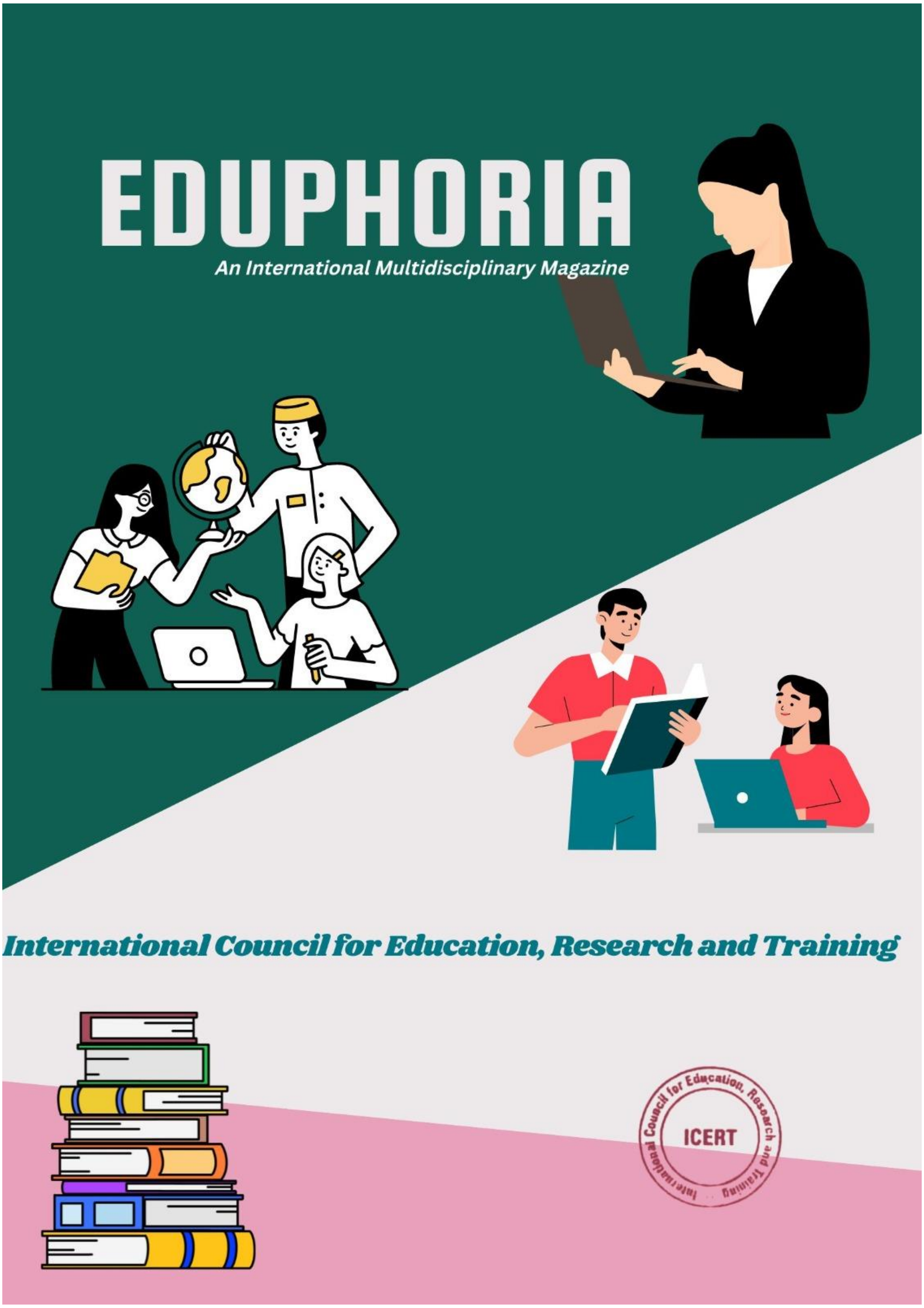

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Sincerely,

Dr. Dilpreet kaur

Editor, Eduphoria

Workplace Ethics: Fostering an Environment of uprightness & deference

Dr. S Sriranjani Mokshagundam

Introduction

In today's fast-paced and highly competitive business world, workplace ethics has taken centre stage as a critical factor for organizational success. It's all about establishing a strong moral compass and values that guide our behavior and decision-making in the professional realm. Workplace ethics encompasses honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, transparency, and accountability. When organizations prioritize and cultivate a culture that upholds these ethical principles, then they can boost employee engagement, build trust with all its stakeholders and achieve sustainable growth as well. In this article, we'll explore the significance of workplace ethics, delve into key ethical considerations and provide practical strategies for fostering an ethical work environment.

Importance of Workplace Ethics

1. Building Trust and Credibility: Workplace ethics plays a pivotal role in building trust and credibility among employees, customers and all the concerned stakeholders. When individuals feel confident that their colleagues and leaders uphold high ethical standards, it creates an atmosphere of openness, collaboration and innovation.

2. Enhancing Employee Engagement and Retention: A strong ethical framework nurtures a positive work environment, leading to increased employee engagement and job satisfaction. When employees feel valued, respected and are treated fairly, they become more committed towards their organization and are motivated to give their best. Moreover, organizations that prioritize ethics are more likely to attract and retain the top talent, solidifying their competitive advantage.

3. Strengthening Reputation and Brand Image: Ethical behavior directly impacts an organization's reputation and brand image. Companies known for their ethical practices and commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility enjoy a positive public perception. This reputation translates into increased customer loyalty, improved market positioning and long-term sustainability.

Key Ethical Considerations in the Workplace

1. Honesty and Integrity: Honesty forms the bedrock of moral behavior. It involves being truthful in all professional interactions, whether it's acknowledging mistakes, communicating capabilities accurately or avoiding conflicts of interest. Upholding integrity ensures that our actions align with our values.

2. Respect and Diversity: Businesses must foster an inclusive and diverse work environment where individuals are treated with respect, regardless of their background, race, gender, religion, or other characteristics. Embracing diversity not only fulfills legal obligations but also fosters collaboration and harnesses the power of different perspectives and experiences.

3. Fairness and Equity: Fair treatment and equity are crucial aspects of a principled workplace. Employees should be evaluated based on their performance and qualification, without biases or favoritism. Ensuring fair compensation, promotions and recognition helps create a sense of justice and empowers employees to excel.

4. Confidentiality and Privacy: Protecting confidential information and considering employee privacy are essential ethical considerations. Organizations should establish clear guidelines for handling sensitive data, ensuring its security and restricting access to authorized personnel only.

Strategies for Cultivating an Ethical Work Environment

1. Establish a Comprehensive Code of Ethics: Developing a code of ethics that outlines the organization's core values and expected behaviors is fundamental. This should be effectively communicated to all the employees and serve as a guiding framework for decision-making.

2. Lead by Example: Ethical behavior starts with leaders. They must embody and promote right conduct through their actions and decisions. When leaders set a encouraging & positive example, staff are inspired to follow suit.

3. Provide Ongoing Ethics Training and Education: Offering regular training sessions on ethics enhances employees' understanding of ethical dilemmas and equips them with the skills to navigate complex ethical quandaries. Encouraging open dialogue and providing guidance on ethical decision-making processes is crucial.

4. Foster a Speak-Up Culture: Creating an environment where employees feel safe and enabled to report unethical behavior or raise concerns is vital. Establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms and ensuring non-retaliation policies are in place protect whistleblowers.

5. Integrate Ethics into Performance Management: Incorporating moral behavior as a criterion for evaluating employee performance reinforces the company's commitment to ethics. By assessing and recognizing individuals who consistently demonstrate ethical conduct, organizations send a clear message that fair behavior is valued and rewarded. This integration also ensures that ethical considerations are not overshadowed by solely focusing on business outcomes.

6. Conduct Ethical Audits and Assessments: Regular ethical audits and evaluations help establishments assess their adherence to moral principles. These considerations identify potential gaps, areas of improvement and emerging ethical risks. By proactively addressing these issues and implementing corrective actions, organizations can maintain a strong ethical culture.

7. Promote Ethical Supply Chain Practices: Ethical recommendations should extend beyond the firm itself to encompass suppliers and partners. Implementing supplier codes of conduct and conducting due diligence on partners ensure alignment with ethical standards. Collaborating with ethical suppliers and socially responsible partners further strengthens the organization's commitment to ethical practices throughout the supply chain.

8. Encourage Transparency and Communication Channels: Nurturing transparency through open communication channels is vital for building trust and promoting ethical behavior. Regularly sharing information, updates and decisions helps the workforce appreciate the rationale behind organizational actions and fosters a sense of inclusion. Open-door policies and feedback mechanisms also provide opportunities for employees to voice their concerns or seek guidance.

9. Recognize and Reward Ethical Conduct: Acknowledging and rewarding individuals who consistently uphold ethical standards is a powerful way to reinforce the importance of ethics. Implementing recognition programs, such as "Ethics Champion" awards or peer-to-peer recognition creates a culture where ethical behavior is celebrated and serves as inspiration for others to follow.

10. Continuously Reinforce/ strengthen Ethical Values: Cultivating an ethical work environment requires ongoing reinforcement of ethical values. Regular internal communications such as newsletters, workshops and town hall meetings can highlight the significance of ethics and share success stories that exemplify ethical behavior. Leadership should consistently emphasize & support ethical expectations and address any moral concerns promptly and transparently to maintain a culture of integrity.

Conclusion

Workplace ethics serves as the compass that guides organizations towards success and sustainability. By prioritizing workplace ethics and implementing strategies as discussed above can promote an ethical work environment that benefits employees, employer & other stakeholders, society at large. Embracing ethical behavior in the place of work not only enhances faith, commitment and status, but also establishes a solid foundation for organizations to thrive in an ever-evolving business landscape.

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Throughout her career, she has served as a Principal, Professor, Research Supervisor, while also maintaining Memberships & Associations with National & International Professional Bodies. Her contributions have been recognized through numerous Awards & Honors. Moreover, she has taken on various roles such as Chairperson, Keynote/Guest Speaker, Resource Person & Panelist in numerous events.

She has actively participated and organized various National & International Academic Programs. Furthermore, she has made significant contributions to Academia by presenting and publishing numerous Articles, Textbooks, Book Chapters in Edited Books & Patents. Her expertise is also acknowledged through her role as an Editorial Board Member of highly esteemed Journals.

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Theory of Change (ToC) for Tackling Access to Agricultural Inputs through Agro-dealers in Nigeria

Dr. Oluwaseun Tosin Bamigboye

Globally, farmers get agricultural inputs from previous harvests, agro-dealers, friends, state/federal ministries, non-governmental organizations and other sources. These agro-inputs are seeds, feed, plant-protection products- pesticides, herbicides, equipment and technology. Agro-dealers stock these agro-inputs in their shops for farmers to access them (Staudacher, *et al.,* 2021). There are related policies that are an obstacle to prevailing effective and efficient agro-dealership. These include the fragile regulatory structure for the control of product quality and for averting the anti-competitive behavior of importers and major distributors. The existence of adulterated/fewer quality products in the market disturbs the agro-dealers business which results in the propensity to lose customers and face a decrease in profit. Related effects have also been seen on sale of expired agrochemicals (TheGuardian, 2020).

An all-around market-oriented approach to agro-dealer development enables improved efficacy in the input distribution, economic performances and allocation of resources. The benefits of agro-dealer development increase at various levels in the agricultural sector and reach different stakeholders in the sector. When agro-dealers technical capacity is developed, it will permit them to accelerate the uptake of improved practices, deliver advisory services of high-quality to small-scale farmers and improves the income and general wellbeing of farmers who adopt the use of improved practices (Allgood, 2011).

To improve these agro-dealers cost-effectiveness, operation and possible long-term economic achievement in serving farmers, there is a need to develop their very vital business expertise. Developing business networks is important in facilitating agro-dealers to take advantage of chances to improve the cost and operational efficiency of the agricultural value chain and credit management and for expansion of the scope of their operations. It is important to engage each agro-dealer development initiative to the particular conditions and market features of a given country.

Theory of Change as used in this study reinforced that agro-dealers' organized capacity by improving their accountability and structure of ownership leading to a well-organized and planned agro-dealers. This will in turn expand input supply, and also support in transferring knowledge on the use of these agricultural inputs to small-scale farmers. The theory of Change is difficult to trace specifically where the term was first used, but a tip-off at its origins can be found in the considerable body of applied and theoretical development in the field of evaluation, specifically among the work of scholars such as Peter Rossi, Huey Chen, Carol Weiss and Michael Quinn Patton (Patrizi and Quinn (2010); Weiss (1995); Chen and Rossi (1980). These evaluation practitioners and theorists have concentrated on how to apply program theories to evaluation for many years.

In the late 1950s with Kirkpatrick's 'Four Levels of Learning Evaluation Model' used the theories of change in evaluation. Further progress and evolution have included Daniel Stufflebeam's Context, Input, Processes and Products, CIPP, and the widely used Logframes or logical models which set out causal chains usually consisting of inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes coupled to long-term goals (James, 2011). The US-based Aspen Institute and its Roundtable on Community Change was one of the organizations which began to focus on these issues. The effort of the Roundtable steered the publication of New Approaches to Evaluating Comprehensive Community Initiatives in 1995. Carol Weiss, a member of the Roundtable's Steering Committee on Evaluation assumed that an important reason for implementing complex programs so challenging to evaluate is that, the assumptions that inspire them are poorly pronounced. She claimed that participants of complex community initiatives classically are uncertain about how the change process will be disclosed and therefore give little responsiveness to the early and mid-term changes that need to happen for a longer-term goal to be achieved (Weiss, 2011). Weiss propagated the term "Theory of Change" as a way to describe the set of assumptions that explain both the mini-steps that lead to the long-term goal and the connections between program activities and outcomes that occur at each step of the way.

In this framework, ActKnowledge (2003) encompassed the development of Theory of Change Online, TOCO, and a tailor-made software tool. Anderson (2005) pointed out that ToC works as an Expectation Management Tool, which reveals the interventions and expected outcomes an employee is supposed to work. An example made by Post (2015) is the Education for All (EFA) organizations' assessment of education monitoring on progress towards United Nation's education goals, where the ToC was employed to estimate how work is done. ToC engrossed not just on engendering knowledge about whether a program is operative, but also on explaining what approaches it uses to be operative (Coryn, *et al.,* 2011).

ToC Application to Farmers' Access to Agricultural Inputs through Agro-dealers

The implicit ToC adopted by Osei, *et al.,* (2017); Connell and Kubisch (1998) were established on the fact that reinforcing the organized capacity of the agro-dealer organizations, by improving their accountability and structure of ownership, will lead to well-organized and planned agro-dealers. This will in turn expand input supply, and also support in transferring knowledge on the use of these agricultural inputs to small-scale farmers.

The theory has the following assumptions as used by Osei, *et al.,* (2017)

1) Agro-dealers will intensify investments in their enterprise
2) Agro-dealers will deliver inputs to small-scale farmers
3) Agro-dealers have training needs
4) Variation in productivity does not lead to significant price variations

When agro-dealers are trained on the best way to supply farmers with agricultural inputs and their management, this can lead to a greater impact on farmers' productivity. Aside from training, the initiative/program was to assist the agro-dealers form demonstration plots close to their shops to show-case to farmers the adoption of improved technologies. Three main outputs of the program were anticipated for the agro-dealers: -

1) To acquire training on how to order and market agricultural inputs
2) To acquire training on how to offer advisory services on the input they sell
3) To be trained on how to establish demonstration plots.

Outputs of the program were-

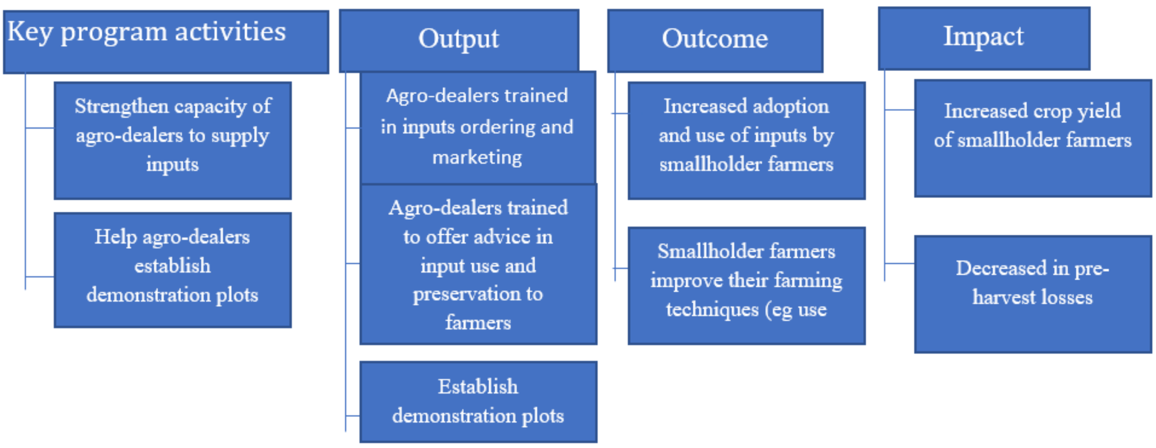
1. Adoption and use of improved inputs have to increase by the small-scale farmers; and
2. The advancement in farming practices of the small-scale farmer.

Two main impacts expected after this program were-

1) improved crop yields of small-scale farmers and
2) decreased pre/post-harvest losses

ToC as applicable to this study illustrated that there has been some paradigm shift by smallholder farmers from consulting extension agents to agro-dealers. The reduction in the number of extension agents to farm families' ratio led the smallholder farmers to source agricultural information from agro-dealers who sold inputs to them. The target ratio of Extension Agents to Farm families according to the Food and Agriculture Organization is 1:800 while the number in place were 1:5,128 in Ekiti State, 1:1,7118 in Osun State and 1:7,411 in Oyo State respectively (REFILS, 2017). In the study of Ajala *et al.,* (2013); Olorunfemi *et al.,* (2019) extension agents had low involvement in the dissemination of information to small scale farmers. However, Olaniyi and Farinde (2017) indicated that there was a general decline in extension service performance. Therefore, farmers now contact agro-dealers directly to supply them with agro-inputs and give advisory services to farmers on which agricultural input to purchase to give them high yield. Thereby, agro-dealers disseminate information and knowledge about agricultural inputs sold by them to the farmers.

In the figure below, to implement a project for Agro-dealers, there are some key program activities, for example, "To help Agro-dealers establish demonstration plots". The expected output of this program which is a result of a development intervention is to establish demonstration plots. These are designed to produce an outcome (the short-to-medium-term effects of an intervention). That is, when farmers see inputs displayed on the demonstration plots, it increases the adoption and use of such input. And eventually, impact on improved crop yield of smallholder farmers. The concept of Output, Outcome and Impacts are Results, it depends on the duration it takes effect whether short, mid/medium, or long-term effect.



Source: Osei, *et al.,* 2017

Figure 1: Theory of change

Theory of change exposed a possible knowledge about agro-dealers distribution of agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers. Agro-dealers organized capacity by improving their accountability and structure of ownership leading to well-organized and planned agro-dealers. This will in turn expand input supply, and also support in transferring knowledge on the use of these agricultural inputs to small-scale farmers.

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Dr. Oluwaseun Tosin Bamigboye
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My academic journey started when I was opportune to withdraw from a public primary school to a private primary school because my junior brother wouldn't stay in the private school, he was enrolled in. This built my academic foundation to be a sound student right from my childhood. In my primary, I was elected as the senior girl due to my academic performance. This made my parents seek funds, by all means, to enrol me to a private secondary school which further builds on my academic performance.

My teachers knew me for always writing my classwork, doing assignments and giving my own opinions in class. I was academically sound and elected as the senior girl of Fountain International High School, Ekiti State, Nigeria. I passed my West African Examination Council in flying colours. I registered for Jamb to study Medicine in University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. But unfortunately, I was given admission to study Agriculture. When I saw the admission letter, I was determined to reach the peak of my career and have a doctorate degree to be called a 'Dr' even if not in medical line. Under the supervision of Prof Adekunle, A.A., I was taught how to use Statistical Package for Social Sciences, SPSS; I graduated with second class upper in 2011.

Two months before the end of my service year, I bought my master's degree form from my National Youth Service Corps, NYSC savings. I was given admission to study masters in Agricultural Extension. I obtained my MSc in Agricultural Extension from University of Ilorin in 2014 when I was 24years old. In the year 2015 I published my first article under my maiden name "Adojutelegan".

The article titled " Factors affecting activities of water melon farmers in Ekiti State", was supervised by Prof Adereti, F.O., who came for sabbatical leave during my MSc program. After my MSc degree in 2014, I got married and raised my family. This tied me down to move forward with my academic pursuit. My supportive husband encouraged me to apply for my Doctorate Degree in 2018 which was newly created at Federal University Oye Ekiti.

I applied, started lectures, wrote exams and did my project under the supervision of Prof Adeniji, O.B., Prof Fakayode, S.B. and Dr Ogunjimi, S.I. I had to travel almost 100kilometers thrice in a week for lectures. My husband gave me a car to ease my accessibility to school.

Together with four of my colleagues, we do have a good ride to school. With a determined mind coupled with mental stability, supportive family, encouraging Supervisors and most importantly a working Vice Chancellor, Prof Fasina, A.S., I was able to finish my Doctorate degree within three years. I graduated with my joy knowing no bounds in December 2021.

I became the first female PhD holder in Federal University Oye Ekiti Nigeria at the age of 32 with 3kids. As a motivated young lecturer with over 10 published articles in reputable journals of which 2 are indicated in Scopus.

Countering Terror Financing: Challenges & Impact on India

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Abstract

In October and November 2022, India held three significant international gatherings and conferences on terrorism prevention and financing. Pakistan continues to support terrorism, whether directly through state institutions or through the open and unrestricted gathering of money by terrorist leaders who have been blacklisted by the UN. It remains the most deadly and powerful threat. Terrorists and criminals cooperate on communication and financial matters for the benefit of both groups. Due to regulatory difficulties, the spread of virtual currencies has further degraded the situation. Effectively reducing the threat of terrorist funding requires international cooperation.

Keywords: *Terrorism Financing, Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism*

Background

On November 18–19, 2022, India sponsored the "No Money for Terror" conference in New Delhi. Participants from 78 nations, including 20 ministers, attended the meeting, demonstrating the rising significance of the battle against terrorism financing. The third conference in a series on the subject was held here. The first event took place in Paris in 2018, and the second one in Melbourne in 2019. The earlier activities organised by India served to emphasise the theme's wider applicability.

The United Nations Security Council Terrorism Committee met on October 28 and 29, 2022.The 90th Interpol General Assembly was place in New Delhi from October 18–21, 2022, before that. The fight against terrorist funding, which continues to be a huge problem for the international community despite earnest attempts to stop it, was one of the principal topics of concentration in all of these multilateral engagements.

This succinct review summarises the key points expressed during conferences on terrorist funding, addresses the obstacles that continue to hamper efforts to do so, and briefly describes particular measures that have aided in the fight against this worldwide menace.

Key Areas of Focus During Conference

During his speech at the "No Money for Terror" conference on November 18, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made several profound insights that highlighted the difficulties connected with financing terrorism. He said, "When dealing with a global danger, there is no space for an unclear approach. It is an assault on civilised living, freedom, and humanity. It is unconstrained. He brought up the dishonest behaviour of nations who "promote terrorism as part of their state policy," pointing to the threat posed by Pakistan, while highlighting the difficulty of state terrorism.

The links between organised crime and the financing of terrorism were discussed by the prime minister. This involves obtaining money via illegal means and its connections to financing terrorism for logistical and communicational facilities. The difficulties brought on by technological development were emphasised, with a focus on the "dark net and private currency."

In addition, the prime minister emphasised the need to "strike at the source of terrorism," which includes its funding. He stressed the need for a "consistent, cohesive, and zero-tolerance strategy" to combat terrorism and the need of going after terrorists, dismantling their support systems, and disrupting their financial operations. The use of technology to "track, trace, and confront terrorists" was another point he emphasised.

The answer, he continued, "is not to demonise technology," since it may be used to disrupt terrorist networks.

The Delhi Declaration was first made during a special meeting of the CTC on October 29, 2022, in New Delhi. In order to address the rising problem, the paper set out to "cover the key issues regarding the misuse of drones, social media platforms, and crowdfunding." At the 90th Interpol General Assembly on October 18, 2022, Prime Minister Modi emphasised the underlying connections between crime, corruption, and terrorism while calling for "let communication, collaboration, and cooperation destroy crime, corruption, and terrorism."

The three international conferences conducted in New Delhi over the course of a month contextualised the difficulties caused by financing terrorism and the choices open to the world community to lessen its negative effects.

Evolution of Terror Funding in Last Decade

As ancient as terrorism itself is the financing of it. Its significance increased as terrorism evolved from being a single act of terrorism to an organised operation. This trait continues to be the fundamental reason why terrorist organisations have been able to sustain their extensive spectrum of operations. An analysis of terrorism reveals that compared to the far greater financial requirements to manage a terrorist organisation, there is a very little financial requirement for individual terrorist attacks.

This suggests that rather than concentrating only on fighting terrorists, governments should continue to target the resources that support these organisations. The inclination to direct resources largely targeting lone terrorists, in contrast to this well-reasoned approach, permits terrorist organisations to continue their operations. This includes the capacity to fill gaps left by the eradication of specific terrorists using persuasive narratives and a consistent flow of funds.

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of monies used to support terrorism originate from legitimate sources, making it difficult for law enforcement and intelligence services to locate, monitor, and seize such cash. The difficulty of terrorists utilising legitimate sources of finance for terrorism is made more difficult by the use of formal routes for moving these cash, which are not always identifiable amid the billions of transactions that occur.

Funding for terrorism can travel in a variety of ways from its origin to its final destination. As has been mentioned, in addition to official routes, hawala, cash, and commerce are other possibilities used by terrorists and those who assist them. The abundance of transit options makes it possible to choose the road less travelled. This is comparable to how water flows, which usually chooses the path with the least amount of resistance.

The terrorist groups seek an alternative when enforcement agents try to concentrate on the most obvious choice since it may not be subject to the same scrutiny. This enables them to maintain control and compel the government and its agencies to adopt a reactive strategy. As a result, resources get dispersed, which opens up holes that terrorists might take advantage of.

Technology has always played a crucial role in the flow of money supporting terrorism. While in the past terrorist organisations have taken use of legitimate routes to transfer funds throughout the globe through a network of interconnected offices, recent years have seen a boom prompted by the influence of technology. Wire transfers, PayPal, and electronic wallets were the beginning of what is today the realm of virtual currencies, more precisely, cryptocurrencies. This has left behind a number of difficulties.

The financial system had centralised control before the advent of virtual money. An application programming interface (API) was used to transport all transaction requests made inside the digital realm to a central governing organisation. It was supported by a nation's legal system and enforced a standard regulatory system. Further, over time, the global financial system developed a uniform framework for the operation of an open financial network.

Virtual currencies, on the other hand, have recently become a problem. On a peer-to-peer network, several virtual currencies may be purchased and exchanged without the involvement of a centralised financial organisation. Wherever cryptographic technology was used to create virtual currencies, their decentralisation and anonymity grew stronger. Its potential for abuse increases in a climate where the majority of nations have neither developed a regulatory structure nor written legislation for integrating it into the financial system. This is one of the main reasons why criminal organisations and terrorist organisations choose to move their funds using virtual currencies in order to do it in a somewhat anonymous manner.

Fundraising campaigns like crowdfunding, a global, electronic replacement for long-established physical collecting methods, have added to the use of virtual currencies. Such initiatives through peer-to-peer communication channels and social media allow for collections that might not always come with proper oversight and monitoring. This may be used to raise money from unwitting contributors as well as from people who may be sympathetic to the causes of people, organisations, or ideologies linked to terrorism.

Technology has also made it possible to create a parallel cyber reality, which has frequently been used for illegal purposes. This cyber domain, often known as the "darknet" or "dark web," may be used by terrorists as well as criminals to access crime and its proceeds. These three technological advancements—virtual currencies, crowdsourcing, and the darknet—have all been abused to distort the effect and scope of technology.

Although much of the money going towards terrorism is lawful, it is also true that criminality contributes to the creation of dirty money. Both should continue to be separate realms logically. However, there is a direct connection between criminality and terrorism financing. Criminal activity can be pursued most easily in an area that is poorly or completely controlled. High levels of corruption in a society create a climate that encourages crime and makes it easier for it to occur.

Criminal cartels and organisations establish and use covert routes for the exchange of products and money. Once again, a deficient and failing system of government makes this simpler. To reach their target, terrorist organisations frequently use the same agents that assist the flow of illicit gains and frequently take use of these channels. While terrorist organisations have political goals and criminal organisations have financial ones, both can benefit from sharing communication links and financial mobility.

Another issue is the persistent effort made by terrorist organisations to use religion as a means of abusing people and raising money under the pretext of contributions. The use of extremist ideas to encourage terrorism is not new in nations like Pakistan. For a long time, organisations like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed have been engaged in similar operations. The prospect that donations meant for the poor and needy in society may instead be used to assist terrorism has also surfaced as a major problem, in addition to such prohibited organisations.

Actions Against Terror Financing

As terrorism finance has become more significant, national governments and international organisations like the United Nations and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) have strengthened their policies, put in place stricter regulations, and closed loopholes that terrorist organisations were using to their advantage. After 9/11, the international community's efforts gained momentum. It was the Parliament assault and 26/11 for India. Several efforts that have enhanced counter-terrorism financial capacity and capabilities were started as a result of these horrifying tragedies. However, given that terrorism continues to occur on a global scale, much more work must be done before terrorist funding can be effectively cut off.

Both state and non-state actors might be the target of efforts to stop terrorism financing. It is crucial to emphasise that the former requires more attention and is harder to stop. Given

Pakistan's prominence as a state that uses terrorism as state policy while also utilising terrorist organisations that are outlawed globally, the emphasis of this brief is on the former.

Despite the efforts of international organisations and individual nations, Pakistan continues to fight a policy of state terrorism not just against India but also against Afghanistan, making it the most deadly and powerful threat. Pakistan has used every available method to finance terrorism, from open and unrestricted money collecting by UN-proscribed terrorist leaders to direct funding by state institutions. They have relied on the drug trade to bring in money. Additionally, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) have been created in Pakistani state institutions for distribution into India via a number of channels. Pakistan has utilised commerce unfairly to generate and move funds to support terrorism. Pakistan's recent removal from the Grey List (Increased Monitoring) by the FATF may be a sign that it is acting more responsibly as a nation.

But this is quite far from the truth. Pakistan has only fulfilled the obligation of responding to the urgent concerns voiced by the Asia-Pacific Group, an organisation akin to the FATF that deals with the area that both Pakistan and India are a part of. This has been accomplished through altering laws and institutions as well as by showing greater efficacy against terrorist organisations and their leaders through targeted terrorism prosecution and sentence.

However, such activities show the state's well-honed capacity to run with the hares and hunt with the hounds in a situation where people have a short shelf life and their goals may be realised via several proxies, including the Pakistani state. Pakistan’s withdrawal off the Grey List raises the following questions: Has Pakistan stopped sponsoring terrorism, or have UN-proscribed actors stopped funding operations on Pakistani soil? Both rhetorical questions have a negative response.

In response to Pakistan's continued support of terrorism as a matter of state policy, India has devised a three-pronged strategy. These actions can be categorised as defensive measures, direct action, and diplomacy. India's diplomatic efforts have been most successful in West Asia, where allies have contributed to the effort to combat terrorism and its funding. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are two prominent instances of this. Another illustration of a coordinated effort to hold Pakistan accountable for its transgressions is the decision of the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany to nominate Pakistan for its shortcomings in the FATF, which resulted in its placement in the Grey List. State terrorism and the spotlight on Pakistan are always brought up in connection with significant international events, whether explicitly or implicitly. As reiterated by Prime Minister Modi when he said, "There should be a code of conduct to prevent activities like cross-border terrorism and terror financing and also have a system for their prevention," this includes organisations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, of which both China and Pakistan are members.

India has started taking active steps to oppose Pakistan's hitherto unopposed use of low intensity warfare as a means of conflict escalation. Contrary to the past, serious terrorist mishaps have resulted in punishment on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC). India's objective and red lines are evident in the actions taken in 2016 following the Uri terror attack and in 2019 at Balakot.

The benefit of Pakistan's prior volatility was successfully replaced by these measures. The attacker was placed on the defensive and had to estimate the magnitude and breadth of upcoming disasters. Therefore, it is not unexpected to see Pakistan refrain from carrying out significant attacks beyond 2019. Alongside these effective actions along the LoC, counterterrorism operations have also been carried out successfully elsewhere in the nation, particularly in Kashmir. The majority of the key terrorist commanders have been effectively taken out by security forces, and the number and severity of terrorist attacks have steadily decreased.

India also implemented a number of preventative steps that have improved the effectiveness of the battle against terrorism and financing, such as bolstering domestic counterterrorism legislation. The Money Laundering Act and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act have both undergone revisions to increase their stipulations. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which has effectively led programmes for terrorism-related investigation and punishment, has developed as a highly specialised organisation. It has gained experience in technically difficult investigation procedures, such as the forensic analysis of fake money.

The Enforcement Directorate has had equal success seizing the assets and property of terrorist organisations and people implicated in funding terrorism. Faster justice delivery made possible by the creation of special courts serves as a deterrence for terrorists and those who assist them. The Multi Agency Centre's (MAC) performance has improved at both the Centre and State levels, which has improved intelligence analysis and information exchange.

The FATF's worldwide initiatives are designed to stop terrorists from abusing the global financial system. Numerous attempts have been implemented throughout time, even as terrorist organisations developed to diversify their funding sources and increase the channels for doing so. Periodic assessments and the exchange of best practises have strengthened the procedures and limited wilful departures from them.

FATF recommendations-based efficacy measurements have made it possible to examine nations like Pakistan more closely. It has compelled Pakistan to outlaw organisations, as well as to charge and convict terrorist leaders.

Conclusion

While efforts have been made to stop the financing of terrorism, as has been demonstrated throughout time, these efforts are still insufficient to compel nations like Pakistan to abandon terrorism as a national strategy. The strategy taken by India and its allies has increased the diplomatic and financial pressure on Pakistan. However, the financial restrictions on Islamabad have been loosened as a result of geopolitical interests and conflicting objectives. The battle against terrorism will not be helped by Pakistan's removal from the FATF Grey List, the US's restart of military aid, and China's continuous support on international forums to block action against terrorist organisations operating within the nation.

Terrorism does not respect national identity or physical bounds, according to historical data. The price of ignoring terrorism or, worse still, encouraging it, as Pakistan has decided to do, has always been expensive. India has shown that it is willing and ready to face the threat of terrorism, but sadly, true international collaboration is still a work in progress. Terrorists will continue to take advantage of the gaps in the broken international strategy until the world realises how crucial it is to work together to address this threat.

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THE CHURCH'S HEALTH-CARE SERVICE: PATHWAY TO ACHIEVING URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

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Abstract

Environmental sustainability threatens nations; the citizens suffer from health challenges endangering their lives. Invariably, the unhealthy status of the citizens becomes one of the major effects of the environmental challenge ravaging developing and underdeveloped countries. Health-care services are inadequate for the teaming migration to the urban cities and even the residual population in the rural communities; this has resulted in a high mortality rate in pregnant women, children and other avoidable deaths of youths due to sickness. Achieving sustainable development requires an all-inclusive global action to take special care of the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Therefore, by calling and as a community of faith set to protect the most vulnerable and be steward of God on earth, the Church should stand up to this all-inclusive responsibility. There is a need for pro-activeness, self-examination, self-awareness and education on the Church's part on how to be good caretakers of the precious people handed over to the Church. The health care initiative by the Church then becomes her contribution to environmental development and its sustainability.

Keywords: *Church, Health-Care, Urban, Environmental Sustainability, Developing Nations*

Introduction

Environmental challenge is one of the three dimensions of sustainable development the world is faced with, especially in countries described to be developing and underdeveloped. Ecological sustainability is still threatened, with accelerating growth in global greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. This indicates people are still living in extreme poverty, and income inequality is rising within and among these countries. Many suffer from hunger, no access to improved water supply sources, and health challenges endangering life on the planet (The World Economic and Social Survey 2013). One significant effect of the environmental challenges in developing and under-developed nations is the unhealthy status of the citizens. Health-care services are inadequate for the teaming migration to the urban cities and even the residual population in the rural communities; this has resulted in a high mortality rate in pregnant women, children and other avoidable deaths of youths due to sickness. Achieving sustainable development requires global actions to deliver on the legitimate aspiration towards further economic and social progress, growth and employment, and at the same time strengthening environmental protection (Banerjee 2008)

Sustainable development must be inclusive to care for the poorest and most vulnerable. The Church, by calling and as a community of faith, is to protect the most vulnerable and be the steward of God on earth. The need for the Church to stand up to this inclusive responsibility calls for pro-activeness, self-examination, self-awareness and education on how to be good caretakers of the precious people handed over to the Church (Alokwu, 2013). This has become imperative as the issue of health-care service has reached a critical level globally. This paper focuses on the Church's health-care service as a pathway to achieving urban environmental sustainability, reaching the growing number of urban dwellers to help improve urban environmental sustainability. The role would significantly boost the efforts to achieve urban sustainable development, especially in underdeveloped countries where health-care service is essential.

Environmental Sustainability

The term sustainable development, from where the concept of urban sustainability includes human development, values, and differences in cultures, refers to sustainable human development as opposed to sustainable development to emphasize issues such as the importance of gender equality, participation in decision-making processes, and access to education and health (Mitlin and Satterthwaite 1996). There are many competing and often contradictory definitions of urban sustainability (Pearce and Watford 1993; Dokun 2008). The most widely known definition of environmental sustainability comes from the Brundtland Commission, which defined sustainable environmental development benefits (for instance, health-care services) in every community meant as development that meets the essentials of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (United Nations 1987).

Environmental Sustainability refers to the establishment of urban development forms and processes that are both more environmentally benign (Habitat International 2000), in which improvement in the quality of human life is achieved in harmony with improving and maintaining the health of ecological systems, and where a healthy economy's industrial base supports the quality of both human and environmental systems (http://www.indigodev.com/Sustain.html). Sustainability is a crucial attribute of high-quality aid, and the lack of a clear and explicit sustainability strategy will be a significant risk factor in all the projected programs or the assistance to render. Invariably, sustainability connotes continuing benefits after substantial aid from donors, organizations, or the Church has been completed. This is termed environmentally sustainable development and is strengthened if environmental issues are considered at all stages of the activity cycle (The Bruntland Report, 1987).

Therefore, environmental sustainability is a process aimed at maximizing ecologically sustainable development benefits that are ongoing, reviewed and updated as circumstances change and lessons are learned from experience. Meyers and Muhajir (1997) discussed some causes of environmental challenges and issues in developing and under-developed countries below:

i. **Unemployment:** About two-thirds (2/3) of migrants from rural to urban centers aged between 15-29 years are unemployed. It will be observed that unemployment harms the environment and its resources, the society and especially the poor themselves, as this will lead to extreme poverty.

ii. **Poverty:** High rates of rural migration to urban cities and low economic growth are causing increased urban poverty. This, in turn, worsens the health status of the people and eventually exacerbates the health-care service situation, resulting in environmental pollution.

iii. **Environmental Pollution and Degradation:** The informal economy of urban settlements in many developing and underdeveloped nations of the world urban environments contribute to the degradation of the environment through haphazard disposal of industrial by-products, poorly constructed residential and workplaces with large amounts of soil and water pollution; and poorly enforced emissions regulations for factories and motor vehicles. This has led to other social problems.

iv. **Other Social Problems:** The challenge of environmental pollution and degradation has led some to live in slums located in illegal settlements with insufficient housing and inadequate sanitation are seen as the breeding grounds for socio-menace problems such as crime, drug addiction, alcoholism and several health problems (WHO Undated in Alokwu, 2013), which is the concern of this paper.

The Church Health-Care Services towards Health Challenges

In many developing and underdeveloped urban environments, over-populated slums parade high disease rates due to unsanitary and poor environmental conditions. This affects the urban population's environmental health system, creating a heavy burden of diseases and infections such as malaria, diarrhoea, malnutrition, etc., which could lead to death. However, the Church views health as the most important of all values and, thus, the essential condition for a good life (DIFAEM 2010). In addition, health is foremost an issue of being healthy, as opposed to being sick, which implies biomedical normality, a condition of humans when not having a diagnosis. A broader perception is that health is about prosperity, well-being, and quality of life in meaningful relationships among family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues (Mæland 2009).

Concerning the Church's mission, the ailment is seen as illness, disease and sickness, which is of primary concern and requires necessary attention in health and care work. The World Council of Churches has formulated an alternative perception of health the World Health Organization as a dynamic state of well-being of individuals and society; of spiritual, physical, mental, economic, political and social well-being; of being in harmony with one another, with the material environment and with God (WCC 2010).

Therefore, the Church has seen health as a dynamic experience in relationships to people's life and God. In this way, the health theme is firmly connected to existential questions, to foundations of values and the concept of being human and to the expectations for happiness and the meaning of life (Magezi 2017). Below are illustrations of the services churches performing through their church membership in community health (World Bank, 2014).

a. **Basic Treatment:** After training and obtaining resource materials on first aid and primary treatment of specific illnesses, some trained church members in medical or health ministry apply the essential treatment on people in the community on first aid basis and in emergencies. This was particularly prevalent in very communities where health facilities like clinics were far away and inaccessible because of unmaintained roads.
b. **Disease Prevention:** Trained church members formed part of the community disease surveillance teams. Church members were trained to identify symptoms of common diseases and inform health facility staff if there was a suspected case of particular conditions. They were also involved in mobilizing community people to immunize their children. This included partnering with health facilities to identify children who were not vaccinated.
c. **Health Promotion:** Church members, through formal and informal church programs and groupings, were involved in health promotion. This included sharing health information to educate community members on the symptoms of various diseases. They also focused on harm reduction in community spaces such as homesteads, schools and walkways to prevent injuries. They led in preventing disease vectors such as mosquitos by clearing tall grasses

and dirty water dams. Health education included food and nutrition. Families and community members were educated on a balanced diet.

d. **Community Health within a Holistic Framework:** In a context with limited health care facilities, church leaders were trained to train their church members to share the information with the rest of the community.

However, because of community needs, the Church and community members developed integrated community care ministries that focused on many other activities such as livelihoods and income, savings schemes and human rights education. These interventions resulted in community building (Magezi 2018).

Pathway to Achieving Urban Environmental Sustainability

Magezi (2017) presents the church department and congregational ecology models in contributing health care services to the communities for environmental sustainability. The church department refers to denominations with established health and development departments that are centrally controlled. The churches own and run hospitals that provide the same medical care services as the government health care centers. The congregational ecology refers to individual congregations responding to health care needs that organically arise in their context out of community need. Because of its deep embeddedness in the local grassroots community, the congregational ecology provides a valuable nexus for churches' contribution to health care services where community participation is critical (Mati 2013).

The practical role of churches in developing and underdeveloped countries' contexts is to strengthen the worthwhile contribution to health care services beyond religious and spiritual contemplation. This includes disease prevention and health promotion, performed mainly by churches or church volunteers (Foster 2010). There are emergent approaches highlighted below as pathways to achieving urban environmental sustainability (Magezi 2018):

1. **Diffusion of Health Practices**

Sociologists explain social diffusion as a process through which cultural knowledge, practices and materials spread from one social system to another (Crossman (2012). Diffusion connotes a transportation process in environmental fluid mechanics, which is random and moves from high-concentration to low-concentration regions with an equilibrium state of uniform concentration (Karlsruher Institute für Technologie [KIT] 2009). This approach is termed modelling health lifestyle, where the community people copy the health lives of the church members as examples and request assistance where necessary. The church diffusion model focuses on developing church members' capacity to improve health. It entails people changing their health behaviours to improve health; the non-church community members also learn about these health issues. The Church shares health information, adopts a healthier way of living, and models' basic preventive standards of a healthy life for the community to learn and emulate.

2. **Church-Government Human Resource Leverage Approach**

The church-government human resource leverage refers to the organic use of existing relevant human resources to reach communities effectively. This model draws from two realities of churches and church members in communities. Firstly, church members are community people with a community/family role. Secondly, church members possess different expertise and skills. A combination of community roles and particular expertise provides some spontaneous responses that are an organic approach. Therefore, the trained church members' knowledge, expertise and skills from different backgrounds will be harnessed and used in their areas of strength in communities. Most of the lead health program facilitators could be nurses already working with the Ministry of Health and performing the role under the church health program creating a solid link between the church health project and government health ministries for project sustainability (Kirunga, Ogwal & Peter 2007). This approach integrates the church health program into Church and community life spaces; it becomes part of ongoing community activities, which ensures wider reach. Furthermore, this will strengthen the integrity of the health project and, consequently, the church health program.

3. **Church Member Cluster – Community Reach Model**

This model entails having the trained medical officers in the Church as trainers of trainers to share the information with other Church-trained members in other communities. The church members formed clusters based on geographical convenience, training other volunteer church members; the health information charts will be given to the clusters' program coordinator. Cluster members will use the flipcharts to reach community members, which facilitation tools and information reference resources. The health information charts were accessible and constantly used as a reference resource to empower corps members to confidently share health information in the community (Magezi 2017). However, this approach will reduce the lifespan of the health flipcharts; if they are poorly and unsafely kept in some homes, they should be held securely in the church offices. This approach could also increase health information 'content inaccuracy' if some members would not adequately competent to respond to some questions asked.

4. **Church Health Activities as a Government Extension Model**

This approach entails integrating church health activities into the government Ministry of Health, utilizing a local health care center in the community as the driver. The church health programs, therefore, function as an extension of government health services. The program takes off from the community health center by holding meetings on health-related issues; Church health volunteers report to the clinic staff, and church community outreach will be conducted based on timetables and activities of the local clinic (James 2009). Training of church volunteers will be done mainly by professional health staff at the center. At the same time, these activities will be conducted in the format of the Ministry of Health as prescribed by community health workers.

5. **Holistic Health and Community Transformation Model**

This approach encourages the church membership to develop skills for people in the community for holistic and positive living. The Church is the center of information sharing and exchange on emerging issues and other community challenges on proper awareness of health-related problems. The Church brings up health communication projects to create space for community people to meet, relate and strengthen relationships in places difficult to access and with no close-by health facility (Zvobgo 1986). Health flipcharts and other pictorial materials provided an opportunity and glue for people to participate in church health care activities; it also offered a practical life dimension that strengthened members' togetherness as they applied lessons from health. The health flipchart meetings and other projects strengthened cohesion by implementing community interventions addressing community needs.

6. **Integration and Interrelatedness of the Models**

Integration of all the models occurs as an emphasis in different communities unintentionally to reinforce each other. It shows the reality of church health care practices in community development initiatives; these reflect the practical outworking of church interventions at the grassroots level and indicate the complexity of implementing community health care interventions (Green et al. 2002). These models could be both systematic and unsystematic. Still, its application shows that church communities' focus was central to the work. It is a fundamental tenet of health care service-programmes that will prevent diseases, promote health, enhance population health and develop the community holistically as health work extends to other community issues.

Recommendations for Effective Church Health Care Environmental Sustainability

The role and contribution of churches in health care services cannot be disputed. This role varies from establishing and managing large Christian hospitals to rural church communities on different health information and prevention schemes. However, the following are recommended for effective church-driven health programs for environmental sustainability (WHO 2014):

The church leadership should focus on individual church members, targeted groups within the church organizations and interested members in the community where the Church is located for empowerment. The Church should create opportunities for abilities and skills development in interested people, offering training and mentorship to strengthen the community's interest in health care service. The people's full potential will be developed, understanding and knowledge will be enhanced, confidence will be built commitment will increase in health-care practices (Magezi 2017).

The church leadership should elaborate the concept of health care culture and value through an emotional and spiritual relationship between the Christian organizations and the community members by building trust, respect, admiration and commitment to healthy practices and lifestyles. Christian organizations should organize orientation and enlightenment programs to educate each community at different levels, to understand and internalize the vision and values of health care services and healthy lifestyle into every community (James 2009),

Church leadership should implement a plan to achieve targeted health care agenda and strategic plans for community health projects. This is done through strategic visioning and mission towards environmental health care services in the church community development planning. Health care service should be embedded as a mission project targeting the unreached people group, bringing and sustaining development within the community (Marafa n.d.).

Church leaders should influence and create the willingness of followers, interested groups, community leaders and members, and non-governmental organizations to work in collaboration for the achievement of health care objectives of the government for developmental sustainability. The church leadership should set clear goals for the sustainability of the health care services creating high expectations from the people by encouraging people and providing support and recognition, stirring the emotions and passions of people, and getting people to look beyond personal interests to achieve the developmental goal (Green, et, al. 2002).

The Church is responsible for meeting the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of the members in every community location; therefore, churches should play a fundamental role in encouraging and sustaining healthy lifestyles within the community, and this should be done by constantly promoting nutritional lifestyle programs and ensuring compliance to healthy living tips as individuals, families and community. Organizing medical check-ups ensure prompt attendance among church members, which could also be extended to the members of the community (Foster 2010). This will create sustainability consciousness within the society.

Conclusion

The Church is saddled with the all-inclusive global responsibility of holistic well-being of God's creatures on earth, which is her contribution to environmental development sustainability. The health care service initiatives, Basic treatment, Disease prevention, Health promotion and Community health within a holistic framework stand as the response to the community members. However, the Diffusion of health practices, Church-Government human resource leverage approach, Church member cluster-Community reach model, Church health activities as government extension model, Holistic health and community transformation model and Integration and interrelatedness of the models are presented as Church's emergent practical approach to achieve the urban environmental sustainability. Moreover, it is recommended that Churches should empower individuals and groups in the community, internalize health care value into all Christian organizations, encourage targeted community health care projects, motivate stakeholders to achieve collective health-care objectives of the government and encourage all to sustain community healthy lifestyle, then the church-driven health-care programs will effectively maintain environmental development.

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"Economic thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar"

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Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, was not only a social reformer but also a thinker in the field of economics. He strongly believed that economic development was crucial for the upliftment of the marginalized sections of society. His economic ideas were rooted in his deep understanding of the social and economicinequalities prevalent in Indian society.

One of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's most important contributions to economics was his critique of capitalism. He believed that capitalism perpetuated inequality and exploitation, benefiting only a small section of society. He argued that the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few resulted in the marginalization of the poor and disadvantaged. Therefore, he advocated for a socialist economic system that would promote equality and social justice.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar emphasized the importance of agriculture in the Indian economy. He believed that the agricultural sector was the backbone of the Indian economy and that the key to economic development was through agricultural reforms. He proposed several measures to improve agricultural productivity, such as land reforms, irrigation projects, and rural credit systems. He believed that these measures would not only increase agricultural production but also provide employment opportunities to the rural poor.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a staunch advocate of labor rights. He believed that workers should be given fair wages, working conditions, and social security benefits. He proposed labor laws that would protect the rights of workers and ensure their well-being. He also stressed the importance of education and skill development for workers to improve their economic prospects.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was also a proponent of monetary policy as a tool for economic development. He proposed measures to stabilize the currency and control inflation, such as the establishment of a central bank and the adoption of a gold standard. He believed that sound monetary policy was crucial for economic stability and growth.

In conclusion, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's economic ideas were shaped by his commitment to social justice and equality. His ideas and principles continue to inspire policymakers and economists around the world. He believed that economic development should not be pursued at the cost of the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society, and that true economic progress could only be achieved through a just and equitable economic system.

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Fuel Subsidy Removal and Palliative Cash Transfer: A Case of Agriculture Students' Perceptions in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Recent fuel subsidy removal by the Federal Government of Nigeria, as part of policy reforms, is expected to impact the economy with a wide range of manifestations through its effects on the transport cost and spillover effects of transport cost on agriculture and food value-chain. As a palliative, the Government has borrowed $800 million from the World Bank for direct cash transfer to 12 million vulnerable households. Students are part of the vulnerable groups and are knowledgeable about the working of the economy. The study examines the perceptions of students studying agriculture in selected tertiary institutions in Lagos State. One hundred twenty undergraduate students of agriculture in various universities within Lagos state were purposively selected for the study. The questionnaire used in eliciting information was structured into three constructs of seven items each. Analysis was done using Descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The results showed that the majority (63%) of the participants were male, between ages 20 and 25 years (90%) and resided in the rural area (51%). The descriptives analysis of the perceptions of agriculture students showed that participants agreed with all the items of the sustainability construct and almost all the items of inclusivity but only three of the materiality constructs.

Key Words: *Fuel subsidy, Cash transfer, Students' perceptions, Lagos, Nigeria.*

Introduction

Fuel subsidies are a form of government intervention to reduce the cost of fuel by providing direct financial support to oil companies and, as such, subsidise the product to consumers. Fuel subsidies began in the 1970s and became institutionalised in 1977, following the promulgation of the Price Control Act, which made it illegal for some products (including petrol) to be sold above the regulated price (PWC, 2023). While the concept of subsidy itself is noble, its administration in Nigeria has been plagued with severe allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Consequently, various Nigerian Government regimes have attempted to remove or reduce subsidies in the past, but these efforts have often been met with public outcry and protests. This is because an average household in Nigeria depends on subsidised by-products of crude oil such as petrol and kerosene for domestic and commercial use. This dependence is not helped either, as the public electricity supply from the power holding company (PHCN) is epileptic. Almost every home and business are powered by generators through subsidised petrol. Small businesses, such as hotels, barbers, welders, farmers, hairdressers, pepper sellers, and private and Government hospitals, all rely on subsidised fuel. Gasoline, Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) or fuel as it is typically called in Nigeria, is the second most used product after food in Nigeria. Whenever fuel prices go up, other sectors of the economy are affected. This is because transport cost for essential services goes up, creating a multiplier effect on the economy; the ripples are felt even in rural areas. The movement of agricultural products from one place to another depends on the transport sub-sector, causing a rise in the prices of products and services in society, especially in the market. Critical components of basic needs indicators such as food, housing, clothing and health are affected as access to them becomes costly. The issue remains highly contentious, and any subsidy removal decision is met with support and opposition.

It has been opined that Fuel subsidy removal benefits Nigerians as it will stimulate economic development. The huge fund hitherto used to pay for subsidies will become available to the Government to develop the much-needed infrastructure in the country, especially in the health care, education and transport sectors. Conversely, the Removal of subsidies will lead to an increase in transportation costs, prices of food and other related products while household income remains the same for some households (Umeji & Eleanya, 2021). This will result in a fall in the real income of the poor households, increasing the poverty level in the country, thereby worsening the poor standard of living of the people. Overall, fuel subsidy removal effects are enormous and harsh on the economy and the people. As a palliative, the Government has borrowed $800 million from the World Bank for direct cash transfer to 12 million vulnerable households. Students are part of the vulnerable groups and are knowledgeable about the working of the economy. The currency of fuel subsidy removal and attendant economic hardship that pervade the clime is the motivation behind this study. This study examined student perceptions of fuel subsidy removal and cash transfer as palliative.

Purpose/Objective of the Study

In a situation of dire economic realities owing to the removal of fuel subsidies, it is pertinent to know the views or opinions of agriculture students on the palliative cash transfer proposed by the Government of the day. Specifically, the study examines Agriculture students' perceptions of palliative cash transfer in response to fuel subsidy removal.

Methodology

One hundred and twenty undergraduates of agriculture programmes were purposively selected from Universities in Lagos states to form the sample for this study. The questionnaire for the study was designed and structured to elicit information on three constructs, namely, Materiality, Inclusivity and Sustainability concerns of the palliative cash transfer. Each construct has seven items. Information on socio-economics was also collected. A close-ended five-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagreed; 2 = disagreed; 3 = neutral; 4 = agreed; 5 = strongly agreed), which facilitates the participants' understanding, was used to elicit participants' opinions on each item. According to Brace (2004), asking closed-ended questions is the best way to discover beliefs, behaviour, views, and perceptions. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequency, means and standard deviation. A mean greater than 2.5 indicates that most participants supported that opinion or view.

Results and Discussion

Socio-Economics Characteristics of Participants

The socio-economics characteristics of participants are summarised in Table 1. The Table shows 76 (63%) out of the 120 agriculture students were male, as against 44 (37%) females. Most of them (90%) were between the ages of 21 to 25 years. More than half (51%) indicated that they reside in the rural area, while only 30% reside in the urban area.

Table 1. Socioeconomic profile of the sample respondents (N = 120).

Variables/Categories	Frequency	%
Gender		
Male	76	63
Female	44	37
Age		

Below 20	5	4
21 - 25	108	90
26 to 30	7	6
Residence		
Rural	61	51
Suburban	29	19
Urban	50	30
University/Institution		
LASUED, Epe	50	41.6
LASUSTECH, Ikorodu	50	41.6
UNIBEN (Affiliated), Akoka	20	16.7
Father's Occupation		
Government Employee	19	16
Self-Employed	10	8
Farmer	27	23
Unemployed	13	11
Others	50	42
Mother's Occupation		
Government Employee	8	7
Self-Employed	66	55
Unemployed	30	25
Others	16	13
Average Family Income (Monthly)		
Below 10,000 - 20,000	49	41.0
20,000 - 30,000	37	31.0
30,000 - 50,000	24	20.0
More than 50,000	10	8.0

Forty-seven per cent of the agriculture students indicated that their fathers engaged in public service (16%), self-employment (8%) and farming (23%) as their occupations or means of livelihood. 11% indicated that their fathers were unemployed. This group of students would be very vulnerable to the adverse economic effects of fuel subsidies.

Perceptions of Agriculture Students on Palliative Cash Transfer in response to Fuel subsidy removal

Table 2 shows agriculture students' responses or perceptions on palliative cash transfer in response to fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria. As the Table shows, agriculture students agreed with three out of the seven items of the materiality construct. Specifically, they agreed that palliative cash transfer directly impacts individuals' purchasing power, allowing them to meet immediate needs such as food, healthcare, education, and transportation (M=2.51; SD=±1.33). This is confirmed by their perceptive agreement that cash transfers are particularly significant for vulnerable populations who may lack access to other forms of financial support. (M=3.54; SD=±4.21); and reflected in their agreement with the opinion that it is significant in promoting social justice and equity, ensuring that individuals impacted by fuel subsidy removal have access to essential resources and opportunities (M=2.52; SD=±0.47). However, they could not agree with other items of the materiality construct, as shown by their means below 2.5. For instance, they could not agree with the opinion that Its impact will extend beyond immediate consumption, supporting local businesses and stimulating economic activity within communities (M=1.57; SD=2.47) because the proposed cash amount (₦8,000) is paltry judging by the realities of the economy.

Table 2. Agriculture Students' Perception of Palliative cash Transfer

Construct	Items	N	Mean	SD
Materiality	It directly impacts individuals' purchasing power, allowing them to meet immediate needs such as food, healthcare, education, and transportation.	120	2.51	1.33
	It alleviates socioeconomic burdens and contributes to a sense of stability and security within affected households.	120	2.00	1.22

	Its impact extends beyond immediate consumption, supporting local businesses and stimulating community economic activity.	120	1.57	2.41
	Cash transfers have material implications for poverty reduction and social welfare.	120	2.12	1.33
	Cash transfers are vital in mitigating the potential negative impacts on beneficiaries' overall quality of life.	120	2.43	1.51
	Cash transfers are particularly significant for vulnerable populations who may lack access to other forms of financial support.	120	3.54	4.21
	It is significant in promoting social justice and equity, ensuring that individuals impacted by fuel subsidy removal have access to essential resources and opportunities.	120	2.52	0.47
Inclusivity				
	Palliative cash transfer provides financial support to individuals and families from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds who are affected by fuel subsidy removal.	120	1.80	2.33

It reaches marginalised and vulnerable populations who may face heightened financial hardships due to fuel subsidy removal.	120	1.97	3.22
The inclusivity of cash transfers depends on the design and implementation of the program, ensuring that proper mechanisms are in place to identify and reach those most in need.	120	3.88	4.21
The inclusivity of cash transfers should encompass consideration for the diverse needs and circumstances of different population groups, such as women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities, to ensure equitable access to and utilisation of the funds.	120	4.00	1.23
Inclusive cash transfer programmes should prioritise transparency and accountability, ensuring that the beneficiary selection and distribution process is fair, impartial, and discrimination-free.	120	4.00	2.27
The inclusivity of cash transfers is enhanced when there is clear communication and engagement with stakeholders, allowing for	120	4.00	1.44

	their active participation, feedback, and input in the program design and implementation.			
	Cash transfers should extend beyond immediate relief, promoting long-term resilience and empowerment.	120	4.00	1.07
Sustainability				
	Palliative cash transfers can provide short-term relief, but sustainability concerns arise if they are not accompanied by long-term strategies to address the root causes of the hardships caused by fuel subsidy removal.	120	3.73	2.00
	The sustainability of cash transfer programs depends on the availability of sufficient financial resources and revenue generation.	120	2.74	1.67
	Sustainable outcomes of cash transfer require complementary measures such as investments in education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and social protection systems.	120	2.53	1.73
	The sustainability of cash transfer programs can be enhanced through transparent and efficient delivery mechanisms that prioritise inclusivity, accountability, and the	120	3.91	3.24

identification of beneficiaries based on genuine needs.			
The involvement of local communities, civil society organisations, and relevant stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of cash transfer programmes can enhance their sustainability by ensuring local ownership and accountability.	120	3.74	1.33
A comprehensive approach to sustainability involves addressing the structural issues that underpin the need for fuel subsidies, such as promoting renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and transitioning to a more sustainable and equitable energy system.	120	4.00	2.00
The sustainability of cash transfer programmes requires careful evaluation and monitoring, allowing for adjustments and adaptations based on feedback, changing needs, and emergent challenges.	120	3.92	2.45

On inclusivity of the palliative cash transfer, participants believed that inclusivity of cash transfers depends on the design and implementation of the program, ensuring that proper mechanisms are in place to identify and reach those who are most in need(M=3.88; SD=±4.21) and that inclusivity of cash transfers should encompass consideration for the diverse needs and circumstances of different population groups, such as women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities, to ensure equitable access to and utilisation of the funds(M=4.0; SD=±1.23) and that Inclusive cash transfer programmes should prioritise transparency and accountability, ensuring that the process of beneficiary selection and distribution is fair, impartial, and free from discrimination (M=4.0; SD=±2.27). This opinion reflects their strong agreement that the inclusivity of cash transfers is enhanced when there is clear communication and engagement with stakeholders, allowing for their active participation, feedback, and input in the program design and implementation (M=4.0; SD=±1.44). They also strongly agreed that cash transfers should extend beyond immediate relief, promoting long-term resilience and empowerment. On the sustainability of the cash transfer, Participants strongly agreed with all the items of the construct.

Conclusions

The study has revealed some concerns in the participants' perceptions of palliative cash transfer in response to fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria. To address these concerns, it is crucial to integrate palliative cash transfers within a broader framework that promotes long-term sustainability, fosters economic empowerment, supports targeted social protection measures, encourages sustainable consumption practices, and invests in capacity building for self-reliance and resilience.

Careful monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive policy adjustments are essential to ensure that palliative cash transfer programmes contribute to sustainable outcomes, inclusive growth, and the overall well-being of individuals and families affected by fuel subsidy removal.

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India’s Defence and Security in 21st Century

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Abstract of Article

This article aims to discuss India's defence and security challenges using various models from political science and international relations. It examines Gandhi's views and applies quintessential to address major challenges in the 21st century. Global threats are becoming increasingly dangerous, with India's major concerns being oil, natural gas, and technology transfer. India also has an interest in the Indian Ocean for security, trade, and commerce. The speed of threat intensifies, and India's major concerns include the Middle East, Central Asia, and Afghanistan.

Theoretical Frame Work

India's security is primarily threatened by potential adversaries, and Gandhi's non-violence idea has significantly impacted its defence policy. After India's independence, the focus shifted to economic development and fighting poverty, hunger, and diseases. The country implemented a Planning Commission to determine poverty levels and allocate resources. Gandhi's freedom movement, which led to India's independence, was influenced by Nehru's idealism and active involvement in international politics. The 21st century presents new challenges, and India must make progress in formulating long-term policies to defend its sovereignty and unity.

The global and regional security environment has undergone significant transformations, requiring a complete re-evaluation of national security. The significance of economy, regional integration, and strategic partnerships may have wider implications for India's national security and the security of other nations in the new international order. The concern of this article is to focus on the major critical challenges for example, China’s presence in South Asia, Afghanistan, and withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan by 2014.

China’s containment of India

The rising power of China as a global leader is a serious concern to India. China’s increasing military, economic industrial power in Asia as well as China’s strategic partnership with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and development activities in Nepal raises a matter of great anxiety to India. According to one scholar "It will expand its military footprint across the globe, much like that of other great power. Secondly, China's activities behaviour in South Asia by building ports in Bangladesh at Chittagaong and in Sri Lanka at Hambantota. China is expanding its presence in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Harsh Pant writes that "China is protecting and enhancing its interest in the Indian Ocean region. It might produce scepticism in Indian strategic circles, which might sharpen the dilemma between the two Asian giants i.e., India and China.[i]

India's interest in the Indian Ocean stems from its transportation of petroleum products. To protect trade and economic interests, India must re-evaluate its strategic interests and closely monitor China's ship stationing in the Indian Ocean. Vigilance is crucial to maintain international trade and export interests. It will increase a serious conflict between India and China.[ii]

Why is Iran important for India's national security?

1. India imports oil from the Middle East, crucial for its economic, trade, investment, and strategic interests. Maintaining strong ties with countries like Iran, Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, India strengthens its ties. The Middle East region constituting 60% of its oil which is crucial for India's energy security.[iii]
2. India's strategic competitor, Pakistan, has tarnished its global image, particularly in the Muslim world. To counter Pakistan's influence, India has adopted cautious policies in the Middle East and Gulf region.
3. India entered a $25 billion tripartite oil pipe agreement with Iran and Pakistan, despite security threats. The US opposes the deal and calls for its cancellation. Hillary Clinton urged India to reduce Iran's oil imports in 2012. Indian leaders, including former External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, refused, arguing that India's national interests were paramount. This boosted India's image and boosted America's image, as India provided full support without supporting America's trade sanctions on Iran.[iv]
4. India's-USA has long staying partnership with USA and America expects from India's to support its policy in Iran which American perception is anti- US stance.

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran believes that China may prefer Pakistan's dominated Taliban regime for its interest in Afghanistan. He believes India needs to craft a strategy to maintain a strong presence in the country, as China may see Pakistan as a better opportunity for pursuing its interests.[v]

The US's rise after World War II transformed international politics, leading to the first nuclear bomb explosion in 1945. Gandhi and Nehru urged leaders to abandon nuclear weapons for peace. The Soviet Union's nuclear test in 1949 broke the US nuclear monopoly, leading to the Five Nuclear States (P-5) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT was signed in 1970 and implemented for 25 years, but India did not sign it for various reasons.

1. In Indian perception the treaty is discriminated in nature.
2. The treaty is inherently defective.
3. For national security reasons, India required to conduct the Nuclear Test in light of the threat from China and Pakistan to India's national security i.e., India's threat perceptions are based on China and Pakistan.

China's post-cold war policy focuses on establishing new relationships with Southeast Asian countries, gaining power and influence. Despite America's withdrawal, China continues to sell weapons to Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, and engages in diplomacy to cultivate economic, trade, security, and strategic ties with ASEAN member nations.[vi]

Nuclear Deal

In his article "Indo-US nuclear deal and Indian nuclear policy," Lalit Mansingh discusses three options for India's nuclear policy. The first is to pursue the Nehruvian goal of abolishing nuclear weapons, if not successful, securing a guarantee from major powers against nuclear attack. If not, India may explore the ultimate option of arming itself with nuclear weapons. Mansing emphasizes that nuclear security or national security can be assured when major powers like America provide a guarantee against nuclear attack. He believes that India would never make a bomb if a full guarantee were given. Geo-psychology is crucial in analyzing the motivations of ruling elites.[vii]

Narendra Sisodia, former director general of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, emphasized the importance of state security, economic development, health, and education. He also highlighted the acute electricity shortage in Pakistan and India. The speakers agreed that Pakistan remains India's main foe due to psychological issues and the need to normalize relations. India is prepared to address bilateral problems, including Kashmir, which has deteriorated since 1947.

India's newly emerging Relations with Russia

India's trusted friend, the Soviet Union, provided security through the 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation. After the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia continued military supply to India, while India sought weapons from the USA. Russia provided the Gorshkov aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, while India developed a defence relationship with the US. However, India's strategic partnership with America may negatively impact the New Delhi-Moscow relationship, as some scholars believe it would harm India's national interest due to its need for a strong friendship with Russia.

1. India needs Russian support to its permanent membership of Security Council.
2. India and Russia are the closest friends in the world of interdependence which require mutual understanding and cooperation.

In this context, it should be noted that China and Russia have close strategic nexus which might side-line other major powers.[viii]

Challenges

India has been facing many challenges internal and external fronts[ix], for see the figure below. Some crucial challenges are discribe as below -

- Lack of domestic production in defence sector
- Lack of light aircraft
- In compagision to China we have inadiquate number of fighter air craft
- Lack of spare parts, for which India has depend on external countries
- China defence budjet is 3 times more than that of India.

India's defence budget will be increased to meet potential emergencies, as the New Delhi government announced in July 2014, increasing FDI in defence from 26% to 49%.[x] Though defence procurement is to be looked into from different angles for two reasons-

- America has been taking keen interest in transferring latest weaponry to India which was not possible during the Cold War era.[xi]

- Indian scholars and American scholars support the need for modernizing India's defences to achieve self-reliance and strengthen security. Raju G. C. Thomas emphasizes the importance of internal and external measures to modernize India's defences.

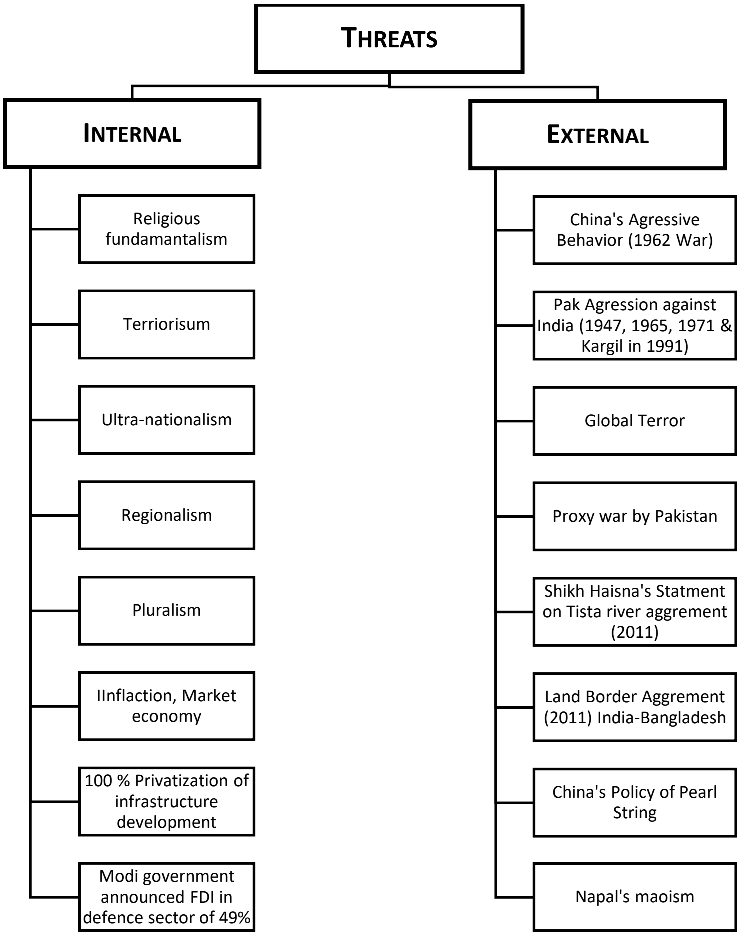

Figure 1: Threats faced by India

In order to explain the multiple challenges to India's defence security policy, It is important to highlight them, as shown in the model is being produce below –

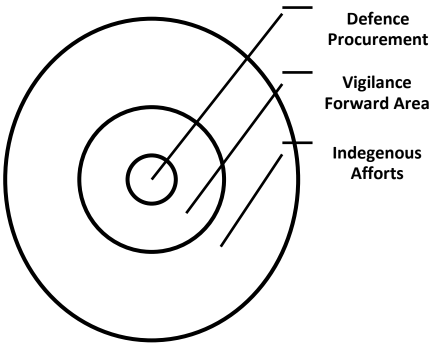

Figure 2 : Multiple Challenges to India's Defence Security Policy

Domestic Challenges

India faces numerous external and internal issues, leading to internal conflicts. Poverty, unemployment, and hunger are prevalent issues, with people fighting for better living standards. Villagers struggle to improve their lives, while political parties prioritize their welfare. Despite these challenges, there is no clear solution to these conflicts.

Over 60 years, India has faced numerous problems, including poverty and religious conflicts. The Modi government, based on Hindu ideology, may not be adequate to address global and regional challenges. The recent visit of the Chinese President to India in September 2014 serves as a reminder that India should be realist like China, as China has been violating Indian boarders while India has not asked President Jinping to engage in a skirmish. Future research should consider these factors to determine the root causes of the country's poor conditions.

Pakistan, a significant factor since 1947, has been causing problems for India. Prime Minister Modi has warned Pakistan to stay away from India's internal matters, but Pakistan does not take it seriously. The ongoing border fighting and daily soldier deaths further exacerbate the situation. The Pakistani army is also against India, and no progress has been made to improve relations between the two countries. In September 2014, Pakistan violated the ceasefire line more than a dozen times. Lashkar-e-Toiba Chief Sayed Hafiz has been challenging the Modi government, which has asked Pakistan to take swift action to improve its image and the peace process between Islamabad and New Delhi. At the T.V, channel of India on 16th September 2014, the Dawn auditor including a few other journalists said in a replied to Indian participant that Pakistan is a nuclear power fully capable of meeting any threat spring from India.[xii]

The caste system in India poses a significant challenge to communal harmony and peace. Government decisions are based on caste, leading to job inequalities and internal conflicts between different classes. This system also creates bedrock between different classes, with politicians responsible for internal struggles and power dynamics. Communities have reported issues with the system, but these efforts have not led to progress. Poverty, hunger, and diseases are significant issues that hinder progress and prosperity. Politicians must address these issues to ensure the country's progress in all fields, without political interference. Human activity is limited to big cities, and global security is closely linked to national security. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and missiles threatens global security.

Aljazeera explains the Middle East conflicts as psychodynamic, and the Indian government faces the challenge of introducing innovative projects to ensure its security. These projects include acquiring new weapon systems. Camilleri argues that global geopolitics and norms guide the organization of a fragmented world, and Western triumphalism and civilization clashes are unlikely to provide an effective basis for world order. Security is a comprehensive concept that includes eco, social, cultural, and psychological aspects.

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[i] See Manas Chattergi and BM Jain, Conflict *and Peace in South Asia*, Emerald publishing, London, 2008, Pg. 231-248.

[ii] For detail see *Strategic Analysis, Vol.36, No. 3, May-June 2012.*

[iii] For this part of discussion See – *Journal of Third World Studies*, Vol. XXVII, No. 2, 2010.

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[v] See Business Standard, 15th, September 2010.

[vi] Ibid. pp 51-52.

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[x] See Times of India, 24 July 2014.

[xi] For see Raju G.C Thomas, *Indian Security Policy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1986.

[xii] News T.V. Channel New Delhi, 8Pm- 8.30 Pm, 16 September 2014, One of India's panelists replied sarcastically, "India is a huge power in every sense capable of meeting any threat from Pakistan".

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(A) ***International***

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3. Paper presented entitled “हिन्दमहासागर में चीन का हस्तक्षेप और भारत की सुरक्षा पर इसके प्रभाव” in multidisciplinary international web conference of ICERT on “Current Trends and Challenges in Education, Research and Social Sciences” held on May 21-22, 2022.

(B) National

1. *“Political Development”* in the National Conference on “Politics of Development: A Social Science Perspective” jointly organized by Indian Social Science Association and PG School of Social Sciences, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on March 20-22, 2012.
2. “राजस्थान में राजनीति और सैनिक वर्चस्व” in the ICSSR sponsored National Conference on “Emerging Patterns of State Politics in India with special reference to Rajasthan”, organized by ULP, Dept. of Political Science, Univ. of Rajasthan, Jaipur from 22-24 November, 2012.
3. “जयपुर की संगीत एवं नृत्य परम्पराएँ” in the 28th Session of Rajasthan History Congress organized by the Centre for Rajasthan Studies, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on 15-16 December, 2012.
4. Presented paper *“Gender Equality - Problems and Challenges”* in UGC Sponsored National Workshop on "Women in the 21st Century: Gender Equality, Empowerment and Economic Growth" organized by Shri Khandelwal Vaish PG Girls College, Jaipur on 21st December, 2012.
5. “मानव संसाधन प्रबंधन की चुनोतियाँ” in the UGC & ICSSR, New Delhi Sponsored National Conference on "Human Resource Management - Challenges, Opportunities and Relevance in Indian Society" organized by Faculty of Commerce, S. S. Jain PG College, Jaipur from 22-23 January, 2013.
6. Paper presented *“Political & Social Development during medieval period and Role of Medieval Saints”*, in National Seminar on “Social Harmony in the Indian Saint Tradition” organized by Sri Guru Govind Singh Chair for National Integration & Sikh Studies, University of Rajasthan, 27th February, 2021.

(C) Seminars/ Workshop

1. UGC & ICSSR, New Delhi Sponsored National Conference on "भारतीय लोकतंत्र: समसामयिकता, वास्तविकताएं एवं चुनौतियाँ" at S. S. Jain PG College, Jaipur from 27-28 Jan., 2012.
2. National Seminar on *"Public Private Partnership in Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities"* organized by Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 27-28 February, 2012.
3. National Conference on *"Rethinking Feminism: Human Rights Approach to Women Empowerment"* organized by Department of Political Science & Dept. of Life Long Learning, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur on 3-4 March, 2012.
4. Workshop on *"Empowerment of Indian Women in 21st Century: Dynamics and Dimensions"* at *S.* S. Jain Subodh PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 30 October 2012.
5. राजस्थान हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी द्वारा आयोजित राजस्थान पुस्तक पर्व में राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी में 22-24 नवम्बर 2012 को भाग लिया।
6. UGC sponsored National Seminar on *"Role of Urbanization in the Context of Futuristic Socio-Economic Development"* at Shri Khandelwal Vaish PG Girls College, Jaipur on 03 October, 2013.
7. UGC & RIICO Sponsored National Seminar on *"Environmental Impact Assessment: Issues, Significance & Challenges"* at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 06-07 December, 2013.
8. UGC sponsored National Seminar on *"Society, Polity & Economy in Contemporary India"* at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur on 24-25 January 2014.
9. National Seminar on Environment Studies Issues and Sustainable Development (EISD-2022), organized by S. S Jain Subodh College of Global Excellence on 26th March 2022.
10. International webinar on "Education for Sustainability" organized by ICERT on June, 25th 2022. This webinar was a part of UNESCO's movement towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Education for Health and Well-being and Global Citizenship Education (GCED).

The Trends of Commercial Exploitation exist in Patent and Intellectual Property Rights

Ms. Lopamudra Chowdhury

Intellectual Property has increasingly assumed a vital role with the rapid pace of Technological, scientific and medical innovations that we are witnessing today. Moreover, changes in the Global Economic Environment have influenced the development of business models where intellectual property is a central element establishing value and potential growth.

In today's world, the abundant supply of goods and services on the markets has made life very challenging for any business, big or small, in its on-going quest to remain ahead of competitors in this environment, every business strives to create new and improved products that will deliver greater value to users and customers than the product offered by competitors.

To differentiate their products a prerequisite for success in to-day's markets businesses rely on innovations that reduce production costs and / or improve product quality. The TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement aims at protecting Intellectual Property Rights and rewarding creativity and inventiveness. Aticle-7 of the TRIPS Agreement states its objectives as 'The Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights should contribute to the promotion of technology innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantages of producers and users of technology and in a manner conductive to social and economic welfare and to a balance of rights and obligations.

Article 27.2 provision read follows: "Members may exclude from patentability inventions, the prevention within their territory of commercial exploitation of which is necessary to protect order, public or morality including to protect human, animal or plant life or health or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment".

TRIPS consist of seven parts ranging from Patents, Trade Marks and Copy Right to maintenance of confidential information. The seven parts of TRIPS:

A. Patent.

B. Copy right.

C. Trade Mark.

D. Industrial Designs.

E. Geographical Indications.

F. Integrated Circuits.

G. Undisclosed Information.

AWTO Member is obligated to grant a minimum degree of Patent Protection to any product or process that qualify the criteria of inventiveness, novelty and usefulness. The Patent holders has the right to stop any one from making, using, selling or importing the patented product obtained from patented process without his consent.

The Agreement sets minimum IPR standards and leaves members free to determine the appropriate method of implementing them in their own legal systems and practices. Transfer of Technology is a hot issue at WTO. Technology deficient developing countries are quite vocal on transfer of technology from MNCs of developed countries.

However, developed countries do not seen to be interested in sharing technology /know how with developing countries as they do not want their monopoly on cutting edge technology broken. After all, it is technological superiority that gives MNCs the competitive edge over domestic firms. The field of Intellectual Property is expanding very fast and for which new creative idea to be protected under Intellectual Property Rights.

There are many similarities in the law relating to different branches of Intellectual Property in regard to the nature of the Property, the mode of its aquasitation, the nature of rights conferred, the commercial exploitation of those rights, the enforcement of those rights and the remedy available against infringement of those rights etc. The Law of Intellectual Property based on certain basic concepts. The Concept of Patent Law is novelty and inventive step, Design Law is based on originality or novelty of the design. The Trade Mark Law is based on the concept of distinctiveness, similarity of marks and similarity of goods and copy right is based on the concepts of originality.

The contribution of Intellectual Property to the economic and cultural development of a country is substantial. The piracy of Intellectual Property has become international in character. This is particularly important in case of Copy Right. The International characters of Intellectual Property is recognized in the various International Conventions for the protection of such property such as “Berne Convention “, “Universal Copy Right Convention” and India has also a member of those convention.

Intellectual Property law is one of the fastest growing branches of law today all over the world. Broadcasting, cable casting and telecasting rights are some new branches of Intellectual property. now the internet, website and cyber space facilities have produced many problems relating to protection of intellectual property.

The commercial exploitation of the different kinds of intellectual property is made in different ways, in the case of Patent, the patentee may himself exploit the patent or assign his rights or license them to industrialists for a lump sum payment or on a royalty basis. A registered design can be similarly exploited by assigning or licensing the rights to others capable of exploiting it on a royalty or lumpsum basis. Copyright can also be exploited in a similar manner, the scope of assignment or licensing being much wider having regard to the variety of rights conferred on the copyright owner.

Commercial exploitation of a registered trademark by licensing other to use it on a royalty basis in not permissible expect by registration of the license as a registered user under conditions prescribed by the statute, unfettered licensing of trademark in the same manner as a licensing of a patent, design or copy right will destroy the property rights in the trade mark. This is very vital differences between a trade mark and others forms of Intellectual Property.

In case of copyright, ordinarily the authors of creative works are not business minded and this have seldom the financial resources or the business skill to exploit their work by themselves.

Copyright is not a positive right but a negative right, that is the right to stop other from exploiting the work without the copy rights owner's consent or license. Copyright is not a single right but bundle of rights which can be exploited independently. Further the nature of these right depends upon the category of works. The owner of a copy right may exploit the work himself or license others to exploiting one or more of the rights for a consideration in the form of royalty or a Lum sum payment.

In case of Patent- in consideration of the grant of monopoly for a limited period, the inventor discloses the details against Lum sum price. Under modern condition only big corporation and institution can afford to engage in research and development of new products or process.

All most all major patents relating to new useful invention, particularly in the medical field are held by big transnational corporation.

The patents Act contains provision against abuse Patent Rights by providing for compulsory licensing and even for revoking the patent for non-working. Besides the publication of the specification enables competitors to experiment and find out ways & designing around the patent, thus encouraging bringing out substitute products for the patented goods. This is very common in the pharmaceutical field.

Where technology is advancing rapidly. The monopoly period of a patent cease to be of great importance. Inventors therefore try to keep the claims broad to avoid competitors trying to design around the Patent.

A patent is a statutory grant conferring certain monopoly rights on the grantee for a defined period subject to certain condition. The rights of a patentee to the exclusive use of patented invention during the period of its protection is a right to property.

The government may also acquire a patent or payment of suitable compensation. The possession of a patent confers on the patentee not only certain valuable monopoly right and privileges but also certain obligation and duties. Patents are granted not only to encourage inventory but also to secure that the inventions are worked in India on a commercial scale and to the fullest extent that is practicable without undue delay. It is also essential that the monopoly created by the Patent should not unfairly prejudice the interest of the public.

Abuse of the monopoly rights granted under a Patent is a common phenomenon on in all countries. Compulsory license may be issued if the patented invention is not available to the public at a reasonably affordable price. A balance should be struck between the Patentee's interest and the public interest.

As per MRTP Act 1969 (Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act) one of the basic tenets of state policy is, therefore to ensure that while promoting economic and industrial growth for the welfare of the citizens, progressive reduction in the concentration of wealth and economic power is also brought about to secure social and economic justice as Monopolistic trade practice deemed to be prejudicial to public interest expect in certain cases.

We cannot do away with value judgments in Welfare Economics because welfare economics is concerned with the desirability of economic policies for the attainment of maximum social welfare. So, the whole gamut of various concern laws to be studied and the present "Intellectual Property Law "seems to be inadequate considering the changes introduced in the present new era of enormously increased the opportunities and scope of Piracy of Intellectual Property.

I am of the opinion that we should use the term as "Intellectual Property Rights and Obligations" in place of existing term "Intellectual Property Rights" and for which legal sanction is needed.

Intellectual Property Rights Management in Indian Business:

In the highly competition world, where a fair competition as well as protection of IPRs are required to serve the growth to business, it becomes essential to understand the relations between Intellectual Property Rights and Competition law.

IP Laws and Competition laws can be seeming as complementary rather than conflicting became both the laws share the same fundamental goals of enhancing consumers welfare and promoting innovation. IP Protection provides incentives for innovation and technological diffusion, which is itself is an important source of competition in the market place and there for support competition.

The Competition Act 2002 in India recognizes the importance of IPRs such as Patents, copyrights, trademark, geographical indications, industrial designs and integrated circuit design. It may be mentioned here that unreasonable conditions imposed by an IPR holder while licensing his Intellectual Property Rights would be prohibited under the Competition Act.

Competition law maximizes social welfare by condemning monopolies while Intellectual Property Law somehow also does the same by granting temporary monopolies. The rationale behind this approach is that the Intellectual property law should provide economically meaningful monopolies. Hence, there should be reasonable exercise of the monopoly power in order to protect the consumer's interest, otherwise Competition law would surely hinder the practices of the monopoly market.

As the Intellectual Property forms an important part of Companies' assets, its adequate protection is crucial in deterring potential infringement and in turning ideas into business assets with a real market value. In fact, the Intellectual Property system enables companies to protect from their innovative capacity and creativity and enhance their competitiveness.

The effective management of Intellectual Property assets requires implementation of a comprehensive assets management plan.

Thus, effective management of Intellectual Property may be seen as critical business strategy to maintain sustainable corporate growth and maximization of shareholder value resulting into the economic growth.

"Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, Thinking provides knowledge and Knowledge makes you great." - APJ Abdul Kalam

Source: Intellectual Property Law & Competition Law.

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RISING IMPORTANCE OF BUSINESS ANALYSTS AND POWER OF BUSINESS ANALYTICS

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ABSTRACT

In today's highly competitive business landscape, the role of a business analyst has become increasingly vital. This article explores the various responsibilities of Business Analysts, with a primary focus on their major goal of analyzing business operations, identifying areas for improvement, and recommending effective solutions. Business Analysts play a pivotal role in analysis, designing potential solutions, and benefit evaluations. Additionally, the article highlights on the rising significance of business analytics in modern business decision-making processes. Leveraging data through business analytics empowers organizations to gain invaluable insights, comprehend customer behavior, and make data-driven decisions, thus securing a competitive advantage in the market. The conclusion underscores the indispensable role of Business Analysts in bridging the gap between business and technology, and their multifaceted responsibilities within organizations.

Keywords: *Business Analysts, Data-Driven Decision Making, Business Analytics*

INTRODUCTION

In the dynamic business landscape, the pivotal role of a Business Analyst cannot be underestimated. These professionals are entrusted with the responsibility of analyzing business operations, identifying areas that need improvement, and offering innovative solutions. By resolving challenges, increasing efficiency, and reducing costs, Business Analysts play a crucial role in enhancing organizational performance. A business analyst must analyze the current business operations of an organization to identify areas for improvement. This involves studying various aspects of the business, including its products or services, sales and marketing strategies, finances, and internal operations. Once a business analyst has a clear understanding of the organization's business operations, they must identify the problems that are hindering its performance. This involves analyzing data, conducting research, and interviewing stakeholders to identify areas that need improvement. After identifying problems, a business analyst must recommend solutions to optimize performance. This involves developing strategies, implementing new processes or systems, and working with stakeholders to ensure that changes are implemented successfully. A business analyst must monitor the progress of the changes and evaluate the effectiveness of the solutions implemented. This involves collecting and analyzing data, assessing the impact of the changes, and adjusting as necessary.

To achieve this, Business Analysts must gain a deep understanding of the organization's operations, objectives, and challenges. Their diverse responsibilities encompass various key tasks, including:

1. Analyzing Current Business Operations: Business Analysts conduct comprehensive examinations of an organization's products or services, sales and marketing strategies, finances, and internal operations. This analysis serves as a basis for identifying areas that require improvement.
2. Identifying Hindrances to Performance: Armed with the knowledge gathered from data analysis, research, and stakeholder interviews, Business Analysts pinpoint problems that hinder organizational performance.
3. Recommending Optimal Solutions: Business Analysts develop strategies and devise new processes or systems to optimize performance. Collaborating with stakeholders, they ensure seamless implementation and monitor the progress and effectiveness of the changes.

Roles and Responsibilities of a Business Analyst

One of the primary responsibilities of a Business Analyst is to gather and analyze project requirements or address specific business problems. This process, known as requirement elicitation, involves understanding stakeholders' needs, translating them into clear and concise requirements that serve as the foundation for developing effective solutions. This process often entails conducting interviews, workshops, or focus groups with stakeholders to grasp their needs, preferences, and expectations. Reviewing existing documentation, such as business plans, process maps, or system specifications, is also essential to identify gaps or areas for improvement.

Once the requirements are gathered, Business Analysts meticulously analyze them to ascertain their feasibility, prioritize them based on business needs, and align them with the organization's strategic objectives. This analytical process may involve creating use cases, user stories, or functional specifications that detail the desired features and functionality of proposed solutions. The significance of requirement elicitation and analysis cannot be overemphasized, as it serves as the bedrock for subsequent project stages.

After identifying and analyzing requirements, Business Analysts take on the responsibility of designing and evaluating potential solutions to address the identified needs. This may involve researching and analyzing existing solutions in the market, devising innovative ideas or concepts, or collaborating with subject matter experts to create customized solutions. The proposed solutions must align with the organization's strategic objectives, fulfill the identified requirements, and fit within constraints like budget, timeline, or resources. To facilitate understanding, detailed solution specifications, process maps, or system architecture diagrams are often created to illustrate the proposed solution's workings and integration with existing systems.

Once the solution is designed, Business Analysts evaluate its feasibility and potential benefits through cost-benefit analyses, risk assessments, or impact analyses. This process aids organizations in making informed decisions and ensures that the chosen solution delivers the desired business outcomes.

The Growing Significance of Business Analytics

In today's fast-paced business environment, organizations seek to gain a competitive advantage through innovative means. Business analytics emerges as a powerful tool that has revolutionized how businesses analyze and utilize data in their decision-making processes. Leveraging data analytics empowers businesses to gain valuable insights into various aspects of their operations, customer behaviors, and market trends. The acquired insights enable managers to make well-informed and effective decisions that drive business growth and success.

Organizations increasingly rely on business analytics capabilities to improve their decision-making abilities. Business analytics involves extensive use of data, statistical and quantitative analysis, explanatory and predictive models, and fact-based management to drive decisions and actions. This approach allows organizations to provide meaningful insights and support management decisions related to business performance. Furthermore, business analytics aids organizations in gaining a competitive advantage by analyzing data and gaining insights into market trends, customer preferences, and competitor strategies. Armed with these insights, businesses can identify new market opportunities, develop innovative products and services, optimize operations, and allocate resources more effectively.

Data visualization and algorithmic techniques in business analytics facilitate data organization and curation, uncovering trends, patterns, and correlations that might not be apparent through conventional analysis methods. Business intelligence systems provide a deeper understanding of customer behaviour and preferences, enabling businesses to establish better customer relationships, leading to increased satisfaction and loyalty.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the multifaceted responsibilities of Business Analysts are instrumental in bridging the gap between business and technology. Their ability to analyze processes, devise business strategies, and align tools and objectives make them indispensable assets within organizations. Additionally, Business Analysts provide crucial support to internal customers, facilitate performance measurement and improvement, and ensure the security of software and systems. Their role encompasses process modeling, documentation, simulation, alignment support, and providing security requirements. In the ever-evolving business landscape, Business Analysts remain at the forefront of enabling data-driven decision-making processes, empowering organizations to thrive and flourish in competitive markets.

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स्त्री–विमर्श और दयानंद की प्रासंगिकता

डॉ. मीना शर्मा

समस्या है तो समाधान भी है –

किसी भी व्यक्ति अथवा विचार की प्रासंगिकता की कसौटी वर्तमान युग की चुनौतियाँ और समस्याएँ होती हैं। अर्थात् आज की चुनौतियों और समस्याओं से जूझने में कोई व्यक्ति अथवा विचार कितना कारगर है, कितना पथप्रदर्शक है कितना सहायक है, कितना समयानुरूप है और कितना मानवीय है, उस कसौटी पर कसकर ही किसी व्यक्ति या विचारधारा को प्रासंगिक कहेंगे। अभी 30 जनवरी 2010 को ही हरियाणा के रोहतक जिले के खेड़ामहम पंचायत में बिलकुल तालिबानी अंदाज में फैसला सुनाते हुए एक युवा दंपती को शादी के तीन साल बाद और जिसकी गोद में दस महीने की बच्ची भी है, आपस में भाई–बहन घोषित कर दिया। इंसानियत को शर्मसार कर देने वाली इससे बड़ी क्रूरता और त्रासदी क्या होगी? उस मासूम के बारे में भी नहीं सोचा गया कि उसका भविष्य क्या होगा! देश के अंदर कानून होने और गणतंत्र के 75 साल होने के बाद भी इस तरह की घटना से कई तरह के सवाल खड़े होते हैं। क्या फैसले से पूर्व पति और पत्नी का संबंध अनैतिक है? फैसले के बाद भाई और बहन का संबंध अनैतिक है? फिर बच्चे का पिता कौन है? उसका पूर्व पिता? या वर्तमान मामा (फैसलानुसार)। लेकिन भाई और बहन के बीच पवित्रता का रिश्ता होता है, किसी कलंकित संबंध के दाग का नहीं। भाई और बहन के आपसी बच्चे नहीं होते। क्या सही है! क्या गलत है!

यह सुनकर मन सहज मानने को तैयार नहीं होता है कि यह तालिबान की घटना न होकर हिंदुस्तान की घटना है। 30 जनवरी, 2010 से ठीक चार दिन पूर्व गणतंत्र के

60 वर्ष पूरे होने के बाद की घटना है, चंद्रयान के युग की घटना है! घटना है, किस्सा नहीं। जाति और गोत्र को लेकर हिंदुस्तान की पहली और आखिरी घटना भी नहीं है। तालिबानी फैसले व्यक्तिवादी, जातिवादी पंचायत इस तरह के मामलों में जो औरत और बच्चे को अकसर मौत के घाट उतार देती हैं। इस पर दयानंद सरस्वती मुस्कराए। जैसे हर परमाणु परीक्षण के बाद बुद्ध फिर से मुस्कराते हैं। जातिवादी समाज–व्यवस्था की यह चरम परिणति है। जिसे जन्म जातिवादी विहीन व्यवस्था के स्थान पर गुण–कर्म आधारित मानवीय व्यवस्था के महर्षि दयानंद स्वप्न द्रष्टा थे। उसकी इस क्रूरता अभिव्यक्ति पर महर्षि और क्या करेंगे? अंतर्जातीय विवाह का प्रोत्साहन देकर एवं शिक्षा के माध्यम से जात–पाँत की दीवारों को उनके अनगिनत अभिशापों के साथ छिन्न–भिन्न कर एक नए मानवीय समाज के निर्माण के लिए लोगों की सोच एवं मानसिकता को बदलने का जो स्वप्न महर्षि दयानंद एवं आर्यसमाज ने देखा था, ताकि जिसे साकार कर सामाजिक परिवर्तन एवं एक नए भारत का निर्माण हो सके। वह स्वप्न अधूरा रह गया। ऐसा लगता है कि उस स्वप्न की मंजिल अभी भी दूर है। देश में न तो संविधान की कमी है और न ही कानून की कमी है, कमी है तो सिर्फ मानसिकता की। मानसिंक संरचना बदले बिना सामाजिक संरचना नहीं बदली जा सकती। आर्यसमाज का समग्र सामाजिक आंदोलन पुरानी सामंती मानसिक संरचना को तोड़कर नवीन सामाजिक संरचना का निर्माण हेतु प्रतिबद्ध था। आर्यसमाज का जन्म स्त्री और पुरुष दोनों की सामाजिक आजादी के लिए मानवीय वातावरण एवं समान अवसर प्रदान करना था। आर्यसमाज के अतिरिक्त आज भी शायद ही कोई सामाजिक, राजनीतिक या धार्मिक संगठन ऐसा हो, जिसका जन्म और जिसकी बुनियाद जातिवादी व्यवस्था को तोड़ना रहा हो।

जाति आधारित राजनीति ठीक नहीं –

इसके विपरीत राजनीतिक संगठन तो जातिवाद को वोट बैंक की राजनीति के तहत इस्तेमाल करते हैं, कभी गुमराह कर उसे उत्तेजित करते हैं, गोलबंद करते हैं। यही नहीं बल्कि आरक्षण एवं सामाजिक न्याय के नाम पर जाति आधारित राजनीतिक पार्टियों का गठन होता है, उनके जाति के नेता बनते हैं, जाति के नाम पर टिकट बँटते हैं, जाति के नाम पर वोट डाले जाते हैं। 1975 में जे.पी. आंदोलन एवं आपातकाल के दौरान गोलबंद सभी नेता आज आपको सामाजिक न्याय (समाजवाद) के नाम पर राजनीति की दुकान चलाते हुए जातीय राजनीति करते मिल जाएँगे। 1947 की आजादी के बाद विभिन्न राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने सामाजिक आजादी के प्रश्न को नेपथ्य में छोड़ दिया। अस्पृश्यता–निवारण जाति–तोड़ो आंदोलन को लेकर चलने वाला संगठन अगर कोई था तो वह था महर्षि दयानंद प्रणीत आर्यसमाज। किंतु राजनीतिक पार्टियाँ नहीं चाहतीं कि वह जातिवादी संरचना बदले, समाज समरस हो। बल्कि समाज में "मिले सुर मेरा तुम्हारा" के स्थान पर 'अपनी–अपनी डफली अपना–अपना राग' चले। परिणाम आर्यसमाज जैसे संगठनों को जात–पाँत तोड़ने का रचनात्मक प्रमाण आशानुकूल परिणाम नहीं मिल पा रहा है।

ऐसा नहीं है कि जाति के प्रति दृष्टिकोण न बदले और स्त्री के प्रति बदल जाए, क्योंकि दोनों दृष्टिकोणों का जन्म सामंतवाद की कोख से हुआ है। महर्षि दयानंद की वैचारिक सैद्धांतिकी जाति और स्त्री की संरचना परिवेश, स्थिति से टकराकर निर्मित होती है। वे जन्म–जाति के स्थान पर गुण–कर्मवादी व्यवस्था/परिवेश का नया ढाँचा तैयार करते हैं। स्त्री के समग्र विकास के लिए पुरुष के समान स्त्री के लिए समान परिवेश, समान अधिकार, समान कर्तव्य, समान भूमिका, समान नियम आदि निर्धारित करते हैं। पतिव्रता स्त्री के साथ–साथ पत्नीव्रता पुरुष, स्त्री के लिए स्वयंवर (चयन की स्वतंत्रता), पुरुष के साथ–साथ स्त्री के लिए भी विवाह–विच्छेद, आचरण की शुद्धता स्त्री के

साथ–साथ पुरुष के लिए भी ब्रह्मचर्य का पालन करना आवश्यक है। महर्षि दयानंद प्रथम सामाजिक चिंतक हैं जिन्होंने ऐसा कोई नियम स्त्री के लिए नहीं बनाया जो पुरुषों पर लागू न हो सके। वे पृथक्–पृथक् या दोहरे मापदंडों के स्थान पर समान मानदंड एवं समान अधिकार की घोषणा करते हैं। शिक्षा जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है। स्त्री–शिक्षा अनिवार्य बनाकर उसके उल्लंघन पर अभिभावक/राज्य को यथायोग्य दंड का प्रावधान करने वाले महर्षि दयानंद क्रांतिकारी सामाजिक चिंतक एवं कर्मयोगी थे। आज स्त्रियों की स्थिति एवं भूमिका बदली है, उसका मार्ग दयानंद ने ही प्रशस्त किया था। स्त्री–शिक्षा के लिए आर्यसमाज ने आंदोलन खड़ा कर दिया था। लाखों, करोड़ों स्त्रियों का जीवन स्कूल आंदोलन के माध्यम से बदला गया। साथ ही उसे देख अन्य स्त्रियों को भी राह मिती। शिक्षा स्त्री–मुक्ति का प्रथम द्वार है, इस चिंतन के साथ ही शिक्षा का द्वार प्रत्येक स्त्री के लिए खोला गया, क्योंकि बिना शिक्षा के व्यक्तित्व की सार्थकता एवं परिपूर्णता संभव नहीं । शिक्षा स्त्री–सशक्तीकरण की कुंजी है। शिक्षा स्त्री जीवन की पूँजी है। 98 प्रतिशत पूँजी पर तो पहले से ही पुरुषों ने कब्जा कर रखा है और संपत्ति के अधिकार के लिए स्त्री लड़ सकती है। स्त्री इसी पूँजी के माध्यम से उस 98 प्रतिशत पूँजी पर चोट कर सकती है। माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने संपति में स्त्री को अधिकार देकर उन्हें और मजबूत बना दिया है।

महर्षि दयानंद की शिक्षा की इस परिधि में समाज की सभी स्त्रियाँ थीं। शिक्षा के अधिकार के प्रयोग का अवसर यदि उन्हें मिलता तो स्त्री–समाज का हर तबका विकसित होता। व्यवस्था के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र–सामाजिक, आर्थिक, राजनीतिक, औद्योगिक, प्रशासनिक, व्यावसायिक आदि में उनकी सक्रिय भागीदारी होती, सिर्फ सांकेतिक प्रतिनिधित्व न होता। विकास की मुख्यधारा के केंद्र में होतीं। आम औरत के हालात बदलते, उनकी तस्वीर एवं तकदीर दोनों बदलती, किंतु ऐसा हो न सका। स्त्रियों का सांकेतिक रूप से सत्ता–संस्थानों

में प्रतीकात्मक प्रतिनिधित्व होने से व्यवस्था नहीं बदलती है। राष्ट्राध्यक्ष, मुख्यमंत्री, राज्यपाल, सुप्रीम कोर्ट/हाईकोर्ट की न्यायाधीश, अधिकारी आदि पदों पर उँगलियों पर गिनी हुई इक्की–दुक्की स्त्रियों के अपनी विशिष्ट स्थिति, संयोग और सौभाग्य के कारण आने से आम औरत के लिए व्यवस्था नहीं बदल जाती।

महिला आरक्षण विधेयक का भविष्य भी अधर में लटका हुआ है। उस पर हो रही राजनीति और आरोप के पीछे का यह आधार कि इसका लाभ क्रीमी लेयर/सवर्ण जाति/ऊँचे वर्ग की महिलाओं को होगा, इसका अवसर ही नहीं मिलता। यदि महर्षि दयानंद के आदर्श पर चलकर स्त्रियों के लिए शिक्षा को मौलिक अधिकार बनाकर एवं राज्यों का मौलिक कर्तव्य बनाकर उसका लाभ स्त्री–समाज के सभी हिस्सों को दिया जाता। सभी स्त्रियों (दलित, आदिवासी, पिछड़ा वर्ग, शहरी–ग्रामीण, अमीर–गरीब आदि) का सम्यक् विकास होता। व्यवस्था के सभी क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय भागीदारी से व्यवस्था बदलती। महिलाओं में इतना गहरा स्थिति–भेद न होता। तब महिलाओं को इस आरक्षण की बैसाखी की आवश्यकता ही नहीं होती। उनकी सहज एवं सघन उपस्थिति राजनीति सहित तमाम क्षेत्रों में स्वाभाविक रूप से होती। विकास की मुख्यधारा में, व्यवस्था में उनका दबदबा होता। काश! ऐसा होता! किंतु आज महिलाओं के विभिन्न वर्गों के बीच इतनी गहरी खाई है कि यदि महिला आरक्षण बिल पास भी हो जाए तब भी एक और कुंडली मारकर सत्ता के गलियारों में बैठे पितृसत्ता उन्हें अपने नियमों के हिसाब से चलाएगी, तो दूसरी ओर आम महिलाएँ सत्ता–संघर्ष में कैसे शामिल हो पाएँगी? हो गईं तो फिर कैसे टिक पाएँगी? राजनीतिक परिवारों की बहू–बेटियाँ–पत्नियाँ या रिश्तेदारों से यदि जगह (सीट) खाली रह गई तो विशिष्ट औरत या किसी सेलेब्रेटी को टिकट दे दी जाएगी। अब तक जो पुरुष खुद लड़ते थे, अब सीट आरक्षित हो जाने पर पत्नी को टिकट दिलवा देंगे, पत्नी को रिमोट कंट्रोल की तरह चलाएँगे, क्या यही लोकतंत्र है? इससे व्यवस्था बदल जाएगी?

क्या आम औरत के हालात सुधर पाएँगे? महिला आरक्षण बिल पास होने या न होने का क्या औचित्य एवं सार्थकता रहेगी?

पत्रकारिता और विज्ञापन में स्त्री –

फिल्म, ग्लैमर–जगत्, फैशन–जगत्, सौंदर्य–जगत्, उद्योग–जगत्, बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियाँ आदि पुरुष सत्ता के प्रतिमान हैं। पूँजी उन्हीं की लगी हुई है। यह पूँजी उन्हें अपने इशारों पर नचाती है, चाहे वह विज्ञापन–जगत् हो या फिल्म–जगत् या अन्य कोई जगत् मोटरसाइकिल का विज्ञापन हो या सीमेंट का विज्ञापन स्त्री–देह के सौंदर्य को भुनाया जाता है, जबकि मोटरसाइकिल या सीमेंट का स्त्री के शरीर से दूर–दूर तक कोई संबंध नहीं है। तो क्या स्त्री देह का पर्याय है? तो फिर स्वतंत्रता को बहुत सीमित संदर्भ में देखने वाली बात होगी। फिर तो स्त्री सिर्फ देह है, शरीर है, वस्तु है, चीज है। ऐसा नहीं है। स्त्री स्वतंत्रता स्त्री की अस्मिता एवं पहचान के संदर्भ में होती है। स्त्री की अस्मिता एवं पहचान स्त्री के अस्तित्व की प्रामाणिकता एवं व्यक्तित्व की परिपूर्णता से निर्मित होती है। स्त्री–संबंधी इस धारणा और मानसिकता को बदलने की आवश्यकता है।

महर्षि दयानंद का स्त्री–विमर्श स्त्री–संबंधी धारणा एवं मानसिकता को बदलता है। स्त्री को एक स्वतंत्र मानव अस्तित्व के रूप में ग्रहण करता हुआ स्त्री का मानवीय गरिमा का सम्मान करते हुए उसे पुरुषों के समान ही व्यक्तित्व के प्रस्फुटन का रचनात्मक अवसर प्रदान करता है। स्त्री को एक मानवीय भूमिका में उतारता है। आवश्यकता स्त्री की इस भूमिका को युगानुरूप विस्तार देने की है; संपत्ति में स्त्री के अधिकार को सुनिश्चित करने की है, ताकि पूँजी अधिग्रहण के माध्यम से उसका भी दर्जा बढ़े। इसके लिए सामाजिक व्यवस्था एवं परिवेश को स्त्री के अनुकूल बनाना होगा। सामाजिक धारणा बदलनी होगी।

हमें भी बदलना होगा। महर्षि दयानंद ने स्त्री की स्थिति में हस्तक्षेप करते हुए इसी बिंदु से बदलाव की शुरुआत की थी। सामाजिक व्यवस्था का नया ताना–बाना बुनते हुए स्त्री के लिए समान अवसर, समान वातावरण, समान नियम, समान अधिकार एवं समान स्वतंत्रता का प्रावधान करते हैं। समानता एवं मानवीयता के परिवेश में ही स्त्री की स्थिति और भूमिका बदल सकती है। समाज के साथ–साथ हमारी धारणा और मानसिकता बदलेगी, क्योंकि दृश्य एवं दृष्टि परस्परता में बदलते हैं।

विवाह संस्था पर आज प्रश्नचिन्ह क्यों?

आज के समय में बहस का एक बड़ा मुद्दा है–विवाह संस्था । विवाह को लेकर कई तरह की बातें होती हैं–मसलन विवाह को खत्म कर देना चाहिए, विवाह अप्रासंगिक हो गया है, विवाह समस्याग्रस्त है आदि–आदि। विवाह की संस्था में कमियाँ हो सकती हैं या हैं। संसार की शायद ही कोई संस्था हो जिसमें कोई न कोई कमी या अपूर्णता न हो! वास्तव में पूर्ण कुछ नहीं होता है। पूर्णता की तलाश ही भ्रममेय है। पूर्ण सिर्फ एक ही चीज है–ब्रह्म, ईश्वर, भगवान्, खुदा कुछ भी कह लीजिए। फिर विवाह का विकल्प क्या है? समलैंगिकता या फिर सम्मिलित जीवन जीने वाला 'लीविंग रिलेशन'। समलैंगिकता न तो आम औरत का मुद्दा है, न आदर्श स्थिति है और न ही सामाजिक निर्माण का उपकरण। अपवादस्वरूप यह सामंजस्य अलग बनावट एवं सोच के कुछ लोगों की जीवन–पद्धति है। जहाँ तक सम्मिलित जीवन जीने वाले 'लीविंग रिलेशन' का संबंध है–एक स्वतंत्र एवं लोकतांतिक देश में अपने तरीके से निजी जीवन जीने का अधिकार सभी को है, लेकिन इसका भविष्य नहीं होता, संबंध की अवधि कम होती है। जिम्मेदारी और प्रतिबद्धता नहीं होने. कारण स्थायित्व नहीं होता। यह एक प्रकार का प्रयोग पर आधारित आपसी संबंध होता है उपभोक्ता सामान (कंज्यूमर गुड्स) की तरह, जब तक

ठीक है चल रहा है, जहाँ खराब वहाँ फेंको। छोटी बात पर यदि कोई खट–पट हो गई हो तो संबंध विच्छेद हो सकता है। ऐसे में यदि गर्भ भी है या नवजात शिशु है, फिर आदमी अपने रास्ते, औरत अपने रास्ते और बच्चा चौराहे पर (किसी कचड़े के ढेर या कूड़ेदान में) नहीं तो गर्भपात तो है ही! न ही रिश्ते का भविष्य और न बच्चे का। सामाजिक दबाव या हस्तक्षेप से मुक्त होने के कारण इसमें उत्तरदायित्व और सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता से भी मुक्ति होती है। अतएव अलग होने में भी समय नहीं लगता। क्या यह सही/बेहतर विकल्प हो सकता है?

विवाह की संस्था हो या अन्य कोई संस्था। हम संस्थाओं में कमियों का विरोध तो कर सकते हैं, लेकिन संस्थाओं का निषेध नहीं कर सकते। जैसे किसी स्कूल या कॉलेज में शिक्षा का स्तर गिर रहा हो तो हमारा प्रयास गिरावट का विरोध करना या सुधारना होगा। यह नहीं कि स्कूल या कॉलेज ही नहीं होना चाहिए। महर्षि दयानंद का संपूर्ण नारी–विमर्श विवाह की संस्था के साथ–साथ समाज की संस्था की गिरावट का विरोध कर उसकी मानवीय बनावट के साथ रचनात्मक परिणति देता है। महर्षि दयानंद विवाह संस्कार के पूर्व के समाज का संस्कार करते हैं। वे संस्थाओं का निषेध नहीं करते। स्त्री और पुरुष के सामाजिक परिवेश को मानवीय परिवेश में रूपांतरित करते हैं जहाँ परस्पर समान मानवीय अधिकार हैं, अवसर की स्वतंत्रता है है, समानता है। जहाँ स्त्री–पुरुष के बीच वर्चस्ववादी या अधीनस्थवादी संबंध न होकर कर समता और मानवीयता का संबंध है। विवाह की संस्था को सामंती बनाकर लोकतांत्रिक बनाते हैं, जहाँ स्त्री का शिक्षित एवं विकसित स्वयंवर की रीति से वर के चयन की स्वतंत्रता रखता है। जहाँ चयन का आधार जन्म, जाति, पैसा, बैंक बैलेंस, प्रोपर्ट आदि का बाह्य आधार न होकर समान गुण, जैसे–विद्या, दिनय स्वभाव, शालीनता, रूप, शरीर का परिणाम, चरित्र आदि होता है। जहाँ कुंडली और ग्रह–दशाओं के मेल के स्थान पर गुणों का मेल होता है, व्यक्तित्व का मेल

होता है। जहाँ फिजूलखर्ची और धन का प्रदर्शन प्रियता के कृत्रिमता के स्थान पर सादगी और सच्चाई होती है। आज हमने स्वयं ही विवाह की संस्था को बीमार बना दिया है। विवाह को एक व्यापार बना दिया है। धन का लाभ (दहेज) या धन का अपव्यय देखकर आज गरीब माँ–बाप बेटी पैदा होते हुए दहशत में आ जाता है। कन्या भ्रूण–हत्याएं या गर्भपात की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो जाती है। मानवीय गुणों का मेल न होने पर अनमेल विवाह होगा तब अमानवीय घरेलू हिंसा, उत्पीड़न एवं क्लेश तो होगा ही, बात तलाक तक पहुँच जाती है। आज तलाक के लाखों मुकदमे विभिन्न अदालतों में चल रहे हैं, जिसकी यातना पूरा परिवार झेलता है। जाति की दीवार खड़ी होने के कारण लाखों लडकियों को अपने प्रेम को न्योछावर कर 'जात–बिरादरी' के भय से या तो आत्महत्या करनी पड़ती है या फिर माँ–बाप की पसंद किए हुए अपनी जाति में विवाह कर जिंदगी–भर टीस, कसक एवं एडजस्टमेंट के साथ जीना पड़ता है, जिसे समर्पण नहीं कहा जा सकता, मजबूरी कहा जाता है। क्या वह कभी आंतरिक खुशी और जीवन जीने की सार्थकता का अनुभव कर सकेंगी! ऐसे कई प्रश्न ओर स्थितियाँ हैं जिसके लिए हम स्वंय जिम्मेदार हैं, इस तरह की विसंगति एवं विद्रूपताओं के कारण ही विवाह की संस्था चरित्र में गिरावट और कमियां आई हैं। महर्षि दयानंद का नारी–विमर्श इन तमाम नारी–प्रश्नों, अमानवीय विसंगतियों एवं विद्रूपताओं से जूझता है, संघर्ष करता है। महर्षि दयानंद नारी–चिंतन या नारी–प्रश्नों तक सीमित नहीं रहते, बल्कि उसके आगे जाकर आर्यसमाज जैसे संस्था को जन्म देकर उसके माध्यम से आंदोलन खड़ा करते हुए, उसे एक रचनात्मक परिणति प्रदान करते हैं।

महर्षि दयानंद के नारी–विमर्श में वैचारिकता से अधिक रचनात्मकता है। अपनी रचनात्मकता के कारण उसकी मूल्यवत्ता एवं सार्थकता है। मूल्य और सार्थकता की तलाश हर युग में होती है। आज के स्त्री–विमर्श की दिशाहीनता की स्थिति एवं चुनौतियों के

युग में दिशानिर्देशक के रूप में महर्षि दयानंद के स्त्री–विमर्श, बल्कि यूँ कहें कि स्त्री के दयानंदीय विमर्श की आवश्यकता कल से अधिक आज है। यदि इनके विचारों को आत्मसात् कर लिया जाए तो सभी सामाजिक, नैतिक, आर्थिक, वैधानिक, धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक, जातिवादी कलह, असमानता को दूर किया जा सकता है। आज इस आधुनिक प्रकाश और सत्य की आवश्यकता है। इतिहास में महर्षि दयानंद के स्त्री–विमर्श की जो भूमिका थी, वर्तमान में स्त्री–विमर्श की उस भूमिका को इतिहास बोध के साथ युगानुरूप विस्तार किया जा सकता है। इस बात की गुंजाइश स्वयं महर्षि दयानंद सरस्वती अपने स्त्री–विमर्श के भीतर प्रस्तावित करते हैं।

About Author

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Prof. (Dr.) Meena Sharma completed D.Litt. from B.R. Ambedkar University, Ph.D./ D.Phil. from University of Delhi, and M.Phil. from University of Delhi. Prof. (Dr.) Meena Sharma is working as permanent faculty in Department of Hindi, P.G.D.A.V. College (Eve.), Nehru Nagar, New Delhi. Teaching Experience 21 Years. She was also appointed as an external for J.R.F and S.R.F in Multanimal Modi College, Modinagar on 18thNovember 2019. She is convener of 16 Add-On courses in the college, member of discipline Committee, program Officer (Legal awareness course), and convener of Women development cell. She is also governing body member of DLSA South East Saket New Delhi. She is supervising a number of Ph.D. research scholars.

She has written various books, chapter in edited books, presented 40 research papers in National and International Conferences, published in National and International Journals.

She also completed UGC Project on Katha Sahitya Mein Stri Asmita Ki Nirmiti

Due to her long-lasting contribution to the society, she has been awarded with various prestigious awards like “National Women’s Excellence Award 2022” by Women’s Parliament on Sunday, 12 March 2023, “Ekalavya Award 2023” by International Council for Education Research and Training on June 03, 2023, “Sahitya Sarita Samman” etc.

She also has chaired various sessions in National and International Conference, delivered lecture and coordinated various National and International educational and social events.

भारत फ्रांस संबंधों के बढ़ते कदम

Dr.Rinku

भारत फ्रांस संबंध ऐतिहासिक रुप से हमेशा मैत्रीपूर्ण ही रहे तथा प्राचीन काल से दोनों देशों ने संबंधों को बढ़ावा दिया है परंतु 1998 के बाद से भारत तथा फ्रांस बेहद करीबी दोस्त माने जा रहे हैं। भारत के परमाणु परीक्षण के समय फ्रांस एकमात्र देश था जो भारत के साथ खड़ा रहा जबकि अन्य देशों ने भारत पर अलग-अलग तरह की प्रतिबंध लगा दिए थे। इस मुश्किल समय के दौरान फ्रांस के तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति जाक शिराक ने न केवल भारत यात्रा की बल्कि आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों को हटाने के लिए खुलेआम अपील भी की। तब से लेकर अब तक भारत फ्रांस संबंध सुनहरे अक्षरों में अपने रिश्ते को लिख रहा है। साल 2017 से प्रधानमंत्री मोदी चार बार फ्रांस की यात्रा कर चुके हैं परंतु इस बार की यात्रा बड़ी खास रही। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी को फ्रांस के सर्वोच्च सम्मान "ग्रेड क्रॉस ऑफ लीजन ऑफ ऑनर"से सम्मानित किया गया जो कि फ्रांस का सर्वोच्च नागरिक तथा सैन्य सम्मान है। प्रधानमंत्री की चौथी यात्रा भारत फ्रांस रिश्ते की 25 वीं वर्षगांठ को दर्शाता है। फ्रांस इस समय भारत का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा रक्षा सहयोगी देश है। फ्रांस के बैस्टिल डे परेड पर भारतीय सेना की भागीदारी 100 साल पुरानी है। भारतीय रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार 1.3 मिलियन से अधिक भारतीय सैनिकों ने प्रथम विश्व युद्ध में भाग लिया। भारतीय सैनिकों ने फ्रांस के सैनिकों के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर युद्ध किया । भारत तथा फ्रांस दोनों चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव को सीमित करने के लिए हमेशा तत्पर रहते हैं । फ्रांस ने रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में क्वाड देशों भारत, अमेरिका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, जापान तथा ब्रिटेन की नौ सेनाओं के साथ बहुपक्षीय युद्ध अभ्यास "ला पेरोस" का नेतृत्व भी किया। इसके साथ भारत फ्रांस के बीच युद्ध पोतों को हिंद महासागर में एक दूसरे के नौसैनिक स्टेशन तक पहुंचने की अनुमति जैसे रणनीतिक समझौते चीन के विस्तारवादी नीति पर अंकुश लगाने के लिए कारगर साबित होंगे। हिंद प्रशांत महासागर में शांति व स्थिरता की जिम्मेदारी को समझते हुए दोनों देश ने अगले 25 वर्षों के संबंधों का एक रोड मैप "क्षितिज 2047" नाम से जारी किया। फ्रांस से भारत को मिलने वाली तकनीक मेक इन इंडिया

कार्यक्रम में सहायक है इससे हमारी क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा को भी सद्दढ़ता मिल रही है। दोनों देश पहले की अपेक्षा अब ज्यादा करीब है। इसका प्रमाण हमें इस बात से मिलता है कि अब फ्रांस में भारतीय छात्रों को लंबी अवधि का वीजा मिलेगा तथा भारत में राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के विकास में भी फ्रांस की भागीदारी होगी।

फ्रांस तथा भारत की संयुक्त हित:

*नाटो (उत्तरी अटलांटिक संधि संगठन) प्लस की साझेदारी योजनाओं पर भारत तथा फ्रांस एकमत है अब फ्रांस भारत, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, दक्षिण कोरिया से सीधे संबंध स्थापित करेगा। भारत में भी नाटो को खारिज करते हुए कहा कि "नाटो ऐसा टेंप्लेट नहीं है जो भारत पर लागू होता है"

*फ्रांस एकमात्र ऐसा देश है जिसके साथ भारतीय नौसेना ने संयुक्त अभ्यास किया है। भविष्य की योजनाओं के तहत दोनों देश नौ सेनाओं द्वारा फोर्ड कार तथा टोही के लिए दिल्ली यूनियन न्यू केलेडोनिया और फ्रेंच पोलिने शिया और भारत के अंडमान दीप समूह में फ्रांसीसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्षेत्रों का उपयोग हो सकता है।

*इंडो पेसिफिक में दोनों देश किसी भी क्षेत्रीय सेना संगठन को नहीं लाएंगे।

भविष्य की नीतियां

फ्रांस भारत का तकनीकी साझेदार बन सकता है तथा अंतरिक्ष और परमाणु क्षेत्र में मदद कर सकता है रूसी आक्रमण या अफ्रीकी आतंकवाद में भारत फ्रांस के लिए काफी महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है। इंडो पेसिफिक फोरम रणनीतिक हितों और द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को सुनिश्चित करने से बेहतर सहायता करने में दोनों देश सक्षम है।

दोनों देश शक्तिशाली हैं एक यूरोप तथा दूसरा एशिया में। दोनों देश एक जैसी अवधारणा रखते हैं तथा स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति का पालन करते हैं। दोनों देश मिल कर बहु ध्रुवीय दुनिया को साकार करने में सक्षम है अगर दोनों देश मिलकर काम करते हैं तो वह दिन दूर नहीं जब भारत फ्रांस एक-दूसरे के सबसे बड़े हितैषी होंगे।

About Author

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Dr Rinku has completed Ph.D. in Defence Studies from Barkatullah University, Bhopal (M.P.) in 2019, qualified NET in Defence Studies and serving the community as Assistant Professor in Department of Defence Studies, Jyotiba Phule Govt. College, Radaur Yamuna Nagar Haryana. She is NSS Officer and awarded with “Appreciation Certificate” by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Government of Haryana for outstanding work as a NSS Programme Officer on 26 January 2022. She is life member at International Council for Education Research and Training (ICERT) and Life Member of M.D. University Alumni Association, Rohtak. She has presented 30 research papers in National and International Conferences, and published 25 research papers in various journals.

BEST PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

Dr Iltiza Begum

Abstract:

Each year so many schools get the CBSE affiliation yet when we evaluate the school performances the schools are unable to fare well. This is because the schools have practically become a money minting institution, where the values are not paid much importance. Therefore, CBSE has made it mandatory to include the Best Practices of all schools who come for affiliation/ extension of affiliation or/ and the upgrade of affiliation from secondary to senior secondary to share their best practices in School.

I work in a public school which does not aim high on earning. A large number of students get concessions on their fees and the tuition fees includes the fees for all extracurriculars that the school provides to their students. In spite of differences in their fee's structures, there is no difference in their classrooms, in participation in various activities. This makes us different from the rest in the Twin City of Secunderabad and Hyderabad.

Research Methodology: Qualitative methodology gathering qualitative data through interviews, observation and focus on chosen participants like school leaders, parents, and students. The research methodology is objective and unbiased. CBSE circulars were used to write this research paper. This paper was also subjected to peer review in my school before presenting.

As ushered by the CBSE, the best practices in the school give a new meaning to School education. An instructional leadership, quality teachers, holistic curriculum, continuous professional development, differential instruction, innovative pedagogy, integrating ICT in all areas of the curriculum, innovative assessment, eco school, health promoting school, nurturing sports, promoting inclusive education, taking care of students' counselling needs/mental health, promoting reading, focus on language skills, promoting creativity, acknowledging our heritage, community outreach, linkages with institutes of higher education, student autonomy and partnering with parents etc are the most sought after initiatives that the CBSE expects the schools to adopt with a good sense of self-efficacy among teacher.

Our schools have been able to achieve the following best practices:

• Updating the teaching practices in India by attending the seminars and teacher's workshop

• Take responsibility for the well-being of all the students. We have a student counsellor as well as a nurse to cater to these needs.

• Believe in our teacher's ability to improve learning outcomes for all students. We quest for the excellence of all our students in all walks of life and strive to achieve it through guidance and caring.

• Make appropriate changes in response to challenge and feedback from colleagues or peer review. Our teachers go through many stringent self-improvement phases of teaching learning process of which micro teaching and peer assessment is an integrated part.

• Follow an inclusive environment supporting physical and mentally disabled students. We do not shun admission to physically or mentally challenged students and have many students with learning disabilities also.

• Health and Wellness component of the Ayushman Bharat Programme is followed with regular health check-ups not only for the students but also teachers. A healthy teacher only can impart knowledge in a better way. For the same reason a Nurse is employed. A Student Counsellor to ensure mental health of the students is also there.

• Show commitment to continual improvement within students and for that there are Revision Common Test (RCT), which takes place after the end of all chapters so as to measure slow learner's grasping and then give them extra classes and remediation after school.

• Care for students and their safety is always a priority in the minds of all employees in our school – whether Teaching or Non-Teaching Staff.

• We follow no bags day every Friday from Grades 1 to 8. No bags don't mean no academics and no studies. We ensure the studies happen in a fun way of learning such as music, dance and other creativities

• Model the school values that we portray. We as a school strive to create good citizens of India who are alert and active. Who understands the good and bad of the social practices and who has morality?

• Maintain integrity even in difficult situations and make sure we do not miss out on the outside world progress while introspecting at the same time.

• We follow a strict norm for no corporal punishment in any form - physical or mental.

• Sports gets special attention wherein we have Cricket, Swimming, Archery, Karate, Skating, Basketball, Volleyball, and football coaches to individually train our students.

• Participation in various activities and events are encouraged to our students.

We have always been

• A conducive approach and a positive environment which focuses mainly on student learning.

• We enable our students in our classes by identifying their needs and strengths,

• The school values make our staff interactive and responsive towards our students.

• Our environment is safe and supportive for all students, and staff.

• The school goals have set high expectations for students

• Welcoming questions from parents about their child's learning in the school.

• We find opportunities for learning in our failed teaching approaches and innovate new ways of learning every day.

• The staff in our school are very reliable and trustworthy.

• We provide parents with opportunities to learn how to effectively support their child's learning at the school.

• we seek and are responsive to parents' views about their child's learning

• Student's wellbeing and belonging are well planned and executed by the students.

• We look into various reasons to understand the struggle of the students with their learning.

• We avoid unnecessary interruptions during our teaching hours.

• Any teacher can be available for inquiry and evaluative work throughout the semesters for our students.

• Teachers are given sufficient time to discuss the progress of the students and plan their teaching.

• Teachers plan their Term I lesson during summer vacations and the Term II lesson plans during Puja vacations, leaving them ample time for reflecting.

• Curriculum in each learning area draws on and adds to content relevant to the identities of each diverse backgrounds of our students

• We actively seek the knowledge and faculty of the local community

• This knowledge is used to make worthwhile changes in our teaching and student learning.

• Updating with new knowledge is a continuous process.

• Having challenging goals for every student

• Effective teaching resources aligned to the school are readily available

• Our best motivation for our day-to-day work is our daily goals, that our leaders set for teachers every morning.

• Encourage students to plant trees on their birthdays instead of distributing chocolates.

• Teachers collaborate not only with the teachers at our school but with other teachers working in different branches of our school. To inform all, our school has 8 different branches in the city and each of these branch's pool in the best ideas and resources so as to make our goals meaningful and achievable.

• Teachers must have sufficient time for collaborative work. Teachers plan and hold small workshops department wise and meet and share their ideas.

• We teach our students to switch off the fans and lights when not in use.

• We possess a clean and green environment due the multiple initiatives taken by the management ever since its inception.

• The quality of life of a society depends on the type of energy resources used. The way we best manage these energy resources is its conservation apart from promoting sustainability

• Water conservation has also been a priority, hence Rain water harvesting pits have been constructed in three strategic catchment areas so as to replenish the depleting ground water levels.

• Compost pits are also in use for disposing organic waste from time to time

• Care has been taken to provide facilities for the differently-abled by providing ramps with railings and lifts wherever necessary along with exclusive washrooms.

• To inculcate social responsibility amongst students, the institution provides a platform for the practice of social values and ethics by involving social services and related activities while providing education and promoting social change.

• We consistently carry out campus clean and green periodic programs. Every year, we organize special camps where students are exposed to various programs that interact with the local people. All kinds of programs are organized, such as Tree Planting, Yoga Classes, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Digital India, and the students provide people with useful information.

Conclusion:

To conclude, schools play a central role in influencing students' behaviours, an effective response for participation from families and cross-sector collaboration with providers of social and community services, including youth clubs and sports centres, which provide further opportunities for shaping young people's behaviours. It strives towards igniting minds and creating in students a passion for learning and continuous development by making the learning process enjoyable. Determined to impart values, ethics and self-confidence, and harness their full potential, besides increasing the professional development of the educators, with a belief that the true goal of education is holistic development is the mission of our school.

Our school aims to build a culture of learning through collaboration and sharing. The schools have been directed to identify ways of nurturing and developing young minds who will excel in all walks of life.

Correlations between teaching practices, school practices, and principal leadership practices and school practices are the key scoring for the same. We are inclined to prepare our students not just as aspirants for top notch jobs but also to transform them into best citizens through these changes. This are all in

These were some of the best practices followed in our school.

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Awards & Recognition

- ★ Have been awarded the Prestigious Ekalavya Award 2023 by ICERT, PGDAV, University of Delhi, NIILM University, Kaithal & Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia in June 2023.
- ★ Awarded as Mentor of the Academic Achievers Grade X (2022-23) by Pallavi International School, Hyderabad for Students CBSE Board Result Achievement in May 2022.

Research Paper Presentations

1. "**Covid-19 Pandemic, Post Pandemic Technologies and Education**", at Centre for Continuing Education, at the 2 days Multi-disciplinary, International Conference on "Current Trends & Challenges in Education, Research and Social Sciences", held during May 21-22, 2022 Organized by ICERT and the Government College, Hisar
2. "**Higher Education: Perspective of NEP**" organized by Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's Sardar Patel College of Engineering and Federation of Education Leaders and Administrators (FELA) in collaboration with SAE India Western Section and IIIE SPCE Student Chapter under IQAC PCE on 18th Dec-22nd Dec 2021
3. Participated in the International Conference on "Recent Trends of Commerce, Arts, Science, Education, Management and Humanities in Present Scenario" Organized by Shri Rewa Gurjar Bal Niketan College- Sanawad, Research Foundation of India & RFI CARE From 26-27 September, 2022 as Participant/Author and Presented a Research Paper Titled "**Women Empowerment: A Historical Study**"
4. "**Emotional Well Being and Academic Success A Parallelism**", at a one-day Multi-disciplinary Conference "contemporary Trends & Developments in Management, Education, Science & Social Sciences, Organised by ICERT, PGDAV, University of Delhi, NIILM University, Kaithal & Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia in June 2023.
5. "**Best Practices of School**" at International Conference on Suicide Prevention, Democracy, Information Technologies, AI, VR/AR, ICT, IoT, Information and Data Sciences, Humanities, Medical & Health Education, Environment &Sustainable Development on 18th September, 2022.

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An Empirical Study on the Perceptions of Cryptocurrency Investors Towards Bitcoin

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Abstract

The perceptions held by cryptocurrency investors towards Bitcoin are influenced by a multifaceted interaction of various factors, encompassing its perceived value, level of risk, trustworthiness, and utility. Empirical research has revealed the existence of contrasting viewpoints among investors in the cryptocurrency community, encompassing both favourable and unfavourable perceptions. The objective of this study is to study the perspectives held by cryptocurrency investors, with a specific focus on Bitcoin, which is recognized as the most prominent and extensively utilized cryptocurrency. The study found that there is a consensus that Bitcoin will continue to maintain its dominant position in the cryptocurrency market. The respondents hold a firm belief that governmental regulation of Bitcoin is necessary to safeguard Bitcoin holders against potential theft and loss. Investors also trust in Bitcoin Technology and concerned about scalability and limited supply.

Keywords: *Cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, Investors Perception, Digital Currency, Crypto Market*

1. Introduction

Bitcoin is a decentralized digital currency, classified as a cryptocurrency, which came into existence in 2009. Its origins can be traced back to an individual or a collective entity operating under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, whose identity remains undisclosed. The currency in question represents the initial iteration of a decentralized digital form of monetary exchange, thereby signifying its operation in the absence of a central governing body or governmental oversight. Bitcoin functions on a technological framework known as blockchain, which is a decentralized ledger system that documents all financial transactions conducted within a network of interconnected computers.

In contrast to conventional fiat currencies like the US dollar or the euro, Bitcoin does not derive its issuance or regulation from any central bank. Instead, the creation of cryptocurrency is achieved through a process known as mining, wherein high-performance computers engage in solving intricate mathematical problems to authenticate and document transactions on the blockchain. Bitcoin has experienced substantial growth in popularity and acceptance over time, appealing to both individual investors and institutional participants. Frequently employed as a means of preserving wealth, facilitating transactions, and engaging in speculative ventures. The price of Bitcoin has exhibited notable volatility, characterized by episodes of substantial expansion succeeded by abrupt contractions. The objective of the research is to study the Perceptions of Cryptocurrency Investors Towards Bitcoin. The limitation of the study includes the response of the respondents may or may not be biased, data collected electronically and there is no personal interview being conducted.

2. Literature Review

The literature review comprises of findings from the research study on the topic 'Investors perception towards Bitcoin.'

[1]The users hold a favourable perception regarding the utilization of Bitcoin Green (BITG) as a sustainable blockchain solution. Furthermore, the value of this technology is primarily recognized for its ethical and technological attributes, with its perceived utilization primarily cantered around investment and coin offering purposes. Likewise, it is evident that users predominantly exhibit favourable sentiments towards BITG. [2]Compatibility, awareness, and facilitating conditions exert a substantial influence on the investment behaviour of Malaysian Muslim communities in the Bitcoin market. [3]There is presence of a correlation between media sentiment and the price of Bitcoin, as well as observed a proclivity among investors to exhibit excessive reactions to news within a limited timeframe.

[4]There was no statistically significant difference in the opinions of respondents across different age groups and levels of education regarding the perception of Bitcoins. However, when conducting an ANOVA test to assess the variation in respondents' opinions on the perception of Bitcoins across different professions, a statistically significant difference is observed in the

opinions of respondents based on their age. [5]Investors in the field of cryptocurrency, including those specifically involved in Bitcoin, should exercise caution when employing this heuristic to assess the bid and ask values on cryptocurrency exchanges. This phenomenon has the potential to divert individuals from accurately predicting the future value, resulting in the sale of assets at undervalued prices or the purchase of assets at overvalued prices.

[6]Investors exhibit a lack of prudence in their selection of cryptocurrencies for investment, as their decisions are primarily based on technical support rationales, which predominantly revolve around technological advancements, innovative perspectives, and positive social media coverage. [7]Investment in Bitcoin are determined by various variables, including gender, education, annual income, profession, and the opinions held by investors. The variable of age does not exhibit a statistically significant impact on investors' decision to invest in Bitcoin. [8]Investors possess a satisfactory level of understanding and familiarity with the concept and advantages of Bitcoin, as well as the strategies employed in the management of a Bitcoin account. Furthermore, the results of the study indicate that various factors, including perceived ease of use, compatibility, awareness, and facilitating conditions, exert a substantial influence on the intention of Omani communities to engage in Bitcoin investment.

3. Research Methodology

The collection of primary data is facilitated by directly obtaining responses from the participants using Google Form. The collection of secondary data is derived from reputable sources such as Business and Finance Journals, Magazines, Websites, and Books. The research study possesses descriptive and empirical characteristics. The study employed a random sampling technique, with a total of 125 respondents selected for analysis. The research study employs Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient and the Wilcoxon-Test as the chosen hypothesis tests.

4. Data Analysis, Hypothesis Testing, and Interpretation

4.1 Perception of Investors towards Bitcoin

Perceptions towards Bitcoin	Agree	Strongly disagree	Strongly agree	Neutral	Disagree	Invalid
Dominance of Bitcoin in Crypto Market in Future	43	19	22	20	21	0

Bitcoin's limited supply of 21 million coin.	48	6	35	30	6	0
Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term	58	4	38	22	3	0
The authorities should regulate Bitcoin to protect Bitcoin holders from potential thief and loss	36	3	68	13	5	0

Table 4.1 Perception of Investors towards Bitcoin (Source: Primary Data)

4.2 Hypothesis Testing - I

Null hypothesis	Alternative hypothesis
There is no association between the investor's perception towards the scalability problem of the Bitcoin and limited supply of 21 million coin.	There is an association between investors perception towards scalability problem of the Bitcoin and limited supply of 21 million coin.

Correlation

	r	p (2-tailed)
Investors perception towards scalability problem of the Bitcoin and limited supply of 21 million coin.	-0.33	<.001

Covariance

	Scalability problem of bitcoin	Limited supply of 21 million coin
Scalability problem of bitcoin	2.8	-0.53
Limited supply of 21 million coin	-0.53	0.91

Interpretation

There is a medium, negative association between investors perception towards scalability problem of the Bitcoin and limited supply of 21 million coin in this sample. The result of the Pearson correlation showed that there was a significant correlation between investors perception towards scalability problem of the Bitcoin and limited supply of 21-million-coin r (123) = -0.33, p = <.001.

4.3 Hypothesis Testing - II

Null hypothesis	Alternative hypothesis
There is no difference between the variable investor's perception of dominance of Bitcoin in crypto market in future and Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term	There is difference between the variable investor's perception of dominance of Bitcoin in crypto market in future and Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term

Descriptive Statistics

	n	Mean	Median	Standard deviation
Dominance of Bitcoin in Crypto Market in future	125	2.62	2	1.48
Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term	125	1.98	2	1.08

Rank

		n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term - dominance of Bitcoin in crypto market	Negative Ranks	52	42.59	2214.5
	Positive Ranks	23	27.63	635.5

		n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
	Ties	50		
	Total	125		

Statistics for Wilcoxon-Test

	Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term - dominance of Bitcoin in crypto market in future
Z	-4.23
p (2-tailed)	<.001

Interpretation

Dominance of Bitcoin in crypto currency group had values (*Mdn* = 2) than the Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long-term group (*Mdn* = 2). A Wilcoxon Test showed that this difference was statistically significant, *p* = <.001. This results in a p-value of <.001, which is below the specified significance level of 0.05. The result of the Wilcoxon test is therefore significant for the present data and the null hypothesis is rejected.

5. Findings and Conclusion

43 respondents out of 125 respondents agreed that Bitcoin is dominant in Crypto Market in future. 48 respondents agreed Bitcoin's limited supply of 21 million coin is a problem. 58 Respondents Trust in Bitcoin's technology in the long term. 68 respondents strongly agreed that authorities should regulate Bitcoin to protect Bitcoin holders from potential thief and loss. The respondents possess a high level of technical and scientific knowledge regarding the various movements that take place within the cryptocurrency market. The respondents demonstrate a high level of attentiveness towards the current advancements and patterns in the domain of Bitcoin. Placing long-term trust in the technological capabilities of Bitcoin implies that investors have also placed their confidence in the cryptocurrency. While they concur with the issue of

scalability as well. The respondents hold a firm belief that governmental regulation of Bitcoin is necessary to safeguard Bitcoin holders against potential theft and loss. This perspective may be attributed to the occurrence of cryptocurrency market downturns. However, it should be noted that Cryptocurrency remains a form of decentralized digital currency. The value has surpassed 25 Lakhs (in INR). It currently maintains its position as the leading entity within the cryptocurrency market. There is a consensus that Bitcoin will continue to maintain its dominant position in the cryptocurrency market. It is imperative for investors to consistently monitor and analyse government regulations pertaining to the cryptocurrency market, as well as stay informed about any developments within the platform in which they have made investments.

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