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PERCEPTION AND UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES (SNS) AMONG THE POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF TRIPURA UNIVERSITY: A SURVEY

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Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate the use of social networking sites among the postgraduate students of Tripura University. In the context of today's electronic media, data was collected using a Google form scale questionnaire. A number of 300 postgraduate students were randomly selected. The response rate was 51.66 per cent. The study found that all the students were aware of social networking sites and majority of them used these sites for friendly communication. The findings revealed that majority (84.51%) of the respondents used WhatsApp for the purposes of Social Networking sites, followed by Facebook (70.33%) and YouTube (65.80%). Majority of the students used Smart phone or Mobile Devices to use Social Networking Sites.

Keywords: Devices, Time, Satisfaction, SNSs, Location, Purpose

Introduction

Advancement in ICT and correspondence innovations has expanded significantly more in the 21st century. A long range relational correspondence site page is an online spot where a customer can make a profile and assemble an individual framework that interfaces the individual being referred to various customers. People watch billion of video clipson YouTube step by step. Reliably, customers exchange video content people have frameworks into their step by step

plans, using Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, LinkedIn, web gaming circumstances and diverse gadgets. The development of web based life over recent years has drastically changed the manners by which the web is experienced by most end clients. Social media is built on the idea of how people know and interact with each other (**Raut, Vishranti & Patil, Prafulla, 2016**). The term Web 2.0 was coined by O'Reilly Media in 2004 and refers to web applications, which provide for online collaboration, participation,

social networking and Social networking sites are profile based websites. Social media like WhatsApp, Facebook, Blogs, Twitter, My Space and LinkedIn are used for the purpose of communication, sharing photos, videos as well as documents. Nowadays the users of social media socialize through the internet and socializing through face to face interaction and verbal communication has become less important. Social networking websites have affected our social interaction by changing the way we interact face-to-face, how we receive information and the dynamics of our social groups and friendships (Asur & Huberman, 2010). Social networking sites provide various interactive platforms based on the intentions of their founders. There are for instance, social, political, academic, businesses, sports, romantic and religious platforms. In other words, the social networking site by their nature has the capabilities of educating, informing, entertaining and inflaming the audience (Omekwu *et. al* 2014). Keenan and Shiri (2009) have examined four social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn and Twitter) from a users' perspective and found that the social networking sites use a number of different approaches to encourage sociability amongst their users. While facebook promotes privacy representing 'real world' networks in a Web environment, while MySpace promotes publicity and representing both real world and virtual networks in a Web environment. LinkedIn and Twitter focus on more specific aspects of community and technology, respectively. As the use of Social Networking Sites has been increasing among the students, these paper attempts to find out the different social networking sites use by the students, the time spend by the students for social networking sites and to know the purpose and significance use of social networking sites.

Methodology

The present study was conducted among the Post Graduate Students of Tripura University. A structured questionnaire consisted of six parts viz, background information, types of Social Networking Sites (SNS), Devices used for Social Networking Sites, time spend on Social Networking Sites, purpose and effects of SNS was self designed. The questionnaire was sent to 300 students through email. Out of 300 questionnaires, 155 filled in questionnaires was received back. The response rate was 51.66 per cent. The numbers of students who have sent the filled in questionnaire were 65 boys and 90 girls. The data was analyzed using frequency and percentage.

Results and discussion

The findings of the present study as well as the relevant discussion have been presented under the following heads:

Demographic characteristics of the respondents:

In the present study, it was found that majority (85.16 %) of the respondents were from the age group of 21 to 25 years, followed by the age group of 18-20 (7.09 %) and 26-29 (4.51%). The lowest responded rate (3.22 %) was from the age group of 30 years and above. It was also found that most (64.51%) of the respondents were studying in first year of Post Graduate and the rest (35.49 %) were in Second year of their Post Graduation. It can also be noted that all (100%) the Post Graduates owned Smart Phones and 22.58 per cent of the students owned Laptop. Few of them (7.09 %) owned PC and Tablet.

Different Social Networking Sites used by the students:

Use of Social Networking Sites:

It was evident from the results (Table 1) that all the Post Graduate students had accessed to Social Networking Sites. The results further revealed that majority (84.51%) of the

students used Whatsapp as social networking sites followed by Face book (70.33%) and YouTube (65.80%) and few numbers (35.48%) of the students used Instagram. The students reported that they preferred these sites as these sites are faster and they could have easy communication with their friends and others and also could share information regarding their studies within a short time. The results also showed that majority (72.25 %) of the students who used social networking sites at Home which is followed by 21.29 per cent of the students who used social networking sites at their hostel/room and least number (7.74 %) used SNS in the classroom. This may be due to the reason that majority of the students are going college from Home and only few students are staying at hostel and as they hardly gets chance to access internet during college hours so, majority of the students used internet more at home.

Table 1

Distribution of respondents according to the use of Social Networking Sites

Sl. No.	Aspects	N= 155	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Used of Social Networking Sites	155	100
2	Types of Social Networking sites used by the students	109	70.33
	Facebook	131	84.51
	Watsapp	102	65.80
	Youtube	55	35.48
	Instagram	11	7.09
	Other	0	0
	Telegram	0	0
3	Location for use of Social Networking Sites	112	72.25
	Home	33	21.29
	Hostel/Room	0	0
	Library	12	7.74
	Classroom	5	3.22
	Others		

Time used for Social Networking Sites

The data presented in Table 2 depicts that majority (83.87%) of the students used Social Networking Sites daily, and few numbers (14.19%) of the students used social networking sites twice or thrice in a week and the least numbers (1.94%) used fortnightly. This may be due to which most of the students used the SNSs to communicate with their friends and others. It was also evident from the data (Table 2) that majority (73.55%) of the students spent their time in Social Networking Sites for more than 3 hrs, followed by 14.19 per cent for 2 to 3 hours. Some (7.10%) of the students spent their time in Social Networking Sites for 1 to 2 hours, and the least number (2.58%) spent their time in Social Networking Sites for 10 to 30 minutes and 30-60 minutes respectively. The findings can be supported by the study of **Manjunatha S. (2013)** who found that 80 per cent of the students spent significant amount of time on using SNS regularly

Table 2

Distribution of respondents according to time used for Social Networking Sites

Sl. No.	Duration	n= 155	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	How often do you used Social Networking Sites	130	83.87
	Daily	22	14.19
	Twice or thrice in a week	3	1.94
	Fortnightly	-	-
	Monthly	-	-
2	Time spent on Social Networking Sites per week	4	2.58
	10-30 minutes	4	2.58
	30-60 minutes	11	7.10
	1-2 hours	22	14.19
	2-3 hours	114	73.55
	More than 3 hours		

Purpose of using Social Networking Sites

The purpose of using social networking sites is shown in table 3. It is clear from the table that 78.70 per cent of the students used social networking sites for the purpose of keeping in touch with their friends and 68.39 per cent of the students use social networking sites to share information regarding their studies. Some of the students (35.48%) reported that they used social networking sites to meet new friend and to keep in touch with their family. The students (29.03 %) also used it just for fun and entertainment and few numbers (14.83%) of the students used social networking sites to be “in” because it’s popular these days. The findings is consistent with the study of **Munshi *et.al* (2018)** who found that majority of the students used SNSs for communicating and interacting with their friends circle and also for academic purposes.

Table 3

Distribution of respondents according to the purpose of using Social Networking Sites

Purpose	n= 155	
	Frequency	Percentage
Keeping in touch with family	55	35.48
Keeping in touch with friends	122	78.70
To meet new people	55	35.48
Just for fun and entertainment	45	29.03
To be “in” because it’s popular these days	23	14.83
To share information regarding their studies	106	68.39

Satisfaction level by using Social Networking Sites

Satisfaction attained by using Social Networking Sites by the students has been shown in Table 4. Majority (41.93%) of the students opined the used of SNS as ‘good’ and ‘average’ (29.03) followed by 21.94 per cent of students who opined as ‘excellent’ by using SNS. Few students (7.10%) also graded their satisfaction level as ‘Very Good’ by using Social Networking Sites. As a student, SNSs plays a vital role in supporting their studies. Thus, the students’ satisfaction level were in good to excellent. The satisfaction level of the students who does not access much to SNSs opined the used of SNSs as ‘average’.

Table 4

Distribution of respondents according to their satisfaction level by using Social Networking Sites

Satisfaction level	n= 155	
	Frequency	Percentage
Excellent	34	21.94
Very Good	11	7.10
Good	65	41.93
Average	45	29.03
Poor	0	0

Conclusion

From the present study it can be concluded that all the students accessed to Social Networking Sites and majority of the students who were using SNS were from the age group of 21 to 15 years old. Every student owned a smart phone and among all the social networking sites, the most commonly used and preferred one were Whatsapp and Facebook. Majority of the students used these sitesto keep in touch with their friends, to share information regarding their studies daily.

The students spent more than 3 hours in a week in using Social Networking Sites. However it was difficult for most of the students to calculate the exact time spent in SNSs as they continuously get connected to internet through Mobile Phone. The Social Networking Sites assist the students in numerous way and they opined the used of SNSs as good.

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GANDHIJI'S TEACHING EXPERIMENTS AT SEVAGRAM ASHRAM, WARDHA

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Abstract

Before independence, command of education was in the hands of foreign government. The education they were providing at that time to the Indians was not appropriate to cater the need of Indian society. At that time Gandhiji was not satisfied with the prevailing condition of education that encourages rote learning and create discrimination among people of India on the basis of manual work and intellectual work. Gandhiji believed that this type of education was producing literate people but they are not educated. They cannot use the acquired knowledge for the betterment of society and nation. Therefore, he decided to introduce NaiTalim as the method of imparting education which is also known as basic education. Gandhiji believed that there is no other teacher than Mother Nature and therefore, education should not be given in the four walls of the classroom rather it should be done in the direct contact with nature. In this, students are taught in the lap of Mother Nature. He gave emphasis on manual work or skill development as he believed inkinaesthetic activities lead to the intellectual development. He also believed that more the senses involved in learning more will be the output of learning and this type of knowledge last long. In this, students are assigned some kinaesthetic activities for the concerned concept of the curriculum. He did various experiments at Sevagram ashram, Wardha like education of botany in the forest, cooking, economics and balanced diet through community kitchen, use of story for emotional development and imagination, use of music for cooperative learning and introduction of mathematics by construction work are some of the experiments by which students are taught in the ashram. In this paper we will discuss about different experiments of Gandhiji at Wardha ashram to empower the children.

Keywords: Basic education, Naitalim and kinesthetic work.

INTRODUCTION

We are living in 21st century and it demands some new skills in the students to address the demand of this changing world. We know that our country is not performing well at global level. In many international examinations our country secured unsatisfactory positions. One of the reason for this may be the present education system in which children have to study in the boundary of four wall only. We have numerous ways in which content of book can be connected with the real life work. But most of the schools discourage it. It indicates we need to make our children educate rather than literate. Today’s education system producing literate person who have degrees but don’t have knowledge of that field. For example we are preparing civil engineers but they are not able to make a building, electrical engineers are not able to repair the fuse at home, a student of economics is not able to make their home expenditure economic. So, these are some examples that encourage us to create a teaching methodology by which we can give some meaningful experiences to the students and “skill for life”. But can you tell me which method we need today? Do we need to create new method? Do we need a great resources for this? Do we need great minds for it? I think no. our national father and some great minds of our country already have given such method but we are ignoring that i.e. *basic education*.

Mahatma Gandhiji was the proponent of basic education and he gave emphasis over the skills and manual work. Gandhiji worked on basic education and he took help of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore (the Nobel laureate). Both of them were the believer of naturalism they thought that education should be given to the children in the lap of the Mother Nature as nature is the best teacher. In the pre-independence era when Britishers were ruling our nation and also our education system, Gandhiji realised that education provided by Britishers was not good and appropriate

enough for Indians. We need to train Indian students in some skills. And then he decide to give skill oriented education to the Indians. Which is popularly known as Basic education. Sevagram Ashram, Wardha was the centre for it. Where students were taught with very interesting methods in the direct contact of nature. Gandhiji believed that involvement of maximum senses in an activity leads to the growth of our brain. As emphasised by Avinashilingam T.S. (1960) “Psychologically, it is desirable, because it relieves the child from the tyranny of a purely academic and theoretical instruction against which its active nature is always making a healthy protest. It balances the intellectual and practical elements of experience, and may be made an instrument of educating the body and mind in coordination. The child acquires not the superficial literacy which implies, often without warrant, a capacity to read the printed page, but the far more important capacity of using hand and intelligence for some constructive purpose. This, if we may be permitted to use the education, is the literacy of the whole personality.” So, herewe will discuss some of the teaching techniques and examples of teaching in the Sevagram Ashram, Wardha.

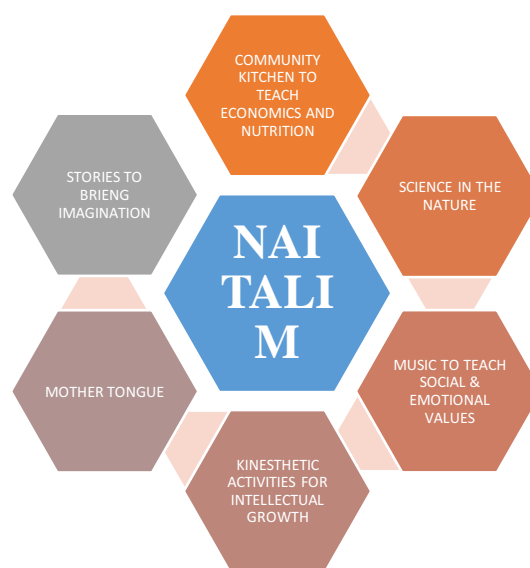


Figure.1: Components of Teaching at Wardha Ashram

1. Science teaching

Science is nothing but the nature. We can learn science from nature directly. In the Sevagram ashram, Wardha pupil were taught various disciplines of science through nature. The principle behind it is when we learn in such way it will last long. For example a teacher in ashram was teaching botany. He set on the tree and describe about plants. Pupils were instructed to arrange different leaves of different plants to understand structure of leaf. For this, students prepare a herbarium. Similarly students collect different types of fruit and compare their internal structure. For example mango, banana, apple, orange, all are fruits but their structure are different. So, by this students come to know the structure as well as the taste also that cannot be forgotten in the future. Another example is students make group of the plants according to the plant height and strength of the stem and classify plants into trees, herbs and shrubs. In the ashram students learn botany by visiting a near garden or forest. Teacher in the ashram tried to introduce the plants with their common name and then provide the scientific name. As we know when we learn anything in our local language it is quite easy. So, students prepare the list having two names of each plants. In the ashram botany was taught by the teacher in this interesting way with the nature where students can touch, feel and taste the plants.

2. Agricultural practices

We know India is the agricultural economy and therefore, development in this sector is very important. To teach the students and to bring their interest in this field Sevagram ashram used a wonderful method. In this each student is allotted a piece of land over which they have to grow the crop. They were instructed to use organic manure for the growth of the crop but many a time it happens that they need chemical fertilizer also. For the use of chemical fertilizer they have to meet

the farmers and also study about the specific fertilizer for the specific crop. By doing this, they know about agricultural practices like ploughing, weeding, threshing, use of fertilizer and manure, amount of water needed and texture and preparation of the soil. By studying the above discussed component students become perfect in agriculture and they can select farming as their profession in the future or become agricultural scientist also. This method is important from the point of view of giving respect to the farmers who cultivate crops for the whole nation. So, Wardha ashram did wonderful experiment to teach agricultural practices to the students.

3. Teaching of mathematics

Wardha ashram made mathematics a live subject. Normally students learn mathematics at normal school but when they have to apply the acquired knowledge they get fail to use it. They learn about area of different shapes but are unable to calculate the area of their own house and number of tiles will be required for the floor. Similarly, the volume of the water tank at their home and time required for the particular motor to fill it. Or we can understand it with the example of basketball player who uses trial and error method or using mathematics to find relation between height, angle and energy which make it easy. So, these are some examples of the present day teaching who produces only parrots. But basic education can help to get rid of this problem where students in the Wardha ashram were given live project to complete. As one of the student of ashram Dr. Bang shared his experience that his mathematics teacher gave the task of cowshed where a new cowshed is under construction. He had to find amount of water a cow drinks a day. How much water will be needed for all the cows in cowshed? Then construct the water tank with the capacity to satisfy the thirst of the cows. Find out how many bricks will be needed and bring that many

bricks from the market. By this problem student was able to learn real life application of volume, area, and economics also.

4. Community kitchen

In the ashram students had their meal at the community kitchen where group of students are allotted for the particular days to arrange the food in the kitchen. Students need to cook the food by themselves for all but before doing this they need to understand the ratio of nutrition and economy. They need to buy food items having high nutrition value with low price and then make the tasty food. This exercise helped students to understand the real meaning of balanced diet, economics and the art of cooking. This exercise is also useful to know nutrition component in the vegetables and other food items.

5. Story telling

Gandhiji focused on story telling as a method of teaching. Gandhiji always said that stories should be simple, live, and in mother tongue. Stories used for the teaching should have action, and bring imagination of children. Stories should have some messages. Then only stories have some meaning in teaching. If students accept the message of story passively it means it is difficult for him to make meaning from it. Therefore, teacher should select a story from the context of student, and present it in mother tongue.

7. Use of music

Gandhiji believed that music has direct impact on our mind and therefore he believed in bhajan. In the ashram students life start with the bhajan at each day. He never said that singing should be done alone rather singing should be done in group i.e. chorus. Chorus singing is the method to integrate social and emotional value in a community environment. We can say that it is the way of cooperative learning.

8. Handicraft

Gandhiji was the strong believer of manual work. He gave importance to the manual work in the education of the child. He believed that kinaesthetic activities help in the quickening of intelligence and therefore can be used for the intellectual growth of the children. In the Wardha Ashram he implemented skill development and manual work like spinning and craft work.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Gandhiji was on to train the manpower of our country as that time there were discrimination among people on the type of work they do i.e. manual work or intellectual work. Gandhiji wanted to give emphasis on manual work to give respect to it and he took the help of introduction of basic education as a teaching method. He believed that this method is important to make people of India a responsible citizen who can take decision about their rights and problems. But at today Sevagram ashram, Wardha is just like a visiting place and museum. We need to find the reason behind its failure. I think the success of basic education lie in the two points. Whatever productive work we are selecting for students should have high possibilities of educational experiences and productive work should be oriented around school curriculum.

CONCLUSION

By looking into the method of imparting education at Sevagram Ashram, Wardha we can say that Gandhiji was not only a spiritual kind of person who devote his life for peace but also he had a broad vision on scientific method of imparting education. He always encouraged students to draw conclusion from their own work. For this basic education have tremendous opportunities to the children for learning through manual work. Other than this he laid emphasis on music, story, craftwork and use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction. Gandhiji had

the wonderful vision and today we need this teaching method to address the demand of this changing world. I hope the world would be inspired from this method and integrate it with the curriculum for the betterment of the students and world as well.

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BLOW-BY-BLOW INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS OF CORONA VIRUS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Coronaviruses are a large family of single-stranded RNA viruses that cause diseases in animals and humans. Broadly, corona viruses (CoV) are the largest group of viruses that belong to the Nidovirales order, which includes Coronaviruses among three others. Coronaviruses are one of the two subfamilies of Coronaviridae, with the other being Torovirinae. Coronavirinae can be further subdivided into alpha, beta, gamma and delta coronaviruses. These viruses are named so because of spikes found on their surface that give them the appearance of a crown when looked through an electron microscope. The first coronavirus was isolated in 1937 and it was the infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) that caused respiratory disease in chickens. Corona virus is generally found in animals. According to experts this virus came from bats, initially a single person was infected then spreading of this virus started human to human and a chain is created. On 1st January 2020 Chinese government shutdown the market completely. When Chinese scientists study the genetic code of this virus which is present inside this virus it was similar with Bats genetic code. So they said this virus came from bat. This virus is transmitted as commonly and rapidly as the virus causing the common cold (rhinovirus). The symptoms of COVID 19 bear close resemblance with cold or flu, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

Keywords: Coronaviruses, Covid-19, Pandemic, Symptoms, India, Lessons, Labours, Women.

1. INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the present 'novel coronavirus' crisis can be traced to Wuhan, a city in China where the virus originated and soon spread across the country as people moved from one part of the country to another. The response of the

Chinese government ranged from denial and hiding the information, to eventual lockdowns, curfews and ramping up their healthcare to treat the patients. Gradually, it spread globally to almost all the countries with varied responses of the respective national governments. In the case of India, the country is at a critical

juncture presently where there is a massive scare of possible deadly effects of coronavirus, if we are not able to limit its spread.

At this critical juncture, when we are at the mercy of a microscopic biological agent, solidarity, awareness and preparedness are the pressing needs of the hour. Although ‘social distancing’ is the buzzword, the world is now closer and more connected than ever before. Tackling COVID-19 needs a warlike response against a common enemy. Doctors and nurses have turned into soldiers overnight. Political leaders are preoccupied with planning and strategizing against the enemy. But most importantly, the role people play will be immense in defeating this enemy.

Important terms related to this Virus-

1. **COVID-19:** A new type of coronavirus known as COVID-19. The technical term of the virus is SARS-CoV-2
2. **Coronavirus:** Coronavirus is actually a family of virus which already exists in the world and is known to cause diseases in humans. The entire family of coronaviruses is called Coronaviridae and some of them also cause minor diseases, such as common cold.
3. **Incubation period:** Incubation period refers to the time period required for the virus to develop symptoms in the body. In simpler terms, it is the time period between contracting a virus and emergence of its symptoms. The incubation period of COVID-19 is somewhere between 2-14 days.
4. **Pandemic:** A disease is termed as a pandemic when it spreads all over the globe and in most countries of the world. COVID-19 was declared as a pandemic by WHO (World Health Organization) after its spread was confirmed in more than 100 countries.
5. **Community spread:** Community spread refers to a process when the virus starts spreading in the general masses.

Community spread is detected when a confirmed case of the virus is found without having a known origin. It happens when a person without any travel history or interaction with any infected person contracts the virus.

6. **Quarantine and isolation:** It refers to the form of precaution of isolating yourself in case you detect symptoms or have returned from a trip abroad. While isolation is when someone who has been tested positive for COVID-19 is separated from other people in order to stop the spread of the virus.
7. **Comorbidity:** It refers to a medical condition, in which a person has more than one disease at the same time. Cases of comorbidity have a higher risk of turning sensitive in case of COVID-19. For example, if someone has high blood pressure and is also diabetic, they have comorbidities and have a higher risk of developing complications.
8. **Social distancing:** Everyone is talking about social distancing currently and how it can prevent the spread of the disease. It basically means keeping a safe distance of about three to six feet from others. This distance will not only prevent you from contracting any kind of infection but will also break the chain of the disease.
9. **Flattening the curve:** Flattening the curve simply means slowing down the rate at which the disease is spreading. It can only be done by taking necessary precautions, practicing hand hygiene and maintaining social distancing.

2. ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to the more severe diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) and the current COVID-19. These viruses consist of a core of genetic material surrounded by an envelope with protein spikes, which gives it an appearance of a

crowns. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are “transmitted from animals to humans.” In the current outbreak, it was found by the scientists that this Coronavirus was a new strain. Thus, it was named ‘novel’ or new Corona with the appellation of ‘n-Corona’. It was later renamed as SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, owing its similarities in genome structure with that of SARS virus. The SARS-CoV-2 is believed to have taken the following sequence- It originated from bats, and then transmitted to pangolins to humans. The sequence is yet to be confirmed. Until the source of this virus is identified and controlled, there is a risk of reintroduction of the virus in the human population and the risk of new outbreaks like the ones we are currently experiencing. It was the wet markets (selling live meat, fish, reptiles and wild animals) in Wuhan, where the virus It was believed to have spawned, precisely the Wuhan Seafood Wholesale Market. The problem with these Chinese wet markets was that all sorts of animals, ranging from fowl to wild animals, were sold there for their meat (for example monkeys, python, dogs, hares and pangolin etc.) without due care of hygiene. Previously, On rare occasions, a coronavirus may spread through contact with faeces. In these wet markets,

Which Coronaviruses affect Humans:

- While there are hundreds of coronaviruses that cause diseases in animals such as pigs, camels, bats and cats, till date seven different types of coronaviruses have been identified that infect humans.
- In the last two decades, more aggressive coronaviruses have emerged that are capable of causing serious illness and even death in humans. These include SARS-CoV, MERS and now SARS-CoV-2.

- In 1965, scientists DJ Tyrrell and ML Bynoe were the first ones to identify a human coronavirus,
- Seven types that infect humans: Includes two alpha coronaviruses (229E and NL63) and four beta coronaviruses (OC43, HKU1, MERS and SARS-CoV).

Table 1

Name of coronaviruses	Human first identified In
229E	Discovered in 1967
NL63 and HKU1	First identified in the Netherlands in 2004
SARS-CoV	2003 in China.
MERS	2012 in Saudi Arabia (transmitted by dromedary camels).
SARS-CoV-2	2019 in Wuhan.

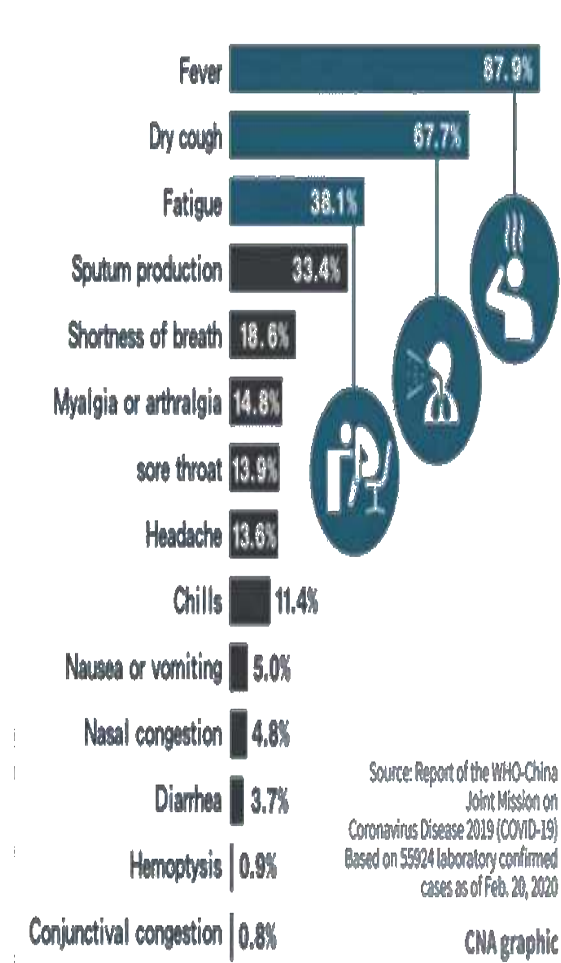
Mode of transmission: It is believed that the virus was transmitted to humans through the fluid secreted from the respiratory system of the wild animals. Further, it spread from humans to humans while coughing and sneezing, shaking of hands, making contact with a surface or object that has the virus etc.

Spread: The Incubation Period (the time between catching the virus and the beginning of symptoms of the disease) for COVID-19 range from 1-14 days, with the median incubation period of just over five days. The R₀ (pronounced R-nought) (average number of people who will catch the disease from one contagious person) of the virus is estimated to be between 2 and 3, and the mortality rate is of around 3% but the rate varies and is amenable to change due to different factors such as spread in different locations, response mechanisms and age profile of the infected.

Prevention: Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and water or

alcohol-based hand rub. Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze. Avoid close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with people who are unwell. Stay home and self-isolate from others in the household if you feel unwell. Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Symptoms of infection by COVID-19:



CORONA-VIRUS VACCINE -

Some of the initiatives taken towards this are-

- The Oxford University vaccine, known as ChAdOx1, is in developing vaccine around the world.
- US biotech Moderna gave its first vaccine shot to a person in Seattle earlier this week.

- In Germany, CureVac is working on a vaccine, while others are in development in China.
- SANOFI and GSK To Develop Adjuvant Vaccine: An adjuvant is an ingredient used in some vaccines that helps create stronger immune response in people receiving vaccine. About Recombinant DNA technology this involves creation of the Recombinant DNA. It relates to usage of three main tools:

Enzymes: It will help cut (restriction enzymes), synthesize (polymerases), and bind (ligases) DNA

Vectors: Considered as final vehicles that carry genes of interest into host organism.

Host organism: cell in which recombinant DNA is introduced. To date, host organisms include bacteria, fungi, and animal cells.

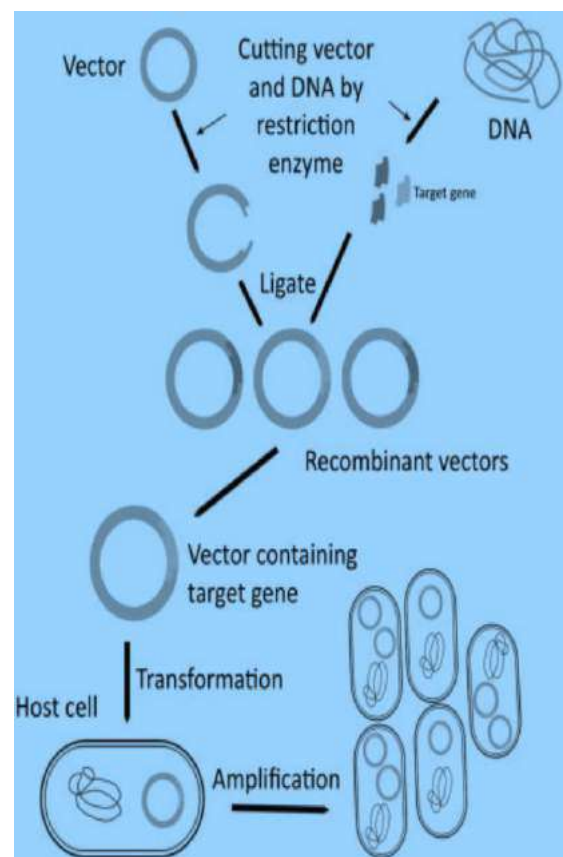


Fig: SANOFI and GSK development

3. FORECASTS FOR INDIA

According to Dr Ramanan Laxminarayan, founder and director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (CDDEP) in Washington, D.C., India could also see 20% to 50% of the population getting infected. This means between 300 million to 700 million people may get infected.

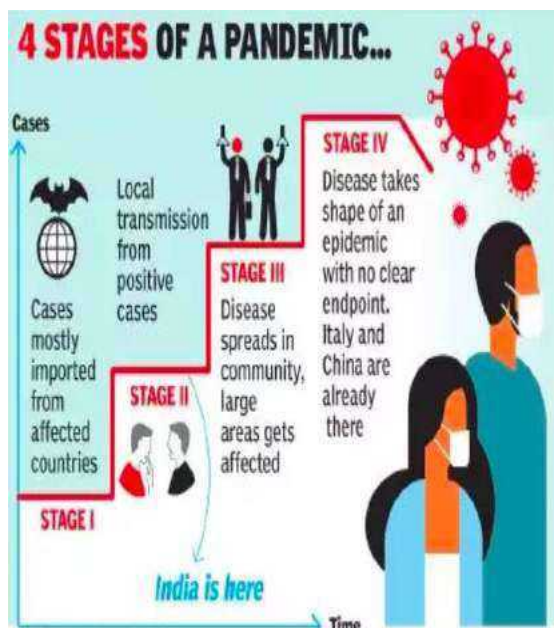


Fig: COVID cases vs. time in India

Timeline for the spread of COVID 19 in India

Table 2

30 January	First case is reported in the Indian state of Kerala
2-3 February	Two more cases are reported in Kerala, again both are students of the Wuhan University.
1-2 March	Two more cases are reported in India, a 45 year old man based in Delhi (with travel history to Italy) and another 24 year old engineer in Hyderabad (with a travel history to UAE)

4 March	14 Italians and one Indian are reported to have tested positive for coronaviruses.
12 March	India reports first death, a 76 year old from Kalaburgi, Karnataka dies. He had a travel history to Saudi Arabia.
13 March	India reports second death. Maharashtra alone reports 17 cases.
15-16 March	Uttar Pradesh confirms 12th case and Odisha reports its first case. The total number of cases in India crosses 100th mark.
21 March	The number of cases rises to 283.
23 March	470 (approx.) cases reported in India, with 9 deaths registered. 30 states and Union Territories have declared lockdowns. Out of the 470, 34 patients are being said to have recovered. So, the active number of cases is 440 (approx.).

4. CONCERNS BEFORE INDIA

Large population: India is the 2nd largest populated country in the world. Therefore, community transmission would lead to an exponential increase in the number of cases of infection.

Literacy Rate: India’s literacy rate is 74.04%. This is just the average, with the rates varying from state to state. A vast majority of the population is semi-literate, illiterate or poorly educated. They lack complete knowledge about a Coronavirus like epidemic and the preventive measures to be taken.

Low levels of hygiene- including sanitation and the use of disinfectants.

Health Infrastructure: Italy, USA and China, the worst affected countries, have 3.2, 2.8, and 4.3 hospital beds per 1000 people respectively. Whereas, India just had 0.5 beds per 1,000 people (as of 2017). Also, the total ICU capacity is less than 1,00,000. This will seriously affect our treatment response to critical patients.

Weak Implementation Capacity: Government agencies responsible for the enforcement and regulation of law and order have had a dismal track record.

Fake news and vague information related to the containment of the virus etc. circulated on social media platforms has the potential to create panic.

Poverty is the major concern for India. India houses the largest number of poor people in the world after Nigeria. There are a large number of informal workers like housemaids, wage labourers etc. who might find it difficult to cope up with the situation like a lockdown without support from the government or civil society organisations

Economic Slowdown: The economy is already under a slowdown which has been accentuated by restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. Since unemployment increases during a slowdown or recession, job losses, particularly in the unorganized sector are likely to be acute.

5. STEPS TAKEN BY INDIA

Lockdown and Quarantine: On 11th March, the WHO declared COVID 19 outbreak to be a pandemic, India take the first step to quarantine it. The Central Government advised all the states and the Union Territories to invoke the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, which would enable them to enforce advisories as and when needed. Government banned all international commercial flights into India from the 22nd of March 2020 for a week. Universal health screening continues at all points of entry- Thermal Scans of the international passengers at

Airports and of border-crossings is being done.

Addressing the nation on the 19th of March 2020, the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi urged the people to practice self-restraint, and adopt social distancing, including 'Janta curfew' (voluntary self-isolation) on Sunday, the 22 March 2020 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. On 24th March, the Prime Minister announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown across the country. The announced lockdowns, and suspension of public transport, closure of public places and offices were aimed at reducing the growth rate of the virus, and help 'flatten the (transmission) curve'.

Financial Package: The government of India announced a 1.7 Lakh crore financial package in order to protect the weaker sections of the society. The Pradhan Mantri Gharib Kalyan Yojana had been announced within 36 hours of the lockdown and it would take care of the needs of poor and migrant workers, farmers, women, pensioners, widows and the disabled. Insurance cover- rs. 50 lakh per person for doctors and medical workers fighting covid-19. 80 crore poor people will receive 5 kg of wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month for the next three months. 20.4 crore Jan Dhan Women account holders would get rs. 500 per month for the next three months. 8.3 crore families living below the poverty line will be eligible for receiving free cylinders during the next three months. Wage-earners earning below rs. 15,000 per month who work in businesses having fewer than 100 workers would receive 24% of their monthly wages into their PF accounts for the next three months.

6. LESSONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SOUTH KOREA:

- It has one of the lowest mortality rates at 0.77%, against the global average of

3.4%. Early measures and pro-activeness. When the Chinese scientists first published the n-Coronavirus virus genetic sequence for the first time in January, at least four South Korean firms quietly began developing and stockpiling test kits alongside the government well before the country had its first outbreak.

- Widespread Testing, Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), Prioritizing hospitalization, Use of Technology.

JAPAN:

- Firewall Strategy: As per this strategy, it bans the entry of travellers from hard-hit regions of China and quarantines the suspects.
- “Face mask culture”: Wearing masks is a routine for every Japanese citizen—3 in 10 people are seen wearing masks, even on days of no outbreaks. When the news of the spread of Corona virus was received, nearly 80% of the population was seen wearing masks.

CHINA:

- Strict Lockdown , Social Distancing measures, Extensive Public monitoring of citizens
- Extensive Quarantines: In Wuhan, the authorities converted stadiums and other facilities into mass quarantine centres and built more than a dozen temporary hospitals to house patients with less severe symptoms.
- Use of Technology: Social media platforms like WeChat and Weibo have hotlines for people to report others who may be sick. Chinese companies are, meanwhile, rolling out facial recognition technology that can detect elevated temperatures in a crowd or flag citizens not wearing a face mask.
- Moral Policing: Some cities are offering people rewards for informing on sick neighbours. Construction of a

hospital in 10 days and additional deployment of health workers in Wuhan to tackle the situation proactively.

- Volunteers: The government declared a “people’s war” and rolled out a “Fight On, Wuhan! Fight On, China!” campaign.

TAIWAN:

- Stopped export of surgical masks, Implemented purchasing policy, Online mask delivery.
- A unified command centre was set up to ensure the coordination between those managing resources, holding daily briefings and those controlling public messages.
- Big data analytics, Integration of travel history, Taiwan’s health system.

SINGAPORE:

- Singapore reported fewer than 390 cases and has had only 2 deaths which are amongst the lowest in the world.
- It set up a virus-fighting task force, promptly imposed strict hospital and home quarantine measures, and banned large-scale gatherings. Proactive, not reactive: Within 24 hours of a new infection, Singapore raced to stitch together a holistic picture of an infected person’s movements.
- Singapore took a step further with its contact tracing process, rolling out a Smartphone app called ‘Trace Together’, regarding which they encouraged all the Singaporeans to download.
- Lessons learned from SARS: After SARS and H1N1, Singapore built a robust system for tracking and containing such epidemics.

OTHER LEARNINGS:

A small town in Italy managed to stop a corona virus outbreak in its tracks after authorities tested the whole

population more than once in late February. Anyone who tested positive was immediately quarantined to stem the spread of the disease even if they weren't showing symptoms. Two weeks later, mass testing showed the infection rate had dropped by 12 times from three per cent of the population to just 0.25 per cent.

Temperature can stop corona virus: Some early research had revealed that higher temperatures and humidity could lower the rate of COVID-19's spread. The major reason behind this is that warm, humid weather can make it harder for respiratory droplets to spread viruses. The droplets that carry viruses do not stay suspended in humid air as long, and the warmer temperatures lead to more rapid virus degradation. However, the spread of corona virus has shown around the world, that hot and humid weather will not stop coronaviruses infections entirely. E.g. Singapore, where the average temperature is around 80°F year-round, more than 500 cases of the virus have been confirmed, despite rigorous detection methods and strict quarantine rules.

7. THE INVISIBLE ISSUE

➤ **Women:** In the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, more than 2,00,000 people were killed or listed missing; a 52% of them were women. Women lack many life skills such as swimming and climbing. During tsunami recovery women face many difficulties including abuse by men.

Coming to the current Pandemic, its impact on both genders. But According to World Health Organization data, around 70% of the world's health workers are women, 79% of nurses are women. Health workers in general are highly vulnerable and not ensuring their safety is a high risk that can severely impact the health system. The entire family is now together within the limited space of their dwellings. As traditional role-play is still prevalent in

most sections of Indian society, the equal division of household responsibilities among couples is still distant. Women from all strata face substantial additional household work. The lower income groups are already facing job losses and anxiety is leading to domestic tensions and violence against women. A large number of daily wageworkers resort to alcohol consumption. The ban on alcohol sales, as a part of the national lockdown, is contributing to domestic tensions, leading to women abuse. Women are twice as likely to face depression when compared to men. According to 2015-16 National Family Health Survey, around 30% of women in the age group 15 to 49 years face domestic violence.

➤ **Lost voices of the weaker section:** COVID19 threatens to push the world into a deep recession. If the lockdown continues, the world economy will contract by as much as 6% according to the International Monetary Fund. If it is not extended, the loss of human lives could be of unacceptable proportions. Therefore, those with no social media handles, who cannot incapable of highlighting their problems with impressive presentations in social media. Today, those who bear the brunt of this lockdown are the farmer and farm labour, the migrant worker, the unemployed, those in the unorganized sector, the rural poor, bus driver, bus conductor, auto driver and the small entrepreneur. They are paying the highest price for the necessary but unbearable lockdown. They are either stranded far away from home or confined to their homes with no work and incomes. All the Tips which are suggested by everyone on how to beat lockdown time, how to work from home, use Zoom, spend quality time with family. This time is Worse for the weaker section in our society how

labours can run their home if they have no work and no money to survive how they can feed their family , how they can stay happy with their family without money and food.

8. INTERVENTIONS REQUIRED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

AT ADMINISTRATION LEVEL

1. Testing Capability: Drastically increase the number of tests administered daily as there are often asymptomatic cases that go on to infect others and so early diagnosis is extremely important.

Perform Mass Testing: Develop multiple teams of 2-3 people each tracking every infected person, everybody they interacted with, then everybody those people interacted with, and isolating the bunch. The government should join hands with the private sector to increase testing capacity.

2. Awareness and Education: Regular announcements in villages, towns, and city wards about correct information regarding COVID-19 should be made to spread awareness and educate people. Encouraging people to potentially avoid non-essential visits during festive season (Eg: Ugadi for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, and Gudi-Padwa in Maharashtra).

3. Monitoring: Every district should be treated as a separate unit to reduce the transmissibility of the virus, as some districts are more severely affected than the others. Use technology to track- devising apps that can track the quarantined, and collect data on symptomatic suspected people. Develop apps and websites for sharing and collating detailed information on the spread of the disease. Installing CCTV cameras and tracking the movement of vulnerable citizens.

4. Essential Supplies: Arrangement of adequate food supplies through the Food and Civil Supplies department should be made. A check on the black marketing of essential items like food items, masks and sanitizers, and other products of daily use should be ensured. All civilian supplies should be supervised by a civilian and not by police men.

5. Transportation of Migrants: The rush of migrants to their home towns and villages has the potential to transport the virus to the villages as well. Sufficient Government arrangements should be made to transport these people safely to their destinations or kept in guest houses in their current location.

6. Sanitize public facilities: We can take example from Istanbul, which has deployed a hygiene fleet of 40 vehicles and hundreds of personnel to sanitize and re-sanitize public and municipal facilities. Disinfectants should be installed at various bus rapid transit stations. For example, Kigali (Rwanda), has installed portable hand-washing stations across the city at bus stops, taxi queues and car parks.

LOCAL BODIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY AT LARGE

1. Role of Gram Panchayat: They should be asked to provide a list of persons who came to the villages before the lockdown was implemented. Community watch can be initiated on those individuals identified. A Gram Panchayat quarantine centre can be opened up at each and every Gram Panchayat. Migrants coming back could be quarantined for fourteen days there.

2. ASHA Workers and Anganwadi Centres: We need to provide them with the basic training and awareness of the disease. Provide them with the protective gears and remunerate them

handsomely to keep their motivation up. Anganwadi centres can help in the distribution of the food. The anganwadi workers should be sensitised and provided with protective gears. Door to door delivery of 'Mid-Day meals' is an important step to keep children healthy.

3. Wealthy Families: If anyone is having empty farm houses away from cities, they can contribute by providing their farmhouses as quarantine centres to the Health Authorities. Wealthy households must come together to develop a fund which can be used to fight this menace.

CORPORATES

- 1. Work at developing health equipment:** These include masks, oxygen cylinders, negative-pressure isolation rooms etc. IKEA is helping to kit-out hospitals in affected areas.
- 2. Protect the employees:** Responsible firms should do everything possible to protect their people and employees. These companies will build more resilient and more loyal workforces, better positioned to weather a prolonged economic storm.
- 3. Develop good communication with employees:** When the boss speaks, people listen and the tone, accuracy and relevance of the employers' advice can make all the difference between a calm and panic.
- 4. Learning's from other companies:** companies such as Microsoft, Amazon etc. collaborated to create a COVID-19 Response Fund, targeting the hard-hit Washington State. Alibaba foundation is donating 1.1 million testing kits, 6 million masks, and 60,000 protective suits and face shields.
- 5. Diageo India** has pledged to produce around 3,00,000 litres of bulk hand sanitizers across 15 of its manufacturing units in the country to

help cope with the demand for the product.

ENTREPRENEURS

1. Develop equipment at mass scale: IIT Delhi researchers have developed affordable tests for diagnosis. These need to be accredited after which private pharmaceutical companies need to be roped in to indigenously produce such kits within the country on a large scale. India is acutely short of ventilators. No other country is allowing export of ventilators. Government must support local companies to manufacture ventilators on a war footing.

2. Develop Technologies: Online data platforms can be used to predict the future by combining local infections and population moves, and therefore optimize the allocation of public resources. AI technologies can be integrated with infrared imaging for rapid and multiple body temperature monitoring. This technology can quickly screen crowds to improve detection efficiency and reach an accuracy rate of over 90%, which also prevents virus transmission.

3. Opportunity for Change: For entrepreneurs, coronaviruses present the following opportunities and insights: Digitalization is the future. Risk management needs to be re-evaluated

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ROLE OF SOCIETY IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Society is defined as the whole range of social relationships of people living in a certain geographic territory and having a sense of belonging to the same group. The relationships between the two concepts are so strong that it is not possible to separate them because what happens to one affects the other. Educational institutions are micro-societies, which reflect the entire society. The education system in any given society prepares the child for future life and instills in him those skills that will enable him to live a useful life and contribute to the development of the society. Education as a social phenomenon does not take place in a vacuum or isolation; it takes place in the society and this normally begins from the family, which is one of the social institutions responsible for the education of the child. This paper focuses on the relationship between education and society. It acknowledges a strong relationship between the two concepts. Education is seen as a means of cultural transmission from one generation to another in any given society.

Keywords: Education, Development, Society, Relationship.

INTRODUCTION

There is a strong relationship between education and society. This observation is borne out of the fact that it is not possible to separate. This is because of the fact that what happens to the educational system undoubtedly affects the society, and whatever occurs in the society influences or shapes the educational system in all its ramifications. **Durkheim (1956)** was one of the first sociologists to

appreciate the relationship between education and society. He saw education as a social phenomenon through which a society assumes its own continuity by socializing the young in its own image. The components of the educational system that constitute perfectly defined facts and which have the same reality as another social fact are inter-related. They are inter-related internally, so that a given education system has unity and consistency, and also

externally so that the education system reflects a society's moral and intellectual values. **Ottaway (1980)** defined society as the whole range of social relationships of people living in a certain geographical territory and having a feeling of belonging to the same kind of group. In every society, whether developing or developed, complex or primitive, there is always an education system. Education systems are not the same, as no two societies are identical. Therefore, education systems differ from society to society and their aims, contents and techniques also differ from one society to another. From the foregoing, one might postulate that educational institutions are micro-societies, which mirror the entire society. This is one of the reasons why societies try to evolve education systems and policies that would meet the needs, beliefs, attitudes and the aspirations of their people. **Havighurst (1968)** observed that the way to understand a society's education system is to understand how it is related to the other basic institutions of that society, in particular the family, the church, mosque, the state, the polity and the economy.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

We have seen education in particular as a means of cultural transmission from one generation to another. The parents are the first teachers of the child and they still maintain an educative function throughout the early and formative years of the child. In most of the developing nations of the world, including Nigeria, parents are responsible for sending their children or wards to school. Since these nations are undergoing rapid socioeconomic and political changes, they witness special problems in evolving the appropriate education system, which will be able to produce the adequate manpower needs in all the segments of the society. Schools are established in many societies of the world so as to instill in the

pupils those skill's which will afford them the opportunity of taking their rightful positions in the society; but this function cannot be adequately accomplished without the assistance of the home because both the home and the school perform complimentary functions in the moral and intellectual development of the child. This means that the child cannot be educated in a vacuum or in isolation. Therefore, for a child to be educated there must be interaction between him and his physical and social environment. By this we mean that education is the development of personality. It is something which goes on both inside and outside the home and in the school. In other words, education is an activity of the whole community. This means that education is used in the transmission of the cultural values. One important implication of looking at education as the transmitter of cultural values is the fact that education can be influenced by the culture of the society in which it takes place. For this reason, one may infer that for a child to be educated, he must be influenced by his environment and, in turn, be capable of influencing it. And it is only by the concept of the continuous interaction of the individual and his society that the development of personality can be properly understood. We have noted above that education is a means through which the cultural values of a particular society are transmitted from one generation to another. Through this process, the society is able to achieve basic social conformity and ensure that its traditional values, beliefs, attitudes and aspirations are maintained and preserved.

Clarks (1948) observed that a general knowledge and acceptance of the ideals and aims of our society is essential for all its citizens, and it must be achieved through education but in a form, which makes it compatible with freedom. So he reconciles the double purpose by saying that admittedly, the purpose of the educative society may be to make men conformable. But overmastering that must

be the purpose to make men free. A society needs a stable and dynamic set of values and a, unified purpose. It is when this is ascertained that meaningful economic, political and social programmes can be embarked upon for the overall benefits of the citizens. To be a fully developed person in such a society implies full and creative membership of it with powers to change it.

TRANSMISSION OF CULTURE

Ottaway (1980) contended that the transmission of culture still remains a vital function, and is not to be dismissed as merely conservative in the sense of being old-fashioned. He further observed that our children are potentially the society of the future, which still belongs to the non-social community, and education in this respect can be regarded as a socialization of the young. Education depends on the total way of life of a people in a society. This suggests that the type of education provided will differ from society to society. Besides, each society has her own norms, values and her own ideal persons who stand out clearly for the younger generations to emulate. Since all these societies are not the same, then it means that a man regarded as a hero in one

society because of his contributions to educational development of the society may not be regarded as such in another society where education is not given priority in the scheme of their daily activities. It, therefore, implies that children have different people to emulate in different societies. It is logical to expect that the type education given in each society will change from time to time as the society changes. Many writers have argued that education is one of the causes of social change in the society, but another school of thought is of the opinion, that educational change tends to follow other social changes, rather than initiate them.

Ottaway (1980) observed that ideas of change originate in the minds of

men; often in the mind of a single man. Exceptional individuals invent new techniques and propound new values for their society. These ideas arise from the impact of men on his culture, but do not change the culture until they are shared and transmitted by a social group. In his own submission, **Boocock (1972)** noted that societies undergoing rapid social change or modernization have special problems in adapting the educational system to the manpower needs of the world. They often suffer shortages of persons with special kinds of learning in engineering and other technical fields and may have difficulty in keeping persons with valuable skills once they have completed their education. Another area of the relationship between education and society is through the arrangement of the entire society into a hierarchical order that is, through the social structure in which education plays a prominent and significant role in fixing educated individuals into social classes.

Ottaway (1980) observed that education is the process of preparing people to fit into this complex social structure and to play particular social roles as members of more than one institutional group. Individuals have to learn to be fathers or mothers, school teachers or civil servants, shopkeepers or priests. They have to learn to keep the law, to understand how they are governed and to be prepared to try and change the social moves when they see that they can be improved. Education as a social phenomenon is also concerned with the preparation of the child for his future occupation in life. This is one of the main economic functions of education and this is in the interest of both the nation and the individual. Through education an individual knows the structure of the society and the different types of relationships that exist among those structures in the society. The child is taught how to perform different roles within the social structure in the society.

These roles are inter-related. For example, the role of a father is a relational role; a father could be a son to, another person. So education allows the child to perform his role adequately within the social structure in the society. In addition, the child is able to understand the network of inter-relationships among the different social institutions that make up the society. Also of importance are the different functions that are performed by each social institution in the society. Like an individual, each institution has definite functions to perform in the society and the functions of each institution differ from one to another even though they are complimentary. Another aspect of the relationship between education and society is in the area of social interaction. Social interaction may be defined as any relation between people and groups, which changes the behaviour of the people in the group.

FAMILY AND PEER GROUP:

There is a need for social interaction by the child before he could acquire the culture of his society. This interaction in the society is therefore part of the child's education, provided that, that type of interaction brings about positive changes in the child's behaviour in a right direction as required by the educational system. One important point here is that the child has been taking part in group interaction long before he starts to attend school and the most common among these group interactions are within the family and the peer group. These groups in which the child interacts give him the opportunity to learn from the wider circles in the society. From his social contacts, he learns his roles in different groups and this influences his personality development.

CONCLUSION

Many sociologists have appreciated the relationship between education and society and have concluded that the two are so interrelated. That one cannot draw any line of demarcation between them. It has been observed that the educational system of any nation must be based on the needs and demands of the society and that any educational system that fails to meet the needs, aspirations and ambitions of the society is not relevant and is bound to fail. The educational system of any nation is concerned with, the transmitting of the cultural values of today to those who will live in the world of tomorrow, and contents of education must somehow strike a balance.

Dubey et. al. (1984) observed that a good educational system, in all its full substance and ramifications, is related to the level of culture, industrial development, rate of urbanization, political organization, religious climate, family structure, stratification and other institutions of the total social system. Finally, education has to fulfill both the individual's needs and those of the society and must keep pace with other sub-systems in the society, as both variables are inter-related.

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LETTERS OF SHEIKH SHARAFUDDINYAHYAMANERI: A STUDY OF SOME SPIRITUAL ASPECTS IN RELEVANCE TO THE MODERN-PERIOD

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Abstract

Tasawwuf refers to the inner cleansing of the body to shape the outer deeds or practical dimension of human being. Spirituality plays a significant role in constructing a positive nature towards the establishment of both worldly and religious ties. Various spiritual writings came into existence throughout the centuries to provide useful lessons on the basis of the primary sources of Islam (Qur'ān and Sunnah) regarding the connection between man and God. One of such contributors in this category was Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad YahyaManeri, also famously known as Makhdum al-Mulk or Makhdum-i-Jahan (1263-1381 A.D.), a prominent Indian Sufi Saint of the medieval period, whose letters (Maktubāt-i-Sadi and Maktubāt Do Sadi) are still held in high regards even today as they are his best collection on spiritual teachings and guidance. They truly reflect his profound knowledge and spiritual enlightenment comprising of outstanding critical expression, exposition of delicate issues and correct comprehension of the true spirit of the religion, thus holding a place of distinction in the Islamic Literature. This paper will highlight some of his spiritual doctrines including righteousness, mental stability, and the eradication of human greed and expiation of sins. It will also depict how the relevant practical aspects of spirituality can prove to be a helping hand in moulding the behaviour and conduct of individuals in a war-ridden world.

Keywords: *Tasawwuf, Practical Dimension, Righteousness, Mental Stability, Expiation of Sins.*

Introduction

India is one among such countries which has produced a number of spiritual

Saints and intellectuals and whose names are carved in the annals of the great spiritual contributions in the history of

Islam. Their spiritual teachings are not only famous for namesake, but also their practical dimensions are of massive importance even today as we are living in a world of spiritual turmoil. These steps towards human revivification are mandatory to be taken in order to find the way of exit from the slumber of darkness and move towards the lane of enlightenment. Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri (1263-1381 A.D) can be described as one of the finest spiritual luminaries whose certain spiritual notions can still be proved to provide a helping hand in curing the detrimental psychological disability, thus engaging man in the true moulding of behavioural reconstruction to shape both his inward and outward executions, especially in this very world of moral declination.

Maulana Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi has dedicated the last chapter of his masterpiece *Saviours of Islamic Spirit vol.II (TareekhDawat-o-Azeemat vol.II)* to Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri. Syed AbulHasan Ali Nadwi discussed: The forceful style of Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri's writings, combination of loveliness and sophistication gives a noticeable rank to his letters in the field of the Islamic literature. In these letters, he has illustrated the fruits or influences of higher significance symbolizing the inward intellect of invisible divine content of things. Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad YahyaManeri used by the means a solid and effective inspiration and motivated the peoples with a yearning to achieve the position or place of glorious spiritual truthfulness. Due to his writings which are helpful, politeness of expression may be whole in Persian literature something like this.

Besides, to those privileged peoples to whom these spiritual letters were dedicated, also many others have read them with interest, even after the centuries of Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad YahyaManeri's era. In the Khanqahs, these spiritual letters have been thoughtfully examined and discussed and they still grasp the consideration of those who think over them in search of the new dimensions of instinctive insight and lightening of heart. It would be difficult to overstate the strength and dynamism of these letters which, nevertheless the interval of many centuries which were written by Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad YahyaManeri, still preserve their freshness and emotional call.

The letters of Makhdum Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri reflect this deep knowledge and spiritual enlightenment. In the depth of his vision, wonderful critical arguments, elucidation on delicate issues, sharp observation, suitable understanding of the spirit of religion, elaboration on the revealed reality and light of divine knowledge, comprising of the total concentration of Allah. The letters of Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri holds a special as well as a unique position in the Islamic literature. These letters depict the inspirational and spiritual magnificence thus planting the living seed of faith in Allah, instinctively grasped thoughts, the procedures of self-cleansing, and the methods of motivating and ameliorating the spiritual life

Letters

The most renowned among the collection of Sheikh YahyaManeri's letters is the one published under the title of *MaklubatSheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri*, which is also known as *Maklubat-E-Sadi* or *SehSadi Maklubat*.

This collection comprises of one hundred letters addressed to Qazi Shamsuddin compiled by the chief disciple of Makhdum Yahya Maneri, Sheikh Zain Badr Arabi. In its introduction Sheikh Zain Badr Arabi writes: Sheikh Shamsuddin of Chausa (a place where Sheikh Shamsuddin Ahmad Maneri lived), a disciple of the Sheikh, continuously appealed to Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri in his letters that since he had to stay at a place far away from him and was forbidden from attending his discourses, something to guide him on his spiritual journey might be committed into written form.

Sheikh Shamsuddin pleaded Makhdum Yahya Maneri so sincerely that his appeal eventually met the approval of the Sheikh who started writing about the various stages and states underwent by the seekers of truth in their quest of perfection of divine knowledge. Only then that numerous thoughtful yet enigmatic details relating to spiritual repentance and enlightenment, Unity of Allah and knowledge of Divine Attributes, Essential and enthusiasm of love, stages of attraction and endeavor, separation and loneliness, bliss and blemish, preceptorship and discipleship along with the accounts of earlier followers of the path of purity were penned. These letters were sent on different occasions during the year **747 A.H. (1369 A.D.)** from Bihar to the town of Chausa. Numerous followers and inmates of the convent kept copies of these letters and compiled them for the spiritual purification searchers.

Subject Matters

Anybody who goes through these letters would not fail to identify that the marvellous details and essence of truths not visible to the external eye, illustrated by Makhdum Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri, are neither the efforts of his sharp

intelligence nor could these be had by profound learning or cultivation of knowledge, but could only be lived by a heart in its loftiest stage of spiritual acclamation. What Makhdum says about the sublime majesty and excellence of Divine Being, His Might and Omnipotence? His Beauty and Perfection, the feelings of awe, hope and ardent love taking root in the heart of true believers and Gnostics, the need for alternate states of effulgence and contrition experienced by the travellers of the spiritual path and repentance on one's sin which opens the floodgates of Divine compassion point out that the writer, soaring in higher domains of spirituality, is familiar with the inner content of profound realities.

The high position occupied by man among the beings, his greedy desires, his wish to acquire the impossible, his certitude and firmness of mind, the status and beauty of his heart and the unsounded essence and nature of love described in a wonderful and dynamic language by Makhdum Yahya Maneri deserves to be praised by all. Likewise, the immoral kinds of natural tendencies of the human mind, his own self-deceptions and the whispers of Satan, transgressions that often take the form of vices hindering the path of the devotees explained by Makhdum speak of his deep observation and knowledge of practical morals.

Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri appreciated and at the same time warned spiritual seekers from the dangers coming from the ways of the Sufi Saints. Appreciation of that is they believe in the Shari'ah and the treatment of the highest position of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). It is also important to know and understand the religious thought and different ways of Sufi Saints of the time when these letters were written down

by Sheikh Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri. Here, it is an attempt to evaluate some letters of Makhdam Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri which deal with some of the issues which have to quite a large extent, similarity with the modern problems.

Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri has addressed most of his letters to one of his closest disciples Sheikh Shamsuddin for the spiritual guidance whose content can still be considered to be of great significance and relevance in solving a number of spiritual malaise. The spiritual teachings in his letters indicate its formulation to be on the basis of the primary sources of Islam (Qur'ān and Sunnah). This shows us that any individual who wishes to tread or embark on the spiritual path can opt to study the letters of Sheikh Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri as they do not consist of any such element which will make a man fall into the trap of contrariness. The following are some of his spiritual aspects discussed in his letters which can still be held in high esteem and offer fruitful spiritual and practical remedies of various modern-day detrimental issues.

1. Righteousness in Faith

According to Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri, righteousness in faith refers to longing for nothing except Allah. If we intent or reflect about anything not in consonant with Qur'ānic injunctions this becomes a proof of weaker faith. Inner purification leads to the erasure of filthy desires thus projecting an impactful effervescence on the outer personality. This includes behavioural rectification, correction of deeds and improvement of manners. Faith no doubt plays an important role in the redressing of the inner dimension of man which helps to control the outer practices in the most convenient way. Sheikh Sharafuddin

Ahmad Yahya Maneri further discussed about the genuineness of faith, he divided peoples into two categories or groups. The first group is those who do anything in the name of Allah but for the sake of their own interest. The second one is those who perform good deeds without even thinking of the reward that Allah has promised them. Their main interest is to achieve the love of Allah through the fulfilment of the command of Allah. These peoples are also known as *Muttaqi (God-fearing)*.

2. Mental Attitude

Psychological stability is the foundation for developing a good thinking process. A good mental attitude is of optimum importance so as to shape the behaviour of man. One of the qualities pointed out by Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri for a positive conduct is generosity. Through generosity, we can improve our mental attitude and develop an affirmative approach toward the people as well as Allah. This helps to design a harmonious atmosphere and strengthens our social as well as personal relationships. Where generosity prevails trust is also maintained. On this basis people develop good opinions towards each other thus upholding positivity and eschew wickedness, Allah says in the Qur'ān. Regarding good opinion, Sheikh Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri says that it is a must for every individual and more than that respect and commitment to Allah is incumbent as He is our Lord, and that the Creator is always above the creatures. In a nutshell, the following points can be derived-

- i. Those who opine positively about Allah will have their inner-self enlightened by Him.
- ii. Good opinion leads to incipient love.
- iii. Love creates social unity.

3. The eradication of human greed

The very next letter of Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri's spiritual writings in which he discussed about the eradication of human greed, which is an important and compulsory subject. Without the eradication of the human greed, our intentions and everything that we do will be null and void. So, Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri shared his ideas with his closest disciple Qazi Sheikh Shamsuddin and strictly warned him to remove greed from your route because Allah does not like greedy people. Greed very often leads to arrogance, "*Assuredly, Allah knows what they conceal and what they declare. Indeed, He does not like the arrogant*",- (Qur'ān S16: V23). Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri further expresses his opinion that Allah gives us anything anytime without any reason and no limit And another thing is that today whatever we take from Allah is free and after this world whatever we will receive also will be free from Allah. So it clear that our intentions should be free from greed and show-off, it must be only for the sake of Allah.

4. Expiation of Sins

In this letter, Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri stated that the compensation from the wickedness is compulsory for the formulation of a good mental attitude and behaviour towards the society as well as the Allah. This shows us Sheikh Yahya Maneri divided peoples into three categories are as follows-

- i. They are in both presence and truth, which relates only to the world, which means there is no intention and purpose for the sake of Allah. They do everything for the sake of the world only.
- ii. This type of people also in both look and reality is directed toward the

Allah, but in the inner side and the purpose is for the sake of the world.

- iii. In this category, Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri talking about those people whose appearances are concerned is directly toward the world, but in purpose and intention for the sake of Allah only.

Conclusion

Tasawwuf is one of the most important components in Islam, which helps to clarify both the inward and outward aspects of man. Sheikh Sharafuddin Ahmad Yahya Maneri has highlighted some very important points which play a very significant role in the development of a good personality. The above-discussed ideas help one to realize that vices only cause harm to one's life and that man becomes victims of various other social issues. Therefore, to be on the safer side, one needs to develop a practical dimension of the points discussed by Sheikh Sharafuddin Maneri, which can prove to be fruitful as well as productive a better lifestyle and most importantly the objective must be free from ostentatious factors. It must be executed to seek the pleasure and satisfaction of Allah. With a world full of innumerable and catastrophic vices, a return to the true spirit of Islam is the only solution for the betterment of the whole community.

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A GREEN SCHOOL MOVEMENT: A MARCH TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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&

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Abstract

The educational and economical aspects contribute to the core features of green study practices. It includes creating school climate that co-existed with nature, resource conservation, energy conservation, recycling, minimized waste and creating pleasant ambience for Teaching-Learning and application of green school practices as a teaching-learning resource. The amalgamation of green school practices in school curriculum and experiential learning activities is important. Teachers use observation, explore, practices, experiment and problem solving approach in assessment. Purposive sampling method is employed to draw the sample. Study is conducted in Green School Project awardees' school in the academic year 2019-20. Data is collected by using questionnaire, interview and field study. Result of the study reveals that 90% percent teacher (n=18) integrated green school practices in school curriculum. The 80% teachers conduct Green School Practices in a significant, effective and efficient way in creating awareness among school students.

Keywords: Environment, Biodiversity, Recycling waste, Water, Energy, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

In the lives of students the environment of the school plays a significant role. Green school practices aims to develop environmental awareness and to support environment management

and sustainable developmental education. Green School Practices is based on interdisciplinary principle, comprehensive, systematic approach, future oriented, relate local environmental problems to global environmental issues combining cognitive, affective and aesthetic aspects.

Students' performance in natural science subjects such as science, biology is significant and not much satisfactory. The root cause hindering good performance in these subjects confirmed and required to provide adequate resource and learning resources and teachers implementing innovative teaching approach. Green school practices make more and effective environmental related teaching-learning resources integrated in school curriculum, able to enhance environmental awareness among school students. The green school practices are creating environmental awareness and action on intrinsic part of life. It also serves as learning resources that enhance the awareness and sustainable development issues through integration of school curriculum.

The school environment, encourage and support students capacities in green environment. Green School Practices allow students to connect with their surroundings and attend to their health, safety needs, motivate students to learn, imbibe sense of belongingness, sensitivity towards school, environment, society and planet. Education is the key element to achieve sustainability. Education integrate practices, values, principles to motivate behavior that will create more sustainable future, environmental integrity, environmental viability and social justices to future generation. Green School Practices goes beyond formal school curriculum to be holistic, where students learning are not confined to class room. They link real life and activities to learning which benefits application of knowledge, skills in real situation. Such education require school leadership that take place sustainably at heart, school policy, practices, planning, encourages democratic and participatory decision making process.

Green school practices are guided by principles of environmental sustainability. It creates a conducive environment to fully use all available

resources, opportunity to sensitize students and teachers for environmental sustainability through active involvement of community. It requires continuous effort, synchronized efforts of all stake holders towards improving school environment.

Methodology

The data is collected by using interview, observation and field survey. Data is collected about green school practices, initiatives, programme and use of green school practices in school curriculum. Data collected, washed, transcribed, coded and classified according to the related questions.

Objectives

The integration of Green School Practices in school curriculum is to make use of Green School Programme model to make environmental related teaching-learning resources available to teachers and investigate impact of Green School Programme model on the awareness among school students.

Research Questions

The following research questions are designed to guide the study.

1. What are the characteristics, advantage and challenges of Green School Practices?
2. Do the green school practicing school make environmental related Teaching-Learning resources available for teachers and students?
3. Do the Green School Practices lead to increase in environmental awareness among students?
4. What is feasibility of Green School Programme model?

Significance

1. The present study will contribute to increase meaningful environmental education in school as well as to make a strong platform for teachers and students available to

complement theory with practice in their local environment.

2. The present study is also an advantage to local environment by contributing to the promotion of green foot-prints for schools and in reduction of carbon-foot-prints. It will assist school in cost reduction through resource conservation.
3. The present study will result into a comprehensive green school model framework which will be a tool in helping school curriculum to mould the students into environmental conscious citizen as well as it act as a teaching aid to support major subjects such as EVS, Science, Biology and Social Science as a potential source to improve the students performance in secondary school level.

Target School

A purposive sampling procedure is used to select Green School with most Green –facilities. Participating school is also selected on the basis of the year of certification as Green School and certified from 2016 to 2019 continuously.

Interview, questionnaire, observation, field visit are used to collect the data.

Interview

The five questions are discussed and aimed to generate date. Interview is also conducted with teachers on application of green school practices as resource for teaching-learning and its impact on awareness on environment among students. Each interview is recorded for accuracy.

Secondary Source

The secondary is data collected by using written documents, policies, philosophy, mechanism, reports and photographs.

Observation

A guided tour is conducted; researchers took photograph and asked questions. In order to collect evidences about teaching-learning material based on green facilities, initiatives, activities the tour is organized and recorded for accuracy. The tour lasted for 45 minutes.

Questionnaire

Questionnaire which consists of ten questions is used to collect data. Totally 20 teachers willingly participated in the study.

Data Analysis

The data collected is washed, transcribed, and categorized as per research questions and relevant themes. Individual survey questions and interview questions are matched with research questions by using coding method. Quotations that illuminate the themes, concepts are selected from interview. To corroborate data from the interview and questionnaire are compared.

Result

The school initiated green school practices since 2012. The project aims at reduction of carbon emission, energy conservation and securing a proper teaching-learning environment. The school has mission that architecture facilities and human elements must by symbiotic function of education. The ecological facilities, use of green energy, rain water harvesting, green belt development, school garden, reuse of recycled material, window shades efficient utilization, management of these facilities and utilizing these for teaching-learning process. The school improves architectural performance by

1. Equipping school building with eaves to keep sun out, making air flow out, installing outer walls and windows.
2. Equipping resource saving device for light and water. Energy

efficient fan, light and air conditioner system.

3. By creating green energy such as solar heard, sunlight, biomass to reduced carbon dioxide emission.
4. By creating green space in school yard, rooftops, along with wall and biotope space.

To live in accord with the environment and to reduce the burden the school is designed in such a way that it is healthy and conservable.

Management

The school utilizes the resources such as water and energy efficiently by preventing waste, ensuring longevity and efficient use of resource. The school is responsible for optimum utilization, maintenance and caring.

Education

The use of green school for the education, eco facilities are acquainted and designed in such a fashion that the students can access the experiential learning and the eco-facilities are integrated to school curriculum. The green school practices are framed in such a manner that it is curriculum friendly to achieve its objective to address environmental issues effectively.

Integration in curriculum

The environment related contained positioned in subject like science, social science curriculum. It means that environmental education is taught across the curriculum and provides functionally green-facilities as educational resources in Teaching –Learning Process.

Green initiatives and actives:

Green school practices is incorporated in school curriculum and is used as tool to interpret students to real life situation. It enhances their understanding about the environmental issues such as global warming and climate change. It

helps students to appreciate innovative, efficient measure and technologies used to address the issues. The exposure of students to Green School Practices, eco-facilities fosters them to recognize the merit of such facilities, helping them positively understanding towards environment. Green activities facilities provide an excellent example and template for students and school acts as whole to “walk the talk” about environmental protection through conservative and climate change action at grass root level. Students can link what they gain through learning experience at school to their local environment.

The observation, survey, interview confirmed that green activities are effectively used as a source of teaching-learning tool for core subjects. It enables students to understand environment related concepts and gap the opportunities of greater experiential learning and gain real life experience. Teachers are using biotopes to explain the ecosystem and other related terminologies, solar panel to explain green energy generation, consumption cost, garden to teach crop husbandry, experimental studies to teach about global warming and pollution. The use of green practices to crop care, observation of planet growth, study and observe growth and life cycle of insects/butterfly, visualize counter measures for green house effect, calculation of the energy generation, consumption and cost etc.,

The green facilities, a biotope is utilized to enhance environmental awareness and contributing a better understanding of eco-system but also provides a broad spectrum of specimen needed for the experimental science and project in the school. Green facilities are used are good source for experiential learning activities, tool to assess the students. Assessment in practical based. Photovoltaic cell panel used to produce green energy from sun and science

worksheet is used in science to calculate energy it can produce. The solar panel is designed, installed and arrange activity in such a way that students can see and count number of cells and use it as learning instrument.

The heat and cold trench made to supply natural cold air in summer and warm air in winter and worksheet used by students. The hot and cold trench is used as teaching aid by teachers. Students are asked to measure temperature difference at inside and outside classroom calculate, discuss temperature differences.

The energy efficient fans, tube light is installed, light intrusive fixture, cold/heat control fixture solar thermal fixture to reduce energy consumption, reduce carbon footprints to combat climate change and global warming to secure positive learning environment and used as tool for experiential learning.

Green resource as learning tool

Table1

Green facilities as learning tool

Teaching green facilities as learning aid	N	%
Yes	15	75
No	05	25
Total	20	100

Result of the study reveals that 75% (n=15) teacher use green resource as teaching learning tool. 50% (n=05) use 6 to 10 green resource as tool for learning.

Table-2:

Extent of green resource used for learning

Sl. No	No. of green facilities used	No. of Teachers	%
1	1 to 5	05	25
2	6 to 10	10	50
3	Zero	05	25
	Total	20	100

Table 3

Green facilities as significant teaching tool

Sl.No	Green Facilities
01	School Garden
02	Greening walls and rooftops
03	Water monitoring/separation
04	Recycling of material
05	Photovoltaic cell
06	Rain water harvesting system
07	Sun shades
08	Biotopes
09	Energy Monitoring
10	Permissible pavements`
11	Water incentive facilities
12	Sky light fixture
13	Solar thermal system
14	Greening outdoor areas

Result shown in Table 4 reveals that more number of teachers marked that green-facilities are significant in teaching-learning process. Photovoltaic cell are significant in teaching science in grade 7 and grade 9. Result suggested that green school model make several facilities

available for teaching-learning tool but some are prospective and some are not used. Few teachers are not interested in these.

Table 4

Sl. No	No of teachers marked significant	No of teachers using learning aid	%
01	16	12	75
02	16	09	86
03	16	06	38
04	12	06	50
05	14	06	43
06	09	03	34
07	08	04	50
08	10	05	50
09	03	02	67
10	05	00	00
11	05	00	00
12	08	02	25
13	04	02	50
14	04	02	50

**Facilities in Teaching –Learning
Level of Green-School Facilities used in
Teaching Learning:**

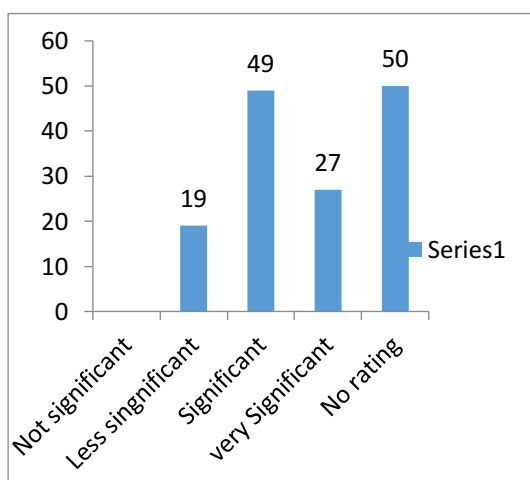


Fig1: Ecogreen facilities significant rating on reaching process (n=20)

As shown in fig 1 above 49% and 27% teachers are of the opinion that integration of green school facilities improves teaching-learning process significantly and very significantly respectively. The 21% teachers are of the opinion that it is less significant on Teaching-learning process. The teachers opinion of green-school facilities has less significant on Teaching-Learning process mentioned the following challenges as contributing elements:

1. Lack of time to use these facilities during teaching-learning process.
2. The application of these resources is not properly emphasized.
3. The teachers require awareness about these resources and knowledge about integration in school curriculum.
4. Some teachers find it difficult to integrate it in school curriculum such as language teachers.
5. Few teachers feel that only science can be integrated with such resources.
6. Sometimes facilities are not properly maintained particularly greenery.
7. Teachers lack conceptual understanding of green school concept.

Environmental awareness among students

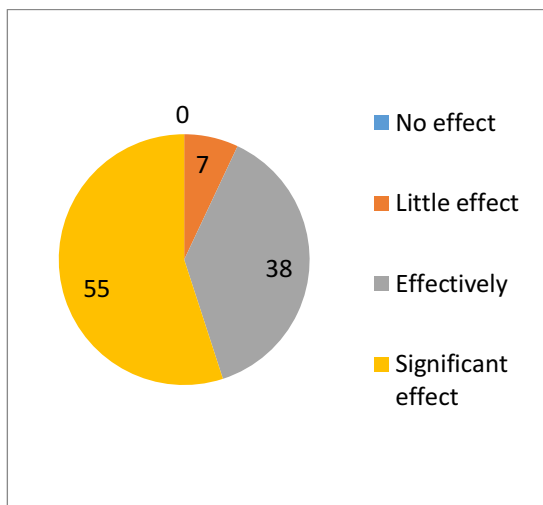


Fig:2 Teachers opinion about effectiveness of green school facilities on environmental awareness among students (n= 20)

As shown in figure- 2 55% teachers feel that there is significant effect, 30% feel that there is effect on students and 7% teachers feel that there is only little effect on positive effect of green school practices/resources on environmental alertness among students. Therefore overall 93% teachers feel that green school practices/resources have positive impact on enhancing environmental awareness among school students.

Conclusion

1. Educational and ecological aspects are core feature of green school practices. It includes creating school climate that co-exists with nature, energy and energy saving, recycling, creating pleasant ambiance for learning and integration of school green practices/resources in school curriculum effectively.
2. The green school model provides pedagogical, operational, health

benefits and sustainable availability of environmental related teaching-learning facilities, pragmatic learning, in natural climate ensuring green facilities laboratories to augment experiential learning for students and teachers, recollection of water, electricity consumption. The glare free and adequately ventilated learning environment. The teachers effectively use hands-on activities experiential learning activities, assembling tool for broad topic, any students can use problem solving, experimental practice, explanation and observation.

3. Total 75% teachers are able to integrate green school practices/resources in school curriculum of which 25% use 1 to 5, 50% use 6 to 60 of green school practices/activities as teaching-learning tool. 25% teachers were not able to use these resources in teaching learning process.
4. The challenge faced by the teachers is lack of time, poor maintenance and non emphasized teaching aid.
5. The 5% and 38% teachers felt that model is having significant effectiveness and effectiveness in creating environmental awareness among students.
6. The green school model is not securing proper teaching learning environment but also resources for teaching learning and creating awareness among school students.
7. But still there is scope of improvement and making model more effective and efficient by giving orientation to teachers for integrating of green school resources/facilities in school curriculum.

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF STARTUPS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED INDIAN COMPANIES

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Abstract

Startups are young companies which are just beginning to develop. Initially, it is funded by a group of people having some innovative ideas. As per Nascom's report, India continues to be 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world. even this is the case startup's exit rate also increase, which may be due to different factors such as lack of proper management, lack of finance, or inability to meet competition etc... Among these factors finance plays a tremendous role in the survival of an enterprise. Now there are many innovative measures are available for startup financing such as bootstrapping, crowd funding, mezzanines finance etc and its proper deployment is considered as the base for further development. There must be proper care regarding investing in various stages of its operation. So this paper attempt to provide an awareness regarding what are the various modes of financing available for startups and also to evaluate is there any relation exist between startup funding and stage of operation. Both descriptive statistics, as well as multivariate analysis are applied for the analysis of data. Non parametric Kruskal Wallis test is adopted to know is there any relation exists between stage of startup funding and the amount invested in different startups. When startups are at earlier stages, then smaller amount of external capital is required because of they always relies on their own fund at that time, external source of finance are applied when they are at later stages.

Keywords: *Bootstrapping, Mezzanine finance, crowd funding*

Introduction

Newly established firm has important role for knowledge based

economies. Because it has to contribute source for new jobs, radical innovation as well as productivity growth firms (**Block et al. 2016**). Unfortunately, these firms

often suffer from financing constraints, which limit their growth and threaten their survival (**Brown and Earle 2015; Carpenter and Petersen 2002; Cosh et al. 2009**). Startups are innovative and newly established firm which are highly risks oriented and probability of success is very low. In order to survive in the business, they need to ensure core competency which cannot be guaranteed by others. Since they are small in size, there is need to ensure many barriers such as finance, technology, managerial etc...among these finance is the major reason for exiting from business organization.

So startups can be survived through introduction of many business incubation centers and supporting agencies. These agencies are offering number of services such as managerial and technical advice, financial assistance and risk diversification etc...The concept of startup finance has changed last year. It include new method such as crowd funding, peer to peer methods, PPP etc...and one of the main problem is that in order to acquire loans and advances from financial institutions, there is need to provide mortgage as securities, but in case of startup companies, they don't have prior experience and good asset records. So these enable to search for alternative and innovative methods. Apart from that entrepreneurs should be very careful while investing in each stage of its operation.

Finance is considered as the life blood of business and if it is not properly utilized it will not run the ever running wheel of the business enterprises. Finance is provided by both public and private financial institutions. In 26th January 2015 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Startup India Standup India plan, which encourage many startup companies to compete with giant business enterprises. Similarly as part of MSME Act, Government has given certain reservation for Micro Small and Medium enterprises. All these are considered as the foundation

stone for the business enterprise to introduce innovative ideas. Even this is the case; much business enterprise cannot survive for long period of time. Startups exit rate is higher because of various reasons including financial crisis. So they have to bring innovative tools like TQM, Lean startup methodology and other innovative measures

Globalized era enhance the growth of large number of startups in India. During the period of 2018-2019, there are 1200+ startups are added. Now there are 7700+ startups are working in India. Among these Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai are the top startups hub. Business incubation centers has important role for the development of these startup companies and there are different agencies such as Kerala Startup Mission, Technology business incubation centers etc are performing an important role for the survival of business enterprises. India has highest number of unicorn startup after US and China. On the basis of its growing statistics highest numbers of startups are attracted towards these sectors.

Startup companies are facing many barriers for acquiring finance from investors. Investors always conduct feasibility analysis and technical analysis while investing in newly established firms. Scalable and viable business ideas are more accepted. Nowadays most startups are service oriented and they lack collateral for accessing bank loans. So they may find difficult to access these kinds of funds.

Review of literature

Carmen Cotei.et.al (2017) makes critical analysis of how startup finance overtime. Data was analyzed through Latent Growth Modeling. They found that when business is at the startup stage, they always prefer private source of fund or their friends and family. When their business become grows, entrepreneurs are injecting proportion of debt to its capital structure. Study concluded that entrepreneur's

characteristics also influence the use of debt and equity. When startups with high R&D use lower proportion of debt.

Swati Patil(2019) conducted an empirical analysis of startup finance for entrepreneurs in India. Study was aimed to find various financial sources available for startup financing. Apart from that study also aims for the customer satisfaction towards startup financing and choice of people on private and public finance. Content validity was established by using factor analysis. Data was analyzed through t test, Anova, chi square, Karl Pearson correlation and Spearman Rank correlation. Study found that gaining high qualification and experience is important for startup financing. Similarly startups having high financial capital and asset can access startup fund easily. On incubators point of view, they can provide positive growth and success and they offer fund on the basis of technical, financial and managerial capabilities

Research Methodology

Data collected for the study is secondary in nature. Data from various journals and Nascom report for the period of 2019 is taken for finding relation between startup funding and its various stage of operation. SPSS 21.0 is used for analyzing data. Normality is measured by using Shapiro Wilk test and failed to accept null hypothesis. So Kruskal Wallis test is used to show the relation between variables. Descriptive statistics like mean and SD also applied to show frequency of growth of startup companies.

Objectives of the study

1. To provide awareness regarding innovative financing avenues for startups
2. To identify the relation between startup funding and stage of operation

Hypothesis

H0: median of startup fund are same across startup stages

H1: median of startup fund are different across startup stage

NEW CONCEPTS IN STARTUP FINANCING:

Boot strapping: Bootstrapping is the method in which entrepreneurs are not actually using external source of finance. It is the method in which they are converting human capital into productive ideas. Generally this kind of financing is used when they are at startup stage. Benefit of these methods is that dilution of ownership will not take place.

Seed financing: Seed financing is applied at the initial stage of business. This fund can be used for growth and expansion of business enterprises. When investing in seed capital, investor can enjoy all the privilege of equity share holders. Such amount can be used for research and development and marketing activities. In case of investors is concerned, it is most complicated investment avenue because they having only limited information about the company

Angel investors: Angel investor's helps the companies not only providing finance, but also share networking and expertise. It is referred to as smart funding. Because of knowledge are shared between the people. These kinds of funds are needed in both in initial stage and any company stuck during its level of operation. They are also referred to as business angel or seed investor and they provide capital as a return to convertible debt or ownership equity.

Venture capital: venture capital is coming from individual, organization or group focused on the development of startup companies. These are considered as the high risk and high return investment and they take part all kind of services including managerial, technical and financial expertise. They assist in taking decision regarding purchase of raw material, vendors etc. generally it provide finance in both early stage and growth stage of business operations.

Startup finance during its various stage of operation:

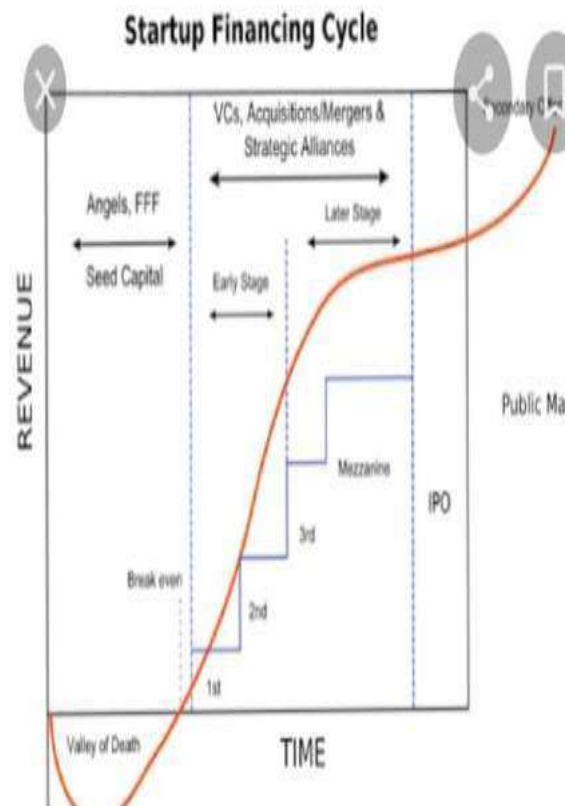
The performance of the startup companies are influenced by the various factors. Entrepreneurs have to take decision regarding how much amount to be invested in each stage. When business has grown up, then different funding pattern has to be adopted.

- **Early stage:** this stage is referred to as pioneer stage in which fund are required to meet establishment of business and setting up of production unit. Many entrepreneurs are always using their own fund and friends and family for the financing. Such entrepreneurs can always enjoy full control over the companies.
- **Second stage:** in this stage, funds are used for further expansion and development of the business. So they inject equity capital into the capital structure. Fund developed can be used as a method for making marketing and distribution of products and services. Here there is a chance of dilution of ownership takes place.
- **Third stage:** here always external source of funds are preferred by entrepreneurs. These external agencies are not only providing finance. But also helps to provide advice regarding how to survive in the business. It include mezzanine finance, bridge finance, angel investors, crowd funding etc

- **Mezzanines finance:** this amount can be used for further expansion. It is the combination of debt and equity. They always offer a safest mode of investment. But the cost of capital is higher and at the time of dissolution, they can pay after paying all financial requirements. In compensation for higher risk involved it will guarantee higher return
- **Bridge financing:** it is a kind of short term loan particularly for a

period of more than 2 weeks to 3 years. It is also referred to as interim financing for business until all next stage of fund are received. Similar to Mezzanines finance, bridge finance is also riskier capital and higher amount of interest is needed

- **Crowd funding:** crowd funding is the method of raising small amount of fund from large number of people, generally amount is collected through internet. There are two types of crowd funding: reward based crowd funding and equity based crowd funding. Crowd funding requires three types of platforms; project initiator, individual or group who support idea and mediator.



Source: Google images

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance
2016	4	1.70	3.80	2.2500	1.03441	1.070
2017	4	.60	1.30	1.0000	.35590	.127
2018	4	.60	3.60	2.0750	1.36961	1.876
2019	4	1.30	3.60	2.3000	1.09240	1.193
Valid N (listwise)	4					

Table shows descriptive statistics of total amount of startup funding received in India for the period of 2016-2019. Each year is divided into 4 quarters and maximum amount of fund received in 2016 is 3.8 Billion dollars and minimum amount received is 1.70 billion dollars. In that year, Indian startup companies received average of 2.25 billion dollars with SD of 1.070 billion dollars among 4 quarters. Similarly in 2017, minimum funding is 0.60 Billion dollars and maximum amount received is 1.30 billion dollars. From that analysis it can see that there is flat decline of startup funding from 2016 to 2017. Investors made only average 1 billion dollars with SD of 0.35590.

After that 4 quarters there can see a small variation in startup funding and mean amount of fund invested is 2.0750 billion dollars with SD of 1.36 Bn Dollars. In 2019 also startup funding can be increased. Mean amount can be increased to 2.30 bn dollars with SD of 1.09 bn dollars. So the above table depicts that startup funding can be increased from 2016 to 2019 period and there is higher standard deviation among different quarters. That means startup amount needed for each quarters are different.

Multivariate Analysis:

Ranks

	startup stage	N	Mean Rank
Sfund	seed stage	183	101.66
	series A	77	222.90
	Series B	44	246.56
	series c	23	306.76
	series D	3	320.33
	SERIES E	5	330.00
	SERIES F	1	333.00
	Total	336	

Test Statistics^{a,b}

	Sfund
Chi-Square	210.944
Df	6
Asymp. Sig.	.000

- a. Kruskal Wallis Test
- b. Grouping Variable: startup stage

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The medians of Sfund are the same across categories of startup stage.	Independent-Samples Median Test	.000	Reject the null hypothesis.
2	The distribution of Sfund is the same across categories of startup stage.	Independent-Samples Kruskal-Wallis Test	.000	Reject the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

Data is taken from Nascom Report 2019; it can be seen that there is growth in performance of startup companies. As per this report, 336 startup companies are taken and studies relation between stage of startup funding and amount of funding. Non parametric Kruskal Wallis test is applied to establish relation between variable. SPSS 21.0 are used to analyze data. Here startup funding stage is divided into 7 categories, i.e., seed stage, Series A, Series B, Series C, Series D, Series E and Series F. among these 7 stages seed stage, A and B are considered as the early funding stage and others are late funding stages.

Table shows that majority of startup companies are depending on seed and early stage of funding. When firms are at earlier stage, then it requires few amount of fund. In the earlier period every startup companies are relies on their own fund and only small amount is extracted from external sources. As per the analysis, it can conclude that we can reject null hypothesis. Because of sig value is less than 0.05 and it is clear that median of startup fund are different among different startup stage. A Kruskal Wallis test showed that there was statistically significant difference in amount of fund received during the various stages, chi square =210.944 and p=0.0000 with a mean rank for 101.66 for seed, 222.90 for A, 246.56 for B, 306.76 for C, 320.33 for D, 330 For E and 333 for F. So every entrepreneur has to take proper decisions regarding how much amount are to be needed for its development stage and final stage.

Conclusion:

Startups are young and newly established firm. These companies are facing too much challenge with a view to survive in the business. Among these amount of finance invested during each stage are decided effectively by proper

planning. When startups are earlier stages, only few amounts are extracted from external source of finance. Otherwise they depends on their own funds and fund from friends and relatives. Even small amount needed, majority of startups are depending on seed and early stage finance for development of their business enterprises. So finance has important role for survival of business. Now there are innovative measures are available for startup financing such as crowd funding, mezzanine finance, venture capital and angel investors. Each of them has its own way of investing in different stage of funding.

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GARMENT EXPORTERS' SATISFACTION ON FUND AND NON-FUND BASED EXPORT SERVICES OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN TIRUPUR

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PREAMBLE

Fashion is serious business, everywhere. Textile sector, being one of the largest industrial sectors of the country, inherent issues and challenges dominate the industry. With the changing dynamics of doing business in a rapidly-changing global economic scenario, the sector needs to identify scope for potential business ideas and overcome challenges by converting them into fresh opportunities. Tirupur Garment exporters' require lot of support from the commercial banks who can guide and establish the system to achieve the goal. The commercial banks are throwing multi dimensional opportunities to Tirupur Garment Exporters.

Exports are the vehicle of growth and development. It plays a crucial role in the economy of the country and contributes largely to foreign exchange pool. Export is more complicate than domestic marketing due to international restrictions, global competition, lengthy procedures and formalities and so on. Every country has to open up its markets to other countries and also try to enter in the markets of other countries in the best possible manner. In the absence of such participation in global marketing, the process of economic development of the country comes in danger.

International trade is an important component in order to achieve a higher standard of living. Financing is the nerve centre for business. The commercial banks play crucial role for manufacturing and marketing a product. Exporters engaged in export business should have the strong band with the commercial banks to increase the market share in the international market.

Commercial Banks provide timey and adequate export support in rendering essential customer services & guidance regarding the procedural formalities and export opportunities to Tirupur Garment Exporters. The services rendering by commercial banks to the exporters may be divided under two heads, viz., fund based service and non-fund based service.

Hence an attempt has been made to identify the commercial banks' export support in Tirupur Garment Export.

COMMERCIAL BANKS EXPORT SUPPORT

“Bank is in the Business of Maintaining Risk not avoiding it”

International trade exposes exporters and importers to substantial risks, especially when the trading partner is far away from a country where contracts are hard to enforce. Firms can mitigate these risks through specialized trade finance products offered by financial intermediaries. Success or failure of any export order mainly depends upon the finance available to execute the order.

Now-a-days export support provided by commercial banks play a significant role in the field of international trade. Many Nationalized as well as Private Banks help the exporter by providing them pre-shipment and post-shipment finance at subsidized rate of interest.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ▶ To discern the satisfaction **Fund and Non-fund based Banking Export Services** preferred by the **Garment exporters**

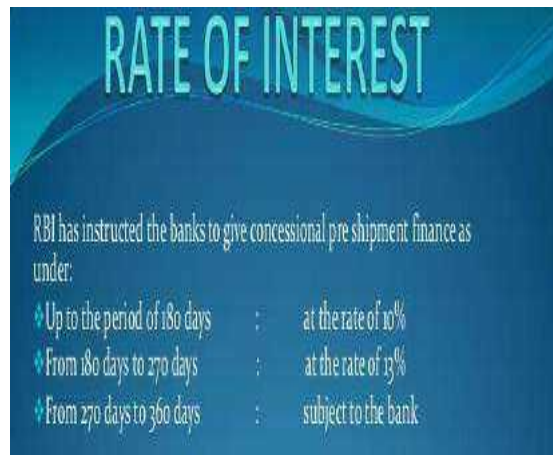
Fund Based Services - Export Finance

The Tirupur Garment exporters have the following options to avail of export finance

- ❖ Pre-shipment Finance and
- ❖ Post-shipment Finance

Pre-shipment finance refers to finance extended by the commercial banks for manufacturing the goods before shipment. i.e. the funds required by the exporter before goods are sent to overseas.

Financial assistance extended after the shipment falls within the scope of post-shipment finance.



Pre-shipment Finance

The main objective of the pre-shipment finance is to enable the exporter to

- Procure raw materials
- Carry out manufacturing process
- Provide a secure warehouse for goods & raw materials
- Process & pack the goods
- Ship goods to buyers
- Meet other financial costs of the business

Quantum of finance

The pre-shipment finance is granted to an exporter against the L/C or an export order. The only guideline principle is the concept of need based finance. The commercial banks determine the percent of margin depending on factors such as:

- Nature of order
- Nature of commodity
- Capability of exporter to being in the requisite contribution
- Nature of importer
- Importers country profile

Post-shipment Finance

- Post-shipment Finance means any loan or advance granted or any

other credit provided by a bank to a garment exporter from the date of extending credit after shipment of goods to the date of realisation of export proceeds, normally 12 months from the date of shipment.

Non-Fund Based Services

Non-fund based facilities are such facilities extended by banks which do not involve outgo of funds from the bank when the garment exporter avails the facilities. These are called non-fund based financing (or quasi-credit facilities) because, at the time of opening of the letter of credit or bank guarantee, no amount becomes immediately payable. Banks charge commission for the services rendered. Some of the main non-fund based facilities availed by the garment exporters are

- Project consultancy
- Letter of credit
- Bank Guarantee
- Bills for collection
- Gold Card Scheme for the exporters
- Running Account Facility enjoyed by the garment exporters
- Foreign Currency Exchange & Hedging
- Building Export Capability

The Tirupur Garment Exporters, qualify for Export Credit (pre and post shipment) for consumables, wages, supplies etc. **the banks may ensure that**

- ▶ The proposal is a genuine case of export.

- ▶ The exporter is registered with the All India Export Promotion Council.
- ▶ There is an Export Contract for the export.
- ▶ There is a time lag between the outlay of working capital expense and actual receipt of payment from the consumer or his principal abroad.
- ▶ There is a valid Working Capital gap i.e. service is provided first while the payment is received some time after an invoice is raised.
- ▶ Banks should ensure that there is no double financing or excess financing.
- ▶ Exporter has to raise the invoice as per the contract.

To test the difference in the exporters’ opinion on commercial banks export support with the personal factors such as nature of ownership, years of experience, annual turnover, percentage of export and export practice such as, Export credit finance limit fixed by the commercial banks’, percentage of credit on the collateral security etc., an ANOVA has been carried. It explained whether any significant difference has exists between the variables or not with the following null hypothesis.

Ho: There has been no significant difference between the exporters’ satisfaction on commercial banks’ fund based export services and exporters’ personal factors.

Opinion on exporters personal variables and fund based services (ANOVA)

Personal Variables		Mean	S.D	No.	F value	Table Value	Sig.
Ownership	Proprietorship	21.82	2.57	49	1.601	3.009	Ns

	Partnership	22.14	2.99	391			
	Private Limited company	21.70	3.15	228			
Years of Experience	Below 5 years	22.63	2.68	104	7.312	3.811	**
	5-10 years	22.58	2.73	152			
	11-15 years	21.32	3.15	211			
	Above 15 years	21.84	3.12	201			
Annual Turnover-2018-19	Below 5 crores	22.23	2.34	62	3.157	2.618	*
	5 to 10 crores	22.19	3.19	91			
	11-15 crores	22.26	2.94	268			
	Above 15 crores	21.50	3.15	247			
Share of export	100%	21.79	2.94	421	3.593	2.618	*
	25 - 50 %	22.94	2.96	65			
	51 - 75%	21.61	3.18	79			
	> 75%	22.32	3.14	103			
ECF limit	< 1 crore	22.75	2.87	75	4.109	3.811	**
	1-3 crores	22.21	3.22	258			
	3-5 crores	21.73	2.86	178			
	> 5 crores	21.46	2.83	157			
Percentage of credit on collateral	< 70	21.69	3.30	86	0.558	2.618	NS
	70-80	22.13	2.86	259			
	81-90	21.88	3.04	163			
	> 90	21.93	3.09	160			
Percentage of ECF drawn on Pre shipment	< 25%	20.73	3.00	26	7.227	3.811	**
	25-50%	22.69	2.89	137			

	51-75%	22.28	2.95	209			
	>75%	21.51	3.03	296			
Rate of interest on pre shipment finance	< 11 %	22.27	2.74	124	2.773	2.618	*
	11-12%	22.24	3.06	259			
	12-13%	21.59	3.09	158			
	>13%	21.56	3.05	127			
Agreeability on Pre-shipment	Large Extent	21.64	3.14	152	2.081	2.618	Ns
	Full Extent	21.97	3.01	337			
	Moderate Extent	22.07	2.93	151			
	Some extent	23.14	2.80	28			
	Least extent	21.64	3.14	152			
Agreeability on Post-shipment	Large Extent	21.82	2.77	94	0.125	2.385	Ns
	Full Extent	22.01	3.06	362			
	Moderate Extent	22.00	3.15	176			
	Some extent	21.79	2.64	24			
	Least extent	21.67	2.87	12			
TOTAL		21.96	3.02	668			

Source: Computed, ** 1% level of significance * 5% level of significance Ns- Not significant

In order to find whether the exporters are satisfied with the export support provided by the commercial banks with their nature of ownership as a personal variable has shown no significant difference with the lower F value of 1.601. Hence the hypothesis has been accepted.

Years of experience showed a significant difference with the satisfaction of exporters on export support. The exporters with the experience of less than

5 year have the higher mean score of 22.63 and the exporters with the experience of 5-10 years have the mean score of 22.58 on the satisfaction of commercial banks' export services. When the experiences in the field of export increase, the expectation and demand of the exporters has also increases which the banker can't fulfill due to the risk factors involved. Hence the hypothesis has been rejected at 1% level of significance.

In order to found the influence of turnover over the commercial banks export services, the higher F value 3.157 then the table value 2.618, the hypothesis has been rejected at 5% level of significance. Hence, there has been difference on the satisfaction of exporters on the basis of turnover. The exporters' who made higher turnover (more than 15 crores) has the lower mean value (21.50) than other category.

With regard to percentage of export on the satisfaction of export support of commercial banks', the higher F value 3.593, reject the hypothesis at 5% level of significance. The exporters who involved lower export level (25 % - 50 %) have the higher mean score of 22.94.

The exporter's satisfaction on commercial banks export support has difference of opinion on the export credit limit fixed by the commercial banks as the F-value has been higher than the table value at 1% level of significance.

The lower F value of 0.558 has confirmed that the exporters' satisfaction on commercial banks' export services have no varied opinion with the percentage of credit on the collateral by accepting the null hypothesis.

In case of percentage of export finance drawn on pre-shipment finance and the commercial banks' export services, there exist the difference between them, since the F-value (7.227) has been greater than the table value (3.811). Hence, the hypothesis has been rejected at 1% level of significance.

The higher F-value in case of rate of interest on pre-shipment finance with the satisfaction of exporters' on commercial banks' export support has shown the rejection of hypothesis at 5 % level of significance. The exporters who have availed post shipment export finance showed different level of satisfaction with meager difference among the mean values.

The exporters' satisfaction on commercial banks export support and the pre-shipment agreeability have showed no significant difference. The null hypothesis has been accepted since the F-value (2.081) is lower than the table value (2.618).

There has been no significant difference between the exporters' satisfaction on commercial banks' export support and the agreeability on post shipment export finance. The F-value has been lower than table value and hence the hypothesis has been accepted.

Relationship of Commercial Bank's Non-fund based Export Services and exporters personal Factors – ANOVA

Non-fund based facilities are such facilities extended by commercial banks which do not involve outgo of funds from the banks when the customer avails the facilities. But at later dates crystallize into financial liability, if the exporter fails to honour the commitment made by availing these facilities. Non-fund based facilities are generally extended in the form of Bank Guarantees, Acceptances and Letter of Credit.

The commercial bank's non-fund based services may vary from one exporter to another exporter according to the nature of ownership, years of experience in the export field, share of export, turnover and so on.

Mean scores were found out for each group of personal variables and the non fund based services practice variables given above are presented in the following tables.

Ho: There has been no significant difference between exporters' personal variables and the commercial bank's non-fund based export services. (ANOVA)

Non-fund based services and exporters' personal variables (ANOVA)

Personal Variables		Mean	S.D	No.	F value	Table Value	Sig.
Ownership	Proprietorship	23.56	2.81	49	0.665	2.665	Ns
	Partnership	23.23	2.86	391			
	Private Limited company	23.06	3.05	228			
Year of Experience	less than 5 years	23.04	3.44	104	2.084	2.618	Ns
	5-10 years	23.09	3.00	152			
	11-15 years	23.61	2.73	211			
	Above 15 years	22.94	2.73	201			
Share of export	100 % export	23.27	2.94	421	2.610	2.618	Ns
	25 - 50 %	23.67	2.59	65			
	51 - 75%	23.35	2.72	79			
	> 75% but less than 100	22.51	3.13	103			
Turnover (2018-19)	Less than 5 crore	22.60	3.02	62	1.534	2.618	Ns
	5 to 10 crore	23.59	2.97	91			
	11-15 crore	23.27	2.80	268			
	Above 15 crore	23.13	3.00	247			
TOTAL		23.20	2.92	668			

The F value of 0.665 has been confirmed the null hypothesis that the nature of organization as independent variable has not influenced the commercial banks 'Non-fund based services' as a dependent factor.

The F value of 2.084 has been confirmed the acceptance of the null hypothesis that the 'year of experience' as independent variable has been no influence on the commercial banks 'Non-fund based services' as a dependent factor.

Since there is a low F-value 2.610 than the Table value 2.618, the hypothesis is accepted. Hence there has been no relationship between the exporters' personal variable - % of export and the commercial banks Non-Fund based export services.

In case of relationship with turnover and non-fund based services, there has been the high table value (2.618) than the t-value (1.534). Hence there is no significant difference persist and the null hypothesis is accepted.

Suggestions to improve the Commercial Banks Export Services:

The globalization trend and intensified competition in the garment export sector, the number of countries whose share in world exports has been much lower than India, have increased their garment exports at a faster pace. Garment manufacturing is one of the sectors which can provide sizable employment. This sector being one of the largest export earning and having a large potential for decentralized employment generation needs special attention. The following suggestions have to be adopted by both the garment exporters and the commercial banks to make India – the crown of the global nations with the achievements through garment export.

Simplification of procedures

The commercial banks' for the convenience of the garment exporters' may simplify the application form and reduce data requirements for assessment of their credit needs, so that exporters do not have to seek outside professional (auditors, layers etc.) to fill it. Bankers, with technical assistance through branches can provide guidelines regarding correct filling up of various forms.

Time lag

Banks should raise all queries in one shot in order to avoid delays in sanctioning credit. The periodical renewals of customers' details and renewal are mandatory. Banks should delegate credit sanctioning powers to their branches for export credit and other services. Commercial banks' may set up a 'Credit Committee' at their branches for sanctioning shipment credit.

Unwind on collateral securities

Assessment of export credit limits should be 'need based' and not directly linked to the availability of collateral security. The requirement of credit may be justified on the basis of the exporters'

performance and track record. The credit should not be denied merely on the grounds of non-availability of collateral security.

Fast track clearance of export credit

Specialized branches with expert personnel's and the facilitation mechanism for assisting the exporters should be put under one roof for quick initial scrutiny of credit application and for discussions for seeking additional information or clarifications.

Competitive rate of interest

Encourage the exporters' to avail the export credit at internationally competitive rates to mitigate the possible exchange risk has to be made.

CONCLUSION

Commercial banks are important category of institutions operating in the international financial markets. They are the channels through which international indebtedness is settled and capital funds can come in and go out. Importance of banking services to garment exporters cannot be overemphasized. Since many countries have been pursuing policies geared to the promotion of exports through adequate export support at low rate of interest. India has also pursued the same policy in regard to export finance.

In order to strengthen the image as a potential exporter in the global market, significant changes have to be introduced by the exporters, which can be possible with the support of the commercial bank services. The success strategy is, to choose the bankers of convenience and be loyal in export. That will bring the exporters to an excellent place in the global trade.

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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Abstract

Digital world-Yes we are living in digital era today. Just visualize the world we lived in just some two decades back, and the world we are living today. Everything we needed is on our fingertips now. All the information which we need is very much accessible. It is because of the big data storage and cloud computing, mathematical algorithm calculations, predictions, Artificial Intelligence etc., these are called digital technologies. Which are very familiar now a days. Even small kids use computer and access information whenever they needed. This change or transformation happened because of data collection, data storage and applying it effectively. So, we are digitizing everything we can. That means we are in the era of transformation based on technology, which we can call - digital Transformation

Keywords: Digital Transformation, Artificial intelligence, Global Positioning System, KrishiVigyan Kendra, Information and Communication Technology

Introduction

Digital transformation has led to lots of opportunities for innovation across various sectors. From life sciences to retails, from banking to pharma, we observe a complete reinvention of services, products and user experiences in the modern market. Digital transformation means the union of digital technology towards different areas of business, essentially changing how you perform and present value to the customers.

It is good that we are on the verge to transform everything digitally. But we should give importance to those things or basic needs of mankind which cannot be digitalized, that means the things we can't transform digitally are precious, just like Food, Love, Trust, humanity etc. So, we can say that all the values which are precious cannot be digitalized, but technology can help to increase the productivity of them.

Food is the basic need of mankind. In this article we will discuss something on digital transformation or applying technology in Agriculture sector. May be agriculture sector cannot be completely digitalized but digitalisation can help to improve the productivity on this sector for sure. Technology is spreading its wings wide, but we still don't have any software that we can drink and hardware we can digest! That is the reality. So digital transformation in agriculture, means using technology to increase the productivity of the sector, is the need of the hour.

The problems on agriculture sector is increasing. The productivity is not up to the mark because of limited agricultural land, Water levels are decreasing because of unscientific usage of water resources and digging bore-wells etc. If the situation continues, we cannot expect a green revolution in near future, which is most needed. So, we should develop technology to overcome these problems, and methods to find how to use the resources effectively. Absolutely Technology can do that. And Its very laudable that there are number of inventions are impelling on this regard, and we can see many success stories of using technology in agriculture sector. But the acceleration of Digital transformation in Agriculture needs to be increased with the involvement of government, Scientists and organizations.

Digital Transformation

The word Digital could be defined as technology used by electronic gadgets, which generates, stores, and processes data used with new physical communications media, such as satellite and other transmission methods.

Transformation means: Act of transforming, or a state of being transformed into another form without changing the value.

Digital Transformation does not mean only the technological, scientific and those complex algorithm things, but changes connected with digital technology application in all walks of life. We will

define the term Digital Transformation - is the reinvention of a person or organization through the use of digital technology to advance the way he/it performs and serves for the notion/ consumers. Digital refers to the usage of technology that generates, stores and processes data and recall it whenever/ wherever it is needed.

Digital Transformation: Need of the Hour

The reason why DT matters so much is businesses are undergoing a fundamental change in the way they operate. They are rethinking the strategies through which they meet their customers' needs, and the way in which those customers engage with businesses services and offerings, it may be through mobile devices, wearable technology, or other technology-based devices. In today's world, businesses, including agriculture need to realize that they must use digital channels to engage with their customers. It is necessary to maintain relevance and drive the conversation on this regard. In their latest Digital Transformation report, World Economic Forum expressed its view and states that-“To succeed and survive in digital era, companies or sectors should strive smartly to become digital enterprises, reviewing entire attitude of their businesses/ sector.” If any company or sector wants to survive in this digital age it should pass through the digital transformation phase effectively. If not, that will be isolated. Once again Darwin's theory “Survival of the fittest” applies here, but of course evolution has an end, but technology evolves continuously.

Importance of DT in Agriculture Sector

Over the last 10 to 20 years enormous technological development and scopes have transformed people's lives for sure. But these opportunities have not aided the agriculture sector in a significant way. American agronomist Norman Borlaug says: the first component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the basic need of Mankind.

Rural India is mainly based on agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of any country. But why some of the rural farmers, the committed suicide and the statistics are still raising in India. Based on the scenario, we can assume that they maybe had no proper knowledge about their Agri land and its geography, nutrition value or effective usage of water resources, and information to get the good price for his corps, and lack of financial support from the bank,. the problems continues. To overcome this serious issue, based on some technological inventions in India and abroad we can set up a ‘cloud’ of information that can help each and every phase of crop development, price, loans, bank involvement, subsidies, mundi prices etc to the farmers. Around 50% of farmers now use smart phones. So, information can reach to the fingertips of farmers. Farmers and different sectors associated with the agriculture need significant volume of information to develop. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are playing a vital role in knowledge and information exchange such as targeted recommendations, market integration and access to banking sector to make agriculture a profitable and enticing for upcoming generation.

How do we get significance increase in food production using information? Farmers apply water, pesticides or nutrients uniformly. With technology we can now apply only where it is needed and save water and decrease usage of pesticides and we can apply nutrients where it is needed in the farm and increase productivity. This will be helpful for better environment also.

Of course, the impact of digitalisation in Indian agriculture will be long. Even though the mobile penetration rates are emerging across our country, the smart phones usage into rural areas are still quite low. At present scenario, the smart phone usage increasing gradually in rural areas too, but we may be lagged behind

from escalate the types of services related to agriculture in rural areas.

But there is a way of hope. Even if usage is low, we can find at least two or three smart phones every village. The smart phone connects to the knowledge, and then the word of mouth gets it out around the community.

Technologies that boost Digital Transformation in Agriculture

Digital Transformation is playing an important role in Agriculture sector. When we create a platform that farmers can use to get this digital knowledge on their smart phone, when they know how much they produced, how much they have sold, how much has come under cultivation—when they can see all the data in their own language on smart phone on a real-time basis, that is when the change starts taking place. That’s when you start feeling, yes, it is doable. India will always have a large number of small farmers, but small farmers can bring about a big change. Farmers can be profitable, productive and progressive if all three put together. So, technology can help farmers effectively on this regard.

IT in agriculture

Agriculture sector has found its track widened only after exchange of information within it. Here Information means the data relating to market prices, demand, cultivation ideas, and seasonal changes etc. Information linked to weather is the very important, which saves the farmer from any loss due to un predictable weather conditions.

The mobile revolution helps to widen the wings of digital transformation in agriculture, but we need physical devices and related infrastructure to go along with the digital. That is where we think there’s a small amount of divergence, because the basic needs in this regard are not developing in a significant way to support the digital innovations which the farmers would like to implement

Data driven farming or precision agriculture

One of the technologies used effectively in agriculture sector is Data driven farming, that means using data, may be pictures, data from drones and sensors installed on the fields, this technology has the ability to map every farm land, just like what is the soil moisture level, nutrient level etc. Studying the information every farmer can use the resources effectively. Then there will be decrease in the cost of production and obviously the productivity increases. So, scientists or techies call the technic - precision agriculture.

There is some technology called Pheno typing, which gives information to the farmers on which land which seeds should be sowed for good increased yield.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) in agriculture

One of the great inventions in digital era is AI (artificial intelligence). With the rise of Artificial Intelligence, in the agriculture space, solutions based on the technology are also coming up

Mr. Prashanth Shukla, veteran technologist expresses his thoughts through a TEDx speech. He says AI can transform the lives of rural area and farmers even in India more effectively.

What is AI? We learn technology, but surprisingly AI learns us based on information or data given to it. The AI learns us and observes us, it looks at the way we are answering questions, then taking the data point, it anticipates and predicts what will be our answers for certain situation. AI is the combination of Cloud data technology, real time data and simple to complex algorithms.

So, AI can be used in Agriculture sector. Actually in India our farmers use some apps in which they are getting real-time solutions, and answers for their problems, which is based on AI. Of course, use of AI helping the farmers to increase their productivity gradually.

In AI technology with the sensors planted in fields, the soil tells you what can grow best, using drones we can calculate the crop qualities, Soil Moisture information can be collected and analysed. Even according to the yield, we can get the expected support price, we can get parasite pics and plans to get rid of them. So, the AI absorbs all the information and give the farmer a better solution. So obviously the productivity must increase if everything goes on the right way – right channel. There are some success stories we can get from the IoT (Internet of Things).

Using technology we are not only get the information of soil and the Nutrients in it but farmer can take Right decision about their land. Mobile usage surprising increased the productivity with some agricultural related info apps by the government and some other developers. So, we can say that data science is very much helpful to empower a famer.

So by AI technology we can perform field by field specific analysis of soil constitution, weeds, pest infestation, fertilizer requirement, water requirement through GPS and probes on the farm machinery; colour based spectral analysis of the crop maturity stage, time of harvest; weather forecast based time and type of crops best to be sown; harvesting and post-harvest equipment to increase the efficiency and reduce wastage, grading of the crops etc. Even we AI can contribute on genetically modified seeds / saplings fitted to specific climate, area and even farm to increase yield and reduce failures; thus, reducing need for pesticides, saving water etc. So Digital transformation spreading its wings in the agriculture sector also.

Use of GPS technology in agriculture

In the navigation sector, global positioning system (GPS) topped the factors for easy access to places. The same impact or an equally significant impact has been made in agriculture too. Along with GPS, GIS also makes its part huge in

digital farming. The involvement of these technologies is for Site-specific farming and Precision Farming. These technologies are used in some sections of agriculture effectively.

Field mapping, Farm planning, Soil sampling, Crop scouting, Tractor guidance, Variable rate operations, Yield mapping etc. are conducted through these technologies.

GPS in agriculture will allow the farmers to perform their job even at zero visibility. Zero visibility means the struggles in viewing the farm amid environmental natures like rain, fog dust and darkness. During these unpredictable conditions, GPS interfere in to bring a break-free or interruption less farming.

Apart from these technologies, there are few more in the market which is being used in the field of agriculture. Information technology, GPS and Nanotechnology are broad classifications and the following are a bit specific in their purpose.

Drones in Agriculture sector

One of the newest and greatest assets to modern farming is the invention of Drone. No longer do farmers have to cover miles of farms and fields to see where crops are flourishing or in need of additional care. Add to this the GPS programmed units out on this field that do the neat work that was previously done by farmers. These instruments give an immediate notice of where moisture is needed and automatically divert water there and not to the whole fields as previously. Crop yields can be accessed prior to harvesting using drones. In near future drones are going to be used extensively in India to monitor farming activities. Many farmers and scientists are already working on this regard, and may be within 5-7 years it should be used vastly across the country.

Irrigation systems: Centre pivot

Irrigation must be done precisely, because of its impact on the growing

crops. Better irrigation plays a key role in conserving the water resource as well as providing adequate water for crops. This is to be considered the most needed criteria in selecting a convenient irrigation structure. On this regard center pivot ranks first in that and the costs associated with it are also relatively less. It is notable that the center pivot irrigation system is more suitable for flat terrain regions.

It is promising that some areas of agriculture in India is undergoing digital transformation process. Here are some moves in which digital technologies help in their own way for better changing agricultural practices.

Apps that Support Digital Transformation in Agriculture

Another technology that we are trying to use for the better productivity, is developing some apps to monitor activities on the farm. There are significant number of apps related to agriculture currently available on app stores, free of cost, which deals in an array of functionalities in agriculture sector.

Market place facilitation using apps: where farmers or agriculture enthusiasts or producers are able to connect directly with the consumer. Better Farming practices can be implemented using apps by farmers for higher quality and quantity yield, crop health, seasonal plantations, cost optimization, etc. Apps also keep the user updated on government policies, schemes, grants on agriculture.

Some examples of such apps used by farmers are ApniKheti, Organic Livestock Farming, Krishi Gyan, CCMobile, Hitech Kissan, Agribuz etc.

How these apps help Farmers go digital

The farmers can download the apps related to agriculture on their smart phones thereby apps bring together the farming community and helps them in selling, buying and exchanging agriculture commodities and services locally without middlemen through ad listing/posting

which they can post from their smart phones.

Apps feature several significant information to farmers, some are.

Information on Buy or Sell agriculture related products: India has one of the large agricultural markets around the world. So, it is important to have a service, which can connect the farmers across the country. This would help them in increase their productivity and profits by selling their produce at a better price locally or where farmer get better price.

Post Ad/Listing: using apps farmers can post anything about Agriculture within minutes. Take a snap or upload a photo of the field or products, just provide the details of product and submit Advertisement and instantly their post will be displayed.

Chat, e-mail or Call service: Seller or buyer can chat, details can be shared by e-mail and then discuss about deal on phone.

Sell anything related to agriculture: Farmers can connect with each other to deal with agriculture related products.

Information on seeds: Apps provides info on Vegetables, Flower, Fruit seeds, Seed Production, Processing, Drying, storage and Packing etc.,

Information about planting material: Apps provide info on Fruit and Vegetable crop, Flowers crop seedlings, Tissue culture plants, Ornamental plants, Landscape plants and Spice crop plants. Info about Agriculture Chemicals such as Insecticides, Fungicides, Herbicides, Rodenticides, Pest control service and Lab chemicals available through apps.

Apps provide Info on Straight, Complex, Soil enrichers, Soil Amendments, All in one, Special, Water soluble, Micronutrients and Bio-Fertilizers etc.

Info on Hi-tech or Modern Agriculture or Smart Agriculture: We get real-time info on Precision farming, Poly-House, Net-House, Mulching, Hydroponics, Nursery Portrays, Drip

Irrigation, Sprinkler Irrigation, Growing Media, Helicopter or drone crop spraying, Hiring service and Field contractual service.

Info on Machineries and tools(Farm, Harvesting Post harvest machineries and farm tool Farm Implements): Apps provide info on traditional and modern Hand operated, Bullock drawn, Tractor drawn implements, Field equipment's and Lab equipment's.

Agriculture Market Information: Apps also provide info on Millets, Cereals, Pulses, Oil seeds, Vegetables, Fruits, spices and fiber, Ready-made products and Ready to eat products.

Organic Agriculture Market Information through apps: Organic farming, Organic Inputs, Organic fertilizers, Organic Insecticides, Organic Fungicides, Other organic Pesticides, Organic sprays, and other Organic Products information can be accessed through apps

Info on domestic animals, pets and farm Land: Cows, Bullocks, Poultry, Fishery, sericulture, Sheep, Goats, Dogs and Land development, Layout or land for lease and sale.

Agriculture Consultancy and services such as Field visit, Phone consultation as well Service on phone call and Hiring service are made available through apps.

Knowledge on Agriculture Communities and events: Information on Agro-connect, Social, Commercial, Agriculture Forums, Agriculture Events, Trainings, Field days, Agriculture-expo, Seminars, Conference, Agriculture-Trade fairs, Krishimelas, Kissan melas and Discussion.

Agriculture Education and jobs: We can get Information agriculture education for students, Diploma, Graduation, and Post-graduation courses. Conducting Quiz based on Agriculture, Jobs in Trading, Service companies, Agriculture Officer and Agriculture business.

We can say, modernism is not in agriculture alone but in the lives and levels of farmers too, which makes use of technology. Development of new apps significantly ease the workload of a farmer is definitely a good sign in the Agriculture sector.

All is well, but why a common farmer cannot get these technological benefits to increase productivity is another big question. Because the cost of the technologies. It is not affordable for small common holder farmer. Thus, it is very essential that government and organizations tie up together to help the backbone of the mankind, i.e., farmers.

Organizational Support on Digital Transformation in Agriculture-Sector

In India there are number of organizations that empower farmers to adopt modern techniques in Agriculture. KVK(Krishi Vigyan Kendra) is one of the Organization which guides the farmers on this regard. The KVK is financed by Indian government and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agriculture Varsities, ICAR institutes, related Departments and NGOs working on Agriculture development.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, is an integral section of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS). It aims at determination of location specific technology segment in agriculture and related sectors, through technology appraisal, refinement and demonstrations. KVKs functioning as Information and Resource venture of agricultural technology. It supports the actions of public, private and voluntary sector to empower the agricultural economy and linking the NARS with extension system and farmers of the respected district.

Technology assessment and demonstration of its application and scope development is the mandate of KVK. Some activities are assigned for each KVK to implement the commission effectively.

1. Under various farming systems conducting on-farm testing to assess the

location specificity of agricultural technologies.

2. To Establish production potential of technologies by frontline demonstrations on fields.

3. To update knowledge and skills of farmers and extension workers on innovative agricultural technologies.

4. To support initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector in developing the agricultural economy, KVK work as knowledge and resource center.

5. Through ICT and other media means KVK provide farm advisories on varied subjects of interest to farmers

KVKs also provide quality agriculture and technological products like, seed, planting devises, bio-agents, live-stock etc.KVK make these innovations available to farmers, conducts extension activities, identifying and documentation of farm innovations and to converge them with schemes and programs within the authority of KVK.

Some organizations developed real-time Mobile Apps that will be very helpful for the Farmers. These technologies and Apps must made available to all farmers to empower the sector.

The Intelligent Agricultural Systems Advisory Tool (ISAT): ISAT gives concise farm advisories to our farmers on their smart phones. ISAT is emerged by a collaboration of the IT giant Microsoft, Indian Meteorological Dept. (IMD), Acharya NG Ranga Agri University (ANGRAU) and ICRISAT. These advisory or messages are generated after study of local and global climate history data as well current and predicted weather conditions, soil-related information and crop systems. The application employs a decision-tree approach to generate SMSs, which then sent to farmers who asked for the service. By guiding planting decisions, the tool helped farmers increase the crop yield across several areas.

Sowing App: The Sowing App, developed for farmers of Andhra Pradesh utilizes artificial intelligence technology to

interface with weather-forecasting models (provided by USA-based a Where Inc.) and extensive data which Combined with Village Advisory Dashboard which is Personalized.

Rainfall data over the last 4 decades and 10-year data of groundnut sowing process in Kurnool district and data about crops and fields are collected and uploaded to a cloud-based computer and is used to provide important insights about soil health, fertilizer recommendations, sowing date suggestions including weather forecasts for a week.

The Sowing App is developed with the partnership between ICRISAT, Microsoft and the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. The App has helped farmers achieve excellent harvests by giving information through SMS on the perfect time to sow. The Farmers of the region got 30% increased yield with timely advisories from the App.

Plantix App: Plantix mobile app developed by German company PEAT GmbH's is customized to mandate crops of ICRISAT. The app help farmers to identify diseases and pests on their smart phones. Farmers click pictures of the crop affected and upload them instantly. The images are analyzed by AI (artificial intelligence) algorithms, and results immediately returned to the farmer. Using the app farmers get analytical information on symptoms and triggers, chemicals and even biological treatments of crop diseases on time, preventing greater loss of crop and productivity.

The Measure M&E Platform: Monitoring and Evaluation of Agri-Science Uptake in Research and Extension (MEASURE) is a mobile and web-based application designed to collect real-time, geo-tagged info about farmers and their farmland, livestock, as well other on-field interventions and other important measures of agriculture research and extension. Originally created as a field data-collection instrument, MEASURE has now transformed into a full-fledged

M&E platform to trace activities, manage beneficiaries and supply real-time insights through visually enabled dashboards to the project teams. The MEASURE platform gathers info on geo-tagged data of farmers and farmland and crops in it, capacity building activities in real-time. It provides a multi-layered web-based dashboard to see the collected info from all sources. It keeps track of the progress of the project implementation and provides proper distribution of the project intervention sites. As well it schedules and manage field level activities carried out by the partners/staff on the grass root. In two years of the particular launch, MEASURE has about 560,000 records from 20 different projects within and out of doors ICRISAT.

Technological impact on Agriculture

Delivering appropriate knowledge for better and sustainable farming and livelihoods Impact - Having the proper information and knowledge can lift poor smallholder farmers out of poverty and food insecurity, be more resilient to drought and other shocks. Access to plug price information means better bargaining power and incomes and this will successively influence the selection of crop cultivation accordingly. Applying knowledge about new farming practices like no-tilling conservation agriculture could improve soil fertility and double yields.

Right information at the proper time – within the dry lands, public-funded agricultural extension to place research into practice is usually poorly equipped to reply to smallholder farmers' real-time agricultural advice needs. E.g. "A pest is destroying my chickpea crop what should I do." Science produces large amounts of data, but how can farmers dig out the key piece of data to answer a selected question at the time they have it? Agro pedia, a web collaborative knowledge repository on Indian agriculture, aims at cataloguing scientific information for easier access, providing localized content to extension

workers and farmers consistent with key agricultural entry points like by crop.

Right format through the proper channel- Many players deliver information to farmers, from extension workers to media, private companies and farmers themselves. Social networks play a robust role in circulating information among the farming community and therefore the way knowledge is assimilated by each individual. the primary source of data for smallholder farmer is usually a loved one or a neighbor. Farmers may imitate adoption behavior of progressive/successful farmers. Bhoochetana project in Karnataka uses progressive farmers (farm facilitators) within the targeted community to vary soil fertility and other farming practices.

Providing farmer-friendly information, e.g. during a tailored, local language, jargon free format is vital for effective learning and adoption. Demonstration plots beside agro-dealer shops, striga management training videos, aflatox in awareness, theatre plays screened on television in Mali, seed fairs and other visual information is effective back-up to agricultural extension.

Radio may be a major information means for farmers in developing countries. ICRISAT works with partners like Farm Radio International to enhance the standard of data in agriculture broadcasting programs.

Some impactful ICT innovations

ICRISAT has developed and supported many information systems linking research, extension and markets, just like the Virtual Academy of Semi-Arid Tropics (VASAT). Internet equipped village knowledge Centre are fed with up-to-date knowledge on best farming practices. E.g. climate adaptation methods, crop rotation, diversification and pest management for smallholder crops like millet or sorghum.

Mobile phone technology addresses many of the walk. Effective productivity lagged because connectivity problems with

earlier web-based ICT platforms like infrastructure, connectivity, training needs and literacy issues. Mobile tech can increase outreach and efficiency of extension services. A pilot mobile-mediated knowledge system helps Krishi Vigan Kendra's (Farmer Knowledge Centre) to succeed in reaching 20,000 farmers in South India who are regularly receiving useful and timely crop advisories.

Advantages and disadvantages of DT on this sector

One of the main advantages of the utilization of DT in agriculture is that farmers can now farm more acres in one season than ever before. this is often important because it means less people need to be farmers, though it does present a definite disadvantage to small-scale farmers who struggle to compete with landlords who farm hundreds or thousands of acres of agricultural land.

Another important advantage of tech is that the increased efficiency of farming. Each acre of land gets precisely the correct quantity of seeds, rows are spaced precisely the correct quantity apart for optimal yield, and fertilizer are often applied without waste. All of this leads to lower operating costs for the farmer, which successively makes the utilization of this technology feasible for farmers.

Finally, the utilization of technology in agriculture helped to enhance the health of the environment. For example, a replacement edge-of-field monitoring system, the system monitors phosphorus levels in runoff from fields and updates the farmer when levels are too high and would be harmful if in major waterways. this is cool. So, we can expect a positive shift in agricultural consideration for the health of the encompassing environment.

As we speak about advantages of technology, Modern machines can control the efforts of farmers and hey reduce the time also. Used to supply water to the crops. While Machines are useful in sowing the seeds and also used in

transportation. Proper irrigation, Application of synthetic fertilizers, Chemical pest control can be done effectively to increase productivity.

Disadvantages of technology include lack of practical knowledge the farmers cannot handle the machines like tractors properly. While the cost of maintenance is very high. The overuse of machines may lead to environmental damage. It is efficient but has many side effects and drawbacks. Furthermore, a Driverless agriculture machine is a liability to access technology.

Conclusion

Transformation is an inevitable event of any living being, any person or organization/sector. That could be any form of change, may be a noticeable one. Just like a caterpillar transforms itself into a beautiful Butterfly.

The world we are living now is called digital era, because changes happen in a drastic pace. Inventions takes place back to back in our day-to-day life. We are in a situation to adopt the changes and should transform ourselves to survive and increase productivity in the digital world. Agriculture is not foreign to it, as we have seen elaborately in this article.

Digital transformation in agriculture sector is an enormous undertaking, especially a radical thinking by using the technology to meet the need of the people through new development for a sustainable and a flourishing society. When executed right, it will result in a promising business sector that is more aligned with customer demands and expectations in this digital age and robust in the fast-moving digital future.

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ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT IN ELECTORAL REFORMS

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Abstract

The Electoral system and the laws have to evolve over the period of time to accommodate the changes in the political culture of any country. The process of electoral reforms is successful only when there is a coordination among the electoral machinery, the political parties, the candidates and electorate at all levels. Over the years the Election Commission of India kept pace with changing needs, aspirations, and technology. Throughout these years of innovation and development the Supreme Court of India has stood like a rock behind the commission. In many instances such as introducing the Moral Code of Conduct, NOTA, in curbing the criminalization of politics, the Election Commission has heavily depended upon the direction of the Supreme Court. Against this backdrop, this paper is going to focus on the contribution of the Supreme Court of India in reforming the electoral laws and enriching the democratic space in the country through its directions in various cases.

Keywords: *Election, Election Commission, Electoral reforms, Democracy, Supreme Court*

Introduction

Elections are nothing but democracy in practice. The consent of the governed is expressed through the election in any democracy. In other words, election process provides legitimacy to the authority of the government. Representative government has become the best attainable method in establishing democracy in the modern world, periodic elections become necessary for this purpose. The adult franchise, impartial

elections, independent judiciary, multiparty system are substance of democracy. Each citizen should have the right to vote on attaining the certain age and nobody should be disqualified on grounds of caste, creed, sex, language, religion etc. The most important feature of a democratic polity is elections at regular intervals. The right to vote has emerged not only as a fundamental right, but as an instrument of political awakening. It is true that the principle of universal adult

franchise was introduced in modern democracies only gradually, but today it is regarded as a necessary condition of democracy.

The main focus of this article is to highlight the role of the in bringing electoral reforms in India for democratic sustenance and better functioning. This article is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on functions of elections in democracy and various aspects of electoral reforms; second part highlights the role of the Supreme Court of India in bringing electoral reforms in India with main focus on expanding the scope of Election Commission of India, addressing the issues of paid news, opinion polls/exit polls, criminalization of politics and introducing NOTA.

Democracy and Electoral Reforms

In modern politics representation is invariably linked with elections. As Harrop and Miller Explained, there are two contrasting views of the function of competitive elections. The conventional view is that elections are a mechanism through which politicians can be called to account and forced to introduce policies that somehow reflect public opinion. This emphasizes the bottom-up functions of elections: political recruitment, representation, making government, influencing policy and so on. On the other hand, a radical view of elections, developed by theorists such as Ginsberg portrays them as a means through which governments and political elites can exercise control over their populations and making them more governable. This view emphasizes top-down functions: building legitimacy, shaping public opinion and strengthening the elite.

The process of reform in governance has to start with reform of the electoral system, which serves as the entry point for the politicians to enter the governance system. Electoral reform is a change in the electoral systems that include

- Change in the voting systems

- Change in the vote counting procedures
- Rules about political parties
- Changes to election laws
- Eligibility to vote
- Ballot design and voting equipment
- Election monitoring
- Safety of voters and election workers
- Measures against bribery, coercion, and conflicts of interest
- Financial controls

India, being the largest democracy in the world, has to evolve a free and fair system to conduct elections. Reform is not a single time effort but a continuous process. The accomplishment of the modification would depend upon the operational compliance of the coordination of electoral machinery, the political parties, the candidates and electorate at all levels. There is a continuous attempts to reform the electoral system in India. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Amendments to Election Law (1971-72), the Tarkunde Committee Report of 1975, the Goswami Committee Report of 1990, the Election Commission's Recommendations in 1998 and Indrajit Gupta Committee Report of 1998 etc. produced comprehensive set of recommendations regarding electoral reforms.

Supreme Court of India and Electoral Reforms

Over the years, the election commission of India has handled a number of issues and introduced many electoral reforms to strengthen democracy. Throughout these years of innovation and development the Supreme Court of India has stood like a rock behind the commission and helping in its endeavor to conduct elections as clean as possible. The Supreme Court of India has unbridled the powers of the Election Commission by interpreting the Articles 324 and 325. In many instances such as introducing the Moral Code of Conduct, NOTA, in curbing the criminalisation of politics, the

Election Commission has heavily depended upon the direction of the Supreme Court.

1. Expanding the powers of the Election Commission

The scope of powers and functions of the Election commission under Art 324 of the constitution of India came under the consideration of Supreme Court in *Mohinder Singh Gill Case (1978)*. In this case, the Election Commission had declared the poll taken in Firozpur parliamentary constituency in 1977 general elections as void, on the basis of certain complaints. The petitioners contended that the Election Commission could only direct fresh poll at the polling stations where the poll was allegedly vitiated, and not in the entire parliamentary constituency. But the Supreme Court rejected the contention of the petitioners and held that art 324 is a plenary provision vesting the whole responsibility for national and State elections in the Election Commission and the words 'superintendence, direction and control' used in Art 324 are the broadest terms.

In another case, the validity of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) order 1968 was called in question in *Kanhiya Lal Omar vs. R.K. Trivedi and others (1985)*. It was contended that the symbols order was legislative in character and could not have been promulgated by the Commission, as the Commission is not empowered by law to issue such a legislative order. The Supreme Court rejected the above contention and stated that the power to issue the Symbols Order is vested in the commission under Art 324. Art 324(1) which empowers the commission to issue all directions necessary for the purpose of conducting smooth, free and fair elections in the country, is a reservoir of powers and any provision could not be traced to the Representation of the Peoples Act 1951 or the Conduct of Elections Rules 1961, it could be traced to Art 324(1).

In another famous *Common Cause case (1996)* the Supreme Court held that the expression Conduct of elections in Art. 324 of the constitution is wide enough to include the powers of the Election Commission to issue directions to the effect that the political parties shall submit to the commission for its scrutiny, the details of the expenditure incurred or authorized by the political parties in connection with the election of their respective candidates.

In *Union of India vs. Association for Democratic Reforms and others case(2002)*, the Supreme Court, stated that a citizen has right to get relevant information about prospective candidates and directed the Election Commission that each candidate for election to Parliament or a State Legislature should submit a duly sworn affidavit, along with his nomination paper, which consists of the information about his past criminal conviction, pending criminal cases carrying a conviction of more than two years, assets, liabilities and educational qualifications.

2. Advisory Jurisdiction of the Election Commission

The Constitution of India vested the powers in the President in the case of a member of Parliament (under Art. 103) and the Governor in the case of a member of State legislature (under Art.192) in the matters of disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and of state legislatures, on all grounds other than the ground of defection. But before deciding such matters the President or the governor, as the case may be, has to refer the matter to the Election Commission for its opinion and act according to such opinion.

While deciding the matters on the advisory role of the Election Commission in *Brundaben Nayak vs. ECI (1965)* the Supreme Court has made it clear that the President and the Governors are bound by the opinion of the Election Commission in such matters and not required even to consult their Council of Ministers. The apex court observed in *Shamsher Singh vs.*

State of Punjab (1975) that the actual adjudication has to be made by the Election Commission and the president and governors merely append their signatures to the order.

3. Paid News

Paid news is a phenomenon in Indian media, in which many of the mainstream media outlets were found to be systematically engaged in publishing favorable articles in exchange for payments. The Election Commission of India has issued directions in 2008 and 2012 to deal with the issue of paid news. In this issue also the Election Commission heavily depended on the orders or directions of the Supreme Court.

The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Rules, 1994 prohibit advertisements of a political nature. This issue as raised before the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which suspended the operation of Rule 7(3) of the above said rules, relating to the prohibition of political advertisements. The matter went to the Supreme Court in *Ministry of Information & Broadcasting vs. M/s Gemini TV and others* (2004) and the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to monitor such advertisements on television and cable networks during 2004 general elections. In accordance with the order of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India issued guidelines in 2012 to set up State and District Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) to identify the suspected cases of paid news, for monitoring of political advertisements in electronic media and print media. MCMCs are also entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring political advertisements in other media, in relation to candidates, either overt or covert, from Expenditure monitoring angle.

4. Opinion polls / Exit polls

In pursuance of the order passed by the hon'ble Supreme Court in 2009, the Election Commission has issued guidelines to be followed in the matter of

publication/dissemination of results of opinion polls and exit polls in connection with elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. No result of any opinion poll or exit poll conducted at any time shall be published in any manner by print, electronic or any other media, at any time –

(a) during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for closing of poll in an election held in a single phase; and

(b) In a multi phased election, and in the case of elections in different States announced simultaneously, at any time during the period starting from 48 hours before the hour fixed for closing of poll in the first phase of the election and till the poll is concluded in all the phases in all States.

5. Issue of criminalization of politics

Section 8(4) of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 states that if a sitting Member of Parliament or state legislature is convicted and sentenced to not less than two years of imprisonment shall be disqualified from being member of house. However, if the member goes on appeal against his conviction within 3 months, he shall not be subjected to disqualification. This provision facilitated that they could not be disqualified until the appeals or revisions were exhausted. The Supreme Court in its landmark judgment in *Lilly Thomas vs. Union of India* (2013) has struck down section 8 (4) and held it as unconstitutional and void. In *Resurgence India vs. Election Commission of India* judgement (2013), the Supreme Court said that returning officers should reject nomination papers of candidates who do not provide all relevant information about their assets, liabilities, and criminal cases, if any.

6. Introducing of NOTA

In *People's Union for Civil Liberties vs. Union of India and others* (2013), the Supreme Court ruled that the voters should have the option to reject all the candidates who were standing for

election in their constituency. It directed the Election Commission to include the option 'None of the Above'(NOTA) in the Electronic Voting Machines(EVMs) to ensure privacy for those who don't find any candidates suitable. The Supreme Court felt that it would contribute to cleansing of politics that the political leadership would formally know that there are people unhappy with the parties' choice of candidate and this would build moral pressure on political parties to rethink on their choice of candidates with criminal background or dark image. Thus the introducing NOTA in the ballot units of EVMs is an offshoot of the Supreme Court's verdict.

Conclusion

In India as the democratic process is deepening, institutions such as Election Commission assumed crucial importance to formulate a conscious policy towards rule enforcement in order to establish a fair and vibrant representative democracy. Despite the criticism on Indian Judiciary's proactive decisions as judicial activism or judicial overreach by the critics, the Indian judiciary is extending its relentless support to the electoral reform process in India. As we have seen in the above mentioned cases, the apex court through its judgements enabled the Election Commission of India to introduce some reforms and expanded the scope of the Commission within which it functions. India's ongoing good governance reforms process will be successful only if the core issues like electoral reform are addressed.

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