

Local Government Quarterly

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A Journal of the All India Institute of Local Self-Government

- * Human Fertility and Population Characteristics among World's Regions: An Analysis from PRB's 2021 World Population Data Sheet
- ★ Parent-Child Relationships and Emotional Development: An Observation from an Ancient Tamil Literature 'Thirukkural'
- * Livelihood Practices and Challenges of Forest Fringe Village of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal, India
- * Status of Community-Driven Water Conservation Schemes: A Case Study of 'Jalamruta' Scheme in the Selected GPs of Dharwad, Karnataka
- * Scope of Corporate Social Responsibility in Rural Community Development

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All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AILSG), established in 1926 has been actively working in the field of urban development management and is a diligent partner in promoting the cause of local governance in India and overseas.

The Institute has been the steadfast friend, philosopher and guide to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the Country. For more than eight decades it has contributed to the principles and practice of urban governance, education, research and capacity building. It has designed and developed a vast array of training literature and courses and trained more than 1.5 million stakeholders in diverse areas of urban governance and urban services delivery.

These activities of the AIILSG are practiced through 30 regional centres located in different regions of the Country. The Institute anchors the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India for Western India region. This Centre is actively involved in building capabilities of municipal officials, staff and elected members from the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Diu, Daman, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli by upgrading their knowledge and skills required for effective administration and implementation of various urban development programmes.

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Editorial

International Women's Day; a lot more needs to be done

"Greetings on the International Women's Day! Women are making exemplary contributions in all walks of life. Let us recommit ourselves to ensure their safety and dignity and to provide opportunities to each of them to pursue their dreams and aspirations," President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, March 8, 2022. The Vice President, the Prime Minister and a number of leaders extended their greetings too.

The theme for International Women's Day 2022 is 'Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow'.

Women are constantly stepping up their contribution to society in the cultural, political, and socio-economic spheres. In sports women have excelled at the national and global platforms in several individual and team events. Many of these are stories of struggle, grit, perseverance, and dogged pursuit of success.

In the field of politics, there have been efforts to create greater opportunities for women. The thirty-three percent reservation in local government institutions has been secured by the Constitutional Amendment Act. Consequently large numbers of women elected representatives are playing decisive roles in the upliftment of Indian villages and towns. Such reservation could in due course be extended to higher levels of political institutions such as the state legislatures and the national Parliament in India. At another dimension, governments are focusing their welfare schemes and programmes on women; India's Ujwalla (LPG connection) scheme, the PM Awas Yojana, and the Jal Jeevan Mission which accords a central role to women in the management of water resources at the community level, are examples.

Women could be made key participants and even spearhead many initiatives in public health, agriculture, water supply, sanitation, etc. The fight against climate change is another area. Given that women and girls bear a disproportionately large burden of the impacts of climate change (during floods and droughts, etc.), they are well-placed to lead the fight for a more sustainable future. From climate-smart water management in arid zones to climate-resilient fishing and agriculture and animal husbandry, their participation must be actively mobilised.

However, for greater empowerment of women, they must be accorded a far more significant role in the economic sphere. Their financial independence will bring in crucial change. Therefore the participation of women in the workforce and their situation in the workplace are crucial. Some studies have pointed out that women have been disproportionately affected by unemployment during the pandemic. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey, in Q4 of FY 21, unemployment among urban women was much higher at 11.8 percent against 8.6 percent for urban men. It has been higher for several quarters earlier.

It is reported that during the pandemic women in advanced economies in the corporate world experienced greater stress and burnout compared to their male counterparts. This despite the efforts of the corporate world to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. Studies reveal that there exists a perceivable gap between good intentions and concrete action. Irrespective of the pandemic, the situation is not hunky-dory even in the advanced countries. A New York Times report in August 2021 states that 'Only 6 percent of directors at listed companies in Japan are women, according to government statistics, compared with about a quarter among Fortune 500 companies in the United States. In Japan, almost all come from outside the companies on whose boards they sit.' Several other reports have highlighted the need for greater presence of women in leadership roles in the workplace in countries, including advanced ones, across the globe.

The annual Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum is a good barometer of the prevailing situation. This annual report benchmarks the evolution of gender-based gaps along four key dimensions (*Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment*) and tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time. The 2021 report covered 156 countries. The Index (0 to 100) indicates the level of Gender Parity that has been achieved and the distance left to cover. Sadly, comparing with the 2020 edition of the Report, the 2021 edition finds that the

'health emergency and the related economic downturn have impacted women more severely than men, partially re-opening gaps that had already been closed'. The Report also measures the number of years it would take, given the current trajectory for the world to close the Gender Gap. As per the previous report this time frame was 99.5 years; the 2021 report estimates a sharp deterioration to 135.6 years – a whole generation more. On each of the four indicators, the situation has either worsened or shows only marginal improvement, with COVID related disruptions yet to be fully accounted for.

Therefore inspite of all the efforts that we have seen, the regulatory push by governments and indeed the good intentions of all, the situation of the ground is less than satisfactory. It calls for more wide-ranging, determined and focused attention to ensure that we close the Global Gender Gap at the workplace and elsewhere.



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Human Fertility and Population Characteristics among World's Regions: An Analysis from PRB's 2021 World Population Data Sheet

M. V. Vaithilingam

Abstract

Human fertility is one of the three components of population dynamics, which has a greater role in population change. It is regarded as a positive force in population dynamics as it is responsible for biological replacement, and the continuation of human society. Its levels determine the age structure of a population and govern the social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the population. Human fertility is the most influential factor influencing or affecting population growth. With a view to understand the fertility situations and relevant factors at macro-level, this paper examines the fertility situation in relation to some of the important population characteristics and changes among the world's geographic and economic regions using the data from the 2021 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). The results reveal that there has been a significant reduction in the levels of fertility in all the regions during the past decade, and that its level and percent change are higher in the least and less developed, low income, and Africa regions as compared to more developed, high income, and Europe regions. It is observed from the literature review that after decades of rapid demographic change, most countries of the world are now at or close to the end of their demographic transitions with fertility at or below replacement level. The social structure, religious beliefs, economic prosperity, and urbanization within each country are likely to affect birth rates as well as abortion rates. Developed countries tend to have a low fertility rate due to lifestyle choices associated with economic affluence where mortality rated are low, birth control is easily accessible and children often can become an economic drain caused on account of housing, education cost and other cost involved in bringing up children. Higher education and professional careers often mean that

women have children late in life, which can result in a demographic economic paradox. The life expectancy at birth and proportion of elderly population are greater among high income, more developed, and Europe regions and less among Africa, low income, and least developed regions, and that of the young population is vice-versa. It may be suggested that though globally there has been a considerable decline in fertility, some parts of least developed, low income and Africa regions need to be improved with the help of innovative policies and effective implementation of existing programmes for reducing the birth rates and death rates coupled with improvement in socio-economic, health and environmental conditions leading to population stabilization and sustainable development.

Keywords: Fertility, population, Population Reference Bureau (PRB), etc.

1.0 Introduction

Human fertility is the most influential factor for population growth, and it has attracted tremendous biological, demographic, and social science researchers as compared to the scientific efforts in other fields in the universe of knowledge. Research in human fertility has received paramount importance in the study of demography and population studies in

view of its interplay with other components of population and society. There has been a significant change in the levels of fertility and subsequently in the size and growth of the population over a period of time. Human fertility is directly relevant to public health and more generally to human welfare in many ways. In industrialized countries, fertility declined between 1950 and 2005 from about three births per woman to a level below the twobirths that is required to maintain stable population size and is known as the replacement rate. Concerns have arisen about population decline and a low ratio of workers to retired people. Over the same time span, fertility in Asia and Latin America dropped from 6 to 0.5 births, but in sub-Saharan Africa, it remains high at 2.5 births. Continued rapid population growth in Africa will make socioeconomic progress more difficult (Cleland, 2008).

In the present human world, mostly characterized by urbanized, industrialized, and globalized modern life driven by the scientific and ICT temper, there has been tremendous acceleration and change in the demographic processes in general, and fertility decisions. Human fertility is influenced by multiple factors, some more strongly than others. While not all factors are under our control, certainly most lifestyle factors are

amenable to change to some extent, to minimize their adverse effects on fertility. Factors, such as the couple's age during conception, body weight, smoking tobacco, alcohol and caffeine consumption, diet and exercise, use of illicit drugs, and sexually transmitted infections, can influence the couple's fertility potential. Adopting a healthier lifestyle contributes toward optimal fertility, which will enhance natural conception, and promote a safer pregnancy leading to the live birth of a healthy baby. Knowledge on how these factors can impair fertility is essential to create awareness among couples who are planning to start a family or those who are already pregnant, to maximize their natural fertility potential and outcome (Ashok and Damayanthi, 2015). Keeping these facts in mind, this paper examines the fertility situation in relation to some of the important population characteristics and changes among the world's geographical and economic regions using the data from the 2021 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau.

2.0 Literature review

Fertility behavior refers to the childbearing patterns of women or couples, including specifically the number of births, the timing of births, and associated reproductive behaviors such as union formation (including marriage and co-habitation) and

contraceptive behavior (Swicegood and Bean, 2001). Important determinants of fertility level in a population are the incidence of abortion, the duration of postpartum insusceptibility due to breastfeeding and sexual abstinence, the prevalence of secondary sterility, and the proportion of the population that is married, in a union or sexually active. Countries should continue to promote female education, combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women, eliminate early, forced, and child marriage, and ensure that women have equal access to the labour market, social protection, and the political process (United Nations, 2020). The address to the 1997 IUSSP General Conference urges the need to regard the global fertility transition as a single process explained by a unified fertility transition theory. The argument is that a global fertility transition was inevitable, and that demographic pressure was intertwined with ideas, ideologies, and organized assistance both in nineteenth-century Europe and in the developing countries of the second half of the twentieth century. Once fertility change began, it was certain that it would be explained, championed, and assisted. These actions accelerated the change in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Caldwell, 1991).

The demographers and social scientists are engaged in an active

debate on the causes of low fertility and the prospects for further change (Chesnais 1996, 1998; Lesthaeghe 2001; Lesthaeghe and Willems 1999; McDonald 2000). The matter is of considerable importance because further declines in infertility or even a continuation of current low fertility levels will contribute to the rapid aging of populations and will lead to a decline in the size of national populations. These demographic developments in turn are likely to have significant social and economic consequences (Coale 1986; OECD 1998; World Bank 1994). Over the past quarter-century, massive changes in fertility behavior have occurred in most world regions. Many developing countries have experienced large and rapid fertility declines, and a few countries in Asia and Latin America are now approaching the end of their transitions with fertility around or in a few cases (e.g., China) even below 2 births per woman. In the "more developed" world (Europe, North America, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand) average period fertility was already low in the early 1950s and, after temporary baby booms of varying magnitude, has decreased further to 1.6 births per woman in the late 1990s (United Nations 2001). In 1950, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was above 6 live births per woman in Northern Africa and Western Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. In Northern Africa and Western Asia, it took 19 years for the TFR to decline from 6 to 4 live births per woman (from 1974 to 1993) as compared to 24 years in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (from 1950 to 1974) and 35 years in Oceania (from 1968 to 2003). In sub-Saharan Africa, it may take 34 years, from 1995 to 2029, for fertility to decline from 6 to 4 live births per woman. Globally, 49 per cent of all women in the reproductive age range (15-49 years) were using some form of contraception in 2019, compared to 42 per cent in 1990. The proportion of women of reproductive age using a modern method of contraception increased from 36 per cent in 1990 to 44 per cent in 2019 (United Nations, 2020).

There has been decline in the overall global fertility. After decades of rapid demographic change, most countries of the world are now at or close to the end of their demographic transitions with fertility at or below replacement (Bongaarts, 2020). The fertility level of the developed region is constantly low. The social structure, religious beliefs, economic prosperity, and urbanization within each country are likely to affect birth rates as well as abortion rates. Developed countries rend to have a low fertility rate due to lifestyle choices associated with economic affluence where mortality rated are low, birth control is easily

accessible and children often can become an economic drain on account of housing, education cost and other costs involved in bringing up children. Higher education and professional careers often mean that women have children late in life. This can result in a demographic economic paradox (Nargund, 2009). The fertility has started declining even in the Africa region due to various factors. A few recent surveys show that fertility has begun to decline in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Southern Nigeria. The onset of fertility decline is likely to be determined by the attainment of relatively low levels of infant and child mortality, substantial expansion in female secondary education, an ample supply of contraceptives, and government leadership toward controlling family size (Caldwell, et. al., 1992).

Family planning is the ability of individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births (Butler, et. al., 2009). Modern methods of family planning include birth control, assisted reproductive technology and family planning programmes. Contraceptives prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the number of abortions, and lower the incidence of death and disability related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth (UNFPA).

Birth rates fell 7% for females aged 15 to 17 years and 4% for females aged 18 to 19 years. Although reasons for the declines are due to more teens abstaining from sexual activity, and more teens who are sexually active using birth control than in previous years (CDC, 2021). Population change is governed by the balance between birth rates and death rates. If the birth rate stays the same and the death rate decreases, then population numbers will grow. If the birth rate increases and the death rate stays the same, then population will also grow (Open University, 2016). The younger a population, the faster that population grows because the birth rate is higher, and the death rate is lower. When birth rate is expressed per age group, it is called the standardized birth rate, as opposed to the crude birth rate of the total population (Richard and Kristin, 2006).

It is necessary to keep updating the research facts, especially on the fertility situation and related factors, not only at micro levels but also at macro levels for a clear understanding and approaches for future improvement and development.

3.0 Objectives

This paper has the specific objective of understanding the fertility situation and related population characteristics and changes over a period of rime among the world's geographic and economic regions such as more developed, less developed, least developed; high income, middle income, low income; and Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania using the Population Reference Bureau's World Population Data Sheet 2021 and other relevant publications for review.

4.0 Data and Method

This study uses the secondary data collected from Population Reference Bureau's World Population Data Sheet 2021 with a special focus on global fertility. The World Population Data Sheet, produced by PRB annually since 1962, is both a reference document and an educational tool. With two dozen critical population, health, and environment indicators carefully researched, developed, and vetted by PRB demographers and analysts for more than 200 countries and territories, it provides a snapshot of the demographic trends reshaping our world today and previews what we can expect in the future.

Fifteen variables including 4 across different periods, have been used which are available in the datasheet. The data have been compiled under the world's regions on different heads such as human fertility and family planning, vital rates and population growth, infant mortality and health, and income and economic development. The Data Sheet lists all geopolitical entities with populations of 150,000 or more and all members of the United Nations, including sovereign states, dependencies, overseas departments, and some territories whose status or boundaries may be undetermined or in dispute. More-developed, lessdeveloped, and least-developed regions follow the UN classification (http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs). Highincome, middle-income (composed of upper middle-income and lower middle-income), and low-income economies follow the World Bank classification based on GNI per capita (https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/k nowledgebase/articles/906519-worldbank-country-and-lending-groups). A comprehensive table and suitable graphs have been used to represent the facts and findings of the study.

5.0 Results and Discussion

5.1 Human fertility and family planning

There has been a significant reduction in the TFR from 1990 to 2020 in all the world's regions. The TFR at global level has declined 28%, from 3.2 in 1990 to 2.3 in 2020. However, though the level of TFR is higher in the least (5.9, 4.0, reduced by 32.2%) and less developed (3.6, 2.4, reduced by 33.3%); middle income (3.4, 2.2, reduced by 35.3%), low income (6.4,

4.7, reduced by 26.6%) and Africa (5.9, 4.3, reduced by 27% regions, the percentage change in these regions is higher as compared to more developed (1.7, 1.5, reduced by 11.2%), high income (1.8, 1.5, reduced by 16.7%), and Europe regions (1.7, 1.5, reduced by 11.8%) (Table-1, Figure-1.1).

The share of births to adolescents remains high in some countries. Childbearing among adolescent girls is associated with poorer health and educational outcomes for mothers and their children. The share of births to adolescent mothers is relatively high in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas and lower in Europe and Oceania, but large variations exist within these regions as well. Many women are not having their ideal number of children. Comparing the average ideal number of children women report to a country's Total Fertility Rate suggests women may not be achieving their fertility ideals. To close the gap, policymakers should invest in girls' education; access to voluntary family planning; and addressing the gender, cultural, and economic barriers that may impact fertility preferences and lead women to make tradeoffs between having the number of children they want and pursuing other opportunities (PRB, 2021).

Mothers ages 15-19 account for 15% of all births in Africa, 12% in Americas, 6% in Oceania, 5% in Asia,

and 3% in Europe. Mothers age 35+ account for 25% of all births in high income countries, up from 9 in 1990 (Table-1 and Figure-1.2).

The adoption of family planning not only controls the population, but also enhances other benefits like reducing maternal and child mortality. There is evidence that increased use of family planning methods decreases maternal and infant mortality rates, improves quality of life for mothers, and stimulates economic development (Gyuimah, 2003; Alvergne, et. al., 2013; Carr, et. al., 2012; WHO, 2013). Globally, 61% of the married women use all methods of family planning against 54% who use modern methods. In all the regions greater proportion of married women uses all methods as compared to modern methods. However, the family planning method usage ranges from 28% to 38% at low levels from least developed (38%, 34%), low income (32%, 28%) and Africa (36%, 31%) regions to 69 to 75 at high levels in more developed (68%, 59%), high income (68%), and Americas (75%, 69%) regions (Table-1 and Figure 1.3). In eight sub-Saharan African countries, 30% of married women ages 15-49who wish to avoid pregnancy use modern methods (PRB, 2021).

5.2 Vital rates and population growth

The global Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Crude Death Rates (CDR) are 18 births per 1000 population, and 8 births

per 1000 population respectively. These rates are high in the least developed (32, 7), low income (35, 7) and Africa (33, 8) regions as compared to more developed (9, 11), high income (10, 10), and Europe (9, 12) regions (Table-1, Figure-2.1). Countries reporting a higher crude death rate in 2020 than in 2019 include Russia (15 v. 12), Italy (13 v. 11), and United States (10 v. 9), likely due to COVID-19. (PRB, 2021).

The global population stands at 7837 million which is estimated to rise to 8848 million in 2035 and 9688 million in 2050. Based on economic classification, the less developed regions have more population (6566 million). Based on income classification, middle income countries (5903 million) have the largest population. Based on geographic classification, Asia (4651 million) is the largest, followed by Africa (1373 million), Americas (1027 million), Europe (744 million), and Oceania (43 million) - (Table-1 and Fig. 2.2). By 2050, 39 countries and territories are projected to have fewer people than they do today, including China, Thailand, and Ukraine (PRB, 2021).

The population per square kilometre of arable land is the mid-year 2021 population divided by the square kilometres of arable land last measured in 2018. There were more persons per sq. km. of arable land in Americas

region (932) followed by Europe (571), Oceania (301), Asia (272) and Africa (137). Less developed region had the highest figure (746) followed by Least developed (591) and More developed (251), Based on Income levels, the Middle income region (648) had the highest, followed by Low income (508) and High income (362), (Table-1 and Figure-2.3).

5.3 Infant mortality and health

The infant mortality rate-deaths per 1000 live births-varies greatly: Africa 47, Asia 26, Oceania 1, Americas 12, Europe 4. It is globally 31. It is higher among low income (51) and least developed (48) regions based on economic criteria. The IMR is higher than the CDR in all the regions except more developed, high income and Europe regions (Table-1, Figure-3.1).

As far as the percentage of youth ages 15-24 with HIV/AIDS, the available data shows that the percentage varies from <0.1% to 1.5% among least developed, low income, Africa, and Oceania regions. The female youth seem to be more as compared to the male youth (Table-1).

5.4 Income and economic development

Globally, 56 percent population is living in urban areas. The percentage of urban population is greater in high

income (82%), Americas (80%), more developed (79%) regions as compared to low income (33%), least developed (34%), and Africa (43%) regions (Table-1, Figure-4.1).

Globally, the life expectancy at birth for all persons, males and females are 73, 71, and 75 years respectively. It is higher among high income (80, 78, 83), more developed (79, 76, 82), Europe (78, 75, 81) regions and less in Africa (64, 63, 66), low income (64, 62, 66) and least developed (66, 64, 68) countries. It may be noted that the life expectancy at birth is more for females than for males in all the categories (Table-1, Figure 4.3).

Globally, the percentages of young and elderly populations are 26 and 10 respectively. The percentage of young population is greater in low income (42%), Africa (40%), least developed (39%) regions as compared to more developed, high income and Europe (16%) regions. Whereas the elderly population is more Europe, more developed and high income (19% regions as compared to low income, (3%), least developed and Africa (4%) regions. An important observation is that the percentage of elderly population is more than the young population in more developed, high income and Europe (19%, 16%) regions (Table-1, Figure-4.2). More than 40% of people who live in Eastern, Middle and Western Africa are under age 15. The share of people aged 65+ in the United States nearly equals the share of those who are younger than age 15 (18%) (PRB, 2021).

6.0 Conclusions and suggestions

There has been a significant reduction in the levels of fertility in all the regions during the past decade, and its level and percentage change are higher in the least and less developed, low income, and Africa regions as compared to more developed, high income, and Europe regions. It is observed from the literature review that after decades of rapid demographic change, most countries of the world are now at or close to the end of their demographic transitions with fertility at or below replacement. The social structure, religious beliefs, economic prosperity, and urbanization within each country are likely to affect birth rates as well as abortion rates. Developed countries tend to have a low fertility rate due to lifestyle choices associated with economic affluence where mortality rates are low, birth control is easily accessible and children often can become an economic drain on account of housing. education cost and other costs involved in bringing up children. Higher education and professional careers often mean that women have children late in life, which can result in a demographic economic paradox. The

life expectancy at birth and proportion of elderly population are more among high income, more developed, and Europe regions and less among Africa, low income, and least developed regions, and that of the young population is vice-versa. It may be suggested that though globally there has been a considerable decline in fertility, some parts of least developed, low income and Africa regions need to be improved with the help of innovative policies and effective implementation of existing programmes for reducing the birth rates and death rates coupled with improvement in socio-economic, health and environmental conditions leading to population stabilization and sustainable development.

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TABLE

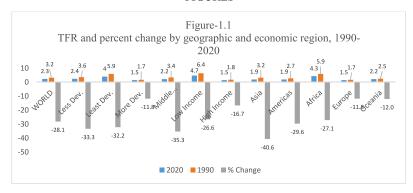
Table-1 Human fertility indicators and population characteristics by geographic and economic regions, World (for different years)

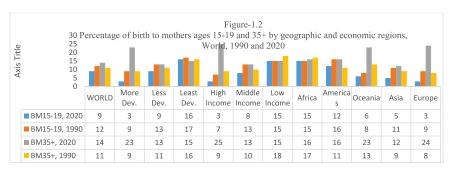
							FP a	FP among					
							ages	ages 15-49-			-	Ë	:
	TED	٩	%	of all birth	% of all births to mothers ages	ages	methods	methods, %, 2021	Dor 1 000		Population	Population (millions), mid-), mid-
World/ Region	=	4	15	15-19	+98	+			population, 2021	n, 2021			
	1990	2020	1990	2020	1990	2020	all	modern	Births	Deaths	2021	2035	2050
	1	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	6	10	11	12	13
WORLD	3.2	2.3	12	6	11	14	61	54	18	8	7837	8848	8896
More Developed	1.7	1.5	6	3	6	23	89	59	6	11	1271	1298	1296
Less Developed	3.6	2.4	13	6	11	13	09	54	20	7	9959	7550	8393
Least Developed	5.9	4	17	16	16	15	38	34	32	7	1088	1481	1958
High Income	1.8	1.5	7	3	6	25	89	0	10	10	1216	1270	1284
Middle Income	3.4	2.2	13	8	10	13	63	56	18	7	5903	6565	7035
Low Income	6.4	4.7	15	15	18	15	32	28	35	7	989	974	1328
Africa	5.9	4.3	15	15	17	16	36	31	33	8	1373	1890	2529
Americas	2.7	1.9	16	12	11	16	75	69	14	8	1027	1120	1174
Asia	3.2	1.9	11	5	6	12	64	57	16	7	4651	5043	5192
Europe	1.7	1.5	6	3	8	24	69	59	6	12	744	742	731
Oceania	2.5	2.2	8	9	13	23	09	57	16	7	43	53	62

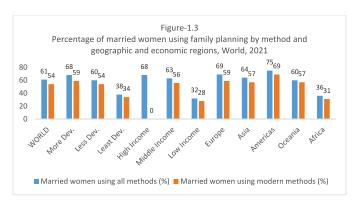
			Youth ag	Youth ages 15-24			Urhan						
			with HI	with HIV/AIDS			non					Popul	Population-
	Rate of	Pon.	S	(%)	Infant	Net	(%)	CMT	Life e.	Life expectancy at birth	t birth	ages (%)	(%)
	increase	Dens	Males	Females	rate	rate		T CINT	Persons	Males	Females	<15	65+
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WORLD	1	595	ı	,	31	1	56	17535	73	7.1	75	26	10
More Developed	-0.2	251	ì	1	11	2	79	47551	79	76	82	16	19
Less Developed	1.3	746	ì	1	33	0	52	11276	72	70	74	27	8
Least Developed	2.5	591	0.5	1.1	48	-1	34	3086	99	64	89	39	4
High Income	0	362	1	-	4	2	82	52629	80	78	83	16	19
Middle Income	1.1	648	ı	ı	29	0	54	11719	72	70	74	26	∞
Low Income	2.8	508	0.4	0.9	51	0	33	2449	64	62	99	42	3
Africa	2.5	571	0.7	1.5	4	0	43	4801	64	63	99	40	4
Americas	0.6	301	ì	1	12	0	80	33572	77	74	80	22	12
Asia	6.0	932	ı	ı	26	0	52	13584	74	72	92	24	6
Europe	-0.3	272	ı	,	16	2	75	39812	78	75	81	16	19
Oceania	0.9	137	<0.1	0.2	47	_	67	37702	78	76	80	23	13

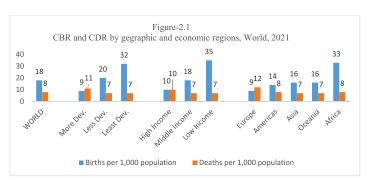
Source: PRB's 2021 World Population Data Sheet (2022); Note: RNI= Rate of natural increase

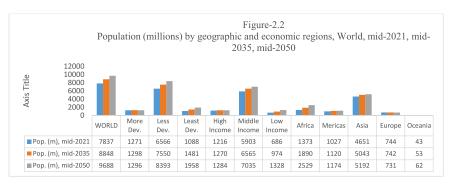
FIGURES











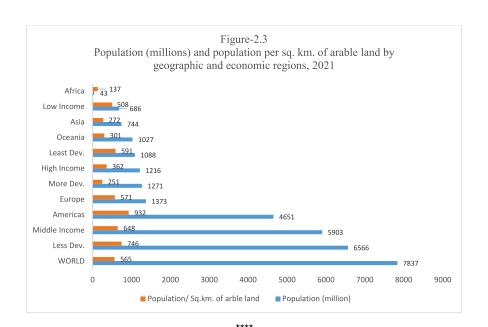
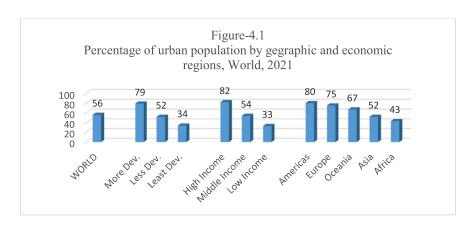


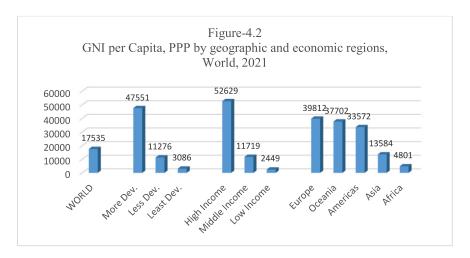
Figure-3.1
CDR and IMR by geographic and economic regions,
World, 2021

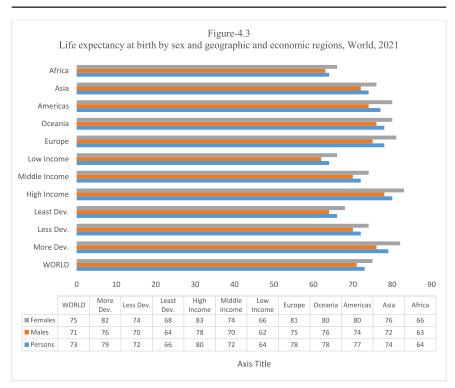
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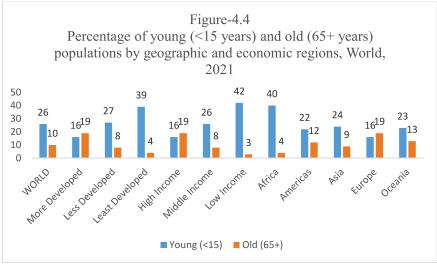
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CDR TIMR









Parent-Child Relationships and Emotional Development: An Observation from an Ancient Tamil Literature- 'Thirukkural'

Shreebharatadevi Rajeshkumar

Abstract

Positive social and emotional development is important as it influences a child's self-confidence, empathy, the ability to develop meaningful and lasting friendships and partnerships, and a sense of importance and value to those around him/her. There have been some psychological studies that have explained the importance of the parent-child relationship and the role of parents in the emotional development of children. There is numerous Tamil literature explaining and emphasizing the moral behavior of children and various sources for human mental development including the parentchild relationship. But very few areas of such domain have been explored through research. This study intends to explore and describe the ideals of Thirukkural on the parent-child relationship and subsequently leading to the emotional development of children and high population quality

and sustainable development. The results reveal that the parent-child relationship is one that nurtures the physical, emotional, and social development of the child. It is a unique bond that every child and parent will enjoy and nurture. This relationship lays the foundation for the child's personality, life choices, and overall behavior. It is important to have the mutual rights and duties among parents and children to ensure the development of the children at a young age and the protection of parents at old age. Thirukkural advocates importantly the role of parents, especially the father on the son, in imparting education and intellectual development, and of the son to proper utilization of the privileged rights availed from his father and in turn to protect and familiarize popularly the names of his parents both father and mother through his achievements. Unfortunately, the role of the mother on the daughter's development has not been explicitly and directly noticed in Thirukkural. The problems of the elderly such as loneliness, not having basic needs, and other socio-economic and health problems related to aging are more prevalent and increasing in the modern society characterized by the breakdown of joint family, urbanization, industrialization, and globalization. The full-fledged care of the elderly parents needs to be ensured by their own children and family members as far as possible, and for which the government and nongovernment organizations need to strive with the help of available and new policies and programmes and the modern literature which emphasize human values such as integrity, equality, and equity among all segments including the elderly and covering all aspects of human life.

Keywords: Children, parents, relationship, Thirukkural, Thiruvalluvar.

Parent-Child Relationships and Emotional Development: An Observation from an Ancient Tamil Literature- 'Thirukkural'

I. Introduction

The Tamil language has its own tradition, history, and development, being one of the classical languages of the world. Because of the antiquity of the Tamil language, Tamil literature has a rich tradition spanning more than 5000 years and is particularly famous

for its poetic tradition as well as for its epics, philosophical works, and secular flavor. Tamil is a language native to the Indian subcontinent and is part of the Dravidian language family. It is spoken primarily in India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia. Tamil is both an official and national language of Sri Lanka and is recognized as a regional language in many Indian states. It also happens to be one of the oldest of all of the classical languages. Being a classical language, Tamil has a huge body of literature that goes back to ancient times. There are three reasons for the importance of the Tamil language, literature, and culture. Firstly, the Tamil language has existed for over 2,000 years. Though the oldest works of Tamil literature show many signs of an evolution that must have started years before, the oldest evidence of literature in the language dates back to 300 BC, known as the Sangam period, which was full of poetry anthologies that dealt with every topic related to life, from love and war to religion. The Post-Sangam period included a didactic age where the most popular topics were ethics, morality, grammar, and lexicography. From there, the Hindu devotional period came about as a result of a Hindu revival after centuries of oppression. This was followed by Medieval literature, the Vijayanagar and Nayak period, and finally the age of modern Tamil literature. Secondly, the majority of literature in the Sangam period was divided into two categories

based on the subject matter-Subjective literature was anything that dealt with emotions and human relationships, things that the individual has to experience for oneself; and Objective literature dealt with everything else, basically. Thirdly, one medieval poet's work is still taught in schools today. This period of Tamil literature was full of religious texts, poetry, and texts about Tamil grammar. All of this was possible thanks to the relative stability of the period, as well as the interactions between different cultures that were finally able to take place. In Tamil literature, the name "Avvaiyar" can refer to more than one female poet. One lived during the Sangam period, and another during the Medieval period. The Avvaiyar of the Medieval period was known for four main works, two of which were meant for young children, and the other two for older children. All of them are still taught today in schools, as they include moral lessons about how one should behave and be a good citizen.

There is a large number of studies on the psychological development of human beings based on data from psychological clinics. But very few studies are available using the facts from literature, though there are some limitations to proving the results strongly as compared to scientific or experimental studies. The faculty of psychological development of human beings through Tamil literature has been brought into the vision of research

is very limited. This study makes an attempt to explore and explain the values related to the parent-child relationship and understand its linkage to the emotional development of children and the role of parents from the relevant couplets of Thirukkural (Figure-1).

II. Review of Literature

Literature is the expression of the life of an individual and the society around us. It plays a significant role in our lives because the thought of an individual is seen through language in the form of literature. The language from literature helps give cultural explanations of the life of different societies (Yaqoob). Because of the antiquity of the Tamil language, Tamil literature has a rich tradition spanning more than 5000 years and is particularly famous for its poetic tradition as well as for its epics, philosophical works and secular flavour. The works of the Sangam period, known as Sangam literature, at the turn of the first millennium are the most ancient and considered very important. The word Sangam refers to an academy. Tolkaappiyam, Akananaru and Purananaru are important works from this period. Literature has had a major impact on the development of society. It has shaped civilizations, changed political systems, and exposed injustice. Literature gives us a detailed preview

of human experiences, allowing us to connect on basic levels of desire and emotion. Literature provides insight into the minds of other human beings, into the mind of the author, and the minds of the character he or she brings to life. It provides one with the opportunity to further one's education to continuously learn new things and be exposed to a plethora of ideas (Ismail, 2008). According to a realist perspective, literature's role is to transform society by realistically portraying or mirroring society within a narrative. Charles Dickens is an example of a realist novelist, who used literature to enact change (Brice). Tamil literature, body of writings in Tamil, a Dravidian language of India and Sri Lanka. Apart from literature written in classical (Indo-Aryan) Sanskrit, Tamil is the oldest literature in India (Encyclopedia Britianica).

In the post-Sangam period, there were many notable works. Silapadhigaaram by Ilangovadigal tells the tale of Kannagi, Kovalan and Maadhavi. Thirukkural by Thiruvalluvar consists of 1330 couplets which discuss about various aspects of life and is widely known even today. The Thirukkural is one of the most revered ancient works in the Tamil language. It is considered a 'common creed', providing a guide for human morals and betterment in life (Wikipedia).

With an aim to offer an in-depth, complete understanding of today's youth, Param Pujya Dada Bhagwan has revealed how to raise a child and teenager with pure love and equanimity, so that they blossom in all fields of life. He has given positive parenting solutions for instilling moral values, good manners, and discipline, which work even during adolescence (Dada Bhagwan, 2022).

On the other hand, communication between parents and children that is ineffective or negative can lead children to believe that they are unimportant, unheard, or misunderstood. Such children may also come to see their parents as unhelpful and untrustworthy. Parents who communicate effectively with their children are more likely to have children who are willing to do what they are told. Such children know what to expect from their parents, and once children know what is expected of them, they are more likely to live up to these expectations. They are also more likely to feel secure in their position in the family and are thus more likely to be cooperative (Zolten and Nicholas, 2006).

The Parent-Child Relationship is one that nurtures the physical, emotional and social development of the child. It is a unique bond that every child and parent can enjoy and nurture. This relationship lays the foundation for the child's personality, life choices and overall behavior (https://www.parentingni.org).

It is important and interesting to study the values related to parent-child relationship specified in Thirukkural and identify the gaps in such relationship through future studies.

III. Objectives

This paper intends to understand the values of the parent-child relationship specified in Thirukkural and its possible relationship with the emotional development of children leading to high-quality population and sustainable development.

IV.Data And Method

This study does not use any primary data but the textual secondary data, the relevant couplets from Tamil literature Thirukkural.

V. Results and Discussion

The parent-child relationship is the two-way sharing of the productive and protective and prolonged rights-duties based interaction between parents and children. However, the parents have obligations towards their children in terms of physical growth and intellectual development leading to better life. Generally, all the literatures in every language advocate the importance of constructive and mutual

relationship among human beings to sustain and improve the peace and integrity in the society. Tamil literatures are considered as treasures in imparting the moral values for human life comprehensively in all aspects such as psychological, social, cultural, educational, economical, health, political, environmental and spiritual; all segments of the society such as children, youth, adults; all kinds of relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, teacher and students, employer and employees; friendship and friends, king and people, god and creatures; and all events such as birth, learning, job, marriage, childbearing, childrearing, service, death in human life. This paper emphasizes the way and the importance of parent-child relationship which is the base and paramount in the construction and protection of humanity. The facts from Thirukkural related to parent-child relationship are discussed under the heads such as (1) benefits of having children, (2) Children's expectations from parents, and (3) Parents' expectations from children.

(1) Benefits of having children

(a) Happiness while touching the child's body and hearing child's voice

'To patent sweet the touch of children dear;

Their voice is sweetest music to his ear' (Couplet 65)

The touch of children gives pleasure to the body, and the hearing of their words, pleasure to the ear.

According to Thirukkural, "The parents feel happy while touching the body of the child and hearing the child's voice."

(b) Sweetness of hearing child's words- other voices artificial

"The pipe is sweet,'the lute is sweet,'by them't will be averred, Who music of their infants' lisping lips have never heard." (Couplet 66)

"The pipe is sweet, the lute is sweet," say those who have not heard the prattle of their own children.

Thirukkural says that the people express 'the musical pipe is sweet,' or 'the lute is sweet', those who have not experienced the feeling of hearing children's words.

(c) Being and behaving with children- an act of happiness

"Than God's ambrosia sweeter far the food before men laid, In which the little hands of children of their own have play'd'." (Couplet 64) The rice in which the little hand of their children has dabbled will be far sweeter (to the parent) than ambrosia.

According to Thirukkural, the feeling of the parents while eating the food which was dabbled in by their children is as eating the ambrosia. "Ambrosia is very closely related to the gods' other form of sustenance, nectar. The two terms may not have originally been distinguished, though in Homer's poems nectar is usually the drink and ambrosia the food of the god (Wikipedia.org).

(d) Benefits of child's intellectuality- Not only to the parents but to the world too

"Their children's wisdom greater than their own confessed, Through the wide world is sweet to every human breast." (Couplet 68)

That their children should possess knowledge is more pleasing to all men of this great earth than to themselves.

Thiruvalluvar says that it will be a joy to the entire living beings including parents if the children excel their parents in intelligence. Increased intelligence from generation to generation will lead to many innovations which will bring joy to all the living beings.

(e) Children- The wealth through deeds

"Man's children are his fortune,' say the wise:

From each one's deeds his varied fortunes rise." (Couplet 63)

Men will call their sons their wealth, because it flows to them through the deeds which they (sons) perform on their behalf.

Thirukkural says, the children are the property of men which could be possible through their good deeds. Wealth is the abundance of valuable financial assets or physical possessions which can be converted into a form that can be used for transactions (wikipedia.org). A good deed is an action you take for the betterment of another person or society as a whole. However, good deeds need to be perceived as good even if the intent is positive (declutterthemind.com). Thus, it is necessary to perform something good to others or the society for begetting good children or to become parents of good children in such a way that they are considered as wealth.

(f) Obtaining children-the greater gain

"Of all that men acquire, we know not any greater gain,

Than that which by the birth of learned children men obtain." (Couplet 61)

Among all the benefits that may be acquired, we know no greater benefit than the acquisition of intelligent children.

The couples may acquire anything in life as a property, but acquiring intellectual children is considered as the greatest gain according to Thirukkural (Chapter 6, Couplet 61). An acquisition is the act of getting or receiving something, or the item that was received. An example of an acquisition is the purchase of a house (yourdictionary.com). An acquisition is the act of acquiring something, acquisition of property the acquisition of knowledge (merriam-webster.com).

(g) Obtaining children with disposition- keeping the parents away from vice

"Who children gain, that none reproach, of virtuous worth,
No evils touch them, through the sev'n-fold maze of birth." (Couplet 62)

The evils of the seven births shall not touch those who obtain children of a good disposition, free from vice.

According to Thirukkural those who obtain a child with disposition qualities will keep them away from the vices. Dispositions refer to curiosity, independence, resilience, and perseverance are often described as innate or natural character traits that children possess from birth (https://ncca.ie). Vice is a moral fault or weakness in someone's character: Greed, pride, envy, and lust are vices (dictionary.cambridge.org).

(2) Children's expectations from parents

Duty of father to his son-making him precedence in the assembly of the learned

"Sire greatest boon on son confers, who makes him meet, In councils of the wise to fill the highest seat." (Couplet 67)

The benefit which a father should confer on his son is to give him precedence in the assembly of the learned.

It may be understood from this couplet that to achieve this, the children should be given according to their aptitudes correct education. Along with education, care should be taken to develop leadership qualities, communication skills, etc. The quality of the future of the children purely depends upon the

quantity of sacrifice that the parents commit. There are parents who have become paupers after spending their entire savings for their children's higher medical education. Some educated mothers remain homemakers to inculcate all round development of their children. They sacrifice their employment. Apart from formal education, children need to be trained to live within the law of the land, earn within the ethical practices, spend within the prescribed norms, etc. Disciplined children with good education and proper socialization will be highly respected by the people. Wherever they go, they will be given seat in the front row and honored. 'Seat in front' simply it means, wherever they go, they will command respect by virtue of their education, ability, discipline and personal qualities.

(3) Parents' expectations from children

(a) Extended happiness of a motherwhen she hears her son is wise than the moment of his birth

"When mother hears him named 'fulfill'd of wisdom's lore,'
Far greater joy she feels, than when her son she bore." (Couplet 69)

The mother who hears her son called "a wise man" will rejoice more than she did at his birth.

Thiruvalluvar says that a mother will be more happy when she hears from the people that her son is wise, than the happiness when she begot him. Mildred B. Vermont observes, "being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs in the world, since the payment is pure love." Mother's love for her child certainly cannot be compared with anything. Her level of forgiveness is unmatchable. A mother is capable of forgiving any wrongdoing. Mother is the most important woman in everyone's life. A mother sacrifices her happiness for her child (www.toppr.com).

(b) Duty of a son - To make others wonder on his father

"To sire, what best requital can by grateful child be done?

To make men say, 'What merit gained the father such a son?'." (Couplet 69)

(So to act) that it may be said "by what great penance did his father beget him," is the benefit which a son should render to his father.

According to Thirukkural, the gratitude that a son can express towards his father is that he has to make others to wonder what penance his father did to beget him.

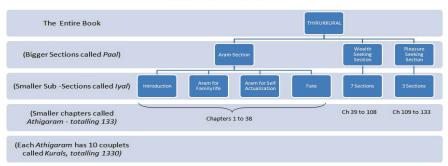
The penance is an act of selfabasement, mortification, or devotion performed to show sorrow or repentance for sin He did charitable work as a penance (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

VI. Conclusions

The parent-child relationship is one that nurtures the physical, emotional and social development of the child. It is a unique bond that every child and parent will enjoy and nurture. This relationship lays the foundation for the child's personality, life choices and overall behaviour. It is important to have the mutual rights and duties among parents and children to ensure the development of the children at young age and protection of parents at old age. It is true that all the world literatures emphasize the moral values enhancing the integrity of the relationship and protection of life in all dimensions and all forms of the society. As far as the Thirukkural on parent-child relationship is concerned, it advocates importantly the role of parents, especially the father on son, in imparting education and intellectual development, and of the son to proper utilization of the privileged rights availed from his father and in turn to protect and familiarize popularly the names of his parents both father and mother through his achievements. Unfortunately, the role of mother on

Fig. 1: Structure of Thirukkural

STRUCTURE OF THIRUKKURAL



daughter's development has not been explicitly and directly noticed in Thirukkural. It is well experienced in the humanity for generations that all the parents desire and strive for their children's all round development and fruitful life. But most of the children fail to perform their obligations towards their parents even during their old-age by being with them, providing the basic needs and attending to their psychological needs. The problems of the elderly such as loneliness, not having basic needs, and other socioeconomic and health problems related to ageing are more prevalent and increasing in the modern society characterized by breakdown of joint family, urbanization, industrialization, and globalization. The full-fledged care of the elderly parents needs to be ensured by their own children and family members as far as possible, and for which the government and nongovernment organizations need to strive with the help of existing, and new policies and programmes and the modern literatures which emphasize exciting human values such as integrity, equality and equity among all segments including the elderly and covering all aspects of human life.

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Livelihood Practices and Challenges at Forest Fringe Village of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal, India

Joy Karmakar

Abstract

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2017-18) reported that in 2017-18, 49.9 percent of the total workforce was engaged in agriculture compared to 55.3 percent in 2011-12. The reliance on agriculture for livelihoods is declining rapidly in India. Moreover, NABARD Financial Inclusion Survey 2018 found out that in farm households, income from agriculture and livestock constituted only 43 percent of the total income, rendering agriculture a less important activity. Within this broad context this paper tried to look at the two forest fringe village livelihood practices and their challenges. The study is based on field survey of Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal. It is found that despite being forest fringe villagers they do not participate in any forest management program as also they do not have any customary rights over forest resources. Apart from agriculture they practice agro-forestry as well as livestock farming for their livelihood.

Keywords – livelihoods, forest fringe village, agro-forestry, migration

1.0 Introduction

Amid the pandemic, it was evident through popular media that large numbers of migrant labourers worked in the metropolitan cities in different capacities and they were returning to their native place due to lockdown in the country. It also reflects on the inadequate livelihood opportunities in the rural areas of India. To understand the scenario the author visited two Forest Fringe Villages (FFV) of Jalpaiguri District, located in the northern part of West Bengal. Jalpaiguri District has one of the highest forest covers of West Bengal. The area is characterized by alluvial fans dominated by Tista megafan. The area is part of Sub-Himalayan Region and has upper and lower fan which

spread over an area of 14,518 Sq.km (Bandyopadhyay et.al.). The area is covered by Sub-Himalayan wet mixed forest where Sal is one of the main species. Murti River is drained in the eastern part of the village and it also acts as natural boundary between the village and Gorumara National Park. The total area of the National Park is 79.84 sq. km. Since Park is located at the foothills of Eastern Himalaya, the area has a rich biological diversity. The terrain of Gorumara National Park is differentiated into a distinct plateau and a plain area. The soil profile of the area is of alluvial and bhabar formations¹ (Sanyal et.al. 2013). The drainage system of the National Park comprises three main rivers - Murti, Indong and Garati. These rivers intermingle and meet the Jaldhaka River that forms the boundary of the National Park in the eastern side. Gorumara National Park has only 10 percent (18.41 sq. km) of its total area covered by grassland. Gorumara National Park has a total of 326 identified plant species.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2017-18) reported that in 2017-18, 49.9 percent of the total workforce was engaged in agriculture compared to 55.3 percent in 2011-12. The reliance on agriculture for livelihoods is declining rapidly in India. Moreover, NABARD Financial Inclusion Survey 2018 found out that in farm

households, income from agriculture and livestock constituted only 43 percent of the total income, rendering agriculture a less important activity. It is in this context understanding these livelihoods is important for our understanding of rural poverty, the resulting human suffering, and the pressures it then places on urban areas (through rural-urban migration, national, regional, and global economies, and the environment). Despite prosperous agricultural in state, West Bengal's forest fringe villages present a unique situation in the state and this paper tries to explore the opportunities and challenges of such villages in the state and their socio-economic conditions.

1.1 Methods and Study Area

The field work is conducted in the Uttar Dhupjhora and Paschim Batabari villages of Matiali Batabari II Gram Panchayat (GP) in Matiali Block of Jalpaiguri District. In this GP there are eight villages and two tea gardens. Nimna Tandu forest is administratively divided into two parts (East and West) but falls into a single village. It is a forest village and rest are either forest fringe village or tea garden. Eastern part of the GP is bounded by Murti River while western part is bordered by Neora River. The author met a number of household members of the Uttar Dhupjhora village to understand their current livelihood practices and the

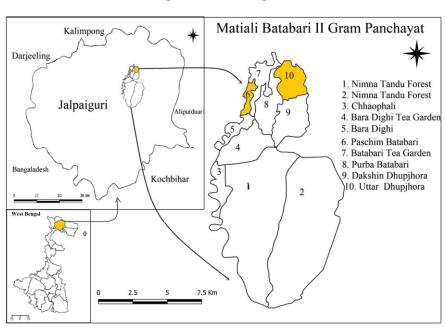


Fig 1: Location Map

livelihood situation amid the pandemic. Broadly, the purpose of this field visit was to explore the social and economic impact of the pandemic and their coping strategies in the village. In 2020 February, before the pandemic started, the author visited Paschim Batabari village of the same GP and in March 2022, after the pandemic he visited Uttar Dhupjhora village. The area is suitable for different types of crop cultivation as the temperature ranges from 4°C (in winter) to 37°C (in summer). Maximum precipitation occurs from mid-June to September, with a peak in July and August.

This article presents a glimpse of livelihood practices at the forest fringe village. Forest fringe villages are the outer reach of the forest and they experience extraction pressure from the community living in the village. Forest-Fringe Dwellers (FFD) directly depend on ecosystem resources for their livelihood.

Total 80 households are surveyed based on simple random sample technique with semi-structured questionnaire in two villages namely Paschim Batabari (30) and Uttar Dhupjhora (50) in different time period noted earlier. In addition, in depth case studies, field observation and interviewing locally important people like village leader and panchayat officials is also done. These study methods produced a mix of quantitative and qualitative data gathered through questionnaire-based surveys, observations, interviews, and discussions. Secondary sources of data, such as historical and geographical descriptions of the local area and its social background, land use, land cover map, economic position, agricultural history, and population are also used.

1.2 Conceptualizing Forest Fringe Village

It is worthwhile to note that there is no legal definition of the 'Forest Fringe Village' (FFV) in the Forest Right Acts (FRA) 2006. Only 'forest dwellings' have been defined and rights of the communities outlined in the Act. "Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes" means the members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily live in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for bona fide livelihood needs and includes the Scheduled Tribe pastoralist communities. Four types of rights have been given to forest dwellers. Title rights or ownership of farmland is granted to the forest dwellers as on 2005. The maximum 4 hectares of land is given ownership to

those concerned forest dwellers who were farming on the land on or before 2005. Different types of use rights of the forest have been given to forest dwellers and they can use minor forest produce, grazing their animals, as well as pastoralist routes in the forest are also granted for regular use. Relief and development rights have also been given to the evicted illegally or faced forced displacement forest dwellers. Forest management rights are also given to the forest dwellers for protection of the forest and wildlife.

As noted earlier the populations in these Forest Fringe Villages (FFV) would not qualify as 'Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes' and, therefore, it is important to know the definition of 'Other Traditional Forest Dwellers' (OTFD) under the FRA. The term, OTFD, refers any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December 2005 primarily resided in and who depends on the forest or forest land for bona fide livelihood needs. Here, 'generation' means a period of 25 years. All the residents of forest-fringe villages that came to be settled after 1930, therefore, would not qualify under the FRA (Sahu, 2021).

In the case of forest fringe dwellers, criteria such as inaccessibility, marginality, diversity, and niche have a significant impact on the wider availability of assets for stable livelihoods. Farmers face the above noted situation while dealing with livelihood opportunities. The land size of marginal farmers, their dispersion, marginal and inaccessible lands, animal and wildlife threats, commons health, climate, and, above all, their isolation from the market economy are all key productivity problems in forest fringe farming. Forest fringe farmers have used a variety of strategies to cope with such constraints in order to maintain their livelihoods in the face of such complex challenges. This article will shed light on different strategies adopted by the dwellers to maintain their livelihoods in the village.

The United Nations delineates a rights-based approach (RBA) as an approach to conservation that respects and seeks to protect and promote recognized human rights standards. India's Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 - commonly called the Forest Rights Act (FRA) acknowledge this idea of RBAs to conservation. The Parliament played an exceptional role to fix "historical injustice" against indigenous communities (Schedule Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers) and this law recognized the central role of the local communities in forest governance (Kashwan, 2013).

1.3 Findings

1.3.1 Demography and Household Earnings

Paschim Batabari and Uttar Dhupjhora village are located along the banks of Neora and Murti River respectively. Between these two villages there is Batabari tea garden. As per census 2011 Paschim Batabari has 59 households while 951 households are in the Uttar Dhupjhora village. Total population of the Paschim Batabari and Uttar Dhupjhora village are 297 and 4342 respectively. Paschim Batabari has 41.07 percent schedule tribe and 7.07 percent schedule caste population. On the other hand Uttar Dhupjhora village has 27.01 percent schedule tribe and 31.16 percent schedule caste population. It is also recorded in 2011 Socio-Economic Census (SECC) that in Uttar Dhupjhora village 45.53 percent of landless households earn income as casual labour. In case of Paschim Batabari village it is 78.33 percent. Both the villages lack irrigation facilities and sizes of the landholding are small in nature. It is also reported in the census that 94.28 percent of households in Uttar Dhupjhora and 96.66 percent household in Paschim Batabari earn monthly less than 5000 rupees.

In Uttar Dhupjhora 38.96 percent of the population is illiterate and only

Main Source of Household Income 100% 1.66 12.09 90% 80% 70% Percentage of Worker 60% 77.39 50% 96.66 40% 30% 20% 10% 9.46 0% Paschim Batabari Uttar Dhupjhora ■ Cultivation Manual Casual Labour ■ Others Domestic Service

Fig 2 Source: Socio-Economic Census India, 2011

9.1 percent population are graduated. On the contrary, 20 percent populations are illiterate in Paschim Batabari and there is no graduate in the village. Almost 60 percent population in Uttar Dhupjhora village is of age 15 to 65 and it reflects the young and capable of working population of the village is higher in number.

1.3.2 Land use

Land use and land cover map reveals many different aspects about the area. From the Fig 3 it is evident that large area is under thick and dense continuous forest cover. Dominant species of this forest is Sal. The villages are situated at the peripheries of the forest. Along with settlement, agricultural lands and scrublands are also situated at peripheries of the forest.

Irrigated land in Uttar Dhupihora village is only 15.2 hectares and unirrigated land is 239.46 hectare. On the other hand amount of un-irrigated land in Paschim Batabari village is 20 hectare. It is worthwhile to note that there is no irrigated land in the village of Paschim Batabari. As a result, workers engaged in cultivation are less in number. In case of Paschim Batabari only 1.66 percentage of worker are cultivator while in Uttar Dhupjhora it

Legend

Water Body
Forest
Settlement
Agricultural Land
Scrubland
Scrubland

Fig 3: Land Use Land Cover Map of Paschim Batabari II Gram Panchayat

Source: Esri, 2020

is 9.46 percent. Most of the working population in both the villages is working as a casual labour. 96 percent of workers are engaged as casual labour in Paschim Batabari village while it is 77 percent in case of Uttar Dhupjhora village. In fact, almost 30

percent workers in the Paschim Batabari village and 41 percent workers of Uttar Dhupjhora are marginal workers. It indicates that there is lack of livelihood opportunities throughout the year.

Table 1: Classification of land use and land cover in Paschim Batabari II Gram Panchayat

Uses	Area in sq Km
Forest	38.63
Agriculture	15.42
Scrubland	3.8
Settlement	4.50
Water body	0.73

Source: calculated based on ESRI 2020 satellite image

From the above Table 1 it is evident that large part of the Paschim Batabari II gram Panchayat comes under forest. Apart from the forest there is a small patch of agricultural land concentrated in the northern part of the panchayat. However, it is important to note that agricultural lands are small in size and surrounded by tea garden and dotted with settlements.

1.3.3 Livelihood Practices

The main crops cultivated in this village are rice, jute and corn. Potato and vegetables are also cultivates for self-consumption. Apart from agriculture, villagers do agro-forestry and they do it at their house garden. Tea plantation is also common in the village. Tea plantation is done in front or backyard of their house. Betel nut tree plantation is done at the backyards of the house. Teak is one of the common trees which are grown at their house garden. In addition to teak, Gamari and Lambu tree are also

Fig 4 Betel Nut Tree Plantation



popular trees for agro-forestry in the village. It is known for medium hardwood and its plant rotation is also maintained for 6 to 8 years for good growth like Eucalyptus. Timber obtained from this tree is very much suitable for Plywood and Panel industry. If it is kept for longer period of time, it is transformed into hardwood and that is very much suitable for furniture and interior decorative wood panel industry. This wood is very strong and there is no lump in it. Due to its chemical properties, it is completely resistant to termites and borer. Bamboo is also common tree in the village which is grown on private land for sale in the market.

It is worthwhile to note that on 18th November, 2014, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued fresh guidelines to all State/UT governments for simplification of felling and transit regulation of tree species grown on

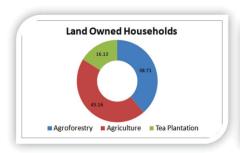
Fig 5 Lambu and Teak tree Plantation

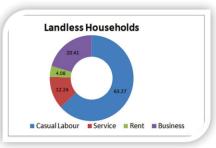


non-forest/private lands. So far many states have de-notified a number of tree species from felling and transit regulations, and this has made it much easier for landowners and farmers to practice agro-forestry in the village. The ministerial guidelines broadly categorizes tree into two lists i.e. list A and list B. Tree species under list A exclusively grown on agriculture or farm land and not naturally available in neighbouring forests; on the other hand tree species under list B grown on non forest land where they are found in the neighbouring forests. The aim of this initiative is to encourage investing in tree plantations with long term perspectives. Moreover, it has created an enabling environment to motivate and facilitate persons to plant trees on non forest and private lands which help the villagers to develop livelihood opportunities. In Uttor Dhupjhora village many villagers have tree plantation in the non forest land and they sell the tree after 5 to 6 years after plantation.

Primary survey data reveals that Paschim Batabari village is dominated by Orao tribe, while in Uttar Dhupjhora village populations are mixed in character. Munda, Minj and Murmu are common tribes that live in the Uttar Dhupihora village. Muslim and few Christian families are also found along with Hindu households in Dhupjhora village. To understand the land based livelihood opportunities, the author categorized the households into two type households; those who own the land, and landless households. It is important to note here that less than one percent households do not own the house in both the villages. In other words they live in rented house.

Fig 6 Livelihood practices in Paschim Batabari and Uttar Dhupjhora Village





Note: figures in percentage, Source: Primary Survey, 2020 and 2022

Household which owns agricultural land cultivates different crops throughout the year; however lack of irrigation facilities in the village is a major challenge to the farmers highlighted by many agricultural land owners. As a result, many households convert their lands for tea plantation if the lands fall in the upland category. Locally they called such land as 'danga

Fig 7 small size agricultural land in the village



Households which do not own any agricultural land are large in number. They do work as casual labour in the agricultural fields or in tea plantations in nearby villages. Small business and work in the nearby hotels are also done by some of the villagers. Very few villagers work in government institutions (Panchayat). There are also household members working as migratory labour in Kerala. Following paragraph elaborates some of the stories of livelihood practices of three different households in Uttar Dhupjhora village.

jomi' which means such land will not be inundated during the rainy season. Many households also use such land for agro-forestry purpose. Another important reason for investing in agroforestry is because of higher demand and profit from the tree logs as mentioned by some agro-foresters. It is also important to note they also export logs to Bangladesh.

Fig 8 Tea plantation in the village



Dinesh Roy a 50 year old person owns 3 bigha (1.85 acre) of land in the Uttar Dhupjhora Village. He cultivates jute, rice and corn in the field throughout the year. He has one son and one daughter; both of them are school going. Apart from agriculture he has also utilised his land for agroforestry. He has planted Betel nut saplings and exports it to Bangladesh. The main challenges that he encounters in the agricultural field are the lack of irrigation facilities as well as the rising prices of seeds. Wiresh Orao is a 42 year old man who works as casual labour in the village.

He has two children and they are aged 8 and 5 years. He highlighted that it is really very difficult to get a job throughout the year so he is now going to Kerala as masonry worker for last 4 years. They only own their house and in their house garden they planted a few teak and lambu trees to earn more money from agroforestry. He pointed out that like him many villagers are now going to Kerala due to lack of jobs in the village. During the lockdown he returned from there and now is once again planning to go there as the situation become normal. His wife used to enter into the jungle to bring fuel woods for cooking but now to enter in jungle is completely restricted. In fact jungle authorities now either punish or fine the villagers if they enter into the jungle. Ruknath Munda is another 58 year old man who owns as well as takes lease of agricultural land and cultivates rice and jute in the field. He also rears livestock for their household consumption. His son works as a carpenter. He noted that there is dearth of jobs in the village so his son also moves out of the village and works in Kerala as carpenter.

1.4 Concluding Remarks

At the end of this note, we may recap some of the major issues highlighted by the villagers. As forest fringe villagers they do not participate in any forest management program as also they do not have any customary

rights over forest resources. The agricultural land does not have irrigation facilities so they use pond water or some time porous river water for irrigation. Villagers mostly work as casual labour either in tea plantations or in agricultural lands. Due to lack of jobs throughout the year many villagers are going to various South Indian states such as Kerala in search of jobs. However with the relaxation of regulations concerning felling and transit of tree species, several households have invested a lot of money for commercial agro-forestry in the village.

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Status of Community-Driven Water Conservation Schemes: A Case Study of 'Jalamruta' Scheme in the Selected GPs of Dharwad, Karnataka

Swati L Kalburgi, Narayana Billava, Ranagappa Yaraddi

Abstract

In India, water conservation is viewed as a tool to improve agricultural productivity in the region and to upgrade and enhance livelihoods options in all the regions, especially in rain-fed and droughtprone regions. Jalamruta was a water conservation scheme launched by Chief Minister H.D Kumaraswamy on 28 February 2019. It was a communitydriven scheme initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka. The scheme comprises four components over water conservation strategy viz., water literacy, rejuvenation of water bodies, creation of new water bodies as well as the department of watersheds and afforestation activities. The authors tried to examine the scheme objectives; the study has conducted Descriptive Statistical analysis through convenience sampling method for collected samples. Gram Panchayat has played a significant role in the effective implementation of the Scheme. Farm Bunds, Soak pits, and Farm Ponds are the major beneficial works provided under the Scheme. All these works are found beneficial and increased the water levels but the soak pit has greater positive results compared to farm bunds and farm ponds. Totally, in all the four villages' only 30% water scarcity was found. Lakes are rejuvenated to a high degree, whereas public wells are found in very bad conditions.

Keywords- Water Conservation, Gram Panchayat, Beneficiaries, Jalamruta, Watershed, MGNREGA

1. Introduction

Jalamruta was a water conservation scheme launched by Chief Minister H.D Kumaraswamy on 28 February 2019. It was a community-driven scheme initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development

and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka. Jalamruta is also one of the water conservations schemes which have come into existence in 2019 and were followed under the guidance of MGNREGA. The Jalamruta scheme has been implemented in all GPs of the state, and a separate committee has been set up in the gram panchayat, taluk panchayat, and zilla panchayat as per government order. This study has objective of recording the present status of the Jalamruta Scheme in all the selected GPs, its beneficiaries, and the level of participation by communities and NGOs in water conservation schemes.

The Scheme comprises four components of water conservation strategy viz. Water Literacy, Rejuvenation of Water Bodies, Creation of New Water Bodies as well as the Department of Watersheds and, Afforestation Activities. A state-level committee headed by the Chief Minister has been established for strategic monitoring, convergence, policy, and programmatic guidance and the committee will design water conservation strategies for the state in consultation with all stakeholders.

The government has issued a directive on the implementation of the Jalamruta scheme as a community-based program, with various departmental officials, water

conservation activity experts, experts in state/district/taluk/gram panchayat level to implement the project effectively. Workshops consisting of Non-government organizations and CSR Representatives were conducted and the guidelines of the "Jalamruta "scheme discussed. Continuing the focus on Green Department is one of the main objectives of the forest department officers and members of various ongoing projects committees of the existing water resources plan, rather than forming new committees. These are to be pursued by various departments for the effective implementation of the Green Karnataka programme announced in the Budget 2018 -19. Therefore, Jalamruta at various levels of committees have been re-nominated as Jalamruta and Green Karnataka Committees. The proposal envisages deployment across the state through the integration of the "Jalamruta Scheme" and the "Green Karnataka" project, including the rural development and Panchayat Raj Department, major implementation departments, partner organizations, experts, individuals and guides. The Panchayat Raj organizations have created committees to oversee and monitor the scheme statewide. The authors tried to understand the effective implementation of the Jalamruta Scheme and whether this scheme really helped villagers to overcome water scarcity though its main pillar, water conservation. This paper attempts to examine the role of Gram Panchayat in the implementation of the Jalamruta Scheme and understands the impact of the Jalamruta Scheme on households and farmers.

2. Methodology

Both secondary and primary were used for this article. Secondary information was collected from RDPR and MGNREGA website. Secondary information was also collected through news articles, research papers, and government proceedings. Primary data was collected through field work and interactions with farmers, households and government officials. The paper is based on water conservation programmes limited to four Gram Panchayats namely Mugad, Aravatagi, Halligeri and Nigadi of Dharwad District. Here, the technique used for the study is convenience sampling and the sample point were farmers, households and Gram Panchayat Officials. Total 100 samples were collected from four villages - 25 in each village - 25 as beneficiaries of water conservation programme. Questionnaire is the data collection tool and descriptive statistics is the method used for evaluation of collected data.

3. Review of Literature

Waterbody is a basic hydrological unit and an important source of water

with a topographic boundary and water outlet consisting of soils, landforms and vegetation. It is the area that drains to a common outlet and is the basic building block for land and water planning (Salah et al, 2007). Fresh water use worldwide was about 1,500 km3 year in 1940 growing to about 5,000 km3/year in 2000 with an increase in the number of water-scarce countries from 7 in 1955 to 20 in 1995 and projected increase of 34 in 2025 (Mishra 2008:1). Community driven water conservation is the rational utilization of land and water resources for optimum production with minimum hazards to natural resources. It is essentially related to soil and water conservation, which means land use according to land potential, protection of land against all kinds of deterioration, building and maintaining soil fertility, conserving water in farm use, flood protection, proper management of drainage water, sediment reduction and increasing productivity from all kinds of land uses (Tideman, 1996 cited in Nicholas, 2006).

A Non-Government Organization (NGO) namely Paani Foundation (2016) is working actively for drought prevention, watershed management, and groundwater replenishment. It has also successfully introduced the water cup competition which focuses on the encouragement of villagers in rainwater conservation and providing

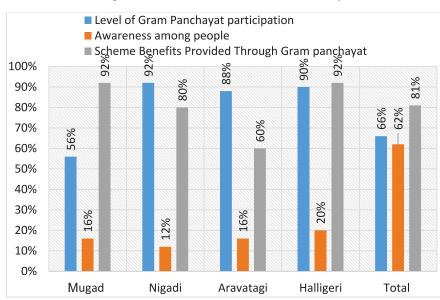
them the required types of machinery. Government of India has restructured national rural drinking water program into JJM – Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, to provide functional household, tap connection to every rural household articulated as "Har Ghar Nal se Jal". The Mission has provided, in-village water supply infrastructure for tap water connection to every household. It has also provided reliable drinking water source development or augmentation of existing sources. The Mission has focused on the transfer of water i.e., multi - village scheme. Technological intervention for treatment to make water potable is among the major works done under Jal Jeevan Mission. The Government of India's Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Watershed Development Component (WDC -PMKSY), (2015), has initiated the Scheme for watershed development intending to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving, and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover, and water. Prevention of soil degradation, regenerating of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting, and recharging of the groundwater table are the major outcomes. People residing in the watershed areas are enabled to get sustainable livelihoods with the help of agro-based activities, introduced by multi-cropping under this scheme. Jal Saksharta Abhiyan is an effort to raise

awareness, conserve and use water resources in an integrated manner, and ensure awareness of water security among people. "Water Management Development" is the theme of addressing issues of sustainability of water resources development and management. Green India Mission (2014) aims to protect, restore and enhance India's decreasing forest cover and to increase the forest-based livelihood incomes. The Mission has come into force for working on the improvement in forest and tree cover in urban/peri-urban lands, improvement in forest and tree cover on marginal agricultural lands / follow lands and other non-forest lands.

4. Key Findings from the Study

4.1 Participation and Awareness

Any new community oriented programme or scheme requires awareness about the scheme. Active participation of people/beneficiaries is very important for the success of the scheme. Graph 1 shows that the level of participation of Gram Panchayat was 66% in the selected GPs. Nigadi Gram Panchayat has participated in various activities of the Scheme to the extent of about 92%. Aravatagi, Gram Panchayat has participated for about 88% in the effective implementation of the Scheme and other groups of NGO's participation has also been seen in the village. Finally, Halligeri has 90% of participation by Gram Panchayat and



Graph No.1 Effective Role of Gram Panchayat

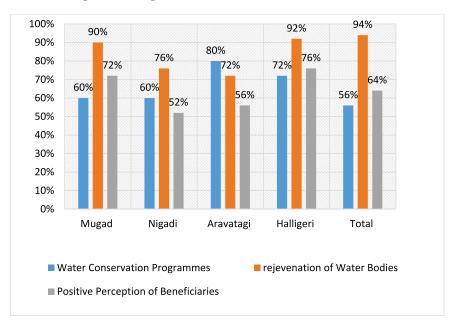
other than Panchayat, NGOs are also seen participating actively. Awareness among people was found 16% in Mugad, 12% in Nigadi, and 16% & 20% in Aravatagi and Halligeri respectively. Scheme Benefits of Jalamruta are provided ultimately by Gram Pancahayat for about 92% in Mugad, 80% in Nigadi, 60% in Aravatagi, and 92% in Halligeri.

Graph 2 explains the total impact of the Jalamruta Scheme on beneficiaries. The water conservation schemes in both Mugad and Nigadi were implemented to the extent of about 60%each, in Aravatagi schemes are implemented 80% and in Halligeri it is seen 72%. Rejuvenation of water bodies are regularly taking place for

about 90% in Mugad, 76% of lakes and wells were rejuvenated in Nigadi, 72% rejuvenation has been done in Aravatagi, and Halligeri has rejuvenated about 92% of water bodies. In all, 94% of water bodies are rejuvenated on regular basis. Finally, as regards the perception of beneficiaries about the Scheme, 72% found it beneficial in Mugad, 52% in Nigadi, 56% in Aravatagi, and 76% in Halligeri. In all the four villages put together, about 64% found it beneficial.

4.2 Observation and Case Analysis

The study is on community-driven water conservation programmes and is particularly concentrating on droughtproofing activities. This study has



Graph No. 2 Impact of Jalamruta Scheme on Beneficiaries

analyzed the different roles played by the groups, institutions, and Gram Panchayat towards the effective implementation of the Scheme, examined the current situation of the village and reviewed the perception of beneficiaries about the Scheme. The study was conducted in 4 different villages of Dharwad namely, Mugad, Nigadi, Aravatagi, and Halligeri. In all four villages, it was found that the Scheme has provided significant benefits to farmers and households to preserve water and to eliminate risks regarding water. Jalamruta Scheme has been implemented under MGNREGA in 2019, and after 2019, all the water conservation programs of MGNREGA

are conducted under Jalamruta Scheme. Awareness among people about Jalamruta was found low. It is found that Gram Panchayat has a higher contribution in creating awareness among villagers. A wellknown Institution, Center for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR) has done significant work for the development of the village through conducting awareness programs, rejuvenating water bodies, etc., in Mugad village. An NGO, SCOPE has worked in Halligeri village in the development worksthere. Soak pit, farm bunds, and farm ponds are the water conservation schemes that effectively reached a high number of beneficiaries in all four villages. Lakes are rejuvenated to a large extent, whereas public wells are found in very bad condition. The farmers are much benefited due to farm ponds, farm bunds, and households are furnished with the facility of soak pits, drinking water tap connection and nutrition garden. The study finds that the scheme has supplementary activities which can double the income of farmers; activities such as fishery in farm ponds, plantation on farm bunds and recharge of groundwater level. Farmers of these villages are dependent on agriculture and are economically weaker. Jalamruta as a separate scheme could come forward to play a remarkable role in water conservation activities in the future.

5. Conclusion

The study was undertaken to know the status of community-driven water conservation schemes with special reference to the Jalamruta SCHEME. The study concentrated on the present condition of the Scheme and the main factors related to the scheme like roles and participation of communities and their contribution to the scheme.

Based on the study, it can be concluded that the Jalamruta scheme in all four villages has been found beneficial and the Gram Panchayat has put in significant efforts to ensure successful implementation of the scheme. While, for any new scheme, it

is likely to take some time before it can be implemented successfully on the ground, in the case of Jalamruta, though it was introduced only in 2019, in only three years, there are significant improvements in water preservation in the selected villages. There are several benefits arising from all the main programme activities of the Jalamruta Scheme. i) Water literacy is done through conducting awareness programs about water preservation. ii) Rejuvenation of water bodies is done by undertaking lake desilting programmes and rejuvenation of lakes and public wells. iii) Afforestation is undertaken through tree planting activities on the farm bunds, on the banks of lakes, and also providing scheme benefits like nutrition gardening or kitchen gardening.

The study suggests that Gram Panchayat could work to create more awareness about the Jalamruta Scheme among villagers and to conduct programmes which could result in increasing the productivity of farmers so that they can earn more as there were not many changes in the economic conditions of the farmers. It also recommended that local PRIs and other institutions take more participation in the development works of the village such as CMDR in Mugad and SCOPE NGO in Halligeri. The sincere implementation of the Scheme had ensured its success and it is suggested to continue the efforts and hard work of Gram Panchayat and also the communities of the village to fulfill the needs of the village and also to reduce water scarcity in the village.

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Scope of Corporate Social Responsibility in Rural Community Development

Jignyasa Kurlapkar

India is a country of villages where about 65 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. These villages are underdeveloped. Poverty, unemployment, hunger, illiteracy, illhealth, infrastructure deficit, and high mortality are widely prevalent in rural areas. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the commitment of companies to contribute for sustainable development and improve the quality of life of the society at large. It has been recognized by policy makers and development specialists as a feasible driver for rural development. Rural development is closely linked to public welfare and development of the society. Thus, the activities undertaken by corporates for the welfare of the rural society benefits business and ensure empowered communities in the long run. Hence, it is the responsibility of the companies in their own interest to contribute a part of their profits towards welfare of the society.

The beginning of 21st Century in India has seen the term CSR coming to the forefront of development for discussion. In recent times, Corporate Social Responsibility is emerging as a significant feature of business philosophy, reflecting the impact of business on society in the context of sustainable development. The shareholders too are keen to understand what impact CSR activities have had on the community. The emerging perspective on Corporate Social Responsibility focuses on responsibility towards all stakeholders: shareholders, employees, creditors, suppliers, government, and community rather than only on maximization of profit for shareholders. CSR not only includes corporate regulatory compliance, but also refers to the act of making business successful through balanced, voluntary approaches to environmental and social issues in a way that is helpful to the society (Sarita Moharana, 2013)

In recent times the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has received great attention by business executives, academicians and society at large. Business organisations that think of achieving their long-term objectives and achieving sustainable growth work closely with the local community in which their business activities are being conducted. Those businesses take cognizance of the impact of their activities on stakeholders. CSR is considered as a fundamental component of doing business by many large global firms, and these firms realize the need to connect their CSR activities with local community. CSR focuses on the general activity of a company trying to balance its commitment to essential stakeholders in its business environment (Ebert & Griffin, 2017, p. 76). CSR is basically a concept whereby an organisation willingly decides to take initiatives that meet the demands and/or contribute to improving the welfare of its stakeholders (shareholders, customers, government, suppliers, employees, community, among others).

Corporate Social Responsibility is a key concept in the business world particularly in developing countries like India. In India many companies or industries have modified their policies, activities and are engaged into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) especially on rural development beyond their financial aspects. India is the first country following and implementing CSR by making regulations in regard to the same under the Companies Act. 2013, Section 135, Clause VII.

Importance of Rural Development in India

Rural development usually refers to the method of enhancing the quality of life and overall well-being of individuals, specifically living in rural areas including remote areas. Traditionally, rural development was focused on the use of land-intensive natural resources such as forestry and agriculture. Rural development aims to improve livelihoods by implementing comprehensive development for rural areas where a majority of people live in poverty. Rural development can also contribute to reducing poverty in urban areas by reducing excessive population influx from rural areas into urban centres.

Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population residing in rural areas, but also for the overall economic expansion of the nation. Rural development is considered to be of noticeable importance in the country today than in the earlier period in the process of the evolution of the nation. It works to secure improved efficiency and productivity, higher socio-economic equality and stability in social and economic development. Among its primary objectives is to ensure availability of adequate and nutritious food for the population and thereby achieve food security especially for the vulnerable sections of the population. It also aims to address and meet the other needs of the rural population such as the availability of clothing and footwear, a clean environment and housing, medical attention, recreational facilities, education, transport, and communication. In this context the main objectives of rural development are

- 1. To improve productivity and wages of rural people
- 2. To guarantee increased and quick employment possibilities
- To reduce unemployment and bring about a notable decline in underemployment
- 4. To guarantee an increase in the standard of living of the underprivileged population
- To provide the basic needs like elementary education, healthcare, clean drinking water, and rural roads.

Community Development (CD)

Community is defined as group of people sharing common purpose, who are interdependent for fulfillment of certain needs, which live in close proximity and interact on a regular basis (Maimunah, 2009). Within a community, there exist shared expectations among all members of the group and responsibility arising from these expectations. Interestingly, each community has leaders who are responsible for the success of any community event, depending on the need of the community.

Puke (2008) defined development as a multi-dimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system. It involves improvement in income and output, changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitude, customs and beliefs.

The United Nations in Omale and Ebiloma (2005) defined development as a process by which the efforts of the people are synchronised with those of government or other organizations to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities; to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to the nation's progress.

Puke (2008) defines rural development as a process during which the people in the small community, first through discussion, define their goals, objectives and plans and act together to

satisfy them. It is the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are synchronised with those of government authorities to improve economic, social and cultural condition of communities in order to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and enable them contribute fully to national progress. It involves active collaboration between the rural communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector for real development in the rural areas.

CD is a form of social, economic and environmental transformation which improves the lives of the community dwellers. CD is more effective if the people of the community are allowed to participate in the development processes by seeking their involvement in problem identification, analysis and implementation of the best possible solution. It is also worth stating that the process is demanding and not trouble-free. Its success is never certain and may sometimes be accompanied by frustration, disappointment and pain.

Corporate Social Responsibility in **Rural Development**

Corporates operate in rural areas not only for business objectives but also as part of their contribution towards the society and its betterment. There is much scope for significant contributions by corporate houses to the improvement of lives in rural areas in our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. These efforts can be particularly valuable in improving the prospects of agriculture with appropriate technological and managerial interventions. Agriculture which is the backbone of rural economy needs significant inputs to enable bring about efficiency and thereby increase the farm earnings.

Another focus area could be the identification and development of suitable small scale industries including cottage industries which could provide livelihood opportunities for the rural population during both season and non season times for boosting their incomes.

Health which is an important index and indicator of development needs significant interventions especially in the rural context. Social investments can be particularly helpful in improving physical condition of the region by establishing good quality rural health care units. Regularly conducting health camps to avoid and detect common diseases will go a long way in improving public health outcomes.

Improved physical infrastructure in rural areas can help build the rural economy by enabling easy access to all the available services. Investments in

creation of infrastructure will help provide urban facilities for the population in rural area also; thereby it can prevent the rural-urban migration in search of livelihood. There are many factors which hinder the development of rural areas and their progress. Hence, proper planning and policymaking along with appropriate regulatory framework could enable social investment under Corporate Social Responsibility.

CSR Activities for rural development

The Policy recognizes that Corporate Social Responsibility is not merely compliance; it is a commitment to support initiatives that bring about measurable improvement in the lives of the underprivileged by one or more of the following focus areas as notified under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 and Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules 2014:

Eradicating hunger, poverty & malnutrition, promoting preventive health care & sanitation & making available safe drinking water.

Promoting education, including special education & employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly & the differently abled & livelihood enhancement projects.

Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes & hostels for women & orphans, setting up old age homes, day care centers & such other facilities for senior citizens & measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially & economically backward groups.

Reducing child mortality and improving maternal health by providing good hospital facilities and low cost medicines.

Providing hospital and dispensary facilities with more focus on clean and good sanitation so as to combat human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, malaria and other diseases.

Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora & fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources & maintaining quality of soil, air & water.

Employment enhancing vocational skills.

Protection of national heritage, art & culture including restoration of buildings & sites of historical importance & works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion & development of traditional arts & handicraft.

Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows & their dependents.

Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympic sports & Olympic sports.

Contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development & relief & welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities & women.

Contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions, which are approved by the Central Government.

Slum area development.

The above list is illustrative not exhaustive. All activities under the CSR activities should be environment friendly and socially acceptable to the local people and Society. Contribution towards CM relief fund shall be a part of CSR activities above 2% of net profit other than the activities mentioned above. Further Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide Notification dated 24.10.2014 increased the scope of contribution made towards Corporate Social Responsibility activities namely:

Education:

- Support to Technical /Vocational Institutions for their self development
- Academic education by way of financial assistance to Primary, Middle and Higher Secondary Schools
- Adult literacy amongst those belonging to BPL
- Awareness Programmes on girl education
- Counseling of parents
- Special attention on education, training and rehabilitation of mentally & physically challenged children/persons
- Spreading legal awareness amongst people and disadvantaged sections of the society about their rights & remedies available
- Promotion of Professional Education by setting up educational Institutions offering courses in Engineering, Nursing, Management, Medicine and in Technical subjects, etc.
- Provide fees for a period of one year or more to the poor and meritorious, preferably girl students of the school in the operational area of the Company to

enable them to get uninterrupted education

Water Supply including Drinking Water:

- Installation/Repair of Hand Pumps/Tube Wells
- Digging/Renovation of Wells
- Gainful utilization of waste water from underground mines for cultivation or any other purpose
- Development/construction of Water Tank/Pond
- Rain water-harvesting scheme
- Formation of a task force of volunteers to educate people regarding water conservation and saving
- Proper use of drinking water
- Empowerment to the villagers for maintenance of the above facilities for availability of water

Health Care organizing, health awareness camps:

- AIDS TB and Leprosy
- Social evils like alcohol, smoking, and drug abuse.
- Child and Mother care
- Diet and Nutrition

- Blood donation camps
- Diabetics detection & Hypertension camps
- Family Welfare
- Senior Citizen Health Care Wellness Clinics
- Fully equipped Mobile Medical Vans
- Tele medicine
- To supplement the different programmes of Local/State Authorities
- Along with De addiction centers

Environment:

- Organizing sensitizing programmes on Environment Management and Pollution Control
- Green Belt Development
- Afforestation, Social Forestry, Check Dams, Parks
- Restoration of mined out lands
- Development of jobs related to agro product i.e., Dairy/Poultry/ Farming and others
- Plantation of saplings producing fruit
- Animal care

Social Empowerment:

- Self /Gainful Employment Opportunities - Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) on Welding, Fabrication, and Repair of Electronic appliances
- To provide assistance to villagers having small patch of land to develop mushroom farming, medicinal plants, farming & other cash crops to make them economically dependent on their available land resources
- Training may be provided by agricultural experts for above farming
- Organizing training programmes for women on tailoring embroidery designs
- Home Foods/Fast Foods, Pickles. Painting and Interior Decoration and other
- Vocational Courses
- Care for senior citizens
- Adoption/construction of Hostels (specially those for SC/ST &girls)
- Village Electricity/Solar Light
- To develop infrastructural facilities for providing electricity through Solar Lights or alternative renewal

- energy to the nearby villages. Recurring expenditure should be borne by the beneficiaries
- Pawan Chakki as alternative for providing electricity in villages, etc.

Sports and Culture:

- Promotion of Sports and Cultural Activities for participation in State and National level
- Promotion/Development of sports activities in nearby villages by conducting tournaments like Football, Kabaddi and Khokho, Cricket
- Providing sports materials for Football, Volleyball, Hockey sticks etc. to the young and talented villagers
- Promotion of State level teams
- Sponsorship of State Sports events in Bihar
- Sponsorship of Cultural event to restore Indian Cultural Traditions and Values
- Possibility of providing facilities for physically handicapped persons may be explored
- Medias for preparing of documentary films

- Guidelines to be followed to promote sports activities by way of granting financial assistance /donation/sponsorship etc.
- Registered Clubs/Institutions which promote sports activities may be granted financial assistance /donations/sponsorship
- Generate self-employment
- Infrastructure Support construction, repair, extension etc. of:-Auditorium,

Educational Institutions, Rural Dispensaries initiated by reputed NGOs, Mobile Creches, Bridges, Culverts & Roads, Check Dam, Shopping Complex to facilitate business/self-employment for local people, Community Centre, Sulabh Souchalaya, Yatri Shed in Bus Stand, Burning Ghat/ Crematorium, Development of Park, Playground/Sports complex/Good Coaches. Old Age Home, etc.

Benefits from CSR for Rural Development:

Some of the broad areas of the benefits from CSR for rural development are as follows—

 Corporate Social Responsibility not only offers a wide range of benefits to a company but also contributes to the well-being and betterment of society. Rendering

- benefits to the whole of society should be the important driver for the business to start as well as continue CSR involvement.
- 2. Generally, most researchers focus on the advantage of social responsibility to enterprises and the need for implementing it; there are only a few that mention the gains to society.
- The involvement of corporates in the local community's problems helps to create a better ambience in its surroundings.
- 4. Those who have been helped by the company's activity are happier and also benefit from a higher standard of living.
- Seeing that corporates care for communities' betterment helps in making everyone feel safer and also notably decreases corruption within society.
- 6. The responsible behaviour on the part of the company will surely inspire the people in their surroundings to do the same.

Therefore, Corporate Social Responsibility is an instrument to encourage contribution to the welfare of the local community as well as promote actions for long term sustainable environment protection.

Benefits of CSR to the Company

As the company builds public trust, it also builds a sense of community among its consumers. Even though communities may not be directly connected to the company, by virtue of its CSR activities, these local communities could come to know more about the company and develop respect for it. Thus, CSR can lead to a much healthier company-consumer relationship.

CSR initiatives enable firms and businesses to positively connect with communities at all levels of society.

While CSR delivers significant benefits for the community. It also gives businesses new and diverse options, which are usually mutually beneficial to both, enterprises and the community.

Some other important aspects:

1. CSR increases employee engagement - Extensive research proves that CSR and a strong sense of employee purpose actively contribute to increased employee engagement. Employee engagement is not just to ensure CSR effectiveness; it's a positive input to further other business performance metrics. Engaged employee helps to increase productivity, profitability and can reduce absenteeism.

- 2. CSR supports local and global communities - Corporates can benefit from the recognition they get from local and global communities by virtue of their CSR work.
- 3. Contributes to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- 4. Increases customer retention and loyalty - Good CSR gives a company a chance to showcase consistency and win loyalty, which ultimately converts into customer retention and increased sales.

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Report Review

Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India

Read the full report here: https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/f iles/2021-9/UrbanPlanningCapacityin-India-16092021.pdf

NITI Aayog released the report Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India in September 2021. This report was prepared by the Advisory Committee on the same subject under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and comprising, among others, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog, and Shri Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary MoHUA.

The report, while mentioning that significant opportunities are offered by urbanisation, points to the need for proper urban planning in order to capture these benefits and to ensure that we do not end up with unplanned urbanisation which could potentially result in poor urban spaces. Writing the Foreword to the report, Dr. Rajiv Kumar says, "As India reaches tipping point of transitioning from a mostly

rural to an urban society, the focus must be on ensuring the best opportunities for economic growth for all sections of the society". He points out to the efficiency and sustainability challenges that our cities face and expresses concern that none of our cities finds place among the top 50 global cities in various rankings. He states that incisive and insightful planning is urgently needed to ensure long term solutions. He therefore calls for rethinking, reimagining and reestablishing the very purpose and approach towards planning of cities and towns in India. He makes an interesting observation that on the one hand, the lack of human resources is a major bottleneck in the State machinery responsible for urban planning and design; on the other hand, the country lacks sufficient demand for qualified urban planners in both the public and private sectors.

Shri Amitabh Kant in his message observes that "Our urban planning machinery has not grown at the pace of the demands posed by urbanisation and global technological advancements". He says that "massive shortage of skilled and trained human resources as well as financial challenges" faced by our urban local bodies is an impediment to orderly urbanisation; the poor quality of planning is also a huge limiting factor to realize the true economic potentials of urbanization, according to him. He makes special

mention of the need for urban mobility to be based on public transportation rather than the car-centric model we have used so far for urban growth. He also stresses that cities need to be compact and adopt circular economy approach to protect the environment. Therefore we need not just more urban planners but also better quality of planning. He sees a role for private sector companies given their problemsolving capacities and efficiencies.

The Preface outlines the genesis of the Committee, the processes followed by it including the fact that extensive consultations were held. The inputs from think tanks, eminent experts, academia and professionals were used by the Committee. The report is structured into 7 chapters:

Chapter 1 goes into the need for reforming urban planning capacity in the country.

Chapter 2 covers the genesis of the Advisory Committee and processes followed.

Chapter 3 is about the evolution of planning of human settlements in India throughout different ages.

Chapter 4 looks at the situation of human resource capacities as well as the demand-supply gaps in the town planning departments as also in the rural context. Chapter 5 covers various aspects of Urban Planning education while presenting the opportunities and potential for such specialised education.

Chapter 6 outlines the critical issues emanating from each chapter.

Chapter 7 puts forth the recommendations.

Before the first chapter, there is a Brief Summary (or Executive Summary of the report) in 7 pages.

In Chapter 1, tracing the 2011 Census population figure and urbanisation rate of 31.1%, says that this is 11% of the world's total urban population – more than several highly urbanized countries. The report quotes various urbanisation projections for India observing that the process has so far been haphazard amid a rapid increase in number of census towns. While urbanisation offers opportunities for economic and social development, if 'left unplanned and sub-optimally managed' could be detrimental.

Table 1 in this chapter provides figures of urban population percentages in some advanced countries, developing countries and continents. There is a paragraph which highlights the potential role of cities in several global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New Urban Agenda, and Paris Agreement.

Noting that the orderly transition from rural to urban in various facets needs improved urban planning capacities, mainly in the form of skilled professionals such as planners, urban designers, architects, engineers, datascience experts, and geospatial technology experts, there is a gross deficit in the numbers of such professionals in the country. Table 2 in this chapter is a useful compilation of the number of towns in various population classes, their area, their shares of urban population, etc. Among the challenges for urbanisation, the report while noting the crucial importance of Master Plans for guiding the orderly development of cities, observes that about half of our statutory towns are expanding without any such master plans. Another challenge is the sub-optimal utilisation of urban land due among others to fragmented ownership which prevents a comprehensive spatial strategy.

Proliferation of slums, increasing risk of water scarcity in cities, planning for disaster mitigation, and vulnerability of coastal habitations are mentioned as some other significant challenges for urbanisation.

Chapter 1 then goes on to cover the importance of Planning to address these challenges specifying the levels of planning namely city, regional, and state/national, the role of urban planners, the skill sets required, and so on.

Chapter 2 is about the genesis of the Advisory Committee. This chapter traces the past with respect to committees beginning with the National Commission on Urbanisation which was set up in 1986 under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Charles Correa, the eminent Architect. Its vice-Chairperson was Sh. M.N. Buch, an Indian civil servant and urban planner. The Commission was constituted to address the issues of rising urban population, economic potential of urban India, and urban environment degradation. It submitted the final report in 1988. The report of the NCU contained several important recommendations which among others were:

- Identified 329 urban centres as Generator of Economic Momentum (GEMs) for priority attention
- The Land Acquisition Act 1894 should be amended to eliminate delay and ensure timely payment to the citizens.
- Water resource management to be done in a holistic manner
- Land use planning and transportation planning should be integrated
- DCRs to ensure energy efficient buildings

 Mass transportation systems must be encouraged

High-powered expert committee, Ministry of Urban Development (2011)

This committee asserted that the ability of ULBs to deliver urban services depended, in addition to devolution of functions and finances, on their capabilities to discharge their responsibilities. This was a very crucial and timely assessment. In short it called for capacity building in the ULBs.

Among its recommendations were,

- The setting up of five Indian Institutes of Urban Management
- The existing schools of urban planning should be revitalised and strengthened
- Training of officials of ULBs and building/reforming of municipal cadres
- Inclusive planning with special focus on low-income groups

Committee of Experts in Town Planning and Architecture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2011

This committee was set up for 'Policy Guidelines to Energise

Architecture Town-Planning Education'. The Report submitted by the Committee in July 2011 contained several recommendations with respect to the numbers of trained professionals required in future, increasing intake in the existing educational institutions, and setting up new ones. It suggested a multi-pronged strategy for meeting the demand-supply gap.

And finally, the setting up of the Advisory Committee of NITI Aayog 2020.

It covers the members of the Committee, the revision of the terms of reference, and deliberations. Among the discussions were those on demand – supply situation with respect to professionals in the area, the roles of the private sector, of the educational sector and so on.

This section covers in good detail the entire deliberations of the committee with very good illustrative charts, photographs, etc. There is a very good description of each of the meetings of the Committee.

Chapter 3 is titled **Evolution of Urban Planning in India**

The Chapter provides a glimpse into the intricate history of planning of urban settlements in India. It goes back to the Indus Valley Civilization mentioning its advanced town planning including its water supply, sewerage, and rainwater harvesting systems. It covers later eras including the colonial era right upto present times. It then goes into the post-independence period which was marked by the five-year plans under the erstwhile Planning Commission of India detailing the focus of each of the five-year plans.

The Chapter then goes into the post-2015 period namely the birth of the NITI Aayog. It goes into the details of NITI Aayog's 'Strategy for New India @75' (2018)

The title of Chapter 4 is Public sector Capacity. The Chapter begins with the institutional framework for urban planning outlining the roles of the Union Government and State Governments as envisaged under India's Constitution. It mentions the various legislations covering the subject of Urban Planning and the institutional setups. It describes the roles of the State Town and Country Planning Departments, the Metropolitan/District Planning Committees, Urban Local Bodies, Parastatal agencies, and Improvement Trusts.

It then points out to the need for specialised human resources in the area of urban planning and finds there is a severe shortage. While the number of sanctioned posts of town planners is itself limited, about 42 percent are vacant. A need assessment was carried out to find out the number of planners required – current as well as future. These are presented in the Table 5 and also annexure.

The chapter goes on to list some key challenges. While discussing urban governance, it states that the 'multiplicity of authorities often creates ambiguity, overlaps and even discord over division of functions and responsibilities'. The creation by states of parastatals like Metropolitan Development authorities which do not have sufficient provision for participative decision making by involving citizens is quoted as another challenge. The varying terms of the Mayor, the different election methods and limited powers are also a challenge, finds the report. Some other aspects are mentioned with respect to the human resource base which have emerged as challenges.

The above urban governance landscape is followed by the rural governance subject. In this chapter, several charts, box items and tables serve to illustrate well the points being made.

Chapter 5 covers Education Sector Capacity.

This chapter covers the evolution of education in the field coinciding with

the emergence of urbanisation. It traces the development of this science across Europe, USA and Canada while noting that its evolution in South Asia is relatively recent. It goes over the regulatory framework including course approvals, nomenclature, and curricula. The regulatory bodies are AICTE, UGC, and ITPL. Tables 7 and 8 give the Programme-wise enrolment for various courses in the subject for 2 years. Table 9 – Scenarios of supply assessment - is particularly interesting, giving the total number of passouts till date for UG and PG courses. The chapter concludes with Key Inferences out of the foregoing discussions.

Among the important inferences, the report notes that urban planning has been more confined to physical planning and therefore an extension of architecture. But the authors find a need for a public policy perspective as an important element of planning and so call for 'closer interaction in research and teaching amongst various disciplines beyond spatial design'. They conclude that given the past, this does not seem practical in the short term.

Among other inferences the report finds a dearth of professionals in rural area planning and hill areas planning and calls for this need to be addressed. The Advisory Committee members also found faculty shortage (of 25-30%) a serious challenge. Alongside

there are few quality improvement programmes for the faculty members.

Going on to the Demand-Supply aspects of the inferences, the report says that there is no mandatory system for keeping count of urban planners that graduate every year. On the demand side, it is mainly with the urban local bodies where they are limited to making statutory plans and granting development permissions. It lists out several reasons for the supply-demand mismatch.

There is further a list of inferences relating to curricula, pedagogy and learning aspects.

Chapter 6 titled Critical Issues list out 'bottlenecks and systemic issues' across the value chain of urban-planning capacity in India. This listing is a valuable assessment of the various challenges and shortcomings which come in the way of effective urban planning in India.

And as a logical next step, the last **Chapter 7** contains **Recommendations** of the Advisory Committee. It covers all aspects including advancement of Development Control Regulations (DCRs), ramping up Human Resources in the Public Sector, ensuring Qualified Urban Planners in Services, mainstreaming Capacity Building, rejuvenation of Capacity Building Institutions, revision of Town & Country Planning Acts, involving

Citizens, enhancing role of Private Sector, strengthening the Education System, and so on.

In all, this report by India's foremost think tank NITI Aayog is a valuable document on the state of Urban Planning in the Country. It has analysed all aspects of the subject tracing its history and evolution in India and some other countries/ regions. It goes into the development of this discipline over the years and the role of urban planning in the current context of rapid and relentless urbanisation. It articulates very well the shortcomings and obstacles in the

urban planning space including the state of availability of talent, which in turn is the outcome of the educational system, curricula and pedagogy with respect to this stream of study. It lays out in great detail the critical factors necessary for the orderly development of this discipline and presents a road map in terms of recommendations. No doubt, this document will serve as a very useful input for policymakers, academia, students, and professionals in the field of Urban Planning. This in turn can enable orderly and equitable development of our urban spaces and thereby the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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OBJECTIVES

The main emphasis of the Institute's work is to see that the local bodies can contribute more effectively to the development process and provide the citizens with better living conditions by meeting their aspirations in terms of required amenities, infrastructure and better environmental conditions, thus contributing to social and economic development of the society as a whole by better management of the human settlements. While these are the long-term objectives, the immediate ones are:

- To advance knowledge of the principles and practices of Local Government by conducting research and by organising training courses and programmes at various centres in India for officials and elected representatives in the local bodies.
- To strengthen and improve Local Government Institutions by improving their performance through education, orientation and bringing them together for common endeavor by organising specialised conferences, conventions and seminars.
- To make available a platform for members of local bodies and officials for exchange of views and ideas related to urban development and administration.
- To represent the views of local authorities supported by research work to the concerned higher authorities from time to time.
- To publish bibliographies, articles, books and other literature on matters of interest to local bodies.
- To publish journals, bulletins and other literature on different aspects of Local Government and on the working of Local bodies in different states.
- To undertake research studies in public administration, problems of local bodies and also in related topics of urban and environmental factors and arrange for their publication etc.
- To establish and maintain an information-cum-documentation service for local bodies.
- To undertake consultancy assignments in various areas of urban development and problems of local bodies with a view to improve and develop organisational, managerial and operational efficiency.

In view of the above, the Institute has been collaborating with the relevant government departments, Central and State, Universities, Organisations and Research Institutions. The work of the Institute covers several aspects involving a multi-disciplinary teamwork.

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