, introduced in 2008, provides duty-free access to exports from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on 84% of India's tariff lines and preferential access for another 9% (India-Eritrea Relations, 2016; India-Eritrea Bilateral Relations, 2021). Further, bilateral trade between India and Djibouti has witnessed significant growth in recent years. In the fiscal year 2020-21, the total bilateral trade volume reached US\$367.23 million. India's exports to Djibouti accounted for most of this trade, standing at US\$347.06 million, while imports from Djibouti amounted to US\$20.16 million. India's exports to Djibouti primarily include rice, engineering goods, fruits and vegetables, paper and plastic products, machinery, metals, yarns and fabrics, and food items. During the period from April 2021 to January 2022, India's exports to Djibouti experienced a remarkable growth rate of 117%, reaching US\$619.03 million.

Similarly, India's imports from Djibouti during the same period showed a growth rate of 133%, amounting to US\$34.57 million (India-Djibouti Bilateral Relations, 2022). In 2016-17, the bilateral trade volume between the two countries was US\$284.54 million, with India's exports constituting US\$281.71 million and imports at US\$2.82 million. During that period, India primarily exported cereals, iron and steel products, plastic products, sugar, mineral fuel, and footwear to Djibouti. Key imports from Djibouti included hides, skin, metal scraps, and leather. It is worth noting that bilateral trade between India and Djibouti heavily favours India.

The trade relationship is largely driven by the growing market in Ethiopia, with Djibouti serving as a strategic gateway for Indian exports to reach Ethiopia. Among the goods exported from India, iron and steel products and paper and plastic products have shown a considerable jump in recent years (India-Djibouti Relations, 2017). Furthermore, during the financial year 2014-15, the bilateral trade between India and Somalia reached US\$391.05 million, showcasing a remarkable increase of over 51% compared to the previous year's figure of US\$257.27 million in 2013-14. Somalia benefits from India's offer of unilateral duty-free tariff preferential market access, which was introduced in 2008. Under this scheme, India provides duty-free access to exports from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on 84% of its tariff lines, with

preferential access on another 9% (India-Somalia Relations, 2016). In 2019-20, the trade between India and Somalia accounted for approximately US\$598.92 million, while in 2018-19, it stood at approximately US\$555.58 million. As a recipient of the LDC status, Somalia qualifies for India's unilateral 'Duty-Free Tariff Preferential' (DFTP) market access for the export of goods and services to India. For the financial year 2020-21 (April to February), the bilateral trade between India and Somalia reached US\$501.24 million (India-Somalia Bilateral Relations, 2021). Overall, the India-Horn of Africa trade relationship holds promising prospects, and both sides continue to work towards expanding bilateral trade, fostering investment opportunities, and strengthening economic cooperation.

China Factor in India-Horn of Africa Trade

China has a rich historical association with the Horn of Africa, dating back to ancient times when the region served as a crucial link on the Maritime Silk Road. Explorers like Zheng He facilitated trade and cultural exchanges between China and Horn of African countries. These historical ties laid the groundwork for present-day engagements between China and the nations in the region. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to promote connectivity and trade, reminiscent of the Silk Road (Liu et al., 2014). This has had an impact on India's trade relations with the Horn of Africa. China's investments and infrastructure projects have had an impact on India's trade relations with the Horn of Africa in several ways—

Competition in Infrastructure Development: China's investments in port infrastructure, such as the Port of Djibouti and the Port of Mombasa, Kenya, and USD 400 million in the Massawa port, Eritrea, have created alternatives and increased competition for India's trade routes. These ports offer China easy access to African markets and enable the expansion of its maritime trade networks.

Trade Imbalance: China's economic presence in the region has resulted in a trade imbalance between India and the Horn of Africa. China has become a major trading partner for African countries, exporting a wide range of manufactured goods while importing primarily raw materials. This trade dynamic has made it challenging for Indian exporters to compete in the African markets.

Impact on Regional Stability: China's involvement in the Horn of Africa has also raised concerns regarding its influence on regional stability and

geopolitics. China has established military bases in Djibouti and engages in naval patrols, contributing to its maritime power projection capabilities. These developments have implications for India's security interests in the Indian Ocean region.

Collaboration and Cooperation: Despite the challenges posed by Chinese presence, India has sought to collaborate and cooperate with countries in the Horn of Africa. India has extended lines of credit, invested in infrastructure projects, and provided development assistance to enhance trade and economic cooperation. Indian naval vessels also conduct regular patrols and engage in cooperative initiatives, such as anti-piracy operations, to safeguard maritime security in the region (Patey, 2018).

Conclusion

India and China both have economic and strategic interests in the region. Indeed, trade is the backbone of economic growth and plays a vital role in national power projection. However, India's trade volume gradually increased but is still creeping and competing with China, particularly in the Horn of Africa. Therefore, India has to engage with countries in the region and explore avenues for collaboration to safeguard its economic interests and enhance regional stability.

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Red Sea Crisis: Seychelles Growing Strategic Significance for India

Dr. Alok Kumar Gupta* Dr. Aparna** & Dr. Amit Kumar Singh***

[Attacks by Houthis in Red Sea and Arabian Sea on Indian and other ships have brought new dimensions to erstwhile maritime conflicts. Accordingly, maritime zones across the globe have started churning. Indian Ocean in particular and Indo-Pacific in general have emerged as the new flashpoint of maritime geopolitics. This has provided increased geo-strategic significance to littorals like Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Maldives and Mauritius to name a few. The growing turbulence on water makes it crucial for establishing a strong and relevant naval presence in the region, as well as their proximity to the sea lanes of communication (SLOC). Maritime zones are also crucial for international trade and energy transportation. Accordingly, the strategic significance of island states like Seychelles, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka has been further amplified. Authors thus have endeavoured to explore the growing geo-strategic significance of one of these island-states i.e., Seychelles amidst on-going and ever-escalating conflict on account of Houthi attacks.]

India's maritime strategy has been evolving to meet geostrategic demands and strengthen its maritime presence in different maritime regions on the globe in general and Indo-Pacific in particular. The south-western Indian Ocean, which hosts important island countries like the Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Comoros, has been a hub for advanced maritime, naval, and air bases due to its sparse population. (Panikkar, 2020) India's Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi has been focusing on the Seychelles and its maritime activities to reclaim its position as a 'Leading Power' as well as 'net security provider' in the region. (Malcolm *et al.*, 2018) The bilateral relationship between India and the Seychelles has been significant and the national maritime blueprint highlights the Seychelles as a 'primary area' of interest. (Bueger *et al.*, 2018) However, the journey towards establishing a military base at Assumption Island in the Seychelles has been challenging with other power players closely monitoring India's interests. (Grare *et al.*, 2022).

India recognizes the importance of focusing on the region as part of its 'Look West Policy', which focuses on West Asian countries. Imperatives for India have been to focus on effective deployment of its naval assets; keep enhancing its naval prowess; evolve mechanism for containing anti-piracy operations; evolve humanitarian and disaster management mechanisms; and work towards the Indian Diaspora's involvement in military structures. (Robinson, 2018)

These are traditional threat perceptions against which India has been preparing since independence. However, like others even the nature of maritime threat perceptions of India has been ever-changing. The recent spate of attacks by Houthi rebels in Red Sea and Arabian Sea has sounded the expansion of Arab-Israel conflict in India's maritime proximity. Such developments are bound to have short-term and long-term impacts on India's maritime security and belittle India's role as 'net security provider' in the region. Thus, authors have highlighted India's preparedness and quick response to the attacks towards strengthening the trust of Seychelles and the like island-states towards India as a maritime power and 'net security provider' to them.

Red Sea crisis

The Suez Canal borders the Red Sea in the north, and the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects to the Gulf of Aden, borders it in the south. The Suez Canal is a heavily trafficked waterway used for transporting commodities between Asia, Europe, and other regions. (Davison, 2023) Approximately 40 percent of the traffic between Asia and Europe often passes via this region, which includes a significant volume of oil and diesel fuel that is crucial for Europe, which relies heavily on imports. (Mchugh, 2024) Food products such as palm oil and grain, along with other commodities, are predominantly transported via container ships, constituting a significant portion of the world's manufactured goods. According to the global freight booking site Freight Group, around 30% of worldwide container traffic and over one million barrels of crude oil per day usually pass via the Suez Canal. (Chauhan, 2023)

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The assaults on merchant vessels in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthi rebels have forced shipping companies to redirect majority of the traffic that typically passes through this vital maritime route for consumer products and energy resources. The change of route has delayed the transit of goods from Indo-Pacific region to Europe and America. This has also led to escalation of cost of transit. Tesla, the electric car manufacturer, decided for temporarily closing its production near Berlin from January 29 to February 11. (*The Business Time*, 2023) This decision was made owing to disruptions in the supply chains. This has prompted USA to launch Operation Prosperity Guardian to attack Houthi and their bases to protect the route through Red Sea and Suez.

Several of the world's major container shipping corporations, along with oil giant BP (Bharat Petroleum), have started diverting their vessels on longer routes that circumvent the Red Sea. Consequent to the increasing influence of global trade, the United States and several other countries have established a new entity to safeguard ships. (Mandra, 2023) Shipping companies are diverting their vessels around the African continent via the Cape of Good Hope. According to the experts, this may potentially extend voyages by a period of one to two weeks. The expenses related to insurance and fuels have increased. (Bartsch, 2023)

Operation Prosperity Guardian—Growing Strategic Significance of Seychelles

US launched it along with its allies such as UK, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Sri Lanka and Singapore. The endeavour is being supported by the Seychelles. The operation has challenged the Houthi and Iran advocating to maintain 'freedom of navigation at sea' at all costs. Spain and Italy like countries have distanced themselves. The significant participation is of island states like Seychelles though by way of support. This speaks volume about the growing geo-strategic significance of Seychelles in the maritime security matrix. Such island countries are being courted by both China and India for same reasons. China has already established enough of outreach with countries of region. India has been pushing for deeper security ties with Indian Ocean nations to its south and southwest over last five years or so. The change of shipping route amidst Houthi's offensives in Red Sea has further added to the growing significance of islands like Seychelles, as it is very lying astride on the route. India is endeavouring a security axis with Seychelles and Mauritius like countries of the maritime region. India has deployed warships to ensure the security of the sea route amidst challenges thrown by Houthis.

India's Preparedness

Seychelles: Central to SAGAR Vision

The Seychelles, situated in the Indian Ocean, are a key player in India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, aiming to strengthen security, promote economic growth, and foster collaboration. (Schöttli, 2019) The archipelago's strategic location at the crossroads of major maritime routes makes it an essential partner in addressing regional security concerns like piracy and illegal fishing. The Seychelles joint efforts in maritime patrols, intelligence sharing, and capacity building have strengthened the region's security framework. (Sarangi, 2019) The Seychelles also serve as an economic gateway, fostering economic prosperity and connectivity through infrastructure development, trade facilitation measures, and investment-friendly policies. (Gurjar, 2021)

Securing SLOs (Sea Lanes of Communication): Seychelles Role and Relevance

India's strategic interests in the Southwest Indian Ocean have expanded, as it is crucial for its security interests to have influence over littoral nations in the region. The South-West Indian Ocean includes Mauritius, the Seychelles, and La Reunion, known as the 'Latin Quarter' due to French influence. The Mozambique Channel is a primary area of concern for marine security, as it serves as a crucial passage for shipping traffic between the Middle East and the Atlantic Ocean. (Andrews-Speed *et al.*, 2016) France holds a dominant position in the Mozambique Channel and maintains a significant presence in the exclusive economic zone surrounding French islands. National security, regional leadership, and strategic alliances with Mauritius and the Seychelles all drive India's involvement in the Southwest Indian Ocean. (Benzaken *et al.*, 2022) China's enhanced naval capability has increased the importance of strategic alliances with coastal nations in the area. India has revamped its marine strategy and aims to increase its participation in nautical affairs. However, India's aspiration to establish a more prominent leadership position faces obstacles due to France's longstanding dominance and the growing influence of the United States and China in the region. (Schutter *et al.*, 2019)

Relation with Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Seychelles Matters

Global power dynamics have shifted from west to east, with regional powers like China and India focusing on ocean-based approaches in determining geo-strategies and foreign relations. The Indian Ocean, which facilitates a significant share of world trade and

serves as an economic lifeline for over two billion people, has become a geopolitical hotbed. Major littoral nations like China, India, Australia, France, Southeast Asia, and Africa ensure their strategic interests in the region through their own island territories or by engaging with smaller island nations. (Racombo *et al.*, 2015) The increasing significance of Indian Ocean islands lies in their location, making them vital for establishing a regional naval presence and proximity to sea lanes of communication, facilitating patrolling during peace and conflict. Traditional threats include military presence, terrorism, piracy, and illegal smuggling, while non-traditional threats include climate change challenges.

A strong governance and security architecture in the Indian Ocean are necessary and should be a global priority. India's Indian Ocean policy and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) aims to build a secured regional architecture. (Philpot *et al.*, 2015) Mauritius, a small island nation with significant commercial and strategic importance, has been strengthened by India's efforts to strengthen its coast guard capacities and infrastructure development. The country, which accounts for over 50% of India's FDI inflow, has also established diplomatic relations with the Seychelles, which holds the rights to a 1.3 million sq. km. EEZ (Especial Economic Zone). India has provided \$100 million in credit, the Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, and assistance for strengthening the Seychellois coast guard in the Assumption Islands. The Seychelles have also engaged in people-to-people relations through the Twinning Agreement and the ITEC program. India has also engaged in multilateral cooperation through institutional mechanisms, such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the Indian Ocean Rim Association. As India aims to become an influential and responsible leader in the Indian Ocean region, it must ensure that island nations gain prominence in India's ocean diplomacy. (Sachs *et al.*, 2021)

Conclusion

Developments in the region, from Suez to Somalia, have implications for regional security and stability on maritime waters. This is more so when most countries are expanding their naval prowess to reap benefits of 'Blue Water Economy'. Cargo companies have no choice to find new trade routes if one is disturbed. Imperatives of business will enhance the geo-strategic importance of small and big countries lying on such routes as it involves business. The Seychelles are considered to be the gateway to the African continent, due to which their importance will further increase in strategic and geopolitical terms. India can get its benefit because India has been

monitoring the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Seychelles through its naval ships for a long time. Geo-strategic significance of Seychelles will continue to grow for India as it is a security provider in the Indo-Pacific region, which India must take strong note of.

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India's G-20 and SCO Presidency: Resurgent India-Central Asia Relations

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The world has witnessed myriad systole and diastole during the last three years. The colossus crisis of the Covid-19 Pandemic and its convoluted ramifications on the societies accompanied by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Indo-Pacific military escalation¹ have deeply distressed the geopolitical and geostrategic matrices of the world. The slugfest over the origin of the Pandemic, the catastrophic health situation, and the associated economic disaster deepened the geopolitical tensions across the regions. In a situation when China and the West locked their horn over how the Pandemic originated with a xenophobic approach of safeguarding the lives of their people with the vaccines designed for themselves; India emerged as the world's pandemic 'saviour.' Not only own people, but people in different parts of the world got benefitted from India's benevolence. This was the quintessence of India's approach, the approach of *Vashudhaiv Kutumbkam*. This motto has revibrated with high resonance when India assumed the presidency of G-20 and followed a similar maxim. India's this role is being complemented by the presidency of another powerful group the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) which wields immense influence in the Eurasian region.

Having observed that India has been according high priority to its extended neighbourhoods: East Asia and Central Asia, sitting at two vertices of the Central Asian region, Russia and China make India's leadership in these two groupings imperative. The renewed interest of India in the Central Asian region, referred to as "Engagement 2.0" coincides with the change in the style of leadership which demonstrates the political will to craft long-term relations and add great thrust to their execution. India is moving up on the ladder of the global power hierarchy and cannot remain oblivious to the development unfolding in the region adjacent to it. India's involvement in the region through connectivity projects is bound to foster competition with China, how the two Asian giants engage themselves is yet to be deciphered.² Against this backdrop, the paper delved deeper into the essential question as to how India's

presidency of these two fora will be a litmus test for its determination in tackling the emerging challenges of the region and the global order.

India and Central Asia (CA): Emerging Dynamics

India and today's Central Asian societies' civilisational connection is more than twenty-three centuries older. The geographical proximity, close cultural affinity, and a long history of exchanges of people, ideas, and commodities between India and Central Asia have constituted the basis of a longstanding relationship that got resurrected with the region's emergence as a set of independent political entities in 1991. India did not squander the opportunity to get the benefit of the development and followed a well-defined and well-articulated foreign policy towards the region. On the other hand, Central Asian countries have considered India as one of the significant players to harness the potential of the region for the best of respective countries' interests. But unfortunately, India—Central Asia relations failed to pay the dividend of the relationship until recently. India in the Modi era especially after 2015 reinvigorated to transform the relations by reviving its long overdue Look North Policy to remain engaged with the heartland region. Under PM Modi, India has been developing the strategically crucial Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Besides, SCO India's association with the Ashgabat Agreement and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) is the effort being made to author the script of a new India-Central Asia engagement, which may be referred to as India-Central Asia engagement 2.0.

Due to its strategic location and vast energy resources, Central Asia has become turf for the 'new great game'. However, in the recent past the degree of volatility in the region has surged due to Russian military operations in Ukraine and internal turbulence in some of the CA countries. For example, in 2019 and 2020-21 there was a deep political crisis in Georgia and the largest anti-government protest in Belarus in 2020-21; in 2019 and 2020, Uzbekistan witnessed a series of unrest over economic, social, and political issues; in 2020, Kyrgyzstan experienced a revolution over fraudulent political affairs; in 2021, Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan region saw huge unrest on the issue of the region's political fate and in 2022 Kazakhstan

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underwent a huge protest and people's uprising. Such changing politico-security scenario of CA compels India to protect its geo-strategic interest by playing proactively in the region through its various policies such as connect Central Asia and Central Asia+ India. In that context, India's pole position in G-20 and SCO is bound to transform the political equation and strengthen the relationship between the two.

India's Dual Presidency and Imperatives of India-Central Asia Relations

G-20 and SCO presidency capture India's moment in international diplomacy. India's foreign policy has attained a new trajectory during the last decade by shifting its focus away from pristine idealism and a 'fence-sitter' attitude to enlightened pragmatism and 'multi-aligned' responsible power. India's realpolitik is on the rise with its productive relations on the one hand with Washington and Brussels, while on the other with Moscow. This is evident in India's dealing with the Russian-Ukraine war and the West versus Russia conundrum. In the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India has projected itself as a neutral balancing power between Russia and the West and trying to get leverage in Indo-Pacific geopolitics.

The G-20 is one of the most dynamic international groupings comprising the world's formidable powers with "85 percent of global GDP and 75 percent of global trade, and the two-thirds of world's population", holding deep clout to influence the future of the global community. India has to play a significant role as the leader to address the intimidating global challenges amidst profound opportunities by shaping the international structure which is amenable to the interest of both the global north and the Global South. The G-20 embraces the slogan of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam* (One Earth, One Family, One Future) and tends to convey the profound message that the world is one family and the global challenges plaguing humanity all across the world need to be tackled collectively. PM Modi in his speech in Bali at G-20 Summit said: "At such a time, the world is looking at the G-20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented".³ India has prioritised six focused areas: (i) Green Development, Climate Finance & Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE); (ii) Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth; (iii) Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (iv) Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure; (v) Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century; (v) Women-led development.

On the other hand, India has been spearheading the SCO for this year. SCO is a group of eight countries which

represents 'the living bridge between Central Asia, South Asia, and Eurasia'. The group, founded in 2001 initially with five members, now with addition of three more it has grown to eight member-group with Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia's keen interest to gain full membership. The group represents little less than half of the world population and one-fourth of the GDP. From India's standpoint, SCO provides it a platform to frequently involve member-states on politico-security and strategic issues. India can utilise this opportunity to lubricate the frictionous relation with a regional rival like China and counterpoise the adverse external influences spoiling special relations with Russia. However, India's Westward drift is conscious but growing bitterness over ongoing geopolitical turmoil demands more positive involvement of India. India with its vociferous voice that "today's era is not the era of war"⁴ echoed a stern message against Russia's Ukraine adventure and demonstrated commitment to its vision of global peace. And, therefore, India's G-20 presidency coincided with the SCO, highlighting India's growing role as a channel between the East and the West, and bodes well for India's foreign policy goal of encouraging dialogues and co-operations amongst fractions.⁵

Moreover, except India, China, and Russia no other members of the two fora are common. Undoubtedly, there is a direct bearing of SCO on India-Central Asia amiability but the ancillary effect of G-20. The SCO offers critical platform for India to engage the Central Asian leaders in dialogue and discussion. As a full and permanent member of SCO, New Delhi has always made a substantial contribution to this organization related to geographical connectivity, transportation, regional security, economic growth, and development. As an important international organisation dominated by China and Russia the SCO, which now encompasses the geographies of Eurasia, South Asia, and Central Asia, is in dire need of regional and cross-regional connectivity and looking for other major powers like India for socioeconomic development, balancing major powers, subside great game and lastly for trade, energy and people-to-people contact.⁶

G-20 and India-Central Asia

India's G-20 presidency and its Central Asia overture are mutually reinforcing for four reasons: First, India has designed agenda for action carefully. The larger part of the world, including Central Asia still grapples with the fundamental requirement of development, and humanity in this part needs its fate changed from a dismal present to a flourishing future. The development parameters cannot be blindly emulated from the developed West. That is why a focused agenda of LiFE "envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose'

economy—governed by mindless and destructive consumption—with a circular economy”. An enduring and long future of humanity lies in the proper balance between the environment and the futuristic need of human beings globally. Second, the whole world, the developed and the developing is clinching to the landscape of existential threats due to climate-induced changes owing to anthropogenic effects. Therefore, sustainable development goals achievement accorded high priority by the G-20 for all the nations without any reluctance. Third, there is an urgent need for collective action for tackling global financial and economic instability and restore resilience to long-term economic growth and development; something required urgently for CAR. Fourth, multilateral institutions and global governance restructuring to mitigate the undue influence of the powerful group of nations in meeting legitimate and just interests of the developing world including CA in the field of trade, commerce, finance, development, security, and international cooperation is of prime priority. “India can utilise its G20 presidency as an opportunity to rethink global governance processes and establish parity in international negotiations.” Fifth, no development is complete without women. Giving primacy to women-led development instead of women’s development is to “transform challenges into opportunities accelerating the shift towards women-led entrepreneurship and greater inclusion of women in the workforce”. It be noted that “violence against women and girls remains widespread both in Central Asia and around the world.[and]. 80% of sexual violence survivors in almost all Central Asian countries are women and girls”. In this scenario, G-20’s this agenda strengthens the prerequisite of gender empowerment in CAR.

SCO and India-Central Asia

Moreover, New Delhi’s optimisation of its Central Asia strategy very much passes through the highway of SCO; its presidency adds more thrust for four reasons: Firstly, the region’s proximity to protracted conflict-prone areas like Afghanistan, ethnic tensions in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in 2022-23, border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, terrorism, and religious fundamentalism make the Central Asian region politically unstable. To protect its strategic interests in the region New Delhi is sensitizing SCO members regarding narco-terrorism and the mindless use of state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan and also using “SCO’s Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) to boost cooperation and coordination for combating regional security challenges and information gathering and sharing”.⁷ SCO’s leadership can be utilised to evolve common areas of strategic accommodation.

Secondly, as a president of SCO, India can focus more on establishing proper connectivity networks in

hydrocarbon and uranium-rich Central Asia through various Eurasian projects. Currently, three major projects are running: “the Chabahar Port, the INSTC, and the Ashgabat Agreement for multimodal connectivity. The Chabahar Port and the INSTC are progressing, albeit slowly. In July 2022, the first shipment through the INSTC arrived at Mumbai’s Jawaharlal Nehru Port from Russia’s Astrakhan Port”.⁸ Under India’s leadership, Iran has joined the SCO group as a full member and is bound to add shot in the arm of Chabahar connectivity project. Against the backdrop of China’s aggressive pursuit of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the International North-South Corridor (INSTC), which is a 7,200-km-long network of sea, rail, and road routes to move freight between India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Central Asia, and Europe, is a big achievement for the countries involved. Undoubtedly, Iran’s entry into the SCO will change the whole geopolitics of the region.

Thirdly, for its global rise and recognition as a major power, India needs to come out of its status as an energy-deficient country. India is severely dependent on energy-rich countries like Central Asian countries for its energy requirements. Besides hydrocarbons, the region is having a vast reserve of uranium, for India’s civil nuclear programme. In the region, Kazakhstan is a key energy partner of India. There have been significant developments towards energy cooperation between the two. In January 2009, India’s ONGC Mittal Energy Limited [OMEL] and Kaz Munai Gaz [KMG] signed an agreement to explore the Satpayev oil block in the Caspian Sea. Drilling operations began on 7 July 2015. Furthermore, an MOU exists between the National Company Kaz Atom Prom and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited for uranium supply to India under a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.⁹ As an SCO head, India can use the SCO energy club to enhance its energy interests. Russia is one of the largest energy suppliers and the creator of this energy club. In this, the SCO energy club can play a major role at a regional as well as global level in stabilizing the global energy supply and negotiating energy prices.¹⁰

Fourthly, India has to deal with the aggressive posture of China particularly in the region. China is not only playing dominantly within CA but it has created other platforms to fulfill its trade, energy, and security interests. China has become the foremost trading partner of Central Asian countries, and after the Russia-Ukraine war, Russia is out of its traditional sphere of influence allowing China to occupy aggressively. India’s plan to guard its larger interest in Central Asia and compete with China meets with New initiatives such as Connect Central Asian policy. India introduced first India-Central Asia summit, held in January 2022 virtually, just after C5 +1 summit.¹¹ The India-Central Asia summit has two major objectives, to strengthen its diplomatic relation and secondly, the changing policy

in consideration of the rapidly changing geopolitical environment in South and Central Asia. This forum holds a key role for India as both sides decided to create a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan to stabilize the region and also a JWG on Chabahar Port to resolve the problems with trade and economic cooperation between the two. SCO's leadership will smoothen the newer initiatives such as "the India-Central Asia Investment Club to address the issues of investment and economic planning for development."¹²

Challenges and Way Forward

India's tenure of the G-20 presidency has witnessed so far, the largest-ever in-person participation. According to G-20 Secretariat May 2023 News Letter, "over 12,300 delegates, from over 110 nationalities have attended G20-related meetings so far. This includes participation from G20 members, 9 invitee countries, and 14 international organizations. 100 G20 meetings have been held in 41 cities, covering 28 States and Union Territories." The attempt to unite the developing world and raise their concerns—fitment of international financial regimes, ensuring smooth energy supply, tackling the food crisis, easing down the FDI processes, resolving the conflictual engagement of countries due to geopolitical discords, working out on environmental protocol, and developing a strong mechanism to thwart all types of terrorism—with urgency with the developed world to yield positive outcome is India's priority.

In January 2023, India convened a virtual summit of about 120 countries from Central Asia, Latin America, South East Asia to Africa to receive their standpoint comprising their urgent concerns to put them all at the G20 summit scheduled in September 2023. On the other hand, "India's Chairmanship of SCO has been a period of intense activity and mutually beneficial cooperation between Member States. India has hosted a total of 134 meetings and events, including 14 Ministerial-level meetings". In all these activities, India strove to work out successfully on the issues of security, economy and trade, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial Integrity, and environment, which is reflected through its SCO's motto SECURE. However, there has been a spirited debate on India's newly founded role: Whether India will succeed in making G-20 a seminal platform to bridge the gulf between the developed and the developing economies; appropriately examining the pulse of rapidly changing global order, especially looking at dangerous turns the world is to face in this twenty-first century or, will it succumb to the intense rift between the West and China where the two spartanly opposing poles are bound to generate friction to retard any substantive progress? Such debates are also fitting in the case of India's role in the SCO. The terms of India's presidency of both the fora are to be completed soon, and the assessment of the success and failure will be intensified in many quarters.

China will continue to desist India's effort of becoming a voice for the Global South and meaningfully forging cooperation-bridge between the two worlds. In contrast, India has been on a high plane by garnering huge support from the West, balancing relations with Russia, and arousing confidence in the rest of the developing world. China finds itself perplexed and at discomfiture. Besides, India's benign gesture of safeguarding humanity by providing more than a hundred million vaccine doses of Covid-19 to almost a hundred countries generates huge credence in the international community, but India is constrained by the requirement of salvaging its own 1400 million people's interest. In such a scenario India's limitation only to lead the collective voice of the Global South grants China leverage to push its agenda more aggressively. But in the long run, India's calibrated approach complemented by the factor of trustworthiness will make India's relations in particular with Central Asia special and in general with the world unassailable.

Endnotes

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Internationalization of Higher Education

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Higher education is a powerful tool to build modern, value-based, knowledge based, culture based, and peaceful society which can lead the country towards becoming super power in the world. It is also considered one of the important and strong tools for the development of any country. Primary education is necessary for creating base, while, higher education is extremely important for providing cutting edge. Higher education contributes to the growth of nation by providing specialized knowledge and skill manpower. Quality in higher education is a burning issue which can be ensured through regular review of the function of the institutions either through self assessment or through outside agencies and by accrediting the institutions. The entry of large number of private institutions has also resulted in rapid increase in proceedings involving students, teachers, employees, management of higher educational institutions and universities and other stakeholders negatively impacts the quality of education and efficient function of the institutions. Also there has been spurt in activities of Foreign Educational Institutions operating in India since mid 1990s. While some of them are resorting to various mal-practices to appeal and attract students, particularly in smaller cities and towns. Many of these institutions have come up since there is yet neither a centralized policy nor the regulatory regime.

To improve the quality of higher education in India, we must maintain parameters of quality education. The parameters of quality higher education are: sufficient number of quality faculty members, profile of the students entering into the higher education, infrastructure of the educational institutions, curriculum, appropriate teaching method, examination pattern, learning resources, national agencies, government policies and institutional leadership etc. India has one of the largest education systems of the world. Therefore, different stakeholders must work on these parameters on their respective levels to maintain and improve the quality of higher education in India.

In this context the role of NAAC, NIRF ranking of the Higher Education institutions and internationalization of higher education is very significant.

Meaning of Internationalization of Higher Education

Internationalization of higher education refers to “the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of higher education.” (Knight & International Association of Universities, 2006). In other words, Internationalization of higher education is the process of integrating an international dimension into the teaching/learning, research and service functions of a university or college. An international dimension means a perspective, activity or service which introduces or integrates an international/intercultural/global outlook into the major functions of an institution of higher education’. With internationalization, higher education institutions are exposed to different practices and may adapt a few practices which could help them improve. Also, these institutions can share their good practices to other higher education institutions in need of improvement and guidance.

Need and importance of internationalization of higher education

Internationalization of higher education promotes sharing of best academic and research practices through interactions between diverse education systems, and helps in developing global citizens through mobility of students and scholars. Mobility of scholars to pursue their scholarly activities and access the vast resources of the university system across the globe is a age old practice. In Indian context too, this aspect of internationalization of higher education is as old as education itself. Student mobility and global exchange took place in ancient India starting from Takshashila, which attracted thousands of students from all over the world studying in numerous subject areas at this university. Later on, University of Nalanda also attracted many scholars from various parts of the globe.

Internationalization of higher education is a response to globalization in order to raise the quality of education to catch up to the global standards with alignment of

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curriculum to instill the type of skill to improve productivity in a globalized competitive economy. This also is essential for graduating students to navigate the increasingly interconnected world.

The following are the need and importance of internationalization of higher education.

1. To make India an attractive study destination for foreign students
2. To foster international competencies in our faculty and students
3. To develop a global mindset of our learners and shape them as global citizens with deep rooted pride in being Indian
4. To promote active linkage between Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions
5. To improve global ranking in internationalization indicators
6. Internationalization of higher education promotes sharing of best academic and research practices through interactions between diverse education systems,
7. It helps in developing global citizens through mobility of students and scholars.
8. To develop internationally relevant curricular framework.
9. To upgrade the quality of higher education.
10. To improve productivity and employability skills and competences in the students.

Pre-requisites of internationalization of higher education

Globalization is a basic element to qualify and internationalize higher education. There is a close relationship between internationalization, globalization and qualification of higher education. The prerequisites of internationalization and qualification of higher education are not much different. The prerequisites of quality education are mission, vision, core values, smart objectives, admissions, libraries, laboratories, sports, disabilities, staff, and counseling in case of a university.

1. **Mission statement:** The purpose of university is to provide quality education in the arts, and sciences, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
2. **Vision statement:** The vision statements may produce discoveries that make the world a better place, open the world to students, provide career-oriented and graduate innovative programs, achieve a higher quality of education and research, learning

and teaching excellence, effective engagement with community, enterprise multiculturalism, currency and relevance, increased access to innovative pedagogy, creative use of technology.

3. **Core values:** The core values in internationalization of higher education are integrity and respect, honesty and accountability, and intellectual rigor.
4. **Smart objectives:** The objectives of internationalization of higher education should be specific, measurable, achievable, and realistic in nature to be achieved within a fixed time frame. (5) **Services:** The features of universities are the services they provide including admission, library, laboratory, sports, counseling etc.

Internationalization of higher education requires tolerance and international cooperation in educational activities and plans in order to generate science. In spite of today's issues, it also requires communication skills, rationality, creative thinking, active participation, collective action, tolerance of each other, acceptance of criticisms, and scientific approach for internationalization of higher education.

Based on this, pre-requisites of internationalization of higher education are as follows:

1. In spite of culture, geography and regional policies, we should pay attention to that: We are human;
2. Encourage the knowledge and realization of cultures and affirming on the bilateral respect; (3) Achievement of necessary skills, tolerance and learning from others;
4. Affirmation and realization of world challenges accompanying the needs;
5. Flexibility in facing cultural affairs;
6. The necessity of the constructive approach to solve international problems
7. Acceptance of responsibility in and effective execution of regional and international projects

Strategies for internationalization of Higher education

The most important strategies of internationalization of higher education originated from global experience are as follows:

1. Revision of textbooks and representation of courses which correspond to the content of global community knowledge and international problems;
2. Development of humanistic resources for the realization of social, economic, cultural consequences of universities internationalization;

3. Scientific and cultural cooperation by the students unions and scientific boards of universities;
4. Use of the comparative studies to present the content of existing educational programs;
5. Emphasis on inter-cultural skills for planning in higher education;
6. Acquaint students with abilities and skills in the international arena;
7. The planning of special textbooks for foreign students;
8. Exchange programme and experiences among universities;
9. The cause the effective and more international scientific cooperation among the universities;
10. Enrichment of university environments for educational and research activities according to the global standards;
11. The planning of educational programs according to the time needed through regional and international cooperation among universities;
12. The acceptance of more numbers of scientific boards and foreign students in universities;
13. The protection of researchers, scientific boards and young managers in higher education;
14. The effective cooperation in planning, executing, accessing of the international research projects;
15. Preparation of facilities for scientific boards to use new technologies;
16. Exercise of scientific cooperation through cooperation at international and regional levels;
17. Preparation of public information to save time and spend the existing capitals in other sectors in higher education;
18. Necessary preparation at the managerial level to develop an international higher education;
19. Necessary preparation at the managerial level to face the challenges of higher education;
20. Development of international and regional cooperation to promote the quality of educational programs

Conclusion

The NEP 2020 recommends for including the following for internalization of higher education like attracting larger numbers of international students studying in India, and greater mobility to students in India visit, studying at, transfer credits to, or carrying out research

at institutions abroad, and vice versa. India will be promoted as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs. An International Students Office at each HEI hosting foreign students will be set up to coordinate all matters relating to welcoming and supporting students arriving from abroad. Research/teaching collaborations and faculty/student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will be facilitated. High performing Indian universities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries. Similarly, selected universities e.g., those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India.

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Portrayals of Non Violence Culture: A Global Review

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[Nonviolence, or “ahimsa,” is deeply rooted in the Indian religious tradition, with its origins dating back to ancient times, including the Vedic period and the Upanishads. It has also spread to other cultures and religions and has been used as a principle for peaceful living and conflict resolution. The teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and his practice of nonviolence in the 20th century brought global attention to this ancient concept. “Nonviolence” is a thought-provoking and impactful piece that effectively highlights the power of peaceful means in resolving conflicts. The article illustrates the nuances of nonviolent movements, showcasing historical examples and their profound impacts on societal change. Prominent case studies of Mahatma Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King Jr, Gautama Buddha and Nelson Mandela and Aung San suu kyi, around the globe are considered for the same. Through a well-researched analysis, the review captures how these portrayals inspire hope and encourage reflection on the potential of nonviolence in today’s world.]

Nonviolence is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various methods for addressing conflicts without resorting to physical violence. It is based on the principle that physical violence, particularly against other people, should not be used as a means of resolving disputes. This philosophy has been influential in shaping positive change throughout the 20th century and is seen as an effective approach to combat injustice and oppression without causing further pain and conflict.¹

According to Mahatma Gandhi, nonviolence is a force that can be wielded by individuals of all ages who have a profound belief in the power of love and a commitment to treating all of humanity with equal compassion. It is not limited to isolated acts but should permeate one’s entire being.²

Gene Sharp, an expert on nonviolent resistance, defines nonviolence as a means for people who reject passivity and acquiescence to engage in conflict through nonviolent action. This approach acknowledges that conflict cannot be avoided and offers a way to navigate political and social challenges without resorting to physical force. Nonviolence, also known as nonviolent resistance, is a philosophy that prohibits the use of physical force for social or political change. It is often associated with movements for social justice and is referred to as “the politics of ordinary people.”³

Case Studies of Non Violence: -

Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi’s philosophy had a profound impact not only on the Indian independence movement but also on the broader understanding of nonviolent resistance and

peaceful protest around the world. Here are some key points summarizing Gandhi’s beliefs and principles:

- **Satyagraha:** Gandhi coined the term “satyagraha,” which translates to “truth force” or “soul force.” It is a philosophy and method of nonviolent resistance that seeks to confront and transform oppressive or unjust systems through peaceful means. Gandhi believed that truth was the ultimate reality and that satyagraha was a relentless search for truth.⁴
- **Ahimsa (Nonviolence):** Gandhi’s commitment to nonviolence, or “ahimsa,” was a central pillar of his philosophy. He believed in the inherent goodness of every individual and that nonviolence was the means to bring about change without causing harm to others. He saw it as both a moral principle and a practical strategy for social and political change.
- **The Human Heart as the Arena of Nonviolence:** Gandhi emphasized that nonviolence begins in the human heart. He believed that individuals must first practice self-control and self-discipline to free themselves from violence before they could effectively advocate for change in society.
- **Conversion, Not Coercion:** Gandhi’s approach to satyagraha was to seek the conversion of the wrongdoer, not their coercion or punishment. He believed that by appealing to the conscience of the oppressor, it was possible to transform their attitudes and actions.
- **Freedom through Nonviolence:** Gandhi believed that India could achieve freedom from British colonial rule only by adhering to its moral roots and traditions, and by using nonviolent means. He initiated movements like non-cooperation, civil disobedience, and boycotts as peaceful methods to challenge British authority.

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- **The Pursuit of Truth:** Gandhi saw the pursuit of truth as the ultimate goal of life. He believed that truth was God and that nonviolence was the means to realize that truth. This pursuit of truth extended to every aspect of life, from personal behavior to political action.
- **Nonviolence Beyond Physical Harm:** Gandhi's concept of nonviolence extended beyond physical harm. He advocated for the avoidance of all forms of violence, including verbal and spiritual violence. He believed in practicing love, selfless service, and compassion towards all beings.

Gandhi's principles of satyagraha and nonviolence continue to inspire movements for social justice and peace around the world. His emphasis on moral and ethical action, self-discipline, and the power of nonviolent resistance has left a lasting legacy in the realm of civil rights, social change, and conflict resolution.

Dalai Lama

Dalai Lama's views and actions, particularly in the context of nonviolence and his role as a political and spiritual leader.

- **The Dalai Lama's Role:** Similar to figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama is a prominent spiritual and political leader. He advocates for nonviolence, compassion, and justice, and he speaks out against oppression and violence.⁵
- **Commitment to Nonviolence:** Like Gandhi and King, the Dalai Lama maintains a steadfast commitment to nonviolence as a means of achieving social and political change. He has advocated for peaceful dialogue and resolution in the Tibet-China conflict and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his efforts in this regard.
- **Promoting Compassion and Tolerance:** The Dalai Lama emphasizes the importance of compassion and tolerance across different religions and ideologies. He believes that these values can help people live together in peace and mutual respect, regardless of their differences.
- **Influence and Recognition:** Despite being in exile, the Dalai Lama has achieved significant recognition and respect globally. He is often regarded as a symbol of nonviolence and compassion, and his teachings have had a profound impact on people around the world.
- **India's Tradition of Nonviolence:** The Dalai Lama has acknowledged India's rich tradition of nonviolence and compassion. He believes that these traditions are urgently needed in today's world,

which still witnesses conflict and violence, sometimes even in the name of religion.⁶ Steffen, L., 2009, *Nonviolence as Ethical Spirituality: The Case of the Dalai Lama*.

Dalai Lama stands as a prominent advocate for nonviolence, compassion, and justice on the global stage, much like Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. His efforts to raise awareness about Tibet and promote peaceful solutions to conflicts have earned him international recognition and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi, in her quest for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar, utilized nonviolent means to protest against the military junta in 1988.⁷ She established the National League for Democracy and remained steadfast in her commitment to nonviolence throughout her struggle.⁸

- **Empowerment of Women:** She recognized the importance of women's empowerment on a global scale, emphasizing that the wisdom and experience gained in maintaining peace within the family could be applied to creating a more just and peaceful world.
- **Rejection of Armed Struggle:** Aung San Suu Kyi firmly rejected armed struggle or violence as a means of achieving political goals. Her choice of nonviolence was driven by practical and political considerations, aimed at countering the belief that power comes from wielding arms.
- **Active Nonviolent Resistance:** Similar to Mahatma Gandhi, Suu Kyi embraced nonviolent civil disobedience as a principled and active form of resistance. She was known for her commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation, reflecting a Gandhian approach.
- **Symbol of Nonviolence and Democracy:** Aung San Suu Kyi is regarded as a symbol of nonviolence and democracy in Myanmar. Her leadership played a significant role in mobilizing people's protests against the repressive and authoritarian regime in the country.

Aung San Suu Kyi's advocacy for democracy in Myanmar was deeply rooted in nonviolence, following in the footsteps of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. She believed in active, nonviolent resistance and sought reconciliation rather than confrontation, earning her a place as a prominent figure in the Gandhian tradition of nonviolent struggle for justice and democracy.

Gautama Buddha

Buddhism has a deep commitment to nonviolence, which is intertwined with its core teachings and principles.⁸

- **Nonviolence as Fundamental:** Buddhism considers nonviolence to be a fundamental aspect of its teachings. The fusion of spiritual insight and practical action gives rise to a way of life centered on nonviolence.
- **Meditation and Insight:** Meditation is at the core of Buddhism, leading to experiential understandings of suffering and the means to alleviate suffering and its causes. This insight informs compassionate and nonviolent actions.¹⁰
- **Avoiding Suffering for Self and Others:** The Buddha's teachings emphasize the avoidance of causing suffering to others. Killing is seen as a direct cause of suffering for both the victim and the perpetrator, leading to negative karmic consequences.
- **Nonviolence as Precept and Embodiment:** Initially, practitioners of Buddhism obey the precept of nonviolence. Over time, they come to embody nonviolence as an integral aspect of their lives.¹¹
- **Engaged Buddhism:** Buddhism's principles and practices can be applied to personal life, community, and global movements for social change. Engaged Buddhism emphasizes that personal transformation and societal change are interconnected.
- **Individual Responsibility:** The Buddha addressed individuals as an individual, focusing on individual responsibility rather than forming religious or political positions or philosophies of society.¹²
- **Quality of Life and Thoughts:** Buddhism recognizes that the quality of life is closely tied to the quality of moment-to-moment thoughts and feelings. Enmity, hatred, and violence do not improve one's state of mind.
- **Global Solutions:** Buddhism doesn't offer global solutions but focuses on individual and moment-to-moment choices and actions that promote nonviolence and compassion.
- **Nation-Shaking Implications:** The commitment to nonviolence in Buddhism is seen as having significant implications for nations, potentially leading to a world where violence ends, and love and compassion prevail.

Buddhism views nonviolence as a way of life deeply rooted in spiritual insight, mindfulness, and compassion, with a commitment to avoiding harm to oneself and others while striving for personal and societal peace.

Martin Luther King Jr

The significant influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Martin Luther King Jr. and their shared commitment to nonviolence.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Commitment to Nonviolence: King, a prominent figure in the American civil rights movement, adopted a strong commitment to nonviolence as well. He believed that nonviolent resistance was a potent weapon for oppressed people striving for freedom. King was introduced to the concept of nonviolence through reading Henry David Thoreau's "Essay on Civil Disobedience" during his college years.¹³

- **Six Principles of Nonviolence:** King's notion of nonviolence was characterized by six key principles: resisting evil without violence, seeking understanding and friendship with opponents, opposing evil rather than individuals, a willingness to suffer without retaliation, avoidance of external and internal violence, and having faith in the future.¹⁴
- **Nonviolent Direct Action:** King's approach to nonviolence involved nonviolent direct action as a means of presenting protesters' bodies as an appeal to the conscience of the broader community. His rhetoric played a significant role in narrating and heightening the drama between oppressors and the oppressed.
- **Legacy of Nonviolence:** King's legacy of militant nonviolence lives on in modern-day protests. While the language of activists has evolved, the principles of nonviolent protest that King championed are still influential.

Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. shared a deep commitment to nonviolence as a powerful means of achieving social and political change. Their philosophies and principles continue to influence movements for justice and civil rights, emphasizing the importance of love, understanding, and nonviolent resistance in the face of oppression and injustice.

Nelson Mandela on non-violence

The influence of Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent approach on Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid icon and former President of South Africa.¹⁵

Gandhi's Influence on Mandela: Nelson Mandela, a prominent figure in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence. Mandela believed that Gandhi's nonviolent approach, known as "satyagraha," was instrumental in achieving India's freedom from British colonial rule and served as an inspiration.¹⁶

- **Role in Ending Apartheid:** Nelson Mandela's relentless efforts contributed to the end of apartheid policies in South Africa, and he became the country's first black president in 1994. He played a crucial role in establishing a just and multi-racial society, and his efforts were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize.

- **Nonviolence and Forgiveness:** Mandela initially supported Gandhi's ideas of nonviolence but later believed that some armed resistance was necessary. He organized civil disobedience campaigns, including non-lethal actions like bombings and sabotage. However, he aimed to avoid civilian casualties.¹⁷
- **Influence of Christian Teachings:** Mandela was influenced by Christian teachings, particularly the importance of forgiveness. While in prison, he realized the need for forgiveness among South Africans to move forward together. After becoming President, he established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address human rights abuses during apartheid, allowing people to share their stories and seek justice.
- **Mandela's Emphasis on Peace and Nonviolence:** Nelson Mandela referred to Gandhi as "the sacred warrior" and believed in the power of nonviolence, emphasizing peace and reconciliation in the face of adversity. He saw Gandhi's message of peace and nonviolence as essential for human survival in the 21st century.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence had a profound impact on Nelson Mandela's approach to activism and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. While Mandela initially embraced nonviolence, he later believed that some resistance was necessary. Nevertheless, he remained committed to peace, reconciliation, and justice in building a post-apartheid South Africa.

Status of Non Violence in 21st Century

Nonviolence, often associated with Mahatma Gandhi's principles of Ahimsa, remains highly relevant in the 21st century for addressing the many global challenges we face:

- **Addressing Violence and Conflict:** In a world marked by terrorism and conflicts, nonviolence offers an alternative to violence as a means of resolving disputes and promoting peace.¹⁸
- **Democratic Values:** Nonviolence upholds principles like equality, justice, and respect for life, making it a crucial part of democratic societies and civil disobedience movements.
- **Global Politics of Nonviolence:** In an era of global terrorism and human rights violations, there's a growing recognition that addressing these issues requires global cooperation and nonviolent solutions.¹⁹
- **Moral Imperative:** Nonviolence is seen as a moral duty and an essential aspect of creating a just and peaceful world.²⁰

- **Alternative to Militarism:** Nonviolence advocates for reducing the reliance on military solutions and diverting resources from the arms industry to addressing human needs.
- **Cultural Change:** There's a shift away from glorifying violence in solving problems, and there's a growing recognition of the importance of nonviolent approaches in various aspects of life.
- **Relevance for Contemporary Issues:** Nonviolence can address not only internal conflicts but also global issues like environmental problems and nuclear disarmament.
- **Human Relations:** Nonviolence calls for a shift in human relations, emphasizing unity and cooperation over division and conflict.
- **Simple Living and Environmental Sustainability:** Gandhi's philosophy of simple living and harmony with nature is seen as a way to address ecological and social issues.
- **Internationalism and Nationalism:** Nonviolence recognizes the importance of both international cooperation and national identity.
- **Ethical Benchmark:** Gandhi's principles continue to be used as an ethical benchmark for assessing public figures, policies, and societal values.
- **Preserving Peace:** Nonviolence is viewed as a means of preserving peace and avoiding the destructive consequences of violence.
- **Cosmopolitics:** Nonviolence can serve as a foundation for building a new cosmopolitics in a world marked by national interests and prejudices.

The relevance of nonviolence in the 21st century is evident in its potential to address the complex global challenges we face, promote peace, and uphold moral and ethical principles in a world marked by violence and conflict. It offers an alternative path to resolving disputes and building a just and equitable society.

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Right to Information Act, 2005: Awareness among Teachers

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[*"The Right to Information Act, 2005" was enacted to empower the citizens of India and to enable them to have access to the information that is held by any Public Authority. The purpose was to make the government working transparent and accountable. The present paper studied the level of awareness of teachers with regard to "Right to Information Act, 2005". A self-designed questionnaire was used to study the awareness of teachers regarding various provisions of the Act. The results show that 31.6 % of teachers have above average awareness, 49.3% have average awareness and 19.1% have low awareness about the various provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.*]

The Right to Information Act, 2005 came into force on 15 June, 2005. Sections 4(1), 5(1), 5(2), 12, 13, 15, 16, 24, 27 and 28 come into force at once while the rest of the sections came into force after 120 days of its enactment. The importance of Right to Information in a democratic country like India cannot be undermined. The very essence of democracy is the participation of citizens in the governance. It is "Government of the people, for the people and by the people" The participation by the people in governance is possible only when they are provided information held by or under the jurisdiction of the government or other public authorities. The right to information is an implicit part of the citizen's 'Right to Freedom of Expression' as recognized by Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "freedom to seek, receive and impart information" is included in the 'right to freedom of expression'. Free flow of information strengthens democracy and leads to transparency and accountability in governance.

Recognizing this need for openness in the public authorities functioning and to ensure transparent governance, "The Right to Information Act" was passed.

The Act aims to empower citizens and control corruption by making information transparent and holding governments accountable. Under the RTI Act every citizen can access information held by any public authority, by simply making an application to the designated Public Information Officer along with a prescribed fee. The Act however, does have some exception clauses under which the information requested may be refused under certain circumstances, like, in case the disclosure is likely to prejudicially affect the country's sovereignty and integrity or in case the disclosure will cause a breach of privilege of the Parliament. The Act also lays down the procedure for filing an appeal if the information is not provided within the prescribed time or if the information is refused.

Review of Related Literature

Singh et al. (2012) studied a sample of 265 people from 11 villages of Rajasthan and studied their level of awareness about the RTI Act. The results showed that 33% of respondents were somewhat aware about the Act, but the majority 52% was not at all aware. Gender differences were found with regard to the level of awareness, with males showing more awareness as compared to females. Asore (2012) studied a sample of 140 college students and examined their awareness

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about the RTI Act. The findings showed that students were moderately aware about the RTI Act. The results indicated significant gender differences. Further, the differences between Urban and Rural students were also observed. Thote (2013) studied the awareness of secondary school teachers about the RTI Act. The results showed that about 35% of teachers reported good knowledge or above-average knowledge about the RTI Act. 15% of teachers had average awareness and the rest 50% of the teachers showed poor or almost no awareness about the RTI Act. Neither gender differences were found with respect to the awareness about the Act, nor were there any differences in the awareness of teachers from different streams of education. Teachers belonging to joint families exhibited higher levels of awareness as compared to those who belonged to nuclear families. Singh (2016) examined the awareness about RTI Act among the college teachers. The sample consisted of hundred college teachers from Kaithal and Jind district in Haryana. The results indicated a high level of awareness among college teachers in relation to the RTI Act. Respondents were found to be aware of the procedure of filing RTI application, fee to be paid along with the application and the authority to be approached for filing an appeal. Lata (2016) studied a sample of 150 students from Gurugram and studied their level of awareness regarding RTI Act 2005. The study reported significant gender differences regarding level of awareness about the Act. Males were found to be more aware as compared to females. However, those females who were aware about the Act, had better knowledge as compared to males. Paramasivan (2016) studied the awareness about RTI act among college students of Trichirapalli, Tamil Nadu. Majority of the students (80%) but found to be aware of RTI Act, however level of awareness was below average for 60% of the respondents. Monika (2018) studied the level of awareness about RTI among B Ed students, 68% of students reported low level of awareness while 31% reported average level of awareness. No differences were found in the awareness about RTI on the basis of gender, marital status, family structure and locality of residence. Significant differences were however found between postgraduate and undergraduate students with respect to level of awareness about RTI Act. Fanibanda and Mehta (2020) reported that low level of awareness about RTI Act (only 15% of respondents found to be aware) as one of the reasons for low public participation in RTI.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the level of awareness of teachers about the "Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. To study the usage of Right to Information Act by the teachers and their level of satisfaction.
3. To study the perception of teachers regarding the effectiveness of the RTI Act in curbing corruption

and in improving transparency and accountability in the working of government offices.

Design of the Study

Since the objective of the research was to study the awareness and perception of teachers about the RTI Act, hence the descriptive research design was used.

Sample of the Study

The sample consisted of 152 college and school teachers from the city of Chandigarh. 41.4 % teachers were from the Humanities Stream, 34.2% from Science Stream and remaining 24.3% from the Commerce Stream.

Tools Used

A self-designed questionnaire was used to evaluate the awareness and perception of the teachers about the "Right to Information Act, 2005". The questionnaire consisted of three sections. The first section collected the personal and demographic information. The second section consisted of 19 questions regarding provisions of the "Right to Information Act". The third section of the questionnaire contained seven question related to usage of the Act by the teachers and perception of teachers regarding the effectiveness of the Act.

Results and Analysis

All the teachers working in the colleges and schools are aware of the existence of Right to Information Act 2005. About 33% of the teachers learnt about the RTI Act from the newspapers, 20% of the teachers have read the RTI Act, 16% acquired the knowledge about the Act from the internet, and 13% obtained the information from social media, while 10% of the teachers got the information from books or journals. The rest of the teachers came to know about the Act by attending seminars or training programs.

Awareness regarding provisions of RTI Act, 2005

The average awareness of the teachers regarding the provisions of RTI Act, 2005 has been found to be 12.3 out of 19. The scores of the teachers ranged from 1 to 18. On the basis of Mean $\pm$ 0.5 SD, 31.6% of teachers have above average awareness, 49.3% have average awareness and 19.1% have low awareness about the various provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

Majority of the teachers (ranging from 50.7% to 89.5%) are aware of the following provisions of the RTI Act:

- An Indian citizen can apply and seek information from any department of the Central or State Government (89.5 %)
- An Indian citizen can ask for information under the Act, from any organisation established, constituted, owned, controlled or financed by the state or central government (88.8 %)
- An Indian citizen can inspect any documents held by any public authority (57.2%)

- A citizen of India can ask for provision of certified copies of any documents under the control of any public authority (72.4%)
- A citizen of India can inspect any work of any public authority (53.3%)
- For requesting any information under RTI Act, the citizen needs to put in an application to the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the organisation or department (55.9%)
- Person seeking information under the Act, needs to file the application in writing (96.7%).
- If applicant is unable to make request in writing, PIO will have to provide assistance to put oral application in written form (67.1%).
- Person seeking information can file the application either in English or in Hindi or in the official language of the area (87.5%).
- To file an application under the Act, a prescribed fee has to be paid (73%).
- Persons below the poverty line, seeking information under the RTI Act, do not have to pay any application fee (50.7%).
- If the applicant is sensory impaired (deaf, blind, etc.), the public authority is required to provide him assistance to enable access to the information and inspection (75.7%).
- There is no need to state any reasons for seeking the information under the RTI Act (51%).
- The information requested has to be provided or the request has to be rejected by the Public Authority within a period of 30 days from the date of the application (73.7%).
- In case, the applicant is aggrieved by the decision, appeal can be filed within a period of 30 days from the receipt of such a decision. In case applicant does not receive a decision (related to his RTI application), appeal can be filed within 30 days of the expiry of the period specified for providing the information (52%).
- The second appeal against the decision given under the Act, can be made to Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission (59.2%)

Most of the teachers (ranging from 37.1% to 37.5%) are aware that:

- 50% of the teachers are aware that only contact details need to be given in the application.
- A citizen can take samples of materials of any work of the public authority under the RTI Act (37.5%).

- In case applicant does not receive a decision (related to his RTI application) within the time stipulated or is discontented with the decision as given by the PIO (Public Information Officer), first appeal can be made to the officer who is senior in rank to the PIO (37.5%).

Extent of applications filed by respondents under the RTI Act, 2005

80.3% of the respondent teachers have never sought information under the RTI Act. Only 19.7% have sought the information under the Act and have received the information within the prescribed period of time .93% of teachers who sought the information, were satisfied with the information received.

Perception regarding effectiveness of the RTI Act, 2005

Majority of the teachers are of the opinion that RTI Act is a positive step towards improving the transparency (94.7%) and accountability (94.1%) in the working of government offices. 90% teachers are of the opinion that RTI Act has led to curbing of corruption at various levels.

Conclusion

As secrecy leads to corruption, the RTI Act is an enactment that can facilitate in bringing about transparency by enabling public to demand information from public authorities. The awareness about this Act can be helpful in promoting integrity in public offices. Though the majority of the teachers have awareness about the various provisions of RTI Act, the level of awareness is average and not very high. The knowledge of teachers regarding different provisions of RTI Act needs to be enhanced and this can be done by engaging experts for conducting legal awareness workshops and lectures in the educational institutions. If teachers have a deep knowledge related to RTI Act, it would help them to disseminate the information about the same to the young students and society at large who can then take benefit under the enactment.

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Assisted Reproductive Technology Law in India- an Enigma between Individual's Right and Best Interest of Child

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[The modern approach to reproductive rights prioritizes safeguarding individual reproductive rights rather than exclusively concentrating on the rights of couples. The ICPD, 1994 is of utmost importance in this context, with its main aim being to support couples and individuals in achieving their reproductive goals and providing them with full independence in exercising their right to procreate. Nevertheless, the current legislation governing assisted reproductive technologies in India still provides room for discrimination. The main socio-legal concern stems from the need to protect the well-being and entitlements of children. The UDHR specifically declares that all children, irrespective of their parents' marital status, have the right to receive social support. In India, where there are no restrictions on procreation through sexual intercourse, the regulation of non-coital procreation can be more efficiently managed by assigning parental responsibility to intended parents. This task should be undertaken with due regard for individuals' reproductive rights and the protection of the future child's welfare. Nevertheless, in India, the legislation concerning reproductive rights is discriminatory as it imposes limitations on anyone other than married infertile couples, thereby restricting their access. This research aims to examine the discriminatory legislation in India that give rise to socio-legal infertility. The aim of the study is to identify the deficiencies in current legislation on ART in India and propose a solution that achieves a balance between individual equality and the protection of children's rights, through an analysis of the laws in certain jurisdictions.]

Procreative liberty comprises the freedom to make choices regarding reproductive decisions, including the decision to have children, and the ability to control decisions about when, with whom, and how to conceive. Throughout history, individuals and couples have consistently encountered the enduring problem of infertility. Nevertheless, because of developments in medical science, infertility can now be partially addressed. Moreover, societal shifts have transformed the notion of family creation, and the role of being a parent can now involve diverse aspects such as biological parenting, pregnancy-related parenting, and the act of adopting. Considering the changing concept of procreative liberty, it can be contended that

both males and females should have the right to exercise their individual reproductive freedoms. Medical research has made significant advancements in assisted reproductive technology to treat both medical and social causes of infertility. This technology has greatly diminished the conventional notion of human procreation, which was primarily dependent on sexual intercourse occurring exclusively within the institution of marriage. Reproductive Self-Determination refers to the independence of each person to make unrestricted choices regarding procreation. Reproductive autonomy encompasses all the expanding aspects of reproductive rights. Reproductive self-determination encapsulate the entitlement of both men and women to get comprehensive information regarding safe, efficient, inexpensive, and culturally appropriate family planning methods of their preference. It also entails ensuring that individuals have the necessary resources to exercise their

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reproductive liberty. The Cairo Conference (International Conference on Population and Development) and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing have both addressed the concept of reproductive self-determination and acknowledged the importance of human rights in safeguarding and advancing reproductive health.

Throughout history, individuals or couples have consistently faced the enduring problem of infertility. Nevertheless, the emphasis on infertility has predominantly focussed on its medical aspects. In the era of equal rights and diversity, infertility can appear in multiple dimensions such as infertility resulting from medical issues and infertility arising from societal and legal reasons. Infertility induced by a medical condition refers to the physiological incapacity of an individual to achieve pregnancy after one year of unprotected sexual intercourse, or as a result of other medical diseases that impede conception. Socio-legal infertility is the condition in which an individual is unable to conceive as a result of society norms and legal restrictions. The definition and understanding of medical infertility have seen numerous revisions and variations across various platforms. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that infertility can also be comprehended from a socio-legal standpoint. A comprehensive examination of the norms and frameworks pertaining to reproductive technology and parenthood might yield a more lucid comprehension of infertility resulting from societal causes.

The utilisation of assisted reproduction technology (ART) can effectively address the issue of infertility. Socio-legal infertility arises due to both social and legal obstacles, as mentioned earlier. One of the primary factors contributing to this obstacle is extensively debated in terms of the best interest of child.

The well-being of children is intricately connected to the familial and societal environment in which they are raised. The modern family's way of life has a significant influence on the child's growth and progress. The prevalence of dysfunctional or distressed households in contemporary culture has a detrimental impact on the well-being of children, leading to insufficient parenting. Even within the protected boundaries of a nuclear or two-parent household, it is claimed that the welfare of children cannot be guaranteed. Hence, it is incumbent upon parents to guarantee that their children are provided with a stable and unwavering domestic milieu. The child's welfare might be influenced by the degree of desirability attributed to them. In certain instances, the influence exerted by other family members can transform the act of giving birth into a perceived obligation rather than a voluntary decision. Due to their parents' busy schedules, children in such

households often experience a lack of sufficient care and attention. When it comes to natural procreation, however, there is virtually no regulation or oversight, despite the clear fact that this choice also impacts the well-being of future generations because instances are not rare where children are negatively impacted also in existing family system as it does not solely depend on the single idea off sexual orientation of parents. But assisted reproduction is subject to certain restrictions. Specifically assisted reproduction is explicitly prohibited for homosexual couples, disregarding their sexual orientation and desire to have biological children, on the pretext of prioritising the welfare of the child. Those who hold the same belief argue that children will be adversely affected if raised by homosexual parents.

Assisted Reproduction as an Elixir of Infertility

In earlier times, individuals who were unable to have children by natural means had just one option: adoption. Nevertheless, adoption is no longer the exclusive alternative for individuals without children, as advancements in medical technology now enable infertile individuals to conceive their own biological offspring. Due to society's persistent efforts to uncover the mysteries of human fertility, a new branch of medicine called ART emerged. ART serves as a societal solution to the ongoing problem of infertility. In the past, society placed a greater emphasis on fulfilling one's obligations, and over time, the practice of adoption became more prevalent than assisted reproduction as a solution to infertility. However, the concept of egalitarianism started to weaken the strict influence of fundamentalist religious convictions, and ART introduced as the elixir for the issue of infertility. By diluting the gestational and genetic procreation ART has given new dimension to parenthood.

Newfangled Approach in Reproductive Rights and Individual's Autonomy

The early human culture had the assumption that males were the exclusive contributors to human fertility, partly due to a lack of scientific understanding. As a result, women were viewed exclusively as reproductive beings who were subject to the property rights of the male who provided the sperm. This established the basis for a social structure characterised by male dominance and authority. Various international human rights laws have supported the acknowledgment and resolution of gender subordination by advocating for the recognition of women's reproductive rights, which involves ensuring their ability to make decisions about their own reproductive autonomy. Feminist philosophy argues that women's achievement of reproductive autonomy is crucial for the fulfilment of all fundamental human rights. The Fourth World Conference on Women, convened in Beijing in 1995, recognised reproductive

health as a state including comprehensive physical, mental, and social well-being in respect to all facets of the reproductive system. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action highlight the necessity of eradicating all manifestations of gender-based violence from society.

The concept of reproduction or reproductive health is undergoing transformation in response to evolving societal norms and the acknowledgment in international human rights legislation. The notion of procreation established by the early culture where man was viewed as the primary contributor in reproduction and female was considered simply as fertile land where their only task was to supply free reproductive labor has changed with the passing time. However, in a patriarchal culture, certain burdens on women have not yet been eliminated, despite advancements in different areas and the increasing involvement of women in all aspects of societal progress. The patriarchal structure of society has consistently imposed the responsibility of reproductive labour exclusively on women, with a particular emphasis on child rearing. Several international documents have addressed the transfer of the responsibility of childbearing from the mother to the family or society, recognising that a child is a member of society.

The International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) has made a significant impact in the areas of reproductive rights and reproductive health. This convention has emphasised the importance of providing reproductive health care of superior quality. The agreement primarily addressed the scope of reproductive health and rights, emphasising the importance of ensuring the availability and accessibility of diverse reproductive health treatments while upholding strict secrecy and privacy measures. The conference emphasised the need of comprehensive physical, mental, and social well-being for individuals in the context of reproductive health. As per the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), reproductive health and reproductive rights encompass sexual health. The objective is to improve personal relationships and overall quality of life. This document discusses not only the reproductive rights of women or couples, but also emphasises the reproductive rights of individuals. It acknowledges the procreative rights of individuals in making decisions related to procreation, such as determining the number of children, spacing and timing of children, choice of procreation partner, methods of procreation, and having access to comprehensive information and services related to reproductive health.

Perplexity in the Concept of Best Interest of Child

The matter of the reproductive autonomy of individuals in same-sex relationships has drawn considerable public interest as a result of ongoing legal conflicts and

improvements in assisted reproductive technology. One of the obstacles in implementing this reproductive choice is ensuring the welfare of the child. The concept of the best interest of the kid is designed to limit adult authority over youngsters. There has been considerable debate on the negative impact of homosexual parenting on a child's well-being. Hence, it is imperative to accurately interpret the concept of the child's best interest in this context. Several studies on infants conceived through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) or intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) have suggested a possible increase in the prevalence of some rare birth defects, as well as a decrease in birth weight. In addition, children conceived through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) have been observed to have a greater occurrence of prenatal, neonatal, and infant mortality in comparison to those conceived through sexual intercourse. However, these problems have not completely halted the progress of the ART. Therefore, this suggests that the correct understanding of the concept of the best interest of the kid does not endorse the notion of the non-existence of a child. In the case of *Gleitman v. Cosgrove*, the court concluded that it was "logically impractical" to "assess the value of a life with disabilities in relation to the absence of life." The court concluded that the inherent value of a person's life, irrespective of whatever difficulties or obstacles they may encounter, outweighs the negative value associated with nonexistence. The significant distinction to be observed is that these evaluations carry the ethical responsibility of prioritizing a physical disadvantage over nonexistence.

Concluding observation

Through these discussions, it has been noticed that there is a perplexity in reconciling an individual's reproductive autonomy with the welfare of the kid. The concept of reproductive autonomy asserts that every individual should have the right to make decisions regarding procreation, regardless of their marital status or sexual orientation. This is based on the understanding that the desire to have a child is a unique and important aspect of an individual's existence. The elimination of social stigma is contingent upon a shift in societal attitude. These social issues are prevalent among children from divorced or separated families. And hence, no one can question the significance of the existence of such youngsters. Similarly, the protection of best interests is more effective when there is a larger desire to have a child. The intention or desire to have a child holds great importance in the lives of that kid, as unwanted children sometimes experience neglect within their own families. However, their presence remains significant. Therefore, there are no limitations on sexual intercourse for the purpose of procreation in order to prioritise the "best interest of the child." Therefore, the presence of children raised by homosexual parents is equally valuable as those raised by heterosexual parents.

Therefore, it is important to take into account the intentions of prospective parents in situations of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and to safeguard the kid's welfare, it is advisable for these prospective parents to sign 'accepted parental conditions'. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Act, 2008 (UK) has defined the 'intended second parent' and included 'agreed parenthood or fatherhood conditions'. This particular Act has included several other provisions to safeguard the child benefit. There is a provision for taking 'consent' from the other party to this intending parenthood when the person is other than a person from marriage relationship or civil partnership. Belgium and Netherlands also have similar approach towards individual's reproductive autonomy. This will help resolve any perplexity that may arise between an individual's reproductive autonomy and the best interests of the child.

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Financial Performance of Selected Nidhi Companies

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[Analysis of financial performance refers to the techniques used by investigators to analyze and appraise a company's financial operations. The total financial well-being of the company is referred to as its financial performance. The process of evaluating financial statements is one that is used by both internal and external stakeholders to better understand an organization's performance. Analyzing a company's four most important financial statements is the process. The balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, and annual report of an organization are the four statements that are carefully analysed. The primary activity of Nidhi Companies is financial intermediation, which entails deposit mobilization and the provision of loans and advances to those in need. The source is formed up of loans, deposits, and capital funds. Owned funds known as capital funds provide risk and insolvency protection. The amount of funds available for profitable deployment is determined by the quantity of the deposits. In this context the present study focus the selected Nidhi Companies, They are Kumbakonam Mutual Benefit Fund(KMBF), Sreevari Nidhi Limited (SVN) and Sri Samundeeswari Nidhi Limited(SSBF).]

Funds management in Nidhi Companies refers to allocating and distributing funds appropriately. The term "mix" indicates how total finances are formed by maintaining the right relationship between the various sources of funding. While money is moving frequently in Nidhi companies, fund management is a

more significant and sophisticated topic. There are multiple options for Nidhi Companies to obtain funds. Sources are classified in to three types they are owned funds combination of share capital and Reserve & Surplus, Borrowings and other liabilities.

The term "working funds" typically refers to cautious and risk-free sources. The ideal combination of working capital and the Nidhi Companies effectiveness in strategically allocating the capital will ultimately impact the size of business. Ineffective working fund management would have a detrimental impact on the Nidhi companies' transactions, profitability, liquidity, solvency, and viability. Sources of working capital If

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funds are held, there is no legal requirement to provide dividends annually. Nidhi companies that borrow money must pay interest, which is a fixed investment. The greater percentage of operating capital derived from subsequent funding sources demonstrates the reliability and quality of service provided by the relevant Nidhi firms.

Analysis and Interpretation

In the analysis of working funds of KMBF Ltd for a study period of 10 years from 2012 - 13 to 2021-2022. Every year of ten years, the common size proportion of the components of working funds is also provided. For the duration of the study, equity, which is made up of both capital and reserves, has continuously increased in size. The share capital almost increase continuous over the years, the quantum of reserves has grown up to 4.5 times in ten years. During the study period, there has been a positive yearly increase in borrowings for the whole decade the quantum growing by about four times. In case of other liabilities and provisions continuously decreased in the following years. Due to increase in each of the constituent parts - equity, borrowings of the total working funds of KMBF Ltd shows a continuous annual growth and it has grows nearly double in 10 years period of study. Borrowings constitute a primary source of operating capital for KMBF Ltd and its cover 82.3% of total working fund, owned fund occupy 9.4% and other liabilities occupy 8.3%. It proves clearly that KMBF Ltd overall working finance have grown in all categories in a balanced manner.

The SSBF Ltd. shows continuous growth in owned funds, borrowings and other liabilities in the study period. The trends of SSBF Ltd increased continuously and it reached 233% in 2021 – 2022. Borrowings considered as main source of SSBF Ltd and its covers 10% of owned funds in total funds, 84.5% of borrowings in total funds and 5.5% of other provisions and liability in total funds. This indicates clearly that SSBF Ltd overall working finance contributed growth in all categories in fair way.

In the analysis of SVN Ltd the trends shows that its reach a highest percentage in the study period from 2012-13 to 2021 -2022. Consequently shares, Reserve & Surplus, Borrowings and other liabilities constantly grow and reach 1505 % of trend in 2021 – 2022. In this Nidhi Ltd also borrowings play an vital role for the development of Nidhi Ltd. and its cover 86.6% of total working fund, owned fund occupy 11.17% and other liabilities occupy 2.23% of total funds.

Deployment of Working Funds

To meet the cost of mobilization and provide a profit to the Nidhi Companies, the money must be deployed in a way that generates income. The Nidhi Companies

must continuously monitor the flow of cash to ensure that there won't be any unforeseen financial difficulties brought on by the failure to recover these funds in a timely manner. The banking industry is highly competitive nowadays, and banks are always creating new financial products to draw in fresh customers. The competing bank markets its goods by using marketing staff and the media to describe the features of each product. Today's customers learned about the various credit programs and deposit options offered by various Nidhi firms. As a result, today's knowledgeable consumers are starting to dictate terms for loan and deposit products.

Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis of information pertaining to the deployment of working funds by KMBF Ltd. the following information are derived KMBF maintained an average of 14.5% of total assets under cash balance. The lowest percentage 0.05% is seen in 2012-2013. Minimum but required amount has to be obtained in that category. Loans and advances of KMBF take highest share of lending is done 80% average of total assets. The advances were grown high in 2012-2013 & 2015 – 2016 and it decreases in 2013- 2014 & 2015 -2016. It grows simultaneously from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022. The fixed assets and other assets grow continuously from beginning to end of the study period. KMBF has to make an effort to maintain the assets classified as performing assets under advances and investments. KMBF must control the unavoidable risk of recovery related to loans and investments during this procedure.

In the analysis of data provided about the deployment of working funds by SSBF Ltd for study period. The average amount placed under the head cash balance forms around 15% of total working funds. Throughout the period of the last ten years, SSBF Ltd. has continuously increased the number of loans and advances it has made. The average contribution of advances to total assets is around 80.98%. The other assets fluctuated during the first eight years of the decade, but in the final two years, it has increased extremely quickly. During the course of the study's ten years, the asset where SSBF Ltd has invested all of its working capital has steadily grown annually. The other assets value nearly same in 2016-2017 & 2017-2018. The growth rate of total assets higher than advances. The average percentage of each component's share in total assets can be used to describe the proportionate contribution of all deployed working funds over the study's ten-year period. It can be given as cash: fixed assets: advances: other assets: 15.01: 3.06: 80.99: 0.94 SSBF Ltd maintains low profile of fixed asset and other assets. In case of cash, the share may be reduced.

In the deployment of working funds under various category by SVN Ltd during the periods of study. The following information is provided by the data analysis:

According to the cash column, SVN Ltd kept a larger portion of the overall working funds. The average cash of SVN Ltd is nearly 16.69% for the study period of ten years. The total advances increased continuously throughout the period of study. The fixed asset and other assets simultaneously increase and decrease during this period of study.

Conclusion

According to the analysis finally, it is determined that during the study period, the working funds of the chosen

Nidhi Ltd. Shows an upward tendency. Selected Nidhi Ltd. had successfully increased borrowings. Above 80% of their total funds have been deployed in loans and advances. The main source of income of a Nidhi Ltd is the interest from loans and advances.

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Empowering Education through Open and Distance Learning

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The Higher Education system in India has set forth four major objectives: the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge, the establishment of social order, the inculcation of higher values in life, and the development of leadership qualities among students. The achievement of these objectives not only contributes to social change but also ensures the application of constitutional provisions through democratic means. Undoubtedly, the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system has played a pivotal role in making education accessible by bringing “Education to the doorstep” and providing knowledge and skills to those who lack access. In realizing this innovative goal, technology-integrated learning methods, the internet, and telecommunication have emerged as crucial facilitators. In a country like India, where education and skills are integral to human development and social upliftment, the application of technology in learning has propelled the educational needs of the nation, particularly in the context of its demographic dividend (Economic Survey, 2018). Distance Education has emerged as a transformative force in the arena of higher education, providing innovative and flexible alternatives for learners around the world. As traditional education systems face challenges such as accessibility, flexibility, and scalability, ODL has played a crucial role in addressing these issues and expanding the horizons of higher education.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Reaching to unreached is the main motto of the open and distance education, as it is providing education to those who are unable to be part of the conventional system of education. ODL provides opportunities to those who have no access to normal schooling but want

to continue their education to compete in the changing world. ODL plays an important role in the inaccessible areas/ regions where most of the children left or dropped out their studies, especially the girl’s students, due to various reasons: it may be the long distance of the school from home or poor economic condition of the family. ODL emerged as a tool in solving all the problems and reaching the unreached through its learner-friendly approach.

One of the primary advantages of distance education is its potential to break down barriers to education. It extends educational opportunities to a diverse range of learners, including those in remote areas, working professionals, and individuals with physical disabilities. Through online platforms, course materials, lectures, and assessments become accessible to anyone with an internet connection, fostering inclusivity and democratizing education. Learners’ performances are assessed through the assignment given to them as assignment provides opportunity for learners to learn, practice and demonstrate they have achieved the learning goals. It provides the evidence for the teacher that the learners have achieved the goals. There are a lot of benefits to gain from using an assignment as an assessment method. Assignments can for instance be used to test higher cognitive abilities and the application of specific skills or knowledge. It can mirror the future professional practice. It can be used to assess the integration of knowledge, skills and attitudes (competences). Assignments are given to the learners for their evaluation in ODL system.

Flexibility and Personalization

ODL offers unparalleled flexibility to learners, allowing them to study at their own pace and schedule. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for working

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professionals seeking to enhance their skills or individuals with family commitments. The asynchronous nature of ODL enables students to access course materials and participate in discussions at times that suit their individual circumstances. The learners are provided Self-Learning Material to enhance the knowledge of the learners and SLM is an important medium of imparting knowledge to the learners. Since there is no face-to-face interaction the quality and the content provided in the study material should help in providing a classroom like atmosphere. The material should be self-instructional in approach. The SLM is systematically prepared with all the instructions in each chapters along with the questions and their solution in each chapter to enhance the learning capabilities of the learners. Furthermore, ODL platforms often incorporate adaptive learning technologies, enabling personalized learning experiences. Learners can choose specific courses, tailor their learning paths, and engage with content that aligns with their interests and career goals. This personalized approach enhances the overall effectiveness of education.

Scalability and Cost-Effectiveness

The scalability of ODL makes it an attractive option for institutions grappling with growing demand for higher education. Traditional/Conventional institutions often face limitations related to physical infrastructure, faculty availability, and administrative resources. ODL allows educational institutions to reach a broader audience without the constraints associated with traditional classrooms.

Additionally, the cost-effectiveness of ODL is a key factor in its popularity. Learners can save on commuting, accommodation, and other associated costs. Institutions benefit from reduced infrastructure expenses and the ability to offer courses to a larger number of students, making education more accessible and affordable. A part form learning materials, videos and soft copies of the materials also provided to the learners to keep them updates.

Technological Advancements

Advancements in technology have played a pivotal role in the evolution of ODL. The integration of multimedia elements, virtual classrooms, and interactive simulations enhances the learning experience. Technological advancements have significantly transformed the landscape of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), revolutionizing the way education is delivered, accessed, and experienced. These

advancements have played a crucial role in overcoming traditional constraints and enhancing the effectiveness of ODL. High-quality video lectures and live webinars enhance the engagement level of learners. They provide a more dynamic and interactive learning experience, allowing for real-time interaction between learners and instructors. **Learning Management Systems (LMS)** platforms such as Moodle, Blackboard, and Canvas provide a centralized hub for course materials, assignments, discussions, and assessments. They facilitate a seamless online learning experience, enabling both educators and learners to interact in a virtual environment.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Open and distance learning playing an important role in providing quality education to the learners and to all the sections of the society who are unable to be part of the formal system of education through its friendly and learners' centric approach. ODL provides all sort of facilities to their learners similarly as in the case of conventional method of teaching and learning through different modes of teaching and learning. OLD system of education is one of the effective ways of educating aspiring learners from every corner of world if the quality issues are adequately addressed While ODL has transformed higher education, it is not without challenges. Issues such as digital inequality, the need for robust support systems, and concerns about the quality of online education must be addressed. Collaborative efforts between educational institutions, policymakers, and technology providers are essential to overcome these challenges. Looking ahead, the role of ODL in higher education is poised to expand further. The ongoing advancements in technology, coupled with a global shift towards remote work and learning, suggest that ODL will continue to be a vital component of the education ecosystem. As institutions embrace hybrid models and integrate ODL into traditional settings, the future of higher education promises to be dynamic, accessible, and tailored to the diverse needs of learners worldwide.

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Implications of LMS in Changing Education Scenario

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[Rapid development in Technology has brought a transformation in education. Learning is now done online via a range of platforms and devices, rather than being restricted to in-person encounters. The Learning Management System (LMS) is a prominent platform that is currently utilized extensively for online teaching-learning in schools and colleges. As a comprehensive platform, the LMS helps educators and students engage in learning in the context of distance learning. The aim of this paper is to discuss the implications of LMS. It is expected that when using LMS to support the teaching process, educators will consider this paper.]

The educational system in India is facing a significant change and challenges due to technological advancements. Modifying instructor pedagogy and student assessment procedures is equally as important as incorporating new skills into the program. NEP-2020 (National Education Policy-2020) was the first of this transition. It introduced a whole new approach to education that builds on creativity, critical thinking, and applying knowledge to real-world situations. The goal of this type of learning is to get students ready for the challenges that lie ahead, not only to achieve high scores. It's similar to getting pupils ready for life beyond school rather than just for tests.

There has been a significant shift in the way teachers instruct. In contrast to traditional classroom instruction, students today study topics like robotics, coding, and design thinking. These competencies are highly relevant in today's environment, where technology is really important. They aid students in honing skills that are increasingly in demand in the workforce. This is not only a nice-to-have, but also a critical skill for future employment.

Revolution in Education

The job of educators is changing dramatically; they are no longer only responsible for imparting knowledge to future teachers. Teachers are establishing an environment where students are able to generate their own ideas in this new style of instruction. The goal of this modification is to ensure that students possess the knowledge and abilities to solve problems outside of school and beyond the scope of their textbooks. These days, developing skills is a vital part of education. The combined power of knowledge, intuition, and enthusiasm is called skill. This profound adage resonates throughout India's educational reform corridors. All stakeholders—from government

agencies and educational institutions to businesses, associations, and private citizens—have a duty to work together to contribute to the country's slow but steady development as it embarks on the enormous task of nation-building. Moving from school to the working world is not an easy journey, particularly when issues surrounding the employability of India's youth surface. Ironically, these worries aren't limited to the low-skilled and ignorant classes; they affect even the educated ones, highlighting the urgent need for a strong focus on skill development.

The value of fostering a learning culture that extends beyond standard classroom instruction is being recognized by educational institutions worldwide. LMS platforms integration into educational institutions is driving this cultural change toward lifelong learning. The way educators, administrators, and students interact with the learning process is being completely transformed by LMS software.

How to create a Learning Environment in Schools

The physical, social, and emotional circumstances that a child learns in comprise their learning environment, which also includes the surrounding culture. Encouraging learning environments can help every child reach their full potential. However, a child's capacity to learn is seriously impeded in an environment that is not safe and secure. An educational setting is never truly "completed." It will need to be modified frequently to meet the demands of students. It is essential to consider the learning environment that students are exposed to. This reflection will assist the teacher in determining which components should be improved upon or changed to better support the available teaching and learning resources. Some strategies for creating a learning environment are as follows:

Developing Intrinsic Motivation

Schools ought to work to inculcate in their pupils a sincere passion of learning. When learning is pleasant, students are inclined to study and explore on their own, which

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promotes a lifetime interest in learning and leads to better learning outcomes.

E-learning Interactive Teaching Strategies

Educators ought to implement interactive teaching practices for online learning, which entail actively involving students in the process. Encouraging peer and teacher interactions helps students stay motivated and involved in the learning process, which eventually improves learning outcomes.

Encouraging Interdisciplinary Learning

Because interdisciplinary learning can stimulate a lifetime interest in specific areas and extend students' horizons, educational institutions should support it. The adoption of an interdisciplinary approach fosters an ongoing drive to extend one's knowledge and skill set, leading to improved learning outcomes.

Using Digital Content to Enhance E-Learning

Interactive videos and other multimedia resources can provide a gripping and enjoyable element to e-learning. Institutions can stimulate students' curiosity and enthusiasm for e-learning by including such content into the curriculum, which will ultimately lead to improved learning results.

The Role of LMS (Learning Management System)

A potent instrument for bridging the knowledge gap between real-world applications and academia is LMS. The following are some ways that skill development is facilitated by the features and functionalities that these digital platforms offer:

Flexibility and Accessibility

Students have the freedom to study whenever and wherever they like by using LMS software, as it gives them 24/7 access to learning resources. This flexibility and accessibility are crucial for the development of skills since they promote independence and self-directed learning.

Tailored Educational Journeys

Based on each student's unique strengths and shortcomings, learning management systems may tailor learning pathways. Each student will be able to concentrate on the areas of their skills that need work thanks to this individualized approach, which results in more focused skill development.

Interactive Content

Quizzes, simulations, and videos are examples of the interactive content that is available on many LMS platforms. With practical experiences, interactive learning keeps students interested and strengthens their skill development.

Real-Time Monitoring of Progress

A student's progress can be tracked in real time with LMS software. Teachers and administrators are able to keep an eye on how well students are doing and step in to offer extra help or direction when needed.

Collaboration and Communication

LMS software frequently incorporate tools for collaborative learning, enabling students to collaborate on projects, exchange ideas, and hold conversations. In today's working environment, the ability to communicate effectively is essential, and LMS software helps to foster this growth.

Resources Library

Students can use the vast resource libraries found on LMS platforms to further strengthen their skill set. These resources can include software and tools unique to a given industry as well as textbooks and articles.

Badges and Certifications

After completing particular skill-based courses or modules, users of many LMS software programs can choose to obtain badges or certifications. When demonstrating one's abilities to prospective employers, these certifications can be quite helpful.

The Effect on Instructors and Teachers

LMS platforms are advantageous to instructors and teachers as well as students:

Effective Transmission of Content

By using the LMS to deliver content effectively, teachers can free up more time for more dynamic and interesting teaching strategies. This change enables educators to concentrate on supporting the development of skills rather than just disseminating knowledge.

Data-Driven Insights

By providing teachers with access to student performance data, learning management systems help them pinpoint areas in which their pupils might be having difficulties. Teachers can offer specialized help and interventions thanks to this data-driven strategy.

Professional Development

Teachers can enhance their own abilities and methods of instruction by utilizing the resources that LMS systems frequently provide for professional development. Both educators and learners gain from this ongoing progress.

Feedback and Conversation

LMS software makes it easier for professors and students to communicate. In order to foster a positive learning environment, instructors can give prompt feedback, respond to inquiries, and offer advice.

The Viewpoint of Institutions

LMS software can lower expenses related to physical infrastructure, textbooks, and printed materials. This is only one benefit that LMS software provides from an institutional standpoint regarding to foster a learning culture. Because of its cost-effectiveness, educational institutions are able to devote resources to other important areas of study.

- Because of LMS's capacity to hold a big number of students, universities can effectively reach a wider audience. Scalability is especially crucial for organizations that want to increase the range of courses they provide.
- Tools for ensuring quality are frequently included in LMS software, guaranteeing that materials and courses fulfill the institution's requirements for instruction.
- Worldwide student outreach is made possible by LMS platforms for educational institutions. Due to its global reach, which fosters a more inclusive learning environment by exposing students to a variety of cultural perspectives, it also diversifies the student body which promotes an inclusive learning environment.
- Organizations may evaluate program efficacy and make data-driven decisions for ongoing development by utilizing analytics and reports produced by LMSs.

Challenges in implementing LMS

LMS software has many advantages, but there are drawbacks and things to think about when implementing it in educational settings.

- Assuring that all students have access to the tools and technology required to use LMS platforms can be difficult, particularly in developing nations or places with poor internet connectivity.
- Teachers and students may need regular assistance and training to use LMS platforms efficiently. Programs for training require funding from institutions.
- Safeguarding student information and maintaining confidentiality are top priorities. Institutions are required to have strong security measures in place and abide by pertinent data protection laws.
- Content quality is a critical factor in case of LMS platforms. For skill development to be in line with industry requirements, institutions need to make an investment in creating current, high-quality content.
- Regular upgrades and enhancements are necessary for LMS platforms. To stay up with the constantly changing needs of education, institutions need to establish a plan for continuous improvement and maintenance.

Conclusion

Learning management systems are becoming essential resources for fostering a learning culture in academic settings. They give students access to individualized learning experiences, flexibility, and the necessary foundation for skill development. Furthermore, learning management system platforms give educators the ability to efficiently support students' skill development while offering educational establishments affordable, expandable, and data-driven solutions. The function that educational institutions play in equipping students for the workforce is becoming more and more important as the world changes. LMS platforms are essential for bridging the knowledge gap between academia and business by giving students the real-world skills and competences they need to succeed. Notwithstanding certain obstacles, educational institutions around the world would be well advised to integrate LMS because of its advantages for developing skills and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

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Collaborative Efforts between Schools and Homes: Study of Delhi amidst Covid-19 Pandemic

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[The research delves into the dynamics of collaboration between schools and homes during the transition to remote learning instigated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The study integrates a diverse participant pool, including head teachers, classroom teachers, teaching assistants, school office workers, and parents from eight distinct primary schools in Delhi. The analysis of 50 interviews and subsequent document examination in the study uncovers pivotal themes. These include heightened communication, role adaptation, faced challenges, strengthened relationships, and potential long-term changes. The findings highlight the resilience and adaptability of schools and homes amidst a global crisis, the necessity for substantial support and resources for remote learning, and the potential advantages and enduring impact of these collaborative endeavours. The research significantly enriches the educational domain by offering valuable insights into the dynamics of school-home collaboration during a pandemic and advocates for increased research and policy focus on this critical aspect of education. The findings lay a ground work for future research and policy formulation in this area, bearing implications for student learning, well-being, and equity.]

The Covid-19 pandemic, instigated by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, traces its origins back to Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The virus is part of a genetically related group of viruses that encompasses SARS-CoV and several other corona viruses isolated from bat populations (World Health Organization - 2021). On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Subsequently, on March 11, 2020, the WHO characterized the outbreak as a global pandemic. This marked a significant turning point in the global health landscape. The pandemic led to widespread closures of schools and other educational institutions worldwide, impacting over 91% of the world's student population. This unprecedented situation necessitated a sudden shift to remote learning, bringing about significant changes in the traditional modes of education. It required an increased level of collaboration between schools and homes to ensure the continuity of education(Bozkurt et al., 2020).

The study is set against this background. It aims to explore how schools and homes navigated through these challenges and the impact of these collaborative efforts on their mutual relationships. The pandemic provided a unique context to study this collaboration, as the home became an extension of the school due to remote learning, blurring the boundaries between the two. Understanding this collaboration and its impact could

provide valuable insights for future practices and policies in education. The collaboration between schools and homes, while always being a crucial aspect of children's education, gained unprecedented significance during the shift to remote learning necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The abrupt closure of schools necessitated the continuity of education from home, achievable only through robust collaboration between schools and homes(Tye, 2023). Schools had to swiftly adapt their teaching methodologies for remote learning, and parents had to step in to facilitate this learning at home. Remote learning posed several challenges, including access to technology, lack of face-to-face interaction, and difficulty in monitoring student progress. To address these challenges and ensure the minimization of learning gaps, collaboration between schools and homes was indispensable. The pandemic, being a stressful period for everyone, including students, necessitated schools and parents to work in unison to provide emotional support to students and help them navigate through this challenging period. The shift to remote learning also implied a shift in roles, with teachers transforming into remote instructors and parents assuming a more active role in their children's education(Bubb & Jones, 2020). This required a high level of understanding and collaboration between schools and homes. The collaborative efforts between schools and homes during the pandemic are likely to have a long-term impact on the education system, with the increased involvement of parents in their children's education and the use of technology for teaching and communication being changes that could persist post-pandemic(Borup et al., 2020).Online instruction in Indian educational institutions is currently in its nascent stages, yet its popularity is progressively increasing,

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primarily driven by contemporary necessities. The most formidable challenge encountered by educators and learners alike pertains to technical issues, with connectivity posing significant difficulties. The pedagogical approaches requisite for effective online instruction necessitates further refinement. Additionally, both educators and learners have reported health concerns associated with increased screen time exposure (Tyagi, 2020).

Objective of the study

- To understand the dynamics of the collaboration between schools and homes during the shift to remote learning caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- To explore the strategies implemented, the challenges faced, and the overall impact of these collaborative efforts on the relationships between schools and homes.
- To understand the long-term implications of this forced collaboration and whether it has led to a paradigm shift in the traditional roles of schools and homes in the education process.
- To provide valuable insights that could guide future practices and policies in education, especially in times of disruptions.

Literature Review

Prior research has underscored the significance of collaboration between schools and homes in the educational process. For instance, a study conducted in Macao delved into the collaborative efforts between homes and schools in the domains of assessment, placement, and the development of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for children with special educational needs. The findings of the study indicated that such collaboration between homes and schools led to enhanced academic outcomes, improved behavior, and fostered positive attitudes towards school among students (Correia et al., 2021).

The Covid-19 pandemic exerted a profound impact on global education systems. In the initial 12 months of the pandemic, lockdown measures resulted in approximately 1.5 billion students across 188 countries being precluded from attending school in person, thereby engendering enduring effects on the education of an entire generation. The pandemic exacerbated preexisting opportunity and achievement disparities, with the most severe impact being borne by historically disadvantaged students. Close to 147 million children were deprived of more than half of their in-person schooling between 2020 and 2022. A significant number of students, particularly those most vulnerable, are at an elevated risk of discontinuing their education entirely. This highlights the far-reaching implications of the pandemic on global education (Espinosa Castro, 2020).

Furthermore, another study accentuated that partnerships between homes and schools necessitate authentic collaboration and coordination on pivotal issues that are relevant to both the educational goals of the school and the aspirations of the family for their children's education. Such partnerships can bolster students in maintaining consistent and productive work and behavior patterns, which subsequently can enhance students' interest, motivation, and engagement in learning, both within the school environment and at home (Epstein, 2018).

Despite the wealth of research on school-home collaboration and the impact of pandemics on education, a lacuna exists in the literature with respect to comprehending the dynamics of school-home collaboration during a pandemic. A majority of school leaders possess minimal or no training in crisis leadership, and they have not previously managed a crisis of such magnitude and duration. Consequently, there is a pressing need for studies that delve into the strategies employed, the challenges encountered, and the overarching impact of these collaborative endeavors on the relationships between schools and homes during a pandemic. This could provide invaluable insights for future crisis management in education.

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed a qualitative research design to gain an in-depth understanding of the collaborative efforts between schools and homes during the Covid-19 pandemic. This design allowed for the exploration of participants' experiences, perceptions, and the impact of these collaborations on their mutual relationships.

Participants

The research strategically integrated a diverse participant pool to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the investigated phenomenon. Fifty interviews were conducted with a varied group of participants, including headteachers, classroom teachers, teaching assistants, school office workers, and parents, ensuring a wide array of perspectives and experiences. The study utilized purposive sampling from eight distinct primary schools in Delhi, a conscious methodological decision aimed at ensuring a diverse and representative sample. Schools, inherently varied in terms of resources, pedagogical approaches, student demographics, and parental communities, contributed to a wide spectrum of experiences and viewpoints. This diversity enhanced the generalizability of the study's findings and fostered a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon under scrutiny. The study facilitated a rich and nuanced examination of the collaborative endeavours between schools and homes amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Delhi, as the capital city, hosts a

variety of schools catering to different socio-economic strata, further diversifying the range of experiences and perspectives. Consequently, the selection process was not merely purposive but crucial to the comprehensive depth and breadth of the study, ensuring a rich and diverse data set and providing a robust basis for the study's findings and conclusions.

Data Collection Methods

Data was collected primarily through **semi-structured interviews**. These interviews allowed for flexibility in exploring the participants' experiences while also ensuring that key areas of interest were covered. Participants were asked to share their personal experiences of the pandemic, with a particular focus on their methods of communication and collaboration during remote learning. In addition to interviews, **document analysis** was also conducted. This involved the review of relevant documents such as communication logs, meeting minutes, and instructional materials used during remote learning. This provided additional insights into the strategies implemented and the challenges faced during this period.

Data Analysis Procedures

The data collected was analyzed using **thematic analysis**. This involved a process of coding the data, identifying patterns, and grouping these patterns into themes. The themes were then analyzed in relation to the research questions and the existing literature. The analysis was an iterative process, with the researchers going back and forth between the data and the emerging themes. This ensured a thorough and rigorous analysis of the data.

Discussion and Analysis

The data collected from the interviews and document analysis provided a comprehensive understanding of the collaborative efforts between schools and homes during the pandemic. The data revealed several key themes:

- 1. Increased Communication:** The data showed a significant increase in communication between schools and homes. This was facilitated through various digital platforms such as emails, video conferencing, and learning management systems. The increased communication was not just in terms of frequency but also in terms of depth, with more substantive discussions about students' learning and well-being.
- 2. Role Adaptation:** Both teachers and parents reported having to adapt to new roles. Teachers had to find innovative ways to engage students online, while parents had to take on a more active role in their children's education. This role adaptation was a process of trial and error, with both parties learning and adjusting as they navigated through the challenges of remote learning.
- 3. Challenges Faced:** Participants reported several challenges such as lack of access to technology,

difficulty in managing work and helping children with schoolwork, and the emotional toll of the pandemic. These challenges underscored the disparities in resources and support, highlighting the need for more equitable solutions.

- 4. Strengthened Relationships:** Many participants reported that the shared experience of navigating through the pandemic led to strengthened relationships between schools and homes. This was reflected in the increased empathy, understanding, and mutual respect between teachers and parents.
- 5. Long-term Changes:** The data suggested that the changes brought about by the pandemic are likely to have long-term effects. Many schools plan to continue using digital platforms for communication, and parents are expected to continue playing an active role in their children's education. These changes could potentially reshape the education landscape, with implications for policy and practice.

The research offers a profound understanding of the school-home collaboration dynamics during the Covid-19 pandemic. The amplified communication and role adaptation underscore the resilience and adaptability of schools and homes amidst a global crisis. The encountered challenges highlight the necessity for substantial support and resources for remote learning. The fortified relationships between schools and homes suggest a positive outcome of the collaborative endeavors, potentially leading to enhanced student outcomes and a more comprehensive approach to education. The potential enduring alterations indicate a paradigm shift in the conventional roles of schools and homes in the educational process, emphasizing the importance of continuous collaboration and communication between these two entities. The research findings unveil the complexities and challenges of school-home collaboration during a pandemic, along with the potential advantages and enduring impact of these collaborative efforts. These findings lay a foundation for future research and policy formulation in this area. The research accentuates the significance of school-home collaboration, not merely during crisis situations but as a fundamental aspect of education. It advocates for increased research and policy focus on this critical aspect of education, bearing implications for student learning, well-being, and equity.

Discussion

The findings of the study align with and extend previous research in several ways. The increased communication between schools and homes, as well as the role adaptation of teachers and parents, echo the findings of previous studies on school-home collaboration. These studies have highlighted the importance of communication and collaboration in enhancing student outcomes and fostering positive attitudes towards school. The challenges faced by participants in this study, such as lack of access to technology and difficulty in managing work and helping

children with schoolwork, are consistent with the challenges reported in studies on the impact of pandemics on education. These studies have underscored the disparities in resources and support during remote learning. The strengthened relationships between schools and homes and the potential long-term changes brought about by the pandemic are unique findings of this study. These findings provide new insights into the dynamics of school-home collaboration during a pandemic and its potential long-term impact.

Implications of the Findings

The study's findings have substantial implications for practice, policy, and future research.

Practice Implications: The findings emphasize the necessity of continuous collaboration and communication between schools and homes. Schools and parents must jointly navigate the challenges of remote learning to ensure educational continuity. The augmented use of digital platforms for communication and the proactive role of parents in their children's education could potentially enhance student outcomes and the overall learning experience.

Policy Implications: The findings underscore the need for policies that support remote learning and address disparities in resources and support. Policies ensuring equitable access to technology and other essential resources for remote learning are crucial. Furthermore, policies should also support the training and development of teachers and parents to effectively navigate the challenges of remote learning.

Implications for Future Research: The findings lay a groundwork for further exploration of school-home collaboration during a pandemic. Future research could probe into the specific strategies implemented by schools and homes, the effectiveness of these strategies, and the factors influencing the success of these collaborative efforts. Additionally, longitudinal studies could explore the enduring impact of these collaborative efforts on student outcomes and school-home relationships.

Conclusion

This research illuminates the intricate dynamics of school-home collaboration during the pandemic-induced transition to remote learning. It delves into the employed strategies, encountered challenges, and the consequential effects on school-home relationships. The study unveils an escalation in communication, role adaptation, and challenges, fortifying relationships and hinting at prospective long-term alterations. These revelations emphasize the resilience and adaptability of schools and homes amidst a global crisis, the necessity for sufficient support and resources for remote learning, and the potential advantages and enduring impact of these collaborative endeavours. The research significantly enriches the educational domain by laying a groundwork

for future investigations and policy formulation in this sphere. It accentuates the significance of school-home collaboration, not merely in crisis situations but as an integral element of education. Future research is encouraged to probe into the specific strategies adopted by schools and homes, their effectiveness, and the factors influencing the success of these collaborative initiatives. Longitudinal studies could delve into the enduring impact of these collaborative efforts on student outcomes and school-home relationships. Furthermore, research could concentrate on formulating supportive policies and practices that augment school-home collaboration and address the disparities in resources and support. In conclusion, the research underscores the complexities and challenges of school-home collaboration during a pandemic and its potential enduring impact. It advocates for increased research and policy focus on this crucial aspect of education, bearing implications for student learning, well-being, and equity.

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Analysis of Social Services Expenditures in Tamil Nadu with Special Reference to Education

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[The present study examines social services expenditure in Tamil Nadu with special Reference to Education. The study is purely based on secondary data sources, and the discrepancies in the figures given by various sources and official data banks may be present in the results which could not be taken care of, which may alter the results. The results of the study are confined to the state Tamil Nadu alone, and they do not represent any other state in India]

There is a growing evidence that public expenditure, if properly designed will go a long way in achieving the important objective of reducing imbalance between different regions, sectors, social and income groups. In India apart from personal inequality there has been inadequate investment in the provision of basic social services such as education, health and nutrition. The studies reviewed above cover mostly the macroeconomic analysis of public expenditure on social sectors, and they have concentrated on international, national, or inter-State comparisons on the trends in public and Social Sector expenditures and their impact on Education. From the perspective of economic relations, it is seen that the development of this sector directly affects the level of human development in a region or country.

Statement of the Problem

The importance of higher levels of social sector expenditure for human development and economic growth is not new. In other words, social-sector development has both intrinsic and instrumental value. A lot has been achieved in the social sector till the end twentieth century. When India got independence, the majority of the population was poor and struggling for the necessary amenities. The discussion of the preceding section suggests that the spending on social sector is critical since it inclines to benefit the poor relatively more than the rich and at the same time it helps in formation of human capital in the economy.

Social Sector Expenditure and Human Development

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Government expenditure on social sector is important at least for two reason. First, in the under developed and developing countries the extent of deprivation and poverty is a challenge for the government and it cannot be left to the market forces alone to take care of sufficient spending required for the alleviation of chronic poverty and deprivation which is necessary for the human development. Second, the poor is more dependent and utilizes the government services than the rich person.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the present research endeavour may be outlined as follow;

1. To examine the direction and composition of public expenditure on the social sector in Tamil Nadu.
2. To analysis the trend of social Services expenditure in Tamil Nadu
3. To analysis the impact of social services expenditure on Education in Tamil Nadu.

Research Methodology

The present study is based purely on the secondary data obtained from the repository of various institutions, research organizations and other databases such as Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Ministry of Education, Government of India and Ministry of Statistics and Programmed Implementation, Government of India and various Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu.

Analysis of Data

The below table 1 shows the social services expenditure and education as share of total Revenue expenditure in Tamil Nadu from 2011-2012 to 2022-2023. The expenditure on education grew from Rs.156584 lakhs in

2011-2012 to Rs.4271070 lakhs in 2022-2023. The compound Annual Growth Rate was 8.95 per cent during the study period 2011-2012 to 2022-2023. The data shows that between 2011-2012 to 2022-2023, the

education expenditure showed fluctuation with average education expenditure was Rs.2901572 lakhs which increased 2.79 times from the whole study period. There had been significant fluctuations in the growth rate of education expenditure in Tamil Nadu during study period.

Table 1 : Social Service Expenditure and Education as share of total Revenue

Expenditure in Tamil Nadu (Rs. in lakh)						
Study period	Education	Growth Rate	% Share of Education in Total Expenditure	% Share of Education in Social Service Expenditure	Social Service	Total Expenditure
2011-2012	1526584		18.21	45.90	3326175	8383804
2012-2013	1766184	15.70	18.20	45.73	3862288	9706744
2013-2014	2115584	19.78	19.26	46.73	4527590	10982467
2014-2015	2424418	14.60	18.82	48.15	5034906	12882800
2015-2016	2501606	3.18	17.74	45.64	5480657	14099323
2016-2017	2603355	4.07	16.99	47.08	5529727	15319526
2017-2018	2870677	10.27	17.10	48.01	5979017	16787363
2018-2019	3298354	14.90	16.73	46.98	7020193	19720060
2019-2020	3823900	15.93	18.17	51.67	7399931	21043472
2020-2021	3799998	-0.63	16.07	42.31	8980485	23640218
2021-2022	3817130	0.45	14.73	40.44	9438083	25915096
2022-2023	4271070	11.89	15.03	45.66	9354720	28418845
Average	2901572	10.01	17.25	46.19	63.27	17.24
Fold	2.79				2.81	3.38
CAGR	8.95				9.00	0.03

Source: Reserve Bank of India (Various Issues)

Conclusion and Policy Suggestions

It was found that equity rationales for spending public money in Tamil Nadu have met only with partial success. The contribution of public financing of education towards equality of opportunity was less than what was expected of it due to misallocation of resources among different levels/types of education. The social sector expenditures are essential in themselves for social sector development. Budgets are the most crucial policy documents to find out the social and economic priorities of governments. In Tamil Nadu, the major part of public expenditure is

incurred by the state government and under the domain of social and economic infrastructure.

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Analysis of Tourist Arrivals in Tamil Nadu: Pre and Post Corona Pandemic

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[This article examines the arrivals of domestic and foreign tourists in Tamil Nadu over the past few years. The prime motive of the study is to examine, individual tourist who travels away from their homes to have a travel experience. Tourism is defined as a short-term travel of individuals to destinations beyond the places where they normally live and work. The data suggests that tourism in Tamil Nadu has been growing steadily, with both domestic and foreign tourist's arrival has been increasing over time. This article takes Covid-19 as the factor that contributed to the fluctuation in tourist's arrival, such as increasing in foreign and domestic tourist arrivals. Overall, this article presents a positive outlook for the future of tourism, with increasing number of tourists visiting each and every year.]

Tourism is one of the activities for traveling people from one place to another. It is for leisure, sightseeing, holiday and business purposes. Mainly domestic and foreign tourist are visiting different parts of the region every year and return with a better understanding of the people living in different parts of the country. India tourism has become one of the major service sectors of the economy contributing large employment opportunities and getting huge foreign exchange earnings from other countries. However, based on the official statistics, the year 2019 saw a total of 10.89 million foreign tourist arrivals in India, which is an increase of 3.23 per cent compared to the previous year. The top five countries contributing to these arrivals were Bangladesh, United States, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. In terms of domestic tourism, India had over 1.8 billion domestic tourist visits in 2019, registering a growth of 3.6 per cent compared to the previous year.

Tourism in Tamil Nadu

In the development basis the Ministry of Tamil Nadu should focus on developing the tourism infrastructure by improving roads, railway stations, airports, Preservation of National heritage and environment. The government should leverage digital platforms to promote tourism by showcasing iconic sites, cultural festivals, and other attractions through social media. The top states that witnessed the highest number of domestic tourist visits were Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Tourism describes in the form of increase in the development of revenue from foreign exchange earnings, promoting infrastructural development, transportation facilities, employment generation, and quality environment both

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natural and man-made, these are all considered in form of socio-economic benefits. (B. Hyma, 1979)

Year -Wise Domestic Tourist Arrivals in Tamil Nadu during 2011-2022 (In No's)

Year	Domestic Tourist Arrivals
2011	137512991
2012	184136840
2013	244232487
2014	327555233
2015	333459047
2016	343812413
2017	345061140
2018	385909376
2019	494865257
2020	140651241
2021	115336719
2022	218580000

Source: Indian Tourism Statistics

The year wise Domestic tourist arrivals in Tamil Nadu have been shown in the table-1. The table shows the domestic tourist arrivals between the years of 2011 to 2022. The year wise data has been taken. From the observed table the data has been derived which show an upward movement, which means the domestic tourist arrivals has been increasing over the years. This means that there has been an average increase in the number of tourist arrivals. It shows that the number of tourist arrival has been increasing but has a tendency to increase at a diminishing rate. We can also find out that during the period of 2020 there has been a huge fall in the tourist arrivals. This can also be attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic which stunned the world economy. During this period there had been a world-wide lock down which restricted the tourist arrivals. It should also be noted that after this phase tourism started picking up its

phase and has been increasing at an increasing rate from 2021 to 2022. From this we can see that in further years, tourism will increase in the coming years.

Year -Wise Foreign Tourist's Arrivals in Tamil Nadu during 2011-2022 (In No's)

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals
2011	3373870
2012	3561740
2013	3990490
2014	4657630
2015	4684707
2016	4721978
2017	4860455
2018	6074345
2019	6866327
2020	1,228,323
2021	57622
2022	8590000

Source: Indian Tourism Statistics

Table-2 shows the total number of foreign tourist arrivals from the year 2011 to 2022. It can be seen that right from the year 2011 to 2019 there has been an increasing number of tourists to the state. But in the year 2020 it can be seen that there had been a sharp fall in tourist arrival to the state. This is assumed to be due to the Corona pandemic and lock down all over the world which resulted in the huge fall in the arrival of tourist in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, there was a huge fall in the tourists got stuck due to the world wide lock down. There could not be arrival of tourist after the year 2020. This was consistent in the year 2021 as also due to continuation of lockdown and wide spread mutation of the Corona virus. After the year 2021, there was a revival by the removal of lock down domestically and at the international level which has led to the increase in the tourist arrival in the year 2022. It can be seen from the above data that more tourists will arrive after this period as more vaccines have been invented so the movement will increase in the future.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism in the State of Tamil Nadu

Tourism has generated Rs.77591 crores of foreign exchange earnings in 2011 for the state of Tamil Nadu. Despite a slight decrease in foreign exchange earnings in 2020, is Rs.50136 crores. The negative growth rate in foreign exchange earnings from tourism in the year 2020 was caused by the effect of Covid-19. The percentage of foreign exchange earnings from tourism in year of 2011 is 25.5 per cent which increased from the year 2012-2019 but in the year 2020, foreign exchange earnings from tourism fell to -76.3 per cent. Afterwards it gradually changed in the year 2021 to -

29.8 per cent but fell drastically to -92.41 in the year 2022. Foreign tourist arrivals in India have decreased dramatically in the year due to spread of Covid-19 and results strict travel restrictions imposed by the government.

Tamil Nadu Tourism Prospects in Post Covid-19 Period

However, the covid pandemic had a significant impact on the tourist sector worldwide, and India was no exception. As per an estimate by the Ministry of Tourism, the total foreign tourist arrivals during the year 2020 were 2.86 million, which is a decline of 76.05 per cent compared to the previous year. Similarly, the domestic tourism market also suffered a blow due to the imposition of lockdowns and travel restrictions. The Ministry of Tourism estimated that the number of domestic tourist visits decreased by 72.63 per cent in 2020 compared to the previous year. To reassure travellers and ensure their safety, the government should enforce strict health and hygiene regulations in tourist destinations and hotels. Tourists are now required to follow standards such as social distancing, Wearing masks, and frequent sanitization. With social distancing policies in place, transport in India has become even more difficult. Many tourist areas have few transport choices, which adds to the inconvenience. Numerous travellers have been forced to reschedule their trips due to the pandemic. It has been challenging for travellers who were anticipating their vacation to India due to travel uncertainty and closures of tourist attractions (Zarezadeh, 2018). In the upcoming years, the tourism industry anticipates a revival in both domestic and foreign tourist's arrivals as India progressively works towards recovery and the relaxation of restrictions.

Conclusion

This paper has highlighted the growth of Tamil Nadu's tourism industry through domestic and foreign tourist arrivals. This paper has also looked into the current aspects of pre and post covid-19 tourists arrivals in Tamil Nadu. After the pandemic government had brought about health and safety protocols that have impacted the tourism industry. The pandemic has led to international border closures which have limited travel opportunities for foreign tourists. This has been a major concern for many tourists who had planned their trip to India well in advance. The government should focus on promoting domestic and foreign tourism by offering incentives and vaccines checks to domestic as well as foreign travellers and expanding the scope of domestic tourism.

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Secondary School Students in Traditional Crafts: Study of Jammu & Kashmir

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[The world is driven by technological advancements and modern career trajectories. Traditional knowledge is being ignored due to the rapid transition of knowledge and development, and less focus is to be given to traditional crafts. The purpose of this research paper was to investigate the Government Secondary School Students of Jammu division to check their interest in their forefathers' occupations (Traditional Crafts). Through the multistage sampling technique, 500 Secondary students from 50 Government Vocational Secondary Schools (10 students from each school randomly) were selected as a sample. The self-constructed semi-structured focused group interview schedule was used to collect the data from students. The Thematic analysis, Frequency count, and Percentage analysis, techniques were used to analyze the data. In the results, it was found that there were many local traditional skills inherited from their forefathers such as Metalwork and Brassware, Pottery, Traditional Medicine, Cobbler, Agriculture, Traditional Music and Dance, Apiculture, Local Dairy farm, Poultry farm, and tailoring, etc. but now the present generation was not interested to carry on those skills for a long time due to the various reasons. The main reasons were lack of training to transact the traditional knowledge to the youth, unstructured ways of practicing traditional knowledge, lack of transport facilities in far-flung areas, lack of experts, finance, and ignorance of skill development authorities. To remove these barriers, we must move towards the villages and should enhance and preserve the ancestral crafts by providing suitable remedies.]

Traditional crafts are those skills that are transferred from one generation to another in different communities. These crafts are very crucial for preserving the cultural heritage, and encouraging creativity and innovation while promoting sustainability and resilience (Howard, 2003). The traditional crafts oppose industrialization and prioritize handmade innovations (Adamson, 2019; Bell, Dacin & Toraldo, 2021). Traditional crafts are part of vocational education and NEP-1986 & NEP-2020 have given higher prominence to the programmes related to vocational education. The goal of the national education policies is to gradually integrate programs related to traditional skills in vocational education. Globalization has created many job prospects with the help of advanced

technology but it also has presented several obstacles to traditional occupations (Jain, P. 2013).

Jammu and Kashmir is well-known worldwide for its traditional handicrafts, and it also exports them. Ten thousand people work for themselves in this industry each year, while three lakh artisans get employment. Bamboo crafts, straw work, leather embroidery, silverware, metalware, pottery, Zari embroidery, wicker crafts, precious jewelry, etc. are the primary handicraft pursuits. By exporting the handicrafts, the government of J&K brings in Rs 1695.65 crore (Qadri, B., and Kasab, M. A. 2017). These skills must be implemented in youth but they are marginalised by several issues. The significant barrier to transferring cultural heritage knowledge to the next generations is the lack of training for traditional crafts, and research at professional institutes (Bilal, 2019). Government policies are difficult to implement due to the barrier of hills and unsuitable infrastructure (Monika Dey, 2018).

To check the interest of today's generation towards the local traditional skills is very important because youth

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is the future of our country. The youth between the age group of 15-24 comprised 18% of the total world's population out of 1.1 billion young people (World Bank, 2006). According to Textile Secretary of India, Mrs. Rashmi Verma, "We are finding that the younger generation is slowly getting disinterested in the handicraft sector and moving towards information technology, as the children of the weavers and artisans have become workers and laborers in the hands of traders or exporters" (The Economic Time, 2016). This section focuses on the younger generation, especially artisan children following the handicraft sector or they are not interested in this sector. The younger generations prefer to look for more profitable career options elsewhere and are unwilling to pursue and carry on these handicraft traditions (AIACA, 2017).

Objectives

1. To find out the interest of Government Secondary School students towards their forefather's occupation.

2. To find out the reasons for Government Secondary School students distract from their forefather's occupation.

Methodology

The present research study adopted the qualitative research method. The students of all the Vocational Government Secondary Schools of Jammu Division were considered as the population of the research study. Through the multistage sampling technique, 500 Secondary Students from 50 Government Vocational Secondary Schools (10 students from each school randomly) were selected as a sample. The self-constructed semi-structured focused group interview schedule was used to collect the data from students. Thematic analysis, Frequency count, and Percentage analysis techniques were used to analyze the data.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Interest of Government Secondary Students towards the Major Traditional Skills

Traditional Skill	The interest of the students N= 500			
	Yes		No	
	F	%	F	%
Traditional handicrafts	50	10	450	90
Metalwork and Brassware	63	12.6	437	87.4
Pottery	23	4.6	477	95.4
Traditional Medicine	80	16	420	84
Cobbler	12	2.4	488	97.6
Agriculture	240	48	260	52
Traditional Music and Dance	385	77	115	23
Apiculture	120	24	380	76
Local Dairy farm	105	21	395	79
Poultry farm	130	26	370	74
Tailoring	210	42	290	58

As per the representation of data given above in Table 1, the discussion of the interest of students in traditional skills is given below:

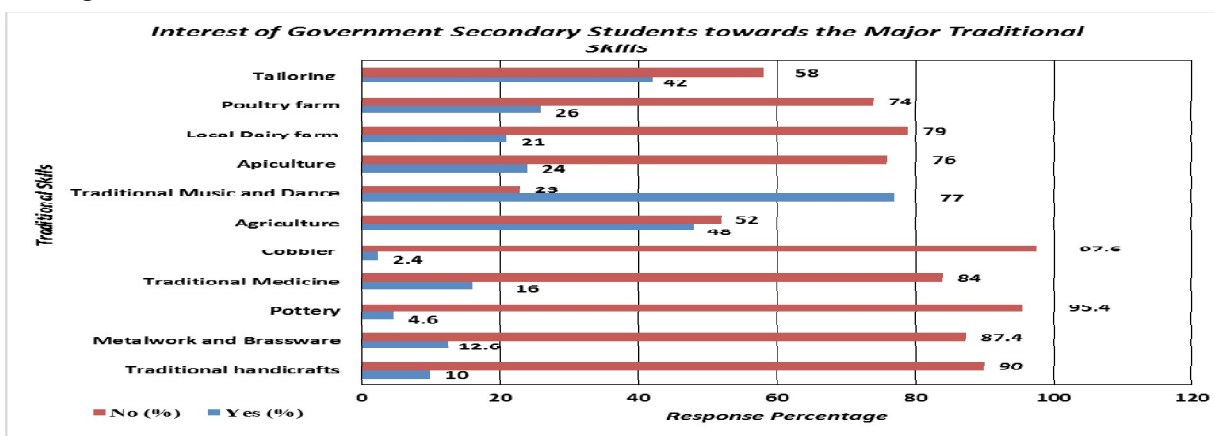


Figure 1. The interest of Government Secondary Students towards the Major Traditional Skills

Analysis of the Data and Discussion of Results

In Figure 1, it is shown that there were only 10% of students interested in traditional handicrafts, 90% were not interested, whereas 12.6% were interested in Metalwork & Brassware and 87.4% students were not interested. Similarly, it can be seen that there were only 4.60% of students were interested in pottery and 95.4% of students were not interested, whereas there were 16% of students were interested in Traditional Medicine and 84% of students were not interested. In the case of Cobbler skill, there was a very small number of students i.e., only 2.4% of students were interested towards the Shoes making and polishing and 97.6% of students were not interested. There were 48% of students interested in agriculture and 52% of students were not interested, similarly, in Traditional Music and Dance there were 77% of students were interested and 23% of students were not interested. In Apiculture skills, there were 24% of students were interested and 76% of students were not interested, whereas there were 21% of students interested in the Local dairy farm and 79% of students were not interested. If we talk about Poultry there were only 26% of students interested and 74% of students were not interested, similarly in Tailoring, there were 42% of students interested and 58% of students were not interested.

However, it can be observed that some students were interested in higher education so they were not interested in the traditional skills inherited by their forefathers. Further, some students were interested in moving towards new technologies and well-structured fields of employment because the traditional skills were not well structured and formal. Students said that the herbal medicines provided by locals, unauthorized and untrained ayurvedic were not trustable to use. Furthermore, students said that their parents did not have any proper training in modern techniques and required materials, and equipment for traditional skills such as beekeeping and rearing, running dairy farms, poultry farms, metalwork & brassware, and tailoring, etc. So, they were not able to earn sufficient money for their survival from those unstructured professions. One student said in his own words:

“Sir sabhi log agar padh likh karachhi nokri le rahe hein aur ham kyuunkejootay hi saafkrterahe, islye ham bhi padh likh Karachi nokri lena chahte hein islye ham apne papa ki tarahjootuwalakamnahikarskte”. (Student)

As per their statement, all people are going to school for education and getting good jobs, so why they would polish the shoes of others, they also want to educate them and earn money with reputed jobs. They felt that their parents were doing inferior jobs and linked with some particular sections of society, so they were not

interested in carrying on their parental occupation for the future.

Some students argued that their parents reared the cattle only for their survival and use without any proper professional care. They don't know how the proper feed, vaccine, and medicines should be used for the caretaking of animals. They only feed the grass stored in their locality but don't use any other inorganic food to improve the quality of milk or the health of animals. Furthermore, students also said that, if they rear the animals for milk production and selling, they are not able to go to markets to sell the milk due to their far-flung areas. They also said in their own words:

“1 ya 2 Cows kadoodhbechkarhmari family kijrooratpoorinahi ho saktiaurjaada cows rakhneaurkhreednekelyehmaray pas itna paisa nahihai, aurna hi hmaregaunmeindoodhbechnekelye koi market”. (Student)

This means one or two cows are not adequate for their family as an economic source and for rearing more cows they do have not any proper finance, and markets to sell the milk in villages due to the far-flung areas.

Suggestions

The traditional skills are the repository of Indigenous knowledge and the identity of our culture. They should be explored, preserved, and reshaped to mingle with contemporary knowledge of India. Traditional skills must be incorporated with mainstream education in a structured way so that we can use our local natural resources to generate the local economy with sustainable development. There are many skills, especially in rural areas which are feasible to earn money without any loss of environment and ecological system but they are marginalized. So, the stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, and community members, must collaborate to develop sustainable initiatives that balance the preservation of cultural heritage with the evolving aspirations of the youth. Local experts should facilitate some formal training, infrastructure, incentives, and awareness of government programmes and policies so that they can nourish and preserve our traditional skills.

Conclusion

The rich cultural heritage of the region, embedded in traditional crafts like traditional handicrafts, metalwork and brassware, pottery, traditional medicine, cobbler, agriculture, traditional music and dance, apiculture, local dairy farm, poultry farm, *Basohli* painting, tailoring, pashmina weaving, papiermache, and Dogra art, etc. has been a source of identity and pride for generations. However, as evidenced by our findings, there is a discernible shift in the interest of the youth away from these traditional crafts, signaling a crucial moment in the preservation of J&K's cultural heritage. As the youth show diminishing interest in ancestral

crafts, there is a real danger of losing not just the crafts themselves but also the associated cultural narratives, symbolism, and traditional knowledge, so there is a need to think over these things.

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Investor Decision-Making in India's Emerging Pipe Investment

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[India's investment landscape has witnessed a significant transformation in recent years, with Private Investment in Public Equity (PIPE) transactions emerging as a prominent avenue for raising capital. This research paper delves into the investor perspectives and decision-making processes within the context of PIPE transactions, with a specific focus on the burgeoning trend in India. The study explores the multifaceted factors that shape investors' choices in this dynamic financial landscape. These factors consist of Company Fundamentals, Growth Potential, Industry Trends and macroeconomic variables. Additionally, the paper examines the evolving Indian market conditions and regulatory framework that contribute to the attractiveness of PIPE investments. The study reveals that while investor type, Sensex, inflation of a country significantly determines the amount invested in PIPE, industry type and round of investment (preferential allotment and open market) exhibit no significant effect on funding amounts.]

India's economic environment has changed significantly in recent years, as seen by the emergence of innovative financial instruments and capital mobilisation tactics. Private Investment in Public Equity deals have distinguished themselves as a prominent driver of capital injection into Indian firms among these revolutionary movements. Companies can raise money through PIPE deals by selling shares to private investors directly. This strategy offers a number of different

benefits, including increased flexibility, cost effectiveness, and a lighter regulatory load, making it a more alluring option for businesses looking to finance growth, reorganisation, or other strategic activities. However, the factors that influence investor decisions in the realm of PIPE investments are multifaceted and intricately interwoven. The primary objective of this research paper is to shed light on these influential factors, with a particular focus on understanding how they impact the decision-making process, ultimately leading to varying investment amounts.

Review of Literature

The PIPE market is a major equity sale alternative for public corporations. It has outperformed traditional

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seasoned equity offerings (SEO) in dollar volume and transactions. Chen et al. (2010) and Haggard et al. (2009) found this tendency in the US, Canada, the U.K., and Australia. Lim et al. (2019) underline the PIPE market's importance for US-listed enterprises with market capitalizations under \$1 billion. Between 2001 and 2015, 11,296 privately placed issues totaled \$244 billion. These firms raised \$240 billion through seasoned stock issues within the same period. This highlights the growing use of PIPEs for obtaining equity capital by smaller and mid-sized public corporations. Companies use PIPEs to issue equity to save time or avoid the high expenses of large public offerings. It also allows firms to optimise governance structures and operational efficiency, improving management and value generation (Fontenay, 2019). If they have high information asymmetries and poor operating performance, firms may select PIPEs. Companies may use PIPEs to signal undervaluation by leveraging investor due diligence (Brown and Floros, 2012; Chen et al., 2010; Hertz and Smith, 1993). Private investment in public equities has attractive absolute returns and minimal correlation with quoted equity markets. It may outperform traditional investments due to this trait (Jain, 2011). Private placement accounts for a large share of equity financing worldwide. Private placements have become an essential fundraising option for enterprises seeking experienced equity capital.

Economic and financial literature states that choosing a company's funding mechanism is challenging and requires the issuer to evaluate many criteria. Studies examine the factors that influence private placement financing. Shukla and Prabu (2015) examine how firm-level and macroeconomic variables affect NIFTY 500 non-financial enterprises' private placement decisions from 2003-04 to 2014-15. These instruments are generally issued by larger companies with lesser development potential and a higher financial crisis risk. Importantly, the analysis shows that the macroeconomic situation strongly influences a firm's private placement decision. Jensen and Meckling (1976) examined debt and equity issuance factors. Myers (1977) also cited agency expenses as a major factor affecting issuing firms. Diamond (1991), Bharath et al. (2009), Myers and Majluf (1984), and Krishnaswami et al. (1999) have studied moral hazard and adverse selection as issuer choice factors, especially under information asymmetry. The regulatory environment also affects how corporations fund themselves, especially when issuing securities. Khanna and Varottil (2012) show how regulatory frameworks affect issuer decision-making. These factors influence the issuer's private placement funding decision.

Studies analyze investors' perspectives when investing in private equity placements in addition to the issuer's. Financial institutions' private equity placement issue prices effect investor decisions and firm valuation.

Recently, much research has been done to understand the complicated dynamics of this pricing phenomena. Bih Yun Kuo, Cheng-li Huang, and Wan-Hui Liao (2011) examined the many factors that affect private equity placement pricing. Their discovery that financial organizations with strong foreign ownership often command higher private placement pricing is intriguing. It also underlines how good firm governance and operating results boost placement value. It also stresses market dominance and suggests that organizations with more market power may be able to negotiate higher pricing. In the securities markets, private placement discounts also influence investor decisions. Jing Y and Bin X (2009)'s study is noteworthy. Their research explores the complicated dynamics of private placement discounts in China and underlines their importance to investor choice. The study emphasizes the importance of investigating this phenomenon in relation to investment identities and securities market quote dynamics and reveals that early owners receive a considerable discount when the same private placement stock is issued at different prices. The analysis also shows that private placement discounts are higher in bull markets than bear markets relative to securities market quotations.

These studies are predominantly focused on global or Western markets. While these studies offer valuable insights, they may not fully capture the nuances of the Indian PIPE landscape, which is marked by unique characteristics, regulatory dynamics, and investor sentiments. Therefore, there is a noticeable research gap when it comes to understanding investor decision-making in the context of India's growing PIPE investment trend. By providing a localised viewpoint and empirical insights, this study aims to add to the body of knowledge concerning investor decision-making in the Indian PIPE investment trend. Furthermore, the study gives insight on the evolution of PIPE investment acknowledging the historical development and changing dynamics of this financial mechanism in India.

Data and Methodology

Data for Private Investment in Public Equity was collected from Private Equity Deal Database of Venture Intelligence from July 2004 till December 2022. A list of 704 deals was extracted. The study comprises of several key variables that have been carefully chosen to unravel the intricate factors influencing investor choices as shown in table 1. The deal related data has been taken from venture intelligence whereas The second dataset for S&P BSE Sensex has been extracted from the BSE Website to investigate the association between the market performance and the deal value. The value of the index is the opening value of the Sensex for each month in which the investment is made. Additionally, data for specific variables was extracted from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) International Financial Statistics.

The missing data were handled using a complete-case approach, resulting in 685 observations with complete data. This sizable sample is considered representative of the entire population.

Table 1: Variable Description

Variable Type	Variable Name	Description
Dependent Variable	Amount (US\$M)	Amount invested in PIPE transaction expressed in millions of U.S. dollars
Independent Variable	Revenue Multiple (EV)	Revenue Multiple (EV) = Enterprise Value (EV)/total revenue.
	EBITDA	EBITDA stands for Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization.
	PAT	PAT stands for Profit after tax
	Industry Type	Dummy Variable labeled as 'BFSI' (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) representing the maximum investment category, while all other industry types labeled as 'Others'.
	Investor Type	Dummy Variable labeled as 'India-dedicated', while all other investor types labeled as 'Others'.
	Firm age	The age of the company has been calculated by taking the year in which the company was founded as per the database
	GDP	The GDP value for the quarter immediately preceding the month in which the investment is made.
	Sensex	The opening value of the Sensex for the month in which the investment is made serves as the index's value.
	Inflation rate	The inflation rate in the year in which the transaction took place has been taken.

The study takes into consideration three models for analysing the relationship between predictor and response variable. The models are explained as follows:

Model 1

$$\text{Log (Amount)} = 1.743 + 0.3128 \text{ Log(PAT)} + 0.0724 \text{ Log(Revenue)} - 0.1407 \text{ Log(Firm age)} + 0.121 \text{ Log(EBITDA)} \quad (1)$$

This Model explores how internal factors of the firm, specifically its profitability (measured by PAT), EBITDA, Revenue, and age, influence the dependent variable.

Model Summary

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Durbin-Watson
1	22.34%	21.85%	1.73763

a. Predictors: (Constant), Log(Revenue) + Log(EBITDA) + Log(PAT)+Log(Firm age)

b. Dependent Variable: Log Amount (INR Cr)

Model 2

$$\text{Log (Amount)} = 2.316 + 0.3324 \text{ Log(PAT)} + 0.1048 \text{ Log(Revenue)} - 0.1520 \text{ Log(Firm age)} + 0.000007 \text{ Sensex} - 0.1134 \text{ Inflation rate} \quad (2)$$

Model 2 builds upon Model 1 by incorporating a macro-economic factors like Sensex and Inflation rate. It examines how the firm-specific factors along with the broader market performance (Sensex) and Inflation rate influence the dependent variable.

Model Summary

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Durbin-Watson
2	26.90%	26.21%	1.84077

a. Predictors: (Constant), Log(Revenue) + Log(PAT)+Log(Firm age) + Log (EBITDA)+ Sensex, Inflation Rate

b. Dependent Variable: Log Amount (INR Cr)

Model 3

$$\text{Log (Amount)} = 1.595 + 0.3614 \text{ Log(PAT)} + 0.1141 \text{ Log(Revenue)} - 0.0622 \text{ Log(Firm age)} + 0.000016 \text{ Sensex} - 0.1072 \text{ Inflation rate} - 0.006 \text{ Other (industry type)} + 0.000 \text{ BFSI} + 0.845 \text{ other (investor type)} + 0.000 \text{ India-dedicated} + 0.167 \text{ Preferential allotment} + 0.000 \text{ Open market} \quad (3)$$

Model 3 is the most comprehensive, considering internal factors of the firm, macroeconomic indicators, and specific industry and investor characteristics. It explores how profitability, firm age, market performance (Sensex), inflation rate, industry affiliation, and investor type collectively influence the dependent variable. This model provides a holistic view, capturing a broader range of influences on the variable of interest.

Model Summary

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Durbin-Watson
3	33.73%	32.90%	1.85018

a. Predictors: (Constant), Log(Revenue) + Log(PAT)+Log(Firm age) + Industry Type + Investor Type + Round + Sensex + Inflation rate

b. Dependent Variable: Log Amount (INR Cr)

I. Findings and discussion

Table 2: findings of the multiple regression model

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Constant	1.743*** (5.20)	2.316*** (6.37)	1.595*** (4.04)
Log (PAT)	0.3128*** (3.70)	0.3324*** (4.04)	0.3614*** (5.68)
Log (Revenue)	0.0724 (0.80)	0.1048 (1.19)	0.1141* (1.65)
Log(Firm age)	-0.1407* (-1.72)	-0.1520* (-1.91)	-0.0622 (-0.80)
Log(EBITDA)	0.121 (1.20)	0.0918 (0.93)	-
Sensex	-	0.000007 (1.28)	0.000016*** (3.07)
Inflation rate	-	-0.1135*** (-5.66)	-0.1072*** (-5.51)
Industry (others)	-	-	-0.006 (-0.05)
Investor Type(others)	-	-	0.845*** (7.87)
RoundPreferential allotment	-	-	0.167 (1.55)
Adjusted R2	21.85%	26.21%	32.90%

Source: The authorsNotes: t-statistics for coefficients are in parentheses***, **, and * indicate $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.1$ respectively.

The F-Value of 36.06 and the associated P-Value of 0.000 indicate that the regression models are highly significant. This means that the independent variables in the model are collectively effective in explaining the variance in the dependent variable, and the relationship between the variables observed in the model is not due to random chance.

The model 1 in table 2 shows that one-unit increase in the natural logarithm of Profit After Tax is associated with a 0.3128 increase in the dependent variable and one-unit increase in the natural logarithm of Firm Age is associated with a decrease of 0.1407 in the dependent variable. Both Log (PAT) and firm age are significant but at 1% and 10% level of significance having p-values less than 0.01 and 0.1 respectively. On the other hand there is no significant effect of the natural logarithm of Revenue and EBITDA on the amount of investment in this model. This model explains approximately 21.85% of the variance in the dependent variable.

Model 2 incorporates macro-economic factors like Sensex and inflation rate in the study. Log (PAT) is correlated with a 0.3324 increase in the dependent variable for every unit growth. A one-unit increase in the natural logarithm of Revenue is associated with a 0.1048 increase in the dependent variable and 0.000007 for every unit increase

in the Sensex. On the other hand, the amount invested by investors in PIPE decreases by 0.1520 for every unit rise in the firm age and by 0.1135 for every unit rise in inflation rate. Log (PAT) and inflation rate are significant at 1% firm age is significant at 10% level. Other predictor variables in the study are not significant. This model explains approximately 26.21% of the variance in the dependent variable.

Model 3 extends the analysis by including categorical variables representing industry and investor type. The dependent variable increases by 0.3614 for every unit rise in the Profit After Tax and 0.1141 for every unit increase in the revenue. Under this model, the firm age variable is not significant. The amount invested in PIPE increases by 0.000016 for every unit increase in the Sensex and decreases by 0.1072 for a 1% increase in inflation rate. As far as the categorical variables are concerned, the study shows that investor type is significant in determining the amount invested in PIPE. However, industry type and round of investment (preferential allotment and open market) are found to have no significant effect in the determination of the funding amount in the PIPE. We can observe from this model that the macroeconomic variables PAT, Revenue of the Company, Sensex, inflation, and Type of Investor are statistically significant. This model explains approximately 32.90% of the variance in the dependent variable.

Conclusion

In the context of the emerging trend of Private Investment in Public Equity (PIPE) in India, this study delved deep into understanding investor decision-making processes. The robust regression models provided significant insights, highlighting the key factors shaping investor choices in this dynamic market. The study underscores the pivotal role of variables such as Profit After Tax (PAT), Firm Age, Revenue, Sensex, inflation rate, and investor type in influencing investment amounts. These findings not only contribute to academic research but also offer practical implications for investors, businesses, and policymakers.

To sum up, significant factors of the dependent variable are profitability, market performance, revenue, and investor type. The combined implications of these findings highlight the complex interaction of firm-level, macroeconomic, industry-specific, and investor-related factors in determining the amount of investment in PIPE.

While the study provides valuable insights, certain limitations must be acknowledged. The study did not explore qualitative aspects of investor decision-making, such as risk appetite or investor sentiment, which could provide a richer understanding of investor behavior. Furthermore, external factors like geopolitical events and global economic trends, which were not included in the analysis, might influence investor decisions. Future investigations in this field could focus on comparing the Indian PIPE market's investor decision-making procedures with those of other rising nations. Comparing and contrasting similarities and differences may reveal culturally unique influences on investing decisions. Furthermore, an analysis on how investor decisions are impacted by government policies and regulations can guide policymakers in creating conducive environments for investment.

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Evaluative Perspective on the Constitutional Legitimacy of Media Trials

Kritika Goswami Ahuja* & Prof. Dr. K.B. Asthana**

[The major goal of the research is to determine whether or not India's media trials are constitutional. The research project will discuss Article 19 of the Indian Constitution, which states that freedom of speech and expression, including freedom of the press, impairs the right to an adversarial legal system in place and also interferes with the accuser's rights to a fair trial, representation, privacy, and other rights. Furthermore, the paper intends to call attention to the negative effects of the media and how media trials undermine the efficiency of the legal system, potentially resulting in unfairness and distortion. Furthermore, the paper seeks to call attention to the negative effects of the media and how media trials undermine the efficiency of the legal system, potentially leading in unfairness and distortion. Furthermore, because of its enormous capacity to influence the public, the media must maintain neutrality in its reporting. The paper's ultimate goal is to develop a solution in which the media reports fairly and the court maintains the rule of law.]

Today's journalism is as deceptive as a fun house of mirrors at a fair. The media has a large impact on society all around the world and is mostly responsible for raising public awareness. Article 19(1)(a) of the constitution gives the news business significant authority, and various world leaders, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, have advocated for press freedom because they believe that media independence is the cornerstone of society. It is also important to note that several international treaties, like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, guarantee freedom of expression. The statements both ensure and preserve free expression and expression. The ability to practice freedom of speech and expression was not specifically provided to the media under Indian law. This is due to the belief that since people are allowed to freely express themselves, it makes sense that those who likewise have these rights make up the press. The media plays an important role in society since it is tasked with raising public understanding, safeguarding democracy, and keeping the government on its toes. Since the media has also served as a watchdog, holding public officials accountable, it is currently seen as the fourth pillar of democracy.

However, the unfortunate reality of today is that media outlets are controlled entirely by businesspeople or political parties. The concept of objective reporting has given way to increased ad revenue, which is only possible if the channel has a high TRP (Television Rating Point). Furthermore, because the media is not subject to strict regulations, it is impossible to prevent it from

disseminating false information. As a result of the media's evolution into a superpower that is blindly obeyed, its meddling has repeatedly hampered the legal system. As a result, the number of media trials has increased.

The term press trial or media trial refers to the broad impact that newspapers and television have on the image of the person being charged by creating an impression of innocence or culpability before or after the court's ruling. It is critical to emphasize that media trials have assumed the role of the court and have significantly questioned the courts' authority. Nowadays, the media serves as a "Janta ki Adalat," or public court, where the general public can access the court system and make decisions based on the scant information available.

The Media as a Barrier to Justice

A media-covered trial has negative consequences for both the accused and the victim. The media closely monitors every action, and through frequent dramatic coverage, viewers form an opinion about the accused's guilt or innocence. The majority of media trials are based on criminal cases; they are distinguished by impartial judgment, impartial administration, the need to protect justice, the independence of the judiciary, and, most importantly, the right to a fair trial. All of this is swept away in a media trial. Furthermore, it is a well-known legal principle that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, which means that the court provides each accused person with an opportunity to prove their innocence. Even if the accused is ultimately found not guilty, in a media trial, they are typically displayed to the public because the mainstream media views them as guilty.

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The media's focus on the well-known Arushi Talwar murder case hampered the investigation and resulted in tampered evidence. While the case was still pending in court, the parents were charged with the double murder. In this instance, the media violated the legal concepts of "guilty until proven innocent" and "guilt beyond a reasonable doubt" by obstructing the investigation. During their trial, the media publicly accused the Talwars of murder and vilified them. Such circumstances make it extremely difficult for judges to maintain their impartiality, and there is no way to demonstrate that he or she was not swayed by sensational news, potentially jeopardizing the case.

In media-led trials, the judiciary is reduced to being a passive observer because the media informs it rather than the judiciary informing it. Under the guise of press freedom, the media is made the scapegoat in spectacular media cases after obstructing justice, slandering one or more people, destroying numerous people's reputations, infringing on their right to privacy, and jeopardizing the conduct of a fair trial. Before the courts can rule, the media examines the criminal trial on behalf of the police, draws its own conclusions, and declares it to be the truth. The media must educate the public, hold government institutions accountable, and serve as a resource for the general public. It cannot perform organ functions on its own.

Constitutionality of Media Trial

The influence that media trials have on society will determine whether or not they are constitutional since press freedom and judicial independence are essential components of any system of government.

We have the right to freedom under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution. Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and transmit information and ideas of any kind, regardless of boundaries, whether orally, in writing, in print, through any form of art, or through any other media of one's choosing. Special obligations, responsibilities, and other people's rights and reputations are further factors that may apply to this. The Supreme Court of India has granted the freedom of the press the status of freedom under Article 19 even though, unlike the United States of America, it is not a distinct fundamental right in India.

The Supreme Court has acknowledged that in some circumstances, however, the use of the press, electronic media, social media, or any other kind of public agitation might be seen as going against the general rule of law and causing injustice.

Accused's Right to Privacy

When examining the relationship between media freedom to broadcast information and the right to privacy, there has always been a lot of debate over the relative importance of privacy vs. public interest. Although the right to privacy is not expressly incorporated in Indian law, it has earned constitutional validity, resulting in the passage of the Personal Data Protection Bill in 2019.

One item to consider is if the PDPB, which will shortly become India's privacy legislation, contains a provision to protect individuals from media invasions of their privacy.

Similarly, in *R. Rajagopal v. State of T. N.*,² the court ruled that the media has the freedom to participate in an unrestricted conversation regarding public figures' involvement in subjects and events. In any case, a proper balance between press freedom, the right to privacy, and continuous defamation in their private lives must be struck in order to safeguard the democratic way of life expressed in the Constitution.

Consequences of Media Trials

The media is considered as fourth pillar of the democracy. Whatever it shows makes an impact on the society. Therefore, it's the duty of media houses to be responsible in showing the content of news to its viewers. Following are some of the consequences of trials conducted by Media rooms:

1. **Impairs the Investigation:** Media hearings can impair the investigation of a case. one of the leading example is the widespread discussion of the Sushant Singh Rajput case resulted in the spread of various conspiratorial beliefs, diverting focus away from the real inquiry. The case's media coverage was also chastised for interfering with the inquiry and affecting the decision.
2. **Infringes on the Rights of the Accused:** Media investigations can also infringe on the rights of the accused. The media's portrayal of the accused in an unfavorable light and its influence on the public's perception before the trial in the Nirbhaya case was criticized. Such activities can breach a person's right to a fair trial and have an impact on the result of a case.
3. **Manipulation of Public Opinion:** Media outlets may have their own agendas or biases, and they can manipulate public opinion for various purposes, including ratings and financial gain. This can distort the public's understanding of the case.

4. Privacy Invasion: Media trials often involve the invasion of the privacy of the individuals involved, including victims, witnesses, and even defendants. This can have long-lasting psychological and emotional effects on those affected.
5. Vigilante Justice: In some cases, media trials can lead to public outrage and calls for vigilante justice. This can be dangerous, as it bypasses the legal system and can result in mob violence or other forms of extrajudicial punishment.

Judicial Response

The relationship between a crime and the public's perception of it has become increasingly important in shaping the legal system. According to a review of the research literature, the media has a significant impact on public policy development, and the press's coverage of crime stories helps to set the agenda and maintain support for punitive measures. To demonstrate this point, the following judicial responses are sufficient.

1. *Rhea Chakraborty and Sushant Singh Rajput Case: The death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput led to intense media scrutiny and speculation. Rhea Chakraborty, his girlfriend, faced media trial with extensive coverage and public opinion shaping. This case highlighted the power of the media in influencing public perception and even government actions.*²
2. The Hathras case: The Hathras case was another significant media proceeding. In this instance, an upper-caste male gang-raped and killed a Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh in 2020. The case was widely publicized, with news outlets reporting every aspect of it, including the investigation, the accused, and the alleged reason. Prior to the judge's decision, the media presented the case as though someone had been the victim of racial violence and that all people involved were guilty. The consequences of media trials can be severe for the accused, the public, and the court system as a whole. The impact of media trials on the accused, the public, and the legal system as a whole may be considerable. The representation of a case in the media can have an influence on the accused's right to a fair trial, which is a basic right guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Furthermore, media trials have the potential to destroy public faith in the court system and damage the country's democracy. *While media trials can serve as a means of holding the justice system accountable and raising important issues, they also pose challenges to the fair administration of justice. The impact of media on these cases varies, and it underscores the need*

for a balance between freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The most effective strategy to media regulation involves implementing higher fines and fixing existing gaps in media-related legislation. It is critical that the media not interfere with the administration of justice, and that courts maintain their independence in both civil and criminal proceedings. Media organizations should not have unfettered freedom of action. Furthermore, while the right to free expression is vital, it should not take precedence over the right to a fair trial. The right to a fair trial, although not a fundamental right, is a fundamental aspect of natural justice. In my view, an accused person's right to a fair trial takes precedence over freedom of speech and expression. While one person is fighting for their life and personal liberty in court, certain media channels should not exploit the situation for higher viewership. Such actions should be penalized to serve as deterrents against negative media influence on the public.

It is the responsibility of the legislature to protect the integrity of the judiciary and to prevent aggressive journalists from compromising the sanctity of the courts. The law must prohibit the media from swaying public opinion against the government or from deciding an individual's guilt. The media should not be allowed to negatively impact the public's opinion of the legal system. Such actions should not be protected under the banner of free speech and expression; instead, they should be punished severely. Legal frameworks must adapt, and media organizations must take responsibility. With tremendous power comes great responsibility, and journalists must follow ethical guidelines when reporting.

Finally, it is critical to use the power of media condemn to prevent media outlets from abusing the concept of a free press, thereby protecting a healthy democracy. Furthermore, the press should take greater responsibility in releasing information so that it does not jeopardize the integrity of the courts or other critical institutions. Failure to do so may result in a decline in public trust in the media.

Footnotes

1. AIR 1995 SC 264, (1994) 6 SCC 632 <https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/cases/r-rajagopal-v-state-of-t-n/>
2. *Rhea Chakraborty v. state of Bihar* Transfer Petition (Crl.) No.225 of 2020



Shift Work and Irregular Schedules: Study on Stress among TNSC Employees of Kumbakonam

Dr. B. Varadarajan* & M. Viji**

[This prospective analysis investigates the impact of such work schedules on the stress levels and overall work-life quality of Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSC) employees, focusing on the Kumbakonam region. The study is particularly relevant due to the ever-growing demands on TNSC to provide round-the-clock public transportation services. Shift work often disrupts circadian rhythms, leading to stress and a range of health issues, including sleep disturbances, metabolic disorders, and cardiovascular problems. Irregular schedules can also disrupt personal and family life, affecting overall quality of life. These findings emphasize the need for organizational strategies and support systems tailored to mitigate the stressors associated with different shifts, enhance employee well-being, and improve public transportation services in the Kumbakonam region.]

Shift work and irregular schedules have become integral components of the modern work environment across various industries, including public transportation. The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSC), responsible for the public transportation network in Tamil Nadu, India, operates round the clock to meet the ever-growing demands of the population. Consequently, TNSC personnel, including bus drivers and conductors, often find themselves working irregular hours, including early morning, late evening, and overnight shifts. This scheduling dynamic presents a unique set of challenges for these employees, ranging from sleep disruption and circadian rhythm disturbances to social and family life disruptions. While shift work and irregular schedules are necessary to ensure public transportation services are available 24/7, they can have profound consequences on the physical and psychological well-being of the workforce, potentially leading to increased stress levels.

Statement of the Problem

While the necessity of round-the-clock services is indisputable, the impact of such work schedules on the well-being of TNSC personnel, encompassing bus drivers and conductors, remains a critical issue that requires in-depth examination. The problem at hand pertains to the profound and often detrimental effects of shift work and irregular schedules on the stress levels of TNSC personnel, raising concerns regarding their physical and mental health, as well as the quality of public services provided. Shift work, characterized by non-standard hours, is a widely accepted component of various

industries, including public transportation. However, the TNSC, as a public service provider with a sprawling network that operates 24/7, poses unique challenges to its workforce in terms of maintaining regular and predictable work hours. Hence, in this study attempt to understand the effects of stress and irregular schedules on stress among the TNSC Employees in Kumbakonam region.

Research Objectives

- To investigate the relationship between different shift work patterns and stress levels among TNSC employees in Kumbakonam region.
- To examine the effects of irregular work schedules and quality of life among the TNSC employees in the mentioned study region.
- To suggest the suitable measures to reduce the problems related to shift work and irregular work schedules among TNSC employees.

Research Hypotheses

- There is no significant relationship between different shift work patterns and stress levels among TNSC employees in Kumbakonam region.
- There is no relationship between irregular work schedules and quality of work life among the TNSC employees in the mentioned study region.

Methodology and Research Design

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected through well structured questionnaire collected from TNSC Employees in the Kumbakonam region by applying multi-random sampling method. In Kumbakonam region TNSC depots, namely Pattukottai, Peravoorani, and Orathanadu, were selected as the study area. Mean, Standard Deviation, ANOVA, Multiple Linear Regression were used to analyse the data statistically.

Results and Discussions

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Table 1
Stress Assessment according to Shift Types

Shift Type	Mean Stress Level		Standard Deviation	
	Bus Driver	Bus Conductor	Bus Driver	Bus Conductor
Day Shift	24.38	19.59	7.9	6.3
Evening Shift	35.16	28.72	8.4	7.2
Night Shift	39.28	34.55	9.5	8.1

Source: Field Survey

The table 1 presents a clear distinction in stress assessment among TNSTC employees, specifically bus drivers and bus conductors, based on their respective shift types. The data illustrates that stress levels tend to vary significantly depending on the time of day these employees are assigned to work. Notably, bus drivers experience the lowest stress during the day shift, with a mean stress level of 24.38 and a standard deviation of 7.9, indicating relative consistency within this group. Moreover, it underscores the importance of considering the unique stressors associated with different shifts in workforce management and occupational health strategies.

Table 2
Quality of Life and Irregular Work Schedule

Hypothesis – 2 - There is no relationship between irregular work schedules and quality of work life among the TNSTC employees in the mentioned study region.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Descriptions	t- value	p- value
Intercept	18.291**	0.034
Increasing Stress Level	9.732*	0.003
Affect Health Issues	10.109**	0.017
Disturb Sleep Patterns	8.442*	0.000
Affect Family Happiness	5.713**	0.042
Limited Career Advancement	4.215**	0.015
Lack of Control	3.093*	0.001
R2	84.11	
Adjusted R2	82.63	
F – Value	34.903*	
p – Value	0.001	

Source: Field survey, *1% level of significance, **5% level of significance

The results presented in Table 5 following a multiple linear regression analysis challenge Hypothesis 2, which posits that there is no relationship between irregular work schedules and the quality of work life among TNSTC employees in the mentioned study region. The data reveals a compelling and statistically significant connection between irregular work schedules and several crucial facets of work life quality. Starting with the intercept, the t-value of 18.291** and a p-value of 0.034 indicate that even when no specific factor is considered, there's a significant influence of irregular work schedules on work life quality, highlighting the significance of this variable in the model. These results call for proactive measures and

interventions aimed at improving the work life quality of employees, particularly those facing irregular work schedules, to enhance their well-being and overall job satisfaction within the organization.

Suggestions

- ' The TNSTC should consider reviewing and optimizing shift schedules to minimize the impact of irregular work hours. Implementing shift patterns that align with the circadian rhythms of employees can help reduce stress levels.
- ' The organization should introduce stress management programs to provide employees with tools and strategies to cope with work-related stress. These programs could include counselling services and stress reduction workshops.
- ' Given the prevalence of health issues, especially among bus drivers, the TNSTC should invest in healthcare initiatives. Regular health check-ups, fitness programs, and health insurance can help employees address health concerns.

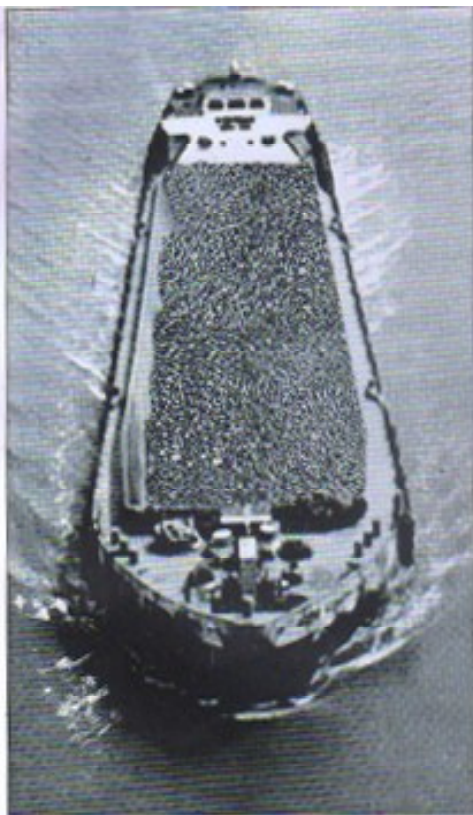
Conclusion

To sum up, this prospective analysis has provided critical insights into the impact of shift work and irregular schedules on the stress levels and overall quality of work life among TNSTC employees in the Kumbakonam region. These findings underscore the need for organizational strategies and policies to enhance the well-being of TNSTC employees and improve the overall quality of public transportation services. Such initiatives may include optimized shift schedules, stress management programs, healthcare and wellness support, family-focused policies, career development opportunities, and employee empowerment.

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यानी भूकंप से निपटने की तैयारी



झुको, ढको, पकड़ो



जैसे ही भूकंप के झटके लगें :

- फौरन किसी खुले स्थान की ओर दौड़ें
- यदि यह संभव न हो तो तुरन्त झुक कर अपने डेस्क या मेज के नीचे धले जाएँ
- अपने सिर को किसी मज़बूत चीज़ या अपने बस्ते से बचाएँ
- दौड़ कर किसी कोने में खड़े होकर अपने आप को बचाएँ

 **राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण** 
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