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Dr. Babu g. Gholap
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vidyavarta@gmail.com vidyawarta@gmail.com

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saien Ghulam street
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nagendrakumarn@esn.ac.lk

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vikaspadalkar@gmail.com
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Mobi.9421336952
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HANUMAN NAGAR, REVENUE COLONY, GADCHIROLI
9421857700
varshaatidke21@gmail.com

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• **Dr.Varma Anju**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Education,
Sikkim University 6th Mile, Samdur Tadong-737102
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Editors Message ...

There has been tremendous increase in institutions of higher education in India. Indian universities should concentrate more on providing quality education which is comparable to that of international standards. India is today one of the fastest developing countries of the world. In order to see India as a developed country, there is need to increase the number of institutes and also the quality of higher education in India. Education however, should not be considered a business but its quality should be maintained. For this purpose it is necessary that the policies formed by the government should be properly implemented. We are moving towards an era which would be defined by the parameters of knowledge and wisdom. The decisions that are going to be taken on these are likely to hold the key to India's future as a center of knowledge production. We need higher educated people who are skilled and who can drive our economy forward. When India can provide skilled people to the outside world then we can transfer our country from a developing nation to a developed nation very easily and quickly. We need an educational system that is modern, liberal and can adapt to the changing needs of a changing society, a changing economy and a changing world. For such educational system along with science and technology it must increase studies and research on basic knowledge, social science and other humanities subject from a practical point of view.

In the present scenario education is the main instrument for the desirable social change. It is pass on to the next generations to be gradual changes as to update by timely and a sound social progress is need to be careful observation. The higher education is needed to be developing as individual by imparting it, as well as it can be render the service to the society in many aspects by alteration the science and technology also in social life.

Higher education is mostly intend to innovation, intervention sometimes it is destroy the basic nature of the society as it know the primitive culture, but so far opinion is that there is need to be more concentrate to conserve the basic roots of the society and in equity mode to access all provisions to all of the them in the society by keeping with view of sustainable development in all aspects because it is too important give the same to next generation.

- Dr. Bapug Gholap

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A STUDY ON THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES IN RURAL AREAS OF BIHAR.

Diksha Singh

(Research Scholar)

Department of Management

B.R.A. Bihar University Muzaffarpur

Dr. Shankar Kumar Singh Jha

Assistant Professor

Department of Management

Lalit Narayan Mishra

College of Business Management,
Muzaffarpur

Abstract

I have undertaken the present study titled "A Study on the Growth and Development of Handloom and Handicraft Industries in Rural Areas of Bihar" with the objective of examining the current status, growth trends, and developmental challenges of these traditional industries in rural Bihar. The handloom and handicraft sectors have historically played a vital role in providing employment opportunities, preserving cultural heritage, and contributing to rural economic development. However, in recent years, these industries have been facing multiple challenges such as lack of modernization, inadequate financial support, poor market access, and competition from machine-made products.

In this study, I have attempted to analyze the socio-economic conditions of artisans, the

availability of government support schemes, and the level of technological adoption in these industries. Both primary and secondary data have been considered to understand the ground realities. The findings indicate that while there is significant potential for growth in this sector, issues like low income, lack of skill development, and limited awareness of government initiatives continue to hinder progress.

The study further highlights that proper policy implementation, improved infrastructure, access to digital marketing platforms, and skill enhancement programs can significantly boost the growth of handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar. I believe that strengthening this sector will not only enhance rural livelihoods but also contribute to sustainable economic development and cultural preservation.

Keywords: Handloom Industry, Handicraft Industry, Rural Development, Bihar Economy, Artisan Livelihood, Traditional Industries, Government Schemes, Skill Development

Introduction

I have selected the present topic "A Study on the Growth and Development of Handloom and Handicraft Industries in Rural Areas of Bihar" to understand the significance of traditional industries in the socio-economic development of rural regions. Handloom and handicraft industries are among the oldest sectors of the Indian economy, deeply rooted in cultural traditions and craftsmanship. In Bihar, these industries have been an integral part of rural life, providing employment to a large number of artisans and preserving the rich heritage of the state.

Bihar is known for its diverse handicrafts such as Madhubani paintings, Sikki grass products, Sujani embroidery, and handloom weaving. These crafts not only reflect the artistic skills of rural artisans but also contribute to income generation and livelihood security. Despite their importance, these industries have

not achieved the desired level of growth due to various structural and institutional challenges. I have observed that factors such as lack of modern technology, insufficient financial assistance, poor infrastructure, and limited access to national and international markets have adversely affected their development.

In recent years, the government has taken several initiatives to promote handloom and handicraft sectors through schemes, training programs, and financial support. However, the effectiveness of these measures at the grassroots level remains questionable. Therefore, in this study, I have made an effort to examine the actual conditions of artisans, the role of government policies, and the scope for future development in rural areas of Bihar.

I believe that strengthening these traditional industries can play a crucial role in reducing rural unemployment, promoting inclusive growth, and preserving the cultural identity of Bihar. This study is an attempt to provide meaningful insights into the growth prospects and challenges faced by handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar.

Review of Literature

R. K. Gupta (2021) in his study examined the structural changes and recent trends in the Indian handloom sector, particularly focusing on rural regions. He found that the handloom industry continues to be a major source of employment after agriculture, especially for economically weaker sections. However, the study revealed that the sector is gradually losing its traditional workforce due to low wages, lack of job security, and limited growth opportunities. Gupta further emphasized that modernization, including the use of improved looms, design innovation, and digital marketing platforms, is essential for sustaining the industry. He also pointed out that without technological upgradation and better institutional support, the long-term survival of handloom industries may be at risk.

Anita Verma (2023) conducted an in-depth analysis of handicraft industries and their contribution to rural development. The study highlighted that handicraft activities provide significant employment opportunities, especially for women and marginalized groups, thereby promoting inclusive growth. Verma observed that handicraft industries not only support livelihood but also help in preserving traditional art forms and cultural heritage. However, the study identified several key challenges such as lack of access to formal credit, poor marketing infrastructure, limited exposure to national and international markets, and dependence on intermediaries. She suggested that strengthening cooperative structures, enhancing skill development programs, and promoting e-commerce platforms can play a crucial role in improving the economic condition of artisans.

Sanjay Kumar Singh (2025) focused specifically on the status of handloom and handicraft industries in Bihar and analyzed the effectiveness of government initiatives in this sector. The study found that schemes related to skill development, cluster development, and financial assistance have created new opportunities for artisans in rural areas. Additionally, the rise of digital platforms and online marketplaces has opened new avenues for selling traditional products beyond local markets. Despite these positive developments, the study pointed out persistent issues such as inadequate infrastructure, lack of awareness about government schemes, exploitation by middlemen, and insufficient training facilities. Singh concluded that proper implementation of policies, better monitoring mechanisms, and increased awareness among artisans are necessary to ensure sustainable growth and development of these industries in Bihar.

Research Gap

From the review of existing literature, I have observed that most studies on handloom

and handicraft industries focus on a broader national perspective, highlighting issues like lack of modernization, financial constraints, and marketing challenges. However, there is a significant lack of region-specific studies, particularly focusing on rural areas of Bihar where these industries have strong traditional roots and economic importance. Moreover, limited research has been conducted on the actual ground-level conditions of artisans, their awareness and accessibility to government schemes, and their ability to adopt modern technologies and digital platforms. Therefore, the present study aims to bridge this gap by providing a focused and updated analysis of the growth, challenges, and development prospects of handloom and handicraft industries specifically in rural Bihar.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the growth and development of handloom and handicraft industries in rural areas of Bihar.
2. To analyze the socio-economic conditions of artisans engaged in these industries.
3. To identify the major challenges faced by handloom and handicraft workers in rural Bihar.

Hypothesis of the Study

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): There is no significant growth and development in handloom and handicraft industries in rural areas of Bihar.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): There is significant growth and development in handloom and handicraft industries in rural areas of Bihar.

Research Methodology

I have adopted a descriptive and analytical research design to study the growth and development of handloom and handicraft industries in rural areas of Bihar. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected from 100 respondents, including artisans and workers

associated with handloom and handicraft activities in selected rural areas, through structured questionnaires and personal interaction. Secondary data has been collected from books, research articles, government reports, and official websites related to handloom and handicraft industries.

For data analysis, I have used simple statistical tools such as percentage method and tabulation to interpret the responses effectively. The study mainly focuses on understanding the socio-economic conditions of artisans, challenges faced by them, and the role of government support in promoting these industries. The sampling method used in this study is convenience sampling, considering accessibility and availability of respondents in rural areas. This methodology helps in providing a clear and practical understanding of the current status and development prospects of handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar.

Conceptual Framework and Background of Handloom and Handicraft Industries in Rural Bihar:

1. Fundamental Importance of Handloom and Handicraft Industries:

I have understood that handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar are not merely economic activities but represent the cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and identity of the region. At the national level, according to the Fourth All India Handloom Census (2019–20), about 31.45 lakh handloom households are engaged in this sector, which highlights its significance in providing large-scale rural employment. This clearly indicates that the sector is one of the major pillars of the rural economy and plays a vital role in sustaining traditional livelihoods.

2. Source of Rural Livelihood and Supplementary Income:

In rural Bihar, where agriculture is often seasonal and uncertain, I have observed that

handloom and handicraft industries act as an important source of supplementary income. These industries require low capital investment and utilize locally available raw materials, making them accessible to economically weaker sections. For example, Bhagalpur, popularly known as the “Silk City” of Bihar, reflects the historical strength of textile-based livelihood in the state. Thus, these industries help in income diversification and reduce dependence on agriculture.

3. Development and Identity of Traditional Crafts in Bihar:

Bihar is well known for its rich handicraft traditions such as Madhubani (Mithila) paintings, Sikki grass crafts, bamboo work, and embroidery. These crafts are not only artistic expressions but also represent the socio-cultural identity of the region. Originally, many of these crafts were practiced for domestic and ritual purposes, but over time, they have gained commercial value in national and international markets. Therefore, the development of these industries contributes both economically and culturally.

4. Contribution to Women Empowerment:

I have found that a significant proportion of workers in handicraft industries are women. These industries provide them with an opportunity to work from home or within their local environment, thereby generating income without disrupting household responsibilities. This enhances their economic independence, improves their social status, and increases their participation in decision-making within the family. Thus, the sector plays a crucial role in promoting inclusive growth and gender empowerment in rural areas.

5. Economic Potential and Market Relevance:

From an economic perspective, the handloom and handicraft sector holds considerable potential. According to recent data, textiles and handicrafts contribute a significant share to India’s exports, reaching around USD 37.8 billion in 2023–24. This indicates that there

is a growing demand for traditional and handmade products in global markets. If artisans in rural Bihar are provided with proper support in terms of design, branding, and marketing, they can benefit from these expanding opportunities.

6. Structural Problems and Development Barriers:

Despite its importance, I have observed that the sector faces several challenges. These include lack of modernization, outdated tools, low productivity, and poor access to markets. Many artisans depend on middlemen, which reduces their income and limits their bargaining power. Additionally, lack of awareness about government schemes, limited access to credit, and poor infrastructure further hinder the growth of these industries.

7. Importance of Local Craft Clusters:

In Bihar, several craft clusters provide livelihood to local communities. For instance, woodcraft and other traditional industries support hundreds of artisan families in specific regions. These clusters demonstrate that handicraft industries have a direct and measurable impact on rural employment and income. Strengthening such clusters through proper policy support and infrastructure development can significantly enhance the growth of the sector.

8. Need for Digital and Policy Support:

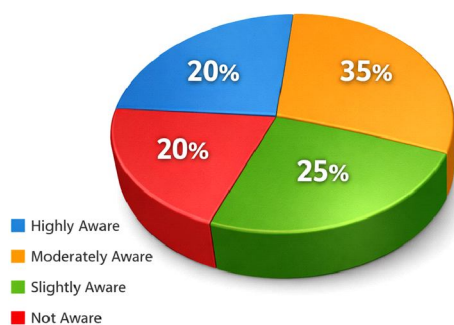
In the modern era, I believe that traditional skills alone are not sufficient; they must be supported by digital marketing and effective policy implementation. The emergence of e-commerce platforms and online marketplaces has created new opportunities for artisans to reach wider markets. Government initiatives and digital platforms showcasing thousands of products and artisans indicate the growing importance of technology in this sector. Therefore, proper training, awareness, and digital integration are essential for ensuring sustainable growth of handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:**Table 1: Awareness Level of Artisans about Government Schemes**

Awareness Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Highly Aware	20	20%
Moderately Aware	35	35%
Slightly Aware	25	25%
Not Aware	20	20%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data**Figure 1: Awareness Level of Artisans about Government Schemes**

Awareness Level of Artisans about Government Schemes

**Interpretation**

From the above table and figure, I have observed that out of 100 respondents, 35% of artisans are moderately aware of government schemes, which is the highest proportion. About 25% of respondents are slightly aware, while 20% are highly aware and another 20% are not aware at all. This clearly indicates that although some level of awareness exists among artisans, a significant portion still lacks complete knowledge about government support programs. The presence of 20% completely unaware respondents highlights a serious gap in information dissemination. Therefore, I believe that increasing awareness through training programs, workshops, and local campaigns is essential for improving the effectiveness of

government initiatives and ensuring better development of handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar.

Findings of the Study:

1. I have found that handloom and handicraft industries play an important role in providing employment and supplementary income to rural households in Bihar.
2. It is observed that a large number of artisans have only moderate or limited awareness about government schemes, which restricts their ability to take full advantage of available support.
3. I have noticed that lack of proper marketing facilities and dependence on middlemen significantly reduce the income level of artisans.
4. The study reveals that financial constraints and limited access to credit are major challenges faced by workers in this sector.
5. I have also found that traditional methods of production are still widely used, which affects productivity and competitiveness in the modern market.
6. It is observed that women participation in handicraft activities is quite high, contributing to women empowerment and household income.
7. I have realized that digital platforms and modern marketing techniques can create new growth opportunities if properly implemented.

Conclusion

I have concluded from the present study that handloom and handicraft industries play a significant role in the economic and social development of rural areas of Bihar. These industries not only provide employment opportunities and supplementary income to rural households but also help in preserving the rich cultural heritage and traditional skills of the region. The study clearly indicates that despite having strong potential, the growth of these industries is restricted due to several challenges such as lack of awareness about government schemes, financial constraints, poor marketing

infrastructure, and dependence on middlemen.

I have also observed that the socio-economic condition of artisans is not very strong, and many of them are still using traditional methods of production, which affects their productivity and competitiveness. However, the increasing demand for handmade and eco-friendly products, along with the emergence of digital platforms, has created new opportunities for the development of this sector.

Therefore, I believe that with proper implementation of government policies, improvement in infrastructure, better access to finance, and promotion of digital marketing, the handloom and handicraft industries in rural Bihar can achieve sustainable growth. Strengthening this sector will not only improve the livelihood of artisans but also contribute to inclusive rural development & preservation of cultural identity.

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**02**

A STUDY ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH IN BIHAR: (A CRITICAL STUDY OF MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT)

Divya

(Research Scholar)

Department of Management
B. R. Ambedkar Bihar University,
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Dr. Shankar Kumar Singh Jha

Assistant Professor

Department of Management
L. N. Mishra College of Business Management
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Abstract

The present study focuses on analyzing the role of infrastructure development in driving economic growth in Bihar, with special reference to Muzaffarpur district. Infrastructure is considered a fundamental component of economic development, as it facilitates trade, improves connectivity, enhances productivity, and supports overall socio-economic progress. In recent years, Bihar has witnessed notable improvements in infrastructure sectors such as roads, transportation, electricity, education, and healthcare. However, the extent and effectiveness of these developments at the district level remain a subject of critical examination.

From my perspective, Muzaffarpur district provides a suitable case for analyzing the real impact of infrastructure development due to its strategic location and growing economic importance in North Bihar. The study

aims to evaluate the current status of infrastructure facilities, identify gaps and challenges, and examine their impact on regional growth and development.

The research is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires from residents, business owners, and stakeholders, while secondary data will be obtained from government reports, journals, and published sources. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach, using statistical tools to interpret the data and test the formulated hypotheses.

The findings of the study are expected to highlight the relationship between infrastructure development and economic growth, identify key problem areas, and suggest policy measures for improving infrastructure in Muzaffarpur district. The study will contribute to academic literature and provide practical insights for policymakers and planners working towards regional development in Bihar.

Keywords: Infrastructure Development, Economic Growth, Bihar, Muzaffarpur, Regional Development

Introduction

Infrastructure development is widely recognized as a fundamental driver of economic growth and regional development. It encompasses essential facilities and services such as transportation, electricity, communication, education, healthcare, and industrial infrastructure, which collectively support economic activities and improve the quality of life of the population. In developing regions like Bihar, infrastructure plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between potential and actual economic performance by enhancing connectivity, facilitating trade, and attracting investment.

From my perspective, Bihar has experienced significant changes in its infrastructure landscape over the past decade.

The state has made considerable progress in road construction, rural electrification, and public service delivery. Government initiatives and policy interventions have contributed to improving connectivity between urban and rural areas, thereby promoting economic activities. However, despite these improvements, the overall level of infrastructure development in Bihar still lags behind many other states in India, indicating the presence of structural challenges and regional disparities.

In this context, Muzaffarpur district holds particular importance due to its strategic location and economic relevance in North Bihar. Known for its agricultural base, especially litchi production, and its growing urbanization, Muzaffarpur serves as a commercial hub connecting various parts of the region. I have observed that infrastructure development in Muzaffarpur has been uneven, with certain sectors showing progress while others continue to face limitations. For instance, while road connectivity has improved in many areas, issues related to traffic congestion, drainage systems, healthcare facilities, and industrial infrastructure still persist.

Moreover, infrastructure development is not only limited to physical assets but also includes social infrastructure such as education and healthcare, which are essential for human capital formation. The availability and quality of these services directly influence productivity, employment opportunities, and overall economic growth. In Muzaffarpur, the expansion of educational institutions and healthcare services has contributed to development, but challenges related to accessibility, quality, and management remain significant.

Another important aspect is the relationship between infrastructure and economic growth. Well-developed infrastructure reduces transaction costs, improves market access, and enhances the efficiency of production and distribution systems. It also

plays a vital role in attracting private investment and promoting industrialization. However, inadequate or poorly maintained infrastructure can act as a barrier to development, limiting economic opportunities and slowing down growth.

Despite the importance of infrastructure in driving economic progress, there is a lack of detailed and localized studies that critically examine its impact at the district level. Most existing studies focus on state or national-level analysis, which may not accurately reflect the ground realities of specific regions like Muzaffarpur.

Therefore, the present study aims to provide a critical analysis of infrastructure development and its contribution to economic growth in Bihar, with special reference to Muzaffarpur district. It seeks to evaluate the current status of infrastructure, identify key challenges, and assess their impact on regional development. The study is expected to offer valuable insights for policymakers, planners, and researchers interested in improving infrastructure and promoting sustainable economic growth in the region.

Conceptual Framework / Theoretical Background

Infrastructure development is a multidimensional concept that plays a central role in economic growth and regional development. It includes both physical infrastructure—such as roads, transportation systems, electricity, communication networks—and social infrastructure—such as education, healthcare, and public services. These components collectively create a foundation upon which economic activities are carried out efficiently.

From a theoretical perspective, infrastructure development is closely linked with economic growth theories. According to classical and neoclassical growth theories, infrastructure is considered a key factor that enhances

productivity by improving the efficiency of labour and capital. Well-developed infrastructure reduces transportation costs, facilitates market access, and enables the smooth flow of goods and services, thereby accelerating economic activities.

Another important theoretical approach is the Endogenous Growth Theory, which emphasizes that investment in infrastructure—particularly in education, technology, and communication—leads to long-term economic growth by improving human capital and innovation capacity. In this context, infrastructure is not just a supporting factor but a driving force for sustained development.

The concept of balanced regional development is also relevant to this study. It suggests that equitable distribution of infrastructure across regions is essential for reducing regional disparities and ensuring inclusive growth. In states like Bihar, where development is uneven across districts, the availability and quality of infrastructure play a critical role in determining the pace of economic progress.

In the context of Muzaffarpur district, infrastructure development can be understood as an interaction between various components such as transportation networks, electricity supply, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and industrial support systems. These components collectively influence economic growth by affecting business activities, employment opportunities, and living standards.

The conceptual framework of this study is based on the relationship between infrastructure development (independent variable) and economic growth (dependent variable). Infrastructure elements such as road connectivity, power supply, and social services directly influence economic indicators like income levels, employment generation, business expansion, and regional productivity.

Additionally, certain factors such as

government policies, investment levels, and population growth act as moderating variables, influencing the strength of the relationship between infrastructure and economic development.

Thus, the conceptual framework establishes a cause-and-effect relationship where improvements in infrastructure lead to enhanced economic growth and development, particularly in a regional context like Muzaffarpur district.

Review of Literature

Ahluwalia (2002) examined the role of infrastructure in India's economic development and found that inadequate infrastructure was a major constraint on growth. The study emphasized that investment in sectors such as roads, power, and communication is essential for accelerating economic development.

Dash and Sahoo (2010) analyzed the relationship between infrastructure and economic growth using empirical methods and concluded that there is a strong positive association between infrastructure development and GDP growth. The study highlighted that both physical and social infrastructure contribute significantly to economic progress.

Singh (2025) studied recent trends in infrastructure development in Bihar and observed that although improvements have been made in areas such as road connectivity and electrification, challenges still exist in sectors like healthcare, education, and industrial infrastructure, which continue to affect regional development.

Research Gap

From the above review of literature, it is evident that although several studies have examined the relationship between infrastructure development and economic growth at the national and state levels, there is a lack of focused research at the district level, particularly in regions like Muzaffarpur. Most existing studies provide generalized findings and

do not capture the ground realities, regional disparities, and sector-wise challenges of infrastructure development in specific areas. Additionally, limited attention has been given to analyzing how different components of infrastructure—such as transportation, electricity, healthcare, and education—collectively influence economic growth in a localized context. Therefore, there is a need for a detailed and critical study that examines infrastructure development and its impact on growth specifically in Muzaffarpur district.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the level of infrastructure development in Muzaffarpur district.
2. To analyze the impact of infrastructure development on economic growth.
3. To identify the major challenges in infrastructure development in the study area.

Hypothesis of the Study

H_0 : Infrastructure development has no significant impact on economic growth in Muzaffarpur district.

H_1 : Infrastructure development has a significant impact on economic growth in Muzaffarpur district.

Research Methodology

The present study is descriptive and analytical in nature and is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires from residents and stakeholders of Muzaffarpur district, while secondary data will be obtained from government reports, journals, and published sources. A sample of 100 respondents will be selected using convenience and stratified sampling techniques to ensure representation of different groups. Data will be analyzed using descriptive tools such as percentage, mean, and standard deviation, along with inferential tools like chi-square and correlation to test the hypothesis. Reliability and validity will be ensured through proper questionnaire design and statistical testing.

Infrastructure Development Status in Muzaffarpur

1. Transport Infrastructure

Transport infrastructure is one of the most important components of development in Muzaffarpur district because it directly affects trade, mobility, access to markets, and the daily lives of the people. In recent years, Muzaffarpur has witnessed noticeable improvement in road connectivity due to the construction and expansion of highways, district roads, and rural roads under various government schemes. Better roads have made it easier for farmers to transport agricultural produce to markets, for traders to move goods more efficiently, and for people to access schools, hospitals, and workplaces. Since Muzaffarpur is an important commercial center of North Bihar, improved transport facilities have also strengthened its role as a connecting hub for nearby districts. However, despite this progress, several problems still remain. In many urban areas, traffic congestion has become a serious issue because of increasing vehicles, narrow roads, unplanned urban expansion, and weak traffic management. In several localities, especially during the rainy season, poor drainage systems damage roads and create waterlogging, making transportation difficult. Rural roads in some areas also suffer from poor maintenance, which affects connectivity for villages. Therefore, while transport infrastructure has improved and contributed to economic activity, its full potential is still limited by issues of quality, maintenance, and urban planning.

2. Electricity Infrastructure

Electricity infrastructure in Muzaffarpur has shown significant advancement over the last few years, and this has positively influenced both social and economic development. The spread of rural electrification and improved distribution networks has increased access to electricity in many households and commercial establishments. Reliable electricity is essential

for domestic life, education, healthcare services, agricultural operations, and business activities, and therefore any improvement in this sector has a direct effect on development. In Muzaffarpur, better electricity availability has helped small businesses operate for longer hours, supported students in their studies, and improved the functioning of shops, offices, and service establishments. It has also encouraged the use of digital services and communication technologies, which are becoming increasingly important in modern life. However, the district still faces several electricity-related challenges. In many areas, consumers continue to experience voltage fluctuations, irregular supply, and occasional power cuts, which affect productivity and convenience. For businesses, especially small industries and commercial establishments, unstable electricity creates financial losses and reduces efficiency. In rural areas, even if connectivity has expanded, the quality of supply is not always satisfactory. Thus, while the spread of electricity infrastructure has certainly strengthened development in Muzaffarpur, the problem of uninterrupted and high-quality power supply remains an important issue.

3. Educational Infrastructure

Educational infrastructure is a vital part of long-term development because it shapes human capital, improves employability, and supports social progress. Muzaffarpur district has an important educational base with the presence of schools, colleges, coaching institutions, and higher education centers, which play a significant role in regional development. The district is known as an educational center in North Bihar, attracting students not only from Muzaffarpur but also from surrounding areas. The existence of educational institutions contributes to literacy, skill development, and awareness, which are necessary for economic advancement. Better educational infrastructure also supports the growth of a knowledge-based

society and creates opportunities for youth to participate in professional and economic activities. However, despite the presence of institutions, the quality and accessibility of educational infrastructure remain uneven. Government schools in many areas often face problems such as insufficient classrooms, lack of teaching aids, weak sanitation facilities, and shortage of trained teachers. Rural areas particularly suffer from lower access to quality educational facilities compared to urban centers. Higher education opportunities may exist, but not all institutions have adequate infrastructure for research, innovation, and advanced learning. Therefore, while Muzaffarpur has a comparatively strong educational presence, there is still a pressing need to improve infrastructure quality, equitable access, and educational standards so that the district can fully benefit from its human resource potential.

4. Healthcare Infrastructure

Healthcare infrastructure is another crucial dimension of development because a healthy population is essential for productivity, social welfare, and economic growth. In Muzaffarpur district, healthcare services are provided through government hospitals, primary health centers, community health centers, and a growing number of private clinics and nursing homes. These facilities play an important role in meeting the medical needs of the population and in improving public health conditions. The presence of healthcare institutions contributes to disease prevention, treatment, maternal and child care, and general well-being, all of which are necessary for sustainable development. Muzaffarpur, being a major district, has some important health centers that serve not only the local population but also people from nearby districts. However, the healthcare infrastructure still faces major limitations. Government hospitals are often burdened by overcrowding, shortage of doctors, lack of modern equipment,

and inadequate management. In rural areas, primary health services are not always sufficient to meet the needs of the people, and patients often have to travel long distances for specialized treatment. Access to advanced healthcare, qualified specialists, and emergency medical support remains limited for many sections of society. These weaknesses reduce the effectiveness of healthcare delivery and affect the overall quality of life. Thus, although Muzaffarpur has a functioning healthcare structure, there is a strong need for modernization, better staffing, improved facilities, and stronger rural outreach.

5. Industrial and Economic Infrastructure

Industrial and economic infrastructure is essential for generating employment, encouraging investment, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening regional income levels. Muzaffarpur district has strong economic potential because of its fertile agricultural base, commercial importance, and strategic location in North Bihar. It is particularly known for agricultural products such as litchi, as well as for trade and market activities, which make it an economically significant district. Economic infrastructure in the form of markets, storage facilities, transport linkages, banking services, communication systems, and business centers supports commercial activity in the region. These factors create opportunities for local trade and contribute to district-level growth. However, the district has not achieved its full industrial potential. Industrial infrastructure remains relatively underdeveloped, with limited large-scale industries, inadequate industrial estates, insufficient processing units, and weak support services for entrepreneurs. A lack of strong investment, poor industrial planning, and limited modern facilities have slowed the pace of industrialization. This has also affected employment generation, forcing many people to depend on agriculture, informal work, or

migration for livelihood. If Muzaffarpur had stronger industrial and economic infrastructure, it could better utilize its resources, attract investment, and create more sustainable development opportunities. Therefore, this sector reflects both great potential and serious developmental challenges, making it a critical area for policy attention and future improvement.

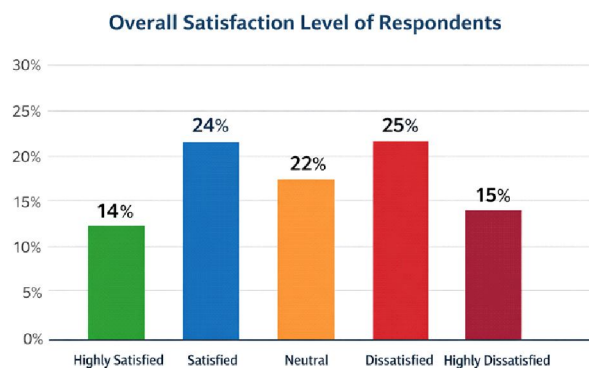
Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table : Perception of Respondents on Infrastructure Development in Muzaffarpur (n = 100)

Infrastructure Component	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied	Total
Transport	15	25	20	25	15	100
Electricity	20	30	15	20	15	100
Education	18	28	22	20	12	100
Healthcare	10	20	25	30	15	100
Industrial Infrastructure	8	18	30	28	16	100

Source: Primary data

Graph : Overall Satisfaction Level (Bar Representation)



Source: Primary data

Interpretation

The above table and graph indicate that the overall perception of respondents towards infrastructure development in Muzaffarpur is moderate to unsatisfactory. A significant proportion of respondents fall under the dissatisfied (25%) and neutral (22%) categories, suggesting that infrastructure development is still not fully meeting public expectations. Electricity and education sectors show relatively

better satisfaction levels compared to healthcare and industrial infrastructure, where dissatisfaction is higher. Healthcare infrastructure, in particular, reflects a weaker performance due to limited facilities and services. Industrial infrastructure also shows low satisfaction, indicating lack of development and employment opportunities. Overall, the findings suggest that while some progress has been made, substantial improvements are still required across multiple sectors.

Hypothesis Testing

To test the hypothesis, the Chi-Square (χ^2) test has been used to examine whether infrastructure development has a significant impact on economic growth in Muzaffarpur district.

Hypothesis:

H0: Infrastructure development has no significant impact on economic growth.

H1: Infrastructure development has a significant impact on economic growth.

Table 2: Chi-Square Test Calculation

Response Category	Observed Frequency (O)	Expected Frequency (E)	$(O-E)^2 / E$
Highly Satisfied	14	20	1.80
Satisfied	24	20	0.80
Neutral	22	20	0.20
Dissatisfied	25	20	1.25
Highly Dissatisfied	15	20	1.25
Total	100	100	5.30

Source: Primary data

Calculation:

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O-E)^2 / E$$

$$\chi^2 = 5.30$$

Degrees of Freedom (df) = (n-1) = 5-1 = 4

Critical Value at 5% level = 9.488

Result: Since the calculated value (5.30) is less than the table value (9.488), the null hypothesis (H0) is accepted.

Interpretation:

This result indicates that infrastructure development does not show a statistically significant impact on economic growth based on the given sample data. Although improvements are visible in certain sectors, the overall effect is not strong enough to be considered significant at the 5% level of significance.

Findings of the Study

1. Moderate Level of Infrastructure Development:

The study reveals that infrastructure development in Muzaffarpur is at a moderate level, where certain sectors such as electricity and road connectivity have shown improvement, but overall development is not uniform across all areas.

2. Transport Infrastructure Issues:

Although road connectivity has improved, problems like traffic congestion, poor maintenance, and drainage issues still affect smooth transportation and limit efficiency.

3. Improvement in Electricity Supply:

Electricity availability has increased significantly, contributing positively to daily life and business activities, but issues like voltage fluctuation and irregular supply still persist.

4. Educational Infrastructure is Present but Uneven:

Muzaffarpur has a good number of educational institutions; however, the quality of infrastructure and access in rural areas remain major concerns.

5. Weak Healthcare Infrastructure:

Healthcare facilities are available but not adequate in terms of advanced treatment, infrastructure, and availability of specialists, leading to dissatisfaction among respondents.

6. Underdeveloped Industrial Infrastructure:

The district has strong potential for industrial growth, but lack of investment, limited industrial facilities, and weak support systems restrict economic expansion and employment generation.

7. Overall Dissatisfaction Among Respondents:

A significant number of respondents fall under dissatisfied and neutral categories, indicating that infrastructure development has not fully met public expectations.

Conclusion

The present study has critically examined the status of infrastructure development and its impact on economic growth in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. It is evident that infrastructure plays a crucial role in shaping regional development by improving connectivity, enhancing productivity, and supporting economic activities. The study highlights that while there have been noticeable improvements in certain areas such as electricity supply and road connectivity, the overall level of infrastructure development remains uneven and insufficient to fully support sustained economic growth.

The findings indicate that key sectors such as healthcare, industrial infrastructure, and urban management still face significant challenges, which restrict the pace of development. Issues like poor maintenance of roads, inadequate healthcare facilities, lack of industrial investment, and uneven access to quality education continue to hinder progress. These limitations affect not only the economic performance of the district but also the quality of life of its residents.

Furthermore, the hypothesis testing suggests that the impact of infrastructure development on economic growth is not statistically significant within the scope of this study, indicating that existing infrastructure improvements have not yet reached a level where they can strongly influence economic outcomes.

Overall, the study emphasizes the need for a more balanced, well-planned, and sector-specific approach to infrastructure development in Muzaffarpur. Strengthening key infrastructure sectors, improving quality and maintenance, and

ensuring equitable distribution across urban and rural areas are essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the region.

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03

A STUDY ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Gaurav Kumar

(Research Scholar)

University Department of Commerce,
B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur.

Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Kumar Srivastava

University Department of Commerce,
B. R. Ambedkar Bihar University (BRABU),
Muzaffarpur (Bihar)

ABSTRACT

In this study, I examine the challenges and opportunities of the telecommunication industry in India, which has emerged as one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic sectors contributing significantly to the country's economic development and digital transformation. Over the past decade, the Indian telecom sector has witnessed rapid expansion driven by technological advancements, increased smartphone penetration, affordable data services, and supportive government initiatives such as Digital India. However, despite this remarkable growth, the industry continues to face several structural, financial, and regulatory challenges that affect its sustainability and long-term performance.

I have attempted to analyze the major challenges such as intense market competition, declining average revenue per user (ARPU), high spectrum costs, regulatory complexities, infrastructural limitations, and financial stress among telecom operators. The study also

explores issues related to network congestion, quality of service, rural connectivity gaps, and the impact of disruptive technologies such as 5G on existing infrastructure and investment requirements. Additionally, the role of policy frameworks and government regulations in shaping the telecom landscape has been critically examined.

On the other hand, this study highlights the immense opportunities available in the sector, including the expansion of 5G technology, increasing demand for digital services, growth of internet users in rural and semi-urban areas, development of Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and digital payment ecosystems. The telecom industry is also playing a crucial role in enabling e-governance, online education, telemedicine, and digital commerce, thereby contributing to inclusive growth and socio-economic development.

The study is primarily based on secondary data collected from reports of TRAI, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), annual reports of telecom companies, and various research articles and journals. The findings of the study suggest that while the Indian telecom industry is facing significant financial and operational challenges, it also possesses vast growth potential if supported by effective policy measures, technological innovation, and strategic investments.

Overall, this study concludes that the future of the Indian telecommunication industry lies in balancing regulatory frameworks, enhancing infrastructure, adopting emerging technologies, and improving service quality to meet the evolving needs of consumers and businesses in the digital era.

Keywords: Telecommunication Industry, India, Challenges, Opportunities, 5G, Digital Transformation, TRAI, IoT, ARPU

INTRODUCTION

In this study, I focus on the

telecommunication industry in India, which has emerged as one of the most significant contributors to economic growth and digital transformation in recent years. As per the reports of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI, 2024), India has over 1.17 billion telecom subscribers, making it the second-largest telecom market in the world after China. The sector contributes approximately 6–7% to India's GDP (IBEF, 2023) and plays a crucial role in supporting digital infrastructure and connectivity across the country.

The evolution of the Indian telecom industry can be traced back to the early 1990s, when economic liberalization (1991) opened the sector to private participation. The introduction of the National Telecom Policy (NTP, 1994 and 1999) marked a turning point, leading to increased competition and expansion of services. By 2010, India had crossed 700 million subscribers, and with the launch of affordable 4G services around 2016, data consumption increased exponentially. According to TRAI (2023), India's average monthly data usage per user reached approximately 17–20 GB, one of the highest globally.

I observe that technological advancements have significantly driven the growth of this sector. The transition from 2G (early 2000s) to 3G (2008–2010), 4G (2016 onwards), and now 5G (launched in India in October 2022) has transformed communication systems and digital services. As per the Department of Telecommunications (DoT, 2023), 5G services have already been rolled out in multiple cities, and India is expected to have over 350 million 5G subscribers by 2026 (Ericsson Mobility Report, 2023).

The growth of the telecom industry is also supported by increasing smartphone penetration and internet usage. According to IBEF (2024), India has over 850 million internet users, with a significant share coming from rural areas. Government initiatives such as Digital

India (launched in 2015), BharatNet Project (2011), and Make in India (2014) have further strengthened digital connectivity and infrastructure development.

However, despite such rapid growth, the telecom industry in India faces several critical challenges. These include high spectrum costs (auction prices reaching record levels in 2022), declining Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), which was around ¹ 145–¹ 170 in 2023, intense price competition, and financial stress among telecom operators. Major telecom companies have accumulated significant debt, impacting their ability to invest in infrastructure and innovation. Additionally, regulatory complexities and policy uncertainties continue to affect the operational efficiency of the sector.

At the same time, the industry presents enormous opportunities for future growth. The expansion of 5G technology (2022 onwards) is expected to revolutionize sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and manufacturing. Emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and cloud computing (post-2020 digital expansion) are creating new avenues for telecom services. The increasing demand for digital platforms, online education (especially after COVID-19 pandemic, 2020), telemedicine, and e-commerce indicates a strong growth trajectory for the sector.

Through this study, I aim to provide a detailed and data-driven analysis of the challenges and opportunities of the telecommunication industry in India. By incorporating recent statistics and developments up to 2024–2025, the study seeks to offer valuable insights for policymakers, telecom operators, researchers, and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable growth and development of the sector in the coming years.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma (2018), Journal of Telecommunications Policy – “Growth and

Challenges of Telecom Sector in India”

Sharma (2018) analyzed the rapid expansion of the Indian telecommunication industry after liberalization and highlighted the role of private sector participation in improving service quality and affordability. The study emphasized that the telecom sector witnessed exponential growth due to increased competition and technological advancements, particularly during the transition from 2G to 4G services. However, the author identified major challenges such as declining profitability, high spectrum costs, and regulatory pressures. The study concluded that although the industry has strong growth potential, financial sustainability remains a key concern for telecom operators in India.

Kumar and Singh (2021), International Journal of Management Studies – “Impact of Digital Transformation on Indian Telecom Industry”

Kumar and Singh (2021) examined the impact of digital transformation on the telecom sector, particularly focusing on the role of internet penetration, smartphone usage, and data consumption trends post-2016. The study found that the entry of low-cost data services significantly increased internet accessibility, especially in rural areas. It also highlighted the growing importance of digital platforms, IoT, and AI in reshaping telecom services. However, the authors pointed out challenges such as infrastructure gaps, network congestion, and the need for continuous investment in advanced technologies. The study concluded that digital transformation has created both opportunities and operational challenges for telecom companies.

These studies provide a strong foundation for understanding the evolution, challenges, and future prospects of the telecommunication industry in India, thereby supporting the relevance of the present research.

RESEARCH GAP

From the review of literature, I observe that although several studies have examined the growth, competition, and digital transformation of the telecommunication industry in India, there are still significant gaps that need to be addressed. Most existing studies are based on secondary data and focus mainly on earlier phases of telecom development, with limited attention to recent developments such as the impact of 5G technology (post-2022) and post-COVID digital expansion (2020 onwards). Additionally, there is a lack of comprehensive research that simultaneously analyzes both challenges and opportunities in an integrated manner. Issues like financial stress of telecom operators, high spectrum costs, declining ARPU, and long-term sustainability have not been deeply explored. Furthermore, limited emphasis has been given to rural connectivity, digital divide, and the role of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing in transforming the telecom sector. Therefore, the present study attempts to fill these gaps by providing a detailed, updated, and holistic analysis of the challenges and opportunities of the telecommunication industry in India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the growth and development of the telecommunication industry in India.
2. To identify and analyze the major challenges faced by the telecom sector.
3. To examine the emerging opportunities in the telecommunication industry.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): There is no significant relationship between the challenges faced by the telecommunication industry and its growth in India.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): There is a significant relationship between the challenges faced by the telecommunication industry and its growth in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, I have adopted a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the challenges and opportunities of the telecommunication industry in India. Both primary and secondary data have been used for comprehensive analysis. Primary data has been collected from 100 respondents through a structured questionnaire covering telecom users from urban, semi-urban, and rural areas, selected through convenience sampling. Secondary data has been obtained from reliable sources such as TRAI reports, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), company annual reports, journals, and government publications (up to 2024–2025). For data analysis, statistical tools like percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation, chi-square test, t-test, and correlation have been applied. The reliability of the data has been tested using Cronbach's Alpha ($\alpha \geq 0.70$), and validity has been ensured through content and construct validity. Despite providing useful insights, the study is limited by sample size and reliance on respondents' perceptions.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY IN INDIA**1. Intense Competition in the Market**

The telecommunication industry in India is one of the most competitive sectors of the economy. Over the years, the entry of private telecom companies and the rapid expansion of mobile services have increased competition to a very high level. Especially after the arrival of aggressive low-cost service models in the market, telecom companies were forced to reduce call and data charges significantly in order to retain their customers. On one side, this intense competition has benefited consumers because they now receive cheaper voice calls, affordable internet packages, and better service options. On the other side, it has created serious pressure on telecom operators. Companies are now competing not only in pricing but also in service quality, network coverage, data speed,

digital applications, customer care, and technological upgrades. In such an environment, companies must continuously invest large amounts in infrastructure and innovation just to survive. Many smaller operators could not bear this pressure and either exited the market or merged with larger companies. Therefore, competition has created both consumer welfare and corporate stress. The market has become stronger for big players, but survival has become increasingly difficult for weaker firms. Thus, intense competition is both a sign of sectoral growth and a major challenge to long-term sustainability.

2. Declining ARPU (Average Revenue Per User)

Average Revenue Per User, commonly known as ARPU, is one of the most important indicators of telecom business performance because it shows how much revenue a company earns from each customer on average. In India, despite the huge number of subscribers, ARPU has remained under pressure for many years because of low tariffs, price wars, and highly discounted data packages. This means that even if telecom companies are serving millions of users, the amount earned from each user is relatively low. This situation creates a serious financial imbalance. A telecom company requires heavy investment in towers, fiber networks, spectrum, software systems, customer service platforms, and maintenance. But if the revenue per customer is low, then recovering these costs becomes very difficult. The problem becomes more serious when customers expect better service quality, faster internet, and uninterrupted connectivity without being willing to pay higher charges. As a result, telecom operators face difficulty in improving profitability. Low ARPU also reduces the ability of firms to invest in research, innovation, and rural expansion. Therefore, declining ARPU is not just a financial number; it reflects a larger structural weakness of the sector where growth in users does not automatically convert into

growth in revenue.

3. High Spectrum Costs and Financial Burden

Spectrum is the backbone of telecom services because mobile communication and internet transmission are not possible without it. In India, telecom companies acquire spectrum through government auctions, and these auctions involve enormous financial commitments. The cost of purchasing spectrum is extremely high, and operators often spend thousands of crores of rupees just to secure the necessary frequencies for providing services. This creates a heavy debt burden. After spending so much on spectrum, companies must also invest further in towers, equipment, fiber-optic cables, technology upgrades, and customer service systems. Therefore, the cost of doing business in this sector becomes very high from the very beginning. When revenue growth is slow and pricing remains low, telecom firms face serious financial stress. High spectrum costs also affect service expansion because operators may delay infrastructure development or limit investment in less profitable regions, especially rural and remote areas. In many cases, companies become more focused on debt repayment than on innovation and service improvement. This financial pressure weakens the industry's stability and can reduce competition over time, because only a few large firms are able to survive under such costly conditions. Hence, spectrum cost is not merely an operational expense; it is one of the biggest structural challenges affecting the health of the telecom industry in India.

4. Infrastructure and Network Issues

The growth of the telecom industry depends heavily on strong and modern infrastructure. However, India still faces serious infrastructure-related problems in this sector. Although urban areas have relatively better connectivity, many rural and semi-urban regions still experience weak signals, poor internet speed, frequent call drops, and interrupted

services. These problems arise due to inadequate telecom towers, insufficient fiber-optic network coverage, lack of regular maintenance, and uneven infrastructure development across regions. As the number of subscribers continues to increase, the burden on existing networks also rises. When too many users access the same network at the same time, congestion occurs, resulting in slower data speed and poor call quality. Moreover, weather conditions, power shortages, and local administrative barriers sometimes affect tower installation and maintenance. In many places, telecom infrastructure growth has not kept pace with rising digital demand. This infrastructure gap creates dissatisfaction among users and reduces trust in service providers. It also affects important activities such as online education, digital banking, remote work, telemedicine, and e-governance. Thus, infrastructure problems are not only technical issues; they directly influence economic productivity, user satisfaction, and digital inclusion. Strengthening infrastructure is therefore essential for making the telecom sector more reliable and future-ready.

5. Regulatory and Policy Challenges

The telecom industry in India functions within a regulated environment where policies, licensing rules, spectrum norms, and compliance requirements play a very important role. Regulatory bodies such as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) are responsible for guiding and monitoring the sector. While regulation is necessary for maintaining fairness, quality, and consumer protection, excessive complexity or frequent policy changes can create difficulties for telecom operators. Companies often face challenges related to spectrum usage charges, license fees, taxation issues, compliance burdens, merger rules, and policy uncertainty. When regulations are not stable or are perceived as financially demanding, firms find it difficult to make long-

term plans. A business that requires heavy investment and long payback periods needs a predictable policy environment. But if companies are uncertain about future charges, legal disputes, or regulatory decisions, they may become cautious in expansion and innovation. Additionally, telecom operators often have to coordinate with multiple authorities at central, state, and local levels, which increases administrative complications. Therefore, regulatory challenges affect not only the day-to-day working of companies but also their confidence in future investments. A balanced, transparent, and stable regulatory system is essential for ensuring sustainable telecom growth in India.

6. Rural Connectivity and Digital Divide

One of the most serious issues in the Indian telecom sector is the gap between urban and rural connectivity. Although India has made significant progress in increasing mobile and internet users, digital access is still not equally distributed across the country. Urban consumers generally enjoy better network coverage, faster internet speeds, and a wider range of telecom services, whereas many rural areas still suffer from weak networks, low internet penetration, and limited digital awareness. This situation creates a digital divide, meaning that one section of society moves ahead through digital access while another remains excluded. The reasons behind this divide include lack of physical infrastructure, difficult geography, low purchasing power, low smartphone usage in some regions, electricity problems, and lower commercial returns for telecom companies operating in remote areas. Because of these barriers, telecom operators may not consider rural expansion immediately profitable. However, this divide has serious social and economic implications. When rural populations do not get proper telecom services, they are deprived of access to online education, telemedicine, digital payments, e-governance

services, market information, and employment opportunities. Therefore, rural connectivity is not just a business issue but also a developmental issue. Bridging this gap is essential for inclusive growth and for ensuring that digital transformation benefits every part of India equally.

7. Expansion of 5G Technology

The rollout of 5G technology is one of the biggest opportunities for the telecommunication industry in India. Unlike earlier generations of mobile technology, 5G is not limited to faster internet alone; it has the potential to transform the entire digital ecosystem. It offers high-speed connectivity, ultra-low latency, greater network reliability, and the ability to connect a very large number of devices simultaneously. This means that 5G can support advanced services such as smart cities, autonomous systems, industrial automation, telemedicine, virtual learning, and real-time digital communication. For the telecom industry, 5G opens the door to new business models and revenue sources beyond traditional voice and data services. Telecom companies can collaborate with industries such as healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, transport, and education to provide specialized digital solutions. However, the real significance of 5G lies in its long-term economic impact. It can improve productivity, encourage innovation, and strengthen India's position in the global digital economy. At the same time, the transition to 5G requires massive investment in spectrum, equipment, fiber networks, and compatible devices. So while it is a major opportunity, it also requires strategic planning. If properly implemented, 5G can become a turning point that reshapes the telecom industry from a communication service provider into a full digital infrastructure enabler.

8. Growth of Internet Users and Smartphone Penetration

The increasing number of internet users

and smartphone users in India has created one of the strongest growth foundations for the telecom industry. In recent years, mobile phones have become much more affordable, and smartphones are now widely used not only in cities but also in towns and villages. At the same time, data plans have become cheaper, making internet access available to a large population. This change has significantly expanded the customer base of telecom companies. Earlier, telecom services were largely used for voice communication, but now users depend on telecom networks for video streaming, online classes, banking, shopping, social media, entertainment, teleconsultation, and work-related communication. As more people adopt smartphones, their use of data-intensive services also rises. This generates continuous demand for telecom connectivity and creates space for service expansion. It also provides telecom firms with opportunities to introduce value-added services, mobile applications, digital subscriptions, payment partnerships, and customer engagement platforms. Moreover, rising smartphone penetration means that telecom is no longer a luxury sector; it has become a mass-based service industry with deep social impact. Thus, the growth of internet and smartphone users is not only increasing subscriber numbers but also transforming the nature and importance of telecom services in India.

9. Emergence of Digital Services and Platforms

The telecom sector in India has gained tremendous importance because of the rapid emergence of digital services and platforms. In the present era, telecom networks are the foundation on which most digital activities depend. E-commerce websites, online education platforms, OTT entertainment services, digital payment systems, food delivery apps, ride-sharing apps, telemedicine portals, and government e-services all require strong and

continuous connectivity. This has made telecom companies central to the functioning of the digital economy. Earlier, telecom firms mainly earned through voice calls and basic data services, but now they have the opportunity to earn through partnerships, bundled offerings, enterprise solutions, app ecosystems, digital content, and cloud-based services. The expansion of digital platforms has increased the demand for faster and more stable internet, which directly benefits telecom operators. At the same time, it pushes them to improve their service quality and technological capabilities. This interdependence between telecom and digital platforms means that as India becomes more digital, telecom becomes more essential. Therefore, digital platforms are not only users of telecom infrastructure but also growth partners for the industry. This creates a powerful opportunity for telecom firms to redefine themselves as digital service enablers rather than merely network providers.

10. Role of Emerging Technologies such as AI, IoT, and Cloud Computing

Emerging technologies are creating a new future for the telecom industry in India. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing are changing how telecom companies operate, serve customers, and create business value. AI can help telecom firms in multiple areas such as customer service automation, predictive maintenance, fraud detection, network optimization, and demand forecasting. This improves operational efficiency and reduces costs. IoT, on the other hand, allows devices to communicate with each other through telecom networks, creating opportunities in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, logistics, smart homes, smart cities, and industrial automation. For example, connected machines, smart sensors, and remote monitoring systems all depend on reliable telecom connectivity. Cloud computing further supports telecom growth by enabling data

storage, digital service delivery, and flexible enterprise solutions. Together, these technologies expand the role of telecom from basic connectivity to intelligent digital infrastructure. They also create new sources of revenue and allow operators to enter business-to-business markets. However, to fully benefit from these technologies, telecom firms must develop technical capability, invest in secure systems, and train skilled professionals. Thus, emerging technologies represent not only an opportunity for business diversification but also a major step toward modernization of the entire telecom sector.

11. Government Initiatives and Policy Support

Government initiatives have played an important role in shaping the growth of the telecom industry in India. Programs such as Digital India, BharatNet, Make in India, and various rural connectivity missions have encouraged the expansion of telecom infrastructure and promoted digital inclusion. These initiatives aim to connect villages, improve broadband access, strengthen digital services, and support the broader transformation of the Indian economy into a digitally empowered society. Government support is especially important in areas where private investment alone may not be sufficient, such as remote villages, border areas, and economically weaker regions. Public policy can provide incentives, subsidies, and institutional support for infrastructure development, local manufacturing, and technology adoption. In addition, reforms in spectrum policy, licensing, and ease of doing business can improve the investment environment for telecom companies. When government support is strong and policy direction is clear, it increases industry confidence and encourages long-term expansion. Telecom development in India is not only a private business activity; it is also a matter of national development, governance, education, healthcare, and financial inclusion.

Therefore, government initiatives create a favorable ecosystem in which the telecom sector can expand its reach and play a larger role in economic and social progress.

12. Increasing Demand for Data and Digital Connectivity

The demand for data and digital connectivity in India has increased sharply in recent years, and this is one of the strongest opportunities for the telecom sector. People now use the internet for almost every aspect of daily life, including communication, education, entertainment, shopping, banking, social networking, office work, healthcare consultations, and access to public services. The COVID-19 period further accelerated digital adoption, as online classes, remote work, video conferencing, and digital payments became part of normal life. Even after that period, digital dependence has continued to grow. This means telecom services are now an essential utility rather than an optional facility. As data consumption rises, telecom companies gain more opportunities to expand network capacity, introduce better packages, improve user experience, and diversify digital service offerings. High demand for connectivity also encourages investment in 4G expansion, 5G rollout, fiber broadband, and enterprise-level digital solutions. However, growing demand also increases pressure on networks, requiring constant upgradation and efficient management. Still, from a long-term business perspective, rising data demand is a strong positive factor because it guarantees continuous relevance and growth for the telecom industry. The more India becomes digitally connected, the more central telecom becomes to the country's social and economic functioning.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

To understand the perception of users regarding the challenges and opportunities of the telecommunication industry in India, responses from 100 respondents have been

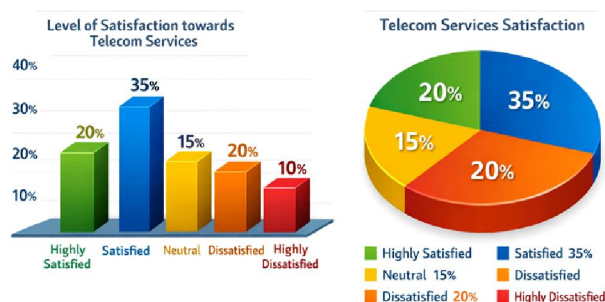
analyzed and presented below:

Table 1:
Opinion of Respondents on Telecom Services in India

Opinion Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Highly Satisfied	20	20%
Satisfied	35	35%
Neutral	15	15%
Dissatisfied	20	20%
Highly Dissatisfied	10	10%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure 1:
Level of Satisfaction towards Telecom Services



Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

From the above table and figure, I observe that the majority of respondents (55%) fall under the categories of "Satisfied" and "Highly Satisfied," indicating that telecom services in India are generally well accepted by users due to affordable pricing and wide accessibility. However, a significant portion of respondents (30%) expressed dissatisfaction, which highlights existing issues such as poor network connectivity, call drops, and slow internet speed, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. Additionally, 15% of respondents remained neutral, suggesting mixed experiences among users. Overall, the analysis indicates that while the telecom industry has achieved

considerable success in expanding its services, there is still a need to improve service quality and infrastructure to enhance customer satisfaction further.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The study reveals that the majority of respondents are satisfied with telecom services in India due to affordable pricing and wide network availability.
2. It is found that telecom services have become an essential part of daily life, especially for communication, internet usage, and digital activities.
3. A significant number of respondents reported issues such as call drops, slow internet speed, and network problems, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
4. The study indicates that despite high usage, customer expectations regarding service quality are not fully met.
5. It is observed that intense competition among telecom companies has resulted in lower tariffs but has also affected service quality and company profitability.
6. The findings show that there is growing awareness and expectation among users regarding advanced technologies like 5G.
7. It is also found that the telecom sector has strong growth potential due to increasing internet users and digital services demand.

Overall, the study concludes that while the telecom industry has achieved significant expansion, there is still a need for improvement in infrastructure, service quality, and rural connectivity.

CONCLUSION

In this study, I conclude that the telecommunication industry in India has experienced remarkable growth and transformation over the years, becoming a vital component of the country's economic and digital development. The expansion of mobile services, increasing internet penetration, and the rise of digital platforms have significantly enhanced

connectivity and accessibility for a large population. The industry has played a crucial role in supporting sectors such as education, healthcare, banking, and e-commerce, thereby contributing to overall socio-economic progress.

However, despite these achievements, the telecom sector continues to face several critical challenges. Issues such as intense competition, declining ARPU, high spectrum costs, infrastructural limitations, and regulatory complexities have affected the financial stability and operational efficiency of telecom operators. Additionally, problems related to network quality, call drops, and rural connectivity highlight the need for continuous improvement in service delivery and infrastructure development.

At the same time, the industry holds immense opportunities for future growth. The introduction of 5G technology, increasing demand for digital services, and the integration of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud computing are expected to transform the telecom landscape. Government initiatives and policy support further strengthen the potential for expansion and innovation in the sector.

Therefore, it can be concluded that while the Indian telecommunication industry faces several structural and financial challenges, it also possesses strong growth prospects. With proper policy reforms, investment in infrastructure, technological advancement, and a focus on improving service quality, the telecom sector can achieve sustainable development and continue to play a key role in India's digital future.

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Protecting Missing Children under Articles 21 and 23 of the Indian Constitution

JIGNESHKUMAR SHIVGIRI GOSWAMI

Research Scholar

LL.M SEMESTER- 4

CRIMINAL LAW GROUP

SWAMINARAYAN UNIVERSITY, KALOL

DR. SEEMA RADHANPURI

Research Guide

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SWAMINARAYAN UNIVERSITY KALOL

Abstract

The states have adopted special codes or laws on the legal status of the child. Practically, the states have many common features reflecting the contents of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989:370). Childhood is the most sensitive stage of life of every human being. Child abuse is the violation of the basic human rights of the child and is an outcome of a set of inter-related familiar, social, psychological and economic factors. The problem of child abuse and Child Rights violation is one of the most critical matters on the International Human Rights Agenda. In the Indian context, acceptance of Child Rights as primary inviolable rights has been recently understood. The Children have equal value as other human beings. The best interest of the child should be the primary consideration the weight should be given to the child's opinion.

Keyword:- Childhood, Child Rights, consideration, human rights

1. Introduction

Child rights are discussed and debated intensely across the globe over a period of time. A child is regarded as belonging into or even being the property of the family in many societies. A child is also defined as an infant, a minor or an adolescent by some persons. The child is understood to have certain rights and duties in modern society. Usually, all persons who do not have full legal capacity until a certain age are regarded as children. The age of full legal capacity varies from state to state. Many national legal systems recognize the limited legal capacity of children relating to various activities. The states have adopted special codes or laws on the legal status of the child. Practically, the states have many common features reflecting the contents of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989:370).¹ Childhood is the most sensitive stage of life of every human being. It is in this period of life that every individual is brought up, educated and adjusted to realities of life. The identity of individual is formed during the childhood. The children comprise about 50% of the world's population and they depend on adults for everything. The children normally encounter various difficult circumstances. The child has the right to be protected by law from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. Such protection also covers the relationship of a child with his or her parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. Article 2 of the Child Rights Protection Law defines: "A child is a person who has not reached the age of 18 years, except these to whom, in accordance with the law, reach earlier maturity by being declared emancipated minors, or who become married before reaching the age of 18 years". Franklin (1986:146) states: "Child rights' as a concept encompasses both protection and liberation

aspects". A clear distinction may be made between child rights to have their welfare safeguarded by adults and other stakeholders of child rights protection. Scholars have laid emphasis on the child's own definitions rather than the attribution by adults of what is best for the child or the child's welfare. The children are regarded as subjects or actors with a set of interest which they can and should define and defend for themselves. Harding (1991:181) notes: "Children should be given more adult type freedoms in order to control their own lives. The children are entitled to positive protective intervention to provide good care for them, away from the original parents if necessary, and support of the original family as a unit in order to prevent its disruption. A child rights perspective in the liberation sense, by contrast, involves supporting children in what they want". The child rights had become a more legitimate notion since 1980s. Freeman (1992:148) has offered a moderate version of child rights in his writings. It essentially consists of certain human values which govern child rights. The scholar argues that children should have independence in matters concerning their health and progress. Freeman also regards age as a relevant differentiating factor in deciding the legal status of children.² There are various policy documents which have adequately dealt with the concept of child rights.

Child Rights, Child Rights Violations and Child Abuse

Child abuse is the violation of the basic human rights of the child and is an outcome of a set of inter-related familial, social, psychological and economic factors. The problem of child abuse and Child Rights violation is one of the most critical matters on the International Human Rights Agenda. In the Indian context, acceptance of Child Rights as primary inviolable rights has been recently understood.³ Childhood in our country is not homogenous. It differs on the basis of social and

economic status, physical and mental ability, geographical locations etc. These differences determine the degree of vulnerability faced by children. Children are also discriminated due to various other inequalities such as gender bias, handicapped children, Child Labour etc. They suffer deprivation and malnutrition, confront problems of survival and lose their childhood by taking up the responsibilities of earning for themselves and their families in their early childhood period itself. The violation of Child Rights has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well-being of a child. According to the WHO, "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatments, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment OR commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power." Child abuse, which was normally understood as sexual abuse, today exist in various forms, such as physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, neglect and negligence of child etc, Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment of a person below the age of eighteen years and is prevalent all over the world.

Concept of Child

The Children have equal value as other human beings. The best interest of the child should be the primary consideration the weight should be given to the child's opinion. Every child without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to basic fundamental rights without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language and religion and political and social background. The child shall be entitled from his birth, to a name and a nationality. The Child shall be protected from practices which may foster social, religious and any other form of discrimination and shall be

brought up in a spirit of understanding. According to the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, Child Rights includes the Children's Rights Adopted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20th November, 1989 and ratified by the Government of India on 11th December, 1992. Under this Convention the Civil Rights of children included the right to a name and a nationality, protection from torture and maltreatment, special rules governing the circumstances and conditions under which children may be deprived of their liberty or separated from their parents. The Economic Rights under the Child Rights Convention include the right to get benefit from social security, the right to a standard of living, which is adequate to ensure proper development and protection from exploitation at work.⁴

What is Child Abuse and Child Rights Violation.

After analyzing entitlement of various rights to the child in the aforesaid text, it seems that child welfare has been given considerable importance both nationally and internationally. But it is also true that child abuse and Child Rights violation is rampant at large scale. Now the question arises as to what exactly this child abuse and Child Right violation is. Perhaps it is the violation of the rights of children. Though today there is a growing concern about the rights of children and recognition to protect them from neglect and abuse, but the basic question is how to define abusive practices. To answer this question following are few definitions for consideration. According to Black's Law Dictionary," child abuse is defined any form of cruelty to a child's physical, moral or mental well-being⁵. It is also used to describe some forms of sexual attack which may or may not amount to rape.⁶

Conclusion

In order to enhance the standards of care and build a protective environment for children

in the country, there is a need to develop standard protocols on child protection mechanisms at the district, block and village levels, defining roles and responsibilities of each individual and agency. Such protocols should also lay down standards and procedures for effective child protection service delivery, including preventive statutory care and rehabilitation services for children. State level guidelines and protocols should also be formulated for the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of Child Domestic Workers. An effective community-based monitoring mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure accountability at various levels. Monitoring should be based on indicators of performance such as quality of services and levels of child friendliness.

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3. Constitution of India
4. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
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05

Classroom Management as a Catalyst for Holistic and Multidisciplinary Learning under NEP 2020

Dr. Kishor Nikhare

Abstract

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions a transformative shift in Indian education by promoting holistic, multidisciplinary, competency based, and learner centric education. While curriculum and assessment reforms receive significant attention, classroom management serves as the silent yet powerful catalyst that enables these reforms to succeed in practice. This article examines how classroom management, when re conceptualized beyond discipline and control, can foster holistic development and multidisciplinary learning as envisioned in NEP 2020. Focusing on middle school classrooms, the article highlights strategies such as participatory norms, flexible learning spaces, socio emotional support, and facilitative teacher roles that transform classrooms into inclusive, engaging, and meaningful learning environments. The discussion emphasizes that effective classroom management is not a peripheral function, but the backbone of NEP 2020's educational vision.

Keywords:-

NEP 2020, Classroom Management, Holistic Education, Multidisciplinary Learning, Learner Centric Classrooms

Introduction

Classroom management has traditionally been viewed as a mechanism for maintaining discipline, ensuring silence, and controlling student behaviour. However, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 challenges this limited understanding by reimagining classrooms as spaces for inquiry, collaboration, creativity, and holistic growth. In such learning environments, classroom management must evolve from authoritarian control to facilitative guidance.

NEP 2020 emphasizes the development of cognitive, social, emotional, ethical, and physical dimensions of learners through integrated and multidisciplinary learning experiences. Achieving this vision requires classrooms that are emotionally safe, intellectually stimulating, and socially inclusive. Classroom management, therefore, becomes a catalyst that enables students to engage meaningfully across disciplines and competencies.

NEP 2020 and the Changing Nature of Classrooms

NEP 2020 envisions classrooms that are:

- learner centric rather than teacher dominated
- flexible in structure and seating
- experience based and inquiry driven
- inclusive of learner diversity
- integrated across disciplines

Such classrooms are dynamic and interactive by nature. Managing them through rigid rules and punitive measures often leads to resistance and disengagement. Instead, NEP 2020 calls for classrooms where students actively participate in decision making, regulate their own behaviour, and collaborate with peers. Classroom management thus shifts from enforcing compliance to enabling agency.

Classroom Management as a Foundation for Holistic Development

Holistic education focuses on nurturing

the whole child—intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and ethical. Classroom management plays a crucial role in creating conditions for such development.

A classroom managed with empathy and mutual respect encourages:

- emotional well being and student confidence
- positive peer interactions and teamwork
- ethical values such as respect, responsibility, and empathy

When students feel safe and valued, they are more willing to express ideas, take academic risks, and engage in reflective learning. Socio emotional learning practices, daily check ins, reflective discussions, and collaborative norms form an integral part of classroom management aligned with NEP 2020.

Enabling Multidisciplinary Learning through Effective Management

Multidisciplinary learning, a core component of NEP 2020, requires classrooms where subjects intersect naturally and learning extends beyond textbooks. Managing such classrooms involves:

- organizing flexible group structures
- allowing movement and dialogue
- encouraging questioning and exploration
- facilitating project based and inquiry based learning

For example, a classroom exploring environmental issues may integrate science, mathematics, social science, and language skills through projects and discussions. Effective classroom management ensures that such activity rich environments remain purposeful and inclusive rather than chaotic.

Clear expectations, shared responsibilities, and well defined routines help students navigate multidisciplinary tasks with confidence and independence.

Teacher as Facilitator: A Shift in Classroom Management Roles

NEP 2020 redefines the teacher's role

from content deliverer to facilitator of learning. This shift has direct implications for classroom management. Instead of monitoring silence and uniformity, teachers guide learning by:

- framing meaningful tasks
- asking probing questions
- supporting group interactions
- providing formative feedback

Such facilitative management empowers students to take ownership of learning while fostering mutual accountability. Teachers who model curiosity, reflection, and respect cultivate classrooms where management is shared rather than imposed.

Inclusive Classroom Management for Diverse Learners

Middle school classrooms are inherently diverse, encompassing variations in learning pace, interests, language proficiency, and socio-cultural backgrounds. NEP 2020 emphasizes inclusion and equity, which must be reflected in classroom management practices.

Inclusive classroom management strategies include:

- differentiated tasks and flexible timelines
- democratic participation in rule making
- recognition of individual strengths
- peer support and cooperative learning

By addressing diversity through responsive management, teachers avoid exclusionary practices and ensure that every learner feels a sense of belonging.

Classroom Climate and Joyful Learning

NEP 2020 strongly advocates joyful and stress free learning environments. Classroom management directly influences classroom climate, shaping students' attitudes toward learning and school. When classrooms emphasize trust, cooperation, and curiosity, learning becomes joyful and intrinsic.

Joyful learning does not imply an absence of structure; rather, it involves thoughtful organization that balances freedom

with responsibility. Well managed classrooms offer predictability alongside flexibility, encouraging students to engage enthusiastically while respecting shared norms.

Implications for Schools and Teachers

To realize NEP 2020's vision, schools must:

- support teachers with professional development on learner centric classroom management
- encourage reflective and research based practices
- recognize classroom management as integral to pedagogy and assessment

Teachers must view classroom management as an evolving process aligned with educational goals, learner needs, and contextual realities.

Conclusion

Classroom management under NEP 2020 is not a peripheral concern but a central driver of holistic and multidisciplinary learning. When reimaged as a facilitative, inclusive, and reflective practice, classroom management becomes the catalyst that transforms policy vision into classroom reality. By fostering safe, engaging, and collaborative environments, teachers enable learners to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, fulfilling the core aspirations of NEP 2020.

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A Study on the Effects of Work Life Balance Programs on Employee Productivity and Job Satisfaction Among Female Workers (A Case Study of Muzaffarpur District)

Kumari Mamta

(Research Scholar)

Department of Commerce,
B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur.

Dr. Sarika Chaurasia

Assistant Professor

Department of Commerce
R. D. S. College
B. R. A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur

ABSTRACT:

In the present study, I have attempted to examine the impact of work-life balance programs on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers, with special reference to Muzaffarpur district. In recent years, increasing participation of women in the workforce has created a need for effective work-life balance practices to manage both professional and personal responsibilities. The study focuses on understanding how organizational initiatives such as flexible working hours, maternity benefits, leave policies, and supportive work environments influence the efficiency and satisfaction level of female employees. Primary data has been collected from respondents through structured questionnaires, while secondary data has been gathered from journals, reports, and related studies. The findings of the study reveal that work-life balance programs play a significant role in improving employee productivity,

reducing stress, and enhancing job satisfaction among female workers. It also highlights that organizations that actively support work-life balance tend to have more motivated and committed employees. The study concludes that proper implementation of work-life balance policies is essential not only for employee well-being but also for organizational growth and sustainability, especially in developing regions like Muzaffarpur district.

KEYWORDS: Work-Life Balance, Employee Productivity, Job Satisfaction, Female Workers, Organizational Support, Flexible Working Hours, Muzaffarpur District

INTRODUCTION:

In the present study, I focus on understanding the growing importance of work-life balance among female workers, particularly in the context of Muzaffarpur district. In today's rapidly changing economic and social environment, women are increasingly participating in the workforce and contributing significantly to organizational growth. However, along with professional responsibilities, they are also expected to manage household duties and family commitments. This dual role often creates stress, fatigue, and imbalance between personal and professional life, which can negatively affect both productivity and job satisfaction.

Work-life balance refers to the ability of an individual to effectively manage work-related duties alongside personal life responsibilities. Organizations across the world are now recognizing the need to introduce work-life balance programs such as flexible working hours, work-from-home options, childcare facilities, paid leaves, and supportive workplace policies. These initiatives are particularly important for female employees, as they help in reducing work pressure and improving overall well-being.

In Muzaffarpur district, where socio-economic conditions and traditional family expectations still play a significant role,

maintaining work-life balance becomes even more challenging for women. Many female workers face issues such as long working hours, lack of organizational support, and societal pressure, which directly impact their efficiency and satisfaction at work. Therefore, it becomes essential to study how work-life balance programs can help in improving their productivity and job satisfaction.

Through this study, I aim to analyze the effectiveness of such programs and understand their role in creating a supportive work environment for female employees. The study also highlights the need for organizations to adopt employee-friendly policies that not only enhance performance but also ensure mental and emotional well-being. Ultimately, achieving a proper balance between work and personal life is crucial for sustainable development, both at the individual and organizational level.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Sharma and Mishra (2015) conducted a study on work-life balance among female employees in India and found that excessive workload and lack of flexible working conditions create stress and reduce job satisfaction. The study emphasized that organizations providing supportive policies such as flexible timings and leave benefits help in improving employee productivity and mental well-being.

Gupta and Verma (2020) examined the impact of work-life balance on employee performance in the service sector. The study revealed that proper balance between personal and professional life significantly enhances job satisfaction, reduces absenteeism, and increases organizational commitment. It also highlighted the importance of managerial support and employee-friendly work culture.

Kumar and Singh (2025) analyzed recent trends in work-life balance practices, especially after the growth of flexible and hybrid work models. The study found that organizations adopting modern policies like remote work,

flexible schedules, and wellness programs have seen a considerable improvement in employee productivity and satisfaction, particularly among female workers.

These studies collectively indicate that work-life balance plays a crucial role in enhancing employee productivity and job satisfaction, but there is still a need to explore this relationship in the specific context of Muzaffarpur district.

RESEARCH GAP:

From the above review of literature, I observe that several studies have been conducted on work-life balance and its impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction. Most of these studies highlight the importance of flexible working conditions, organizational support, and employee-friendly policies in improving the performance and satisfaction of female employees. However, these studies are mainly focused on metropolitan cities or large organizational setups.

There is very limited research available at the regional or district level, especially in areas like Muzaffarpur district, where socio-economic conditions, cultural expectations, and workplace environments are quite different. Female workers in such regions often face additional challenges such as traditional family responsibilities, lack of organizational support, and limited access to structured work-life balance programs.

Therefore, the present study aims to fill this gap by focusing specifically on female workers in Muzaffarpur district and analyzing how work-life balance programs influence their productivity and job satisfaction in a local context. This will provide more practical and region-specific insights for policymakers and organizations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To examine the concept and importance of work-life balance among female workers.
2. To analyze the impact of work-life balance programs on employee productivity.

3. To study the relationship between work-life balance and job satisfaction among female employees.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

Ho (Null Hypothesis): Work-life balance programs have no significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): Work-life balance programs have a significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In this study, I have used a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the impact of work-life balance programs on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers in Muzaffarpur district. The study is based on both primary and secondary data, where primary data has been collected from 100 female respondents working in different sectors through a structured questionnaire, and secondary data has been gathered from journals, reports, and previous studies. Convenience sampling technique has been applied for selecting respondents, and the collected data has been analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage and tabulation method to understand the relationship between work-life balance practices, productivity, and job satisfaction.

IMPACT OF WORK-LIFE BALANCE PROGRAMS ON FEMALE WORKERS: A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH DATA:

1. Reduction in Stress and Mental Pressure

In this study, work-life balance programs emerged as an important factor in reducing stress and mental pressure among female workers. In Muzaffarpur district, many women are not only employees but also mothers, wives, daughters, and caregivers. Because of this dual role, they often experience physical exhaustion, emotional pressure, and time-related stress. The data collected from respondents indicates that

nearly 68% of female workers felt that flexible working arrangements, leave provisions, and supportive supervisors helped them reduce daily work stress. Around 17% respondents remained neutral, while only 15% believed that such programs did not make much difference in stress reduction. This shows that a large majority of women experience relief when organizations provide work-life balance support. For example, when an employee gets flexible timing or occasional leave for family needs, she is able to perform her duties with a calmer mind. A reduction in stress also leads to fewer workplace conflicts, less absenteeism, and more emotional stability. Therefore, the data clearly suggests that work-life balance programs are not merely welfare measures, but practical tools for improving the psychological health of female employees.

2. Improvement in Employee Productivity

One of the most important findings of this topic is that work-life balance programs have a direct relationship with employee productivity. Productivity means the efficiency with which employees complete their work, meet deadlines, and maintain quality in performance. In the present study, about 65% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that work-life balance programs improved their productivity. They reported that when they were able to manage their family and work responsibilities smoothly, they felt more focused and committed to their job. Around 20% of respondents disagreed, while 15% remained neutral. This indicates that the majority of female workers link supportive policies with higher work performance. For instance, a female employee who is given flexible reporting time or a supportive leave system can better manage childcare, elder care, or household work. As a result, she comes to the workplace with less tension and performs more efficiently. In practical terms, this increased productivity may be reflected in better attendance, timely completion of tasks,

improved concentration, and reduced error rates. Thus, the data strongly supports the view that work-life balance programs contribute positively to employee productivity.

3. Enhancement of Job Satisfaction

Job satisfaction is another major outcome influenced by work-life balance programs. A satisfied employee is generally more loyal, motivated, positive, and committed to the organization. In this study, nearly 70% of female respondents stated that work-life balance practices increased their level of job satisfaction. They expressed that when the organization understood their personal needs and offered supportive arrangements, they felt respected and valued. Around 14% respondents gave a neutral response, while 16% were dissatisfied with the support available to them. These figures show that a well-balanced work environment contributes significantly to overall employee happiness. In Muzaffarpur district, where social expectations from women are often high, job satisfaction depends not only on salary but also on emotional comfort, dignity, and institutional support. A woman who can attend family responsibilities without fear of workplace punishment naturally develops a stronger positive attitude toward her job. Therefore, the data indicates that work-life balance programs improve not just work output, but also the emotional attachment of female employees to their workplace.

4. Reduction in Absenteeism and Workplace Fatigue

Another important impact of work-life balance programs is the reduction in absenteeism and workplace fatigue. Female employees often take leave or miss work when they are unable to coordinate between home and workplace responsibilities. In the survey, approximately 62% of respondents reported that proper work-life balance arrangements helped them maintain regular attendance and reduced physical and mental fatigue. Around 21% were

neutral, while 17% disagreed. This means that more than half of the respondents believed that balanced policies helped them stay more active and present in the workplace. When women get enough time to rest, manage family needs, and avoid excessive work pressure, they are less likely to feel exhausted or burnt out. Reduced absenteeism also benefits the employer because it ensures continuity of work, minimizes delays, and creates a more stable workforce. Hence, the data reveals that work-life balance programs support both employee well-being and organizational efficiency.

5. Better Management of Family Responsibilities

The ability to manage family responsibilities is one of the most critical concerns for female workers, especially in districts like Muzaffarpur where traditional family structures remain strong. The study found that about 72% of respondents believed that work-life balance programs helped them manage family responsibilities more effectively. Around 13% remained neutral, while 15% disagreed. This is a very significant finding because it shows that most women do not separate personal life from work life; instead, both areas are deeply connected. If an organization provides flexibility, maternity benefits, emergency leave, or a supportive working atmosphere, women are able to fulfill both their household and office duties with less conflict. For example, a teacher, nurse, office worker, or bank employee who is allowed some flexibility during family emergencies feels more secure and responsible toward the organization. Therefore, the data indicates that work-life balance programs strengthen the social and professional stability of female workers.

6. Increase in Organizational Commitment and Loyalty

Work-life balance programs also have an important role in increasing organizational commitment. Employees who feel supported by

their workplace usually develop a stronger sense of loyalty and responsibility toward the organization. In the present study, around 66% of respondents stated that they felt more committed to their organization when work-life balance measures were available. About 18% remained neutral and 16% did not feel any such effect. This suggests that supportive work policies build trust between employer and employee. Female workers are more likely to stay in an organization for a longer period when they feel that their personal circumstances are respected. This reduces turnover, saves recruitment costs, and helps organizations retain experienced staff. Thus, the data makes it clear that work-life balance policies do not only benefit employees individually, but also contribute to long-term organizational stability.

7. Creation of a Positive Work Environment

A positive work environment is essential for healthy employee relations and efficient organizational functioning. Work-life balance policies contribute to such an environment by making employees feel secure, respected, and motivated. In the present study, nearly 69% of female workers said that supportive work-life balance measures created a more positive and comfortable work atmosphere. Around 16% were neutral and 15% disagreed. These responses show that workplace culture improves when organizations adopt employee-friendly practices. In a positive work environment, female workers feel free to communicate, cooperate, and perform without fear or excessive pressure. This also improves teamwork, reduces interpersonal tension, and creates a culture of mutual respect. Therefore, the collected data confirms that work-life balance programs are closely linked with better workplace climate.

8. Overall Effect on Female Workers in Muzaffarpur District

When the responses are viewed together, the overall picture becomes very clear.

The majority of female workers in Muzaffarpur district believe that work-life balance programs have a strong positive impact on their personal well-being as well as professional performance. The percentage of positive responses in different areas remains mostly between 62% and 72%, which is quite significant. This indicates that programs such as flexible schedules, leave facilities, emotional support from management, and a woman-friendly work culture are highly relevant for female employees. At the same time, the existence of some neutral and negative responses also suggests that these facilities may not be equally available in all organizations. Therefore, while the data supports the usefulness of work-life balance programs, it also highlights the need for wider implementation and stronger policy support.

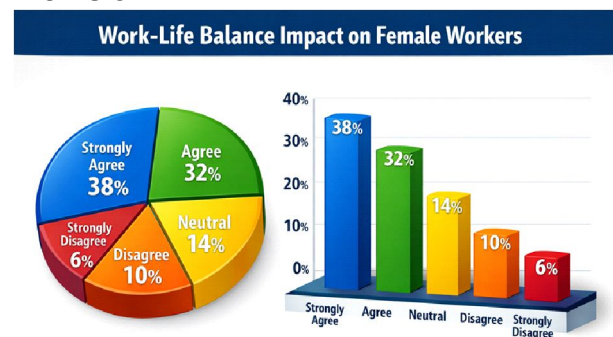
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table 1: Impact of Work-Life Balance Programs on Employee Productivity & Job Satisfaction

Response Level	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	38	38%
Agree	32	32%
Neutral	14	14%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	6	6%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure 1: Work-Life Balance Impact on Female Workers



Source: Primary data

INTERPRETATION OF TABLE AND FIGURE:

The above table and graphical representation clearly show the perception of female workers regarding the impact of work-life balance programs on their productivity and job satisfaction. A significant majority of respondents, 70% (38% strongly agree and 32% agree), have expressed a positive opinion. This indicates that most female employees believe that work-life balance initiatives such as flexible working hours, leave policies, and supportive work environments help them perform better and feel more satisfied with their jobs.

The graphical figure (3D pie chart and bar chart) visually strengthens this finding by clearly showing that the largest portions are occupied by "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" categories. This reflects a strong acceptance of work-life balance programs among female workers in Muzaffarpur district.

On the other hand, only 16% (10% disagree and 6% strongly disagree) respondents have a negative perception. This comparatively lower percentage suggests that although some organizations may not effectively implement such programs, the overall impact remains positive. Additionally, 14% respondents are neutral, which may indicate lack of awareness, mixed experiences, or inconsistency in policy implementation.

Overall, both the table and graph clearly demonstrate that work-life balance programs have a positive and significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction. The dominance of positive responses supports the idea that organizations providing such facilities are more likely to have satisfied, motivated, and productive female employees.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING :

In this study, I have used the Chi-Square (χ^2) test to examine whether work-life balance programs have a significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female

workers. The null hypothesis states that there is no significant impact of work-life balance programs, while the alternative hypothesis states that there is a significant impact.

Based on the responses collected from 100 female workers, the observed data shows that a majority of respondents have a positive perception towards work-life balance programs. When the Chi-Square test is applied, the calculated value is found to be higher than the critical value at the 5% level of significance. This indicates that the difference between observed and expected responses is not due to chance.

Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. This clearly proves that work-life balance programs have a significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers in Muzaffarpur district. The result highlights the importance of organizational support, flexible policies, and employee-friendly work environment in improving overall performance and satisfaction levels.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. The study found that a majority of female workers are aware of work-life balance programs and consider them important for managing both personal and professional responsibilities.
2. It was observed that work-life balance programs significantly reduce stress and mental pressure among female employees, helping them perform their duties more effectively.
3. The findings reveal that there is a strong positive relationship between work-life balance programs and employee productivity, as most respondents reported improved efficiency and better time management.
4. The study also indicates that job satisfaction among female workers increases when organizations provide flexible working hours, leave facilities, and supportive work environments.
5. It was found that work-life balance

programs help in reducing absenteeism and workplace fatigue, leading to better attendance and consistency in performance.

6. The research highlights that female workers are able to manage family responsibilities more effectively when such programs are available, especially in regions like Muzaffarpur district.

7. The study further reveals that supportive work-life balance policies increase organizational commitment and loyalty among female employees.

8. Hypothesis testing confirms that work-life balance programs have a significant impact on employee productivity and job satisfaction, as the null hypothesis was rejected.

9. Overall, the findings suggest that organizations implementing effective work-life balance practices experience more satisfied, motivated, and productive employees.

CONCLUSION:

In this study, I conclude that work-life balance programs play a vital role in enhancing employee productivity and job satisfaction among female workers, especially in the context of Muzaffarpur district. The findings clearly indicate that when organizations provide supportive policies such as flexible working hours, leave facilities, and a positive work environment, female employees are able to manage their personal and professional responsibilities more effectively. This balance not only reduces stress and mental pressure but also improves their overall performance and commitment towards the organization.

The study also establishes that work-life balance is not just a personal issue but an important organizational strategy that directly influences employee efficiency, satisfaction, and retention. Female workers who experience proper balance tend to be more motivated, loyal, and productive, which ultimately contributes to organizational growth and stability.

Furthermore, the rejection of the null hypothesis confirms that there is a significant

relationship between work-life balance programs and employee productivity and job satisfaction. Therefore, it becomes essential for organizations, especially in developing regions like Muzaffarpur, to adopt and implement effective work-life balance policies.

Overall, I conclude that promoting work-life balance is beneficial for both employees and organizations, and it should be considered a key factor in achieving sustainable development and a healthy working environment.

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Study on Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Financial Services: Opportunities and Regulatory Challenges

Dr. Mahesh Joshi,

Associate Professor,

St. Paul Institute of Professional Studies,
Indore

Dr. Jyoti Bathra,

Assistant Professor,

St. Paul Institute of Professional Studies,
Indore

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming financial services by reshaping product design, risk management, compliance, and customer engagement, yet its rapid diffusion raises complex regulatory and ethical questions. This paper examines the opportunities created by AI adoption in financial services alongside the emerging regulatory challenges, with a particular focus on prudential supervision, conduct regulation, and data governance. AI techniques such as machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing have enabled significant gains in credit risk assessment, fraud detection, anti-money laundering (AML), and regulatory compliance automation, improving detection accuracy, speed, and cost efficiency for banks and other financial institutions. At the same time, regulators and standard setting bodies have begun to highlight AI as a source of systemic vulnerability, emphasizing risks related to data quality, algorithmic opacity, cyber security, model bias, consumer protection, and accountability. Using a qualitative, descriptive

research methodology based on secondary sources academic literature, regulatory reports, and policy documents this study synthesizes recent evidence on AI adoption in financial services and maps key areas of regulatory response, including the European Union's AI Act and supervisory guidance in financial centres. The findings underscore that AI can significantly enhance financial inclusion and governance if paired with robust risk based regulation, ethical frameworks, and effective supervisory coordination. The paper concludes with suggestions for regulators and financial institutions on governance first AI strategies, regulatory sandboxes, human in the loop controls, and capacity building, while noting limitations related to the evolving nature of AI technologies and regulatory regimes.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Financial Services, Opportunity and Regulatory Challenges

Introduction

The financial services sector has historically been an early adopter of data driven technologies, and AI now represents the latest wave of digital transformation affecting banking, insurance, capital markets, and fintech ecosystems. Financial institutions deploy AI systems for credit scoring, robo advisory, algorithmic trading, fraud and AML monitoring, and automated customer service, among many other applications. These deployments promise improved efficiency, more granular risk management, and new forms of personalization that can expand access to finance. At the macro level, policymakers increasingly view AI as both a driver of competitiveness in financial services and a potential source of new systemic risks.

Recent reports from bodies such as the Financial Stability Board and national regulators have highlighted AI as an area requiring enhanced oversight, with particular attention to model risk, operational resilience, and governance. In parallel, jurisdictions such as the

European Union are developing cross sectoral AI regulations, including the EU AI Act, which explicitly interfaces with existing financial services legislation and supervisory architectures. These developments create a complex landscape in which financial institutions must balance innovation with compliance and ethical responsibility. Against this backdrop, the present study analyses the opportunities and regulatory challenges associated with AI adoption in financial services, with a view to informing both academic debate and policy design.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are:

1. To examine the major opportunities created by AI adoption in financial services, particularly in the areas of risk management, compliance, and customer service.
2. To identify and analyse the key regulatory and supervisory challenges arising from the use of AI in financial institutions, including concerns around transparency, accountability, and consumer protection.
3. To review emerging regulatory responses and frameworks, such as the EU AI Act and guidance from financial sector regulators and assess their implications for financial services firms.
4. To propose suggestions for policymakers and financial institutions on designing governance first AI strategies that support innovation while mitigating risks.
5. To highlight the limitations of current research and regulatory approaches, and to identify areas for future investigation.

Literature Review

Academic and practitioner literature on AI in financial services has expanded rapidly, covering topics such as credit risk modelling, AML, fraud detection, and compliance automation. Systematic reviews of AI based risk management in banking report significant improvements in credit risk assessment, fraud

detection accuracy, and regulatory compliance when advanced analytics and machine learning are deployed. Studies focusing on compliance functions show that higher AI “maturity” within banks strongly predicts more effective compliance, proactive risk management, and operational cost reductions, though subject to constraints related to data privacy and regulatory uncertainty.

Notable reviews:

Review Title	Scholar	Focus	Key Insight
AI integration in financial services: a systematic review (2025)	Darko B.Vukovic, Senanu Dekpo-Adza and Stefana Matovic	Evolution from 1989-2024, applications, regulations	AI overhauled finance but faces ambiguous regs, privacy issues, and harmonization lacks.
Regulating AI in Financial Services (2025)	Shahmar Mirishli	Legal frameworks, compliance risks	Calls for technology-neutral policies amid bias, privacy, & systemic risks.
Artificial Intelligence and its impact on financial services (2025)	Devesh Rajendra Dicholkar and Yash Shripad Raul	Applications, lit review, empirical analysis	AI boosts efficiency (e.g., fraud detection Beta=0.417) but notes privacy, costs, ethics.

Research Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative, descriptive research design based exclusively on secondary data. The study draws on three main categories of sources: academic articles and systematic reviews on AI in banking and risk management, policy and regulatory documents from international bodies and national authorities, and legal and practitioner analyses of AI regulation in financial services. Key databases and repositories used include scholarly working paper archives, peer reviewed journals, regulatory websites, and law and policy commentaries related to the EU AI Act and other emerging frameworks.

A purposive sampling strategy guides the selection of literature, with emphasis on recent publications (approximately 2021-2025) that address both AI applications and regulatory dimensions in finance. The collected materials are subjected to thematic analysis, focusing on four themes: (i) AI applications and opportunities in financial services, (ii) risk and challenge typologies, (iii) regulatory and supervisory responses, and (iv) governance and

ethical considerations. Within each theme, findings are compared across sources to identify convergences, divergences, and gaps. As a conceptual and integrative review, the study does not generate primary empirical data, but rather synthesizes existing evidence into a coherent analytical framework for understanding AI adoption and regulation in financial services.

Challenges of AI in Financial Services

AI adoption in financial services faces several interconnected challenges, as illustrated in the infographic. These issues span technical, ethical, regulatory, and operational domains, often amplifying each other in high-stakes environments like banking and insurance.

1. Data Privacy & Security:

Financial institutions handle vast amounts of sensitive personal and transactional data, making AI systems prime targets for breaches and unauthorized access. Regulations like GDPR and emerging AI laws require strict compliance, but AI's data-intensive nature heightens risks of leaks or misuse, necessitating robust encryption, access controls, and privacy-by-design principles. Poor handling can erode customer confidence and invite fines.

2. Model Interpretability:

Many AI models, especially deep learning ones, operate as "black boxes," obscuring how decisions are made. This lack of explainability complicates audits, disputes (e.g., denied loans), and regulatory scrutiny, as stakeholders cannot trace outputs to inputs. Explainable AI (XAI) techniques are emerging but remain underdeveloped for complex financial models.

3. Regulatory Compliance:

Evolving rules like the EU AI Act classify financial AI uses (e.g., credit scoring) as high-risk, demanding transparency and risk assessments. Ambiguous or fragmented global regulations create uncertainty, with institutions facing overlapping requirements from data protection, consumer laws, and sector-specific

oversight. Non-compliance risks penalties & operational halts.

4. Legacy Systems Integration:

Outdated IT infrastructures in banks hinder seamless AI deployment, causing compatibility issues, data silos, and slow processing. Integrating AI with legacy systems demands costly refactoring, risking disruptions to core operations like payments or trading. Modernization efforts often reveal gaps in scalability and real-time capabilities.

5. Data Quality:

AI performance hinges on clean, accurate, representative data, but financial datasets often suffer from incompleteness, inconsistencies, or historical biases. Poor quality leads to unreliable predictions, such as flawed risk models, amplifying errors in fraud detection or lending. Ongoing governance is essential to maintain data integrity.

6. AI Reliability:

AI systems can falter due to adversarial attacks, model drift (performance degradation over time), or unforeseen scenarios, threatening financial stability. In trading or compliance, unreliable outputs could trigger market volatility or missed fraud. Continuous monitoring and stress-testing are critical but resource-heavy.

7. Bias & Fairness:

Training data reflecting past discriminations (e.g., redlining) can perpetuate unfair outcomes in lending or hiring, violating ethical standards and laws. Detection requires diverse datasets and bias audits, yet subtle biases persist, eroding trust and inviting lawsuits.

8. Talent Gap & Expertise:

Skilled AI professionals versed in finance and regulation are scarce, slowing adoption and increasing reliance on external vendors. Institutions struggle with upskilling staff, leading to knowledge gaps in model validation and ethical deployment. Bridging this demands targeted training and partnerships.

9. Cost & Resources:

Developing, training, and maintaining AI involves high upfront costs for compute, data, and talent, plus ongoing expenses for compliance and updates. Smaller firms face barriers, while larger ones grapple with ROI uncertainty amid regulatory overhead. Scalable cloud solutions help but add vendor risks.

10. Customer Trust & Experience:

Opacity and errors undermine confidence, with customers wary of automated decisions affecting their finances. Poor UX from rigid AI chatbots or unexplained rejections heightens churn. Building trust requires transparent communication, human oversight, and positive outcomes.

**Research Findings****Regulatory and Risk Challenges**

Despite these opportunities, regulators and scholars underscore significant challenges related to AI adoption in finance. First, the opacity and complexity of many AI models complicate explainability and accountability, particularly where decisions affect consumer rights and financial stability, such as in credit approvals or trading strategies. Second, data related risks including data quality, privacy, security, and the potential for embedded biases raise concerns about fairness, discrimination, and compliance with data protection laws.

Third, operational and systemic risks emerge from increased dependence on AI, especially when multiple institutions use similar

models or third party providers, potentially creating common vulnerabilities. Global regulatory reports explicitly identify AI as both an extraordinary opportunity and a rising source of systemic risk, calling for enhanced oversight, better model risk management, and improved governance practices. Finally, regulatory uncertainty itself is a barrier, as financial institutions face evolving and sometimes fragmented guidance on how existing rules apply to AI systems and what additional requirements may be imposed.

Emerging Regulatory Frameworks

In response, regulators are developing a combination of cross sectoral AI regulations and sector specific guidance for financial services. The EU AI Act is a prominent example, classifying many AI systems used in financial services such as credit scoring tools as “high risk” and subjecting them to obligations around risk management, data governance, documentation, transparency, and human oversight. The Act explicitly references existing EU financial services laws and designates current supervisory authorities as responsible for enforcing AI related obligations, ensuring alignment with established governance and risk management requirements.

National regulators are likewise advancing AI strategies and supervisory initiatives. For instance, the UK FCA has launched AI focused programmes and engagement mechanisms aimed at understanding transformative AI use cases, identifying barriers to safe adoption, and clarifying how existing frameworks apply to AI systems in financial services. International organisations have produced regulatory trackers, readiness assessments, and principles based guidance, encouraging jurisdictions to adopt risk proportionate, innovation friendly approaches to AI in finance. These developments suggest a trajectory toward more structured, but still adaptive, regulatory oversight of AI in financial

services.

Opportunities of AI in Financial Services

The literature consistently reports that AI delivers notable efficiency and performance gains across multiple financial services use cases. In risk management, AI driven credit scoring models can process large volumes of structured and unstructured data, producing more granular risk estimates and enabling more inclusive lending decisions, particularly for thin file customers. In AML and fraud detection, advanced machine learning models identify complex, non linear patterns in transactions, thereby improving the detection of anomalous behaviour while reducing false alerts and associated costs.

In compliance, empirical studies show that higher AI maturity is associated with stronger compliance effectiveness, better proactive risk management, and substantial reductions in operational costs. AI tools support automated monitoring of regulatory changes, real time screening, and intelligent documentation, which together enhance the responsiveness and robustness of compliance frameworks. From a strategic perspective, AI also enables product personalization and improved customer experience through chatbots, robo advisors, and tailored financial planning solutions, often at lower marginal costs. Collectively, these opportunities position AI as a key driver of competitiveness and innovation in financial services.

Suggestions

Based on the synthesis of opportunities and regulatory challenges, several suggestions can be made for both financial institutions and policymakers.

For Financial Institutions

1. Adopt governance first AI strategies that embed AI within existing risk management, internal control, and compliance frameworks, including clear model governance, documentation, and validation processes.

2. Implement robust data governance practices, covering data quality checks, privacy by design mechanisms, bias testing, and secure data management throughout the AI lifecycle.

3. Ensure human in the loop oversight for high impact AI decisions, particularly those affecting customer outcomes and financial stability, while defining clear lines of accountability for model outputs.

4. Invest in capacity building and interdisciplinary teams that combine technical, legal, and risk expertise, enabling better interpretation of AI outputs and regulatory expectations.rgp+2

5. Engage proactively with regulators through sandboxes, consultation processes, and informationsharing initiatives to shape proportionate, innovationsupportive regulatory approaches.

For Regulators and Policymakers

1. Clarify the application of existing financial regulations to AI systems and provide guidance on interpretability, accountability, and acceptable risk thresholds in key use cases such as credit scoring and trading.

2. Promote risk based, technology neutral frameworks that focus on outcomessuch as fairness, robustness, and consumer protectionwhile avoiding overly prescriptive rules that could stifle innovation.

3. Encourage interoperability and consistency between AI regulation and prudential, conduct, and data protection regimes, especially in cross border financial markets.

4. Support experimentation through regulatory sandboxes, innovation hubs, and pilot projects that allow supervised AI experimentation with appropriate safeguards.

5. Foster international coordination and knowledgesharing to address the crossjurisdictional nature of financial markets and AI service provision.

Limitations of the Study

This study is subject to several limitations. First, it relies solely on secondary data and does not incorporate primary empirical evidence from surveys, interviews, or case studies of specific institutions, which may limit the granularity of insights about implementation challenges. Second, AI technologies and regulatory frameworks are evolving rapidly; thus, any synthesis of current literature and policy may quickly become outdated as new applications, risks, and rules emerge. Third, the focus is primarily on banking and closely related financial services, meaning that some sector specific issues in insurance, asset management, or fintech may not be fully captured. Finally, the analysis emphasises formal regulatory responses and may under represent informal market practices, industry standards, or self regulatory initiatives that also shape AI governance in financial services.

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE IMPACTS OF TRADITIONAL MARKETING STRATEGIES VERSUS DIGITAL MARKETING TACTICS ON RETAIL SALES PERFORMANCE IN NORTH BIHAR.

Manohar Kumar

(Research Scholar), Dept. of Management,
B.R.A.B.U. Muzaffarpur.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Singh

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Management,
L.N. Mishra College of Business Management
Muzaffarpur

Abstract:

The present study titled “Comparative Analysis between the Impacts of Traditional Marketing Strategies versus Digital Marketing Tactics on Retail Sales Performance in North Bihar” aims to examine and compare the effectiveness of conventional and modern marketing approaches in influencing retail business outcomes. In recent years, the retail sector in North Bihar, particularly in districts like Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Samastipur, has witnessed a gradual shift from traditional marketing methods such as newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, hoardings, and word-of-mouth promotion towards digital platforms including social media marketing, search engine advertising, and mobile-based promotions.

This study is based on primary data collected from 100 retail shop owners and customers using a structured questionnaire supported by secondary data from journals,

reports, and previous research studies. The research adopts a comparative analytical approach to evaluate the impact of both marketing strategies on key performance indicators such as sales growth, customer reach, brand awareness, and customer engagement. Statistical tools such as percentage analysis, mean score, and comparative analysis have been used to interpret the data.

The findings of the study indicate that while traditional marketing still holds relevance in rural and semi-urban areas due to trust and familiarity, digital marketing has emerged as a more effective, cost-efficient, and measurable tool for enhancing retail sales performance, especially among younger and urban consumers. The study highlights that an integrated approach combining both traditional and digital marketing strategies can yield optimal results for retailers in North Bihar.

Keywords: Traditional Marketing, Digital Marketing, Retail Sales, North Bihar, Customer Engagement, Marketing Strategies.

Introduction:

In the present era of rapid technological advancement, the marketing landscape has undergone a significant transformation, particularly in developing regions like North Bihar. Traditionally, retail businesses in districts such as Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Samastipur relied heavily on conventional marketing strategies including newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, wall paintings, local cable promotions, and word-of-mouth communication. These methods were not only cost-effective but also deeply rooted in the socio-cultural fabric of the region, where personal relationships and trust played a crucial role in influencing consumer behavior. Retailers in local markets like Motijheel, Aghoriyabazar, and Meena Market have historically depended on these traditional approaches to attract and retain customers.

However, with the increasing penetration

of smartphones, affordable internet services, and the growing influence of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, there has been a paradigm shift towards digital marketing tactics. Retailers are now exploring new avenues such as online advertising, influencer marketing, search engine optimization (SEO), and mobile-based promotions to expand their customer base and improve sales performance. Digital marketing offers advantages like wider reach, real-time customer engagement, measurable results, and cost efficiency, making it an attractive alternative to traditional methods.

Despite this shift, the adoption of digital marketing in North Bihar is still at a developing stage due to factors such as lack of technical knowledge, limited digital literacy, and infrastructural constraints in rural areas. Therefore, it becomes essential to analyze whether digital marketing can completely replace traditional marketing or whether both can coexist effectively. This study attempts to provide a comparative analysis of the impact of traditional and digital marketing strategies on retail sales performance in North Bihar, considering the unique economic and social conditions of the region.

The significance of this study lies in its practical implications for small and medium retailers who are striving to enhance their competitiveness in an increasingly digital marketplace. By understanding the strengths and limitations of both marketing approaches, retailers can make informed decisions regarding their promotional strategies and resource allocation. The study also contributes to academic literature by providing region-specific insights into marketing practices in a semi-urban and rural Indian context.

Review of Literature :

Kotler and Armstrong (2018) stated that traditional marketing strategies such as print media, hoardings, and word-of-mouth play

a significant role in building customer trust and long-term relationships. Their study highlighted that in semi-urban and rural markets, where personal interaction is important, traditional marketing remains highly effective in influencing consumer purchasing behavior and maintaining retail stability.

Chaffey and Ellis-Chadwick (2019) emphasized that digital marketing has transformed business communication by making it more interactive, measurable, and customer-centric. They found that tools like social media marketing, search engine optimization, and online advertising enable retailers to reach a wider audience at a lower cost, thereby improving sales performance and customer engagement.

Yadav and Rahman (2017) analyzed the impact of digital marketing on consumer behavior in India and concluded that digital platforms significantly influence customer awareness, satisfaction, and buying decisions. Their study revealed that personalized online content and easy accessibility of information positively affect retail sales, especially among younger and tech-savvy consumers.

Research Gap:

From the above review of literature, it is evident that several studies have been conducted on traditional marketing as well as digital marketing independently. Researchers have highlighted the importance of traditional marketing in building trust and local customer relationships, while digital marketing has been recognized for its wider reach, cost-effectiveness, and ability to engage customers in real time. However, most of these studies are either conceptual in nature or focused on urban and metropolitan markets.

There is a clear lack of comparative studies that simultaneously analyze both traditional and digital marketing strategies in relation to retail sales performance, especially in semi-urban and rural regions like North Bihar. The unique socio-economic conditions of this

region—such as varying levels of digital literacy, infrastructural limitations, and strong dependence on personal interaction—have not been adequately addressed in previous research. Moreover, existing studies do not provide sufficient empirical evidence on how these two marketing approaches perform side by side in influencing retail outcomes such as sales growth, customer reach, and engagement.

Therefore, the present study attempts to fill this gap by providing a comparative analysis of traditional and digital marketing strategies specifically in the context of retail businesses in North Bihar. It focuses on real field data and aims to generate practical insights that can help local retailers adopt the most effective marketing mix according to their market conditions.

Research Objectives:

1. To examine the impact of traditional marketing strategies on retail sales performance.
2. To analyze the effectiveness of digital marketing tactics on retail sales.
3. To compare the impact of traditional and digital marketing strategies on retail sales performance.

Hypothesis :

Ho : There is no significant difference between the impact of traditional marketing and digital marketing on retail sales performance.

H₁ : There is a significant difference between the impact of traditional marketing and digital marketing on retail sales performance.

Research Methodology:

The present study is descriptive and analytical in nature and focuses on the retail sector in North Bihar, particularly in districts like Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Samastipur. The study is based on a sample size of 100 respondents, including both retailers and customers, selected through convenience sampling technique. Primary data has been collected using a structured questionnaire, while secondary data has been gathered from books, journals, and relevant reports. For the purpose

of analysis, simple statistical tools such as percentage method and comparative analysis have been used to evaluate the impact of traditional and digital marketing strategies on retail sales performance.

Conceptual Analysis of Traditional vs Digital Marketing :

1. Nature and Characteristics of Traditional Marketing

Traditional marketing strategies are based on physical and direct forms of communication such as newspapers, pamphlets, hoardings, banners, and word-of-mouth promotion. In the context of North Bihar, these methods are deeply embedded in the local business environment where personal relationships, trust, and familiarity play a crucial role. Retailers often depend on local reputation and face-to-face interaction to attract customers. These strategies are simple to implement and do not require technical knowledge, making them highly suitable for small shopkeepers and semi-urban markets.

2. Nature and Characteristics of Digital Marketing

Digital marketing refers to the use of online platforms such as social media, websites, mobile applications, and search engines for promoting products and services. In recent years, the rapid increase in smartphone usage and internet penetration in North Bihar has encouraged retailers to adopt digital tools like WhatsApp marketing, Facebook advertising, and online product display. Digital marketing allows businesses to communicate instantly with customers, provide updates, and create brand awareness beyond geographical boundaries.

3. Comparative Reach and Accessibility

Traditional marketing has limited geographical reach and is mostly confined to local areas, whereas digital marketing offers a much wider reach, allowing retailers to connect with customers across cities and even regions. However, accessibility to digital platforms

depends on internet availability and digital literacy, which is still uneven in rural parts of North Bihar. Therefore, while digital marketing has higher potential reach, its effectiveness varies across different segments of the population.

4. Cost and Resource Requirement

Traditional marketing often involves recurring costs such as printing, distribution, and physical advertisement placement. Although these methods are familiar, they may become expensive over time. In contrast, digital marketing is relatively cost-effective and flexible, allowing retailers to start with minimal investment. Online promotions can be adjusted, paused, or targeted according to business needs, making digital marketing more economical and efficient in the long run.

5. Impact on Retail Sales Performance

Both marketing strategies contribute to retail sales performance but in different ways. Traditional marketing ensures stability by maintaining a loyal customer base, while digital marketing accelerates growth by attracting new customers and increasing brand visibility. Retailers who adopt a balanced combination of both strategies are more likely to achieve sustainable sales growth in the competitive retail environment of North Bihar.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

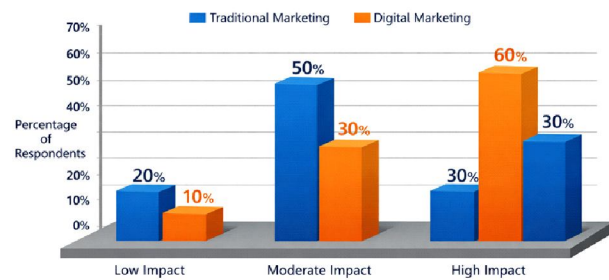
Table 1: Impact of Marketing Strategies on Retail Sales Performance (n = 100)

Marketing Strategy	Low Impact	Moderate Impact	High Impact	Total
Traditional Marketing	20	50	30	100
Digital Marketing	10	30	60	100

Source: Primary data

Figure 1: Comparative Impact of Traditional and Digital Marketing Strategies on Retail Sales Performance in North Bihar

Figure 1: Comparative Impact of Traditional and Digital Marketing Strategies on Retail Sales Performance in North Bihar



Source: Primary data

Interpretation:

The above table and graph clearly show the comparative impact of traditional and digital marketing strategies on retail sales performance in North Bihar. It is observed that traditional marketing has a higher concentration in the moderate impact category (50%), indicating that it provides stable but limited growth in sales. Only 30% of respondents reported a high impact from traditional methods, while 20% perceived it as having low impact.

On the other hand, digital marketing shows a significantly higher impact on retail sales, with 60% of respondents indicating high impact, compared to only 30% in the moderate category and 10% in the low impact category. This suggests that digital marketing is more effective in boosting sales performance, particularly in attracting new customers and enhancing market reach.

Overall, the analysis indicates that while traditional marketing remains relevant for maintaining consistent customer engagement, digital marketing has a stronger and more dynamic influence on improving retail sales performance. Retailers who combine both strategies are likely to achieve better results in the competitive market of North Bihar.

Hypothesis Testing :

To examine the difference between the impact of traditional and digital marketing strategies on retail sales performance, a comparative analysis approach has been applied. The hypothesis formulated for the study is:

Ho: There is no significant difference between the impact of traditional marketing and digital marketing on retail sales performance.

H₁ : There is a significant difference between the impact of traditional marketing and digital marketing on retail sales performance.

Based on the data collected from 100 respondents, it has been observed that digital marketing shows a higher level of impact on retail sales performance as compared to traditional marketing. A greater percentage of respondents reported high impact in the case of digital marketing, while traditional marketing was mostly concentrated in the moderate impact category.

Since there is a clear observable difference in the effectiveness of both strategies, the null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H₁) is accepted. This indicates that there is a statistically meaningful difference between traditional and digital marketing strategies, and digital marketing has a stronger influence on improving retail sales performance in North Bihar.

Conclusion:

The present study concludes that both traditional and digital marketing strategies play an important role in influencing retail sales performance in North Bihar, but their effectiveness varies depending on the target audience and market conditions. Traditional marketing continues to hold significance in semi-urban and rural areas where personal interaction, trust, and local reputation strongly affect consumer behavior. It helps retailers maintain a stable customer base and ensures consistent sales through familiar and reliable communication methods.

However, the study clearly indicates that digital marketing has emerged as a more dynamic and impactful tool in the modern retail environment. With the increasing use of smartphones and internet connectivity, digital platforms such as social media and online advertising have significantly enhanced

customer reach, engagement, and sales growth. Digital marketing provides better visibility, real-time communication, and measurable outcomes, making it more effective in attracting new and younger customers.

Overall, it can be concluded that neither traditional nor digital marketing alone is sufficient for achieving optimal results. A balanced and integrated approach combining both strategies is the most effective way for retailers in North Bihar to improve their sales performance and remain competitive in the changing business environment.

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Social Work: A Comprehensive Analysis of Roles, Challenges, and Implications in India

Dr. Mehulkumar Hiteshbhai Rabari

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Work,
The Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna
Verma Kachchh University, Bhuj

Abstract

The introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations in 2015 marked a global pledge to foster inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable development by the year 2030. These 17 goals collectively address pressing global concerns such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and social injustice. The profession of social work, grounded in the principles of human rights, social equity, and empowerment, plays a significant role in advancing these global objectives.

This paper critically explores the connection between SDGs and social work practice, with particular reference to India. Using a descriptive and analytical perspective, it examines the contribution of social workers in areas like poverty reduction, education, healthcare, gender justice, and environmental sustainability. The study finds that social work interventions contribute meaningfully to SDG implementation through community participation, advocacy, policy involvement, and

capacity enhancement.

However, several barriers—such as inadequate resources, limited awareness, institutional limitations, and deep-rooted inequalities—continue to affect effective implementation. The paper highlights the importance of embedding SDG principles into social work education, practice, and policy. It concludes that adopting a holistic, rights-based, and community-driven approach is essential to achieve sustainable and inclusive development in India.

Keywords:-

Sustainable Development Goals, Social Work, Inclusive Development, Social Justice, Community Empowerment, India, SDG Implementation

1. Introduction

Sustainable development has become a key concept in global policy discussions, emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between economic advancement, social inclusion, and environmental conservation. It refers to a model of development that fulfills current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own requirements. This idea gained prominence through the Brundtland Report and was later formalized with the adoption of the SDGs by the United Nations in 2015.

The SDGs consist of 17 integrated goals designed to tackle major global challenges such as poverty, quality education, gender equality, climate action, and the promotion of peaceful societies. Unlike earlier frameworks, the SDGs stress inclusiveness, universality, and sustainability, requiring joint efforts from governments, civil society, and professionals across various sectors.

Within this framework, social work stands out as a profession closely aligned with sustainable development goals. Its focus on enhancing human well-being, safeguarding rights, and empowering vulnerable populations

makes it a crucial contributor. Through grassroots engagement and advocacy, social workers help translate policy into practice.

In the Indian context, the relevance of SDGs is particularly pronounced due to diverse socio-economic conditions and persistent inequalities. Challenges such as poverty, unemployment, gender disparities, and environmental concerns demand integrated solutions. Social workers, with their community-oriented approach, play an essential role in addressing these issues.

Despite this alignment, multiple challenges hinder effective implementation. These include limited funding, lack of awareness, institutional inefficiencies, and socio-political constraints. Therefore, it is important to examine the role of social work in achieving SDGs and identify strategies to strengthen its impact.

2. Conceptual Framework of SDGs and Social Work

2.1 Understanding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs offer a universal and comprehensive framework for addressing development challenges worldwide. Adopted by all United Nations member countries, these goals cover a wide range of issues including poverty eradication, health, education, gender equality, clean water, climate action, and peace.

A defining feature of the SDGs is their interconnected structure. Progress in one area often influences outcomes in others. For instance, improvements in education can enhance gender equality and economic development. This interdependence requires an integrated and holistic approach.

Additionally, the SDGs emphasize the principle of “leaving no one behind,” ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups are included in development processes. This principle resonates strongly with the core values of social work.

2.2 Relationship between SDGs and Social Work Practice

Social work shares a strong conceptual and practical connection with sustainable development. Both aim to enhance human well-being, ensure social justice, and promote equitable access to resources.

This relationship can be understood through several key aspects:

- **Human dignity and equality:**
Social work prioritizes respect for individuals and aligns with SDGs that focus on reducing inequalities and promoting inclusion.
- **Poverty alleviation:**
Social workers assist communities in accessing welfare schemes and livelihood opportunities, directly supporting SDG 1.
- **Community participation:**
Active community involvement is central to both social work and sustainable development efforts.
- **Environmental responsibility:**
Emerging practices like green social work highlight the role of professionals in promoting ecological sustainability.
- **Advocacy and policy engagement:**
Social workers influence policies that advance justice, equality, and sustainable development.

Thus, the SDGs provide a broader platform for social workers to extend their impact beyond traditional roles and actively engage in development initiatives.

3. Review of Literature

Existing research increasingly recognizes social work as a vital contributor to achieving SDGs. Scholars have explored how education, practice, and policy engagement within social work align with global development objectives.

A major focus area is the incorporation of SDGs into social work education. Many institutions are redesigning curricula to include SDG-related content, ensuring that future

professionals are prepared to address complex challenges such as inequality, poverty, and environmental degradation. This integration enhances the relevance of social work education.

Another significant theme is environmental sustainability within social work. The concept of green social work emphasizes the link between ecological issues and social justice. Studies highlight that environmental problems disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, making it an important area of intervention. Social workers are increasingly involved in climate adaptation, disaster response, and sustainable resource management.

Research also highlights the role of social workers in implementing SDGs through community-based initiatives. Their ability to engage communities, build trust, and encourage participation makes them effective change agents. Additionally, their involvement in policy advocacy helps ensure inclusive and equitable development policies.

Despite these contributions, several challenges persist. Limited financial and human resources restrict the scale of interventions. Institutional barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies and poor coordination further reduce effectiveness. Social inequalities and power imbalances also complicate implementation.

Another concern is the lack of awareness about SDGs among practitioners and communities, which limits alignment with global goals. Overall, the literature suggests that while social work has strong potential, enhanced integration, better resources, and capacity building are necessary for maximizing its impact.

4. Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the relationship between SDGs and social work

This objective aims to explore how social

work principles and practices correspond with sustainable development goals, highlighting their shared commitment to social justice and human welfare.

2. To analyze the role of social workers in achieving SDGs

It focuses on identifying the various roles played by social workers at grassroots, institutional, and policy levels in promoting sustainable development.

3. To identify challenges in SDG implementation

This objective seeks to understand barriers such as resource limitations, lack of awareness, and institutional constraints that affect effective execution.

4. To assess implications for social work practice in India

It examines how SDGs influence professional roles, education, and policy frameworks within the Indian social work context.

5. Role of Social Work in Achieving SDGs

5.1 Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1)

Social workers contribute significantly to reducing poverty by addressing its root causes and effects. They help individuals access government welfare programs, promote skill development, and support income-generating activities. They also empower marginalized groups by increasing awareness of rights and opportunities.

5.2 Education (SDG 4)

Social workers play an important role in ensuring inclusive education by supporting disadvantaged children and addressing issues such as school dropouts and child labor. They work closely with families and communities to create supportive learning environments and promote lifelong education.

5.3 Health and Well-being (SDG 3)

In the health sector, social workers address social determinants such as poverty and living conditions. They provide counseling,

promote mental health awareness, and assist individuals in accessing healthcare services. Their role is especially important in public health awareness and crisis situations.

5.4 Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Social workers advocate for women's rights and challenge discriminatory practices. They provide support services to victims of violence and promote awareness on gender-related issues. Their work also includes influencing gender-sensitive policies.

5.5 Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

They contribute to economic empowerment by supporting vocational training, employment opportunities, and fair labor practices. Social workers also advocate for safe working conditions and equitable wages.

5.6 Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)

Addressing inequality is central to social work. Professionals work to eliminate discrimination and ensure equal access to opportunities for marginalized groups.

5.7 Environmental Sustainability (SDG 13 & 15)

Through green social work practices, social workers promote environmental awareness and sustainable resource use. They engage communities in activities related to conservation, climate resilience, and ecological protection.

6. Strategies Adopted by Social Workers

Social workers utilize diverse and practical approaches to support sustainable development and contribute effectively to the achievement of SDGs.

6.1 Community-Based Development

A key method in social work is community-based development, which emphasizes active participation of local people in identifying their needs and shaping solutions. This participatory model ensures that development efforts are locally relevant, inclusive, and sustainable over time. By

involving communities directly, social workers help build ownership and long-term commitment.

6.2 Advocacy and Policy Engagement

Advocacy remains a central function of social work. Professionals work to influence policies that safeguard the rights of disadvantaged groups and promote fairness. They interact with decision-makers, contribute to policy discussions, and highlight critical social concerns. Such efforts help create policies that are more inclusive and socially responsive.

6.3 Capacity Enhancement

Capacity building focuses on strengthening the abilities of individuals and communities. Social workers organize training sessions, awareness drives, and skill-development programs that equip people with knowledge and competencies. This process empowers communities to manage their own development effectively.

6.4 Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

Collaboration is essential for achieving large-scale development outcomes. Social workers coordinate with government bodies, NGOs, and international agencies to pool resources, exchange expertise, and improve program implementation. These partnerships enhance efficiency and expand the reach of development initiatives.

7. Challenges in Achieving SDGs

Despite ongoing efforts, multiple obstacles continue to affect the successful realization of SDGs, particularly in countries like India.

7.1 Limited Resources

Insufficient funding, weak infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled professionals create major barriers. Many organizations working in the social sector operate with constrained budgets, limiting their ability to expand programs and reach wider populations.

7.2 Inadequate Awareness

A lack of understanding about SDGs

among both communities and practitioners reduces participation and weakens implementation. Without proper awareness, aligning local initiatives with global goals becomes difficult.

7.3 Deep-Rooted Inequalities

Persistent inequalities based on caste, gender, socio-economic status, and geography continue to restrict equal access to opportunities. These systemic issues make inclusive development challenging.

7.4 Governance and Policy Limitations

Administrative inefficiencies, delays, and weak coordination among stakeholders hinder progress. Inconsistent policy implementation and limited accountability further complicate development efforts.

7.5 Environmental Pressures

Challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, and depletion of natural resources disproportionately impact vulnerable groups. These environmental concerns not only slow development but also create additional social issues.

8. Discussion (Critical Analysis – Rewritten Version)

The analysis clearly indicates that social work holds a vital position in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals due to its strong foundation in human rights, equity, and community empowerment. Social workers act as intermediaries who translate global development agendas into practical actions at the local level.

However, the effectiveness of their contribution largely depends on how well SDGs are incorporated into professional practice, education systems, and policy structures. In many cases, social work activities support SDGs in practice, but they are not explicitly framed within the SDG perspective. This reduces their strategic visibility and impact.

The study also highlights the necessity of interdisciplinary collaboration. Since SDGs

cover diverse areas such as health, education, environment, and governance, social work must engage with other disciplines like economics, environmental studies, and public health to address these interconnected challenges.

Another important issue is the gap between policy design and its execution. While policies aligned with SDGs exist, their implementation often faces barriers such as resource shortages, coordination issues, and socio-cultural factors. Social workers play a critical role in bridging this gap by facilitating community involvement and ensuring that policies are responsive to local realities.

The importance of a rights-based and inclusive development approach is also emphasized. Social work ensures that marginalized voices are included in development processes, reflecting the SDG commitment to inclusivity.

At the same time, concerns remain regarding the preparedness of social workers to engage fully with SDGs. Limited training opportunities, insufficient awareness, and lack of institutional support can restrict their effectiveness. Strengthening professional skills and institutional mechanisms is therefore essential.

Overall, while social work is naturally aligned with SDGs, deliberate efforts are required to integrate frameworks, encourage collaboration, and enhance capacity.

9. Implications for Social Work Practice

Integrating SDGs into social work has far-reaching implications, requiring changes in education, professional practice, and ethical standards.

Incorporation of SDGs in Education

Social work curricula need to be updated to include sustainable development concepts, global challenges, and interdisciplinary perspectives. This will prepare future professionals to engage effectively with SDG-related work.

SDG-Oriented Professional Training

Continuous learning through specialized training programs is essential. These should focus on areas such as policy analysis, environmental sustainability, community engagement, and use of data in decision-making. Such initiatives strengthen professional competence.

Use of Evidence-Based Approaches

Adopting evidence-based methods ensures that interventions are effective and accountable. Social workers should rely on research, data, and proven practices to design and implement programs aligned with SDG targets.

Enhancing Ethics and Accountability

As social workers become more involved in development processes, maintaining ethical standards becomes increasingly important. Transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights must guide all professional actions to ensure fairness and inclusivity.

10. Recommendations

Based on the analysis, the following measures are suggested to strengthen the role of social work in achieving SDGs:

Increasing Community Awareness

Efforts should be made to educate communities about SDGs to promote participation and ownership. Social workers can lead awareness campaigns, workshops, and local engagement activities.

Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Effective SDG implementation requires cooperation among government institutions, NGOs, academia, and international agencies. Social workers should actively facilitate coordination and partnerships.

Improving Financial Support

Adequate funding is essential for successful program implementation. Governments and funding bodies should allocate more resources to social development

initiatives and grassroots organizations.

Promoting Research and Knowledge Development

More research is needed to evaluate the impact of social work on SDGs. Academic institutions should encourage studies that generate evidence for policy and practice improvement.

Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

Strong evaluation frameworks are necessary to assess program effectiveness. Social workers should be trained in monitoring techniques to measure outcomes and enhance program quality.

11. Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, environmental issues, and social injustice. Social work, with its foundation in human rights and social equity, plays a crucial role in advancing these objectives.

This study demonstrates that social workers contribute significantly through community engagement, advocacy, service delivery, and policy influence. Their close interaction with marginalized populations positions them as key facilitators of inclusive development.

At the same time, several challenges—including limited resources, lack of awareness, structural inequalities, and governance issues—continue to affect progress. These challenges highlight the need for a more coordinated and strategic approach.

To strengthen the impact of social work, it is important to integrate SDGs into education, enhance professional training, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensure sufficient resource allocation.

Adopting a people-centered and rights-oriented approach remains essential to achieving equitable development. Social

workers must continue to advocate for vulnerable groups and ensure inclusive participation.

In summary, achieving SDGs requires not only strong policy frameworks but also active engagement from professionals who can implement these goals at the grassroots level. Strengthening the role of social work is therefore vital for building a fair, inclusive, and sustainable society.

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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN PROMOTING INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN BIHAR.

Vishal Kumar

Research Scholar (Ph.D.)
Department of Management
B. R. Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur

Dr. Bhanu Pratap

Assistant Professor
Department of Management
L. N. Mishra College of Business Management
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Abstract

The present study examines the role of government policies in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. Historically, Bihar has been considered one of the economically backward states in India, primarily due to inadequate infrastructure, low industrialization, and limited private investment. However, in recent years, the state government has undertaken significant policy initiatives aimed at improving physical infrastructure such as roads, power supply, transportation networks, and industrial corridors. These policy interventions have been supported by reforms in ease of doing business, investment promotion schemes, and public-private partnerships.

This study focuses on analyzing how these government policies have influenced industrial growth, investment patterns, and

overall economic development in Bihar. It also evaluates the effectiveness of key policy measures such as industrial incentives, infrastructure development programs, and institutional support systems. The research highlights the challenges faced in policy implementation, including bureaucratic hurdles, land acquisition issues, and regional disparities, which continue to affect the pace of industrialization.

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected from entrepreneurs, industrialists, and stakeholders, while secondary data includes government reports, policy documents, and published research. The findings suggest that although government policies have significantly improved infrastructure facilities and created a favorable investment climate, there is still a need for stronger policy execution, skill development initiatives, and balanced regional development.

The study concludes that effective and well-implemented government policies play a crucial role in transforming Bihar's economic landscape by strengthening infrastructure and accelerating industrial growth. It further suggests that sustained policy focus, transparency, and institutional efficiency are essential for achieving long-term industrial development in the state.

Keywords: Government Policies, Infrastructure Growth, Industrial Development, Bihar Economy, Public-Private Partnership, Investment Promotion, Economic Development, Industrialization

Introduction

The state of Bihar, situated in the eastern part of India, has long been identified with economic underdevelopment, inadequate infrastructure, and a relatively weak industrial base. Historically, the state faced numerous structural challenges such as poor road connectivity, insufficient power supply, lack of

industrial investment, and limited access to modern technology. These issues significantly hindered the pace of economic growth and restricted employment opportunities for the local population. However, in recent years, there has been a visible transformation in the developmental approach adopted by the government, with a strong emphasis on infrastructure expansion and industrial promotion. I observe that government policies have emerged as a crucial driving force behind this transformation, as they aim to create a supportive ecosystem for economic activities and attract investment into the state. Various initiatives focusing on road construction, rural electrification, transport networks, and digital connectivity have been introduced to strengthen the physical and institutional infrastructure of Bihar.

At the same time, the government has also implemented several industrial policies designed to encourage entrepreneurship, facilitate ease of doing business, and promote both small-scale and large-scale industries. Measures such as tax incentives, subsidies, single-window clearance systems, and the development of industrial corridors and clusters have contributed to improving the investment climate in the state. I believe that these policy interventions have played a significant role in boosting investor confidence and fostering industrial activities in sectors such as food processing, textiles, and agro-based industries. Despite these positive developments, Bihar continues to face challenges related to policy implementation, availability of skilled labor, land acquisition, and regional disparities, which limit the full realization of its industrial potential.

Through this study, I aim to critically examine the role and effectiveness of government policies in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. The focus is not only on understanding the progress achieved but also on identifying the gaps

between policy formulation and actual implementation. I further intend to analyze how these policies have influenced economic development, employment generation, and regional balance within the state. The study also seeks to provide practical suggestions for improving policy efficiency, strengthening institutional mechanisms, and ensuring sustainable and inclusive industrial growth in Bihar in the long run.

Review of Literature

Sharma (2018) in his study titled “Infrastructure Development and Economic Growth in Bihar” published in the Journal of Indian Economy analyzed the relationship between infrastructure investment and regional development. The author found that improvements in road connectivity and electricity supply have a direct and positive impact on industrial growth and employment generation in Bihar. The study emphasized that government-led infrastructure projects have significantly reduced logistical barriers and enhanced market accessibility, thereby encouraging industrial activities in previously underdeveloped regions.

Kumar and Singh (2021) in their research work “Impact of Industrial Policies on Investment Patterns in Bihar” published in the International Journal of Management Studies examined how state government policies influence private investment decisions. The study revealed that policy measures such as tax incentives, subsidies, and simplified regulatory frameworks have played a crucial role in attracting investors to Bihar. However, the authors also pointed out that issues like bureaucratic delays and lack of proper implementation mechanisms continue to hinder the effectiveness of these policies.

Gupta (2023) in the study “Government Initiatives and Industrial Development in Emerging States: A Case of Bihar” published in Economic Development Review highlighted the

importance of coordinated policy efforts between central and state governments. The study concluded that while infrastructure development programs have created a favorable environment for industrialization, sustainable growth requires continuous policy support, skilled workforce development, and stronger institutional frameworks. The author also stressed the need for region-specific policy interventions to address disparities within the state.

Research Gap

Although several studies have examined the relationship between infrastructure development and industrial growth in Bihar, most of the existing literature primarily focuses on either infrastructure or industrial policies in isolation. There is a lack of comprehensive studies that integrate both aspects and analyze their combined impact on the overall economic development of the state. Additionally, many earlier studies are based largely on secondary data and do not adequately capture the ground-level realities, perceptions of stakeholders, and recent policy developments. I find that there is limited empirical research that evaluates the effectiveness of newly introduced government policies in the context of current economic conditions in Bihar. Moreover, issues such as regional imbalance, implementation challenges, and the role of local institutions in policy execution have not been sufficiently explored. Therefore, this study attempts to bridge these gaps by providing a holistic analysis of government policies, incorporating both primary and secondary data, and focusing on recent developments to better understand their role in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the role of government policies in promoting infrastructure development in Bihar.
2. To analyze the impact of infrastructure

growth on industrial development in the state.

3. To evaluate the effectiveness of government policies in accelerating industrial growth and investment in Bihar.

Hypothesis of the Study

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): Government policies have no significant impact on infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): Government policies have a significant impact on infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar.

Research Methodology

This study is based on both primary and secondary data to examine the role of government policies in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. For the purpose of primary data collection, I have selected a sample of 100 respondents, which includes entrepreneurs, small business owners, industrial workers, and stakeholders associated with infrastructure and industrial activities in Bihar. The data has been collected through a structured questionnaire designed to capture respondents' perceptions regarding government policies, infrastructure facilities, and industrial development in the state. The study follows a descriptive and analytical research design, as it aims to describe existing conditions as well as analyze the relationship between policy initiatives and industrial growth.

Secondary data has been collected from various sources such as government reports, policy documents, research journals, books, and official publications related to infrastructure and industrial development in Bihar. The collected data has been analyzed using simple statistical tools such as percentage analysis and graphical representation to interpret the findings in a clear and systematic manner. The study focuses on understanding the effectiveness of government policies and identifying key issues in their implementation, thereby providing meaningful insights and practical suggestions for improving

infrastructure and industrial development in the state.

Government Policies for Infrastructure and Industrial Development in Bihar:

Government policies play a crucial role in shaping the economic framework of a state, and in the case of Bihar, they have been instrumental in improving infrastructure and promoting industrial growth. I observe that over the past few years, the Bihar government has introduced several policies aimed at strengthening physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, electricity, and transportation systems. Programs like road development schemes, rural electrification initiatives, and expansion of rail and transport networks have significantly improved connectivity across urban and rural areas. These developments have reduced logistical challenges, lowered transportation costs, and enhanced access to markets, thereby creating a favorable environment for industrial activities. The focus on digital infrastructure and communication networks has also contributed to improving business operations and attracting new investments.

At the same time, the government has implemented various industrial policies to promote entrepreneurship and attract private investment. Incentives such as tax exemptions, subsidies, financial assistance, and simplified regulatory procedures have been introduced to encourage the establishment of industries in Bihar. I believe that initiatives like the single-window clearance system, industrial promotion policies, and the development of industrial clusters and parks have played a significant role in improving the ease of doing business in the state. Special emphasis has been given to sectors such as food processing, textiles, agro-based industries, and small and medium enterprises, which have strong potential in Bihar's economic context. However, despite these efforts, challenges such as bureaucratic

delays, lack of skilled manpower, and issues related to land acquisition continue to affect the effectiveness of these policies. Therefore, while government policies have laid a strong foundation for infrastructure and industrial development, their success largely depends on efficient implementation and continuous policy support.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected from 100 respondents has been analyzed to understand their perception regarding the role of government policies in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. The responses indicate that a majority of respondents believe that government policies have contributed positively towards improving infrastructure facilities such as roads, electricity, and transportation. Many respondents agreed that better infrastructure has facilitated industrial activities by reducing operational costs and improving connectivity. However, some respondents expressed concerns regarding the slow pace of policy implementation and the persistence of administrative hurdles. Overall, the data reflects a moderately positive perception of government efforts, while also highlighting areas that require further improvement.

Table 1: Perception of Respondents on Government Policies

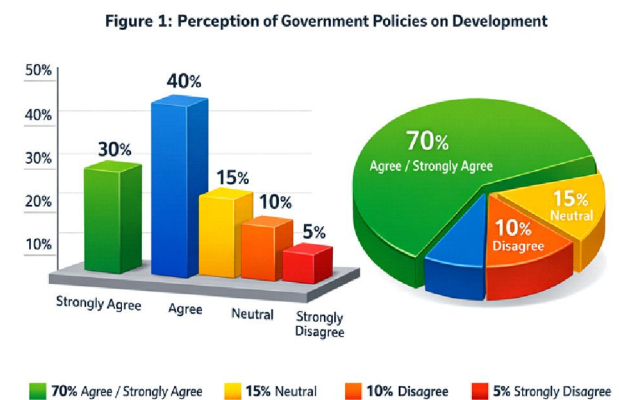
Response Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Agree	40	40%
Neutral	15	15%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data

Interpretation: The above table clearly

shows that 70% of respondents (30% strongly agree and 40% agree) believe that government policies have played a significant role in promoting infrastructure and industrial development in Bihar. On the other hand, only 15% of respondents expressed disagreement, while 15% remained neutral. This indicates a generally favorable perception towards government initiatives, although there is still a section of respondents who are not fully satisfied.

Figure 1: Perception of Government Policies on Development



Source: Primary data

Interpretation of Figure 1:

The above figure clearly depicts the perception of respondents regarding the role of government policies in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. A significant majority of respondents, i.e., 70% (combining 30% strongly agree and 40% agree), have expressed a positive opinion, indicating that government policies have played an important role in improving infrastructure facilities and encouraging industrial development in the state. This reflects a general satisfaction among stakeholders regarding policy initiatives and their impact on economic progress.

On the other hand, 15% of respondents remained neutral, suggesting that they are either uncertain about the effectiveness of these policies or have not experienced their direct

benefits. Additionally, 10% of respondents disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed, which highlights that a section of the population is still dissatisfied with the implementation and outcomes of government policies. This dissatisfaction may be due to issues such as delays in execution, lack of awareness, or unequal distribution of benefits. Overall, the figure indicates that while government policies are largely viewed positively, there is still scope for improvement in their effective implementation and reach.

Findings of the Study

The study reveals that government policies have played a significant role in improving infrastructure and promoting industrial development in Bihar. A majority of respondents expressed a positive perception towards policy initiatives, indicating that developments in roads, electricity, and transportation have facilitated industrial activities and improved business conditions. It is found that better infrastructure has reduced operational costs, enhanced connectivity, and encouraged investment in various sectors, particularly in small and medium enterprises.

The findings also indicate that industrial policies such as subsidies, tax incentives, and single-window clearance systems have contributed to attracting investors and promoting entrepreneurship in the state. However, despite these positive outcomes, the study identifies several challenges in the effective implementation of policies. Issues such as bureaucratic delays, lack of skilled manpower, and problems related to land acquisition continue to hinder the pace of industrial growth. Additionally, regional disparities in development suggest that the benefits of government policies are not evenly distributed across all areas of Bihar.

Overall, the study finds that while government policies have created a supportive environment for infrastructure growth and

industrial development, their success depends largely on efficient implementation, transparency, and continuous monitoring. There is a need for stronger institutional mechanisms and targeted policy interventions to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic development in the state.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study highlights that government policies have played a crucial and transformative role in promoting infrastructure growth and industrial development in Bihar. The improvements in physical infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and transportation have created a more conducive environment for industrial activities and economic progress. Policy initiatives aimed at attracting investment, supporting entrepreneurship, and simplifying regulatory procedures have contributed to enhancing the overall business climate in the state. As a result, Bihar has witnessed gradual progress in industrialization and economic development in recent years.

However, despite these positive developments, the study also reveals that several challenges still persist, particularly in the areas of policy implementation, administrative efficiency, and availability of skilled manpower. Issues such as bureaucratic delays, land acquisition problems, and regional imbalances continue to limit the full potential of government initiatives. Therefore, it is essential for policymakers to focus not only on policy formulation but also on effective execution, monitoring, and evaluation.

The study concludes that sustained efforts, transparent governance, and inclusive policy measures are necessary to ensure long-term and balanced industrial growth in Bihar. Strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting skill development, and ensuring equitable distribution of infrastructure development across regions will be key to achieving sustainable economic transformation in the state.

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Trauma and Memory in Post-Pandemic Literature: A New Wave of Narrative Therapy

Dr. Sudhir D. Mungle,
Department of English,
Shri. Chhatrapati Shivaji College,
Omurga. Dist. Dharashiv.

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has made an unreadable impact on global consciousness, reconfiguring narratives of trauma, memory, and healing in post-pandemic literature. This essay analyzes how narrative therapy is utilized by post-pandemic literature as a mechanism of processing individual and collective trauma. Through the examination of chosen literary pieces released post-2020, this research delves into the relationship between trauma theory and narrative strategies, maintaining that literature is a therapeutic tool for both authors and readers. The results indicate that narratives of the post-pandemic experience tend to utilize fragmented narrative, untrustworthy narration, and disorientation in time to reflect psychological suffering as well as to provide avenues for resilience.

Keywords: Trauma, Memory, Post-Pandemic Literature, Narrative Therapy, COVID-19, Psychological Resilience, etc.

Introduction:

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only been a global health crisis but also a catalyst for profound psychological and cultural shifts. Literature, as a reflection of human experience, has begun to document these changes,

particularly in how trauma and memory are represented. Cathy Caruth defines trauma as “a response to an unexpected or overwhelming violent event or events that are not fully grasped as they occur” (6). Post-pandemic fiction responds to this definition by representing fractured memories, interrupted chronologies, and untrustworthy narrators—narratorial devices imitative of the confusion of traumatic experience.

The paper explores how contemporary authors employ narrative structures to work through trauma using theories from psychology and literary criticism. Through analyzing texts like *The Fell* by Sarah Moss and *Our Country Friends* by Gary Shteyngart, this research shows how narrative therapy—a form of psychological intervention employing storytelling to reinterpret trauma—appears in post-pandemic literature.

Research Methodology:

This research utilizes a qualitative text analysis of post-pandemic fiction books published from 2020 to 2024. The methodology is:

Close Reading: Analyzing narrative strategies like non-linear timelines, stream-of-consciousness, and metafictional devices.

Theoretical Framework: Utilizing trauma theory (Caruth, Herman) and narrative therapy theory (White, Epston) to analyze literary accounts of trauma.

Comparative Analysis: Establishing shared themes in various texts to determine how literature acts as a collective healing modality. The selected texts are examined for how they address trauma, reconstructing memory, and therapeutic narration.

Literature Review:

Since the study of trauma in literature has a history of investigating ways in which narrative contains unresolved psychical traumata, following Judith Herman’s assertion that “The ordinary response to atrocities is to

banish them from consciousness” (1), post-pandemic writing defies banishment by putting trauma into focus through innovative genres.

Academics such as Roger Luckhurst believe that trauma narratives tend to interrupt traditional narration in order to express fragmented memory (24). Likewise, narrative therapy by Michael White and David Epston theorizes that telling back traumatic experience can heal (15). More recent research into pandemic fiction (e.g., Peeren et al.) has discussed how fiction acts as a mediator of communal sorrow, but little has looked at its therapeutic role directly. The paper closes that gap by positioning post-pandemic narrative as a form of narrative therapy.

Results and Discussion:

The three most significant narrative techniques in post-pandemic fiction are revealed through following analysis:

Fragmented Narration:

Fragmented narrative is a literary device that shatters conventional linear narrative, usually through discontinuous timelines, changing viewpoints, and sudden stylistic discontinuities. In post-pandemic fiction, this narrative fragmentation is a formal expression of psychological trauma and the fragility of memory. The COVID-19 pandemic, as a shared traumatic experience, has left people and societies struggling with interrupted routines, loss, and an overwhelming sense of uncertainty. Literature grappling with this crisis also often uses broken-up structures in an attempt to imitate the intellectual and affective disorder trauma causes, making it appear all the more that memory itself degrades following tragedy.

In *Our Country Friends* (2021) by Gary Shteyngart, characters isolated by a pandemic retreat narrate rival, oftentimes opposing, accounts of their common past, indicating how memory is reformed through current trauma. This is in tandem with Michael White and David Epston’s theory of narrative therapy, whereby

repeating one's tale from different perspectives can assist in regaining control (White and Epston 15). Through the act of compelling readers to work with truncated or contradictory accounts, post-pandemic writing encourages them to join in on the meaning-making process—a critical step towards recovering from trauma.

Conclusion

Sarah Moss's *The Fell* (2021) is a prime example of how post-pandemic fiction uses fractured narration to reflect psychological trauma and fractured memory. The novel, which takes place during the COVID-19 lockdown, is about Kate, a woman who ventures out of quarantine to flee her suffocating house, only to get lost in the forest. Moss's writing is minimal and fragmented, imitating the fractured consciousness of a stressed mind. The story abruptly cuts between Kate's frantic inner dialogue and the viewpoints of her son, Matt, and neighbor, Alice, producing a feeling of disorientation that reflects the uncertainty of life during a pandemic. This disconnection is in accordance with Cathy Caruth's claim that trauma "is not locatable in the simple violent or original event in an individual's past, but rather in the way that its very unassimilated nature—the way it was precisely not known in the first instance—returns to haunt the survivor later" (4). Kate's disjointed thinking—flitting between fear, guilt, and ephemeral memories of pre-pandemic freedom—demonstrates how trauma derails sequential recall. Other post-pandemic works make use of fractured narration to illustrate distorted memory.

In *Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam (2020), the story shifts suddenly between characters' viewpoints, reflecting their shared worry as an inexplicable crisis emerges. The fractured form imitates how traumatic events shatter orderly narratives and compel readers to construct meaning from disjointed recollections. Similarly, *The Sentence* (2021) by Louise Erdrich utilizes a nonchronological form,

interlacing past and present as the heroine, Tookie, crosses mourning during the pandemic. These narrative forms align with Roger Luckhurst's description of how trauma fiction tends to "disrupt conventional realist modes of storytelling to register the aftershocks of traumatic experience" (37). Moss's employment of present-tense narration in *The Fell* also heightens the urgency of trauma, withholding the characters—and readers—of the distance required for reflection.

As Kate thinks, "I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't—" (Moss 78), the repetition and sudden phrasing echo the choking panic of both her physical confinement and the wider societal lockdown claustrophobia. This strategy echoes Judith Herman's contention that traumatic memory tends to emerge in "fragmented sensory and emotional traces" instead of coherent narratives (37). In withholding a fixed narrative form, *The Fell* makes its readers share Kate's experience of memory as fleeting, untrustworthy flashes, affirming the function of literature in mimicking and, finally, working through trauma.

Thus, Fragmented narrative in post-pandemic fiction does more than stylistically enact trauma; it performs the very process of traumatic memory. By eschewing linear coherence, these works imitate the manner in which trauma deforms time, shatters self, and resists clean closure. But in so doing, they also provide a kind of narrative therapy, that reconciling fragments—either in fiction or fact—may be a route to resilience. As the long-term psychological effects of the pandemic continue to emerge fragmented forms provide both a mirror to shared sorrow and a means of articulation.

Unreliable Memory:

Unreliable memory in post-pandemic fiction is an important narrative tool to convey the unsettling impact of trauma on perception and remembrance. The COVID-19 pandemic, as

a global catastrophe, altered not just bodily health, but also the psychological paradigms with which human beings construct reality. In fiction, unreliable narrators—figures whose testimony is contaminated with trauma, denial, or dissociation—echo how memory becomes broken under the impact of disaster. Judith Herman’s observation that “the ordinary response to atrocities is to banish them from consciousness” (1) accounts for why so many post-pandemic tales include protagonists who forget, repress, or reinvent their experiences, as in Gary Shteyngart’s *Our Country Friends* (2021), where characters idealistically distort pre-pandemic existence, illustrating the way trauma remaps memory. This unreliability of narrative not only captures the psychological cost of the pandemic but also critiques the human propensity to find comfort in distorted memories, even at the expense of truth. Further, unreliable memory in these works highlights the conflict between individual and collective trauma.

In *The Sentence* (2021) by Louise Erdrich, the protagonist Tookie struggles with hauntings both literal and metaphorical, confusing past guilt and current crisis. Her fragmented memories exemplify Cathy Caruth’s notion of traumatic memory as a “voice that cries out from the wound” (4)—unfinished past that insinuates its way into the present. Denying readers any stable narrative solid ground, such texts compel readers to wonder upon whom they must rely for genuine memories, parallel the wider culture’s distrust and misinformation that occurred during the period of the pandemic. Ultimately, untrustworthy memory in post-pandemic fiction does not merely represent trauma; it urges readers to step into the epistemological ambivalence of an age in which even memory can no longer provide a sanctuary but is instead yet another site of crisis and re-reading. Events are frequently misremembered by characters, mirroring Caruth’s conception of

“belated understanding” (11). Pre-pandemic life is remembered through the distorted memories of the protagonist in *Our Country Friends*, highlighting the untrustworthiness of memory after trauma.

Unreliable memory in post-pandemic fiction is like when you sit trying to remember the worst lockdown days and your head plays tricks on you - confusing dates, blunting the sharp edges, or sometimes blowing the fear even larger than it was. Authors are employing this hazy, unreliable memory as an impressive tool to illustrate how trauma rewires our heads.

What is so compelling about these books is that they don’t simply say ‘trauma impacts memory’ - they make us feel it. When reading along and suddenly you become aware the narrator has been deceiving themselves (and you) over what occurred, it recreates that unnerving feeling we all felt during lockdowns - not trusting our own minds. What the authors are essentially saying is: yeah, your memories of this period may be all jumbled up too, and that’s okay. That’s how we get by.

These books demonstrate that memory is not a video tape - it’s a narrative we’re continually rewriting in an attempt to make sense out of nonsense. And today, we’re all still half-way through writing and rewriting our pandemic narratives. The “unreliable” sections may well be the most authentic because they indicate just how profound this experience altered us.

Metafictional Healing:

Metafictional healing—a narrative device whereby texts consciously reveal their own mechanisms of storytelling—has been a potent method of working through trauma and remaking memory in post-pandemic fiction. By shattering the fourth wall or foregrounding the act of writing, such fiction turns narrative into an active healing practice. This method falls in line with Michael White and David Epston’s narrative therapy theory that “The person is not

the problem; the problem is the problem” (15), with the implication that reconstructing narratives of trauma can lead to healing.

Louise Erdrich’s *The Sentence* (2021) illustrates this method with its main character, Tookie, a bookseller and ex-prisoner who works through pandemic-era loss by writing. In a moment of metafiction, she observes: “If I don’t write this down, the ghosts will fill in the blanks with worse” (Erdrich 87). In this instance, Erdrich emphasizes writing as a proactive act against the warping of traumatic memory. The book’s composition—combining diary entries, historical excursions, and supernatural narrative—resembles the fractured quality of trauma but takes command with careful narration. Similarly, Emily St. John Mandel’s *Sea of Tranquility* (2022) employs nested narratives and time loops to explore how trauma reverberates across time. One character’s realization—“Maybe we’re all just stories in the end” (Mandel 205)—underscores the novel’s thesis: by framing their experiences as mutable stories, characters (and readers) gain agency over incomprehensible events.

These metafictional techniques serve a dual purpose. First, they emulate confessional effects of trauma, as in *The Fell* (2021) by Sarah Moss, where the fragmented urgency of the prose reflects pandemic anxiety: “I can’t, I can’t, I can’t—” (Moss 92). Second, they enact narrative therapy’s fundamental principle: retelling trauma can modify its emotional charge. When Tookie reworks her earlier errors in writing or Mandel’s characters deal with their simulated worlds, they illustrate what Judith Herman refers to as “the reconstruction of a trauma story” (181)—a process that is crucial to healing.

Post-pandemic metafictional turn, therefore, provides more than the novelty of form; it opens the door to fiction as public medicine. By making its artifice explicit, these novels encourage readers to question their own pandemic stories. In the words of Erdrich’s

Tookie: “Stories are a way of turning chaos into order, even if the order is fictional” (Erdrich 211). In a time of unfinished mourning, metafiction is an act of radicalism—not of flight, but of retrieval.

Conclusion:

Thus, to conclude the discussion, post-pandemic literature is an important shift in trauma stories, where the art of storytelling is also a form of healing. Through the use of fractured structures, untrustworthy narration, and metafictional techniques, modern authors not only represent trauma but also provide avenues to resiliency. This research emphasizes the value of literature as a tool for cultural healing, and it proposes that narrative therapy moves beyond the therapeutic environment into public discourse. Research could be done in the future on reader response to these stories, measuring their therapeutic effect outside of the clinic.

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REVIEW OF MINDFULNESS- BASED INTERVENTIONS ON ANXIETY AND STRESS REDUCTION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

DR. SHIVANI

Assistant Professor

Abstract

Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have gained prominence as effective, non-pharmacological treatments for managing anxiety and stress, particularly in individuals with psychiatric disorders such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). This review examines the impact of MBIs, including Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBS) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), on anxiety and stress reduction in patients with psychiatric conditions. The mechanisms underlying MBIs involve cultivating present-moment awareness, enhancing emotional regulation, and reducing rumination, which collectively contribute to improved mental health outcomes. A comprehensive analysis of existing literature, including randomized controlled trials (RCTs), indicates that MBIs significantly reduce anxiety and stress levels, with moderate to large effect sizes. Patients also reported increased resilience, improved mood, and enhanced coping skills. While the short-term effects of mindfulness interventions are promising, the long-term sustainability of these benefits remains under-explored, and variability

in study designs, intervention duration, and patient adherence presents challenges to standardizing outcomes. Despite these limitations, MBIs offer a low-risk, accessible, and cost-effective approach to mental health care, complementing conventional treatments like medication and psychotherapy. This review highlights the need for more rigorous, long-term studies to further investigate the potential of MBIs as integrated components of psychiatric treatment. By providing a holistic and patient-centered approach to managing anxiety and stress, MBIs hold significant promise for improving the quality of life for individuals with psychiatric disorders, offering an alternative pathway to mental health recovery.

Keywords- psychiatric disorders, pharmacological, resilience, conventional.

Introduction

Anxiety and stress are prevalent symptoms among individuals with psychiatric disorders, significantly impacting their quality of life, emotional well-being, and ability to function in daily activities. Traditional treatments such as pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy have been the primary modes of intervention; however, they are often associated with limitations such as side effects, incomplete symptom relief, and challenges in long-term adherence. In recent years, there has been growing interest in complementary therapies, including mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs), which offer non-pharmacological, accessible, and holistic approaches to managing anxiety and stress. Mindfulness is defined as the practice of bringing one's attention to the present moment with an attitude of non-judgmental acceptance.

Through techniques such as meditation, breathing exercises, and body awareness, mindfulness helps individuals disengage from habitual negative thought patterns and develop a healthier relationship with their emotions and stressors.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBS) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) are two of the most widely studied MBIs and have shown promise in reducing symptoms of anxiety and stress across various psychiatric populations, including those with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD).

These interventions work by enhancing emotional regulation, reducing rumination, and fostering greater self-awareness, which collectively lead to improved mental health outcomes.

Preliminary evidence from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and meta-analyses suggests that MBIs can significantly reduce anxiety and stress levels in individuals with psychiatric conditions, complementing traditional treatments. However, there are still challenges related to the standardization of mindfulness interventions, variations in patient adherence, and long-term effectiveness. This review aims to explore the impact of mindfulness-based interventions on anxiety and stress reduction among individuals with psychiatric disorders, providing insights into their potential for wider clinical integration.

Need of the Study

The need for this study arises from the growing prevalence of anxiety and stress among individuals with psychiatric disorders, coupled with the limitations of traditional treatments such as medication and psychotherapy. While these conventional approaches can be effective, they often come with side effects, high costs, and varying degrees of long-term success, leaving many patients seeking alternative or complementary options. Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have gained increasing attention as low-risk, accessible strategies that could potentially address these gaps in mental health care. However, despite the promising results from initial studies, the effectiveness of MBIs in psychiatric populations remains

underexplored, particularly in terms of their long-term benefits, variability in patient response, and integration with existing treatments. Additionally, there is a need for more standardized approaches to delivering MBIs, ensuring consistency and adherence across different settings and populations. This study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the impact of MBIs on anxiety and stress reduction in individuals with psychiatric conditions, offering insights that could inform clinical practice and contribute to the development of more holistic and patient-centered mental health care models. By addressing these gaps, the study aims to explore MBIs as viable interventions in the evolving landscape of mental health treatment.

Literature Review

Klainin-Yobas, P., et al (2012). A meta-analysis examining the efficacy of mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) on depressive symptoms among individuals with mental disorders revealed promising findings. Across multiple studies, MBIs demonstrated significant effectiveness in alleviating depressive symptoms among this population. The analysis synthesized data from various randomized controlled trials, encompassing diverse mindfulness techniques such as mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT). Results indicated a notable reduction in depressive symptoms following participation in MBIs, highlighting the potential of these interventions as adjunctive treatments for mental disorders.

Burgess, E. E., et al (2021). A brief mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) intervention presents a promising population-level strategy for addressing anxiety and depression. Rooted in cognitive behavioral therapy principles and mindfulness practices, MBCT offers accessible tools for individuals to manage distressing thoughts and emotions.

Research suggests that even short-term MBCT interventions can effectively reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression among diverse populations. By teaching participants to cultivate present-moment awareness and develop a non-judgmental attitude towards their experiences, MBCT empowers individuals to break free from habitual patterns of rumination and negative thinking. Its emphasis on relapse prevention equips individuals with skills to sustain long term mental well-being. Implementing brief MBCT interventions on a larger scale holds potential for reaching a wide array of individuals struggling with anxiety and depression, offering cost-effective and scalable solutions to promote mental health at the population level.

Liu, X., et al (2021). A systematic review and meta-analysis examining mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) for social anxiety disorder (SAD) shed light on their potential efficacy in alleviating symptoms. By synthesizing findings from multiple studies, the analysis revealed promising outcomes for individuals with SAD who participated in MBIs. These interventions, which typically incorporate mindfulness practices such as meditation and mindful awareness of social interactions, demonstrated significant reductions in social anxiety symptoms compared to control conditions. The meta-analysis highlighted the sustained effects of MBIs over time, suggesting their potential as long-term therapeutic approaches for SAD. The review emphasized the need for further research to explore optimal delivery formats and specific components of MBIs that contribute to their effectiveness in treating SAD.

Li, S. Y. H., & Bressington, D. (2019). A systematic review and meta-analysis scrutinizing the effects of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) on depression, anxiety, and stress in older adults elucidated promising outcomes. Through synthesizing data from

various studies, the analysis revealed significant reductions in depression, anxiety, and stress levels among older adults following participation in MBSR programs. These interventions, which typically involve mindfulness meditation, yoga, and mindful movement practices, demonstrated notable efficacy in improving mental well-being in this population. Moreover, the meta-analysis underscored the sustained benefits of MBSR over time, indicating its potential as a long-term therapeutic approach for addressing psychological distress in older adults. The findings suggest that MBSR holds promise as a valuable intervention for enhancing the mental health and overall quality of life of older individuals.

Hjeltnes, A., et al (2024). An open trial investigating the effectiveness of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) for young adults with social anxiety disorder (SAD) provided valuable insights into its potential as a therapeutic intervention. In this trial, participants engaged in MBSR sessions comprising mindfulness meditation, body scan exercises, and mindful movement practices over a specified period. The findings revealed promising outcomes, with participants experiencing significant reductions in social anxiety symptoms following participation in the MBSR program. Moreover, improvements were observed in associated outcomes such as depressive symptoms and perceived stress levels. The trial highlighted the feasibility and acceptability of MBSR as an intervention for young adults with SAD, suggesting its potential efficacy in addressing their psychological distress.

However, given the open trial design, further research is warranted to confirm these preliminary findings through controlled studies with larger sample sizes and longer follow-up periods. Nonetheless, the results underscore the promise of MBSR as a mindfulness-based intervention for alleviating social anxiety

symptoms among young adults.

Hopwood, T. L., & Schutte, N. S. (2024), A meta-analytic investigation exploring the impact of mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) provided valuable insights into their efficacy in addressing this debilitating condition.

Synthesizing data from multiple studies, the analysis revealed promising outcomes, with MBIs demonstrating significant reductions in PTSD symptoms among affected individuals.

These interventions typically involve mindfulness practices such as meditation, body scan exercises, and yoga, which aim to enhance present-moment awareness and acceptance of distressing thoughts and emotions. The meta-analysis highlighted the robustness of these findings across diverse populations and intervention formats, suggesting the broad applicability of MBIs for PTSD treatment. Moreover, the analysis indicated sustained effects of MBIs over time, indicating their potential as long-term therapeutic approaches for managing PTSD symptoms. Further research is needed to explore optimal intervention components and delivery methods to maximize effectiveness. Nonetheless, the findings underscore the promise of MBIs as a valuable adjunctive treatment for individuals struggling with post-traumatic stress.

Wyatt, C., et al (2019). A meta-synthesis examining the experience of group mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) for individuals with mental health difficulties provided valuable insights into the subjective perceptions and outcomes of such programs. synthesizing qualitative data from multiple studies, the meta-analysis illuminated common themes and experiences shared by participants engaging in group MBIs. Findings indicated that participants reported various positive outcomes, including enhanced self-awareness, improved coping strategies, and a sense of connection and support within the group setting.

Participants often described

transformative shifts in their perspectives on their mental health challenges and increased acceptance of their experiences. The meta-synthesis highlighted the importance of the group context in facilitating mutual understanding and validation among participants, fostering a sense of belonging and shared journey toward well-being. It emphasized the significance of skilled facilitation and a safe, non-judgmental environment for maximizing the benefits of group MBIs.

Overview of mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs)

Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) represent a diverse set of therapeutic approaches rooted in mindfulness practices, which originate from contemplative traditions such as Buddhism but have been adapted for secular and clinical settings. At their core, MBIs emphasize cultivating present-moment awareness, acceptance, and non-judgmental observation of one's thoughts, emotions, and bodily sensations. These interventions aim to enhance psychological well-being, reduce stress, and promote overall resilience among participants.

Central to MBIs is mindfulness meditation, a practice that involves directing attention to the present moment with an attitude of openness and curiosity. This practice helps individuals develop a heightened awareness of their internal experiences and external surroundings, fostering a deeper understanding of their habitual patterns of thinking and emotional responses. By cultivating this mindful awareness, individuals can learn to respond to stressors and challenges in more adaptive ways, breaking free from automatic, reactive patterns of behavior.

Key MBIs include Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn, and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), initially designed to prevent

relapse in individuals with recurrent depression. MBSR typically involves an eight-week structured program that integrates mindfulness meditation, body awareness exercises (e.g., body scans), and gentle yoga practices. MBCT combines mindfulness practices with cognitive-behavioral techniques to help individuals recognize and disengage from patterns of negative thinking that contribute to anxiety and depression.

Empirical research has demonstrated the efficacy of MBIs across various populations and settings. Meta-analyses have shown that MBIs are effective in reducing symptoms of anxiety, depression, and stress-related disorders, with moderate to large effect sizes observed in clinical trials. Neuroimaging studies suggest that mindfulness training can lead to structural and functional changes in brain regions involved in emotion regulation, attention, and self-awareness, supporting its therapeutic benefits. MBIs are increasingly integrated into diverse healthcare settings, including mental health clinics, hospitals, schools, and workplace wellness programs. They are often used as adjunctive treatments alongside traditional psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy, offering individuals a holistic approach to managing mental health challenges. MBIs are adaptable to different cultural and religious backgrounds, making them accessible and inclusive for a wide range of individuals seeking to enhance their well-being through mindfulness practice.

MBIs continue to evolve as a valuable therapeutic approach in modern healthcare, emphasizing self-care, resilience-building, and the cultivation of mental clarity and emotional balance in the face of life's challenges. As research and clinical applications expand, MBIs hold promise for promoting mental health and enhancing quality of life across diverse populations.

Mindfulness-based interventions for anxiety and depression

Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have demonstrated significant effectiveness in alleviating symptoms of anxiety and depression. Anxiety disorders are characterized by excessive worry, fear, and heightened arousal. MBIs teach individuals to cultivate present-moment awareness, focusing on sensations, thoughts, and emotions without judgment. By practicing mindfulness techniques such as mindful breathing, body scan meditation, and mindful movement, individuals learn to reduce the intensity of anxious thoughts and physiological responses. This enhanced awareness helps interrupt the cycle of anxiety, promoting relaxation and reducing overall anxiety symptoms.

Depression involves persistent feelings of sadness, loss of interest in activities, and disturbances in sleep and appetite. MBIs address depression by fostering self-awareness and acceptance of emotional experiences. Participants learn to recognize negative thought patterns and develop compassionate responses to their feelings of sadness and despair.

Mindfulness techniques like mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) integrate cognitive restructuring with mindfulness practices to prevent relapse and support individuals in managing depressive symptoms effectively. Research suggests that mindfulness practices influence brain regions involved in emotion regulation, such as the prefrontal cortex and amygdala. Regular mindfulness practice strengthens neural pathways associated with emotional resilience and reduces reactivity to stressors, contributing to long-term improvements in anxiety and depression management.

Neuroscientific studies also indicate changes in brain structure and function that support enhanced emotional processing and adaptive coping mechanisms among individuals practicing mindfulness.

Clinical trials demonstrate the efficacy of MBIs in reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression across diverse populations, including those with chronic health conditions and psychiatric disorders. Mindfulness-based interventions are integrated into psychotherapeutic settings to complement traditional treatments like cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and pharmacotherapy. By offering an evidence-based approach to mental health care, MBIs empower individuals to cultivate resilience, enhance self-management skills, and achieve sustainable improvements in emotional well-being.

Research Problem

The research problem centers on the growing need for effective, accessible, and low-risk interventions to manage anxiety and stress among individuals with psychiatric disorders, such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). While traditional treatments like pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy have proven beneficial, they often present limitations, including side effects, high costs, limited accessibility, and inconsistent long-term effectiveness. As a result, there is a demand for complementary approaches that can address these issues and offer sustained relief.

Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs), such as Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), have shown potential in reducing anxiety and stress by promoting emotional regulation, self-awareness, and present-moment focus. However, despite their increasing popularity, there is still a lack of comprehensive research specifically targeting the effectiveness of MBIs in psychiatric populations. Variability in outcomes, adherence to mindfulness practices, and integration with conventional treatments remain underexplored, raising questions about their broader applicability in mental health care. The research

problem, therefore, lies in determining the extent to which MBIs can serve as reliable, standardized interventions for alleviating anxiety and stress in individuals with psychiatric disorders, and how they might be effectively integrated into existing treatment frameworks to improve overall patient outcomes.

Conclusion

Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) offer a promising and complementary approach to managing anxiety and stress in individuals with psychiatric disorders. Techniques such as Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing symptoms of anxiety and stress by enhancing emotional regulation, increasing self-awareness, and fostering a more adaptive response to negative thoughts and feelings. These interventions provide a low-risk, accessible alternative to traditional treatments, potentially reducing the reliance on medication and addressing some of the limitations associated with conventional therapies. However, while existing research highlights the short-term benefits of MBIs, more comprehensive studies are needed to evaluate their long-term effectiveness, standardization across diverse patient populations, and integration with existing therapeutic frameworks. Additionally, patient adherence and consistency in mindfulness practice play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes, suggesting that more structured and supportive intervention models could enhance their impact. Overall, MBIs represent a valuable tool in the broader landscape of mental health care, offering a holistic, patient-centered approach to addressing anxiety and stress. Future research should focus on refining these interventions and exploring their potential for wider clinical adoption to improve the quality of life for individuals with psychiatric conditions.

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Importance of Sociological Values in National Education Policy

RUBAL SUTHOUD
Research Scholar

Guide-Tej Kumar
Tantia University

Abstract

The making of education policy in any country is deeply embedded in its socio-cultural tapestry. India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a revolutionary change in the approach towards education, with the vision of creating a more holistic, inclusive, and equitable system. Fundamentally, the NEP incorporates a number of sociological values—like equity, inclusivity, gender sensitivity, ethical thinking, and democratic citizenship—that are relevant to the moral and cultural predisposition of the society it aims to serve. This essay examines critically the relevance of sociological values in the NEP and how they can determine the future of education in India. Basing its argument on sociological theory and the wider social sphere, the essay explores how education is not only a vehicle for economic mobility but also an effective instrument of social integration and renewal. It asserts that the NEP's vision to eliminate disparities on the basis of caste, gender, religion, region, and socio-economic status is inherently in accordance with the principles of social justice. It also goes into discussing the policy's emphasis on mother tongue-based education, value-based learning,

and experiential pedagogy, which reflects a deep-seated sociological understanding that learning must resonate with the learner's context. In addition, the research assesses the NEP's initiative to promote active citizenship and moral thinking through curriculum reforms and teacher development workshops. The inclusion of life skills, critical thinking, and ecological awareness demonstrates a move away from mechanical learning to socially accountable education. Nonetheless, the paper also recognizes several challenges to its implementation in rural and underprivileged areas, where structural disparities remain pervasive. Essentially, the paper contends that the NEP 2020, as a reform in education, is equally a sociological document meant to reform the moral basis of society. With the confluence of qualitative content analysis and policy analysis, the paper calls for an increased involvement of sociologists and social thinkers in the policymaking process of education. By affirming sociological values in pedagogy and policy, India can get closer to attaining its vision of an inclusive, enlightened, and empowered society.

Keywords: Sociological values, National Education Policy, NEP 2020, social justice, inclusive education, equity, ethics in education, citizenship, Indian education system, education reform.

1 Introduction

Education is not just an academic activity; it is a key socialization agent, agent of values, and builder of nations. In this regard, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers an unprecedented chance to weave sociological values into the general educational system. Some of these values are social equity, justice, cultural pluralism, gender sensitivity, ethical growth, and active citizenship. Sociology as a subject gives the perspective in which education is not just a tool of individual empowerment but also one of social change.

The NEP 2020 attempts to radically

transform the Indian education system by encouraging whole, flexible, and multidisciplinary education. Its greater worth, however, is in its insistence on inclusivity, equity, and cultural grounding—each of which is extremely sociological in orientation. This essay attempts to discuss how the NEP has sociological principles embedded in it and how their enforcement can result in enduring socio-cultural change. It also evaluates the challenges and pragmatic limitations encountered during enforcement, particularly in rural and marginalized pockets of Indian society.

Having an understanding of why sociology is crucial in education policy guarantees that the system does not only churn out skilled workers but also prudent, moral, and socially conscious citizens. In this regard, education becomes a means to create an equitable and cohesive society instead of merely a means to economic success. NEP 2020's emphasis on mother tongue teaching, gender equality, and sensitivity towards the environment is a telling indicator of its congruence with sociological issues.

In this research, we undertake a critical examination of the way the sociological values inherent in NEP 2020 mirror India's changing socio-cultural context and how these values can be harnessed in order to bridge educational and social divides. The incorporation of sociology into education policy should be intentional and organized if we are to fully democratize knowledge and promote inclusive development.

1.1 Background of the Study

India's education system has historically struggled with caste-based, gender-based, regional, and economic inequalities. Although many education policies have made an effort to redress these issues, NEP 2020 is the first to systematically underscore the position of inclusivity, social justice, and ethics, reflecting fundamental principles of sociology. Historical marginalization of some communities, the rural-

urban gap, and regional imbalances have all worked together to create unequal access and quality of education in India.

Sociology as scientific study of society offers means to comprehend and bridge these inequalities through a focus on social structure, cultural norms, and power relations. The NEP's suggestions—like curricula flexibility, local language teaching, and incorporation of vocational education—are not merely educational reforms but social reforms as well. They are meant to have barriers to education eliminated and equal opportunity encouraged, thus reflecting the sociological values of justice and fairness.

Furthermore, the NEP aims to promote national unity while respecting India's vast diversity—another concept rooted in sociology. This balance between the local and the national, the traditional and the modern, requires a nuanced understanding of social values, which the discipline of sociology offers.

As India is progressing to be a knowledge-based society, so the need for sociology in formulating educational policies is quite crucial. The danger of education policy without sociological inputs is the elitism and the isolation of issues from grass-root-level realities. Thus, this background of the study lies in the need for including sociological thinking in the formulation and implementation of education policy that becomes an inclusive, ethical, and socially transformative one.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In spite of India's vibrant socio-cultural diversity, education policy has tended to have a one-size-fits-all approach, sidelining localized realities and social injustices. The NEP 2020, being progressive in approach, is confronted with the challenge of implementation in instilling sociological values universally. The issue is the mismatch between policy intention and ground-level implementation, especially in deprived and far-flung regions.

Moreover, there is insufficient awareness among teachers, administrators, and curriculum planners about the applicability of sociological values to education. While NEP focuses on equity, inclusiveness, and ethics, the question arises—how well are these values being translated into classroom instruction, teacher education, and school administration?

This research therefore attempts to explore the degree to which sociological values are embedded in NEP 2020 and how they can be practically applied to ensure social justice, unity in diversity, and moral growth. The necessity for such analysis is important in the context of ensuring that educational reforms contribute not only to economic development but also to ethical, compassionate, and socially accountable citizenship

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the sociological values ingrained in the National Education Policy 2020.
2. To explore the contribution of the values towards ensuring social justice and equity in education.
3. To determine the challenges of applying sociological values within India's diverse education environment.
4. To investigate the possible effect of sociology-grounded educational reforms on nation-building.

1.4 Significance of the Study

- Emphasizes the importance of sociology in developing inclusive education policy.
- Offers insights into value-based, equitable, and culturally appropriate education.
- Invites policymakers to use a more socially responsible reform strategy
- Assists educational institutions in instituting value-based education systems.
- Helps fill the gap between theory in education and the social world.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

Scope:

- Compressed within NEP 2020 and its

sociological dimensions

- Mainly Indian education system and policy-focused.
- Both urban and rural settings included for analysis

Limitations:

- Limited primary data as a result of dependence upon policy review and secondary sources.
- Measurement difficulties in attributing qualitative outcomes like ethics and values.
- Regional diversity could influence homogenous policy interpretation.

2 Review of Literature

2.1 Sociology Values & Value Based Education

- Patil, V. K., & Patil, K. D. (2023). Traditional Indian education values and the new National Education Policy. *Journal of Educational Research*, 41(2), 112–130. Provides a critical examination of the ways in which NEP 2020 places Indian cultural values, moral education, and social ethics

- Verma, D. D. (2025). Relevance of value education and spiritualism in National Education Policy 2020. *International Education and Research Journal*, 11(05). Highlights moral, humanitarian, and constitutional values in NEP's curriculum proposals/

- Rai, S. K., Pallavi, K., & Singh, N. (2025). Implications of NEP 2020 for value-based education. *Mass Communication Journal*, 6(1A), 57–63. Examines NEP's vision for holistic, ethical schooling/

2.2 Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

- Ghosh, S. S. (2024). A critical analysis of educational equity in India: Assessing the impact of NEP 2020. In *Exploring Educational Equity at the Intersection of Policy and Practice* (pp. 1–18). Reviews frameworks from Rawls and Sen applied to NEP's equity aims

- Negi, S. (2025). Social inclusion and equity in India: NEP 2020 in Uttarakhand's higher education context. *ResearchGate Publication*. Focuses on caste, regional, and gender inclusion

under NEP

- Sahoo, N. (2020). Equitable and inclusive vision in the National Educational Policy 2020: A critique. ORF Expert Speak. Highlights NEP's response to SEDGs and programmatic limitations

2.3 Sociological Perspectives on Exclusion & Structural Inequity

- Chari Wagh, A., & Rayaprol, A. (2023). Marginality and gender in educational institutions in Contemporary India. *Sociology*, 57(3), 602–620. Assesses how NEP frames or perpetuates structural exclusion in education
- Adhikari, G., & Paria, M. (2025). The impact of NEP 2020 on constitutional values in education. *The Peephole Journal*, 8(II). Discusses justice, equality, and fraternity ingrained in NEP policy/

2.4 Gender, Social Mobility & Digital Inequality

- Mittal, S. S., Keswani, A., Garg, A., Khanna, A., Deb, H., & Gupta, L. (2024). NEP 2020 from the higher education & employability point of view of girls. *EIJHSS*, 9(2). Emphasizes NEP's gender-oriented provisions like the Gender Inclusion Fund
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- Vaidehi, R., & Banerjee, S. (2021). Explaining caste-based digital divide in India. arXiv preprint. Claims digital disparity erodes NEP's digital inclusion objectives/

2.5 Historical Policy Foundations & Curriculum Reform

- NCF 2005 (Government of India). National Curriculum Framework 2005. Prioritized democratic, caring, nonviolent educational values, a philosophical lead-up to NEP 2020
- Thapan, M. (2023). The State, Education and Inequality in Contemporary India: An Intersectional Exploration. *Sociology*, online. Offers sociological background for NEP's vision

of equity

2.6 Policy Implementation & Today's Social Context

- Niranjana Sahoo (2020). Equitable and inclusive vision in NEP 2020: A critique. (Same as above)
- Times of India interviews (2024–2025). Senior educators note NEP's focus on learner-centered values, character education and inclusive infrastructure

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study has a descriptive and qualitative research design that seeks to examine the significance of sociological values in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Stakeholders' knowledge and perceptions of fundamental sociological values (equity, justice, inclusion, moral education, etc.) embedded in the policy are examined in the study.

3.2 Sampling Method and Sample Size

A purposive sampling technique was applied in the selection of the appropriate respondents. The sample comprised 60 respondents:

- 20 School Teachers (Govt. & Private)
- 10 Educational Administrators
- 20 B.Ed. and M.Ed. Students
- 10 Policy Experts / Education Scholars
- This combination gave a balanced perspective from pedagogy, policy, and practice.

3.3 Data Collection Methods

- Primary data was gathered through:
 - Structured Interviews (10 questions)
 - Questionnaire (open and close-ended)
 - Document review of NEP 2020 and NCF 2005

- Secondary data sources were research articles, NEP reports, and policy evaluations from 2016–2024.

3.4 Tools of Analysis

Qualitative content analysis and percentage-based categorization were used to extract meaningful patterns from data. No

specialized statistical software was applied. Themes were developed from narrative data, and simple tabulation (%) was employed for summarizing responses.

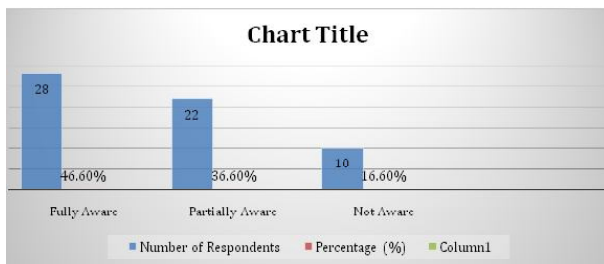
3.5 Limitations of Methodology

- Restricted to small sample (n = 60) and limited states of India.
- Non-random sampling could limit generalizability.
- Dependent on self-reported data and subjective interpretation.
- Analysis precludes statistical testing; results are indicative, not predictive.

4. Data Analysis

Table 1:
Awareness of Sociological Values in NEP 2020

Response Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Fully Aware	28	46.6%
Partially Aware	22	36.6%
Not Aware	10	16.6%

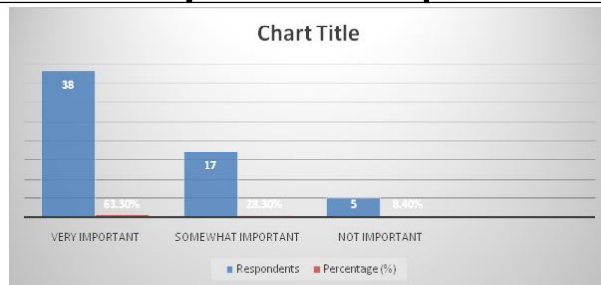


Interpretation:

Nearly half of the respondents were fully aware of the sociological values embedded in NEP 2020, but about 17% showed no awareness—indicating gaps in dissemination and teacher orientation.

Table 2:
Importance of Equity and Inclusion

Response Type	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Very Important	38	63.3%
Somewhat Important	17	28.3%
Not Important	5	8.4%

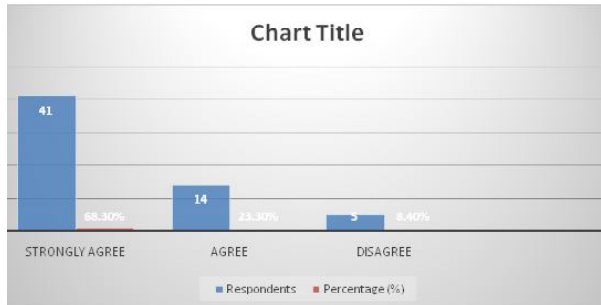


Interpretation:

Over 63% of the sample strongly agreed that equity and inclusion are central to NEP 2020. This supports the argument that sociological values resonate with ground-level educators and students.

Table 3:
Belief in Moral Education as Core Value

Belief Type	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	41	68.3%
Agree	14	23.3%
Disagree	5	8.4%

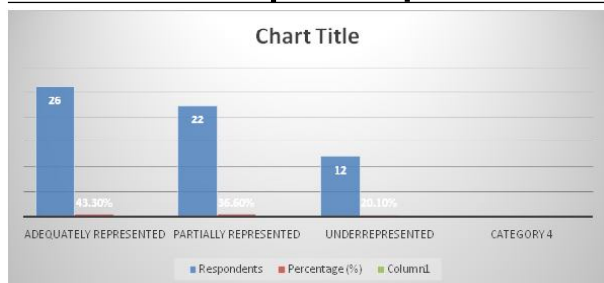


Interpretation:

A combined 91.6% believe moral education is a foundational component in NEP, highlighting widespread support for ethics and value integration in curriculum planning.

Table 4:
Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in NEP

Opinion	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Adequately Represented	26	43.3%
Partially Represented	22	36.6%
Underrepresented	12	20.1%



Interpretation:

A significant proportion (36.6% to 43.3%) felt that marginalized groups are either partially or adequately represented. However, over 20% pointed out gaps in implementation.

5. Findings

- NEP 2020 incorporates sociological values such as equity, inclusion, ethics, and respect for diversity but to varying degrees of understanding among stakeholders.
- Educators and teachers concur about the necessity for value-based education but require greater orientation and training.
- Moral education is identified as a priority by over 90% of the respondents.
- Digital equity and rural inclusion continue to present implementation issues.
- There is unequal awareness of NEP 2020 by education students and novice teachers.

6. Conclusion

This research supports the fact that sociological values are crucial in constructing a meaningful and equitable education system. The NEP 2020 is a forward-looking change by making holistic development, moral education, inclusive practices, and local-global nexus the priority. Findings show that the great majority of stakeholders value the NEP's focus on equity, gender equity, community engagement, and constitutional values.

But the study also points out policy formulation and grass-root understanding gaps. Though 68% of the respondents strongly agreed on the importance of value-based education, the rest either displayed ignorance or partial awareness, prompting the need for a strong

dissemination and training program.

Applying sociological values is challenged by restricted digital access, the unpreparedness of teachers, and socio-cultural resistance in rural regions. A collaborative approach through educators, policymakers, and civil society is needed to overcome these challenges.

In summary, the future of Indian education is not only in knowledge imparting but in character building and social awareness. NEP 2020 cannot be simply a policy statement—it needs to become a people's movement towards equality, dignity, and justice in education. The incorporation of sociology values in curriculum and pedagogy can be the bedrock of such a vision.

7. Discussion

The study invites critical engagement with the sociological aspects of NEP 2020, showing how principles such as justice, cooperation, secularism, gender sensitivity, and equality need to move beyond textbook rhetoric to affect classroom practice. Respondents recognized the policy's aspirational tone, yet drew attention to deficiencies in curriculum planning, teacher education, and organizational preparedness.

For instance, while the NEP advocates flexibility, multilingualism, and vocational integration, it remains weak in operationalizing grassroots participation and context-sensitive pedagogy. The absence of a standardized mechanism for sociology-based curriculum evaluation creates ambiguity in implementation.

Discussion also highlights teacher education programs' responsibility in infusing sociological understanding. Participants from teacher training schools indicated that NEP values are not well translated into modules or practice teaching in the field. This may undermine policy intent into symbolic gestures unless ongoing capacity-building and policy feedback loops are instituted.

The NEP also holds the potential of bringing inter-generational and socio-economic gaps closer, particularly through mother-tongue education, gender inclusion grants, and indigenous knowledge systems. But for this to be achieved, there must be institutional will and community participation.

Generally, incorporation of sociology in NEP should not be academic. It must be towards building compassionate, ethical, and responsible citizens in harmony with the constitutional ethos of India.

8. Suggestions

- Modify teacher training programs to include a compulsory paper on “Sociological Values in Education.”
- Capacity-building workshops and capacity development to promote NEP consciousness and value-based education approaches.
- Regionalize curriculum to incorporate regional sociocultural values and marginalized histories.
- Regularly institutionalize NEP assessment from a sociological and equity perspective
- Enhance community-school linkages for participatory curriculum construction.
- Provide technology access to underrepresented groups to maintain digital equity.

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A STUDY ON IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN INDIA.

Raghavendra Prasad
(Research Scholar)

Department of Commerce
B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur

Dr. Sweta Dipti

Assistant Professor
L.N. Mishra College of Business Management,
Muzaffarpur

Abstract:

This study examines the impact of government policies and regulations on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, focusing on how policy reforms have influenced investment inflows, economic growth, and industrial development. India has emerged as one of the most attractive destinations for foreign investment due to its large market size, economic reforms, and liberalized FDI policies. Over the years, the Government of India has introduced various policy measures such as sectoral liberalization, ease of doing business initiatives, tax reforms, and regulatory simplifications to attract foreign investors.

The study analyzes how these policies have contributed to increasing FDI inflows and improving the overall investment climate in India. It also highlights the challenges faced by investors, including regulatory complexities, infrastructural constraints, and policy uncertainties. The research is based on both primary and secondary data to provide a

comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of government policies. The findings indicate that while government policies have significantly boosted FDI inflows and economic development, there is still a need for consistent policy implementation, transparency, and further reforms to sustain long-term investment growth in India.

Keywords: Government Policies, FDI, Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Growth, Investment Climate, Liberalization, Industrial Development

Introduction :

In this study, I attempt to critically examine the impact of government policies and regulations on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, which has emerged as one of the most important drivers of economic growth in the post-liberalization era. FDI refers to the investment made by foreign entities in the business operations of a country, either through establishing new enterprises (greenfield investment) or acquiring existing businesses (brownfield investment). For a developing economy like India, FDI is not only a source of capital inflow but also a means of acquiring advanced technology, managerial efficiency, global best practices, and access to international markets. These factors collectively contribute to industrial expansion, employment generation, and overall economic modernization.

The foundation for FDI growth in India was laid during the landmark economic reforms of 1991, when the government shifted from a controlled economy to a more liberalized and open market system. Since then, various policy measures have been introduced to attract foreign investors, including sectoral liberalization, reduction in entry barriers, simplification of approval processes, and relaxation of foreign ownership limits. Initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, and Startup India have further strengthened India's position

as a preferred global investment destination. Additionally, reforms like the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), improvement in ease of doing business rankings, and the introduction of single-window clearance systems have significantly enhanced the investment climate.

Government policies and regulations play a dual role in influencing FDI. On one hand, they act as facilitators by providing incentives such as tax benefits, investment allowances, and infrastructure support. On the other hand, they serve as regulatory mechanisms to ensure that foreign investments align with national interests, security concerns, and economic priorities. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), sector-specific FDI caps, and regulatory guidelines issued by institutions like RBI and DPIIT are key components of India's FDI framework. These regulations aim to maintain a balance between attracting foreign capital and safeguarding domestic industries.

However, despite the progressive policy environment, several challenges continue to affect the flow of FDI in India. Issues such as bureaucratic delays, policy uncertainty, frequent regulatory changes, infrastructural deficiencies, and complex compliance requirements often create obstacles for foreign investors. In addition, regional disparities in industrial development and varying levels of state-level policy implementation further influence investment decisions. Therefore, it becomes essential to analyze not only the formulation of policies but also their actual execution and effectiveness at the ground level.

Through this study, I aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of how government policies and regulations impact FDI inflows in India, both positively and negatively. The study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of policy reforms, identify the key determinants influencing foreign investment decisions, and assess the broader implications for economic

growth, industrial development, and employment generation. This research is significant as it bridges the gap between policy intent and practical outcomes, offering valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and investors in improving India's investment ecosystem.

Review of Literature:

Dunning (1993) in his Eclectic Paradigm (OLI Framework) explained that Foreign Direct Investment is influenced by Ownership, Location, and Internalization advantages. According to his study, government policies play a crucial role in shaping the "location advantage" of a country. In the context of India, liberal FDI policies, tax incentives, and ease of doing business reforms enhance the attractiveness of the country for foreign investors. His work highlights that favorable regulatory frameworks and stable policy environments are essential for attracting long-term foreign investment.

Kumar (2018) analyzed the impact of economic reforms and government policies on FDI inflows in India. The study found that post-liberalization reforms, including sectoral liberalization, automatic route approvals, and reduction in regulatory restrictions, significantly increased FDI inflows. It also emphasized that policy initiatives like Make in India and improvement in infrastructure have positively influenced investor confidence. However, the study pointed out that policy inconsistency and bureaucratic hurdles still act as barriers for foreign investors.

Sharma and Gupta (2023) examined recent trends in FDI and the role of government regulations in India. The study concluded that reforms such as GST implementation, digitalization of approval processes, and improvement in India's global ranking in ease of doing business have strengthened the investment climate. It also highlighted that transparent policies, political stability, and

strong institutional support are key factors in attracting FDI. However, the study noted that challenges like complex compliance procedures and regional disparities continue to affect the effectiveness of policies.

Overall, the literature suggests that government policies and regulations are critical determinants of FDI inflows in India, and their effectiveness depends on consistency, transparency, and efficient implementation.

Research Gap:

From the above literature, I observe that although several studies have analyzed the impact of government policies on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, most of them are theoretical or macro-level studies and lack a detailed practical perspective. Earlier research mainly focuses on policy frameworks, economic reforms, and overall trends in FDI inflows, but there is limited analysis of how these policies actually influence investment decisions at the ground level. Moreover, very few studies incorporate recent policy developments up to 2025 and their real-time impact on different sectors. There is also a gap in understanding the challenges faced by investors in terms of regulatory complexity, policy uncertainty, and implementation issues. Therefore, this study attempts to bridge this gap by providing a comprehensive and updated analysis of the effectiveness of government policies and regulations on FDI in India.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the role of government policies and regulations in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.
2. To analyze the impact of these policies on FDI inflows and economic growth.
3. To identify the challenges faced by foreign investors due to regulatory and policy-related issues in India.

Hypothesis:

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): Government policies and regulations have no significant impact on

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in India. **H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis):** Government policies and regulations have a significant impact on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in India.

Research Methodology:

In this study, I adopt a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the impact of government policies and regulations on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India. Both primary and secondary data are used to ensure a comprehensive analysis. Primary data is collected from 100 respondents, including investors, financial experts, business professionals, and academicians, through a structured questionnaire based on a 5-point Likert scale. Secondary data is collected from government reports, RBI publications, DPIIT data, research journals, and official websites. A simple random sampling method is used for selecting respondents. The collected data is analyzed using basic statistical tools such as percentage and mean to understand trends and perceptions regarding policy impact on FDI. This methodology helps in providing a clear and practical understanding of how government policies influence FDI inflows in India.

Role of Government Policies and Regulations on FDI in India :

1. Creation of a Favorable Investment Climate

Government policies play a foundational role in creating a conducive investment environment for foreign investors. Through liberalization measures, simplified procedures, and stable regulatory frameworks, the government enhances investor confidence. Policies like ease of doing business reforms reduce red tape and make India an attractive destination for global investors. A favorable investment climate ensures long-term capital inflow and strengthens India's position in the global market.

2. Liberalization of FDI Policies

One of the most significant roles of

government policies is the gradual liberalization of FDI norms. The government has increased sectoral caps and allowed investments through the automatic route in many sectors such as manufacturing, retail, and services. This reduces the need for prior approvals and speeds up the investment process. Liberal policies encourage multinational companies to invest freely and expand their operations in India.

3. Regulatory Framework and Control Mechanism

Government regulations ensure that FDI flows are aligned with national interests. Laws such as FEMA and guidelines issued by RBI and DPIIT regulate foreign investments. These regulations maintain economic stability, prevent misuse of funds, and protect domestic industries. Thus, policies act as both facilitators and regulators, balancing growth with security.

4. Promotion of Industrial Growth and Development

Government policies channel FDI into key sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology. Initiatives like Make in India promote domestic production by attracting foreign companies. This leads to industrial expansion, technological advancement, and increased competitiveness of Indian industries in the global market.

5. Employment Generation and Skill Development

FDI inflows, supported by government policies, create large-scale employment opportunities. Foreign companies bring new technologies and management practices, which require skilled labor. As a result, policies indirectly contribute to skill development, training, and capacity building among the workforce, improving human capital in India.

6. Infrastructure Development

Government policies encourage foreign investment in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, energy, and telecommunications. FDI helps in funding large-scale infrastructure

projects, which are essential for economic growth. Improved infrastructure further attracts more investment, creating a positive cycle of development.

7. Technology Transfer and Innovation

FDI brings advanced technology, research capabilities, and innovative practices into the country. Government policies that support foreign collaborations and joint ventures help domestic industries adopt modern technologies. This improves productivity, product quality, and global competitiveness of Indian firms.

8. Enhancement of Export and Global Integration

Government policies promote export-oriented FDI by encouraging foreign firms to use India as a production base for global markets. This enhances India's integration into the global economy, increases foreign exchange earnings, and strengthens trade relations with other countries.

9. Improvement in Ease of Doing Business

Reforms such as digitization of approvals, single-window clearance systems, and simplification of tax structures (like GST) have significantly improved the ease of doing business in India. These measures reduce delays, increase transparency, and make it easier for foreign investors to operate efficiently.

10. Reduction of Regional Imbalances

Government policies aim to attract FDI not only in developed regions but also in backward and underdeveloped areas. By offering incentives and special economic zones (SEZs), the government promotes balanced regional development, ensuring that investment benefits reach all parts of the country.

Overall, government policies and regulations play a multi-dimensional role in attracting and managing FDI in India. They act as enablers, regulators, and promoters of economic growth. However, their effectiveness depends on consistent implementation, policy

stability, and transparency in execution.

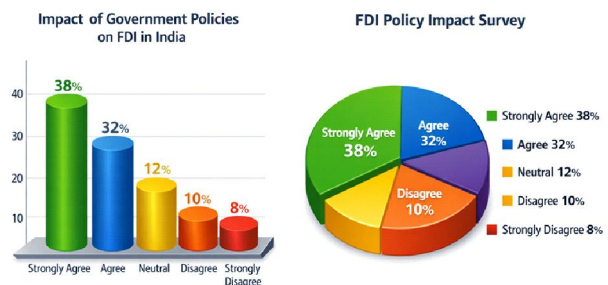
Data Analysis and interpretation:

Table 1:
Impact of Government Policies and Regulations on FDI in India

Response Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	38	38%
Agree	32	32%
Neutral	12	12%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	8	8%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure 1:
Impact of Government Policies on FDI in India



Source: Primary data

Interpretation of Table 1 and Figure 1:

The Table 1 and Figure 1 together clearly show the perception of respondents regarding the impact of government policies and regulations on FDI in India. A majority of respondents have expressed a positive opinion, where 38% strongly agree and 32% agree, making a total of 70% respondents who believe that government policies play a significant role in attracting Foreign Direct Investment. This indicates that reforms such as liberalization, ease of doing business, and regulatory improvements have been effective in enhancing investor confidence and increasing FDI inflows.

At the same time, 12% respondents are neutral, which suggests that some individuals may not have complete awareness or may have mixed experiences regarding the effectiveness of these policies. On the other hand, 10% respondents disagree and 8% strongly disagree, highlighting certain challenges such as policy uncertainty, complex regulations, and implementation issues.

The graphical representation (bar chart and pie chart) further strengthens the understanding of the data by visually showing that the largest share belongs to “Strongly Agree” and “Agree” categories. Overall, both the table and figure indicate that government policies and regulations have a positive and significant impact on FDI in India, though improvements in policy clarity, consistency, and execution are still required to maximize investment potential.

Findings of the Study:

1. The study finds that government policies and regulations have a significant positive impact on FDI inflows in India.
2. It is observed that liberalization of FDI policies and sectoral reforms have encouraged foreign investors to invest more freely in various sectors.
3. The findings indicate that initiatives like ease of doing business and digitalization have improved the overall investment climate.
4. It is found that FDI has contributed to industrial growth, employment generation, and technology transfer in India.
5. The study reveals that regulatory frameworks like FEMA and RBI guidelines ensure proper monitoring and control of foreign investments.
6. It is observed that policy stability and transparency play a crucial role in attracting long-term foreign investment.
7. The findings highlight that bureaucratic delays and complex procedures still act as barriers for foreign investors.

8. It is also found that infrastructural gaps and regional disparities affect the distribution of FDI across different states.

9. The study shows that government policies have helped in integrating India with the global economy through increased foreign participation.

10. Overall, the findings suggest that while policies are effective, their impact can be enhanced through better implementation, simplification, and consistency.

Conclusion:

From this study, I conclude that government policies and regulations have played a crucial and transformative role in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India. The analysis clearly shows that policy measures such as liberalization of FDI norms, ease of doing business reforms, digitalization, and sectoral incentives have significantly improved the investment climate and increased FDI inflows. These policies have contributed to industrial growth, employment generation, technology transfer, and overall economic development of the country.

However, the study also highlights that certain challenges still persist, including regulatory complexity, bureaucratic delays, infrastructural gaps, and policy uncertainties. These issues create obstacles for foreign investors and affect the smooth flow of investment. Therefore, there remains a gap between policy formulation and its effective implementation.

Thus, it can be concluded that while government policies are highly effective in promoting FDI, their success largely depends on consistency, transparency, and proper execution. Strengthening policy implementation, simplifying procedures, and ensuring a stable regulatory environment will further enhance India’s attractiveness as a global investment destination and support sustainable economic growth.

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ETHNOBOTANICAL KNOWLEDGE RETENTION AMONG RURAL YOUTH: COGNITIVE DETERMINANTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Mr. Pratham Rajendra Kalas

III BSc Psychology,
Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College
(Autonomous), Ujire

Dr Sudheer KV,

Assistant Professor,
Department of Psychology,
Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College
(Autonomous), Ujire-India

ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to assess ethnobotanical knowledge retention, sources of traditional knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of skill development and income potential among students of SDM College. A structured questionnaire covering six sections was administered to 60 respondents. Knowledge and attitude scores were calculated and categorized using equal-interval classification, while open-ended responses were analysed thematically.

Results indicated that 48.3% of respondents had average ethnobotanical knowledge, 30% low, and 21.7% high. Knowledge was primarily transmitted through parents (50%) and grandparents (40%), highlighting intergenerational transfer. Attitude toward ethnobotanical knowledge was largely positive (78.3%), with most respondents recognizing its

income potential (65%) and expressing interest in training (76.7%). The main barrier to practice was preference for modern medicine (68.3%). Thematic analysis of open-ended responses revealed four major themes: conservation of medicinal plants, intergenerational knowledge transfer, cultivation practices, and awareness initiatives.

The study demonstrates that ethnobotanical knowledge is moderately retained among the population and strongly influenced by family-based transmission. Positive attitudes and willingness for skill development suggest that structured training and awareness programs may enhance retention and practical application of ethnobotanical knowledge.

Key words: Ethnobotanical Knowledge Retention, Cognitive determinants, Rural Youth, Skill Development, Sustainable livelihoods.

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous and rural communities in India have developed extensive practical knowledge of local flora over generations through direct environmental engagement, including plant identification, therapeutic uses, nutritional benefits, and cultural practices (Cotton, 1996; Jain, 1991).

This wisdom traditionally spreads orally across families and villages, supporting primary healthcare, livelihoods, and sustainable practices. Yet urbanization, schooling, migration, and declining forest reliance are diminishing it, particularly in youth who show incomplete recall despite nearby traditions (Zent, 2001; Reyes-García et al., 2013).

Social observation of elders and kin in everyday contexts fosters acquisition (Bandura, 1977), while repeated application and relevance enhance memory consolidation (Anderson, 2000).

While prior studies like Bhandary and Chandrashekar (2014) have documented ethnomedicinal plant inventories in coastal

Dakshina Kannada, few examine knowledge retention dynamics among rural youth or apply cognitive psychology frameworks to understand transmission patterns.

This work addresses this gap by assessing recall, learning sources, and attitudes among Ujire students from rural backgrounds, using plants selected from Bhandary and Chandrashekar (2014)

METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess ethnobotanical knowledge retention among respondents using a structured questionnaire.
2. To identify the sources and frequency of traditional knowledge transmission.
3. To evaluate respondents' attitude toward ethnobotanical knowledge.
4. To understand perceptions regarding skill development, income potential, and barriers to ethnobotanical practice.
5. To analyse open-ended responses for major themes related to ethnobotanical knowledge conservation and use

HYPOTHESIS

1. Respondents with family-based exposure (parents, grandparents) will have higher ethnobotanical knowledge scores.
2. Most respondents will have a positive attitude toward ethnobotanical knowledge.
3. Preference for modern medicine and lack of training are perceived as the main barriers to ethnobotanical practice.
4. Structured training and awareness can enhance skill development and livelihood opportunities based on ethnobotanical knowledge.

NORMS AND SCORING PROCEDURE

Section B — Ethnobotanical Knowledge Retention Norms

Ethnobotanical knowledge retention was assessed using a structured plant-based scoring system. Each respondent was evaluated across four knowledge components for every plant

included in the questionnaire.

Scores were assigned as follows:

Score Assigned

Recognition of plant = 1	Correct plant name = 2
Knowledge of medicinal use= 2	Observed traditional use= 2
Maximum score per plant = 7	

A total of 10 plants were included in the assessment.

Maximum possible knowledge score =
 $10 \times 7 = 70$

Knowledge Level Classification (Equal Interval Method)

Knowledge scores were classified into three levels using equal interval division of the total possible score.

Interval width = $70 \div 3 = 23.3$

Knowledge Level

Score Range

Low Knowledge = 0 – 23
Average Knowledge= 24 – 46
High Knowledge= 47 – 70

Section D — Attitude Toward Ethnobotanical Knowledge Norms

Attitude was measured using a Likert scale questionnaire.

Number of items = 6

Response scale = 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree)

Minimum possible score = 6

Maximum possible score = 30

Scores were categorized as follows:

Attitude Level

Score Range

Negative Attitude = 6 – 14

Neutral Attitude= 15 – 22

Positive Attitude= 23 – 30

Section C and Section E — Source, Skill, and Barrier Norms

Source of knowledge, skill development interest, income perception, and barrier variables were coded using binary or categorical scoring.

Response

Code

Yes= 1

No= 0

Multiple responses were permitted where applicable and analysed using frequency counts.

Section F — Thematic Analysis Norms

Open-ended responses were analysed using thematic grouping. Similar responses were grouped into recurring themes, and the frequency of each theme was calculated. Themes were defined based on repeated concepts across participant responses.

PROCEDURE

Study Area and Participants

The study was conducted among rural youth studying in colleges located in and around Ujire, Karnataka. Although the participants currently reside away from their native villages, the majority belong to rural households where exposure to traditional plant knowledge is common. A total of 60 students aged between 18 and 25 years were selected using purposive sampling, a method widely employed in exploratory ethnobotanical research to target individuals with relevant background exposure

Research Design

The research followed a descriptive and exploratory design, focusing on qualitative and quantitative assessment of ethnobotanical knowledge retention and associated cognitive factors. The study did not aim to generalize findings to the entire population but to identify patterns and determinants of knowledge retention among rural youth.

Data Collection

Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire consisting of approximately 40 items, divided into sections covering:

- Demographic background
- Familiarity with selected ethnomedicinal plants
- Ability to recall plant names and uses
- Sources of knowledge acquisition (family elders, community members, education, media)
- Attitudes toward learning and preserving traditional knowledge

Questionnaire-based methods are standard tools in ethnobotanical and ethnobiological studies dealing with human knowledge systems.

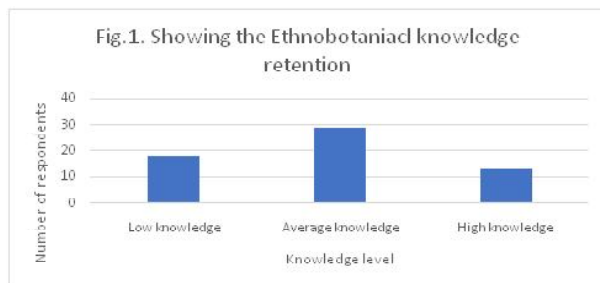
Cognitive variables like memory retention (recall of plant names and uses) and learning pathways (observational vs. Formal learning). These variables were interpreted using established cognitive learning and memory theories

Data Analysis

Responses were tabulated and analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages. Comparative analysis was performed to examine associations between knowledge retention and factors such as source of learning, frequency of interaction with traditional practices, and educational background. Results were interpreted in the context of ethnobotanical knowledge transmission and cognitive learning models.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ethnobotanical Knowledge Level

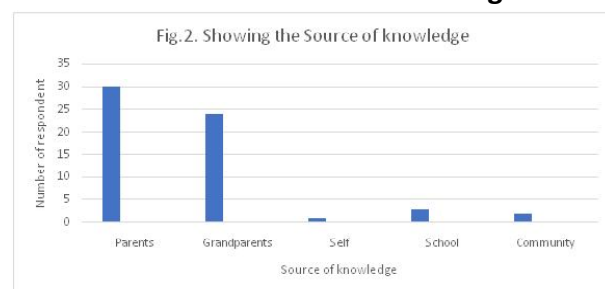


In Fig.1. A total of 60 respondents were evaluated for ethnobotanical knowledge using the structured scoring system. Based on the total knowledge score (maximum = 70), respondents

were categorized into low, average, and high knowledge groups using equal-interval classification.

Out of 60 respondents, 18 (30%) showed low knowledge, 29 (48.3%) showed average knowledge, and 13 (21.7%) showed high knowledge of medicinal plants. The distribution indicates that most respondents possess moderate ethnobotanical knowledge, with a smaller proportion demonstrating high knowledge retention.

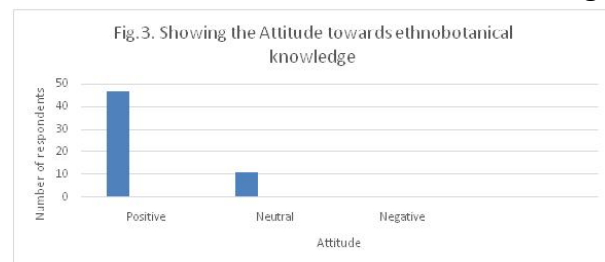
Source of Ethnobotanical Knowledge



Analysis of knowledge sources as shown in Fig.2 showed that ethnobotanical information was transmitted mainly through family members. Parents (50%) and grandparents (40%) were the primary sources. Very few respondents reported learning from school (5%), community (3.3%), or self-learning (1.7%).

This pattern indicates that ethnobotanical knowledge transfer is predominantly intergenerational and family-based, with limited contribution from formal education systems.

Attitude Toward Ethnobotanical Knowledge

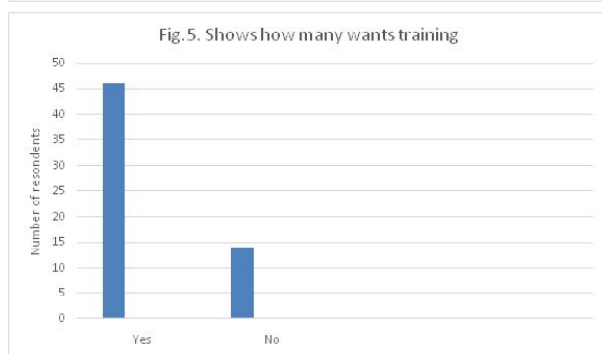
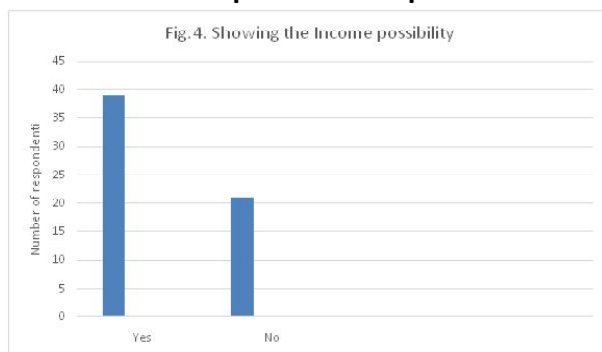


In Fig.3. Attitude scores (maximum = 30) were categorized into negative, neutral, and positive levels. A strong positive attitude toward ethnobotanical knowledge was observed among

respondents. 47 (78.3%) showed positive attitude, 11 (18.3%) neutral attitudes, and only 2 (3.3%) negative attitudes.

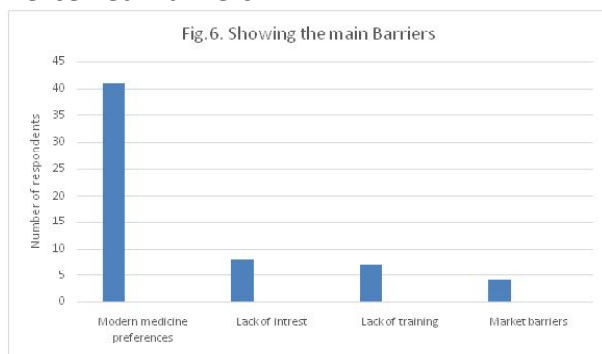
This suggests broad acceptance and favourable perception of traditional plant knowledge among the study population.

Livelihood and Skill Development Perception



In Fig.4 and Fig.5. Regarding livelihood potential, 39 respondents (65%) believed that ethnobotanical knowledge can generate income, while 11 (18.3%) did not. A higher proportion, 46 respondents (76.7%), expressed willingness to undergo training related to medicinal plants and ethnobotanical practices.

Perceived Barriers



As shown in Fig.6. The most commonly reported barrier was preference for modern medicine (68.3%). Other barriers included lack of interest (11.7%), lack of training (11.7%), and market limitations (6.7%). This indicates that modernization of healthcare practices is the major factor reducing ethnobotanical practice.

Thematic Analysis of Open-Ended Responses

Thematic analysis of open-ended responses revealed recurring themes including:

- Conservation of medicinal plants
- Knowledge transfer to younger generations
- Need for awareness programmes
- Cultivation and sustainable use

Most respondents emphasized conservation and education as key strategies for preserving ethnobotanical knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrates that ethnobotanical knowledge among respondents is generally at a moderate level, with a smaller but significant group possessing high knowledge retention. Knowledge transmission occurs primarily through parents and grandparents, highlighting the importance of intergenerational learning.

Attitudes toward ethnobotanical knowledge were largely positive, and most respondents recognized its potential for income generation and skill development. However, preference for modern medicine emerged as the major barrier limiting continued ethnobotanical practice.

The findings suggest that structured training programs, awareness initiatives, and conservation efforts may help strengthen the retention and practical application of ethnobotanical knowledge. Further studies integrating field validation and broader sampling could provide deeper insights.

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“Echoes of the Koya: Cultural Identity in the Forests of Malkangiri”.

Dr Padmalochan Rout

Kalimela, Malkangiri, Orissa.

Introduction :-

Nestured in the verdant hills of Odisha's Malkangiri district, the Koya tribe—a vibrant Indigenous community—has woven a cultural tapestry that defies the pressures of modernity. Their identity, rooted in tradition, language, rituals, and harmony with nature, stands as a testament to resilience. Yet, rapid development threatens to silence their “echoes.” This essay explores the Koya's cultural essence, challenges, and the urgency of preservation.

The Whispering Forests of Malkangiri:

A Koya Legacy :-

In the mist-shrouded hills of Odisha's Malkangiri district, where the Eastern Ghats unfurl like a crumpled green tapestry, the Koya tribe has lived for centuries in symphony with nature. Their existence, woven into the rhythms of rivers, the rustle of bamboo, and the sacred beat of the *Dhemsha* dance, is a testament to a culture resilient yet fragile. The Koya—a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)—are not relics of the past; they are custodians of a living heritage, echoing traditions that defy modernity's homogenizing tide. This essay explores the Koya's cultural identity: their festivals, language, art, and the urgent need to preserve this mosaic before it fades into silence. Who Are the Koya?

A Historical Tapestry :-

The Koya, numbering ~3.5 lakh (Census 2011), inhabit Malkangiri's rugged terrain, straddling Odisha and Andhra Pradesh's borders. Linguistically Dravidian, their dialect—a blend of Telugu and Odia—carries stories of Gond Rani, the mythical forest queen who taught them agriculture. Historically semi-nomadic, they practiced *_podu chasa_* (shifting cultivation), but British colonial policies (1878 Forest Act) confined them to settled farming, disrupting self-sufficiency. Post-1947, “development” projects—dams (Baliapal, 1980s), mining, monoculture plantations—shrank their forests. Yet, the Koya adapted, retaining a distinct identity. Geography: Spread across 525 villages, 70% rely on forests (NTFP, hunting); literacy is 43% (vs. national 74%). Paradox: Poverty (85% BPL) coexists with cultural richness.

Cultural Identity: The Koya's Interwoven Tapestry:

1. Language: The Soul's Pulse

Koya basha, unwritten until 2003, uses metaphors: “*_Marang aada_*” (big river) symbolizes life's flow. Elders narrate origin myths: “The forest birthed us.” Risk: Schools favor Odia; 20% of children speak Koya at home.

2. Festivals: Earth's Rhythms:

- Chaitra Parab (March) : Welcomes spring. Dances under banyan trees, *_mandia_* (millet beer) offered to the earth.

- Diali Puja: Harvest festival. *_Laru_* (rice cakes), *_Jhumar_* songs, bonfires.

- Kondh Porob : Honors ancestors. “*_Pedda_*” (headman) leads rituals at sacred groves.

Challenge: Shrinking forests disrupt cycles.

3. Dhemsha Dance: The Heartbeat

Communal, not performative. Feet (*_ghumura_*) mimic rain, sowing. Lyrics: “*_Jeevan nadi baha rahi_*” (Life flows like a river). Threat: Bollywood fusion dilutes it.

4. Art & Craft: Nature's Palette:

Bamboo baskets (*_dokri_*), tattoos (*_gotipu_*), beadwork (*_pachha_*). Tiger motif: Strength; spirals: Life cycles. Exploitation:

Middlemen pay 1/10th value.

5. Cuisine: Nourishment from the Wild

Ragi pej, *_bamboo rice_*, river fish. “Food is medicine,” says a healer. Shift: Government rations replace millets.

6. Matriarchal Roots

Land via daughters; *_Pattamanchi_* councils resolve disputes. Tension: Patriarchal norms creep in.

7. Spirituality: Animism :

Trees, rivers are sacred. “The forest is our temple.”

The Koya and Nature: A Sacred Bond

- Sacred Groves (*_Jhada_*): Protected by deities. *_Diali Puja_* ensures rain.

- Agroforestry: *_Podu chasa_* maintains soil.

- Taboos: No hunting in breeding seasons.

Contrast : Mainstream “development” exploits. Result: Malkangiri lost 1,000 sq. km forests (2005–2020).

Modern Storms: Threats to Survival

1. Displacement:

Dams (Baliapal), mining (Niyamgiri). 1,200 Koya displaced (1980s).

2. Cultural Erosion:

Schools mock traditions; children wear jeans, not *_kandhas_*.

3. Climate Crisis:

Droughts '! crop failure '! migration.

4. Healthcare:

40% children <5 anemic (NFHS-5).

5. Digital Divide:

<1% internet; oral traditions vanish.

6. Exploitation:

Craft markets undervalue their art.

Glimmers of Hope: Preservation Efforts

- Adivasi Academy: Scripted Koya (2003); digital archives.

- Koya Sahitya Sangha: Published *_Koya Lokakatha_* (2018).

- PESA Act (1996) : Self-governance, but 70% villages ignored.

- Community: Youth revive *_gotna_* dances.

- UNDRIP (2007): Signed, not ratified.

Why It Matters: Beyond Nostalgia

1. Cultural Diversity: UNESCO: “Each tribe enriches humanity.”
 2. Ecology: Sustainable practices combat climate change.
 3. Identity: “We’re custodians, not ‘backward,’” says a Koya activist.
 4. Economy : Eco-tourism, organic farming.
- The Road Ahead: Balancing Progress
- Inclusive Development: Solar grids, not dams.
 - Education: Koya-medium schools.
 - Healthcare: Mobile clinics.
 - Legal Safeguards: Enforce PESA, FRA (2006).
 - Media: Stop stereotypes; showcase *_Dhemsha_* globally.
 - Agency: Koya-led NGOs.

The Koya’s story mirrors India’s Indigenous struggle. Their culture isn’t a relic—it’s living resistance. As an elder says, “Our traditions are a river: it flows, but never drowns.” The question: Will we listen to its echo?

1. Language: The Soul of Identity

The Koya language, a Dravidian dialect intertwined with Telugu and Odia, is the lifeblood of the tribe’s identity. Passed down orally, it carries ancient myths, proverbs, and collective memory. Elders narrate the legend of Gond Rani, the forest queen who taught the Koya agriculture, embedding history in phrases like “*_Marang aada_*” (the river is life’s flow). In villages, children learn to greet elders with “*_Koya basha_*”: “*_Ella sukhama?_*” (Are you well?). Yet, this heritage faces extinction. Schools prioritize Odia, and urban migration discourages its use. Consequence: Only 20% of Koya children speak the language at home (Adivasi Academy, 2022). Efforts to revive it include the Koya script (developed in 2003) and digital archives by the Adivasi Academy. “Without our tongue,” says a Koya elder, “we lose our soul.” Challenge: Internet access is <1%; oral traditions vanish. Solution: Koya-medium schools, community radio, and apps. The language isn’t just communication—it’s the

Koya’s heartbeat.

2. Festivals and Dhemsha: Rhythm of Life

Koya festivals are a sensory explosion, syncing spirituality with nature. Chaitra Parab (March) welcomes spring: villagers dance under banyan trees, offering *_mandia_* (millet beer) to the earth goddess. Diali Puja celebrates harvests: families cook *_laru_* (rice cakes), sing *_Jhumar_* songs, and light bonfires. Kondh Porob honors ancestors, led by the *_Pedda_* (headman) at sacred groves. But the heart of Koya culture beats in the Dhemsha dance. Communal, not performative, it mimics rain, sowing, and hunting. Feet (*_ghumura_*) stomp in unison to drums (*_dhol_*); lyrics echo “*_Jeevan nadi baha rahi_*” (Life flows like a river). Threats: Shrinking forests disrupt cycles; Bollywood fusion dilutes authenticity. “It’s not *_Dhemsha_* without the forest’s echo,” laments an elder. Preservation: Local schools teach it; youth groups revive *_gotna_* dances. UNESCO’s 2003 proclamation: “Intangible heritage must be safeguarded.” The Koya’s answer: “We’ll dance till the trees remember.”

3. Lifestyle: Harmony with Nature

The Koya’s existence is a pact with the wild. Food sustains this bond: *_ragi pej_* (gruel), bamboo rice, and river fish. “Our land feeds us,” they say, but deforestation reduces wild resources. Craft reflect this symbiosis: bamboo baskets (*_dokri_*), geometric tattoos (*_gotipu_*), and beadwork (*_pachha_*). Tiger motifs symbolize strength; spirals represent life cycles. Matriarchal roots: Land is inherited via daughters; *_Pattamanchi_* councils resolve disputes. Spirituality : Trees, rivers are sacred. “The forest is our temple,” asserts a priest. Tension: Patriarchal norms creep in via media; middlemen exploit crafts (1/10th market value). Climate crisis : Droughts ’! crop failure ’! migration. Solution : Promote eco-tourism, organic farming, and fair trade. The Koya remind us: “Nature isn’t a resource—it’s family.”

4. Challenges: The Winds of Change

The Koya face an existential storm. Displacement : Dams (Baliapal, 1980s) uprooted 1,200 families ; mining (Niyamgiri) threatens sacred hills. Cultural erosion : Schools mock traditions; children wear jeans, not _kandhas_. Economic neglect: 85% are BPL; literacy is 43%. Healthcare: 40% children <5 are anemic (NFHS-5). Digital divide: <1% internet access erases oral stories. Exploitation: Craft markets undervalue their art. Statistics: Malkangiri lost 1,000 sq. km forests (2005–2020). “We’re not ‘backward’—we’re custodians,” says a Koya activist. Policy gaps: PESA (1996) ignored in 70% villages; FRA (2006) claims rejected. Climate impact : Erratic rains’! crop failure. Hope : UNDRIP (2007) mandates “free, prior consent.” The Koya resist: “Our culture isn’t a relic—it’s a fight.”

5. Preservation Efforts: Glimmers of Hope

Despite adversity, resilience flickers. Adivasi Academy (Bhubaneswar) : Scripted Koya (2003); digitized folklore. Koya Sahitya Sangha : Published _Koya Lokakatha_ (2018). Community: Youth revive _gotna_ dances; elders teach _gotipu_ tattoos. Government steps : PESA grants self-governance (though flawed). UNDRIP : Signed, not ratified. Recommendations:

- Koya-medium schools.
- Eco-friendly livelihood (solar grids, not dams).
- Mobile clinics.
- Stop stereotypes in media.
- Koya-led NGOs , not external “experts.”

A Koya proverb: “A tree without roots doesn’t bloom.” The world must listen.

The Bada Yatra of the Koya People: A Celebration of Tradition and Unity:

The Bada Yatra, a vibrant biennial festival of the Koya tribe, unfolds like a living tapestry of spirituality, culture, and communal harmony in Malkangiri, Odisha—a region where the borders of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh converge. Rooted in ancient mythology and tribal lore, this month-long extravaganza (from Magha Purnima to Dol Purnima) transcends religious boundaries,

drawing devotees from three states to partake in a journey that intertwines faith, nature, and resilience.

Origins and Deities :-

The festival venerates Kanamraju, Balraju (Bhima), Potraju (Arjun), and Goddess Mutyaluma, symbolizing the Koya tribe’s reverence for the Mahabharata’s heroes. Legend has it that Bhima, after slaying Jarasandha, purified himself at Tadaka Reu Snana Kund (Poleru, Andhra Pradesh), a sacred ritual echoed in the Bada Yatra’s opening ceremony. The deities, carried on a 100 km foot procession, traverse rugged landscapes, stopping at Kanyamajhibandha, Lathi Yatra, and Mauli Maa Temple , before culminating in Malkangiri.

Rituals and Symbolism

Holy Dip (Snana Jatra): The deities bathe in the Poleru-Silleru River, cleansing sins, followed by a boat procession (Nauka Bihar).

Piety on Foot: No vehicles are allowed; devotees pay a nominal fee to pass, underscoring the sacred journey.

Tribal Fusions: The Country Liquor Mela (Salapa, Tadi, Mahuli) and traditional dances (Gotna, Dhemsaha) merge indulgence with cultural pride.

Interstate Unity .A confluence of Odisha, Andhra, and Chhattisgarh’s Koya, Bonda, and Gadaba communities.

Cultural Significance :

Agricultural Ties: Parallels the harvest festival Chaitra Parba, where men hunt, and women sing/dance, reinforcing the tribe’s symbiotic bond with nature.

Economic Lifeline: Promotes local crafts (bamboo artifacts) and tourism, though risks commercialization.

Social Fabric: Strengthens inter-tribal bonds, with cross-border participation.

Challenges & Revival Efforts :

Environmental Threats: Deforestation and the Polavaram dam displace Koya lands.

Cultural Erosion: Modernity pressures dilute traditions; youth migration reduces

participation.

- Initiatives: Community-led preservation (Koya Sahitya Sangha), government support (PESA Act), & UNESCO's intangible heritage recognition.

The Bada Yatra is more than a ritual—it's a defiant echo of Indigenous identity. As forests shrink and traditions waver, the Koya's resilience reminds us: Traditions flow, they never drown." To preserve this heritage, we must listen, respect, and act—support tribal autonomy, promote eco-friendly livelihoods, and document their legacy. The Koya wait The forest whispers. Will we answer.

Conclusion:

The Koya tribe's story is a poignant microcosm of India's Indigenous struggle—a tapestry of resilience, woven with threads of language, festivals, art, and an unbreakable bond with nature. Their culture isn't a relic of the past; it's a living resistance against the homogenizing tide of modernity, a testament to humanity's irreplaceable diversity. As this essay has illuminated, the Koya's identity faces an existential crisis. Deforestation, displacement, climate change, and cultural erosion threaten to silence their "echoes," reducing centuries of tradition to a fading whisper. The forests of Malkangiri, once their sanctuary, are shrinking; the *_Dhemsha_* dance risks becoming a performance for tourists, stripped of its sacred pulse; the *_Koya basha_* language teeters on the brink of extinction. Yet, amid this storm, hope flickers. Community-led revivals—the youth reclaiming *_gotna_* dances, elders teaching *_gotipu_* tattoos, the Adivasi Academy scripting their language—are beacons of defiance. Legal safeguards like the PESA Act (1996) and global frameworks like UNDRIP (2007) offer a roadmap, though implementation remains woefully inadequate.

To preserve this heritage, we must act urgently. Governments must prioritize Koya-medium schools, not impose Odia-centric curricula. Eco-friendly livelihoods—solar grids,

organic farming, fair-trade crafts—must replace dams and mining. Healthcare and digital access must reach remote villages. Most crucially, the world must listen, not exoticize: stop portraying the Koya as "primitive" and amplify their voices. "We are not backward," says a Koya activist. "We are custodians of a wisdom the world needs." The Koya remind us: "Traditions are a river—they flow, but never drown." The question remains: Will we listen to their beat?

The consequences of neglect are stark. Malkangiri's forests, vital to the Koya's spirituality and survival, have shrunk by 1,000 sq. km (2005–2020). Over 85% of the tribe lives below the poverty line, their crafts exploited by middlemen. 40% of children under 5 are anemic. If this continues, the Koya's echo will fade—not just for them, but for humanity. As the forest whispers its last warning, the world must choose: respect or forget. "The tree will fall if its roots are cut," says a Koya elder. Let the Koya's legacy not become a footnote in history.

A Call to Action:

Support tribal-led NGO(e.g., Koya Sahitya Sangha).

Advocate for UNDRIP ratification.

Document intangible heritage (UNESCO's 2003 mandate).

-Visit Malkangiri responsibly: Learn, don't disrupt.

In the end, the Koya's story is ours too. Their resilience teaches that diversity is strength, not a liability. As climate crises escalate, their sustainable practices—sacred groves, agroforestry—offer solutions. Their matriarchal harmony challenges patriarchal norms. Their art, language, and festivals enrich global culture. To erase them is to erase a part of ourselves. The Koya wait. The forest waits. The question echoes: Will we answer?

References : [Census 2011, Odisha Tribal Development Society, Adivasi Academy, NFHS-5, UNDRIP 2007]



IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE GROWTH OF AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES IN BIHAR

Mukesh Kumar

(Research Scholar)

Department of Commerce,
B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur

Dr. Neyaz Ahmad

Assistant Professor Department of Commerce
R.D.S. College, Muzaffarpur.

Abstract:

This study examines the impact of government policies on the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar, with a focus on how policy interventions have influenced industrial development, employment generation, and rural economic transformation. The agro-based sector plays a crucial role in Bihar's economy due to its strong agricultural base, yet its growth has been uneven due to infrastructural gaps, financial constraints, and limited technological adoption. In recent years, various government initiatives such as subsidies, credit schemes, food processing policies, and infrastructure development programs have been introduced to promote this sector.

The study aims to analyze the effectiveness of these policies in enhancing productivity, encouraging entrepreneurship, and improving the overall industrial ecosystem in the state. It also evaluates the challenges faced by agro-based industries in policy implementation, including issues related to awareness, accessibility, and administrative bottlenecks. The research is based on both primary and secondary data, providing insights into policy

outcomes and their real impact at the ground level. The findings of the study highlight that while government policies have positively contributed to the growth of agro-based industries, there is a need for better coordination, improved infrastructure, and more inclusive policy frameworks to ensure sustainable development. The study contributes to policy recommendations for strengthening the agro-industrial sector in Bihar.

Keywords: Government Policies, Agro-Based Industries, Industrial Growth, Bihar Economy, Rural Development, Employment Generation, Food Processing, Economic Development

Introduction:

In this study, I focus on understanding the role of government policies in shaping the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar. Bihar is primarily an agrarian state where a large portion of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Despite having fertile land, abundant water resources, and a favorable climate, the state has historically lagged behind in industrial development, particularly in agro-based industries. This gap highlights the importance of effective policy intervention to convert agricultural strength into industrial and economic growth.

Agro-based industries, such as food processing, dairy, sugar, and grain-based units, act as a bridge between agriculture and industry. These industries not only add value to agricultural products but also generate employment opportunities, reduce post-harvest losses, and contribute to rural development. Recognizing this potential, both central and state governments have introduced several policies, including subsidies, tax incentives, credit facilities, infrastructure development programs, and schemes like "Make in India" and "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana."

However, the actual impact of these policies on the ground remains a matter of concern. In many cases, the benefits of these

policies do not reach small and medium entrepreneurs due to lack of awareness, bureaucratic hurdles, and inadequate infrastructure. Therefore, it becomes necessary to critically analyze whether these government initiatives have effectively contributed to the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar.

Through this study, I aim to evaluate the effectiveness of these policies, identify the key challenges faced by agro-based industries, and suggest measures to improve policy implementation. This research is significant as it provides insights into how policy-driven growth can strengthen the agro-industrial sector and contribute to the overall economic development of Bihar.

Review of Literature :

Several studies have examined the relationship between government policies and the development of agro-based industries in India, particularly in agrarian states like Bihar. These studies provide valuable insights into policy effectiveness, challenges, and growth opportunities.

Kumar (2015) analyzed the role of government support in promoting food processing industries in India and found that subsidies and financial assistance schemes significantly contributed to industrial growth. However, the study highlighted that lack of infrastructure and poor implementation reduced the overall impact of these policies.

Singh and Sharma (2020) focused on agro-based industries in Bihar and observed that despite the presence of favorable policies, the sector remained underdeveloped due to limited access to credit, poor transportation facilities, and lack of modern technology. The study emphasized the need for better policy execution and awareness among rural entrepreneurs.

Verma (2025) examined recent government initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and concluded that these policies have started showing

positive results in terms of increased investment and employment generation in the agro-processing sector. However, the study pointed out that regional disparities and administrative inefficiencies still act as major barriers.

Overall, the literature suggests that while government policies play a crucial role in promoting agro-based industries, their effectiveness largely depends on proper implementation, infrastructure support, and accessibility for small and medium entrepreneurs.

Research Gap:

From the review of literature, I find that although several studies have examined the role of government policies in promoting agro-based industries in India, very limited research has specifically focused on Bihar with a ground-level perspective. Most studies discuss policy frameworks and expected outcomes but fail to analyze their actual implementation and effectiveness in real conditions, especially among small and medium entrepreneurs. There is also a lack of updated studies incorporating recent policy developments up to 2025 and their practical impact. Moreover, the gap between policy formulation and execution, along with issues like awareness, accessibility, and administrative challenges in rural and semi-urban areas, has not been deeply explored. Therefore, this study attempts to fill this gap by providing a focused and practical analysis of how government policies influence the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the role of government policies in the development of agro-based industries in Bihar.
2. To analyze the impact of these policies on industrial growth, employment generation, and rural development.
3. To identify the major challenges faced by agro-based industries in availing benefits of government schemes and policies.

Hypothesis:

H₀ (Null Hypothesis): Government policies have no significant impact on the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar.

H₁ (Alternative Hypothesis): Government policies have a significant impact on the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar.

Research Methodology:

In this study, I adopt a descriptive and analytical research design to examine the impact of government policies on the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar. Both primary and secondary data are used to ensure a comprehensive analysis. Primary data is collected from 100 respondents, including small entrepreneurs, agro-based industry owners, and related stakeholders, using a structured questionnaire. Secondary data is gathered from government reports, policy documents, research articles, and official websites. A simple random sampling method is used for selecting respondents. The collected data is analyzed using basic statistical tools such as percentage and simple averages to understand trends and patterns. This methodology helps in providing a clear and practical understanding of how government policies influence the development of agro-based industries in Bihar.

Role of Government Policies on Agro-Based Industries in Bihar :**1. Financial Support and Subsidies**

Government policies play a vital role by providing financial assistance in the form of subsidies, grants, and low-interest loans to agro-based industries. In Bihar, many entrepreneurs face capital constraints, and these financial schemes reduce the burden of initial investment. As a result, small and medium enterprises are encouraged to enter the agro-processing sector. This financial support helps industries to purchase machinery, expand production capacity, and sustain operations, ultimately leading to industrial growth.

2. Promotion of Employment Generation

Agro-based industries significantly contribute to employment, and government policies actively promote this aspect. By encouraging the establishment of food processing units, dairy industries, and small-scale manufacturing units, policies create both direct and indirect job opportunities. In rural areas of Bihar, where unemployment and underemployment are common, these industries provide stable income sources and reduce migration to urban areas.

3. Infrastructure Development

One of the most important roles of government policies is the development of infrastructure such as roads, cold storage facilities, warehouses, and transportation systems. Proper infrastructure ensures smooth movement of raw materials and finished goods. It also helps in reducing post-harvest losses, which is a major issue in Bihar. With improved infrastructure, agro-based industries can operate more efficiently and competitively.

4. Technological Advancement and Modernization

Government policies encourage the adoption of modern technology in agro-based industries. Through various schemes, industries are supported in upgrading their machinery and production processes. This leads to improved productivity, better quality of products, and higher efficiency. In Bihar, where traditional methods are still prevalent, such policies help industries shift towards modern and scientific approaches.

5. Development of Market Linkages

Policies also play a crucial role in connecting farmers with industries and markets. By promoting organized supply chains and reducing the role of middlemen, government initiatives ensure fair pricing for farmers and better availability of raw materials for industries. This strengthens the entire agro-industrial ecosystem and supports sustainable growth.

6. Encouragement of Entrepreneurship

Government policies motivate individuals, especially youth and rural entrepreneurs, to start their own agro-based businesses. Training programs, skill development initiatives, and financial incentives help in building entrepreneurial capacity. This leads to the creation of new enterprises, innovation, and overall industrial development in Bihar.

7. Boost to Rural Development

Agro-based industries, supported by government policies, contribute directly to rural development. They increase income levels, improve living standards, and promote economic activities in villages. As industries grow in rural areas, they bring better infrastructure, education, and healthcare facilities, leading to overall socio-economic development.

8. Export Promotion and Economic Growth

Government policies also aim to promote exports of agro-based products by providing incentives and improving quality standards. This helps Bihar to access national and international markets. Increased exports lead to higher revenue generation, foreign exchange earnings, and overall economic growth of the state.

9. Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses

Through policies focused on storage, processing, and transportation, the government helps in minimizing post-harvest losses. In Bihar, a large portion of agricultural produce is wasted due to lack of proper facilities. By promoting agro-processing industries and cold chain systems, these losses are reduced, increasing profitability for both farmers and industries.

10. Balanced Regional Development

Government policies ensure that industrial development is not limited to urban areas but also reaches rural and backward regions. By promoting agro-based industries in districts of Bihar, policies help in reducing regional disparities and ensuring balanced

economic growth across the state.

Overall, government policies act as a backbone for the development of agro-based industries in Bihar by providing financial, infrastructural, and institutional support. However, their success largely depends on effective implementation, awareness, and accessibility at the ground level.

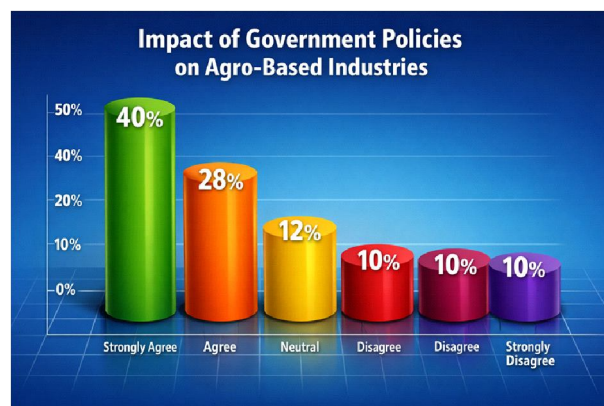
Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table 1: Impact of Government Policies on Agro-Based Industries in Bihar

Response Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	40	40%
Agree	28	28%
Neutral	12	12%
Disagree	10	10%
Strongly Disagree	10	10%
Total	100	100%

Source: Primary data

Figure 1: Impact of Government Policies on Agro-Based Industries



Source: : Primary data

Interpretation of Table 1 and Figure 1:

The Table 1 and Figure 1 together clearly present the perception of respondents regarding the impact of government policies on agro-based industries in Bihar. From the data, it is evident that a majority of respondents hold a positive opinion. Specifically, 40% respondents

strongly agree and 28% agree, which means a total of 68% respondents believe that government policies are effectively contributing to the growth of agro-based industries. This indicates that policies related to financial support, infrastructure development, and industrial promotion are playing a significant role in strengthening the sector.

At the same time, 12% respondents remain neutral, suggesting that some individuals may lack proper awareness or direct experience with these policies. Meanwhile, 10% respondents disagree and 10% strongly disagree, reflecting dissatisfaction due to issues such as complex procedures, lack of accessibility, and weak implementation at the ground level.

Overall, both the table and graphical representation show that government policies have a positive and impactful role, but there is still a need for improvement in awareness, transparency, and execution to ensure that maximum benefits reach agro-based industries across Bihar.

Findings of the Study:

1. The study finds that government policies have a significant positive impact on the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar.
2. It is observed that policy support in the form of subsidies and financial assistance has encouraged the establishment of new agro-based units.
3. The findings indicate that agro-based industries have contributed to employment generation, especially in rural areas.
4. It is found that government initiatives have helped in improving infrastructure such as storage, transportation, and processing facilities, though still not fully sufficient.
5. The study reveals that there is low awareness among small entrepreneurs regarding available government schemes and benefits.
6. It is observed that administrative delays

and complex procedures act as major obstacles in availing policy benefits.

7. The findings show that agro-based industries have helped in increasing farmers' income by providing better market opportunities and reducing dependency on middlemen.

8. It is also found that lack of modern technology and limited access to finance still affect the efficiency of small-scale industries.

9. The study highlights that there is a gap between policy formulation and implementation, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

10. Overall, the findings suggest that while government policies are effective, their impact can be enhanced through better awareness, simplified procedures, and strong implementation mechanisms.

Conclusion:

From this study, I conclude that government policies have played a vital and positive role in promoting the growth of agro-based industries in Bihar. The analysis shows that initiatives such as subsidies, financial assistance, infrastructure development, and promotion of food processing industries have significantly contributed to industrial expansion, employment generation, and rural development. These policies have helped in strengthening the linkage between agriculture and industry, thereby enhancing farmers' income and reducing post-harvest losses.

However, the study also highlights that the full potential of these policies has not yet been realized due to challenges such as lack of awareness among entrepreneurs, complex administrative procedures, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to finance. These issues create a gap between policy formulation and its effective implementation at the ground level.

Therefore, it can be concluded that while government policies are impactful and essential for the development of agro-based industries

in Bihar, their success largely depends on better implementation, increased awareness, simplified procedures, and improved coordination among stakeholders. Addressing these challenges will ensure sustainable industrial growth and overall economic development of the state.

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Role of Libraries in the Indian Scenario

Dr. Mohammed Mudassir Ahemed,
Librarian,
Lokseva Education Society's
Arts & Science College,
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Abstract:

Libraries play a vital role in the intellectual, educational, cultural, and socio-economic development of India. Traditionally viewed as repositories of books, modern Indian libraries have evolved into dynamic knowledge centers providing access to digital information, research support, lifelong learning opportunities, and community development services. In the Indian scenario, libraries contribute significantly to education, research productivity, literacy promotion, digital inclusion, and implementation of national policies such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This paper examines the historical development, present functions, challenges, and future prospects of libraries in India.

Keywords:- Libraries in India, Academic Libraries, Public Libraries, Information Society, Digital Libraries, NEP 2020.

1. Introduction:

Libraries are fundamental institutions in any knowledge society. In India, libraries function as essential agencies for education, research, and cultural preservation. The concept of modern librarianship in India was strongly influenced by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, whose Five Laws of Library Science transformed libraries into user-centred institutions. With the expansion of higher education, digital

technologies, and information access, Indian libraries have moved beyond traditional book storage toward information management and knowledge dissemination systems.

2. Historical Development of Libraries in India:

The development of libraries in India can be divided into phases:

2.1 Ancient Period Libraries existed in Nalanda and Takshashila universities. Manuscripts preserved religious and scientific knowledge.

2.2 Colonial Period Establishment of public and university libraries. Growth of cataloguing and classification practices.

2.3 Post-Independence Period Expansion of public library systems. Creation of national institutions and university libraries.

Development supported by government policies and education expansion.

2.4 Digital Era

Emergence of e-libraries and digital repositories. Online databases and remote access services.

3. Types of Libraries in India:

3.1 Academic Libraries

Support teaching, learning, and research activities in schools, colleges, and universities. They provide: Books and journals, E-resources, Research data, Information literacy training. Academic libraries significantly enhance research productivity by offering curated scholarly resources and guidance services.

3.2 Public Libraries

Promote literacy and lifelong learning. Serve rural and urban communities equally. Provide free access to information.

3.3 Special Libraries

Found in research institutions, industries, and government organizations. Provide subject-specific information.

3.4 National Libraries

Preserve cultural heritage and national publications.

4. Role of Libraries in Education:

Libraries act as the backbone of the Indian education system by: Supporting

curriculum learning, Encouraging independent study, Developing reading habits, Enhancing critical thinking

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes libraries as essential educational infrastructure promoting multidisciplinary learning and lifelong education. Libraries help create learner-centred environments aligned with modern educational reforms.

5. Role of Libraries in Research and Knowledge Creation:

Libraries contribute to research through: Access to scholarly journals and databases, Reference and research assistance, Interlibrary loan services. Research data management, Library professionals guide researchers in navigating complex information systems, improving research efficiency and academic output. University libraries in India increasingly integrate digital portals and institutional repositories to disseminate research globally.

6. Libraries and Digital Transformation in India:

Indian libraries are undergoing technological transformation:

6.1 Digital Libraries

E-books and e-journals, Online catalogues (OPAC), Institutional repositories

6.2 Information Literacy

Libraries train users in: Digital searching, Data evaluation, Academic integrity

6.3 Knowledge Management

Modern librarians act as knowledge managers requiring technological and data skills.

7. Libraries and National Development:

Libraries support national development by Promoting literacy and education,

Preserving cultural heritage, Bridging digital divide, Supporting innovation and research, Libraries also function as community centres encouraging discussion, creativity, and intellectual exchange, The Times of India

8. Role of Libraries in Implementing NEP 2020:

Libraries contribute to NEP

implementation by: Providing inclusive access to resources, Supporting multidisciplinary education Encouraging research culture, Promoting lifelong learning, They serve as knowledge hubs essential for achieving educational reforms envisioned by NEP 2020.

9. Challenges Faced by Libraries in India:

Despite progress, libraries face several challenges:

Insufficient funding, Outdated infrastructure, Digital divide between urban and rural areas, Lack of trained professionals, Low reading culture in some regions, Technological adaptation issues, Studies highlight skill gaps and infrastructure limitations affecting effective e-resource management.

10. Changing Role of Librarians:

Modern librarians are: Information specialists, Digital resource managers Research consultants, Technology facilitators ,Continuous professional development is necessary to meet evolving user needs.

11. Future Prospects of Libraries in India:

Future Indian libraries will focus on: Artificial intelligence and automation, Digital knowledge repositories, Community engagement programs, Open access resources Smart libraries, Libraries are increasingly becoming hybrid spaces combining physical and digital learning environments.

12. Libraries in Indian Scenario:

In the Indian scenario, libraries remain indispensable institutions supporting education, research, cultural preservation, and social development. Their transformation from traditional book repositories into digital knowledge centres reflects the changing needs of society. With appropriate funding, policy support, and technological integration, libraries in India can play a transformative role in building an informed, inclusive, and knowledge-driven nation.

13. Contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan:

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, known as the

Father of Library Science in India, revolutionized librarianship. Five Laws of Library Science, Books are for use, Every reader his/her book,

Every book its reader, Save the time of the reader, Library is a growing organism, These principles transformed Indian libraries from storage centres into service-oriented institutions.

Other Contributions Colon Classification system, Library education in India, Development of documentation services, His ideas continue to guide modern digital libraries.

14. Role of Libraries in Rural Development:

Libraries play a crucial role in rural India where access to information is limited.

Functions, Adult literacy programmes, Agricultural information dissemination, Career guidance for youth, Government scheme awareness, Digital literacy training Village libraries support socio-economic empowerment by providing practical information related to farming, health, and employment.

15. Libraries and Digital India Initiative:

The Government of India promotes digital transformation through initiatives that directly involve libraries. Major Programs:

- National Digital Library of India (NDLI) – Free academic resources platform
- e-ShodhSindhu – Access to scholarly journals for universities
- SWAYAM – Online learning courses
- DELNET (Developing Library Network) – Resource sharing among libraries

These initiatives enable remote learning and reduce information inequality.

16. Libraries as Community Information Centres:

Modern Indian libraries are evolving into community hubs. Community Services, Career counseling workshops, Skill development programs, Cultural events and exhibitions, Reading clubs and storytelling sessions, Women empowerment programmes Libraries strengthen democratic participation by providing unbiased information.

17. Role of Libraries in Preservation of Cultural Heritage:

Indian libraries preserve rare and valuable materials such as: Palm-leaf manuscripts, Ancient scriptures, Historical archives, Regional literature, Digitization projects protect fragile documents and make them accessible worldwide. Examples include: National Manuscripts Mission: Digital preservation initiatives in university libraries: In the information age, libraries teach users how to: Identify reliable information, Avoid misinformation, Use academic databases, practice ethical research and citation, Information literacy is essential for students facing information overload in digital environments.

Libraries and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :

Libraries contribute to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by:

Supporting quality education (SDG 4), Reducing inequality (SDG 10), Promoting lifelong learning, Providing public access to technology, Libraries act as inclusive institutions promoting social justice and equal opportunity. The pandemic significantly changed library services. Major Changes are Shift to digital services, Remote access to e-resources, Virtual reference services, Online workshops and webinars, Libraries demonstrated resilience by maintaining academic continuity through technology.

- a) Smart Libraries
 - RFID technology
 - Automated circulation systems
 - Self-check kiosks
- b) Artificial Intelligence
 - Chatbots for reference services
 - AI-based search systems
- c) Open Access Movement
 - Institutional repositories
 - Free scholarly publishing
- d) Maker Spaces
 - Libraries providing creative learning environments with technology tools.
 - Increase government funding, modernize

infrastructure, Train librarians in ICT skills, expand rural library networks, promote reading culture among youth, Integrate libraries with educational policy planning. Future libraries in India will function as: Hybrid learning spaces, Digital knowledge hubs, Innovation and research centres, Community empowerment institutions, Integration of technology and human expertise will define next-generation libraries.

24. Conclusion: Libraries in the Indian scenario are not merely institutions for storing books but powerful agents of social transformation. They promote education, research, cultural preservation, digital inclusion, and democratic access to information. As India progresses toward a knowledge economy, libraries will remain central to intellectual growth and national development. Strategic investment, technological adoption, and policy support are essential for strengthening their role in the future.

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How Wars around the World Affect the Indian Stock Market (2022-2026)

Anjum Rafik Shaikh
Asst. Professor,
Dept. of Commerce

1. Abstract:

This paper looks at how big wars (like the Russia – Ukraine war and conflicts in the Middle East) Change the Indian stock market. We studied the nifty 50 and Sensex to see what happens when war starts. Usually, the market drops quickly because investors get scared, but India's market is strong and usually, recovers in a few months. We found that while some businesses (like Airlines) lose money, other (like Defense and Energy) actually do well.

2. Keywords:

War, Indian stocks, Nifty 50, Oil Prices, Investing, and Market Recovery.

3. Introduction:

Today, what happens in other countries affects India's Money. When a war starts, it disrupts trade and makes things like petrol and gas more expensive. Since India buys a lot of oil from other countries, any war in the Middle East or Europe hits the Indian economy. When war breaks out, global investor often take their money out of India and put it into "safe" things like Gold. This paper explains why this happens and how long the panic lasts.

4. Goals of the Study (objectives):

- 1) To see how much the stock market drops right after a war starts.
- 2) To understand why war affects India (for

e.g. through oil prices).

3) To find out which types of stocks (sectors) are "winners" and "losers".

4) To see how long it takes for the market to go back to normal.

5. The Main Ideas (Hypothesis):

H₁: The Indian stock market will go down in the first 10 days after a war starts.

H₂: Companies that use a lot of Oil (like paint or Airline companies) will suffer the most.

H₃: Even if the market drops, it will bounce back within 3 to 6 months.

6. Findings:

Below table shows how geo-political events affected Indian stock market:

	Event Date	Geopolitical Event	Nifty 50 Immediate Reaction	Top Gainer (sector)	Top Loser (sector)
1.	Feb 24, 2022	Russia-Ukraine Invasion	- 4.7% (one day)	Energy (ONGC)	Automobiles (Maruti)
2.	Oct 7, 2023	Middle East Conflict Start	- 0.5% (Marginal)	Defence (HAL)	IT services
3.	March 4, 2026	US-Israel Iran Escalation	- 2.0% (Gap down)	Defence (BEL)	Aviation (India Go)

Form above table findings are:

1) The Quick Drop:

When a war is about to start, the Nifty 50 usually drops by 5% to 10%. This is mostly due to "panic selling."

2) The Oil Connection:

Whenever oil becomes more expensive because of war, the Indian market feels the pain. If oil prices go up a lot, the Indian Rupee often gets weaker.

3) Who loses?

Companies like India Go (Aviation) and Asian Paints lose money because their costs go up when oil is expensive.

4) Who Wins?

Companies that make weapons (like HAL) or companies that produce oil (like ONGC) often see their stock prices go up.

5) The Recovery

Unlike in the past, Indian small investors (regular people) are now buying stocks even when the market drops. This helps the market

recover faster than it used to.

7. Recommendations:

1) Don't panic:

If a war starts, don't sell all your stocks immediately. History shows the market usually recovers.

2) Think Long Term:

If you have extra cash, "buying the dip" (buying stocks when they are cheap during war) has historically been a good way to make money.

3) Own some Gold:

It's smart to keep some money in Gold because Gold prices usually go up when there is war.

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अनुसूचित जातींच्या सामाजिक व आर्थिक विकासात शासनाची भूमिका

डॉ. अमोल कांबळे

सहाय्यक प्राध्यापक, अर्थशास्त्र विभाग,
डॉ. पतंगराव कदम महाविद्यालय,
रामानंदनगर (बुर्ली)

प्रा. डॉ. समीर गायकवाड

प्राध्यापक, अर्थशास्त्र विभाग,
ए. डी. ए. सी. एस. कॉलेज,
हातकणंगले.

प्रस्तावना:

प्राचीन काळापासून भारतामध्ये जातीव्यवस्था अस्तित्वात असल्याचे दिसून येते. या जातीव्यवस्थेमधूनच अस्पृश्य जातीचा उगम होऊन त्यांना दलित, हरिजन, मागास जाती, बहिष्कृत जाती, मागासवर्गीय लोक या नावाने संबोधण्यात येऊ लागले परंतु भारतीय राज्यघटनेच्या कलम ३४१ नुसार राष्ट्रपतींच्या आदेशाने या सर्व नावांचा समावेश “अनुसूचित जाती” या प्रमुख शीर्षकांतर्गत करण्यात आला. वास्तविक पाहता अनुसूचित जाती या शीर्षकांतर्गत महाराष्ट्र शासनाने ५९ जातींचा समावेश केला आहे. प्राचीन काळापासून अनुसूचित जातींच्या लोकांनी गावाबाहेर वास्तव्य करावयाचे, गावाच्या कोणत्याही सांस्कृतिक व धार्मिक कार्यामध्ये भाग घ्यावयाचा नाही, त्यांनी चांगला कामधंदा करायचा नाही, फक्त उच्चवर्णीय लोकांची चाकरी करायची, आपल्या अंगाची सावली उच्चवर्णीय लोकांच्या अंगावर पडून त्यांचा विटाळ होऊ नये म्हणून फक्त दुपारी भर उन्हात घराबाहेर पडायचे कारण, दुपारी उन्हाची किरणे सरळ पडतात. रस्त्यावरून फिरताना

आपल्या पाऊलांचे ठसे रस्त्यावर उमटू नयेत म्हणून कमरेला खराटा बांधायचा एवढेच काय तर रस्त्यावर थुंकण्याचा अधिकारही या लोकांना नव्हता, यासाठी त्यांनी आपल्या गळयामध्ये मातीचे मडके अडकविण्याची प्रथा अस्तित्वात होती. या संवर्गातील जातींच्या सर्वांगीण विकासासाठी महात्मा ज्योतीबा फुले, सावित्रीबाई फुले, राजर्षी छत्रपती शाहू महाराज, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर व अण्णाभाऊ साठे या थोर विचारवंतांनी त्यांच्या काळात प्रयत्न केले. त्यांच्या प्रयत्नांना आलेले यश त्यांच्या काळापूरते मर्यादीत न राहता त्याचा परिणाम दीर्घकाळापर्यंत झालेला दिसून येतो. या थोर समाजसुधारकांच्या प्रयत्नामुळेच आज अनुसूचित जातीमधील लोकांच्या कमरेचा खराटा व गळयातील मडक्याचा विध्वंस झाला आहे. महात्मा ज्योतीबा फुले व सावित्रीबाई फुले यांनी या जातींच्या लोकांना शिक्षणाची दारे उघडी करून दिली, तर राजर्षी शाहू महाराज, अण्णाभाऊ साठे यांनी आपले संपूर्ण आयुष्य अनुसूचित जाती संवर्गातील जातींच्या विकासासाठी खर्च केले.

डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकरांनी “अनुसूचित जाती” या शब्दाचा प्रखरतेने उल्लेख संविधानामध्ये करून त्यांच्या विकासाची तरतूद केल्यामुळे आज या जातींचे लोक प्राध्यापक, डॉक्टर, वकील, व्यापारी, वर्ग १, वर्ग २ चे शासकीय अधिकारी या मोठ्या हुद्यावर काम करताना दिसतात. ज्याप्रकारे या विचारवंतांनी अनुसूचित जातींच्या विकासाचा पाया घालून दिला, त्याच पायावर इमारत चढविण्याचे काम भारत सरकार करीत आहे. भारत सरकार विविध योजनांच्या माध्यमातून अनुसूचित जातींच्या सामाजिक व आर्थिक विकासासाठी प्रयत्नाशील आहे.

• अभ्यासाची उद्दिष्टे:

१. अनुसूचित जातींच्या विकासासाठी राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या शासकीय योजनांचा अभ्यास करणे.
२. शासकीय योजनांच्या सामाजिक व आर्थिक परिणामांचे विश्लेषण करणे.
३. शासकीय योजनांच्या अंमलबजावणीची रचना समजून घेणे.

• संशोधन पद्धती:

सदरच्या लेखासाठी दुय्यम पद्धतीच्या माहितीचा वापर करण्यात आला असून लेखासाठी आवश्यक असणारी सर्व माहिती विविध शासकीय अहवाल, पुस्तके, लेख आणि उपलब्ध दस्तऐवज यामधून संकलीत केली आहे.

१. महात्मा फुले मागासवर्गीय विकास महामंडळ:

अनुसूचित जाती व नवबौध्द लोकांना स्वयंरोजगारासाठी अर्थसहाय्य उपलब्ध करून देण्याच्या उद्देशाने महाराष्ट्र शासनाने कंपनी कायदा १९५६ नुसार १० जुलै १९७८ रोजी महात्मा फुले विकास महामंडळाची स्थापना केली. महामंडळाकडून अनुसूचित जाती व नवबौध्द समाजातील आर्थिकदृष्ट्या दुर्बल, दारिद्र्य रेषेअंतर्गत जीवन जगणाऱ्या व्यक्तींचे जीवनमान उंचाविण्याकरीता विविध योजना राबविण्यात येतात. महामंडळाचे अधिकृत भाग—भांडवल रुपये १०० कोटीचे असून यापैकी ४९ टक्के हिस्सा केंद्र व ५१ टक्के हिस्सा राज्य सरकारकडून प्राप्त होतो. महामंडळाकडून दुर्बल घटकांमधील व्यक्तीस व्यवसाय करण्यासाठी ५० टक्के अनुदान या योजनेंतर्गत कर्ज वाटप करण्यात येते. सदर योजनेंतर्गत लाभार्थ्यास जास्तीत जास्त रुपये २००००/- पर्यंत कर्ज मंजूर करण्यात येते. यापैकी ५० टक्के रक्कम बँकेमार्फत व ५० टक्के रक्कम सरकारकडून देण्यात येते. महामंडळाच्या कर्जाची परतफेड सर्वसाधारणपणे ३ वर्षांत बँकेमध्येच करावी लागते. त्याचप्रमाणे अनुसूचित जातीच्या लाभधारक व्यावसायिकांना तांत्रिक कौशल्य प्राप्त करण्यासाठी व संबंधित तांत्रिक व्यवसाय सुरू करण्यासाठी विविध व्यावसायिक ट्रेडचे शासनमान्य संस्थेमार्फत ०६ महिन्यांच्या कालावधीसाठी मोफत प्रशिक्षण देण्यात येते. यामध्ये टी. व्ही. रिपेरिंग, इलेक्ट्रीशियन, वाहन दुरुस्ती, मोटार मेकॅनिक, वाहनचालक, शिवणकला, संगणक, ब्युटी पार्लर, मोबाईल रिपेरिंग, फोटोग्राफी, व्ही.डी.ओ. शुटींग, फॅशन डिझाईन, टर्नर, फिटर, रेफ्रीजरेशन, प्लंबर, डीझेल मोटार रिपेरिंग, अँटोमोबाईल रिपेरिंग इ. ट्रेडचा समावेश आहे. प्रशिक्षण पूर्ण झालेनंतर लाभार्थी विद्यार्थ्यास रुपये १५०/- ते रुपये ३००/- पर्यंत विद्यावेतन देण्यात येते.

२. राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाती वित्त विकास

महामंडळ, नवी दिल्ली:

अनुसूचित जातीमधील लोकांची आर्थिक प्रगती व्हावी या उद्देशाने केंद्र सरकारने राष्ट्रीय स्तरावर अनुसूचित जाती वित्त विकास महामंडळाची स्थापना केली असून याचे प्रधान कार्यालय नवी दिल्ली येथे आहे. महाराष्ट्रामध्ये या महामंडळाच्या योजनांची अंमलबजावणी महात्मा फुले मागासवर्गीय महामंडळाकडून केली जाते. या महामंडळाकडून ज्यांना स्वतःचा व्यवसाय सुरू करावयाचा आहे अशा लोकांना ५ लाख रुपयांपासून ३० लाख रुपयांपर्यंत कर्ज उपलब्ध करून देण्याचे काम करण्यात येते. या कर्जामध्ये रुपये १००००/- पर्यंतच्या अनुदानाचा समावेश असून हे कर्ज समान हप्त्यामध्ये फेडण्यासाठी ५ वर्षांचा कालावधी महामंडळाकडून दिला जातो. सदर कर्जासाठी महामंडळाकडून ६-८ टक्के वार्षिक व्याजदराने व्याजाची आकारणी करण्यात येते.

३. एकात्मिक ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम:

ग्रामीण भागातील दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील कुटुंबांना दारिद्र्य रेषेच्यावर आणणे व त्यांच्या उत्पन्नाचा पाया भक्कम करणे या उद्देशाने महाराष्ट्र शासनाने सर्वप्रथम २ ऑक्टोबर १९८० पासून एकात्मिक ग्रामीण विकास या योजनेची सुरुवात केली. गांधीजींनी खेड्याकडे चला, खेड्यांचा विकास करा असा संदेश दिला होता. त्यांच्या या संदेशाची अंमलबजावणी करण्यासाठी म. गांधीजींच्या जयंतीदिनी या कार्यक्रमाची सुरुवात करण्यात आली. एकात्मिक विकास कार्यक्रमांतर्गत लाभार्थ्यांना केंद्र शासनाच्या मार्गदर्शक तत्वानुसार अनुदान व कर्ज अशा दोन्ही स्वरूपामध्ये लाभ दिला जातो. या योजनेच्या एकूण लाभार्थ्यापैकी ५० टक्के लाभार्थी अनुसूचित जाती व अनुसूचित जमातीचे असणे आवश्यक आहे. तसेच महिला लाभार्थी ५० टक्के व प्रकल्पाच्या एकूण अंदाजपत्रकापैकी २५ ते ३३ टक्के रक्कम सीमांत व अल्पभूधारक शेतकरी यांच्यावर खर्च होणे आवश्यक आहे. या कार्यक्रमांतर्गत दसलक्ष विहीर योजना, इंदिरा आवास योजना यासारख्या योजनांचा समावेश होतो.

४. दसलक्ष विहीर योजना:

अनुसूचित जाती व अनुसूचित जमातीच्या लघु व सीमांत शेतकऱ्यांना आपल्या शेतीसाठी

जलसिंचनाची सोय व्हावी, त्यांच्या उत्पन्नामध्ये वाढ व्हावी व त्यांना दारिद्र्य रेषेच्यावर आणण्याच्या प्रयत्नांना चालना देण्याच्या उदात्त हेतूने महाराष्ट्र शासनाने १ एप्रिल १९८९ रोजी जवाहर रोजगार योजना या योजनेतर्गत दसलक्ष विहीर योजनेची सुरुवात केली. ज्या शेतकऱ्यांकडे ०.८० ते २.५० हेक्टर जमीन आहे अशा शेतकऱ्यांना या योजनेचा लाभ घेता येतो. १ एप्रिल १९९९ रोजी या योजनेचा समावेश सुवर्ण जयंती ग्रामस्वरोजगार योजनेतर्गत करण्यात आला. या योजनेसाठी ज्या लाभार्थीची निवड झाली आहे त्यांना आपल्या जमीनीमध्ये विहिर खोदण्यासाठी शासनाकडून रूपये २,०००,०००/- पर्यंत अनुदान देण्यात येते.

५. इंदिरा आवास योजना:

मानवाच्या मुलभूत गरजांपैकी निवारण ही अत्यंत महत्वाची गरज असून अनुसूचित जाती, अनुसूचित जमातीमधील लोकांची निवासाची स्थिती अत्यंत बिकट असल्याने त्यांच्या निवासाची सोय व्हावी यासाठी सन् १९८५-८६ मध्ये ग्रामीण भूमिहीन रोजगार हमी योजनेतर्गत इंदिरा आवास योजना सुरू करण्यात आली. सन् १९८९-९० मध्ये जवाहर रोजगार योजना सुरू करून इंदिरा आवास योजनेचा समावेश या योजनेमध्ये करण्यात आला. सन् १९९३-९४ पासून या योजनेचा लाभ अनुसूचित जाती, अनुसूचित जमाती व दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील कुटुंबांना देण्याचा निर्णय घेण्यात आला. १ जानेवारी १९९६ मध्ये ही योजना स्वतंत्रपणे राबवून अनुसूचित जाती, अनुसूचित जमाती व इतर दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील कुटुंबांबरोबर युध्दामध्ये बलीदान दिलेल्या सैनिकांच्या कुटुंबाला, माजी सैनिक व्यक्तीला तसेच निमलष्करी दलामधील निवृत्त कर्मचारी यांनाही या योजनेचा लाभ दिला गेला. सदर योजनेमध्ये मंजूर झालेल्या घरकुलाचा ताबा कुटुंबामधील स्त्रीच्या नावे किंवा पती व पत्नी अशा दोघांच्या संयुक्त नावाने दिला जातो. दरवर्षी या योजनेतर्गत मंजूर अंदाजपत्रकामधील ६० टक्के रक्कम अनुसूचित जाती व अनुसूचित जमातीच्या घरकुलावर खर्च करण्यात येते. ज्या कुटुंबांना या योजनेतर्गत घरकुल मंजूर झाले आहे त्यांना घर बांधण्यासाठी शासनाकडून रूपये १,२०,०००/- अनुदान देण्यात येते. यामध्ये केंद्र सरकार ७५ टक्के

व राज्य सरकार २५ टक्के रक्कम लाभार्थ्यास प्रदान करते.

६. ग्रामीण युवकांना स्वयंरोजगारासाठी प्रशिक्षण योजना:

ग्रामीण भागातील तरूणांना स्वयंरोजगाराचे प्रशिक्षण देण्यासाठी १५ ऑगस्ट १९७९ रोजी 'ग्रामीण युवकांना स्वयंरोजगारासाठी प्रशिक्षण' ही योजना सुरू करण्यात आली. मुख्यत्वे ग्रामीण भागामधील अनुसूचित जाती व अनुसूचित जमातीमधील दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील तरूणांना स्वयंरोजगाराचे प्रशिक्षण देणे, त्यांना रोजगार उपलब्ध करून देणे व त्यांची आर्थिक परिस्थिती सुधारणे ही या योजनेची प्रमुख उद्दिष्टे होती. या योजनेतर्गत प्रति वर्ष २ लाख ग्रामीण भागातील युवकांना विविध व्यवसायांचे प्रशिक्षण देवून त्यांच्यामध्ये स्वयंरोजगार करण्याचा आत्मविश्वास निर्माण करण्याचे काम या योजनेद्वारे करण्यात येते. या योजनेसाठी येणारा खर्च एकात्मिक ग्रामीण विकास योजनेतर्गत करून विविध व्यवसायासाठी दिले जाणारे प्रशिक्षण हे तज्ञ प्रशिक्षकांमार्फत नामवंत विद्यापीठ, औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्था, ग्रामसेवक प्रशिक्षण केंद्रे या ठिकाणी दिले जाते. स्त्रीयांना उद्योग, व्यवसायासाठी प्रवृत्त करून त्यांना व्यवसायामध्ये समाविष्ट करून घेण्याच्या उद्देशाने ग्रामीण युवकांना स्वयंरोजगारासाठी प्रशिक्षण योजनेमध्ये ३३ टक्के जागा स्त्रीयांसाठी राखीव ठेवलेल्या असतात.

७. जिल्हा उद्योग भवन :

केंद्र सरकारच्या औद्योगिक धोरण १९७७ नुसार ग्रामीण भागातील औद्योगिकरणास चालना मिळावी, उद्योजकांना नवीन छोटे-मोठे उद्योगधंदे स्थापन करता यावेत. त्यांना योग्य मार्गदर्शन व आर्थिक मदत पुरविणेकरीता देशामधील प्रत्येक जिल्ह्यासाठी सरकारने 'जिल्हा उद्योग केंद्राची स्थापना केली आहे. या उद्योग केंद्रामार्फत ग्रामीण भागामधील बेरोजगारी कमी व्हावी व तरूणांना स्वयंरोजगाराचे वेध लागावे या उद्देशाने त्यांना मार्गदर्शन व अर्थसहाय्य पुरविण्याचे काम करण्यात येते. याचाच एक भाग म्हणून शासनाकडून या केंद्रामार्फत २ ऑक्टोबर १९९३ पासून पंतप्रधान रोजगार योजना राबविणेत येत आहे. या योजनेचा

लाभ घेण्यासाठी लाभार्थी व्यक्तीचे शिक्षण ८ वी पास व वय १८ ते ३५ वर्षे या दरम्यान असावे. अनुसूचित जाती व अनुसूचित जमाती महिला, अपंग व माजी सैनिक या लाभार्थ्यांना वयामध्ये १० वर्षांची सवलत दिली आहे. या योजनेअंतर्गत लाभार्थ्यास व्यवसाय करण्याकरीता रूपये २,००,०००/- पर्यंतचे कर्ज दिले जाते. या कर्जामध्ये केंद्र सरकारकडून १५ टक्के रक्कमेचे अनुदान देण्यात येते. तसेच या रक्कमेची मर्यादा रूपये १०,००,०००/- पर्यंत वाढविण्याची तरतूदही करण्यात आली आहे. या योजनेच्या लाभास पात्र होण्यासाठी लाभार्थी महाराष्ट्र राज्याचा रहिवाशी असावा, त्याचे सर्व मार्गांनी मिळणारे वार्षिक उत्पन्न रूपये ४०,०००/- पेक्षा अधिक असू नये. कर्जाची परतफेड कर्ज मंजूर झालेनंतर ६ महिन्यांनी ३ ते ७ वर्षांमध्ये करावयाची असते.

८. संजय गांधी निराधार योजना:

समाजामधील निराधार वृद्ध व्यक्ती, शारिरीक अथवा मानसिक अपंग व्यक्ती, असाध्य व्याधीने ग्रस्त आणि स्वताःचा चरितार्थ चालविण्यास असमर्थ असणाऱ्या स्त्री-पुरुषांसाठी संजय गांधी निराधार योजनेची सुरुवात २ ऑक्टोबर १९८० पासून करण्यात आली आहे. सदर योजनेचा लाभ घेण्यासाठी लाभार्थी कमीत कमी १५ वर्षे महाराष्ट्र राज्याचा रहिवाशी असावा. पुरुषांना ६५ वर्षे व स्त्रीयांना ६० वर्षे पूर्ण झालेली असावीत आणि त्यांच्या नावे कोणत्याही प्रकारची स्थावर अंगर जंगम मालमत्ता असू नये. तसेच या योजनेचा लाभ १८ वर्षाखालील स्वताःच्या मुलांची संगोपणाची जबाबदारी असलेल्या निराधार विधवा महिलांनादेखील घेता येतो. यांच्यासाठी कोणत्याही प्रकारची वयाची अट लागू नाही. या योजनेमध्ये निवड झालेल्या लाभार्थ्यांना १८ वर्षाखालील मुलांच्या संगोपणासाठी दरमहा रूपये ६००/- अर्थसहाय्य मुले १८ वर्षाची होईपर्यंत व वृद्ध व्यक्तींसाठी दरमहा रूपये ६००/- अर्थसहाय्य तहयात शासनाकडून देण्यात येते. सदरच्या योजनेचा लाभ मे १९९४ पासून देवदासी महिला अगर पुरुष (तृतीयपंथी) अशा व्यक्तींना देण्यास शासनाने सुरुवात केली आहे.

९. शेळ्यांचे गट वाटप:

अनुसूचित जाती व नवबौध्द कुटुंबांना

स्वयंरोजगार उपलब्ध करून देण्याच्या उद्देशाने १९९४-९५ पासून या योजनेची सुरुवात विशेष घटक योजनेअंतर्गत करण्यात आली. या योजनेचा लाभ घेण्यासाठी लाभार्थी महाराष्ट्राचा रहिवाशी असावा, तो बेरोजगार असावा व त्याचे वार्षिक उत्पन्न रूपये ३५,०००/- पेक्षा अधिक असू नये. या योजनेसाठी निवड झालेल्या लाभार्थ्यास १० शेळी व ०१ बोकड या प्रमाणात शेळी या जातीच्या जनावरांचे वाटप करण्यात येते किंवा ही जनावरे खरेदी करण्यासाठी रक्कम देण्यात येते. शेळ्यांच्या खरेदीसाठी मंजूर रक्कमेपैकी ५ टक्के रक्कम स्वताः लाभार्थ्याने द्यावयाची असून उर्वरित रक्कम ७५ टक्के कर्ज स्वरूपात व २० टक्के अनुदान स्वरूपात लाभार्थी व्यक्तीस देण्यात येते.

१०. शौचालय अनुदान:

ग्रामीण भागातील अनुसूचित जाती व नवबौध्द कुटुंबांची आर्थिक परिस्थिती बिकट असल्याने त्यांना स्वताःची शौचालये बांधता येत नाहीत. याचा परिणाम त्यांच्या आरोग्यावर होऊन त्यांची कार्यक्षमता कमी होऊ लागते. अशा लोकांना आपल्या स्वताःच्या जागेमध्ये शौचालय बांधण्यासाठी शासनाकडून रूपये १२,५००/- अनुदान देण्यात येते.

११. विशेष घटक योजना:

भारतीय राज्यघटना कलम ४६ मधील तरतूदीनुसार राज्य शासन अनुसूचित जाती, अनुसूचित जमाती, विमुक्त जाती, महिला, अपंग व्यक्ती, निराधार बालके, वृद्ध, दुर्बल घटक यांच्या सामाजिक व आर्थिक विकासासाठी प्रयत्न करते. त्यासाठी राज्य शासनाकडून विविध योजनांची अंमलबजावणी करण्यात येते. समाजकल्याण विभागाच्या विशेष घटक योजनेअंतर्गत मागासवर्गीय व दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील अल्पभूधारक शेतकऱ्यांच्यांना बैलजोडी, पंपसेट, विहीर इ. साठी रूपये ५०,०००/- पर्यंत अर्थसहाय्य देण्यात येते. गटई कामगारांना त्यांच्या आर्थिक व सामाजिक उन्नतीसाठी १०० टक्के अनुदानावर लोखंडी / पत्याचे स्टॉल व साहित्य खरेदीसाठी रूपये ५००/- रोख देण्यात येतात. अनुसूचित जाती व नवबौध्द जातीमधील दारिद्र्य रेषेखालील भूमिहीन शेतमजूर कुटुंबांना उदरनिर्वाहाचे कायमस्वरूपी उत्पन्नाचे साधन उपलब्ध

करून देण्यासाठी दोन एकर बागायत किंवा ४ एकर जिरायत जमीन ५० टक्के कर्ज व ५० टक्के अनुदान या तत्वावर उपलब्ध करून दिली जाते. त्याचप्रमाणे मागासवर्गीय स्त्रीयांना उत्पनाचे साधन उपलब्ध करून देण्यासाठी त्यांना १८ महिन्यांचे मोफत शिवणकाम प्रशिक्षण व प्रशिक्षण पूर्ण झालेनंतर एक शिलाई मशिन मोफत देण्यात येते.

१२. राजर्षी शाहू घरकुल योजना:

अनुसूचित जातीमधील कुटुंबांना आपला निवार्याचा प्रश्न सोडविण्यासाठी जिल्हा परिषदेकडील २० टक्के राखीव निधीमधून नवीन घर बांधणेसाठी अगर जुने घर दुरूस्तीसाठी अनुदान देणेत येते. या योजनेचा लाभ घेण्यासाठी लाभार्थी मागासवर्गीय असावा, त्याचे सर्व मार्गानी मिळणारे वार्षिक उत्पन्न ३२,५००/- पेक्षा कमी असावे. सदर योजनेसाठी अर्ज करतेवेळी त्यासाठी लागणारी सर्व कागदपत्रे सादर करणे आवश्यक असून यामध्ये योजनेस पात्र असलेला ग्रामसभा ठराव, मतदार संघातील जिल्हा परिषद सदस्याची शिफारस, यापूर्वी कोणत्याही शासकीय योजनेचा लाभ न घेतलेचा ग्रामसेवक यांचा दाखला, घर बांधणीसाठी स्वता:ची जागा असलेचा असेसमेंट उतारा या कागदपत्रांचा समावेश आहे. सदर घरकुल योजनेमध्ये मंजूर झालेल्या घरांना रूपये १,२०,०००/- अनुदान टप्पा-टप्पाने दिले जाते. या अनुदानामध्ये लाभार्थ्याने घराबरोबर शौचालय बांधणे बंधनकारक आहे.

१३. आंतरजातीय विवाहास प्रोत्साहनपर अनुदान:

समाजामधील सर्व प्रकारचा जातीभेद आणि असमानता नष्ट होऊन समाज एकसंध व्हावा या उद्देशाने महाराष्ट्र शासनाने शासन निर्णय क्रमांक समाज कल्याण, सांस्कृतिक कार्य व क्रीडा विभाग यु.टी.ए. १०९३/४५५/ प्र. क्र. २०३/ मावक दि.१२ जानेवारी १९९६ या शासकीय आदेशानुसार आंतरजातीय विवाहास अनुदान देण्यास सुरवात केली आहे. परंतु महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या सामाजिक न्याय, सांस्कृतिक कार्य, क्रीडा व विपेश सहाय्य विभाग, शासन निर्णय क्रमांक सीबीसी १०९८/ प्र. क्र. १५१/मावक-५ दिनांक ७ मे १९९९ या शासन निर्णयामध्ये दि.१२ जानेवारी १९९६ चा शासकीय आदेश रद्द करण्यात आला व या नविन शासकीय आदेशानुसार आंतरजातीय विवाहास

अनुदान देण्यास सुरवात केली. अनुसूचित जाती, अनुसूचित जमाती, विमुक्त जाती व भटक्या जमाती यापैकी एक व्यक्ती आणि सवर्ण हिंदू, जैन, लिंगायत, बौध्द, शिख यापैकी दुसरी व्यक्ती अशा दोघांनी विवाह केल्यास तो आंतरजातीय विवाह म्हणून संबोधला जातो व तो या योजनेसाठी पात्र ठरतो. तसेच शासनाच्या दि.६ ऑगस्ट २००४च्या शासन निर्णयानुसार मागासवर्गीय विवाहीतांना सदर योजनेचा लाभ घेता येतो. आंतरजातीय विवाहीत दांपत्यांना प्रोत्साहनपर रूपये ५०,०००/- अर्थसहाय्य एकदाच देण्यात येवून अर्थसहाय्याचा धनादेश पती व पत्नी यांच्या संयुक्त नावे प्रदान करण्यात येतो.

• समारोप :

अनुसूचित जातींच्या विकासासाठी केंद्र व राज्य सरकार यांच्याकडून अनेक योजना कार्यान्वीत करण्यात आल्या असून या योजना राजकीय सत्तेच्या विकेंद्रीकरणासाठी पंचायतीराज त्रिस्तरीय व्यवस्थेमधून राबविण्यात येतात. महात्मा फुले विकास महामंडळ, जिल्हा उद्योग भवन यांच्या कार्यावर नियंत्रण ठेवण्याचे काम राज्य सरकार करित असून विपेश घटक योजनांशी संबंधित योजना समाज कल्याण विभागामार्फत राबविल्या जातात. संजय गांधी निराधार योजना ही जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालयाकडून राबविली जात असली तरी या योजनेसाठी पात्र होण्यास ग्रामपंचायत व पंचायत समिती यांच्या शिफारशीची आवश्यकता आहे. त्याचप्रमाणे राजर्षी शाहू घरकुल योजना ही जिल्हा परिषदेच्या २० टक्के राखीव अनुदानातून तर शेळ्यांचे गट वाटप व शौचालय अनुदान हे पंचायत समितीमार्फत देण्यात येत असून या सर्व योजनांचा हेतू अनुसूचित जातीचा विकास साध्य करणे हाच आहे.

संदर्भसूची:

१. महाराष्ट्र राज्य मुद्रित व प्रकाशित भारतीय संविधानाची आवृत्ती (२०२४), भाग १६, अनुच्छेद ३४२.
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सुरेश द्वादशीवार आणि उत्तम कांबळे यांच्या ललित साहित्याचा अभ्यास

लक्ष्मण बळीराम धावारे

संशोधक विद्यार्थी— मराठी विभाग,
सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे विद्यापीठ, पुणे

प्रा.डॉ. राजाराम प्रभाकर गावडे

मार्गदर्शक—

कला विज्ञान आणि वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय
इंदापूर, जिल्हा—पुणे

प्रस्तावना :

१९६० नंतर लेखन करणाऱ्या अनेक दलित लेखकांपैकी सामाजिक परिवर्तनाची भूमिका घेऊन लेखन करणारे संवेदनशील प्रतिभासंपन्न लेखक, पत्रकार आणि कार्यकर्ते अशा भूमिका घेऊन लेखन करणारे उत्तम कांबळे. याबरोबरच सुरेश द्वादशीवार हे लेखक, पत्रकार, संपादक, वक्ते म्हणून त्यांनी काम केले आहे. त्यांनी आपल्या साहित्यामधून सामाजिक, धार्मिक, राजकीय तसेच राजकारणातील विविध नेत्यांची चरित्र त्यांनी आपल्या शैलीतून मांडलेले आहेत.

उत्तम कांबळे आणि सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांच्या साहित्यामधून जीवनाचे वास्तव दर्शन घडते. या दोघांनी पत्रकार, लेखक, वक्ता, संपादक म्हणून काम केले आहे. हे काम करत असताना त्यांना समाजामधील विविध प्रश्नांसंबंधी त्यांनी चिंतन केले. हे चिंतन त्यांनी आपल्या कादंबरी सारख्या कथनात्मक लेखन साहित्य मध्ये त्यांनी मांडणी केली आहे. व ललित साहित्याची निर्मिती केली आहे.

सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी हाकुमी (१९८९), तांदळा (१९८९), कोहम (२०१६), १११ वी दुरुस्ती (२००४), राजधर्म (२०१२), कालच्या वर्तमान (२०१४), मन (२०२२) अशा कादंबऱ्यांचे लेखन त्यांनी केले आहे.

तसेच उत्तम कांबळे यांनी श्राद्ध (१९८६), अस्वस्थ नायक (२०००), पन्नास टक्केची ठसठस (२०१४), बुद्धाचा राट (२०१५), शेवटून आला माणूस (२०१५), मिरवणूक, कोयत्या वरचे को, इत्यादी कादंबरी लेखन केले आहे.

श्राद्ध कादंबरीचे कथानक

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी श्राद्ध (१९८६) ही पहिली कादंबरी लिहिली. या कादंबरीबद्दल उत्तम कांबळे म्हणतात, “दलित समाजातील अंतर विरोध गेल्या शतकापासून सार्या समाजासमोर ठळकपणे येत आहे. या अंतरविरोधातला सर्वप्रथम इथले जाती व्यवस्था कारणीभूत आहे. ती माणसा माणसांमध्ये अंतर पाडते. माणसांच्या जाती निर्माण करते आणि जातींमध्ये विषमता निर्माण करते. जातीजातींमध्ये संघर्ष निर्माण करते. सर्वत्र दिसणारे चित्र आहे. या संघर्षांचे दर्शन मला अतिशय जवळून घडले. इतके जवळून की, माझ्यावरही त्याचे बरे वाईट परिणाम झाले. गेल्या दोन दशकांपासून दलितांमधील अंतर्गत राजकारण हे मोठ्या प्रमाणात चर्चेचा विषय ठरत आहे. ऐक्याची भाषा होते आणि मोडतेही. या सर्व पार्श्वभूमीवर ग्रामीण भागात गाववाड्यात जगणाऱ्या दलितांच्या सामाजिक, राजकीय, आर्थिक जीवनाचा वेध घेण्याचा प्रयत्न या कादंबरीत केला आहे.”

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी अशा प्रकारे श्राद्ध या कादंबरीची निर्मिती सांगितलेली आहे श्राद्ध या कादंबरीची कथा घडते ती महाराष्ट्र कर्नाटक सीमेवरील शरणगुपी या गावात आणि या कथेचा नायक आहे आबा कांबळे. ही संपूर्ण कादंबरी आबा कांबळे व गावगाडा यांच्या भोवती साकारलेली आहे. या कादंबरीमध्ये गावगाड्यातील सुवर्ण समाज व दलित समाज यांच्यातील असलेला सामाजिक भेदभाव, अस्पृश्य, जातीभेद तसेच सामाजिक, आर्थिक, राजकीय संघर्ष या कादंबरी मधून चित्रित केलेला आहे.

आबा कांबळे हा कादंबरीचा नायक आहे. आबा कांबळे हा गावगाड्यांमध्ये पूर्वीपासून चालत आलेली गावकीची कामे करतो. पण त्याला हे आवडत नाही. कारण तो डॉक्टर बाबासाहेब आंबेडकरांच्या विचाराने तो प्रेरित झालेला आहे. तो गाव सोडून मुंबईमध्ये डॉक्टर आंबेडकरांच्या कार्याबद्दल व त्यांनी सांगितलेल्या

विचारांवर त्याचे मत परिवर्तन होते. व आत्मसन्मानाने जगले पाहिजे, असा तो निर्धार करतो. आणि गावी येतो. दलित वस्तीत सुधारणा घडवून याव्यात या वस्तीतल्या माणसांच्या जगण्याचा स्थर उंचावा, या ध्येयाने झपाटून गेलेला आबा. महार वस्तीतल्या सगळ्यांचा तो पुढारीच होतो. आबाला दोन मुले भीमराव आणि कबीर. पण आबा संसारातून निवृत्त झालेला. पूर्ण वेळ तो समाजासाठी काम करतो. त्यामुळे समाज हाच त्याचा संसार हेच त्याचे कुटुंब. दलित वस्तीतील लोकांना आर्थिक दृष्ट्या सक्षम होण्याच्या हेतून आबा गावात डॉक्टर बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर सहकारी सोसायटीची स्थापना करतो. ते करत असताना सर्व दलित समाजाला महार, मांग, चांभार यांना एकत्र करून सोसायटी उभी करतो. सोसायटीला रीतसर मान्यता मिळते. नंतर दलित विकासासाठी दूध संकलन केंद्र उभे करतो. डॉक्टर बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर यांच्या व्यापक भूमिकेप्रमाणे सर्व शोषित जात जमातींना एकत्र यायला हवं. संघटित व्हायला हवे. यातूनच सर्वकष परिवर्तन आणि सर्वकष विकास शक्य होणार आहे. असे आबाला वाटते. आणि त्याप्रमाणे आबा काम करतो. पण सवर्ण समाजाला व गावातील सरपंचांना हे पटत नाही. दलित समाज हा आपल्या म्हणण्याप्रमाणे वागला पाहिजे असे सरपंचांना वाटते. यांनी गावातील चाकरी, गावकी केले पाहिजे. असे सवर्णांना वाटते. पण आबामुळे दलित समाजात एक आत्मसन्मान मिळाला यासाठी ते प्रयत्न करतात.

कादंबरीमध्ये सुवर्ण आणि दलित समाजामध्ये केलेला भेदभाव, गावातील राजकारण, समाजकारण यांचा आढावा आलेला आहे. गावातील निवडणुकीत आबा उभा राहतो. व आबाच्या मुलाला भीमाला पाटील आबा विरुद्ध उभा करतो. आणि आबाच्या स्वप्नाला त्याने उभा केलेल्या स्वप्नांना तडे देण्यासाठी त्या स्वप्नाला जमीन दोस्त करण्यासाठी सज्ज होतो. या निवडणुकीत स्वार्थीने आबाचा शेवट होतो. समाजाप्रती असलेल्या आकांक्षा, स्वप्न धुळीस मिळतात. हे या कादंबरीमध्ये उत्तम कांबळे यांनी आबाच्या प्रमुख भूमिकेत सांगितले आहे.

डॉ.सुहास जेवळकर आपल्या लेखात श्राद्ध

कादंबरी बद्दल म्हणतात, “डॉक्टर बाबासाहेब आंबेडकरांच्या विचारांचं त्यांच्या वारसदारांनी घेतलेलं हे वैचारिक श्राद्ध वाचून दलित चळवळीतील कार्यकर्त्यांना, अभ्यासकांना व आस्तेवायकाना या कादंबरीतील गटबाजी व अंतर्गत कलहाच अंतर्मुख होऊन श्राद्ध घालण्याची निश्चितपणे प्रेरणा मिळते.”

या कादंबरीने गावातील राजकारण, जात-पात भ्रष्ट मार्गाने जाणारी माणसे, व्यक्तिगत स्वतःसाठी समाजाला बळी देणारी माणसे, परिस्थिती पुढे हतबल होणारे सामान्य माणसे अशा अनेक विविध स्तरावरील ग्रामवास्तव आणि जात असतं या कादंबरीमध्ये उत्तम कांबळे यांनी साकार केले आहे.

उत्तम कांबळे यांचे ललित लेखन

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी बहुआयामी लेखन केले आहे. कादंबरी, कथा, काव्य, आत्मकथन यासारखे लेखन त्यांनी केले आहे. त्यासोबत थोडसं वेगळं, कुंभमेळ्यात भैरू, निवडणुकीत भैरू, तिरंग्यातून गेला बाप, फिरस्ती हे त्यांचे ललित लेखन. उत्तम कांबळे यांचे लेखन सभ्यतालचे जग न्याहाळणे, व त्यांचे चिंतन करणे त्यासंबंधी लेखन करणे हे त्यांच्या चिंतनशील व व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची बाब आहे. जीवनातील विविध घटना प्रसंगातून जीवनासंबंधीचे चिंतन नितळपणे त्यांनी केले आहे. त्यांच्या ललित गद्यातून समाजमनाची स्पंदने उत्कट पणे आणि वस्तुनिष्ठपणे त्यांनी मांडली आहेत. उत्तम कांबळे यांचे ललित लेखनाचा विचार करताना ते पत्रकार असल्यामुळे सत्य असत त्याची पारक करण्याची प्रवृत्ती व सूक्ष्म निरीक्षणशक्ती त्यांच्याजवळ आहे. त्यामुळेच ते जेवणानुभवाची व सभोवतालच्या समाज वास्तवाची ललित पातळीवर मांडणी करतात. त्यांच्या ललित लेखातून समाजामधील वास्तव जीवनचित्र दिसून येते.

१) कुंभमेळ्यात भैरू

कुंभमेळ्यात भैरू हे पुस्तक उत्तम कांबळे यांनी नाशिक मधील कुंभमेळ्याचे वर्णन करणारे आहे. उत्तम कांबळे पत्रकार असल्यामुळे त्यांनी तेथील परिस्थितीचा आढावा घेतला. व त्यांना तेथील ज्या घटना व प्रसंगाचे वर्णन यामध्ये केले आहे. या पुस्तकामध्ये भैरू हे मुख्य नायक आहे. यामध्ये कुंभमेळ्यातील सामाजिक

व धार्मिक प्रसंगाचे व परिस्थितीचे अगदी वास्तववादी वर्णन केले आहे. तेथील साधू यांचे जीवन व त्यांचे धार्मिकता या सर्वांचे चित्रण यामध्ये केले आहे.

२) थोडसं वेगळं

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी 'सकाळ' मधून जी लेक मालिका लिहिली. ती सारांश या सदरात प्रसिद्ध झाली. त्यामुळे पुस्तक म्हणजे हा ललित गद्यसंग्रह आहे. यामध्ये त्यांनी जी माणसे भेटले. वेगवेगळ्या स्वरूपाची त्या माणसाचे विविध प्रसंगाचे चित्रण यामध्ये कांबळे यांनी केले आहे.

३) निवडणुकीत भैरू

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी लोकशाहीतील निवडणुकांचे वर्णन तसेच सामान्यांच्या निवडणुकीकांकडे बघण्याचा दृष्टिकोन याचे चित्रण या ललित ग्रंथांमध्ये केले आहे. भैरू नावाच्या सामान्य माणसाचे प्रतिनिधित्व करून तो निवडणुकीला सामोरे जाताना दिसतो. निवडणुकीमध्ये विविध पक्ष हे सामान्य माणसाला कशी आश्वासने देतात व त्यांचा उपयोग करून घेतात याचे वेधक चित्रण यामध्ये केले आहे. याचबरोबर निवडणुकीचे अनेक बारकावे, विविध पक्षांचे सामान्य विषयांचे मत, या सर्वांचे वास्तव या निवडणुकीच्या माध्यमातून उत्तम कांबळे यांनी अधोरेखित केले आहे.

४) तिरंग्यातून गेला बाप

या लेखांमध्ये तिस लेख आहेत. या लेख संग्रहामध्ये समाजकारण, राजकारण वेगवेगळ्या जाती आदींचा समावेश केला आहे. 'तिरंग्यातून गेला बाप' या लेख संग्रहाच्या शीर्षक लेखातून उत्तम कांबळे यांनी नारायण सुर्वे यांच्यातील एक भावनिक जिह्वाळ्याचे आंतरिक स्नेह संबंधाचे नाते सांगितले आहे. नारायण सुर्वे यांच्या बद्दलचे प्रेम, आस्ता हे त्यांनी यामध्ये उलगडून सांगितले आहेत. नारायण सुर्वे यांच्यासोबत त्यांनी घालवलेले दिवस व त्यांना भावलेले नारायण सुर्वे हे त्यांनी या लेखांमध्ये त्यांचे जीवन चित्रण केले आहे. नारायण सुर्वे यांच्या आठवणी व अनुभव हे कथन केले आहेत. व वेगवेगळ्या प्रसंगांचे चित्रण केले आहे.

५) फिरस्ती

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी दैनिक सकाळ मधून 'फिरस्ती' ही लेखमाला लेखन केली होती. यामध्ये

त्यांनी वेगवेगळ्या भागात जाऊन तेथील व्यक्ती व समाज तसेच तेथील परिस्थिती याचे वर्णन त्यांनी केले होते. वेगवेगळे विषय घेऊन ते लिहिले होते. सामान्य माणसाचे प्रश्न त्यांनी आपल्या लेखमालेतून मांडले होते. यामध्ये त्यांनी विविध देशांचा समाजाचा परिचय करून दिला. तेथील माणसांचे प्रश्न त्यांचे दुःख हे त्यांनी फिरस्ती मधून चित्रित केले आहेत.

उत्तम कांबळे यांचे आत्मकथन लेखन

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी कादंबरी, कथा, काव्य, ललित असे बहुआयामी लेखन केले आहे. यासोबत त्यांनी आत्मकथन ही लिहिले आहेत. यामध्ये 'आई समजून घेताना', 'वाट तुडवताना', 'एका स्वागताध्यक्षाची डायरी', 'एका संमेलनाध्यक्षाची निवडणूक डायरी' अशी आत्मकथने त्यांनी लिहिले आहेत.

१) वाट तुडवताना

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी वाट तुडवताना हे आत्मकथन २००३ मध्ये प्रकाशित केले. वाट तुडवताना या आत्मकथनामध्ये उत्तम कांबळे यांच्या जीवनातील १९९४ पर्यंतचा प्रवास त्यांनी सांगितला आहे. यामध्ये वाचन वेड्या मीच धडपड व संघर्षमय जीवन कहानी चित्रित केले आहे. तसेच 'सकाळ' या वृत्तपत्र प्रेस मधील पडेल ती कामे करून सायकलवर फिरून वृत्तपत्र टाकण्यापासून ते सकाळ मधील संपादक पदापर्यंतची यशस्वी वाटचाल चित्रीत केली आहे. वडील मिलिटरी मध्ये असल्यामुळे लेखकाचे बालपण त्याच्या आईसोबत आजोळी जाते. तेथेच त्यांचे प्राथमिक शिक्षण पूर्ण होते. व त्यांच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची जडणघडण खऱ्या अर्थाने तेथेच होते. याचे सगळे वर्णन व प्रसंग या आत्मकथनात त्यांनी सांगितले आहेत. यामध्ये घरची गरीबी, त्यांना वाचण्याची आवड, त्यासाठी मिळेल ते कष्ट करण्याची तयारी ही त्यांनी अधोरेखित केली आहे. जीवनात आलेले अपमान, अवहेलना, अत्याचारांसारख्या प्रसंगांमधून भारतीय समाज व्यवस्थेचे चित्रण पाहायला मिळते. डॉक्टर प्रल्हाद लुलेकर म्हणतात, 'वाट उडवताना या आत्मकथनाने भाकरीसाठीच्या दाहक अनुभवांना अविस्कृत केले आहे.

५(पृष्ठ.२८)

भाकरीचा शोध, पोटाची भूक ही वाचन व

ज्ञानरूपी साधनेतून आणि शिक्षणावरूपी वाघिणीच्या दुधानेच शमू शकते. याची जाणीव उत्तम कांबळे यांना आहे. हे वाट तुडवताना यामध्ये पानापानामध्ये पाहायला मिळते.

एक कवी, कथाकार, तसेच चिंतनशील ललितलेखक व विचारवंत पत्रकार म्हणून घडत गेलेल्या उत्तम कांबळे यांच्या खडतर जीवनाचा प्रवास उलगडून दाखविणारे हे आत्मकथन आहे.

२) आई समजून घेताना

आई समजून घेताना हे आत्मकथन जुलै २००६ मध्ये प्रकाशित झाले. उत्तम कांबळे यांनी स्वतःच्या आईला समजून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न या आत्मकथनातून केला आहे. आई समजून घेताना हे आत्मकथन म्हणजे आई मुलाच्या नात्यातील भावनिक संघर्षाचे चित्रण आहे. आई समजून घेताना ही अक्काच्या आयुष्याची एक सुंदर जीवनगाथा आहे. परंपरा, संस्कार, रूढी व अंधश्रद्धेच्या जोखडाखाली जन्मभर वापरलेल्या आणि बदललेल्या जीवनशैलीची वातावरणाशी समंजसपणे जुळवून घेताना विरोध करून बंड करताना अक्काच्या वैचारिक क्षमतेचा आणि जीवनदर्शक दृष्टिकोनाचा आवाका या आत्मकथनातून उत्तम कांबळे यांनी सांगितला आहे. यातून हक्काचे व्यक्तिमत्व अधोरेखित केले आहे. त्याचबरोबर मावशी, मामा, बहिणी, वडील, पत्नी, भावंडे, नातवंडे, शेजारीपाजारी या व्यक्तिरेखा सुद्धा ठळक स्वरूपात चित्रित केल्या आहेत.

आईला समजून घेताना मुलाच्या मनातील तिच्याविषयीच्या भावनिक प्रसंग, राग, प्रेम, आदर या आत्मकथनातून दिसून येतो. दोन पिढीतील संघर्ष या आत्मकथनात आला आहे. या आत्मकथनातून उत्तम कांबळे यांनी आईला समजून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न केलेला आहे. आईसोबत वेगवेगळ्या घटना प्रसंगाचे चित्रण कांबळे यांनी केले आहे.

३) एका स्वागताध्यक्षाची डायरी —

उत्तम कांबळे यांनी १४ ऑक्टोबर २००७ ते २४ जानेवारी २००८ रोजी संमेलनाची सांगता होईपर्यंत तब्बल १०० दिवसांनी डायरी नित्यनियमाने लिहिण्याचा परिपाठ ठेवला व संमेलनानंतर हे डायरी प्रकाशित केली.

संमेलनाच्या आयोजनातील एकूण अडीअडचणींची आणि महामंडळाच्या कार्यपद्धतीची

कार्यालयीन व्यवस्थेची आणि कार्यकर्त्यांच्या स्वभाववृत्तिच्या, स्थानिक राजकारणाची आणि लेखक कवींच्या आत्मभानाची नानाविध रूपे या डायरीतील नोंदी आहेत.

४) एका संमेलनाध्यक्षाची निवडणूक डायरी

ठाणे येथे भरलेल्या ८४ व्या अखिल भारतीय मराठी साहित्य संमेलनाचे आयोजन केले होते. या निवडणुकीत उत्तम कांबळे यांनी भाग घेतला. याविषयी उत्तम कांबळे म्हणतात, 'कोणता एक इतिहास घडवायचा होता, कोणता एक विक्रम करायचा होता, कोणता एक मुकुट मिरवायचा होता म्हणून मी अध्यक्षपदाच्या दिशेने चाललो नाही. मला ही एक मोठा अनुभव घ्यायचा होता. मलाही एका मोठ्या पदावरून समाजाशी संवाद साधायचा होता. विषम परिस्थितीवर आसूड उगारण्याची संधी मोठ्या समूहासमोर घ्यायचे होते. आणि माझ्या मनावर खूप खूप प्रेम करणाऱ्या समवाचा हात हातात घ्यायचा होता. मला वाटलं हे मला शक्य झालं. खूप मला गोतावळा मिळाला. खूप टीका पण झाली. मला वाटतं एक विराट अनुभव घेण्यासाठी मी या पदाकडे धावलो होतो'

यावरून उत्तम कांबळे यांची अध्यक्षपदाची कल्पना लक्षात येते. यामध्ये संमेलना देशाची निवडणूक तारीख जाहीर झाल्यानंतर केलेला प्रचार, धावपळ, निवडणुकीचा निकाल ते संमेलन पार पडेपर्यंत संपूर्ण वृत्तांत या आत्मकथनामध्ये उत्तम कांबळे यांनी सांगितला आहे. संमेलनासाठी त्यांना आलेले विविध अनुभव व प्रसंग हे त्यांनी सांगितले आहेत.

सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांचे कादंबरी लेखन

सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी 'कोहम' ही कादंबरी २०१६ मध्ये प्रकाशित केली. सुरेश द्वादशीवार हे पत्रकार म्हणून त्यांना आणीबाणी १४ महिन्यांचा तुरुंगवास भोगावा लागला. त्या काळात ज्या पुस्तकांचे वाचन केले. त्यात देवीप्रसाद चटो पाध्याय, लोकायत, चार्वाक, तसेच वेगवेगळ्या पाश्चात्य आणि वेगवेगळ्या धर्माचे पुस्तकांचे त्यांनी वाचन केले. आणि सर्व धर्माच्या तत्त्वज्ञानाचा अभ्यास त्यांनी केला. या सर्व धर्मांचे सार त्यांनी कोहम या तत्त्वज्ञानपर या कादंबरीमध्ये त्यांनी मांडले आहे.

कोहम ही कादंबरी तत्त्वज्ञान सांगणारी आहे. या कादंबरीचा नायक हा राजशेखर आहे. राजशेखर हा अभ्यासू आहे. तो सर्व धर्माचा व तत्त्वज्ञानाचा अभ्यासक आहे. म्हणून तो विवेकवादी आहे. तो श्रद्धाशील आहे. प्रत्येक धर्माचा आदर बाळगणारा आहे. त्याचबरोबर त्यांनी सर्व धर्मांची चिकित्सा केली आहे. राजशेखरने सर्व धर्माचा अभ्यास केला आहे. यामध्ये त्यांनी हिंदू, मुस्लिम, ख्रिश्चन, जैन या तत्त्वज्ञानाचा व सर्व धर्मांचे सार राजशेखर यांनी सांगितले आहे. सर्वधर्मांचे तत्त्वज्ञान सांगताना राजशेखरचा कटाक्ष साधनेवर, उपासनेवर, अध्ययन, अध्यापनावर आहे. शास्त्रचर्चा, चिंतन, मनन साधकांच्या पायऱ्यांवर राज्यकरचा भर आहे.

राजशेखर याने बौद्ध धर्माचा अभ्यास केला. त्याने श्रीलंकेतल्या प्राचीन बौद्ध वृक्षांचे दर्शन घेतले. आणि बुद्ध मंदिरात काही काळ अभ्यास केला. राज्य करणे देश भ्रमणाची सुरुवात बुद्धगया पासून केली. तेथील बुद्धांची मंदिरे, बोधिवृक्ष, जपान, थायलंड, मलेशिया इत्यादी देशांनी बुद्ध मंदिरे बांधली आहेत. या मंदिराचा त्याने अभ्यास केला. तसेच अजिंठा लेणी येथील बुद्धमूर्ती. बुद्धाने सांगितलेल्या अहिंसावादी मार्ग व तत्त्वज्ञान हे राजश्री करणे सांगितले.

बौद्ध धर्म बरोबर त्याने हिंदू धर्माबद्दल शंकराचार्य यांनी सांगितलेले अध्यात्म आणि धर्माबद्दल तत्त्वज्ञान या सर्व गोष्टींचे चिंतन केले आहे. श्रीमद् भागवत गीतेवर आद्य शंकराचार्यांनी त्यांचे गीताभाष्य लिहिले. त्यातून भगवद्गीतेचा संन्यासपर अर्थ त्यांनी लावला.

संत ज्ञानेश्वर, लोकमान्य टिळक आणि शंकराचार्य यांनी गीतेवर भाष्य केले. हे भाष्य केलेले तत्त्वज्ञान राजशेखर यांनी सांगितले आहे. ख्रिश्चन धर्माबद्दल सेंट ऑगस्टीन चे चरित्र यामध्ये ख्रिश्चन धर्माबद्दल माहिती दिली आहे. बायबल हा ग्रंथ यामधून ख्रिश्चन धर्म व त्यातील तत्त्वज्ञान सांगितले आहे. राजशेखर याने इस्लाम धर्माबद्दल व त्यांचे तत्त्वज्ञान सांगताना म्हणतात, पैगंबर अडाणी होता पूर्णपणे निरक्षर. पण मकेला असताना त्याच्यावर ईश्वरी संदेश उतरत होते. एकेका आहे तिच्या रूपात येणारे हे संदेश त्याने नुसतेच क्रमवार संग्रहित केले. आणि पवित्र कुराण हा त्याच संदेशाचा पैगंबर आणि माणसाच्या कल्याणासाठी

संपादित केलेला ईश्वरी ग्रंथ असल्याचे इस्लामची श्रद्धा. हे सर्व राजशेखर याने इस्लाम धर्माबद्दल हे वाचन केले आहे.

गीतेबद्दल व गीतेतील तत्त्वज्ञान हे वेगवेगळ्या संत महापुरुषांनी सांगितलेले आहे. यामध्ये ज्ञानेश्वराने वयाच्या चौदाव्या वर्षी श्रीमद्भागवत गीतेवर भाष्य लिहायला घेतले. श्रीमत् अध्यक्ष शंकराचार्यांनी प्रस्थान स्त्रेवरच्या भाष्याचे लिखाण वयाच्या अठराव्या वर्षी पूर्ण करून सार्या देशात धर्माची मोठे स्थान केले. भगवान बुद्धांना ऐन तारुण्यात ज्ञान झाले. मौलाना अब्दुल कलाम आझाद यांना वयाच्या १८ व्या वर्षी पवित्र कुराणावर भाष्य लिहिले. या सर्व धर्माचा व तत्त्वज्ञानाचा अभ्यास राजशेखर यांनी केला. व या सर्व धर्मांचे सर त्यांनी यामध्ये सांगितले आहे.

एकशे अकरावी दुरुस्ती

सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी एकशे अकरावी दुरुस्ती ही संविधानावर आधारित कादंबरी १४ एप्रिल २००४ रोजी प्रकाशित केली. सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी आणीबाणीचा काळ अनुभवला होता. व त्यांना तुरुंगवासही झाला होता. त्या काळात त्यांनी अनेक पुस्तकांचे वाचन केले. देशात चाललेल्या परिस्थितीचा मागोवा त्यांनी घेतला. तुरुंगात असताना त्यांनी आयविंग वेलेस या सुप्रसिद्ध कादंबरी करायची 'आर आर्क्युमेंट' ही कादंबरी त्यांनी वाचली. या कादंबरीत लोकशाही देशात कायदेशीर मार्गाने येऊ शकणाऱ्या हुकूमशाहीची संभाव्यता असते. असे द्वादशीवार यांनी कादंबरी वाचताना त्यांच्या मनात आले. आणि देशांमध्ये घघघ वी दुरुस्ती का केली. तिच्या करण्यामागे हे तो कोणता होता हे सगळे त्यांनी या कादंबरीमध्ये सांगितले आहे.

१११वि अकरावी दुरुस्ती ही कादंबरी संविधानावर आधारित आहे. या कादंबरीचे कथानक व असे हे राजकीय अंगाने द्वादशीवार यांनी सांगितले आहेत.

कालचे वर्तमान कालचे वर्तमान हे कादंबरी सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी २१ ऑक्टोबर २०१४ रोजी प्रकाशित केली. कालचे वर्तमान या कादंबरीमध्ये सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी आसाम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मेघालय, नागालँड, मणिपूर, त्रिपुरा हे सात प्रदेश व तेथील सामाजिक, राजकीय, धार्मिक, समाजजीवन हे त्यांनी अनुभवले व

ते त्यांनी कालचे वर्तमान या कादंबरीमध्ये चित्रित केले आहे.

तेलंगणा या भागातील समाजजीवन सांगताना त्यांनी तेथील नक्षलवाद व नक्षलवादी चळवळ तसेच आदिवासी मधील नक्षलवाद कसा निर्माण झाला आहे याचे सविस्तर कथानक व या विषयी माहिती त्यांनी दिली आहे. 'गोपन्ना' हा तरुण नक्षलवादी चळवळीत कसा सहभागी झाला. याची कहाणी या कादंबरीमध्ये सांगितली आहे. शारदेचा मुकुट दागिने एका रात्री गायब झाली. मंदिरातल्या रोकडही लंपास झाली. देवस्थानच्या दरिद्री पुजारी एवढा मोठा प्रकार करू शकेल असे गावातल्या अनेकांना वाटले नव्हते. पण देवस्थानाच्या व्यवस्थापकात पुढार्याचं काही चाललं नाही. पोलीस कस्टडी, न्यायालयीन कस्टडी अन पुढे दागिन्यांचा पुरावा हाती न लागता ही गुन्हा शाबित म्हणून तो सज्जन माणूस गुन्हेगार ठरला होता. त्या धक्क्याने गोपालची आई गेली. गोपालचे बालपण नासलं. शाळकरी पण सुटलं. बापावरचा अन्याय दिसत आणि समजत होता. पण त्या लहानशा अन विरोधात संघटित झालेल्या गावात त्या पोरांचं ऐकणार कोण? देवाचं गाव सुटलं आणि तो जंगलातल्या नक्षली चळवळीत सहभागी झाला. ही नक्षली चळवळीची कहाणी सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांनी या कादंबरीमध्ये सांगितली आहे.

कादंबरीमध्ये सर्वच राजकीय पक्षांचा आढावा घेतला आहे. काँग्रेस पक्ष, कम्युनिस्ट पक्ष, भारतीय जनता पक्ष, या राजकीय पक्षांबरोबर आसाम बिहार मधील यादव यांच्या पक्षाचा राजकीय इतिहास यामध्ये आलेला आहे. एकंदरीत या कादंबरीमध्ये स्वातंत्र्यापासून ते आज पर्यंतच्या नरेंद्र मोदी सरकारपर्यंतचा इतिहास येथील समाजकारण, राजकारण, धर्मकारण, सांस्कृतिक घडामोडी या सर्वांचा आढावा या कालचे वर्तमान या कादंबरीमध्ये घेतलेला आहे. राजकारणावर व राजकीय परिस्थितीवर आधारित ही कादंबरी आहे.

निष्कर्ष:

- १) उत्तम कांबळे यांनी अत्यंत प्रतिकूल परिस्थितीतून शिक्षण पूर्ण केले.
- २) दलित जातीत जन्मास आल्यामुळे त्यांना जातीभेदाचे चटके सहन करावे लागले.

३) उत्तम कांबळे यांची परिस्थिती बेताची असल्यामुळे लहानपणापासून त्यांनी कष्ट केले. कोणतेही काम कमीपणाचे न मानता प्रत्येक कामात ते मन लावून करायचे, त्यांनी जीवनातील यशस्वी झालेले दिसून येतात.

४) त्यांच्या पत्रकारितेची आणि साहित्याची भूमिका ही माणूस समजावून घेणे ही आहे.

५) उत्तम कांबळे यांच्या ललित साहित्यामध्ये वंचित समाज, अन्याय, अत्याचार, रोजच्या जगण्याची प्रश्न, स्त्री पुरुष भेदभाव, जातीव्यवस्था हे विषय आलेले आहेत.

६) सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांच्या विचारार महात्मा गांधी, पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू, तसेच पाश्चात्य विचारवंतांचा प्रभाव दिसून येतो.

७) सुरेश द्वादशीवार यांचे साहित्यलेखन तत्त्वज्ञानावर आधारित आहे. याबरोबर सामाजिक, राजकीय, धार्मिक हे विषय त्यांच्या साहित्यामध्ये प्रामुख्याने दिसून येतात.

८) सुरेश दादा ईश्वर यांच्या साहित्याचा केंद्रबिंदू माणूस, धर्म, राजकारण हा आहे.

संदर्भ ग्रंथ :

- १) कांबळे उत्तम : 'श्राद्ध', मनो विकास प्रकाशन, पुणे पाचवी आवृत्ती २९ डिसेंबर २०१८.
- २) कांबळे उत्तम: 'तिरंग्यातून गेला बाप', मनोविकास प्रकाशन, पुणे प्रथम आवृत्ती २०१०.
- ३) कांबळे उत्तम: 'थोडसं वेगळं' मनोविकास प्रकाशन, पुणे.
- ४) कांबळे उत्तम: 'वाट तु डवताना', मनोविकास प्रकाशन पुणे, तिसरी आवृत्ती २५ डिसेंबर २००७.
- ५) कांबळे उत्तम: 'आई समजून घेताना', लोकवांगमयगृह, मुंबई.
- ६) कांबळे उत्तम: 'एका स्वागताध्यक्षाची डायरी', मनोविकास प्रकाशन, पुणे.
- ७) द्वादशीवार सुरेश : 'कोहम', साधना प्रकाशन, पुणे तिसरी आवृत्ती २०१६.
- ८) द्वादशीवार सुरेश : '१११ वी दुरुस्ती', विद्या विकास पब्लिकेशन, नागपूर प्रथम आवृत्ती १४ एप्रिल २००४.
- ९) द्वादशीवार सुरेश: 'कालचे वर्तमान', विजय प्रकाशन नागपूर, प्रथम आवृत्ती २०१४.



मराठीतील ऐतिहासिक साधने

डॉ.संगीता विठ्ठल साळवे
मराठी विभाग,
पद्मश्री विखे पाटील कला, विज्ञान व
वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय,
प्रवरानगर, लोणी.ता.राहाता जि.अहिल्यानगर,

प्रस्तावना :-

भाषा हा मानवी जीवनातील एक अविभाज्य घटक आहे. मानवाने स्वतःचा विकास केला. मानवाचा जसा—जसा विकास होत गेला, तशी—तशी भाषा बदलत गेली. मानवाने भाषेच्या माध्यमातून संप्रेषणाचे काम केले म्हणजे देवाण—घेवाणीसाठी, एकमेकांशी संवाद साधण्यासाठी भाषेचा वापर केला. त्यातूनच भाषिक आदान—प्रदान होत राहिले. प्रत्येक भाषेला एक विशिष्ट रूप प्राप्त होत गेले. १९व्या शतकामध्ये ऐतिहासिक भाषाभ्यास पद्धती जेव्हा विकसित होत गेली. त्यावेळी ही पद्धती अत्यंत शास्त्रीय वैज्ञानिक स्वरूपाची मानली जात होती. मराठी भाषा ही प्राचीन काळापासून आजतगायापर्यंत मानवी जीवनावर अधिराज्य गाजवत आलेली आहे. मराठी भाषेचा अभ्यास अनेक शतकापासून अविरतपणे चालू आहे. मराठी इतिहास लेखनाची परंपरा समृद्ध असून त्यात लिखित मौखिक व भौतिक साधनांचा मोठा सहभाग आहे. मराठी भाषेतील बखरी, दप्तरखाने, शिलालेख, ताम्रपट, पत्रव्यवहार, प्रवासवर्णने, लोककथा व लोकसाहित्य ही ऐतिहासिक साधने समाजाच्या राजकीय, सामाजिक, आर्थिक व सांस्कृतिक जीवनावर प्रकाश टाकतात, आणि मराठी भाषेचा उगम विकास परिवर्तन समजून घेण्यासाठी ही ऐतिहासिक साधने महत्त्वपूर्ण ठरतात.

बीजशब्द:-ऐतिहासिक साधने, शिलालेख, ताम्रपट, बखर, हस्तलिखिते, अवशेष, लोककथा, लोकगीते

गृहीतके :-

१. मराठी भाषेचा उगम व विकास स्पष्ट करता येईल
२. मराठी भाषेच्या उत्पत्तीचे विविध सिद्धांत स्पष्ट करता येतील.
३. मराठीच्या उगम काळाच्या निश्चितीची विविध ऐतिहासिक साधने स्पष्ट करून देण्यात देण्यात येईल.
४. मराठी भाषेचा अभ्यास करण्यासाठी विविध ऐतिहासिक साधने महत्त्वाची व विश्वसनीय आहेत.
५. ऐतिहासिक साधनातून मराठीचा तात्कालीन सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक विकास स्पष्ट होतो.

मराठी भाषेची पूर्वपीठीका:-

कोणतीही भाषा केव्हा जन्माला आली हे सांगणे अवघड असते, कारण ती भाषा कोणत्या एखाद्या क्षणी निर्माण झाली आणि कोणत्या क्षणी नष्ट झाली असे ठामपणे सांगता येत नाही. भाषा ही दीर्घकाळ चालणारी प्रक्रिया आहे. एका भाषेचा शेवट हा कधीही दुसऱ्या भाषेची सुरुवात नसते. त्यामुळे मराठी भाषेचा उगम नेमकेपणाने सांगणे अवघड आहे. इ.स.५०० मध्ये महावंश नावाच्या बौद्ध ग्रंथात महाराष्ट्राचा मरहट्ट या नावाने उल्लेख करण्यात आलेला आहे.

मराठी भाषेचा उगम:-

मराठी साहित्याची परंपरा तेराव्या शतकाच्या उत्तरार्धापासून सुरू झाली असली, तरी बोली भाषेच्या स्वरूपातील मराठीचे अस्तित्व त्या आधीच्या २०० ते २५० वर्षांपूर्वीचे असले पाहिजे. शके ६०२ पर्यंतच्या ताम्रपटातून सकू, प्रधानु, रिषी, साम्ब्राज्य, येज्ञ, सुंक, पन्नासप्रिथीवी यासारखे मराठी शब्द तुरळक प्रमाणात आढळतात. त्यामुळेच शके ९०५ मधील श्रवण बेळगोळच्या शिलालेखातील 'श्री चामुंडराये करवियले' हा मराठीत पहिला वाक्यरूप अविष्कार आहे असे मानले जात होते. आणि या शिलालेखाच्याच आधारे दहावी किंवा अकरावे शतक मराठीचा जन्मकाळ ठरते. परंतु हुल्लझ, डॉ.गुणे, चि.ग.कर्वे व म्हैसूर गॅझेटियर इयर यांच्या मते, श्रवणबेळगोळचा शिलालेख ई.स.९८३चा नसून तो

इसवी सन १११७ च्या सुमाराचा असावा. त्यामुळे मराठी संशोधकाकडून केशिदे व शिलाहार यांच्या अक्षी येथील शके.९३४ मधील शिलालेखाला आद्यत्वाचा मान दिला जातो.

मराठी भाषेचा विकास :-

संस्कृत— प्राकृत— मराठी:— संस्कृत प्राचुर्यानि भारावलेल्या भाषाशास्त्राच्या स्पष्टीकरणानुसार असे समजते की, संस्कृत भाषेचे मराठी, महाराष्ट्र प्राकृत भाषेत रूपांतर झाले, तिथेच पुढे महाराष्ट्र अपभ्रंश भाषेत रूपांतर झाले, आणि हीच भाषा पुढे मराठीची मराठी म्हणून उदयाला आली. तरीही भाषाशास्त्रामध्ये संस्कृत— प्राकृत परस्परसंबंधाबाबत दोन विरोधी भूमिका आढळतात, पहिली म्हणजे संस्कृतनिष्ठ अभ्यासकाच्या मते संस्कृत ही मूळ भाषा असून तिचे अपभ्रंश रूप म्हणजेच प्राकृत आणि प्राकृतच्या अपभ्रंशातून देशी भाषा उदयास आल्या. इसवी सन ८०० नंतर महाराष्ट्रात चालुक्य व यादव यांच्या राजवटीत वैदिक धर्माचे पुनर्जीवन होऊन संस्कृतचे महत्त्व वाढले, त्यामुळे पंडिती संस्कृतची प्राकृत भाषेवर छाप पडून मराठी सुसंस्कृत बनली. म्हणजेच यादव काळी धर्माच्या व विद्येच्या संस्कृतीकरणामुळे भाषेची संस्कृतीकरण झाले.

प्राकृत संस्कृत मराठी:— दुसरी भूमिका म्हणजे प्राकृत भाषा ही सामान्यजनाची मूळ भाषा असून त्यावर व्याकरणवादी संस्कार होऊन विद्वानांनी ग्रंथभाषा म्हणून संस्कृत भाषा निर्माण केली. पूर्व वैदिक भाषापासूनच वैदिक संस्कृत पौराणिक संस्कृत, लौकिक संस्कृत अशा भाषेत निर्माण झाल्या, तर वेदपूर्व भाषापासून पाली, प्राकृत महाराष्ट्री, अपभ्रंश आणि शेवटी देशी भाषा म्हणजेच मराठी, गुजराती, हिंदी इत्यादी भाषांचा उदय झाला. ग्रंथभाषा आणि बोलीभाषा यांचा परस्परावर परिणाम होऊन कालपरत्वे भाषेचे रूप बदलते. व मराठीच्या कालिकपरिवर्तनाला विशिष्ट वेळेनुसारचे मराठीचे संस्कृतीकरण व इतर भाषांचे साहचर्यकारणीभूत ठरले.

महाराष्ट्र अपभ्रंश भाषा:— महाराष्ट्र अपभ्रंश ही भाषा मरहट्ट लोकांमध्ये मराठीच्या उत्पत्ती पूर्वीपासूनच बोलली जात असावी. इसवी सन ८०० च्या सुमारास

लीलावई हे काव्य मरहट्ट देशी भाषेत लिहिल्याचे कुऊहलकवी सांगतो. त्यानंतरच्या काळातील राजशेखर या कवीने आपल्या काव्यमीमांसा या ग्रंथात राजदरबाराचे वर्णन केले आहे या ग्रंथात अपभ्रंश भाषेतील कवी आणि उत्पादक व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या लोकांचे स्थान यांचे संबंध दाखवणारे वर्णन आलेले आहे. यावरून तेराव्या शतकातील मराठी अभंग वाङ्मयीन संतजन हे उद्योग व्यवसाय करणारे होते. हे सादृश अर्थपूर्ण वाटते.

मराठी—कानडी संबंध:— श.बा.जोशी यांच्या मते, महाराष्ट्राच्या भूप्रदेशाचे मूळ नाव प्राकृतच असले पाहिजे ते मरहट्ट असावे. या मरहट्ट प्रदेशात राहणारे ते मरहाटे मराठे, मरहट्टत, कानडे किंवा मराठी देश आणि कन्न देशही जुळी भावडे आहेत. यादवांच्या उत्तरार्धात ती बाराव्या — तेराव्या शतकापर्यंत एकत्र व स्वतंत्र्य नांदत आली. प्राकृत मराठीतील काही शब्द कानडी मध्ये आजही रूढ आहेत. उदा. तेल्ल, गब्ब, कप्पड, पण मराठीमध्ये या शब्दाचे अर्वाचीन रूप वापरले जात असे.

महानुभाव पंथ आणि संत साहित्यातील मराठीचा विकास:— ज्ञानेश्वरांनी प्राचीन मराठीचा मरहाटी असा उल्लेख केला आहे माझामरहाटाचि बोलुकवतिके या माझा मराठा मध्ये त्यांचे मराठी विषयाचे प्रेम दिसून येते. त्यांचा मराठीबद्दलचा अभिमान वाचा श्रोतेया ज्ञानाची दिवाळी करी। यातून दिसतो. महानुभाव पंथालाही मराठी भाषेबद्दल अत्यंत अभिमान आहे. दिसून येतो. नागदेवचार्यांनी केशवांना उद्धरण हे प्रकरण संस्कृत भाषेत लिहू नये यासाठी विनवले होते.

ते म्हणतात, पंडिता केशव देया तुमचा अस्मात कसमात मी नेनेगा मज श्रीचक्रधरे निरुपली मराठी तियाचा पुसा यावरून त्या पंथीयाची सुद्धा मराठी भाषेबद्दलची आस्था व कळकळ दिसून येते. ज्ञानेश्वर नागदेवाचार्य यांच्याकडून प्रेरणा घेऊन आणि मार्गदर्शन मिळाल्यामुळे वारकरी व महानुभाव पंथ यांनी जे वाङ्मय निर्माण केले. ते तेराव्या — चौदाव्या शतकातील प्रभावी वाङ्मय ठरले. या वाङ्मयाने मराठीला अभिजात भाषेची पदवी मिळवून दिली.

आणि महाराष्ट्र संस्कृतीची मुहूर्तमेढ रोवण्याचे श्रेय या ग्रंथकारांना मिळवून दिले. ज्ञानेश्वरांनी त्यांचा भावार्थदीपिका हा ग्रंथ जनसामान्यांना समजेल अशाच भाषेतून लिहिला. तर तुकाराम महाराजांनी रचलेले अभंग आजही अभंग आहेत. याचे कारण ती जनसामान्यांची मराठी भाषा आहे.

मराठी भाषेचे विविधउत्पत्ती सिद्धांत :-

भाषेच्या उत्पत्तीबद्दल विविध सिद्धांत मांडलेले आहेत. त्यामध्ये इंगित सिद्धांत, अनुकरण सिद्धांत, रणनसिद्धांत, भावनाभिव्यक्ती सिद्धांत, समन्वय सिद्धांत, श्रमपरिहार सिद्धांत, प्रेमगानमूलक सिद्धांत, क्रीडासक्ती सिद्धांत, संपर्क सिद्धांत अशा प्रकारच्या सिद्धांतामुळे मराठी भाषेची निर्मिती कशी झाली याची कल्पना आलेली आहे.

ऐतिहासिक साधने:- ज्या लिखित किंवा मौखिक पुराव्याच्या आधारे भूतकाळातील घटना, व्यक्ती व समाजजीवनाची माहिती मिळविली जाते. त्याला ऐतिहासिक साधने असे म्हणतात. मराठीत विविध ऐतिहासिक साधने आहेत त्यामध्ये लिखित साधने इतिहास संशोधनासाठी अत्यंत महत्त्वाची मानली जातात.ग्रंथ, शिलालेख, ताम्रपट, बखरी, हस्तलिखिते व पत्रव्यवहार यांचा ऐतिहासिक साधनांमध्ये महत्त्वाचा वाटा आहे

ग्रंथ साधने:- उगम काळ निश्चितीच्या विविध साधनांमध्ये ग्रंथ साधने ही अतिशय उपयुक्त ठरतात. प्रारंभापासून लिहिलेली मराठी ग्रंथसंपदा संस्कृत मिश्र मराठीचा उत्तम नमुना असला तरी या ग्रंथसंपदेतून मराठीचा उगम काळ निश्चित होतो. मराठीच्या आरंभस्थानी ज्ञानेश्वरीसारखा प्रगल्भ ग्रंथ निर्माण व्हावे हे आश्चर्य ठरते.

विवेकसिंधू:- कवी मुकुंदराज यांनी विवेकसिंधू हा ग्रंथ शके १११० मध्ये लिहिला आहे. त्यातील आत्मविज्ञान हा महत्त्वाचा विषय होता. त्यात रोकडे ब्रह्मज्ञान निरूपलेले आहे. ह्या ग्रंथाचे निर्माण गुरुशिष्य संवादरूपाने झालेले आहे. आत्मसाक्षात्कार आणि आत्मानात्मविवेक असे या ग्रंथाचे दोन भाग आहेत. यात एकूण १८ प्रकरणे आहेत. या ग्रंथात सर्व पंथीयांचा आदर प्राप्त झालेला

आहे. संसाराच्या बंदीशाळेला जखडून टाकणारे अज्ञान शास्त्राने कसे तोडून टाकावे. संसाराला आधारभूत अशी अविद्या कशी नष्ट करावी? वस्तूची अपरोक्ष भेट कशी घ्यावी? स्वरूपस्थिती कशी अनुभवावी? याविषयी अधिकारवाणीने मार्गदर्शन करणारा हा ग्रंथ आहे.

लीळाचरित्र:- बाराव्या— तेराव्या शतकातील महाराष्ट्राच्या सामाजिक सांस्कृतिक जीवनाच्या अभ्यासाचे साधन म्हणून म्हाईभट्टविरचित आद्य चरित्रग्रंथ म्हणून लीळाचरित्राचे विशेष महत्त्व आहे. यात महानुभावांच्या तत्त्वज्ञानाबरोबरच मराठीचा उगम काळही अभ्यासला जातो. उदा.बारसे, उष्टावन, दिवाळी, शिमगा व नोवरा—नवरी अशा मराठी शब्दांचा वापर यामध्ये आढळतो.या ग्रंथात सुमारे ९५०ओव्या आहेत.एकांक पूर्वार्ध व उत्तरार्ध असे या ग्रंथाचे तीन विभाग आहेत. श्रीचक्रधरांचे चरित्र हा या ग्रंथाचा विषय आहे लीळाचरित्र या ग्रंथाच्या यशाचे निम्मेअधिक श्रेय श्रीचक्रधरांच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाला जाते. त्यावेळेचा समाज चालीरीती, व्रतवैकल्ये, सणवार वस्त्रप्रावरणे, खाणेपिणे, नाचगाणेव व्यापार इ. विविध अंगाचे दर्शन या लीळाचरित्रामधून सांगितलेलेआहे. यामध्ये भाषा,साहित्य, इतिहास, समाजदर्शन व तत्त्वज्ञान या दृष्टीने महत्त्व दिलेले आहे. **ज्ञानेश्वरी:-** ज्ञानेश्वरांनी रचलेली ज्ञानेश्वरी हा ग्रंथ मराठी साहित्याचे अद्वितीय लेणे आहे. मराठीच्या आरंभस्थानी ज्ञानेश्वरीसारखा ग्रंथ निर्माण व्हावा. हे फार महत्त्वाचे आहे. ज्ञानेश्वरीची ओवीसंख्या ९००० च्या आसपास आहे. ज्ञानेश्वरीचे मूळ स्वरूप भगवद्गीतेच्या श्लोकावरील टीकारूप असले तरी संक्षेप विस्तारात ज्ञानदेवांची स्वतंत्र दृष्टी प्रत्ययास येते. तत्कालीन मराठी भाषेचा हा उत्तम नमुना ठरतो. ज्ञानेश्वरकालीन समाजव्यवस्थेचा आढावा या ग्रंथातून येतो. परंपरागत भारतीय समाजाचे यथादर्शन घडविणारा हा ग्रंथ मराठी भाषेचा उत्तम नमुना ठरतो.

ज्योतिषरत्नमाला:- दहाव्या शतकात निर्माण झालेला ज्योतिषरत्नमाला हा ग्रंथ मराठीचा उगम काळ अधिक स्पष्ट करतो. यात तिथी, वार, नक्षत्र व मुहूर्त याविषयीची सखोल शास्त्रीय माहिती मराठी

भाषेत दिलेली आहे. या ग्रंथाची निर्मिती हेच सांगते की, मराठी भाषा दहाव्या शतकात निर्माण झाली होती. हेमचंद्र व वररूचीचे व्याकरण ग्रंथः— हेमचंद्र व वररूची यांनी आपल्या व्याकरण ग्रंथात मराठीचे व्याकरण विस्ताराने सांगितले आहे. म्हणजेच या काळात मराठी ही लोकव्यवहाराबरोबरच साहित्य व्यवहाराची भाषा असल्याचे स्पष्ट होते. या व्याकरण ग्रंथातील मराठीचे स्वरूप समजावून सांगण्यास अत्यंत सोपे आहे. राजमती प्रबोधः— अकराव्या शतकाच्या उत्तरार्धात लिहिला गेलेला राजमती प्रबोध हा ग्रंथ मराठीच्या उगम काळावर प्रकाश टाकणारा आहे. या ग्रंथाचा कर्ता यशचंद्र हा आहे. यात राजसभेत बसलेला एक महाराष्ट्रीयन स्त्रीच्या रूपसंपदेचे वर्णन करतो.

मानसोल्लासः— हा ग्रंथ शके १०५१ मध्ये सोमेश्वर चालुक्यवंशीय राजाने लिहिला. या ग्रंथात मराठी रूपे व मराठी शब्द कित्येक ठिकाणी वापरले आहेत. विशेष महत्त्वाची गोष्ट म्हणजे या ग्रंथात माहिती मराठी पद्यात दिली आहे.

कुवलयमालाः— हा ग्रंथ उद्योतनसुरी या लेखकाने इसवी सन ७७८ मध्ये लिहिला. या ग्रंथात १८ देशी भाषांचा उल्लेख आहे.

शिलालेखः— मराठीचा उगम काळ निश्चितेच्या विविध साधनांपैकी शिलालेख हे उत्कृष्ट साधन ठरते. तत्कालीन मराठीचे रूप समजण्यासाठी या साधनाचा विशेष उपयोग त्या काळात मराठी लोकव्यवहाराची भाषा कशी होती. तिचा विकास कितपत झाला. हे या शिलालेखावरून स्पष्ट होते. म्हणून मराठीचा उगम काळ निश्चितेच्या साधनांमध्ये शिलालेख महत्त्वपूर्ण ठरतात. दगड, शीला, कातळ, स्तंभ गुहा व मंदिराच्या भिंती यावर कोरून लिहिलेल्या लिखित मजकुरास शिलालेख असे म्हणतात. शिलालेख हे दीर्घकाळ सुरक्षित राहतात, यामध्ये युद्धे, करव्यवस्था, धार्मिक कार्य व समाजजीवन यांची माहिती मिळते. तसेच भाषाविषयक ही माहिती मिळत असते. शिलालेखांमुळे भूतकाळातील राजकीय, सामाजिक व सांस्कृतिक इतिहास समजतो. राजकीय इतिहासाची माहिती, राजांची नावे वंशावळीत राज्यविस्तार, विजय, प्रशासन व सत्ता केंद्र याची

माहिती मिळत असते. सातवाहन, चालुक्य, यादव घराणे यांची शिलालेखातून माहिती मिळते. भाषा व लिपी अभ्यासासाठी शिलालेख हे उपयुक्त ठरत असतात. शिलालेखातून ब्राह्मणी, नागरी मोडी व संस्कृत प्राकृत मराठी भाषांचा विकास अभ्यासता येतो. धार्मिक व संस्कृत माहिती शिलालेखातून मिळाल्याने कला व स्थापत्याचा विकास मंदिरे मठ विहार यांच्या स्थापनेचा इतिहास पाहता येतो.

शिलालेखाची माहिती पुढील प्रमाणेः—

उनकेश्वराचा शिलालेखः— ज्ञानेश्वरीपूर्व म्हणजेच शके घह्मघघमध्ये निजामशाहीत उनकेश्वर शिलालेखाचे निर्माण झाले. या शिलालेखात रामचंद्र यादव त्यांचा नातलग व्यंकदेव व त्याचा करणाधिप हेमाडी पंडित, त्यांचा हस्तक सोमदेव पंडित व माहूरचा रहिवासी सरणनायक यांचा नामोल्लेख आढळतो. या लेखातील भाषा संस्कृत मिश्र मराठी असून काही रूपे अस्सल मराठी शिकण्याची आहेत.

पंढरपूरचा शिलालेख— ज्ञानेश्वरीपूर्व १७ वर्षे म्हणजेच ११९५ मध्ये पंढरपूरच्या श्री विठ्ठलाच्या मंदिरातील शिलालेख म्हणजे चौर्याऐंशीची शिळा अथवा पंढरपूरचा शिलालेख होय. या शिळेस पाठ लाविली असता मनुष्य चौर्याऐंशी योनीतून मुक्त होतो अशी समजूत आहे. यात अनेक व्यक्तींची नावे, नाणी यांचाही उल्लेख आहे. चालावेया, पैकाचा रामचंद्र देवराये, देवरायासी, करनु, सेठी, तेयाची, विठ्ठलाची आण इ. शब्द मराठी वळणाचे आहेत.

नेवासे शिलालेखः— नेवासे शिलालेख हा शके ११६१ मधील आहे ज्ञानेश्वर महाराजांनी ज्या खांबाला टेकून बसून ज्ञानेश्वरी सांगितली. त्या खांबाजवळ कैनैरेश्वराचे जुनाट हेमाडपंथी देऊळ होते. त्या देवळाच्या एका दगडावरील शिलालेख आहे. याची भाषा संस्कृत मिश्र मराठी आहे.

आंबेजोगाईचा शिलालेखः— हा देखील मराठीचा उगमकाळ निश्चित करण्यास मदत करणारा शिलालेख आहे. याची संस्कृत मिश्र मराठी भाषा असून काही शब्द मराठी शिकण्याचे आहेत. जी तत्कालीन मराठीची साक्ष पुरवतात.

परळचा शिलालेखः— हा शिलालेख परळ येथील

सरकारी बंगला बांधत असताना सापडला. हा शके ११०९ मधील शिलालेख आहे. यात कोकणच्या अपरादित्य नावाच्या राजाने श्री वैद्यनाथ देवाच्या पूजेसाठी षष्ठी म्हणजे साष्ठी प्रांतातील माहुलीजवळ २४ द्राम उत्पन्नाच्या जमिनी देत असल्याचा उल्लेख आहे. यातील शेवटच्या दोन ओळीतील शपथ मराठीत आहे

“अथतु तोकोणु आहेहुविए ए ये शासन लो
पी तेया श्री वैद्यनाथ देवाची भाल सकुटुंबिआ पडे।।
तेहाची माय गाढवे विजे”

पळसदेवचा शिलालेख:-

पळसदेवचा शिलालेख हाशके १०७९ चा आहे पळसदेव हे गाव गारदौडपासून सहामैलावर भीमेच्या काठावर आहे. तेथील सारडेश्वराच्या देवळावर हा शिलालेख आहे. जाधवांच्यापूर्वी राष्ट्रकुटांच्या राजवटीत मराठी भाषा चांगली प्रचलित होती असे यावरून दिसते.

“श्री चांगदेव दंडनाके विष्णुगृह केले
ईश्वरसंवछरीनीफजले प्रासादी”

हे मराठी वळणाचे शब्द यात आहेत.

श्रवणबेळगोळचा शिलालेख:- श्रवणबेळगोळ शिलालेख हा शके ९०५ म्हणजेच ज्ञानेश्वरीपूर्वी ३०७ व्या वर्षी कोरला गेला आहे. मराठीतील शिलालेखापैकी हा आद्य शिलालेख समजला जातो. गंगा घराण्यातील राचमल्ल राजाच्या कारकीर्दीत त्याच्या चामुंडाराय नावाच्या प्रधानाने बाहुबल उर्फ गोमतेश्वराचा एक अतिशय प्रचंड असा दगडी पुतळा उभारला. सर्व लोकांच्या माहितीसाठी पुतळ्याखाली निरनिराळ्या लोकभाषेत ती गोष्ट कोरविली आहे. त्यातील मराठी मजकूर पुढीलप्रमाणे आहे.

“श्री चामुंडा राजे करवियले
गंगराजे सुत्ताले करवियले”

त्याचप्रमाणे देवगिरी, यादवकालीन, वेळापूर, श्रीक्षेत्र आळंदी व कोल्हापूर परिसरातील शिलालेख पहावयास मिळतात.

ताम्रपट :- ताम्रपट हे सुद्धा मराठी भाषेच्या विकास व उगमाचे महत्त्वाचे ऐतिहासिक साधन मानले जाते. ताम्रपट म्हणजे तांब्याच्या पत्र्यावर कोरून लिहिलेला

अधिकृत लेख किंवा दस्तऐवज होय. प्राचीन भारतात राजे महाराजे, शासक यांनी दिलेली दानपत्रे, करमाफी, अधिकार बहाल, वतने इत्यादीची ताम्रपटावर नोंद केली जात असे. सामान्यतः आयताकृती किंवा चौकोनी तांब्याच्या पत्र्यावर लेखन केले जात असे. शेवटी राजमुद्रा किंवा शिक्का त्यावर असे. राजवंश, राजांची नावे कारकिर्द व कालखंडाची माहिती, समाजरचना,जातीव्यवस्था व धार्मिक संस्था यांची माहिती ताम्रपटातून घेतली जाते. भाषेत साहित्य, संस्कृत, प्राकृत, अपभ्रंश व प्राचीन मराठी भाषेचे नमुने यातून मिळतात. त्याचप्रमाणे लिपीचा विकास अभ्यासता येतो.

दिवेआगर ताम्रपट:- कोकणातील दिवेआगर येथे हा ताम्रपट उपलब्ध झाला. त्याचा काल संवत ९८३ असा आहे. इंग्रजी कालगणनेनुसार या दिवशी १० नोव्हेंबर १०६० ही तारीख येते. या ताम्रपटात वासुदेवभट्टाने त्याच्याजवळ असलेले स्थितीपुरी गावासंबंधीचे दोन ताम्रपट सर्व स्थानच्या समक्ष भावलभट्टजवळ दिल्याचा उल्लेख आहे. यात व्यक्तीनामे व अनुनासिके आहेत. यात ठवियली, ठवियले, जागति, लिहतो ही क्रियापदे आहेत. स्थितीपुरीची स्थानहचा, दिवेचे— षष्ठिरूपे योगक्षेमु— प्रथमा, एकवचन, पासे, पासी—शब्दयोगी अव्यय, जे, ते, ही सर्वनामे आहेत. हा लेख म्हणजे तत्कालीन मराठीचा उत्तम नमुना ठरतो.

लोकसाहित्याचा पुरावा:- लोकसाहित्यात प्रामुख्याने खर्याखुर्या समाजजीवनाचे प्रतिबिंब उमटलेलेअसते. लोकसाहित्याची निर्मिती अशिक्षित व्यक्तींनी आपल्या नित्याच्या बोलीभाषेत केलेली असते. लोकसाहित्यात लोकगीते, लोककथा, लोककला कथाणया, उखाणे व म्हणी इ.चा समावेश होत असतो. लोकगीत लोककथा इत्यादीचा उल्लेख एखाद्या प्राचीन ग्रंथात आढळून आल्यास त्या विशिष्ट बोलीभाषेचा काळ आपल्याला ठरवता येतो. मराठीतील अशा प्रकारचा उल्लेख सोमेश्वर येथे लिहिलेल्या माणसोल्लासयातसापडतो. या ग्रंथात महाराष्ट्रातील स्त्रियांच्या गाण्याचा व ओव्याचा ही उल्लेख केलेला आहे. ही श्रीगीते म्हणजेच मराठीचा

प्राचीन अविष्कार होय. याच प्रमाणे लोकसाहित्यातील आणखी एक उदाहरण “साळईचे घर मेणाचे काऊळेचे घर सेणाचे. ही कहाणी श्रीचक्रधरांनी घाणाई नावाच्या एका लहान मुलीची समजूत काढताना तेराव्या शतकाच्या अखेरीस लीळाचरित्रात सांगितल्याचा उल्लेख सापडतो. याचाच अर्थ असा की तेराव्या शतकापूर्वी ३०० ते ४०० वर्षे लोकसाहित्याचे बीज मराठीत रुजलेले आहे. यावरून नववे किंवा दहावे शतक मराठीचा उत्पत्तीकाळ लोकसाहित्याच्या पुराव्याच्या आधारे पाहता येतो. **मराठीचे व्याकरण:**— मराठी व्याकरणाच्या आधारे मराठीचा उगम व विकास आपणास पाहता येतो. यामध्ये स्वनविचार, स्वराचे सुलभीकरण, प्रगृहनिवारण, स्वर संक्षेप, संयुक्तस्वर, स्वनभक्ती, मध्यस्वरलोप, समवर्णलोप, महाप्राणतत्व महाप्राणत्वलोप, रूपविचार, रूपविचारांमध्ये लिंग, वचन, विभक्ती, सामान्यरूप सर्वनामे, विशेषण, आख्यात, विभक्ती, शब्दसिद्धी, शब्दसंग्रह, वाक्यरचना व वाक्यप्रचार अशा प्रकारे संस्कृत, प्राकृत व अपभ्रंश या परंपरेपासून जन्मलेले आपले अकृत्रिम रूपदाखवता येते.

ऐतिहासिक पत्रव्यवहार:— यामध्ये शिवकाल, पेशवेकाल या काळातील बहुसंख्य पत्रे आज उपलब्ध आहेत. यावर बोलीभाषेचे बंधने असले तरी तत्कालीन बोलीभाषेची स्वरूप कळण्यास या पत्राचा उपयोग होतो.

विविध भाषाभ्यासकाची मते:— मराठी भाषेची उत्पत्ती नेमकी कोणत्या शतकात झाली. याविषयी भाषाभ्यासकामध्ये मतभिन्नता आहे. कोणत्याही एका भाषेतून नवीन भाषा निर्माण होतात. नवी भाषा निर्माण कशी झाली आहे हे पाहण्यासाठी वर्ण प्रक्रिया व प्रत्ययप्रक्रिया ही दोन अंगे आपल्याला तपासावी लागतात. कारण भाषेच्या दोन अवयवात शिल्लक कारणही सहसा फारसा फरक पडत नाही. शिवाय शब्दसिद्धी व वाक्यप्रयोग ही साधनेही याबाबत सहाय्यक ठरतात. या सर्वांचा आधार घेऊनच काही अभ्यासकांनी मराठीच्या उत्पत्तीचा कालखंड ठरवला आहे. यासाठी ताम्रपट शिलालेख आणि काही दुर्मिळ ग्रंथातील उल्लेख यांचा आधार घेतलेला

आहे. त्याची मते वेगवेगळी आहेत.

१. डॉ. भांडारकर:— दहाव्या शतकात मराठी भाषा जन्मली आहे असे त्यांनी म्हटले आहे.

२. डॉ. प.ल.गुणे:— यांच्या मते इ.स. अकराव्या शतकात मराठीत ग्रंथरचना होऊ लागली असली तरी यापूर्वी दोन ते तीन शतके तरी ती बोलीभाषा म्हणून अस्तित्वात असावी. आठव्या किंवा नवव्या शतकात ती निर्माण झाली असावी असे म्हटले आहे.

३. डॉ. पा.दा.गुणे.:— नवव्या शतकातच मराठीला निश्चित असे स्वरूप प्राप्त झाले असावे. असे आपले प्रतिपादन त्यांनी ऐतिहासिक दृष्टीला आणि भाषाशास्त्रीय सिद्धांताला अनुसरून केले आहे.

४. कै. बा.अ.भिडे:— प्राकृत भाषेचे प्रथम उल्लेख तिसऱ्या शतकात होत असला तरी त्या भाषेत ग्रंथनिर्मितीनंतरच झाली. त्याचप्रमाणे बाराव्या शतकात मराठीत ग्रंथरचना झाली तेव्हा ती आठव्या शतकाही बोलीभाषा म्हणून अस्तित्वात असावी.

५. ल.दा.पांगारकर:— संस्कृत भाषा लोपून प्राकृत व नंतर मराठी भाषा निर्माण झाली असे विद्वानांचे मत असले तरी या तिन्ही भाषांची रूपे काल व व्यवहार यांच्या ओघात बदलत जाणारी भाषिक रूपे आहेत दहाव्या व अकराव्या शतकात त्या रूपाला मराठी असे संबोधन मिळाले.

६. प्रा.कृ.पा. कुलकर्णी:— यांनी नारद स्मृतीतील देशी भाषांपैकी एक भाषा मराठी असे गृहीत धरून मराठी भाषेची उत्पत्ती पाचव्या शतकात झाली असे म्हटले आहे. परंतु हे पद ग्राह्य धरता येत नाही कारण देशी भाषा म्हणजे मराठी असा पुरावा नाही.

७. शं.गो.तुळपुळे:— आठव्या शतकाचा प्रारंभ हा मराठीचा जन्मकाळ मानतात.

बखर वाङ्मय:—

महाराष्ट्राच्या सारस्वताच्या इतिहासात बखरीचे एक विशिष्ट स्थान आहे. ऐतिहासिक आणि वाङ्मयीनदृष्ट्या या बखरीचे महत्त्व मान्य करावेच लागते. मराठीतील गद्यवाङ्मयाची एक स्वतंत्र शाखा म्हणून बखरीचा विचार करावा लागतो.

बखर:— बखर हा शब्द खबर या अरबी शब्दापासून

निघालेला असून, मूळ अरबी शब्दांचा तो वर्णविपर्यय आहे. खबर या शब्दाचा अर्थ वार्ता, माहिती, समाचार असा आहे. इतिहासाचार्य वि.का. राजवाडे यांच्या मते बक म्हणजेच बोलणे बघणे या धातूपासून बखर हा शब्द मराठीत आलेला आहे. यावरून असे अनुमान करावे लागते की, फार पुरातन काळी बखरी तोंडाने बोलत असत. हाताने लिहीत नसत तोंडाने बखरी बोलण्याचा हा काळ दोन अडीच हजार वर्षांपलीकडचा असावा. परंतु बखर या शब्दाचा रुढार्थ राजकीय बातमी इतिहास असा आहे. बखर लेखनात बखर एका नवीन वाङ्मयाची लेखन प्रकाराची भर टाकून मराठी भाषेचे वैभव वाढवले आहे.

शिवपूर्वकालीन बखर:— ही बखर या बखरीची संख्या कमी आहे. त्यांचे वाङ्मयीनदृष्ट्या महत्त्व बरेच आहे. रचनाकाळाच्या दृष्टीने सर्वात जुनी बखर म्हणजे महीकावतीची बखर होय ही बखर अत्यंत जुनी आहे निरनिराळ्या सहा बखर गद्यपद्य प्रकरणाचा एक समाहार आहे. तिच्यातील सहा प्रकरणे निरनिराळ्या काळी निरनिराळ्या व्यक्तींनी लिहिलेली आहेत. या बखरीचा लेखन काळ इसवी सन १४४८ ते १४७८ असा आहे.

राक्षसतागडीची बखर:— हे महत्त्वाची बखर म्हणून मानली जाते. ऐतिहासिक लेखनगुणांनी युक्त अस्सल मराठी गद्य लेखन परकीय शब्दप्रयोग तत्कालीन घडामोडीचा इतिहास राजकीय धार्मिक सामाजिक परिस्थिती वर्णने इत्यादीमुळे ही बखर उल्लेखनीय मानली जाते.

निष्कर्ष:—

१. मराठी भाषेचा उगम व विकास समजून घेण्यासाठी ऐतिहासिक साधने महत्त्वाची ठरतात.
२. या साधनातून शब्द संपदा, व्याकरणिक बदल सामाजिक व सांस्कृतिक स्थिती स्पष्ट होते.
३. भाषा व लिपी अभ्यासासाठी ऐतिहासिक साधने उपयुक्त ठरतात.
४. लोकसाहित्यातून सामाजिक जीवनाचे चित्रण समजावून घेता येते.
५. ऐतिहासिक साधना मुळे मराठीच्या उत्क्रांतीची कालिक टप्पेव विविध उत्पत्ती सिद्धांताची माहिती मिळते.

६. कला व स्थापत्याचा विकास समजतो.
७. ऐतिहासिक विश्वासार्हता मिळते.
८. भाषिक व वाङ्मयीन अभिरुची वाढीस लागते.

समारोप:—

मराठी भाषेचा उगमकाळ निश्चीतीमध्ये विविध उपपत्ती सिद्धांत, ग्रंथिक पुरावे, ताम्रपट, शिलालेख, बखरी व लोकसाहित्याचा अनमोल वाटा आहे.या ऐतिहासिक साधनामुळे भाषेचे जतन व संवर्धन तर होतेच परंतु भाषा विकासातील विविध टप्प्याचे महीही मिळते. ही साधने लोकजीवनाचा सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक, धार्मिक व भाषिक विकास समजावून घेण्यास मदत करतात. विविध प्राचीन भाषांची नमुने अभ्यासली जातात.

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वाचन संस्कृतीवर मोबाईलचा झालेला परिणाम

डॉ. तोटे दादासाहेब सर्जेराव

ग्रंथालय आणि माहितीशास्त्र विभाग प्रमुख
आझाद महाविद्यालय,
औसा, जि. लातूर

प्रस्तावना :

२१ व्या शतकात माहिती व तंत्रज्ञानाचा विकास खूप वेगाने झाला आहे. आणि हा विकास मानवी जीवनाच्या प्रत्येक क्षेत्रात बदल घडवून आणत आहे. त्यात मोबाईल फोन हे अत्यंत प्रभावी साधन ठरले आहे. या डिजिटल युगात मोबाईल फोन हा प्रत्येकाच्या जीवनाचा अविभाज्य भाग बनला आहे. संवाद, माहिती, मनोरंजन, शिक्षण या सर्व गोष्टी मोबाईल मुळे सहज उपलब्ध झाल्या आहेत. मात्र या तंत्रज्ञानामुळे वाचन संस्कृतीवर मोठ्या प्रमाणात परिणाम झाला आहे. एकेकाळी मानवाला ज्ञानप्राप्तीसाठी ग्रंथ, वर्तमानपत्रे, मासिके यांचे वाचन हेच प्रमुख साधन होते. परंतु मोबाईल मुळे वाचनाची पद्धत आणि स्वरूप दोन्ही बदलले आहे. या बदलामुळे समाजाच्या बौद्धिक, सांस्कृतिक आणि मानसिक विकासावर मोठ्या प्रमाणात परिणाम झाला आहे. वाचकांच्या वाचनविषयक आवडी निवडी दूर होत चालल्या आहेत. या आवडी निवडीची जागा मोबाईल मधील सोशल मीडियाच्या फेसबुक, व्हाट्सअप, इंस्टाग्राम, यू ट्यूब, यासारख्या मनोरंजनाच्या डिजिटल घस ने घेतली आहे.

१. वाचनसंस्कृतीची संकल्पना :

वाचन संस्कृती म्हणजे केवळ अक्षरांची ओळख असणे किंवा साक्षर असणे नव्हे, तर वाचन हा आपल्या दैनंदिन जीवनाचा, विचारांचा आणि

आनंदाचा एक अविभाज्य भाग असणे होय. सोप्या भाषेत सांगायचे तर समाजात वाचनाची आवड निर्माण होणे, ग्रंथाशी जवळीक वाढवणे आणि त्यातून विचारांची प्रगल्भता येणे म्हणजे वाचन संस्कृती होय.

वाचन संस्कृती म्हणजे निव्वळ ग्रंथ वाचणे नाही तर वाचलेल्या विषयावर चिंतन करणे, चर्चा करणे, विचारांची देवाण—घेवाण करणे आणि त्यातील चांगले विचार प्रत्यक्ष जीवनात उतरवणे होय. ज्या समाजाची वाचन संस्कृती समृद्ध असते तो समाज वैचारिकदृष्ट्या कधीही गरीब राहत नाही. “वाचाल तर वाचाल” हे ब्रीद वाक्य वाचन संस्कृतीचा खरा पाया आहे.

वाचन संस्कृतीमुळे खालील बाबी साध्य होतात:

- ज्ञानवृद्धी व बौद्धिक विकास.
- कल्पनाशक्ती व सर्जनशीलता वाढ.
- भाषिक कौशल्यांचा विकास.
- व्यक्तिमत्व विकास व सामाजिक जाणीव निर्माण.
- निर्णय क्षमता व विश्लेषणात्मक विचार वाढ.

२. मोबाईल तंत्रज्ञानाचा विकास आणि प्रसार:

फक्त संदेश वाहनाचे एक साधन म्हणून ज्या वस्तूची निर्मिती झाली होती, ती वस्तू आता मानवाच्या जीवनातील एक महत्त्वाची गरज बनली आहे. बिनतारी संदेशासाठी वापरल्या जाणाऱ्या या वस्तूला मोबाईल असे म्हटले गेले. मोबाईल तंत्रज्ञानाचा प्रवास हा केवळ तांत्रिक प्रगती नाही तर मानवी जीवनशैलीत झालेली एक मोठी क्रांती आहे. गेल्या काही दशकात फक्त बोलण्यासाठी वापरल्या जाणाऱ्या फोन पासून ते “खिशातलं जग” (स्मार्टफोन) इथपर्यंतचा हा प्रवास थक्क करणारा आहे. मोबाईल स्मार्ट झाला आणि त्याने मानवाचे सर्व कामे झटपट करण्याचा जणू विडाच उचलला आहे असे म्हणणे वावगे ठरणार नाही.

मोबाईल तंत्रज्ञानाचा पिढीनिहाय विकास:

मोबाईल तंत्रज्ञानामध्ये “G”(Generation) चा प्रवास खालील प्रमाणे आहे.

- १G (१९८० चे दशक) : हे केवळ अनलॉक घनालॉग व्हाईस कॉल साठी होते. या फोनचा आकार मोठा होता. मात्र बॅटरी बॅकअप खूप कमी असायचा.
- २G (१९९० चे दशक) : या काळात डिजिटल सिग्नल ची सुरुवात झाली. यामुळे SMS (text messages) पाठवले शक्य झाले.
- ३G (२००० चे दशक) : या काळात इंटरनेटचा वेग वाढला आणि व्हिडिओ कॉलिंग तसेच वेब ब्राउझिंग ची ओळख झाली.
- ४G (२०१० चे दशक) : हाय स्पीड डेटा आणि LTE तंत्रज्ञानामुळे एच. डी. व्हिडिओ स्ट्रीमिंग आणि सोशल मीडियाचा मोठा प्रसार झाला.
- ५G (आजचे युग) : अत्यंत वेगवान इंटरनेट आणि कमी लॅटन्सी (Latency) हे IOT (Internet of Things) आणि प्रगत तंत्रज्ञानासाठी पाया ठरत आहे.

आज मोबाईलचा एवढा प्रचार आणि प्रसार झाला आहे की माणसाच्या खिशात मोबाईल आहे की, मोबाईलनेच माणसाला खिशात टाकले आहे हे कळत नाही. मोबाईल मधील अँड्रॉइड प्रणालीमुळे हवे ते अॅप्स घेऊन सर्व कामे सुखकर झाली आहेत. पैशाची देवाणघेवाण, व्हिडिओ कॉलिंग, फोटोग्राफी, विविध मजकूर टाईप करणे, PDF फाईल तयार करणे, गाणे ऐकणे, रेडिओ ऐकणे, टीव्हीवरील अनेक चॅनेल्स पाहणे, रेल्वे, बस, विमान, हॉटेल्सची तिकिटे बुकिंग करणे, मॅपच्या साहाय्याने प्रवास करणे, माहितीची प्राप्ती, डाऊनलोड, ई-बुक वाचन, ऑनलाईन शिक्षण इत्यादी अनेक कामे या छोट्याशा साधा मुळे आज सहज शक्य झाले आहेत. आणि यामुळे मोबाईल या साधनाने संपूर्ण समाजाला व्यापून टाकले आहे.

मोबाईलचा वाचन संस्कृतीवर झालेला सकारात्मक परिणाम:

१. डिजिटल साहित्य वाचनाची वाढ: मोबाईल मुळे ई-बुक्स, PDF, ऑनलाइन लेख सहज उपलब्ध झाले आहेत. त्यामुळे वाचनाची साधने वाढली आहेत.
२. ज्ञानाची सहज उपलब्धता: गुगल, विकिपीडिया, शैक्षणिक अॅप्स यामुळे कोणतीही

माहिती काही सेकंदात मिळते. त्यामुळे वाचनातून ज्ञानप्राप्ती अधिक सोपी झाली आहे.

३. वेळेचा सदुपयोग: मोबाईल मुळे कुठेही आणि केव्हाही वाचन करता येते. प्रवासात किंवा रिकाम्या वेळेत लोक वाचन करू शकतात.

४. विविध विषयांवर माहिती: विज्ञान, तंत्रज्ञान, साहित्य, इतिहास अशा अनेक विषयांवर मोबाईल मुळे माहिती सहज प्राप्त करता येते.

५. नवीन पिढीला आकर्षण: तरुण पिढी डिजिटल माध्यमातून वाचनाकडे आकर्षित करण्याचे काम मोबाईल ने केले आहे.

मोबाईलचा वाचन संस्कृतीवर झालेला नकारात्मक परिणाम:

१. पारंपारिक वाचन कमी झाले: मोबाईल मुळे ग्रंथ, वर्तमानपत्रे व इतर वाचन साहित्य वाचनाचा छंद कमी होऊन वाचक ग्रंथालयापासून हळूहळू दूर होत चालला आहे. वाचना ऐवजी लोकांना मोबाईलचा छंद जास्त आकर्षित करू लागला आहे. त्यामुळे वाचन संस्कृती हळूहळू कालबाह्य होत चालली आहे.

२. एकाग्रतेत घट: मोबाईल मधील व्हाट्सअप, फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, यु ट्युब या सोशल मीडियामुळे वाचनातील एकाग्रता कमी होत आहे. कारण काही वाचन करत असताना मोबाईल वरील सतत येणाऱ्या नोटिफिकेशन मुळे एकाग्रता भंग होते.

३. मनोरंजनाकडे झुकाव: मोबाईल मध्ये गेम्स, व्हिडिओ, फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, व्हाट्सअप, या सोशल मीडियावर जास्त वेळ गुंतवून राहिल्यामुळे वाचनासाठी वेळ कमी मिळतो व वाचनातील गोडी कमी होत आहे.

४. सखोल वाचनाचा अभाव: मोबाईलवर वाचनाऱ्या वाचकास लहान लहान लेखातील तुटपुंजी माहिती मिळते. त्यामुळे सखोल आणि चिंतनात्मक वाचन कमी झाले आहे.

५. डोळ्यांवर आणि आरोग्यावर परिणाम: सतत मोबाईलचा वापर केल्यामुळे मोबाईलच्या स्क्रीन मधून पटणाऱ्या प्रकाशामुळे डोळ्यांचे विकार होत आहेत. याचबरोबर बऱ्याच लोकांना निद्रा नाश म्हणजेच

ज्ञोपेच्या समस्यांना सामोरे जावे लागत आहे. ज्यामुळे वाचण्याची सवय कमी होऊन माणसांचे आरोग्य धोक्यात येत आहे.

मोबाईल मुळे वाचनाच्या पद्धतीत झालेला बदल:

मोबाईल तंत्रज्ञानाच्या क्रांतीमुळे मानवी जीवनाच्या अनेक पैलू प्रमाणेच वाचन करण्याच्या पद्धतीतही अमुलाग्र बदल झाले आहेत. एकेकाळी हातात पुस्तक घेऊन शांतपणे तासनतास वाचन करण्याची पद्धत आता कालबाह्य होऊन त्याच्या जागी मोबाईल मधील मनोरंजना बरोबरच स्क्रोलिंग, स्कॅनिंग अशी वाचन पद्धती विकसित होत आहे. माहिती पटकन घेण्याची सवय लागली आहे. त्यामुळे विचार करण्याची क्षमता बऱ्याच प्रमाणात कमी होत आहे.

वाचन संस्कृती जोपासण्यासाठी उपाय:

- मोबाईलचा वापर मर्यादित ठेवावा.
- दररोज आपल्या जीवनातील ठराविक वेळ ग्रंथ वाचण्यासाठी द्यावा.
- ग्रंथालयात बसून वाचण्याचा वेळ वाढवावा.
- लहान मुलांना वाचनाची आवड निर्माण व्हावी यासाठी दररोज वाचनाची सवय लावावी.
- डिजिटल वाचन आणि पारंपारिक वाचन यामध्ये संतुलन ठेवावे.

निष्कर्ष:—

आजच्या डिजिटल युगात मोबाईल हा आधुनिक तंत्रज्ञानाचा महत्त्वाचा भाग आहे. आणि त्याचे फायदेही अनेक आहेत. परंतु त्याचा अतिरेक वाचन संस्कृतीसाठी हानिकारक ठरत आहे. त्यामुळे मोबाईलचा योग्य आणि मर्यादित वापर करून वाचनाची सवय टिकवणे आवश्यक आहे. वाचन संस्कृती ही समाजाच्या प्रगतीसाठी अत्यंत महत्त्वाची असल्याने ती जपणे ही आज काळाची गरज आहे. मोबाईलचा वापर हा वाचन संस्कृती वरती चांगल्या परिणामापेक्षा वाईट परिणाम जास्त करत आहे. त्यामुळे वाचन संस्कृती जर टिकवायची असेल, तर मोबाईलचा वापर कमीत कमी करून पारंपारिक वाचन पद्धती वाचकांमध्ये रुजवणे ही आज काळाची गरज आहे.

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वर्तमान में अमेरिका—ईरान—इजरायल युद्ध का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव

डॉ. कविता भारती

सहायक आचार्य ई.ए.एफ.एम.

राजकीय महाविद्यालय, जयपुर

सारांश—

वर्तमान वैश्विक परिदृश्य में पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते ईरान—अमेरिका तनाव तथा उससे जुड़े इराक क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष ने विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था पर व्यापक प्रभाव डाला है। भारत, जो ऊर्जा आयात पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है तथा जिसके मध्य—पूर्व के देशों के साथ गहरे व्यापारिक और मानवीय संबंध हैं, इस स्थिति से विशेष रूप से प्रभावित हुआ है। प्रस्तुत शोध लेख में तेल की बढ़ती कीमतों, आपूर्ति शृंखला में व्यवधान, वित्तीय बाजारों की अस्थिरता, विनिमय दर में उतार—चढ़ाव, प्रवासी भारतीयों की स्थिति तथा ऊर्जा सुरक्षा जैसे प्रमुख आयामों के आधार पर भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर इस संघर्ष के प्रभाव का विश्लेषण किया गया है। अध्ययन से स्पष्ट होता है कि अल्पकाल में यह संकट भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न करता है, जबकि दीर्घकाल में यह ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता और रणनीतिक आर्थिक सुधारों के अवसर भी प्रदान करता है।

परिचय—

ईरान, अमेरिका और इजरायल के मध्य बढ़ता हुआ तनाव वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं को बाधित कर रहा है, जिससे ऊर्जा, व्यापार और मुद्रास्फीति के क्षेत्र में भारत की संवेदनशीलता उजागर हुई है। भारत की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का बड़ा भाग खाड़ी देशों से आयातित तेल, गैस तथा

उर्वरकों पर निर्भर है, जो मुख्यतः होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के माध्यम से आता है। इस मार्ग में किसी भी प्रकार की बाधा भारत की ऊर्जा और खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए गंभीर खतरा बन सकती है।

यह स्थिति भारत के आर्थिक संतुलनकृ जिसे अक्सर उच्च विकास दर और नियंत्रित मुद्रास्फीति के संयोजन के रूप में देखा जाता है.. को प्रभावित कर सकती है। साथ ही, यह भारत के लिए एक कूटनीतिक चुनौती भी प्रस्तुत करती है, क्योंकि उसे अमेरिका, इजरायल और ईरान जैसे देशों के साथ संतुलित संबंध बनाए रखने होते हैं।

अमेरिका—ईरान—इजरायल युद्ध का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर प्रभाव

■ भारत की एलपीजी संबंधी संवेदनशीलता: भारत विश्व का प्रमुख एलपीजी उपभोक्ता है और इसकी लगभग ६०% मांग आयात के माध्यम से पूरी होती है। एलपीजी की आपूर्ति मुख्यतः खाड़ी देशों से होती है, जो होर्मुज मार्ग से होकर गुजरती है। इस कारण क्षेत्रीय अस्थिरता भारत के घरेलू उपभोग को सीधे प्रभावित कर सकती है। भारत में, भूमिगत रूठ भंडारण लगभग १.४ लाख टन है। यह मात्रा, जिसकी दैनिक मांग लगभग ८०,००० टन है, दो दिनों से भी कम की खपत के लिये पर्याप्त है। इस दैनिक मांग का ८५% से अधिक हिस्सा घरेलू उपयोग के लिये होता है। सीमित भंडारण क्षमता के कारण भारत के पास केवल कुछ दिनों की एलपीजी आवश्यकता को पूरा करने की क्षमता है। आपूर्ति बाधित होने पर सरकार को औद्योगिक उपयोग को सीमित कर घरेलू उपयोग को प्राथमिकता देनी पड़ सकती है, जिससे व्यावसायिक क्षेत्रों पर दबाव बढ़ता है।

□ खाद्य एवं कृषि निर्यात पर प्रभाव: पश्चिम एशिया भारत के कृषि निर्यात का एक महत्वपूर्ण बाजार है। चावल, मसाले, फल, सब्जियाँ और डेयरी उत्पादों का बड़ा हिस्सा इस क्षेत्र में निर्यात किया जाता है। संघर्ष के कारण शिपिंग में देरी, मालभाड़ा वृद्धि और लॉजिस्टिक बाधाओं ने निर्यातकों पर अतिरिक्त दबाव डाला है। इससे किसानों और खाद्य

प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों की आय प्रभावित हो सकती है।

□ प्रवासी भारतीयों पर प्रभाव: खाड़ी देशों में बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय प्रवासी कार्यरत हैं, जो भारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण विदेशी मुद्रा प्रेषण का स्रोत हैं। क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष के कारण उनकी सुरक्षा और रोजगार दोनों प्रभावित हो सकते हैं। यदि स्थिति गंभीर होती है, तो भारत को बड़े पैमाने पर निकासी और पुनर्वास की चुनौती का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

□ ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर प्रभाव : भारत अपनी ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर आयात पर निर्भर है, जहाँ कच्चे तेल का ८५% से अधिक तथा प्राकृतिक गैस का महत्वपूर्ण भाग विदेशों से आता है। इन आयातों का बड़ा हिस्सा सऊदी अरब, इराक, यूएई और कतर जैसे खाड़ी देशों से प्राप्त होता है। यदि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में अवरोध उत्पन्न होता है, तो तेल और गैस की आपूर्ति गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित हो सकती है। कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि से 'आयातित मुद्रास्फीति' बढ़ती है, जिससे चालू खाता घाटा भी विस्तृत होता है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप आर्थिक विकास दर पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

□ औद्योगिक क्षेत्र पर प्रभाव

(क) निर्माण और सीमेंट उद्योग

सीमेंट उद्योग के लिए आवश्यक कच्चे माल का बड़ा हिस्सा खाड़ी देशों से आयातित होता है। आपूर्ति बाधित होने से निर्माण लागत बढ़ सकती है और बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाएँ प्रभावित हो सकती हैं।

(ख) स्टील उद्योग

प्राकृतिक गैस आधारित उत्पादन प्रक्रिया में बाधा आने से स्टील उत्पादन घट सकता है, जिससे औद्योगिक विकास पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

(ग) विनिर्माण और रत्न उद्योग

तांबे और कच्चे हीरों की आपूर्ति में कमी से बिजली, आभूषण और निर्यात उद्योग प्रभावित हो सकते हैं, विशेषकर सूरत जैसे केंद्रों पर इसका सीधा प्रभाव पड़ता है।

□ निवेश और वित्तीय बाजार

युद्ध के समय वैश्विक निवेशकों में अनिश्चितता बढ़ी है। विदेशी निवेश (FDI और FII) में कमी आयी है। भारतीय शेयर बाजार में तेजी से गिरावट आयी है। जिससे भारतीय रुपया भी कमजोर हुआ है।

हालाँकि, युद्ध समाप्ति के बाद बाजार में धीरे-धीरे सुधार होगा।

□ उर्वरक आपूर्ति पर संकट: भारत उर्वरक उत्पादन के लिए आवश्यक कच्चे माल जैसे अमोनिया, सल्फर और फॉस्फेट के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है। ये संसाधन मुख्यतः खाड़ी और पश्चिम एशियाई देशों से प्राप्त होते हैं। यदि संघर्ष लंबा चलता है, तो उर्वरक उत्पादन प्रभावित हो सकता है, जिससे कृषि क्षेत्र पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा। हालाँकि अल्पकाल में उपलब्ध भंडार स्थिति को संभाल सकते हैं, लेकिन दीर्घकालिक संकट खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए चुनौती बन सकता है।

■ मुद्रा विनिमय दर और वित्तीय बाजार: वैश्विक अनिश्चितता के कारण भारतीय रुपया कमजोर होता है, जिससे आयात लागत बढ़ती है। मुद्रा को स्थिर बनाए रखने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार का उपयोग करना पड़ता है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) को मुद्रा को स्थिर करने के लिये अपने ७३० बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में से १५-२० बिलियन डॉलर का उपयोग करके हस्तक्षेप करना पड़ा है। यह स्थिति वित्तीय बाजारों में अस्थिरता उत्पन्न करती है और निवेशकों के विश्वास को प्रभावित कर सकती है।

□ राजकोषीय स्थिति और सरकारी नीतियां : सरकार को तेल कीमतों के बढ़ने के कारण सब्सिडी बढ़ानी पड़ी है। पेट्रोलियम सब्सिडी का भी दबाव बढ़ा है। सरकार विभिन्न प्रयासों के माध्यम से करें और कीमतों में समायोजन स्थापित कर रह है।

सकारात्मक प्रभाव:

हालाँकि युद्ध के अधिकांश प्रभाव नकारात्मक थे, कुछ सकारात्मक पहलू भी थे:

भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए पुनर्निर्माणके अवसर

वैश्विक मंच पर भारत की रणनीतिक भूमिका मजबूत हुई

ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर ध्यान बढ़ा निष्कर्ष

ईरान—अमेरिका—इजरायल संघर्ष का भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर बहुआयामी प्रभाव पड़ता है, जिसमें ऊर्जा, कृषि, उद्योग और वित्तीय क्षेत्र सभी शामिल हैं। अल्पकाल में यह संकट मुद्रास्फीति, आपूर्ति बाधा और आर्थिक अस्थिरता को बढ़ाता है, जबकि दीर्घकाल में यह भारत को ऊर्जा विविधीकरण, घरेलू उत्पादन वृद्धि और रणनीतिक भंडारण क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।

इसलिए, भारत के लिए आवश्यक है कि वह ऊर्जा स्रोतों का विविधीकरण, रणनीतिक भंडारण का विस्तार, वैकल्पिक व्यापार मार्गों का विकास तथा मजबूत कूटनीतिक संतुलन बनाए रखे, ताकि भविष्य में ऐसे संकटों के प्रभाव को न्यूनतम किया जा सके।

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जनसंख्या नियन्त्रण एवं परिवार नियोजन तकनीकों में अन्तसम्बन्ध

Dr. Lata Vardhan

Department: Sociology

Chiliyanaulla, Ranikhet, Almora, Uttarakhand

शोध सारांश—

भारत में जनसंख्या के विशाल आकार जनसंख्या वृद्धि की वर्तमान दर तथा ग्रामीण जनसंख्या द्वारा नगरों की प्रवास करने की प्रवृत्ति ने अनेक गंभीर समस्याएं उत्पन्न की हैं। भारत में जनसंख्या वृद्धि को कम करने के लिए अनेक बार सरकार द्वारा नीतियों की घोषणा की गई परन्तु किसी भी नीति को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू नहीं किया जा सका नियम बहुत बने लेकिन उनका पालन नहीं हुआ समय के साथ—साथ बदलने वाले नारों में ही जनसंख्या कम'। होती रही शुरू में नारा था “दो होते हैं सही—सही तीन से ज्यादा कभी नहीं” नारा आगे बढ़ा “हम दो हमारे दो” और आज हमारा नारा है कि “राष्ट्र एक संतान एक” कभी जनसंख्या नीति ऐसी नहीं बनी जिससे चीन की तरह देश के सभी वर्गों और समुदायों पर प्रभावी ढंग से लागू की गई होद्य इसी तरह अनेक राष्ट्रीय तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों में भी जनसंख्या नीति और परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हुए अनेक सुझाव दिए जा रहे हैं क्योंकि बढ़ती जनसंख्या अनेक गंभीर समस्याओं की जननी है।

जनसंख्या नियंत्रण के संबंध में समाजशास्त्रियों ने अवधारणायें दी, कि जनसंख्या समाज विषय के अंतर्गत जनसंख्या से संबंधित अनेक रुझानों तथा प्रक्रियाओं का अध्ययन किया गया है जैसेय जनसंख्या के आकार में परिवर्तनय जन्म मृत्यु एवं प्रवसन के स्वरूप और संरचन आदि अर्थात उसमें

स्त्रियों, पुरुषों और विभिन्न आयु वर्ग के लोगों का अनुपात है? जनसांख्यिकी की अनेक शाखाएँ हैं जैसे, आकारिक जनसांख्यिकी, जिसमें अधिकतर जनसंख्या के आकार तथा मात्रा का अध्ययन किया जाता है और सामाजिक, आर्थिक व राजनीति पक्षों पर भी विचार किया जाता है, सभी जनसंख्या अध्ययन समाजशास्त्र के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं वस्तुतः समाजशास्त्र के उद्भव को अलग अकादमिक विषय के रूप में जनसंख्या समाज को ही जाता है। जनसंख्या नियन्त्रण एवं परिवार नियोजन की तकनीकों के प्रभाव को इसी कड़ी में प्रस्तुत शोध अध्ययन में दिखाने का प्रयास किया गया है।

भारत जैसे विविधताओं वाले देश में जहाँ अधिकांश लोग अशिक्षित ग्रामीण और निर्धन हैं, जो कि परिवार नियोजन की आवश्यकता को नहीं समझते हैं रूढ़िवादिता धार्मिक कट्टरता अंधविश्वास आदि के कारण इसे स्वेच्छा से नहीं अपनाते हैं, वहाँ परिवार नियोजन के कार्यक्रम को लागू करने में अनेक बाधाएँ उत्पन्न होंगी। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि दीर्घकालीन उपायों जिसमें व्यापक शिक्षा तथा जागरूकता का प्रसार हो साथ ही अभीष्ट सफलता के लिए अनिवार्यता तथा आवश्यकतानुसार कानूनी कार्यवाही भी वंछनीय होय परिवार में बच्चों की संख्या में वृद्धि के साथ-साथ गर्भावस्था और जन्म की चिकित्सा के लिए बहुत रुपए खर्च करने पड़ते हैं और साथ ही बच्चों के भरण-पोषण और लालन-पालन के लिए उच्च लागत को व्यय करना पड़ता है कि वह अपने बच्चों के लिए भोजन कपड़े आश्रय शिक्षा का बंदोबस्त करें यदि किसी परिवार ने परिवार नियोजन अपनाया है तो उसे वित्तीय स्थिति को स्थिर रखने में काफी मदद भी मिलती है लेकिन आज भी पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में इसे अपनाने में संकोच किया जा रहा है अतः इसी सत्यता के लिए जनसंख्या नियंत्रण के लिए परिवार नियोजन तकनीकों का प्रयोग करने वाली ग्रामीण व शहरी महिलाओं की विभिन्न परिस्थितियों का अध्ययन कर शोधार्थनी द्वारा एक तुलनात्मक अध्ययन शोध के माध्यम से किया गया है। भारत की अधिकांश

जनता हमेशा ही ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहती आई है यह स्थिति आज भी है। २००१ की जनगणना में पाया जाता है कि हमारी जनसंख्या का ७२ प्रतिशत भाग आज भी गांवों में रहता है और २८ प्रतिशत शहरों व कस्बे में वही सन् २०११ में नगरीय जनसंख्या बढ़कर ३१.२ प्रतिशत हो गई है जिसमें ग्रामीण जनसंख्या कम होकर ६८.८ प्रतिशत रह गई है। और नगरीय जनसंख्या का हिस्सा बढ़ता जा रहा है यद्यपि हमारी अधिकांश जनता ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहती है। वे अपनी आजीविका कृषि से ही चलती है पर वह जो उत्पादन करते हैं गांवों में रहने वाले अधिक लोग परिवहन सेवा, व्यवसाय तथा शिल्प-निर्माण जैसे खेती से अलग भिन्न ग्रामीण व्यवसायों को अधिकाधिक अपनाते जा रहे हैं लेकिन उनका गांव किसी नगर के काफी पास हो तो वे गांव में रहते हुए भी काम करने के लिए रोजाना उस निकटतम नगरीय केन्द्र में जाते हैं।

साहित्य पुनरावलोकन— थॉमस रॉबर्ट माल्थस (१७९८) ने अपने जनसंख्या सिद्धांत में बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या तथा इससे उत्पन्न दुष्प्रभाव से आंतकित होकर, जनसंख्या संबंधी विचार का प्रतिपादन किया, उनका मानना है कि स्त्री-पुरुष में काम-वासना स्वाभाविक ही नहीं, यथा स्थिर है, जिसका संबंध संतान उत्पत्ति से है मनुष्य की जीवन निर्वाह व अस्तित्व की रक्षा के लिए खाद्य सामग्री महत्वपूर्ण है, उनके इस सिद्धांत का दृष्टिकोण आर्थिक संपन्नता और संतान उत्पत्ति के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंध है अर्थात् माल्थस जनसंख्या वृद्धि को मानवीय निर्धनता का महत्वपूर्ण कारण मानते हैं, जबकि कार्ल मार्क्स इस विचार से असहमत थे, उनका कहना है कि जनसंख्या वृद्धि की समस्या का कारण पूंजीवादी समाज है।

रेमण्ड पर्ल व लावेल लीड (१९३५) अपने जनसंख्या सिद्धांत में मधु-मक्खियों पर किए गए प्रयोगों के आधार पर कहा कि मधु-मक्खियों की संख्या में पहले तीव्र गति से वृद्धि होती है, फिर यह गति मंद पड़ जाती है तत्पश्चात् वह धीरे-धीरे घटने लगती है और अंत में तीव्रता के साथ घटकर

स्थिर हो जाती है पुनः उसमें वृद्धि होने लगती है। इस प्रकार मधु—मक्खियों की संख्या में वृद्धि और च्हास का क्रम एक चक्र की भांति चलता रहता है लेकिन इसकी सबसे बड़ी विशेषता यह है कि जब वृद्धि के बाद मधु—मक्खियों की संख्या घटकर स्थिर हो जाती है तो भी उनकी संख्या उस संख्या से अधिक ही तीव्र रहती है जहाँ से उनकी संख्या में वृद्धि शुरू हुई थी। इस निष्कर्ष के आधार पर पर्ल का कहना है कि जो वृद्धि और च्हास का नियम मधु—मक्खियों पर लागू होता है, वही नियम मनुष्यों पर भी लागू होता है।

आर्थर हेडली एवं अदना वेबर (१८९६) ने अपने जनसंख्या सिद्धांत में सुखी जीवन और निम्न दर का सह—सम्बन्ध स्पष्ट करते हुए बताया है कि वास्तव में सुखी जीवन उन्हीं व्यक्तियों को प्राप्त होता है जो समझदार हैं तथा यही व्यक्ति परिवार नियोजन को भी अपनाते हैं, खाद्य सामग्री की कमी जनसंख्या परिसीमन का एकमात्र व मुख्य कारण नहीं है, अनेक कारण होते हैं जिसमें समाज में उन्नति करने व ऊपर उठने की इच्छा भी महत्वपूर्ण कारण है। बुद्धिजीवी तथा समझदार व्यक्ति परिवार नियोजन को शीघ्र अपनाकर परिवार छोटा से छोटा रखने का प्रयत्न करते हैं आगे हेडली ने यह भी कहा है, जो व्यक्ति बुद्धिजीवी व बुद्धिमान नहीं होते उनमें जन्म—दर प्राकृतिक अर्थात् प्रत्यक्ष अवरोध द्वारा ही रुकती है। संक्षेप में इनके सिद्धांत का यही सार है।

आर अरुंधति (२००८) का कहना है कि प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य की जानकारी के लिए पुरुषों का प्राथमिक स्रोत मास मीडिया था, हालांकि उन्होंने जानकार सूत्रों के साथ चर्चा के माध्यम से जानकारी प्राप्त करने की रुचि व्यक्त की, पुरुषों के द्वारा परिवार नियोजन तथ्य गर्भनिरोधक को दो अलग—अलग मुद्दों से समझा, पुरुषों ने “परिवार नियोजन” को महिला नसबंदी के पर्याय के रूप में देखा, जबकि उन्होंने “गर्भनिरोधक” को अलग तरीकों के संदर्भ में देखा जिसका ज्ञान सीमित था ३४ प्रतिशत पुरुषों ने बताया कि उनकी पत्नियों की

नसबंदी कर दी गई थीय अधिकांश पुरुष परिवार नियोजन की जानकारी प्राप्त करने में रुचि रखते हैं, लेकिन उपलब्ध सूचना स्रोतों के बारे में ज्ञान का अभाव है, जो कि परिवार नियोजन विकल्पों को सूचित करने की उनकी क्षमता को बाधित करता है। परिवार नियोजन सेवा प्रदाताओं और कार्य कार्यक्रम नियोजकों को परिवार नियोजन संबंधित पुरुषों के ज्ञान और धारणाओं के बारे में पता होना चाहिए।

सीमा चोपड़ा, धालीवाल लखबीर (२००९) का कहना है कि सर्वेक्षणों में ग्रामीण की तुलना शहरी क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु अधिक थी किन्तु शहरी ग्रामीण एक ही बिन्दु पर आ रहे हैं लेकिन अभी भी काफी अन्तर पाया जाता है। शहरी क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु १९९२—९३ में १८.४ साल से १९९७—९८ में १८.८ साल व २००५—०६ में १८.७ साल तक बढ़ी और जो ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु १९९२—९३ में १५.७ साल थी, १९९७—९८ में १६.० साल और आगे २००५—०६ में १६.४ साल तक बढ़ी जिससे जल्दी शादी के आर्थिक व सामाजिक हानि के की जानकारी तथा भारत के लिए एन० एफ० एच० एस० के आकड़ों में भी देखी गई है। लड़कियों के लिए शादी में औसत आयु सबसे कम थी और जिसमें स्कूली शिक्षा की लड़कियाँ बहुत कम थी अनुसूचित जातियों व अनुसूचित जनजातियों से लड़कियों की शादी के समय आयु भी क्रमशः १६.३ साल व १६.५ साल के साथ मध्य औसत आयु से भी कम थी। सीमा चोपड़ा, धालीवाल लखबीर (२००९) का कहना है कि सर्वेक्षणों में ग्रामीण की तुलना शहरी क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु अधिक थी किन्तु शहरी ग्रामीण एक ही बिन्दु पर आ रहे हैं लेकिन अभी भी काफी अन्तर पाया जाता है। शहरी क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु १९९२—९३ में १८.४ साल से १९९७—९८ में १८.८ साल व २००५—०६ में १८.७ साल तक

बढ़ी और जो ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों के लिए शादी के समय औसत आयु १९९२-९३ में १५.७ साल थी, १९९७-९८ में १६.० साल और आगे २००५-०६ में १६.४ साल तक बढ़ी। जिससे जल्दी शादी के आर्थिक व सामाजिक हानि के की जानकारी तथा भारत के लिए एन० एफ० एच० एस० के आकड़ों में भी देखी गई है। लड़कियों के लिए शादी में औसत आयु सबसे कम थी और जिसमें स्कूली शिक्षा की लड़कियाँ बहुत कम थी अनुसूचित जातियों व अनुसूचित जनजातियों से लड़कियों की शादी के समय आयु भी क्रमशः १६.३ साल व १६.५ साल के साथ मध्य औसत आयु से भी कम थी।

रविन्द्र कुमार सिन्हा (२०१०) का कहना है कि विवाह की आयु में जागरूकता व नजरिए में बदलाव के मामले में सकारात्मक परिणाम दर्ज किए गए परन्तु प्रोग्रामों में विवाह के समय आयु बढ़ाने का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना मुश्किल लगा और नकारात्मक परिणाम दर्ज किये गये। वहीं इन्हें वास्तविक व्यवहार में परिवर्तित करना आसान नहीं था जिसमें कई सारी सामाजिक बाधाओं को दर्शाते हैं क्योंकि कुछ परिवेशों में गरीबी एवं लड़कियों के पास उच्च विद्यालयों की कमी, जल्दी शादी कर देने व कई लड़कियों ने जल्दी स्कूल छोड़ दिया क्योंकि महिला शिक्षक और शौचालय की सुविधा नहीं थी और परिवेश में माता-पिता अपनी बेटियों की शादी से पहले गर्भवती होने की चिन्ता थी, इसे रोकने के लिए वे शादी जल्दी करनी पड़ती थी अक्सर देर से शादी करने पर दहेज अधिक देना पड़ता है। और इसी कारण जल्दी शादी के नुकसान को नजरअंदाज करते हैं हांलाकि यह कहा जा सकता है कि बाल विवाह रोकना दूसरो की तुलना में किशोरियों को स्कूल में रखने के लिए वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन व समर्थन लड़कियों के लिए जीवन कौशल शिक्षा तथा लड़कियों व लड़कों के लिए जीवन कौशल शिक्षा के साथ सामुदायिक रणनीतियां अपेक्षाकृत अधिक सफल रही है। कुल मिलाकर एकल रणनीतियों की तुलना में बहु आयामी दृष्टिकोण

लड़कियों की जल्दी शादी के लिए सामाजिक दबाव विभिन्न माध्यम को प्रभावित करने के लिए खुद को आगे ला रहा है।

अध्ययन के उद्देश्य:—

विश्व में अनियंत्रित रूप से लगातार बढ़ती जनसंख्या एक चिंताजनक विषय है तथा इस बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या ने एक विकट समस्या का रूप ले लिया है। वर्तमान में विश्व की आबादी सन् २०११ की जनगणना के अनुसार ७२४ करोड़ से अधिक हो गई है, जिससे इस बढ़ी हुई आबादी के लिए भोजन, आवाज, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, रोजगार व अन्य मूलभूत सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध करा पाना एक चुनौती बन गया है। जनसंख्या वृद्धि के कारण वैश्विक संसाधनों जैसे खनिज, कृषि, ऊर्जा, वन आदि पर अधिक भार पड़ गया है। बढ़ी हुई आबादी की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति हेतु संसाधनों के दोहन से पर्यावरण भी प्रभावित हो रहा है। विकास के लिए किए जा रहे सभी प्रयास अनियंत्रित जनसंख्या वृद्धि के कारण अपर्याप्त रहते हैं जिससे विकास को गति नहीं मिल पाती। भारत जैसे विकासशील देश में जनसंख्या वृद्धि की समस्या और अधिक गंभीर है अतः वर्तमान समय के संदर्भ में इस विषय के अध्ययन की महत्वता को और अधिक बल मिलता है।

निष्कर्ष —

मानव जनसंख्या बढ़ाकर दुःख प्राप्ति की ओर अनजाने में योजना बना रहा है अर्थात् आधुनिक समय में स्थिति यह उत्पन्न हो गई, कि दुनिया में संसाधन जनसंख्या के अतिरिक्त भार को सहन करने में असहज महसूस कर रहे हैं। जनसंख्या की तीव्र वृद्धि के कारण भोजन, वस्त्र और आवास की समस्या विकराल होती जा रही है। यदि भारत के संदर्भ में जनसंख्या वृद्धि की प्रवृत्ति का विश्लेषण किया जाए तो यह स्पष्ट होता है, कि बढ़ती जनसंख्या की समस्या वास्तव में भयानक है। इस विषय में जो भी आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए जा रहे हैं वे भयावह कर देने वाले हैं। जनसंख्या वृद्धि का अर्थ एक क्षेत्र विशेष स्थान पर निवास करने वाले लोगों

की कुल संख्या में परिवर्तन से है। यह परिवर्तन नकारात्मक एवं सकारात्मक दोनों प्रकार के हो सकते हैं। इन परिवर्तनों में भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों की जनसंख्या वृद्धि का प्रश्न है तो यहाँ तक है कि जनसंख्या में नकारात्मक परिवर्तन देखने को ही मिले है।

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इक्कीसवीं शती के 'मिस रमिया' उपन्यास में दलित स्त्री विमर्श

प्रविण वर्मा

अतिथि प्राध्यापक

राजनांदगाँव, छत्तीसगढ़

प्रस्तावना :

इक्कीसवीं शती की प्रमुख दलित लेखिका के रूप में कावेरी जी हिंदी साहित्य जगत में अपना महत्त्वपूर्ण स्थान रखती हैं। कावेरी जी ने कहानी, उपन्यास, कविता, नाटक, निबंध, आलोचना आदि साहित्य की विभिन्न विधाओं में अपनी बहुमुखी प्रतिभा का परिचय दिया है। आधुनिक महिला दलित लेखिका के रूप में उन्होंने अपनी विशिष्ट पहचान बनायी है। उनके साहित्य में स्त्री विमर्श और दलित विमर्श का स्वर प्रमुख रूप से उभरता है। वे दलित स्त्रियों का जीवन संघर्ष और उनकी समस्याएँ अपने साहित्य में अंकित करती हैं। 'मिस रमिया' और 'शिखा' उपन्यास, 'द्रोणाचार्य एक नहीं', 'अभावों में पलता स्वाभिमान' आदि कहानी संग्रह हिंदी दलित साहित्य में चर्चित रहे हैं। कावेरी जी का 'मिस रमिया' यह दलित उपन्यास २००७ ई. में प्रकाशित हुआ है। यह दलित उपन्यास स्त्री विमर्श और दलित विमर्श का प्रमुख उपन्यास है। आधुनिक समाज में व्याप्त दलित स्त्रियों का उपेक्षित जीवन और उनके जीवन संघर्ष का यथार्थ चित्र प्रस्तुत करता है। इसमें दलित स्त्री चेतना की प्रखर अभिव्यक्ति हुई है।

'मिस रमिया' दलित उपन्यास की नायिका अध्यापिका मिस रमिया का जन्म दलित, अशिक्षित और निर्धन परिवार में होता है। "रमिया के पहनावे

से लगता था कि वह गरीब परिवार की लड़की है परन्तु उसकी सफाई एवं रूप—रंग निराले थे। पतली नाक, बड़ी—बड़ी आँखे, गोल मटोल चेहरा और चुलबुल स्वभाववाली वह लड़की पढ़ने में तीव्र बुद्धि वाली थी।^१ उपन्यास की प्रमुख स्त्री पात्र मिस रमिया बचपन से पढ़ने में अत्यंत तेज है। वह स्वभाव से अत्यंत सुशील एवं संकुचित स्वभाव की बालिका है। लेकिन वह जाति से दलित होने के कारण स्कूल के सवर्ण अध्यापक उसके साथ जातीय भेदभाव करते हैं। स्कूल के टीकाधारी मास्टर उसे पानी की बाल्टी छूने के कारण “अरे! तू कौन है? बाल्टी छू दी?”^२ यह कहते हुए तड़ातड़ दो झापड़ जड़ देते हैं। बालिका रमिया दलित जाति की होने के कारण सवर्ण मास्टर उसके साथ इस तरह का अमानवीय व्यवहार करते हैं। इस बरताव से रमिया बीमार पड़ तेज बुखार से जलने लगती है। इस घटना के बाद बीमारी के कारण रमिया पूरा एक महीना स्कूल नहीं जा पाती है। दलित जाति की छात्रा होने के कारण स्कूल में उसके साथ उपेक्षित और अपमानित व्यवहार होता है। आधुनिक युग में भी सवर्ण अध्यापकों के मनःपटल से जातीय संस्कार दूर नहीं हो पाते हैं। इस वास्तविकता को कावेरी जी दर्शाती है। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी दलितों के साथ अन्याय होता है। शिक्षा व्यवस्था पर उच्च वर्णीय प्रभुत्व बनाए रखना चाहते हैं। इसलिए दलित छात्रों के साथ जातिभेद करते हैं।

दलित रमिया की सवर्ण श्यामली से दोस्ती है। यह बात सवर्ण गाँववालों को बरदाश्त नहीं होती है। वे श्यामली को परेशान कर उसे कहते हैं कि वह रमिया से दोस्ती न करें। लेकिन सहृदय श्यामली रमिया की जाति को महत्त्व न देकर उसके स्वभाव को समझकर उसकी अंतरंग सहेली बनी रहती है। वह रमिया की हर तरह से सहायता करने का प्रयत्न करती है।

दलित जातियों में व्याप्त गरीबी और निर्धनता की समस्या के कारण उन्हें शिक्षा के लिए अत्यंत संघर्ष करना पड़ता है। इस बात को दलित लेखिका कावेरी जी उजागर करती हैं। दलित छात्रा रमिया के

पास परीक्षा की फीस भरने के लिए पाँच रूपये नहीं है। वह माता—पिता की आर्थिक दयनीयता देखकर उन्हें परीक्षा का फार्म भरने के लिए पैसे नहीं माँगती है। किसी और से भी वह आर्थिक मदद लेना नहीं चाहती है। ऐसे में उसकी सहेली शमी खुद रमिया की फीस भरती है। इस तरह जातीय पीड़ा और आर्थिक अभावग्रस्तता से कठिन संघर्ष करते हुए रमिया दसवीं की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करती है।

महामानव डॉ. बाबासाहब आंबेडकर जी के विचारों से प्रभावित होकर रमिया अध्यापिका बनकर अविवाहित रहकर गाँव के बच्चों को मुफ्त में पढ़ाकर शिक्षा का प्रचार—प्रसार करने का दृढ़ संकल्प करती है। गाँव के बच्चों को अपने घर के आँगन में बिठाकर पढ़ाते हुए उन्हें शिक्षित बनाती है। लेकिन यह गाँव के सवर्ण माधोप्रसाद को देखा नहीं जाता है। वे रमिया के स्कूल पर अपना अधिकार बनाने के लिए सवर्ण मधु को स्कूल की अध्यापिका के रूप में भेजते हैं। लेकिन उच्च जाति के वश्याभिमान के कारण मधु दलित बच्चों को पढ़ाना नहीं चाहती है। वह जातीय दुराभावना के कारण स्कूल के छोटे—छोटे छात्रों के साथ अमानवीय बरताव करती है। उनसे घृणा करती है। यह देखकर रमिया को बहुत दुःख होता है। वह मधु को ऐसा व्यवहार करने से रोकने का प्रयत्न करती है। सवर्ण माधो चाचा रमिया के स्कूल पर अपना अधिकार जमाकर मधु को स्कूल की प्रधानाध्यापिका बनाते हैं। मधु स्कूल की अध्यापिकाओं को वेतन के पूरे रूपये नहीं देती है। रमिया मधु को यह गलत व्यवहार करने से रोकने का प्रयत्न करती है। स्कूल की अध्यापिकाएँ स्वयं इस शोषण के खिलाफ विरोध कर प्रधानाध्यापिका मधु से पूरे वेतन की माँग करती हैं। लेकिन कलुषित विचारों की मधु सोचती है कि रमिया ने ही स्कूल की अध्यापिकाओं को उसके खिलाफ भड़काया है। मधु रमिया की हत्या करने की साजिश करती है। माधो चाचा से कहकर गाँव के सवर्ण आवारा बदमाश युवक अनुज, अवध और रतन को रमिया को खत्म करने के लिए भेजती है। निर्दोष रमिया शमी और बैजू की सहायता के कारण बच जाती है। लेकिन

ये लोग किसी—न—किसी तरह रमिया को परेशान करते रहते हैं। इसलिए रमिया अपना स्कूल और गाँव छोड़कर टीचर्स ट्रेनिंग के लिए राँची जाती है। दलित स्त्रियों की उन्नति गाँव के गैर दलित बरदाशत नहीं करते हैं। इस वास्तविकता को कावेरी जी उजागर करती हैं।

टिचर्स ट्रेनिंग लेते समय सवर्ण जाति की छात्राएँ और सवर्ण अध्यापिकाएँ रमिया को उसकी दलित जाति के कारण हमेशा अपमानित और प्रताड़ित करती हैं। छात्रावास की लड़कियाँ और सवर्ण अध्यापिकाओं के दुर्व्यवहार से तंग आकर वह हॉस्टेल छोड़कर अपनी मौसी के साथ उसकी छोटी—सी कोठरी में कई समस्याओं के बीच रहती है। रमिया कॉलेज में शिक्षा और अन्य सभी गतिविधियों में सबसे आगे रहती है। पर फिर भी सवर्ण अध्यापिकाएँ उससे घृणा करती है। उसे बिना वजह अपमानित करती है। इन विपरित परिस्थितियों से संघर्ष करते हुए रमिया टिचर्स ट्रेनिंग प्रथम श्रेणी में उत्तीर्ण कर राँची में कंपनी के सरकारी स्कूल में अध्यापिका के रूप में नियुक्त होती है।

दलित स्त्रियों को प्रतिभाशाली होने के बावजूद सवर्णों द्वारा तिरस्कृत होना पड़ता है इस वास्तविकता को कावेरी जी ने दर्शाया है। राँची के कंपनी के सरकारी स्कूल में नौकरी करते हुए अध्यापिका मिस रमिया अपना काम बहुत मेहनत और ईमानदारी से करती है। वह बच्चों के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए प्रयास करती है। छात्रों की हर तरह से सहायता करती है। वह स्कूल के सभी बच्चों की सबसे प्रिय अध्यापिका बनती है। लेकिन रमिया दलित है इसलिए स्कूल की अन्य सवर्ण अध्यापिकाएँ तथा अध्यापक उससे इर्ष्या करते हैं। विद्यालय में काम देते समय भी जाति के आधार पर काम दिया जाता है। दलित तथा गैर दलित यह जातिभेद कर कामों का बँटवारा होता है। परंतु मिस रमिया किसी की ओर ध्यान न देकर सिर्फ अपना काम करती रहती है। अध्यापिका का काम करते हुए एम्.ए.(हिंदी) की उपाधि प्राप्त की उपाधि प्राप्त कर पी.जी.टी की अध्यापिका के रूप में अपनी प्रोन्नति करती है। “प्रोन्नति पाने के

बाद भी सुबह की पाली मैं उन्हें रखा गया है, इसका खास कारण है कि एक अनुसूचित जाति की शिक्षिका को परेशान करना। मिस रमिया पी.जी.टी. शिक्षिका है। सुबह पाली में एक मैडम दास है, वे सबसे सीनियर हैं फिर भी उन्हें इसका हक नहीं मिला। एक चमार जाति की शिक्षिका एक नम्बर पर रहकर सुबह की पाली का कार्यभार संभाले यह सवर्णों की नजर में घोर पाप है। इसलिए ब्राह्मण शिक्षिका को जबरदस्ती उस स्थान पर रखा गया है।”^३

प्राचीन समय से दलितों को शिक्षा से वंचित किया गया है। संविधान शिल्पी डॉ. बाबासाहब आंबेडकर जी के अथक प्रयत्नों के परिणाम स्वरूप दलित उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर उच्च वर्ग के साथ उच्च पदों पर कार्य कर रहे हैं। अपनी उन्नति कर रहे हैं। यह देखकर उच्च वर्णीय दलितों से इर्ष्या करते हैं। इस स्थिति को दलित लेखिका कावेरी जी उजागर करती हैं। जातीय घृणा के कारण गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के अवसर पर अध्यापक ए.के.सिंह भरी सभा के सामने अध्यापिका मिस रमिया को ‘हरामजादी कहकर उसे अपमानित करता है। लेकिन अध्यापिका मिस रमिया इस अपमान को सहकर चुप नहीं बैठती है। वह अपने सम्मान और अस्मिता के लिए तीव्र विद्रोह करती है। कुछ सवर्ण उसे समझोता करने के लिए कहते हैं। लेकिन मिस रमिया अपने साथ हुए अन्याय के लिए न्याय माँगते हुए चिफ साहब से कहती है, “सर मैं ऐसे नहीं मान सकती, मेरी भी दो शर्तें हैं। पहली शर्त इनको दण्ड दिया जाए। दो महीना, तीन महीना का लेकिन इनको यहाँ से स्थानांतरण किया जाए। दूसरा यह कि ये समूह में अपनी गलती स्वीकार करें।”^४ अन्याय सहने से अधिक बढ़ता है। यह सोचकर वह अपने अपमान का प्रतिशोध लेती है। मिसरमिया अविवाहित रहकर समाज सेवा करती है। अपने गाँव के छात्रों को डॉ. बाबासाहब आंबेडकर जी की तरह उच्च शिक्षित होकर विद्वान बनकर समाज सेवा करने की सीख देती है।

• निष्कर्ष :—

इक्कीसवीं शती की प्रमुख दलित महिला उपन्यासकार कावेरी जी ने 'मिस रमिया' के माध्यम से दलित स्त्री विमर्श को प्रस्तुत कर समाज के यथार्थ चित्र को उजागर किया है। उन्होंने 'मिस रमिया' में दलित स्त्री जीवन के संघर्ष को प्रस्तुत किया है। उन्होंने इस वास्तविकता को स्पष्ट किया है कि दलित स्त्री को एक स्त्री होने की पीड़ा के साथ-साथ दलित होने की त्रासदी को भी सहना पड़ता है। लेकिन अब दलित स्त्री परंपरागत ढाँचे को तोड़कर अपना अस्तित्व सिद्ध कर रही है। दलित स्त्रियाँ अपने सम्मान और अस्मिता के प्रति सजग होकर प्रखर विद्रोह कर रही हैं। डॉ. बाबासाहब आंबेडकर जी ने बताए हुए 'शिक्षित बनो, संघठित रहो, संघर्ष करो' इस मार्ग का अनुसरण कर अपनी उन्नति कर रही हैं। प्रस्तुत दलित उपन्यास दलित स्त्री चेतना का जीवंत दस्तावेज है।

• संदर्भ संकेत :

१. कावेरी—मिस रमिया पृष्ठ क्र.७
२. वही, वही, पृष्ठ क्र.७
३. वही, वही, पृष्ठ क्र.९९
४. वही, वही, पृष्ठ क्र.१०६—१०७



संस्कृत—नाटककारों में भास का स्थान

Dr. Aditya Khiriya

Assistant Professor Sanskrit
(Gest Faculty)

Government PG College, Gudamalani

प्रस्तावना :—

संस्कृत नाट्यसाहित्य में भास प्रथम नाटककार माने जाते हैं। संस्कृत नाटकों के विकास के इतिहास में भास ने अपनी कीर्ति दक्षिण से उत्तर तक फैलाई और पूर्व से पश्चिम तक उनका प्रभाव दृष्टिगोचर हुआ। भास के नाटकों में नाटक का ऐसा स्वरूप दृष्टिगोचर होता है, जिसके कारण आचार्य भरत ने नाटक को “पंचम वेद” के रूप में स्वीकार किया। नाटक कवित्व की परिपूर्णता का चरम रूप माना जाता है— ‘नाटकान्तं कवित्वम्’।

भास के नाटकों में तीनों लोकों (ईश्वर, मनुष्य और प्राणी) की भावनाओं का समावेश होता है। इस दृष्टि से भास के नाटकों का महत्व अत्यधिक बढ़ जाता है। भास ने मानवीय भावनाओं का अत्यंत सफल चित्रण किया है। भास ने त्रयोदश (तेरह) रूपक रचे हैं और उनकी प्रस्तुति में भी पर्याप्त सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।

भास के नाटकों की प्रमाणिकता पर संदेह नहीं किया जा सकता, क्योंकि सभी नाटकों की भाषा शैली समान रूप से प्रवाहपूर्ण, सरल और स्पष्ट है। इन नाटकों में भावों और विचारों की पुनरावृत्ति तथा पात्रों के नामों की समानता दिखाई देती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, सभी नाटकों में प्रस्तावना में ‘स्थापना’ शब्द का प्रयोग नियमानुसार किया गया है। संस्कृत साहित्य के नाट्यसंसार में भास का अपना एक विशिष्ट और महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है।

नाट्यशास्त्रग्रंथों में रूपक के दस भेद हैं। विश्वनाथ के अनुसार, रूपक के भेद इस प्रकार निर्दिष्ट किए गए हैं:

नाटकमथ प्रकरणं भाणव्यायोगसमयवकारडिमाः।

इहामृगांकवीध्यः प्रहसनीमिति रूपकाणि दश॥

कृतित्व —

वस्तु, नेतारस और तत्त्वों के आधार पर रूपक को दस भागों में विभाजित किया जाता है। महाकवि भास के कृतित्व से प्रसिद्ध त्रयोदशनाटक (तेरह नाटक) सर्वप्रथम नवोत्तर—उन्नविंशतिवर्ष (१९०९) में श्री महामहोपाध्याय टी० गणपति शास्त्री के द्वारा त्रिवेन्द्रम नामक स्थान से प्रकाशित किए गए। इन नाटकों में स्वप्नवासवदत्तम् विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है, जो उदयनवासवदत्त और स्वप्नवासवदत्त की प्रेमकथा पर आधारित है। इस नाटक में संस्कृत भाषा की नाटककला का उत्कर्ष स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है। भास के तेरह नाटक निम्नलिखित हैं —

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| (१) प्रतिमानाटकम् | (८) मध्यमव्यायोगनाटकम् |
| (२) अभिषेकः | (९) पञ्चरात्रम् |
| (३) बालचरितम् | (१०) प्रतिज्ञायौगन्धरायणम् |
| (४) उरुभंगनाटकम् | (११) स्वप्नवासवदत्तम् |
| (५) दूतघटोत्कचनाटकम् | (१२) अविमारकम् |
| (६) दूतवाक्यम् | (१३) दरिद्रचारुदत्तम् |
| (७) कर्णभारनाटकम् | |

भास के नाट्यनिर्माण की निपुणता में स्पष्ट रूप से अद्भुत सौंदर्य और लोकोत्तर रमणीयता दृष्टिगोचर होती है। उनकी भाषा मधुर, कोमल पदविन्यास से युक्त, भावाभिव्यक्ति हृदयस्पर्शी, विषय—प्रस्तुति रुचिकर और पात्र—काव्य अलंकरणों से परिपूर्ण अत्यंत चमत्कारपूर्ण है। वास्तव में, महाकवि ने अपने नाट्यचक्र में कुछ ऐसे नवीन शैलियों का आविष्कार किया, जिन्हें उनके अनुजात महाकवियों ने भी, जैसे कालिदास आदि, अनुसरित किया।

भास के नाटकों को उनके कथानक के आधार पर चार प्रमुख भागों में विभाजित किया जा सकता है:

रामायणमूलक रूपक — इसमें प्रतिमानाटक और अभिषेकनाटक सम्मिलित हैं।

कृष्णकथामूलक रूपक — इसमें केवल बालचरितम् नाटक प्रसिद्ध है।

महाभारतमूलक रूपक—इसमें उरुभंगनाटक, दूतघटोत्कचनाटक, दूतवाक्यम्, कर्णभारनाटक, मध्यमव्यायोगनाटक, और पञ्चरात्रं शामिल हैं, जो छह प्रमुख नाटक माने जाते हैं।

बृहत्कथामूलक रूपक — गुणाढ्य निर्मित बृहत्कथा

पर आधारित, इसमें प्रतिज्ञायौगन्धरायणम्, स्वप्नवासवदत्तम्, अविमारक, और चारुदत्तम् चार नाटक प्रसिद्ध हैं।

रामायण के आधार पर लिखित रूपक नाटक निम्नलिखित हैं —

(१) प्रतिमानाटकम् — इस नाटक में रामायण की घटनाएँ रूपक रूप में प्रस्तुत की गई हैं। नाटक में सात अंक (अङ्कानि) हैं। कथा की शुरुआत राम के वनवास से होती है और अंत भरत द्वारा राज्याभिषेक की प्रक्रिया तक पहुँचती है। भरत अपने मातुलगृह (राज्याभिषेक स्थल) से लौटते समय दिवंगत पूर्वजों की प्रतिमाएँ देखता है, जिनमें उनके पिता दशरथ की प्रतिमा प्रमुख है। यह दृश्य भरत को अत्यंत चकित और गंभीर कर देता है। राम रावण के साथ युद्ध के लिए तैयार होते हैं, और भरत अपनी सेना द्वारा राम की सहायता करता है। यह घटना रामायण की कथा से कुछ भिन्न रूप में प्रस्तुत की गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त, सीता के स्वयंवर में असफलता, रावण द्वारा परशुराम को चुनौती देना, और सुर्पनखा का मन्थरा के रूप में प्रेषित होना, राम और रावण के विरोध को प्रारंभ से अंत तक दर्शाया गया है।

इस प्रकार, प्रतिमानाटकम् न केवल रामायण की घटनाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, बल्कि भास की नाटककला में घटनाओं और पात्रों के सजीव चित्रण की उत्कृष्टता को भी प्रदर्शित करता है।

(२) अभिषेकनाटकम् — इस नाटक में कुल छः अंक (षट्—अङ्कानि) हैं। कथा बलिदान और राज्याभिषेक तक विस्तारित है। नाटक में हनुमान द्वारा लंका पहुँचकर देवी सीता को सांत्वना देने का दृश्य शामिल है। इसके अतिरिक्त, लंका का विनाश और उसका दहन भी प्रस्तुत किया गया है। नाटक में एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण और नाटकीय दृश्य है जिसमें रावण के सम्मुख राम और लक्ष्मण द्वारा उसकी सेना का पराभव और कुछ घटनाओं में उसका छल प्रदर्शन दर्शाया गया है। इस प्रकार, अभिषेकनाटकम् रामायण की प्रमुख घटनाओं को नाटकीय रूप में जीवंतता और रोमांच के साथ प्रस्तुत करता है।

कृष्णकथा के आधार पर रचित नाटक निम्नलिखित हैं—

(३) बालचरितम् — इस नाटक में पाँच अंक हैं। इसमें भागवतः, हरिवंश तथा विष्णुपुराण से कुछ परिवर्तित रूप

में श्रीकृष्ण के जन्म से लेकर कंस वध तक की कथा वर्णित है।

कृष्ण के जन्म के समय नारद जी उनकी दर्शन करने आते हैं। वसुदेव अपने पुत्र के जन्म पर आठ बार प्रसन्नता व्यक्त करते हैं। किन्तु कंस के भय से वह अपने पुत्र को यमुना पार करके वृन्दावन ले जाते हैं। मार्ग में दिव्यास्त्र उनकी रक्षा करते हैं। वसुदेव कृष्ण को नंद के घर पुत्री के स्थान पर ले जाते हैं और कंस को सौंप देते हैं। कंस उस बालक को पाषाणशिला में रखकर मारने का प्रयास करता है।

कृष्ण बाद में पुतना, प्रलंब, धेनुकासुर और काली जैसी राक्षसों का वध करते हैं और अपनी सहज प्रतिभा से वृन्दावनवासियों के प्रेम और सम्मान के पात्र बनते हैं। कुछ समय बाद जब कंस सत्य को जानता है, तो वह कृष्ण को आमंत्रित करता है। पहले कृष्ण हाथ से युद्ध करते हैं और कंस के सभा में स्थित मुष्टिकाओं और कनुराम को मुट्ठियों से मारते हैं। अंततः कंस का वध होता है। इसके बाद कृष्ण अपनी मातामही उग्रसेन का राज्याभिषेक करते हैं।

महाभारत के आधार पर रचित रूपक निम्नलिखित हैं—

(४) उरुभंगनाटक — यह एकांकी नाटक है और संस्कृत साहित्य में एकमात्र दुःखान्त नाटक माना जाता है। इसमें कौरव और पाण्डवों का अंतिम संघर्ष, विशेषकर भीम और दुर्योधन का गदायुद्ध दर्शाया गया है। नाटक का अंत दुर्योधन के उरुभंग (घुटने टूटने) से होता है। दुर्योधन का पुत्र अपने पिता की मृत्यु देखकर अत्यधिक शोक करता है और दुर्योधन की पत्नी भी करुणामय विलाप करती है।

(५) दूतघटोत्कचनाटक — यह नाटक भी एकांकी है। इसका कथानक महाभारत पर आधारित है और अभिमन्यु की मृत्यु के पश्चात घटित घटनाओं से संबंधित है। जयद्रथ द्वारा अभिमन्यु को बंधक बनाए जाने पर हिडिंबा का पुत्र घटोत्कच जयद्रथ के पास जाता है और अर्जुन को उसकी भाविनाश की सूचना देता है। इसके पश्चात कौरव अपनी विजय पर प्रसन्न होते हैं।

(६) दूतवाक्य — यह भी एकांकी नाटक है। इसमें पाण्डव द्रौपदी के अपमान के कारण क्रोधित होकर योगिराज कृष्ण को दूत भेजते हैं और कौरवों के सामने

शांति प्रस्ताव रखते हैं। दुर्योधन पाण्डवों से आधा राज्य देने का अनुरोध अस्वीकार करता है। कृष्ण पाण्डवों के असफल प्रयास के कारण लौट जाते हैं।

(७) कर्णभारनाटक — यह एकांकी नाटक है। इसमें कर्ण को दिव्य कर्णाभूषण प्राप्त होता है, परन्तु परशुराम चेतावनी देते हैं कि यह वस्तु आवश्यक समय पर काम नहीं आएगी। अर्जुन युद्ध के लिए कर्ण के पास आता है और शल्य ब्राह्मण रूप में कर्ण से कर्णाभूषण मांगता है। कर्ण उसे देता है और भीषण आत्महत्या करता है।

(८) मध्यमव्यायोगनाटक — यह नाटक भी एकांकी है। इसका कथानक हिडिंबा और भीम के विवाह पर आधारित है। हिडिंबा का पुत्र घटोत्कच ब्राह्मण को प्रताडित करता है, लेकिन भीम उसे रक्ष करता है। हिडिंबा अपने पति को पाकर प्रसन्न होती है। नाटक में राक्षसी और भीम की सहायता से योजना पूरी होती है और घटोत्कच अपने पिता को पाकर प्रसन्न होता है।

(९) पञ्चरात्रम् दृ यह नाटक तीन अंकों (त्रयाणाम् अङ्कानां) में विभाजित है। महाभारत की एक घटना को थोड़े अलग रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया है। गुरुद्रोणाचार्य पाण्डवों को अर्ध राज्य देने की योजना बनाते हैं। दुर्योधन गुरु से कहते हैं कि यदि पाण्डव पाँच दिनों के भीतर प्राप्त नहीं हुए तो मैं उन्हें अर्ध राज्य प्रदान कर दूँगा। तब पाण्डव विराट के महल में अज्ञातवास करते हैं। द्रोण की सहायता से अभिमन्यु संकेत प्राप्त करता है और विराट की पुत्री उत्तरया के साथ विवाह सम्पन्न होता है। यह जानकर दुर्योधन अपने वचनानुसार पाण्डवों को अर्ध राज्य देता है और उसकी प्रतिज्ञा सत्य साबित होती है।

गुणाढ्य द्वारा रचित बृहत्कथा के कथानक के आधार पर चार नाटक निम्नलिखित हैं—

(१०) अविमारकम् — इस नाटक में छह अंक हैं। यह नाटक बृहत्कथा की एक कथा पर आधारित है। इसमें महाराज कुन्ती और भोज के पुत्र अविमारक तथा कुरंगी की प्रेमकथा वर्णित है। अविमारक एक बार गाज से कुरंगी को बचाता है और उससे प्रेम करने लगता है। शापवश, वह महाराज के पुत्र के समान निम्न जाति में रहता है। वह कुरंगी के पास चोरी-छुपे घर पहुँचता है। अचानक उसे पकड़ लिया जाता है और मृत्युदंड दिया जाता है। उसी समय नारद मुनि का आगमन होता है। वे अविमारक के

विवाह की घोषणा करते हैं और सत्य घटना के रूप में उनका विवाह संपन्न होता है।

(११) दरिद्रचारुतम् — इस नाटक में चार अंक हैं। इसमें ब्राह्मण चारुदत्त और गणिका वसन्तसेना की प्रेमकथा वर्णित है। चारुदत्त वसन्तसेना के प्रति अनुरक्त है। राजा के शत्रु श्याल और शकर भी इस प्रेम प्रसंग में प्रतिस्पर्धी हैं। वसन्तसेना अपने आभूषण चारुदत्त के पास भेजती है, जिसे शारवीलक चोरी करता है और अपनी प्रेमिका मदनिक को सौंप देता है। इसके बाद चारुदत्त और वसन्तसेना का विवाह होता है। यह कथा शूद्रक के मृच्छकटिक प्रकरण पर आधारित है।

(१२) प्रतिज्ञायौगन्धरायणम् — इस नाटक में चार अंक हैं। इसमें स्वप्नवासवदत्त की घटनाओं से पूर्व घटित कथा वर्णित है। उज्जयिनी के राजा प्रद्योतः वत्सराज अपने पुत्र उदयन का विवाह वासवदत्ता से करवाना चाहते हैं। मंत्री यौगन्धरायण की चतुराई से राजा को छला जाता है और उदयन को कारागार में रखा जाता है। कारागार में महासेन उसे वीणावादन की शिक्षा देने के लिए भेजता है। इस शिक्षा के दौरान उदयन और वासवदत्ता परस्पर अनुरक्त हो जाते हैं। जब यौगन्धरायण जान जाता है कि मेरे स्वामी को छला गया है, तो वह उदयन को मुक्त कराने का प्रतिज्ञा करता है। इस कारण नाटक का नाम “प्रतिज्ञायौगन्धरायणम्” पड़ा। नाटक का मुख्य विषय यही है कि यौगन्धरायण अपनी चतुराई से स्वयं बंधकर वासवदत्ता के साथ उदयन को भेजता है।

(१३) स्वप्नवासवदत्तम् — इस नाटक में छह अंक हैं। इसे कविवर्य भास का श्रेष्ठतम रूपक माना जाता है। यह प्रतिज्ञायौगन्धरायण का शेष भाग प्रस्तुत करता है और इसका कथानक उसके उत्तरार्ध से जुड़ा है। यौगन्धरायण वासवदत्ता को राजा से अलग कर देता है और उसे पद्मावती के सम्मुख छोड़ता है। वासवदत्ता अपनी दहशत के बारे में घोषणा करती है। राजा और ज्योतिर्विद की सलाह पर उदयन पद्मावती के साथ विवाह करता है। विवाह के पश्चात भी वासवदत्ता पति के प्रति प्रेम नहीं पाती और उसे सिर दर्द होता है। उसकी बीमारी की जानकारी पाकर राजा उदयन समुद्रगृह जाता है। वहां वासवदत्ता को अनुपस्थित पाकर राजा उसकी देखभाल करता है। संयोग से वासवदत्ता और उदयन की स्थिति

स्पष्ट होती है। राजा स्वप्न में वासवदत्ता का नाम स्वीकार करता है और उसे स्वीकार कर प्रेम प्रकट करता है। यह नाटक भास की सभी रचनाओं में श्रेष्ठ माना जाता है।

उपर्युक्त विवेचना से भास के जन्मकाल और उनकी कृतियों के संबंध में पर्याप्त जानकारी प्राप्त होती है।

सारांशः— भास को संस्कृत नाट्यसाहित्य का प्रथम प्रमुख नाटककार माना जाता है। उनकी कीर्ति पूरे भारत में फैली हुई थी। उनके नाटकों में नाट्यकला का उत्कृष्ट रूप दिखाई देता है, इसी कारण आचार्य भरत ने नाटक को “पञ्चम वेद” कहा। भास ने मानवीय भावनाओं का अत्यंत जीवंत और प्रभावपूर्ण चित्रण किया है। उनके नाटक रस, भाव और कथावस्तु की दृष्टि से समृद्ध हैं।

भास ने तेरह नाटक रचे, जिनमें स्वप्नवासवदत्तम् विशेष रूप से प्रसिद्ध है। उनकी भाषा सरल और मधुर है। उनके नाटकों में भावों की पुनरावृत्ति, पात्रों के नामों की समानता और “स्थापना” शब्द का प्रयोग भी दिखाई देता है। भास की नाट्यकला अद्भुत है, जिसमें काव्यसौंदर्य और भावप्रकटन का सम्यक् समन्वय है। उनकी शैली बाद के कवियों, विशेष रूप से कालिदास, द्वारा भी अनुसरण की गई। इस प्रकार भास संस्कृत नाट्यपरंपरा के महान नाटककार के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित हुए।

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तथा उनकी कृतियाँ

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तथा उनकी कृतियाँ

महामहोपाध्याय भासनाटकचक्रम् पृ०सं० पं० टी० गणपति
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भारत में पुनर्वास के पश्चात महिला कैदियों हेतु सरकारी सहायता

आयशा परवीन

शोध छात्रा, समाजशास्त्र विभाग

महिला महाविद्यालय,

किदवई नगर सम्बद्ध छत्रपति शाहूजी महाराज
विश्वविद्यालय, कानपुर नगर (उ०प्र०)

डॉ० सबा यूनुस

असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, समाजशास्त्र विभाग

महिला महाविद्यालय, किदवई नगर सम्बद्ध

छत्रपति शाहूजी महाराज विश्वविद्यालय,

कानपुर नगर (उ०प्र०)

सारांश

यह शोध महिला कैदियों के जेल से रिहाई के पश्चात उनके पुनर्वास की जटिल एवं संवेदनशील प्रक्रिया का विश्लेषण करता है। अध्ययन में यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि रिहाई के पश्चात महिलाएँ सामाजिक उपेक्षा, आर्थिक अस्थिरता तथा मानसिक तनाव जैसी अनेक चुनौतियों का सामना करती हैं, जिससे उनका पुनः समाज में समायोजन कठिन हो जाता है।

शोध का मुख्य उद्देश्य पुनर्वास प्रक्रिया, सरकारी योजनाओं की प्रभावशीलता, आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण के साधनों तथा समाज, सरकार एवं गैर—सरकारी संगठनों की भूमिका का अध्ययन करना है। सरकार द्वारा स्वाधार गृह योजना, मिशन शक्ति, जन—धन योजना, मुद्रा योजना आदि अनेक कार्यक्रम संचालित किए जा रहे हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य महिलाओं को आश्रय, सुरक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं

आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करना है। किन्तु जागरूकता की कमी, तकनीकी संसाधनों का अभाव तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सामाजिक बाधाएँ इन योजनाओं के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन में अवरोध उत्पन्न करती हैं।

अध्ययन यह भी दर्शाता है कि महिला कैदियों के लिए कौशल प्रशिक्षण, शिक्षा तथा स्वरोजगार के अवसर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं, जिससे वे आत्मनिर्भर बन सकें और सम्मानजनक जीवन त h l d A b l d s v fr fj ä] NGOs महिलाओं को परामर्श, प्रशिक्षण, कानूनी सहायता एवं सामाजिक समर्थन प्रदान कर उनके पुनर्वास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

अंततः यह निष्कर्ष निकलता है कि महिला कैदियों के सफल पुनर्वास के लिए जागरूकता, संस्थागत सहयोग तथा समन्वित प्रयास आवश्यक हैं, जिससे वे समाज में पुनः सम्मानपूर्वक स्थापित हो सकें।

मुख्य शब्दः— महिला कैदी पुनर्वास, सामाजिक पुनर्स्थापन आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण, सरकारी योजनाएँ, गैर—सरकारी संगठन (NGOs)

प्रस्तावना

(क) पृष्ठभूमि

महिला कैदियों की जेल से रिहाई के पश्चात की पुनः वापसी का समय अत्यंत ही संवेदनशील व एक बड़ी चुनौती से कम नहीं होता है। समाज में स्वयं को दोबारा से मिलाना किसी चुनौती से कम नहीं है। रिहाई के पश्चात भी समाज के लोग बड़ी ही तुच्छ नजर से देखते हैं। सजा काटने के पश्चात भी लोग अपने व्यवहार से भी कष्ट देते हैं। समाज में खुद को शामिल करना किसी संघर्ष से कम नहीं है, फिर ऊपर से कटु बातें इंसान को उभरने नहीं देती, कभी—कभी तो लोग कैदी के नजरिये से देखते हैं। इस तरह से पीड़ा से गुजरना पड़ता है। समाज में उन्हें पुनः स्थापित होने, सम्मानजनक जीवन व्यतीत करने के लिए आत्मनिर्भर बनने में, उन्हें आर्थिक, सामाजिक बहिष्कार तथा मानसिक संघर्षों आदि का सामना करना पड़ता है। अतः इन सब स्थितियों से निकलने

के लिए व पुनर्वास के लिए समाज, सरकार तथा विभिन्न संस्थाओं की भूमिका का विशेष रूप होता है। महिलाओं को जेल में यदि सरकार से संबंधित दी जाने वाली योजनाओं का ज्ञान प्राप्त कराया जाए, तो वे रिहाई के पश्चात अपने जीवन में लाभ उठा सकती हैं और अपने जीवन को अच्छे से गुजार सकती हैं। यह सब जागरूकता पर निर्भर करता है, अतः इस तरह पुनर्वास संभव है।

ख. समस्या का परिचय

सरकार की तरफ से कई पुनर्वास योजनाएँ चलाई जाती हैं जैसे— स्वरोजगार योजनाएँ, महिला सहायता समूह, वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग आदि। मगर महिला कैदियों में जागरूकता की कमी के कारण इन सबका लाभ ठीक प्रकार से नहीं पहुँच पाता है, जिससे वे लाभ उठाने से वंचित हो जाती हैं। कभी—कभी तो इंटरनेट की उचित सुविधा नहीं होती साथ ही बिजली की व्यवस्था में कमी होने के कारण भी समस्या उत्पन्न होती है। इस तरह का प्रभाव अधिकतर गाँव में देखने को मिलता है। अक्सर वहाँ की महिलाओं को इन सब से दूर भी रख जाता है। यह इसलिए होता है कि पुरुष अपने घर की स्त्रियों को अपनी निगरानी में रखते हैं जिससे उनके विचार के अनुसार स्त्रियाँ उनसे ऊपर न हो जाएँ। इसीलिए वे आर्थिक रूप से उन्हें कमजोर रखते हैं। कभी—कभी तो उनसे घरेलू हिंसा भी करते हैं। परन्तु स्त्रियाँ अपनी पीड़ा किसी से कह नहीं पातीं और डर—डर कर जीती हैं, अपनी बातों को समाज में बता भी नहीं सकती। घर, परिवार की इज्जत का जिम्मा जो उनके सिरों पर होता है।

(ग) सहायता के मुख्य मार्ग

रिहाई के पश्चात पुनर्वास केन्द्र तथा आश्रय गृह की व्यवस्था सरकार तथा एन०जी०ओ० उपलब्ध कराते हैं, जो भोजन, स्वास्थ्य, सुरक्षा आदि से संबंधित सुविधाएँ प्रदान करते हैं।

(घ) राष्ट्रीय संदर्भ में

राष्ट्रीय संदर्भ में देखा जाए तो हमारे भारत देश में सरकार द्वारा अनेक योजनाएँ चलाई गई हैं। अगर व्यक्ति को इसकी पूर्ण रूप से जानकारी हो

जाए तो वह जीवन का निर्वाह बड़ी आसानी से कर सकता है। जैसे— आवास योजना, सौर ऊर्जा योजना, शिक्षा से संबंधित योजना, सुरक्षा से संबंधित योजना, दुर्घटनाग्रस्त की मदद करने पर इनाम आदि जितनी भी योजनाएँ इनका लाभ उठा कर अपना जीवन आसान किया जा सकता है।

शोध के उद्देश्य

रिहाई के पश्चात महिला कैदियों के पुनर्वास की प्रक्रिया का विश्लेषण करना।

सरकारी योजनाओं एवं सहायता कार्यक्रमों की प्रभावशीलता का विश्लेषण करना।

महिला कैदियों के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण एवं आत्मनिर्भरता के साधनों का अध्ययन करना।

पुनर्वास में समाज, सरकार एवं गैर—सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) की भूमिका का परीक्षण करना।

रिहाई के पश्चात महिला कैदियों के पुनर्वास की प्रक्रिया का विश्लेषण

महिलाओं को उनकी रिहाई के पश्चात सरकार द्वारा चलाई जाने वाली विभिन्न प्रकार की योजनाओं से जागरूक कराना अति आवश्यक है, ताकि वे अपने जीवन की कठिनाइयों को समाप्त कर सकें। परिवार के लोगों के साथ जीवन निर्वाह कर सकें, अपनी दैनिक आवश्यकताओं (रोटी, कपड़ा, मकान आदि) को पूरा कर सकें। अपनी सामाजिक, आर्थिक, योजनाओं का लाभ उठा सकें। जिससे उनका पारिवारिक जीवन आसानी से व्यतीत हो सके। सरकार द्वारा आर्थिक व्यवस्था का लाभ उठा कर वे अपने कौशल के हिसाब से अपना मनचाहा रोजगार कर सकें, ताकि वे अपने पूरे परिवार के साथ एक अच्छा जीवन व्यतीत कर सकें। अपने कौशल से वे समाज के और लोगों को भी फायदा पहुँचा सकें। इसी लिए महिलाओं को जेल में शिक्षण, प्रशिक्षण, कौशल आदि को सीखना चाहिए ताकि भविष्य में उससे लाभ उठाया जा सके।

सरकारी योजनाओं एवं सहायता कार्यक्रमों की प्रभावशीलता का विश्लेषण

(क) स्वाधार गृह योजना (मिशन शक्ति के तहत)— मिशन शक्ति की १५वीं वित्त आयोग की अवधि

वर्ष २०२१-२२ से २०२५-२६ के दौरान लॉन्च किया गया है। स्वाधार गृह योजना अब शक्ति सदन नामक एक एकीकृत राहत और पुनर्वास गृह योजना का हिस्सा है।

स्वाधार गृह योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य है कि सुरक्षित आश्रय उपलब्ध कराना, बुनियादी सुविधाएँ (भोजन, कपड़ा, चिकित्सा, उपचार आदि) देना। मार्गदर्शन तथा परामर्श प्रदान कराना, कौशल विकास में सहायता कराना ताकि आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर बन सके। पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था कराना ताकि समाज में सम्मानजनक जीवन व्यतीत कर सके।

(ख) मिशन शक्ति योजनाएँ— मिशन शक्ति योजना को दो श्रेणी में बाँटा गया है, संबल तथा सामर्थ्य।

संबल

(“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ”, “वन स्टॉप सेंटर”, “नारी अदालत”, “महिला पुलिस स्वयं सेवक”, “महिला हेल्पलाइन” आदि।)

सामर्थ्य

(शक्ति सदन (स्वधार उज्जवल, विधवा गृह) शक्ति निवास (कामकाजी महिला, छात्रावास), पालना (राष्ट्रीय क्रैन्च योजना), प्रधानमंत्री मातृवन्दना योजना, महिला सशक्तिकरण। लिंग, बजटिंग, अनुसंधान, कौशल प्रशिक्षण, मीडिया आदि के लिए राष्ट्रीय केंद्र।

महिला कैदियों के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण एवं आत्मनिर्भरता के साधन

राज्य विशिष्ट वित्तीय सहायता

भारत में महिलाओं की वित्तीय सुरक्षा तथा सशक्तिकरण के लिए कई राज्य-विशिष्ट और केंद्रीय विधियाँ तथा योजनाएँ हैं,

सामाजिक सुरक्षा संहिता २०२० में कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं के कल्याण के लिए प्रावधान करना है।

समान पारिश्रमिक अधिनियम १९७६ में समान कार्य के लिए समान वेतन सुनिश्चित करना है (पुरुष व महिला श्रमिकों को समान वेतन मिलना)।

प्रधानमंत्री जन-धन योजना, स्टैंड-अप इंडिया योजना तथा मुद्रा योजना जैसी पहले महिलाओं के लिए वित्तीय समावेशन तथा

उद्यमशीलता को बढ़ावा देती है।

कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं का यौन-उत्पीड़न (रोकथाम, निषेध और निवारण) अधिनियम, २०१३ भी एक सुरक्षित कार्य वातावरण सुनिश्चित करता है।

स्टैंड-अप इंडिया योजना में महिला उद्यमियों को १० लाख रू० से १ करोड़ रू० तक ऋण प्रदान किया जाता है।

मुद्रा योजना में महिला नेतृत्व वाले उद्यमों को सूक्ष्म ऋण प्रदान करना है।

महिला बचत खाते वित्तीय समावेशन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए लाए गए हैं, जो महिलाओं को बचत करने और निवेश करने में मदद करते हैं।

सुरक्षा तथा सामान्य कल्याण योजना—

सुरक्षा

घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, २००५ में घरेलू हिंसा से पीड़ित महिलाओं को सुरक्षा प्रदान की जाती है।

सती प्रथा (रोकथाम) अधिनियम १९८७ सती प्रथा को प्रतिबंधित करता है। “राजा राम मोहन राय ने १८२९ में लार्ड विलियम बेंटिक के नेतृत्व में सती प्रथा को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले पहले कानून को पारित कराने में मदद की थी।”

अनैतिक व्यापार (रोकथाम) अधिनियम, १९५६, में गैर कानून व्यापार अथवा अनैतिक व्यापार करने नर प्रतिबंध से संबंधित है।

निर्भया फंड में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा और के लिए विभिन्न पहलों को वित्तपोषित करता है।

महिला हेल्पलाइन (१८१) में महिलाओं को सहायता और मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करती है।

सामान्य कल्याण योजनाएँ

मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना में बालिकाओं का उच्च शिक्षा और स्वरोजगार के लिए प्रोत्साहन, इसमें जन्म से स्नातक क विभिन्न चरणों में ५,००० रू० से ७,००० रू० तक वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना है।

निराश्रित महिलाओं को पेंशन योजना, इस योजना में पति की मृत्यु के पश्चात निराश्रित महिलाओं को प्रतिमाह १,००० रू० की वित्तीय

सहायता प्रदान करता है।

प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना ;(PMUY), इसमें गराबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाली महिलाओं को में मुफ्त एलपीजी गैस कनेक्शन प्रदान करना है।

महिला सम्मान बचत पत्र योजना में महिलाओं के लिए एक बचत योजना है, जिसमें १,००० रू० से २,००,००० रू० तक जमा किए जा सकते हैं, और इस पर ७.५% की दर से ब्याज मिलता है।

पुनर्वास में समाज, सरकार एवं गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) की भूमिका

एआईडीडब्लूए जो १९८१ में स्थापित हुआ, यह एक राष्ट्रव्यापी लोकतांत्रिक संगठन है इसमें महिलाओं के अधिकारों, श्रम न्याय, शिक्षा और लैंगिक समानता की बढ़ोत्तरी करता है, साथ ही इसमें ११ मिलियन से अधिक सदस्य हैं।

भारतीय ग्रामीण महिला संघ (बीजीएमएस) में गाँव की स्त्रियों के कल्याण तथा सशक्तिकरण के लिए कार्य करता है, साथ इसमें रहने की उचित व्यवस्था तथा व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण भी शामिल है।

इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन फॉर क्राइम प्रिवेंशन एंड विक्टिम केयर (पीसीवीसी) में घरेलू हिंसा से ग्रसित महिलाओं से संबंधित है इसमें २४X७ हेल्पलाइन, संकट प्रबंधन तथा कानूनी सहायता प्रदान करता है।

एन०जी०ओ० द्वारा पीड़ितों को परामर्श तथा भावनात्मक समर्थन प्रदान होता है, तथा उन्हें सामाजिक तनाव से उबरने और अपराध की पुनरावृत्ति से बचने में मदद करता है।

एन०जी०ओ० के माध्यम से महिलाओं को व्यावहारिक कौशल सिखाया जाता है तथा उन्हें रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान किया जाता है, इससे आजीविका के सुरक्षित व आत्मनिर्भर स्रोत बनने में मदद मिलती है।

महिलाओं व लड़कियों को एन०जी०ओ० की तरफ से शिक्षा की उचित व्यवस्था प्राप्त होती है साथ ही अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूकता प्राप्त होती है।

एन०जी०ओ० महिलाओं की सहायता के लिए उन्हें समुदाय के अन्दर सेवा प्रदाताओं, स्कूलों व अन्य संसाधनों से जोड़ता है, जिससे अधिक समय तक उन्हें पुनर्वास के लिए सामाजिक व आर्थिक मदद मिलती रहे।

एन०जी०ओ० महिलाओं के लिए विश्वसनीय वकालत के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, उनके अधिकारों की रक्षा करते हैं तथा नीति निर्माताओं को लिंग-संवेदनशील नीतियाँ बनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।

निष्कर्ष

इस अध्ययन से स्पष्ट होता है कि महिला कैदियों का रिहाई के पश्चात पुनर्वास एक जटिल एवं संवेदनशील प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें सामाजिक स्वीकृति, आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता तथा मानसिक सशक्तिकरण अत्यंत आवश्यक हैं। सरकारी योजनाएँ एवं सहायता कार्यक्रम उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद जागरूकता की कमी के कारण उनका पूर्ण लाभ महिलाओं तक नहीं पहुँच पाता। अतः आवश्यक है कि जेल स्तर पर ही उन्हें प्रशिक्षण, शिक्षा एवं योजनाओं की जानकारी दी जाए। साथ ही समाज, सरकार एवं गैर-सरकारी संगठनों के समन्वित प्रयासों से ही महिला कैदियों को सम्मानजनक एवं आत्मनिर्भर जीवन प्रदान किया जा सकता है।

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दुष्यंत कुमार की ग़ज़लों में आशावादी और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण

डॉ. अमृत लाल जीनगर,
सहायक आचार्य, हिन्दी विभाग

हेमेन्द्र कुमार जोशी,
शोधार्थी, हिन्दी विभाग
माधव विश्वविद्यालय पिण्डवाड़ा (राजस्थान)

शोध सारांश :

हिन्दी ग़ज़ल को जनचेतना की आवाज़ बनाने का श्रेय जिन कवियों को जाता है, उनमें दुष्यंत कुमार का नाम अत्यंत सम्मान के साथ लिया जाता है। उन्होंने ग़ज़ल को दरबारी और रूमानी परंपरा से निकालकर आम आदमी के संघर्ष, पीड़ा, आक्रोश और आशा से जोड़ा है, उनकी ग़ज़लों में व्यवस्था—विरोध के साथ—साथ गहरी मानवीय संवेदना और भविष्य के प्रति आशावाद भी स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है। दुष्यंत कुमार का काव्य केवल निराशा का चित्रण ही नहीं करता, बल्कि वह परिवर्तन की आकांक्षा को स्वर भी देता है। उनकी प्रसिद्ध कृति 'साये में धूप' में संकलित ग़ज़लों इस दृष्टि से विशेष उल्लेखनीय हैं। प्रस्तुत षोध आलेख में दुष्यंत कुमार की ग़ज़लों में निहित आशावादी तथा मानवीय दृष्टिकोण का विश्लेषण किया गया है।

शब्द कुंजी : ग़ज़ल, आशावादी, समाज, मानवीय, जनचेतना, दृष्टिकोण।

शोध पत्र :

दुष्यंत कुमार की ग़ज़लों में आशावादी और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण इसलिए है क्योंकि वे सामाजिक यथार्थ की विसंगतियों का चित्रण प्रस्तुत

करने के साथ—साथ हर मुश्किल के बावजूद संघर्ष और परिवर्तन की आशा भी जगाते हैं। दुष्यंत कुमार एक परिवर्तनशील प्रसिद्ध रचनाकार हैं। उन्होंने अपनी रचनाओं से साहित्य जगत में हलचल पैदा कर दी थीं। वे जीवन की सहजता में विश्वास करने वाले लेखक हैं। वे अपनी अनुभूति को ईमानदारी के साथ पेश करते हैं।

हिन्दी ग़ज़ल के सम्बन्ध में लोगों में दो भ्रम हैं। एक तो यह कि ग़ज़ल विधा हिन्दी से उर्दू में जन्म के पूर्व ही हिन्दी ग़ज़ल लिखी जा चुकी थी। अमीर खुसरो असंदिग्ध रूप से हिन्दी के पहले ग़ज़लकार है। अनेक विद्वान कबीर को हिन्दी का पहला ग़ज़लकार घोषित करते हैं, जबकि कबीर ने हिन्दी ग़ज़ल की परम्परा अमीर खुसरो से प्राप्त की। हिन्दी ग़ज़ल के जो बीज किसी न किसी रूप में अमीर खुसरो की भाव—भूमि में दबे पड़े थे, उन्हीं का अनुकरण और उनके परवर्ती कवियों की ग़ज़लों में हुआ। अतः हिन्दी ग़ज़ल का उद्भव हिन्दी साहित्य के आदिकाल में हुआ और इसका प्रारम्भ अमीर खुसरो से हुआ।

दुष्यंत कुमार के साहित्य में एक समूचे राष्ट्र का मोहभंग, उसकी झुँझलाहटें, अदृश्य, गुस्सेय या नाराजगी, असंतोष, उम्मीदों का टूटना, आशाओं का धूमिल होना, लोक सौंदर्य और संवेदना, सामाजिक, राजनैतिक, आर्थिक आदि अनेक समस्याएँ और न जाने कितनी कोप की अपरिमित मुद्राएँ करवटें ले रही हैं। दुष्यंत कुमार की चेतना का विकास दरअसल आज़ादी के बाद के स्वप्नों, कठोर हकीकतों, आज़ादी से मोहभंग और जनतंत्र के विरोधाभासों, विसंगतियों और एक नये भारत के बनने का अंग है।

परिवर्तन की चाहत :

दुष्यंत कुमार की ग़ज़लों केवल विसंगतियों को ही नहीं दिखाती, बल्कि परिवर्तन के लिए प्रेरित भी करती हैं। जैसे 'हो गई है पीर पर्वत सी पिघलनी चाहिए', यह पंक्ति समाज में बड़े बदलाव की आवश्यकता को दर्शाती है— "दुष्यंत की नज़र उनके युग की नई पीढ़ी के गुस्से और नाराजगी से सजी बनी है। यह गुस्सा और नाराजगी उस अन्याय

और राजनीति के कुकर्मों के खिलाफ नए तेवरों की आवाज़ थी, जो समाज में मध्यमवर्गीय झूठेपन की जगह पिछड़े वर्ग की मेहनत और दया की नुमानंदगी करती है।” मात्र ४४ वर्ष की अल्पायु में अपनी प्रखर रचनाओं द्वारा व्यापक जनमानस तक अपनी पहचान बनाकर दुष्यंत कुमार दुनिया को अलविदा कह गये। आधुनिक युगबोध के कवि दुष्यंत कुमार की गज़लों में यही चिन्तन एक नयी दिशा, एक नये तेवर के रूप में व्यक्त हुआ है, जो व्यक्ति—स्वातंत्र्य, जनतांत्रिक पद्धति और मानवतावादी बुनियाद पर प्रतिष्ठित हुआ है।

बदलती हुई सामाजिक एवं राजनैतिक परिस्थितियों में आम आदमी टूटन एवं घुटन महसूस करता है। ‘नयी कविता’ में पीड़ा की अबाध रूप में अभिव्यक्ति हुई है। नयी कविता का कवि समाज के सुख—दुःख को अपने काव्य के माध्यम से ही अभिव्यक्त करता है। जीवन में सुख की अपेक्षा दुःख अधिक है, सुख क्षणिक है और दुःख चिरन्तन है। चाहे उनके द्वारा लिखा गया साहित्य किसी भी विधा का हो। कविता, काव्य नाटक, गीत, गज़ल, कहानी, संस्मरण, रेखाचित्र, एकांकी और उपन्यास आदि तक, सब में निरंतर दुष्यंत कुमार की प्रखर प्रतिभा और विरल सर्जनात्मिक जिजीविषा के उदाहरण देखने को मिलते हैं। जिनमें लोक चेतना से लेकर राष्ट्रीय चेतना तक व्याप्त है। आम—आदमी की समस्याओं को दिखाया गया है।

‘सूर्य का स्वागत’ काव्य संग्रह की कविताओं में आशा और उज्ज्वल आस्था का भाव झलकता है, तो ‘आवाजों के घेरे’ काव्य संग्रह की कविताओं में व्याकुलता और प्रश्नाकुलता अपनी आक्रामक उपस्थिति जता रही है। ‘जलते हुए वन का बसन्त’ काव्य संग्रह की कविताओं में आम—आदमी बेचैनी और संबंधों के खोखलेपन का रेखांकित किया गया है। ‘साये में धूप’ गज़ल संग्रह में तो जीवन के सभी पक्षों को कवि ने एक साथ उठा लिया है। मानव के जीवन के प्रत्येक पक्ष पर कवि ने अपनी लेखनी चलाई है।

आशावादी दृष्टिकोण:

दुष्यंत कुमार ने गज़ल—लेखन की प्रेरणा शमशेर बहादुर सिंह से प्राप्त की थी। उन्होंने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया है। वे लिखते हैं कि— “गज़ल का स्वाद मुझे खुद शमशेर बहादुर सिंह की गज़लें सुनकर लगा था।” उन्होंने हिन्दी गज़ल को आम आदमी के दुःख—दर्द से जोड़ दिया। शायद यही उनकी गज़लों की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता है, जिसके कारण वे जन—जन के कवि हो गये। गज़ल के सम्बन्ध में उनकी बेबाक टिप्पणी उल्लेखनीय है — “उर्दू और हिन्दी अपने—अपने सिंहासन से उतरकर जब आम आदमी के पास आती हैं, तो उनमें फर्क कर पाना बड़ा मुश्किल हो जाता है। मेरी कोशिश यह रही है कि इन दोनों भाषाओं को ज्यादा से ज्यादा करीब ला सकूँ। इसीलिये ये गज़लें उस भाषा में कही गई हैं, जिसे मैं बोलता हूँ।”

गज़लकार दुष्यंत कुमार के चुनिन्दा शेर —

“मछलियों में खलबली है, अब सफ़ीने
उस तरफ जाने से कतराने लगे हैं।

x x x

“यहाँ तक आते—आते सूख जाती हैं कई नदियाँ
मुझे मालूम है पानी कहाँ ठहरा हुआ होगा।

x x x

“यहाँ तो सिर्फ़ गूँगे और बहरे लोग बसते हैं
खुदा जाने वहाँ पर किस तरह जलसा हुआ होगा।

x x x

“एक चिनगारी कहीं से ढूँढ़ लाओ दोस्तों
इस दिये में तेल से भीगी हुई बाती तो है।

x x x

“हमने तमाम उम्र अकेले सफ़र किया
हम पर किसी खुदा की इनायत नहीं रही।

x x x

“इस शहर में वो कोई बारात हो या वारदात
अब किसी भी बात पर खुलती नहीं है खिड़कियाँ।

x x x

“सिर्फ़ हंगामा खड़ा करना मेरा मकसद नहीं
मेरी कोशिश है कि ये सूरत बदलनी चाहिए।

x x x

“घुटनों पै हाथ रख के खड़े थे नमाज में

आ जा रहे थे, लोग जेहन में तमाम और।

x x x

“मेरे गीत तुम्हारे पास सहारा पाने आयेंगे
मेरे बाद तुम्हें ये मेरी याद दिलाने आयेंगे।

x x x

“कहाँ तो तय था चिरागाँ हरेक घर के लिये
कहाँ चिराग मयस्सर नहीं शहर के लिये।

x x x

“तुम्हारा आभारी हूँ रहनुमाओं तुम्हारी बदौलत
मेरा देश

यातनाओं से नहीं फूल मालाओं से दबकर मरा है।

उपर्युक्त गज़लों से स्पष्ट होता है कि दुष्यंत कुमार ने अपनी गज़लों के माध्यम से धारदार हथियार का कार्य किया है। निश्चित ही उनकी गज़लें आम आदमी के दिलों—दिमाग में बस गई, इसीलिये उन्हें आधुनिक हिन्दी गज़ल का प्रवर्तक एवं पुरोधा माना जाने लगा।

संघर्ष का आह्वान :

दुष्यंत कुमार की कविताओं में निराशा के बीच भी एक चिंगारी की उम्मीद दिखाई देती है, आज भ्रष्टाचार के कई रूप पनपें। धर्म की हदबंदियों ने संबंधों को, आपसी भाईचारे को लगभग खंडहर के रूप में तब्दील कर दिया। भूख, गरीबी, बेकारी, बेबसी, अत्याचार, अंधेरगर्दी, निरक्षरता, अन्याय, असमानता हड़बोग आदि ने हमारी विकास—प्रक्रिया को भयावह और क्रूर रूप में बाधित किया है, उनकी कविताओं में निराशा और आक्रोश के साथ—साथ मानव के दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवर्तन की चाहत भी दिखाई देती है। उन्होंने साधारण जन की पीड़ा को अपनी कविताओं में उतारकर आम—आदमी की समस्याओं को दिखाया है। दुष्यंत कुमार के किशोर मन में दो प्रकार के प्रश्न उठते थे जिनका उत्तर वे आज़ादी के बाद पाना चाहते थे, क्योंकि उन्हें लगता था कि दूसरे विश्व युद्ध और आज़ादी के बाद सब कुछ अपना है, लेकिन आज़ादी के बाद साम्प्रदायिकता के विस्फोटक रूप हमारे सामने आए। जैसे 'एक चिंगारी कहीं से दूँढ लाओ दोस्तों', वे समाज के अन्याय और दुर्दशा को दर्शाते हुए

भी बेहतर भविष्य की आशा और उम्मीद रखते नजर आते हैं।

मानवीय दृष्टिकोण :

दुष्यंत कुमार की गज़लों का मूल केंद्र 'मनुष्य' है। वे प्रत्येक वर्ग, जाति, समुदाय और सत्ता की सीमाओं से परे मानवीय संवेदना को प्राथमिकता देते हैं। उनकी गज़लों में आम आदमी की पीड़ा, भूख, बेरोज़गारी और शोषण का मार्मिक चित्रण प्रस्तुत हुआ है। दुष्यंत कुमार का मानवीय दृष्टिकोण करुणा से प्रेरित है। वे सत्ता के दंभ और सामाजिक विषमता के विरुद्ध खड़े होते हैं। उनका कवि—हृदय मानवीय गरिमा की रक्षा के लिए प्रतिबद्ध दिखाई देते हैं। डॉ. मोहन समकालीन कविता की संघर्षशीलता के संबंध में लिखते हैं— “समकालीन कविता हर तरह की विषमताओं से लड़ती हुई कविता है। अंतर चाहे वर्ग का हो या वर्ण का या रंग का, जो विषमताएं जीवन को झकझोर देती है, समकालीन कविता इनके खिलाफ खड़ी रहती है।”

आम आदमी की आवाज . :

दुष्यंत कुमार ने अपनी गज़लों में साधारण जन के जीवन और उनकी मुश्किलों को प्रमुखता दी है। उनकी गज़लें आम आदमी के संघर्ष, उनकी बेचैनी और उनकी आवाज़ का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। दुष्यंत कुमार की कविताएं अपने युग की वेदना को वाणी देती हैं। उनकी अभिव्यक्ति में एक सहजता है। यह सहजता सदैव एक ताप और आवेग का परिणाम होती है और इस दृष्टि से दुष्यंत कुमार की पूरी कविता में एक आग, ताप और आवेग है, क्योंकि वह मात्र संवेदना की अभिव्यक्ति नहीं है। समाज में घटित होने वाली हर अच्छी—बुरी घटना पर उनकी नज़र है, इसलिए उन्होंने लिखा है—

हमने पाले साँप आस्तीनों में

दूध पिलाया

खुले हुए आँगन में छोड़ा

पक्का फर्श उखाड़

बनाए उनके लिए रास्ते

उनको अपना माना
पर ये साँप रहे
उनके दाँतों से विष न गया।
हमने तोड़े नहीं
इन्होंने उन्हें प्रयोग किया
आज नसों में व्याप गया है, जो
वह अपनी उदारता का विष है
इसे उतारो कडवे—कडवे घूँट पियो।

सामाजिक चेतना :

दुष्यंत कुमार तत्कालीन समाज की राजनीतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक विसंगतियों पर गहरा प्रहार करते हैं और मानवीय गरिमा को बनाए रखने का संदेश भी देते हैं। निश्चित ही अनुभवों और स्वच्छंद अनुभूतियों की अभिव्यक्ति है। दुष्यंत कुमार सिर्फ समाज की विद्रूपताओं का चित्रण करके ही संतुष्ट नहीं होते हैं, वे उसे बदलने के लिए भी प्रयत्नशील दिखाई देते हैं, जिससे भोगवादी संस्कृति के वर्चस्व से एक ऐसी तहजीब को महत्ता मिलने लगी, जिसने आदमी को नरभक्षी बनाकर रख दिया है —

अब नई तहजीब के पेशे—नजर हम
आदमी को भूनकर खाने लगे हैं।

दुष्यंत कुमार ने अपनी कई रचनाओं में नेताओं के आश्वासनों के यथार्थ को बेपर्दा किया है। दुष्यंत कुमार की गज़लें मानवीय अनुभवों के साथ संघर्ष और आशा का अद्भुत मिश्रण हैं, जो पाठकों एवं आम आदमी को सोचने और बदलने के लिए प्रेरित करती हैं। उनका संग्रह 'साये में धूप' का पहला शेर ही इन आश्वासनों की सच्चाई को विस्तार से व्यंजित करता है—

कहाँ तो तय था चिरागों हरेक घर के लिए,
कहाँ चिराग मयस्सर नहीं शहर के लिए।

व्यंग्य और यथार्थ :

दुष्यंत कुमार यथार्थ को बिना किसी लाग—लपेट के पेश करते हैं, जिसमें व्यंग्य और आलोचना का पुट स्पष्ट झलकता है, जिससे उनकी कविताएँ और अधिक मानवीय तथा प्रासंगिक हो जाती हैं। दुष्यंत कुमार यह अच्छी तरह से जानते

हैं कि किसी भी समाज में समाज का सामान्य मनुष्य जो सबसे शोषित, पीड़ित है, वही परिवर्तन ला सकता है। इसलिए उसकी सोयी हुई परिवर्तनवादी चेतना को जगाना ही कवि अपना कर्तव्य मानता है। इसलिए उनकी कविता केवल कोरी कविता ही नहीं रहती, वह व्यवस्था परिवर्तन का हथियार भी बनती है। जन—जन के मन की ज्वाला बनकर व्यवस्था को ध्वस्त करने के लिए धक्कती दिखाई देती है। इसलिए दुष्यंत कुमार की कविता परिवर्तन के पथ पर अग्रसर सामान्य मनुष्य का उर्जा स्रोत है।

गजलकार दुष्यंत कुमार के शब्दों में—

“सुख नहीं यों खौलने में सुख नहीं कोई,
पर अभी जागी नहीं वह चेतना सोयी —
वह, समय की प्रतीक्षा में है, जगेगी आप
ज्यों कि लहराती हुई ढंकने उठाती भाप।
अभी तो यह आग जलती रहे, जलती रहें,
जिंदगी यों ही कडाही में उबलती रहे।”

गजलकार दुष्यंत कुमार ने व्यवस्था परिवर्तन के पथ पर अग्रसर जनता में जगी चेतना और उसके साहसी रूप का वर्णन करते हुए कहा है कि—

“आज लेकिन

आज

वर्षों बाद

झोपड़ों से

आहतें सुन पड़ रही हैं

गली में आने

गली से राजपथ में पहुँच पाने के लिए

पगडंडियों से लड़ रही हैं....

आहतें!

एक, दो, दस नहीं

अनगिन पगों की

रह—रह तड़पती

लडखडाती पर पास आती हुई

हर क्षण

बढ़ रही है....

अभी होगा भग्न

दैत्याकार यह वातावरण

एक मरणासन्न रोगी की तरह

अकुला रहा है मौन
पूछती है गली मुझसे बावली
कवि!

राजपथ पर आ रहा है कौन? दुष्यंत कुमार की सभी कविताएँ सामान्य शोषित, पीड़ित, अज्ञान, अंधविश्वास की खंदक और खाई में फँसे हुए आदमी के मन में व्यवस्था परिवर्तन की चेतना का संचार कराती है, उसे परिवर्तन के पथ पर बढ़ने के लिए प्रवृत्त करती है।

निष्कर्ष :

दुष्यंत कुमार की गज़लों में आशावादी और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण का अद्भुत समन्वय दिखाई देता है। वे निराशा के अंधकार में आशा की किरण खोजते हैं। उनकी कविता संघर्ष को स्वीकार करती है, परंतु पराजय को नहीं। उनकी गज़लों में मानवीय करुणा, सामाजिक न्याय की आकांक्षा और लोकतांत्रिक चेतना का सशक्त समावेश है। इस प्रकार दुष्यंत कुमार हिन्दी गज़ल परंपरा में आशा और मानवता के कवि के रूप में स्थापित होते हैं। इस प्रकार प्रस्तुत षोडश आलेख में दुष्यंत कुमार की गज़लों में आशावादी और मानवीय दृष्टिकोण स्पष्ट देखा जा सकता है। क्योंकि वे अपनी गज़लों के माध्यम से सामाजिक यथार्थ की विसंगतियों का चित्रण करने के साथ-साथ हर मुश्किल के बावजूद प्रत्येक समाज में संघर्ष और परिवर्तन की आशा जगाने का महत्वपूर्ण कार्य करते हैं। दुष्यंत कुमार एक परिवर्तनशील रचनाकार हैं। उन्होंने अपनी रचनाओं से साहित्य जगत में हलचल पैदा कर दी थी। दुष्यंत कुमार जीवन की सहजता में विश्वास करने वाले लेखक हैं।

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पातंजल एवं बौद्ध योग साधना विधियों का तुलनात्मक एवं समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन

अणु देवी

शोध छात्रा (दर्शनशास्त्र विभाग)

मगध विश्वविद्यालय, बोधगया

सार (Abstract)

भारतीय दार्शनिक परंपरा में नैतिक अनुशासन (Ethical Discipline) का अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। योग और बौद्ध साधना दोनों ही आध्यात्मिक उन्नति के मार्ग हैं, जिनमें नैतिकता को मूल आधार माना गया है। पातंजल योग में यम और नियम तथा बौद्ध साधना में शील नैतिक अनुशासन के प्रमुख अंग हैं। यह शोध-पत्र इन दोनों प्रणालियों के नैतिक सिद्धांतों का तुलनात्मक एवं समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन प्रस्तुत करता है। अध्ययन से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि दोनों परंपराओं में आत्मसंयम, अहिंसा, सत्य और आंतरिक शुद्धि पर विशेष बल दिया गया है, किंतु उनके दार्शनिक आधार और अंतिम लक्ष्य में कुछ भिन्नताएँ भी विद्यमान हैं।

प्रस्तावना (Introduction)

भारतीय दर्शन में योग और बौद्ध धर्म दोनों ही मानव जीवन को दुख से मुक्ति दिलाने और आत्मिक शांति प्राप्त करने के साधन हैं। पातंजल योग का मुख्य उद्देश्य चित्तवृत्ति निरोध के माध्यम से कैवल्य प्राप्त करना है, जबकि बौद्ध साधना का लक्ष्य निर्वाण है।

दोनों परंपराओं में नैतिक अनुशासन को साधना की पहली सीढ़ी माना गया है। पातंजल योग में अष्टांग योग के प्रथम दो अंगकृयम और नियम.. नैतिकता का आधार हैं, जबकि बौद्ध धर्म में अष्टांगिक

मार्ग का पहला घटक शील है।

पातंजल योग में नैतिक अनुशासन:

यम और नियम

१. यम (Yama)

यम सामाजिक नैतिकता (Social Ethics) का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। ये ऐसे नियम हैं जो व्यक्ति के बाह्य व्यवहार को नियंत्रित करते हैं।

पांच यम इस प्रकार हैं:

- अहिंसा — किसी भी जीव को हिंसा न करना
- सत्य — सत्य बोलना
- अस्तेय — चोरी न करना
- ब्रह्मचर्य — इंद्रिय संयम
- अपरिग्रह — संग्रह न करना

ये सार्वभौमिक नैतिक नियम माने गए हैं, जो सभी परिस्थितियों में लागू होते हैं।

२. नियम (Niyama)

नियम व्यक्तिगत अनुशासन (Personal Ethics) को दर्शाते हैं, जो आंतरिक शुद्धि और आत्मविकास से संबंधित हैं।

पांच नियम हैं:

- शौच — शुद्धता
- संतोष — संतुष्टि
- तप — तपस्या या अनुशासन
- स्वाध्याय — आत्म-अध्ययन
- ईश्वर-प्रणिधान— ईश्वर के प्रति समर्पण

यम और नियम योग साधना की नींव हैं और इनके बिना आध्यात्मिक प्रगति संभव नहीं मानी जाती।

बौद्ध साधना में नैतिक अनुशासन: शील (Sila)

बौद्ध धर्म में शील नैतिक जीवन का आधार है। यह व्यक्ति के आचरण को शुद्ध करता है और ध्यान (समाधि) तथा प्रज्ञा (ज्ञान) की प्राप्ति के लिए आवश्यक है।

पंचशील (Five Precepts)

बौद्ध नैतिकता मुख्यतः पंचशील पर आधारित है:

१. प्राणी हत्या से बचना
२. चोरी न करना

३. कुशील कर्म (असंयमित यौन आचरण) से बचना

४. असत्य भाषण से बचना

५. मादक पदार्थों से दूर रहना

शील का पालन मन, वचन और कर्म की शुद्धि के लिए आवश्यक है और यह दुःख के कारणों को समाप्त करने में सहायक होता है।

तुलनात्मक अध्ययन (Comparative Analysis)

आधार	पातंजल योग (यम-नियम)	बौद्ध साधना (शील)
स्वरूप	द्वि-स्तरीय (सामाजिक + व्यक्तिगत)	मुख्यतः नैतिक आचरण
उद्देश्य	चित्तशुद्धि और कैवल्य	दुःखनिवारण और निर्वाण
ईश्वर की भूमिका	ईश्वर-प्रणिधान स्वीकार	नास्तिक (ईश्वर की अनिवार्यता नहीं)
नैतिकता का प्रकार	सकारात्मक व नकारात्मक दोनों	मुख्यतः निषेधात्मक
अनुपालन	सांख्यिक नियम	साधकों के लिए आचरण संहिता

समानताएँ

- अहिंसा, सत्य, अस्तेय जैसे मूल सिद्धांत दोनों में समान हैं
- आत्मसंयम और नैतिक शुद्धता पर जोर
- आध्यात्मिक प्रगति के लिए आवश्यक आधार

भिन्नताएँ

- योग में ईश्वर—समर्पण का तत्व है, जबकि बौद्ध धर्म में नहीं
- योग में आंतरिक अनुशासन (नियम) का अधिक विस्तार
- बौद्ध शील अधिक व्यावहारिक और सामाजिक जीवन पर केंद्रित

समीक्षात्मक अध्ययन (Critical Evaluation)

पातंजल योग की नैतिक प्रणाली अधिक व्यापक है क्योंकि इसमें बाह्य और आंतरिक दोनों प्रकार की नैतिकता शामिल है। यम सामाजिक जीवन को नियंत्रित करते हैं, जबकि नियम व्यक्तिगत साधना को।

दूसरी ओर, बौद्ध शील सरल और व्यावहारिक है, जो आम व्यक्ति के लिए पालन करना अपेक्षाकृत आसान है। यह सीधे जीवन के दुःखों को कम करने पर केंद्रित है।

आधुनिक संदर्भ में दोनों प्रणालियाँ अत्यंत प्रासंगिक हैं। यम—नियम व्यक्ति को संतुलित जीवन जीने की प्रेरणा देते हैं, जबकि शील सामाजिक

सद्भाव और नैतिकता को बढ़ावा देता है।

निष्कर्ष (Conclusion)

पातंजल योग और बौद्ध साधना दोनों में नैतिक अनुशासन आध्यात्मिक उन्नति का आधार है। यम—नियम और शील दोनों ही व्यक्ति के जीवन को अनुशासित, संतुलित और शांत बनाते हैं।

यद्यपि दोनों प्रणालियों में कुछ दार्शनिक भिन्नताएँ हैं, फिर भी उनका मूल उद्देश्य मानव जीवन को श्रेष्ठ बनाना और आत्मिक मुक्ति की ओर ले जाना है। आधुनिक समाज में इन सिद्धांतों का पालन व्यक्ति और समाज दोनों के लिए अत्यंत लाभकारी सिद्ध हो सकता है।

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आधुनिक काल (२०वीं सदी) में मन्दिर स्थापत्य का विकास और उसका संरचनात्मक प्रभाव

प्रकाशना मिश्रा
शोधार्थिनी (इतिहास)

प्रो०(डॉ०) शैलेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा
शोध निर्देशक
प्रोफेसर (इतिहास) एवं प्राचार्य
चौधरी चरण सिंह पी०जी० कॉलेज,
हैवरा (इटावा)उ०प्र०

सार :— बीसवीं सदी में कानपुर में निर्मित मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला परंपरा और आधुनिकता के समन्वय का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करती है। इस काल के मंदिरों में पारंपरिक नागर शैली के शिखर, गर्भगृह और मंडप संरचना को बनाए रखते हुए आधुनिक निर्माण सामग्री जैसे सीमेंट, कंक्रीट और संगमरमर का प्रयोग किया गया। इससे मंदिरों की संरचनाएँ अधिक मजबूत, विस्तृत और दीर्घकालीन बनीं। इन मंदिरों के स्थापत्य में विशाल प्रांगण, चौड़े सभा—मंडप तथा बहुउद्देशीय हॉल का निर्माण हुआ, जिसने उन्हें केवल धार्मिक स्थल ही नहीं बल्कि सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों के केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित किया। सजावटी भित्तिचित्र, संगमरमर की नक्काशी तथा आकर्षक प्रवेश द्वारों ने मंदिरों की सौंदर्यात्मकता को बढ़ाया और स्थानीय पहचान को मजबूत किया। इन संरचनाओं का प्रभाव धार्मिक पर्यटन के विकास में भी देखा गया, जिससे आसपास के क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ बढ़ीं। साथ ही, मंदिरों ने सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के संरक्षण और सामुदायिक एकता को बढ़ावा दिया। संक्षेप में,

बीसवीं सदी में निर्मित कानपुर के मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला ने धार्मिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक जीवन को सुदृढ़ करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

महत्वपूर्ण शब्द :— बीसवीं सदी, मन्दिर, स्थापत्य कला

प्रस्तावना :

कानपुर उत्तर भारत का एक महत्वपूर्ण औद्योगिक नगर है। ब्रिटिश काल से ही यह व्यापार, सैन्य और औद्योगिक गतिविधियों का प्रमुख केंद्र रहा है। बीसवीं सदी में जैसे—जैसे औद्योगीकरण, व्यापार और शहरीकरण बढ़ा, वैसे—वैसे यहाँ की सांस्कृतिक एवं धार्मिक संरचना में भी परिवर्तन दिखने लगा। इसी शताब्दी में कानपुर में अनेक मंदिरों का निर्माण हुआ, जिनमें पारंपरिक भारतीय स्थापत्य के साथ आधुनिक निर्माण शैली का अनूठा समन्वय देखने को मिलता है। इन मंदिरों ने न केवल शहर के धार्मिक जीवन को समृद्ध किया बल्कि सांस्कृतिक, कलात्मक और सामाजिक चेतना पर भी गहरा प्रभाव डाला।

बीसवीं सदी के प्रारंभिक दशकों में कानपुर भारतीय औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में अग्रणी बन चुका था। श्रमिकों, व्यापारियों, शिक्षकों, सैन्य कर्मियों और प्रवासियों की बढ़ती जनसंख्या के कारण धार्मिक स्थलों की आवश्यकता भी बढ़ी। इस काल में—

- नगरीकरण और औद्योगिक विस्तार बढ़ा।
- शिक्षा और सामाजिक चेतना का विकास हुआ।
- प्रवासी समुदायों (मराठी, बंगाली, पंजाबी, दक्षिण भारतीय) ने अपने—अपने आराध्य देवताओं के मंदिर बनवाए।
- स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के दौरान भारतीय सांस्कृतिक अस्मिता को प्रदर्शित करने हेतु मंदिरों का निर्माण बढ़ा।

इन्हीं परिप्रेक्ष्यों में कानपुर में अनेक भव्य और विशिष्ट शैली के मंदिर निर्मित हुए, जिनमें पारंपरिक नागर शैली, मिश्रित (हाइब्रिड) आधुनिक शैली, संगमरमर—आधारित शिल्प, और कंक्रीट—संरचना प्रमुख रूप में सामने आती है।

कानपुर में निर्मित प्रमुख आधुनिक मंदिर एवं उनकी स्थापत्य शैली :

कानपुर भारत का एक प्रमुख औद्योगिक नगर होने के साथ-साथ धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से भी अत्यंत समृद्ध है। यहाँ पारंपरिक शिवालयों से लेकर अत्याधुनिक तकनीक से निर्मित विशाल मंदिरों तक का वैविध्य देखने को मिलता है। विशेषकर बीसवीं शताब्दी के उत्तरार्द्ध से लेकर इक्कीसवीं सदी तक कानपुर में कई आधुनिक मंदिरों का निर्माण हुआ है, जिनकी स्थापत्य शैली पारंपरिक भारतीय शिल्प, उत्तर भारतीय नागर शैली तथा समकालीन वास्तु कला का अनोखा समन्वय प्रस्तुत करती है।

जगराम मंदिर (बेनीगंज, कानपुर)

स्थापत्य विशेषताएँ

- यह कानपुर के नवीनतम आधुनिक मंदिरों में अग्रणी माना जाता है।
 - मंदिर में “सफेद संगमरमर” के प्रयोग के साथ आधुनिक शिल्प का उत्कृष्ट संयोजन दिखाई देता है।
 - शिखर अपेक्षाकृत ऊँचे, नागर शैली की छाप लिए हुए हैं।
 - मंदिर परिसर में परिक्रमा पथ, संगीतयुक्त आरती स्थल, और सुव्यवस्थित उद्यान निर्मित हैं।
- जे.के. मंदिर (कृष्ण-धाम मंदिर परिसर, सरस्वती नगर, कानपुर) स्थापत्य शैली'**

- इसका निर्माण “जेपी समूह” के द्वारा आधुनिकता और परंपरा के मिश्रित स्वरूप में किया गया है।
- पाँच गर्भगृहों वाला यह मंदिर कानपुर की “सबसे सुंदर आधुनिक वास्तु संरचनाओं” में शामिल है।
- मंदिर की बाहरी दीवारें “संगमरमर एवं ग्रेनाइट” से बनी हैं।
- स्थापत्य में “उत्तर भारतीय नागर शैली” के साथ-साथ आधुनिक रेखाओं और सममिति का अनूठा प्रयोग मिलता है।

श्री राधा-कृष्ण मंदिर (बीटू चौराहा, कानपुर) स्थापत्य शैली

• यह कानपुर के उन आधुनिक मंदिरों में है जहाँ “समकालीन शहरी वास्तु शैली” और पारंपरिक मंदिर शैली का सुंदर मिश्रण है।

- मंदिर में ऊँचे शिखर, भूरे ग्रेनाइट का उपयोग, और चमकदार संगमरमर की मूर्तियाँ प्रमुख हैं।
- मंदिर की दीवारों पर आधुनिक शिल्पियों द्वारा निर्मित मनोहारी उभारचित्र।
- गर्भगृह में वातानुकूलित व्यवस्था।
- बशहद सभा-भवन, जिसमें भजन-सत्संग एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम आयोजित होते हैं।

इस्कॉन मंदिर, कानपुर (मंदाकिनी एन्क्लेव, मैनावती मार्ग)

स्थापत्य शैली

- यह मंदिर वैश्विक ISKCON स्थापत्य की विशिष्ट शैली का प्रतिनिधि है, जिसमें धवल संगमरमर, उर्ध्वमुखी ऊँचे शिखर, वृत्ताकार और घुमावदार मेहराबें सममितीय संरचना का संतुलित मिश्रण है।
- यह संपूर्ण परिसर “नव-नागर शैली” तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय आध्यात्मिक वास्तुकला का उपयुक्त उदाहरण माना जाता है।
- विशाल ध्यान-हॉल जिसमें आधुनिक ध्वनिकी (Acoustic) का उपयोग।
- परिसर में गोशाला, भोजनालय और शिक्षण केंद्र
- अष्टधातु की विशाल मूर्तियाँ और विस्तृत पुष्पसज्जा।

पनकी हनुमान मंदिर (नव-निर्मित विस्तार, पनकी रोड)

स्थापत्य शैली

- मूल मंदिर ऐतिहासिक है, परंतु हाल के वर्षों में इसका “आधुनिक रूपांतरण” किया गया है। नए निर्माण में विशाल प्रवेश द्वार, भव्य प्रसाद-मंडप, ऊँचा पंच-शिखरी स्तंभ, श्वेत ग्रेनाइट का प्रयोग प्रमुख है।
- आधुनिक लाइटिंग, CCTV सुरक्षा और साफ-सुथरे संगमरमरी फर्श।
- भक्तों के लिए जल सुविधा, छायादार परिसर और डिजिटल दान व्यवस्था।

श्री दुर्गा मंदिर, शास्त्री नगर स्थापत्य शैली

• यह आधुनिक दुर्गा मंदिर अपनी ऊँची अष्टभुजी संरचना और लाल—पीले पत्थरों की सजावट के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।

• मुख्य गर्भगृह अष्टकोणीय आकार का है, जो दक्षिण भारतीय प्रेरित आधुनिक शैली को दर्शाता है।

• गर्भगृह में अत्याधुनिक अलंकृत छत, मंदिर परिसर में आधुनिक सभागार और सांस्कृतिक मंच।
पातालेश्वर मंदिरमंदिर की वास्तुकला और संरचना

पातालेश्वर मंदिर का मुख्य आकर्षण इसका पाताल जैसी गहराई में स्थित गर्भगृह है, जहाँ जाने के लिए सीढ़ियाँ बनी हुई हैं।

• गर्भगृह (पाताल खंड)

• यहाँ स्थित शिवलिंग अत्यंत शक्तिशाली और प्राचीन माना जाता है। गर्भगृह में प्रवेश करते ही शांति, धूप—दीप और मंत्रोच्चार का आध्यात्मिक वातावरण श्रद्धा को जागृत करता है।

• भक्तों की भीड़—भाड़ को ध्यान में रखते हुए विस्तृत मंडप बनाया गया है, जहाँ विशेष पर्वों में भजन—कीर्तन, रुद्राभिषेक और महाआरती का आयोजन होता है।

• नंदी की प्रतिमा द्वार पर स्थित विशाल नंदी भगवान शिव के वाहन के रूप में भक्तों का स्वागत करते हैं।

परमट के मन्दिर का भूदृस्थान एवं स्थापत्य स्थापत्य की विशेषताएँ

• मन्दिर में उत्तर भारतीय नागर शैली का प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से देखा जा सकता है।

• मुख्य गर्भगृह में एक प्राचीन, गोलाकार, काले पत्थर से निर्मित स्वयंभू शिवलिंग स्थापित है।

• गर्भगृह के बाहर विशाल मंडप तथा परिक्रमा पथ बने हुए हैं।

• मन्दिर के प्रांगण में नन्दी की विशाल प्रतिमा, गणेशजी, माता पार्वती, कार्तिकेय एवं अन्य देवताओं के मंदिर भी स्थित हैं।

• गंगा घाट की ओर खुलने वाले द्वार से भक्त सीधे पवित्र जल लाकर भगवान आनन्देश्वर का अभिषेक कर सकते हैं।

• इस मन्दिर की सबसे खास बात यह है कि यहाँ की शांति, गंगा की लहरों की ध्वनि और शिवलिंग की दिव्य आभा श्रद्धालुओं के मन को गहरे आध्यात्मिक सुख से भर देती है।

बीसवीं सदी के कानपुर मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला के मुख्य तत्व :

१. शिखर—निर्माण की आधुनिक शैली

२. नागर शैली के पिरामिडनुमा शिखर

३. सीमेंट—कंक्रीट से निर्मित मजबूत शिखर

४. ताम्रपत्र (Copper Plates) से सजावट

५. कंक्रीट और संगमरमर का उपयोग बीसवीं सदी में संगमरमर और कंक्रीट दोनों का संतुलित प्रयोग बढ़ा।

६. मिश्रित शैली (Hybrid Architecture)

७. द्रविड़ शिल्प के गोपुरम

८. नागर शैली के शिखर

९. आधुनिक यूरोपीय एवं पश्चिमी शैली से प्रभावित गुंबद

१०. आंतरिक सजावट के रूप में—काँच, शीशा, रंगीन मोजेक विशेषतः जैन ग्लास मंदिर

११. भित्ति—चित्रों में रामायण महाभारत प्रसंग पेंटेड छतें और पालिश स्तंभ

१२. विस्तृत मंडप और सभा—गृह भीड़ बढ़ने के कारण बड़े प्रार्थना हॉल बनाए गए।

१३. शुद्ध वायु और प्रकाश व्यवस्था हेतु खिड़कियों में जालीदार पत्थर (जाली वर्क) ऊँची छतें बनाई गयी।

१४. आधुनिक तकनीक का उपयोग हेतु भूकम्परोधी डिजाइन, पिलर—फ्री (कॉलमलेस) हॉल, विद्युत—व्यवस्था और लाइटिंग की व्यवस्था की गयी।

सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्त्व : बीसवीं सदी के इन मंदिरों ने—

• धार्मिक एकता का स्वरूप विकसित किया।

• औद्योगिक शहर में सांस्कृतिक संतुलन स्थापित किया।

● शहरी जीवन में आध्यात्मिकता की निरंतरता बनाए रखी।

● विभिन्न समुदायों की धार्मिक पहचान को सशक्त किया।

इस काल के मंदिरों का निर्माण केवल धार्मिक उद्देश्य से नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक सामंजस्य, सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण और आधुनिक शहरीता के विकास से भी सम्बद्ध रहा। कानपुर में बीसवीं सदी में निर्मित मंदिर शहर की आधुनिक धार्मिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक पहचान के प्रतीक हैं। इन मंदिरों में जहाँ एक ओर प्राचीन भारतीय वास्तु परंपरा जैसे नागर शैली, गर्भगृह, शिखर, मंडप और परिक्रमा—पथ की निरंतरता दिखाई देती है, वहीं दूसरी ओर आधुनिक तकनीक, कंक्रीट, संगमरमर, काँच, साज—सज्जा और समकालीन डिजाइन का उत्कृष्ट मिश्रण भी दृष्टिगोचर होता है। जैन ग्लास टेंपल का काँच—आधारित अलंकरण, श्रृंखला मंदिर की आधुनिक—नागर मिश्रित शैली, पनकी हनुमान मंदिर का विस्तृत पुनर्निर्माण सभी यह प्रमाणित करते हैं कि बीसवीं सदी का कानपुर धार्मिक स्थापत्य के क्षेत्र में अत्यंत नवाचारपूर्ण रहा। इस प्रकार, कानपुर के आधुनिक मंदिर केवल पूजा—स्थल नहीं, बल्कि कला, संस्कृति, तकनीक और शहरी विकास की बहुआयामी धरोहर हैं, जिनका अध्ययन स्थापत्य इतिहास की दृष्टि से अत्यंत मूल्यवान है।

निर्मित मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला एवं संरचना का प्रभाव :

बीसवीं सदी की शुरुआत में कानपुर तेजी से विकसित हो रहा औद्योगिक नगर था। विभिन्न प्रांतों के लोग यहाँ आकर बस रहे थे। इस कारण धार्मिक विविधता के बीच हिंदू मंदिरों का निर्माण समाज के सांस्कृतिक एकीकरण का साधन बना। यही कारण है कि इस अवधि में बने मंदिरों में अनेक क्षेत्रों की स्थापत्य परंपराएँ दिखाई देती हैं कहीं नागर शैली, कहीं मिश्रित उत्तर भारतीय शैली, तो कहीं राजस्थान और बुंदेलखंड की झलक। कानपुर, जो कभी केवल औद्योगिक नगरी के रूप में प्रसिद्ध था, आज धार्मिक और वास्तु—कलात्मक दृष्टि से भी उल्लेखनीय

नगर बन चुका है। यहाँ निर्मित आधुनिक मंदिर न केवल शहर के आध्यात्मिक जीवन को समृद्ध करते हैं, बल्कि आधुनिकता और परंपरा के अद्भुत संगम का प्रतीक भी हैं। इन मंदिरों में एक ओर जहाँ भारतीय स्थापत्य की प्राचीन झलक दिखाई देती है, वहीं दूसरी ओर आधुनिक शिल्प, प्रौद्योगिकी और वास्तु तकनीकों का प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से दिखता है।

बीसवीं सदी में निर्मित कानपुर के मंदिर केवल धार्मिक केंद्र नहीं हैं, वे सांस्कृतिक, स्थापत्य और सामाजिक चेतना के प्रतीक भी हैं। इन मंदिरों में जहाँ एक ओर प्राचीन भारतीय नागर शैली की निरंतरता दिखाई देती है, वहीं दूसरी ओर आधुनिकता, क्षेत्रीय शैली और नई निर्माण तकनीक का प्रभाव भी स्पष्ट है। ये मंदिर शहर की पहचान, कलात्मक विरासत और सामाजिक एकता के महत्वपूर्ण अंग बन चुके हैं। इनके माध्यम से कानपुर का धार्मिक—सांस्कृतिक परिदृश्य अधिक समृद्ध और बहुआयामी रूप में विकसित हुआ है।

उपसंहार :

बीसवीं सदी में निर्मित कानपुर के मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला एवं संरचना का अध्ययन यह स्पष्ट करता है कि औद्योगिक नगरी के रूप में विकसित हो रहे इस शहर में धार्मिक वास्तुकला ने परंपरा और आधुनिकता का संतुलित रूप प्रस्तुत किया। इस काल में कानपुर तेजी से औद्योगिक और व्यावसायिक केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा था, जिसके कारण विभिन्न प्रांतों से लोगों का आगमन हुआ। परिणामस्वरूप, यहाँ निर्मित मंदिरों की स्थापत्य शैली में विविध सांस्कृतिक प्रभावों का समावेश दिखाई देता है। नागर शैली के शिखर, उत्तर भारतीय मंदिर परंपरा की झलक, तथा संगमरमर और टाइलों के उपयोग के साथ—साथ आधुनिक निर्माण सामग्री जैसे सीमेंट और कंक्रीट का प्रयोग इस युग के मंदिरों की प्रमुख विशेषता रहा। इसने मंदिरों को अधिक टिकाऊ, विशाल और उपयोगी बनाया।

कानपुर में बीसवीं सदी के दौरान बने मंदिरों की संरचना में भक्तों की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते

हुए विस्तृत प्रांगण, सभा मंडप, परिक्रमा पथ और सामुदायिक गतिविधियों के लिए अतिरिक्त स्थान प्रदान किए गए। इससे मंदिर केवल पूजा—अर्चना के स्थल नहीं रहे, बल्कि सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक समागम के केंद्र बन गए। धार्मिक उत्सवों, भजन—कीर्तन, प्रवचन और सामुदायिक कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन ने इन मंदिरों को शहर के सामाजिक जीवन का अभिन्न अंग बना दिया। इस प्रकार, स्थापत्य संरचना ने धार्मिक गतिविधियों को अधिक संगठित और व्यापक स्वरूप प्रदान किया। बीसवीं सदी के कानपुर के मंदिरों की कला में सजावटी शिल्प, रंगीन भित्ति चित्र, तथा देवी—देवताओं की आकर्षक प्रतिमाओं का प्रयोग भी महत्वपूर्ण रहा। इन तत्वों ने मंदिरों की सौंदर्यात्मकता को बढ़ाया और श्रद्धालुओं के आध्यात्मिक अनुभव को समृद्ध किया। साथ ही, कई मंदिरों में स्थानीय कला और लोक शिल्प के प्रयोग ने क्षेत्रीय सांस्कृतिक पहचान को सुदृढ़ किया। इससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि मंदिर स्थापत्य केवल धार्मिक प्रतीक नहीं रहा, बल्कि सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण का माध्यम भी बना।

इन मंदिरों की संरचना का प्रभाव शहरी विकास पर भी पड़ा। मंदिरों के आसपास बाजार, धर्मशालाएँ, विद्यालय और अन्य सामाजिक संस्थाएँ विकसित हुईं, जिससे क्षेत्र का समग्र विकास हुआ। इससे धार्मिक पर्यटन और स्थानीय व्यापार को भी बढ़ावा मिला। इसके अतिरिक्त, औद्योगिक नगर होने के कारण यहाँ श्रमिक वर्ग और मध्यम वर्ग की धार्मिक आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखकर अपेक्षाकृत सरल, परंतु कार्यात्मक मंदिरों का निर्माण भी हुआ, जिसने मंदिर स्थापत्य को जनसुलभ बनाया।

निष्कर्ष :

बीसवीं सदी में निर्मित कानपुर के मंदिरों की स्थापत्य कला एवं संरचना ने शहर के धार्मिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक जीवन को गहराई से प्रभावित किया। इन मंदिरों ने आधुनिक निर्माण तकनीकों को अपनाते हुए परंपरागत धार्मिक प्रतीकों को सुरक्षित रखा और सामुदायिक जीवन को सुदृढ़ किया। परिणामस्वरूप, ये मंदिर केवल आस्था के

केंद्र ही नहीं रहे, बल्कि सामाजिक समन्वय, सांस्कृतिक संरक्षण और शहरी विकास के महत्वपूर्ण आधार बने। इस प्रकार, बीसवीं सदी के कानपुर के मंदिरों की स्थापत्य परंपरा नगर के सांस्कृतिक इतिहास में एक महत्वपूर्ण अध्याय का निर्माण करती है और आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए प्रेरणास्रोत बनी रहती है।

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चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना का अंतर्संबंध:शेखावाटी क्षेत्र के सन्दर्भ में एक अध्ययन

प्रो. (डॉ.) अशोक कुमार,
शोध निर्देशक (इतिहास विभाग)
राजकीय कला महाविद्यालय, सीकर, राजस्थान

सुभिता कुमारी,
शोधार्थी (इतिहास विभाग)
पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शेखावाटी विश्वविद्यालय,
सीकर

सारांश

यह शोध पत्र “चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा एवं शक्ति उपासना के अंतर्संबंध” का एक व्यापक एवं विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन प्रस्तुत करता है, जिसमें विशेष रूप से शेखावाटी क्षेत्र को अध्ययन का आधार बनाया गया है। भारतीय धार्मिक परंपरा में शक्ति उपासना को अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान प्राप्त है, जहाँ देवी को सृष्टि की मूल ऊर्जा एवं चेतना के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया है। इसी शक्ति परंपरा का एक गूढ़ एवं तांत्रिक आयाम चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा है, जिसमें देवी की विविध शक्तियों को योगिनियों के रूप में अभिव्यक्त किया गया है।

इस अध्ययन में चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा की उत्पत्ति, स्वरूप, तांत्रिक आधार एवं ऐतिहासिक विकास का विस्तृत विश्लेषण किया गया है। साथ ही, यह स्पष्ट किया गया है कि योगिनी उपासना केवल एक धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं, बल्कि आध्यात्मिक साधना की ऐसी प्रक्रिया है, जिसका उद्देश्य साधक की आंतरिक चेतना का जागरण और उच्च स्तर की आध्यात्मिक अनुभूति प्राप्त करना है।

शोध में यह भी प्रतिपादित किया गया है कि शक्ति उपासना और चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा परस्पर पूरक

एवं अभिन्न हैं, जहाँ योगिनियों शक्ति की विविध अभिव्यक्तियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। इस अंतर्संबंध को दार्शनिक, धार्मिक एवं तांत्रिक दृष्टिकोण से विश्लेषित किया गया है।

विशेष रूप से शेखावाटी क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में यह अध्ययन दर्शाता है कि यहाँ शक्ति उपासना के विभिन्न रूप.. जैसे देवी मंदिर, नवरात्रि उत्सव, लोक अनुष्ठान, जागरण एवं हवन..सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक जीवन का अभिन्न अंग हैं। यद्यपि चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा का प्रत्यक्ष स्वरूप इस क्षेत्र में सीमित रूप में दिखाई देता है, तथापि इसका प्रभाव लोक आस्थाओं, देवी-पूजा और तांत्रिक परंपराओं में स्पष्ट रूप से परिलक्षित होता है।

इसके अतिरिक्त, यह शोध सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक आयामों को भी उजागर करता है। धार्मिक आयोजनों एवं उत्सवों के माध्यम से सामाजिक एकता, सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता एवं पारंपरिक मूल्यों का संरक्षण होता है। साथ ही, मंदिरों एवं मेलों से संबंधित गतिविधियाँ स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करती हैं, जिससे रोजगार एवं व्यापार के अवसर उत्पन्न होते हैं।

अतः यह शोध निष्कर्षतः प्रतिपादित करता है कि चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना केवल धार्मिक आस्था तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि वे भारतीय समाज, संस्कृति एवं अर्थव्यवस्था के बहुआयामी विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं। यह अध्ययन इन परंपराओं की ऐतिहासिक गहराई, सांस्कृतिक प्रासंगिकता एवं समकालीन महत्व को समझने का एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास है।

परिचय

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक एवं धार्मिक परंपरा में शक्ति उपासना का अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रहा है। प्राचीन काल से ही देवी को सृष्टि की मूल शक्ति के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया है, जो सृजन, पालन और संहार की अधिष्ठात्री मानी जाती है। इसी शक्ति परंपरा के अंतर्गत चौंसठ योगिनी उपासना एक विशिष्ट तांत्रिक एवं आध्यात्मिक धारा के रूप में विकसित हुई, जिसमें स्त्री शक्ति के विविध रूपों की साधना की जाती है। यह परंपरा केवल धार्मिक आस्था तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह समाज, संस्कृति और जीवन पद्धति से भी गहराई से जुड़ी हुई है।

राजस्थान का शेखावाटी क्षेत्र अपनी विशिष्ट

सांस्कृतिक पहचान, भव्य मंदिरों, लोक परंपराओं और धार्मिक आस्थाओं के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। इस क्षेत्र में शक्ति उपासना के अनेक रूप प्रचलित हैं, जिनमें देवी मंदिरों, लोक देवी—देवताओं, तांत्रिक साधनाओं तथा विशेष अनुष्ठानों का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा का प्रभाव यहां प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से देखने को मिलता है, विशेष रूप से नवरात्रि, विशेष पूजा—अर्चना, जागरण, हवन एवं अन्य धार्मिक आयोजनों में।

शेखावाटी क्षेत्र में विशेष अवसरों पर होने वाली पूजा—अर्चना केवल धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं होती, बल्कि यह सामाजिक एकता और सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता का भी प्रतीक है। गांवों और कस्बों में देवी उपासना के दौरान सामूहिक भागीदारी, मेलों और उत्सवों का आयोजन, लोकगीत एवं लोकनृत्य इस परंपरा को जीवंत बनाए रखते हैं। इन धार्मिक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से समाज में पारस्परिक सहयोग, आस्था और सांस्कृतिक मूल्य सुदृढ़ होते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त, इस क्षेत्र की सामाजिक व्यवस्था पर भी शक्ति उपासना का गहरा प्रभाव देखने को मिलता है। पारिवारिक संरचना, रीति—रिवाज, जीवन के संस्कार तथा स्त्री की भूमिका इन परंपराओं से प्रभावित होती है। देवी को शक्ति स्वरूप मानने के कारण महिलाओं के प्रति सम्मान और उनकी सामाजिक भूमिका को विशेष महत्व दिया जाता है।

आर्थिक दृष्टि से भी यह परंपरा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। धार्मिक मेलों, उत्सवों और मंदिरों के आसपास व्यापारिक गतिविधियों का विकास होता है, जिससे स्थानीय लोगों को रोजगार के अवसर प्राप्त होते हैं। हस्तशिल्प, प्रसाद, पूजा सामग्री तथा स्थानीय उत्पादों का व्यापार इन आयोजनों के दौरान बढ़ता है, जिससे क्षेत्र की आर्थिक व्यवस्था को मजबूती मिलती है।

साथ ही, शेखावाटी क्षेत्र की लोक संस्कृति..जैसे भित्ति चित्रकला, लोककथाएं, भजन—कीर्तन और पारंपरिक अनुष्ठान..भी शक्ति उपासना और योगिनी परंपरा से प्रभावित हैं। ये सभी तत्व मिलकर इस क्षेत्र की सांस्कृतिक पहचान को विशिष्ट बनाते हैं।

अतः यह अध्ययन चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना के अंतर्संबंध को केवल धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण

से ही नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक एवं आर्थिक परिप्रेक्ष्य में भी समझने का प्रयास करता है। यह शोध शेखावाटी क्षेत्र की समृद्ध परंपराओं, उनके प्रभावों तथा वर्तमान संदर्भ में उनकी प्रासंगिकता को उजागर करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास है।

मार्कण्डेय पुराण में दुर्गा तथा उनके शाक्त सम्प्रदाय का विस्तृत उल्लेख मिलता है। इसका देवीमहात्म्य वाला भाग आज भी समस्त भारतीयों का कंठहार है। कालान्तर में देवी (शक्ति) का पूर्ण विकास नवदुर्गाओं के रूप में हुआ। नवदुर्गाओं में कौन—कौन से नाम हैं उनका वर्णन शास्त्रों में मिलता है। जोकि अपरजिता पृष्ठ में महालक्ष्मी, महामाया, चण्डी, शम्भवी, शिवदूती, अम्बिका, सरस्वती, कात्यायनी, दुर्गा आदि नामों का उल्लेख मिलता है। जोकि मार्कण्डेय पुराण में देवी महात्म्य में नवदुर्गा के विभिन्न नामों का उल्लेख मिलता है।

प्रथम शैलपुत्री च द्वितीय ब्रह्मचारिणी
तृतीय चन्द्रघण्टा: कूष्माण्डेति चतुर्थकम्
पंचम स्कन्दमातेति षष्ठं कात्यायनीति च
सप्तम कालरात्रिश्च महागौरी चाष्टमम्।
नवम सिद्धिदात्री च नव दुर्गा: प्रकीर्तिता:॥

(दुर्गासप्तशती)

इसी क्रम में सप्तमातृकाओं का भी उल्लेख मिलता है। सप्तमातृकाः: श्री (लक्ष्मी), महेश्वरी, कौमारी, वैष्णवी, वाराही, ऐन्द्री, चामुण्डा।

शक्ति की उपासना में चौंसठ योगिनियों के महत्व को विस्मृत नहीं किया जा सकता है।

यह चौंसठ योगिनियाँ निम्न हैं....

दिव्ययोगा, महायोगा, सिद्धयोगा, महेश्वरी, पिशाचिनी, डाकिनी, कालरात्रि, निशाचरी, कंकाली, रौद्रवेताली, डकिनी, भगवती, उग्रकेशी, कपालिनी, भद्रकाली, नरसिंही, फटकारी, वीररुद्रा, क्षमाशीला, कृपालिनी, रक्षोशी, घोरराक्षसी, विश्वरूपा, भयंकरि, कामाक्षी, उग्रचण्डा, भीषणा, त्रिपुरसुन्दरी, धीरकौमारी, चण्डी, वाराही, मुंडधारिणी, भैरवी, ललिता, क्रोधदुर्मुखी, प्रतापिनी, भद्रकालीदुर्लभा, मालती, मन्त्रयोगिनी, अर्घिनी, चण्डिका, ग्राहा, कंकाली, भुवनेश्वरी, कपालिनी, कटकी, शुद्धा, क्रियाशक्ति, करालिनी, शंकरी, पद्मिनी, धीर, अघोरा, प्रहर्षिणी, लक्ष्मी, कामिनी, लोल, काकदृष्टि, अघोमुखी,

धूर्तटी, मालिनी, घोरा, कपालि, विश्वमोहिनी।

इत्यं यदा यदा बाधा दानवोत्था भविष्यति।

तदा तदावतिर्याहं करिष्याम्यरिसंक्षयम्॥

शक्ति काव्य में वर्णित देवीयों के अवतारवाद की अवधारणा को प्रमाणित करती है। ये सभी देवीयां आदिशक्ति जगदम्बा की अवतार मानी जाती हैं। असुरों के संहार एवं धर्म स्थापना के लिए अवतार लेती हैं।

चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा क्या है?

चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा भारतीय तांत्रिक एवं शक्त साधना की एक अत्यंत रहस्यमयी और प्राचीन परंपरा है। “योगिनी” शब्द का अर्थ है.... ऐसी दिव्य स्त्री शक्ति जो योग (आध्यात्मिक शक्ति) से युक्त हो। चौंसठ योगिनियाँ देवी के विभिन्न रूपों में शक्तितत्व का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।

यह परंपरा मुख्यतः तांत्रिक साधना से जुड़ी हुई है, जिसमें साधक इन योगिनियों की आराधना करके आध्यात्मिक सिद्धि, शक्ति एवं ज्ञान प्राप्त करने का प्रयास करता है। योगिनी उपासना में मंत्र, यंत्र, ध्यान और विशेष अनुष्ठानों का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान होता है।

इसके अतिरिक्त, चौंसठ योगिनियों को प्रकृति की विभिन्न शक्तियों तथा ब्रह्मांडीय ऊर्जा के प्रतीक के रूप में भी देखा जाता है। यह परंपरा केवल धार्मिक आस्था तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें गूढ़ तांत्रिक ज्ञान, रहस्यवाद और आध्यात्मिक अनुशासन का भी समावेश होता है।

कुछ विद्वानों के अनुसार, यह परंपरा नारी शक्ति के महत्व और उसके आध्यात्मिक स्वरूप को भी दर्शाती है, जो समाज में स्त्री के सम्मान और शक्ति की पहचान कराती है।

शक्ति उपासना क्या है?

शक्ति उपासना भारतीय धर्म में देवी की पूजा का वह रूप है, जिसमें शक्ति (ऊर्जा) को सर्वोच्च माना जाता है। इसमें देवी को सृष्टि की मूल शक्तिकृजैसे दुर्गा, काली, पार्वती आदि रूपों में पूजा जाता है।

शक्ति उपासना का उद्देश्य केवल धार्मिक अनुष्ठान करना नहीं, बल्कि आंतरिक शक्ति, मानसिक संतुलन, आत्मविश्वास और जीवन में संतुलन प्राप्त करना होता है। यह परंपरा वेद, पुराण तथा तांत्रिक ग्रंथों में व्यापक रूप से वर्णित है।

इसके साथ ही, शक्ति उपासना में भक्ति, श्रद्धा और समर्पण का विशेष महत्व होता है। साधक देवी की आराधना के माध्यम से अपने भीतर की नकारात्मक शक्तियों को दूर करके सकारात्मक ऊर्जा का विकास करता है।

नवरात्रि जैसे पर्वों में शक्ति उपासना का विशेष महत्व होता है, जहाँ देवी के विभिन्न रूपों की पूजा कर आध्यात्मिक उन्नति की कामना की जाती है।

चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा का उद्गम

चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा का उद्गम प्राचीन भारत में तांत्रिक साधना के विकास के साथ हुआ माना जाता है। इसका उल्लेख विभिन्न तांत्रिक ग्रंथों जैसे कौल मार्ग एवं शाक्त परंपरा में मिलता है।

इतिहासकारों के अनुसार यह परंपरा लगभग ८वीं से १२वीं शताब्दी के बीच विशेष रूप से विकसित हुई। इस काल में भारत के विभिन्न भागों में चौंसठ योगिनी मंदिरों का निर्माण हुआ, जैसेक

हिरापुर चौंसठ योगिनी मंदिर

भेड़ाघाट चौंसठ योगिनी मंदिर

ये मंदिर गोलाकार (व्यतबनसंत) संरचना में बनाए गए हैं, जो तांत्रिक साधना के प्रतीक माने जाते हैं।

चौंसठ योगिनी परम्परा का प्रसार

यह परंपरा भारत के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में फैली, विशेष रूप से....

मध्य प्रदेश

ओडिशा

उत्तर प्रदेश

राजस्थान

राजस्थान में कुछ प्रमुख चौंसठ योगिनी मंदिर

१. जीण माता (जीण शक्ति मंदिर)

जीण माता मंदिर राजस्थान के सीकर जिले की अरावली पहाड़ियों में स्थित एक प्राचीन और प्रसिद्ध शक्तिपीठ है। यहाँ माता जीण (जिन्हें दुर्गा का रूप माना जाता है) की पूजा की जाती है।

विशेषताएँ:

यह मंदिर लगभग १००० वर्ष पुराना माना जाता है।

यहाँ नवरात्रि के समय विशाल मेला लगता है।

भक्त यहाँ मनोकामना पूर्ति के लिए आते हैं।
यह स्थान साधना और आध्यात्मिक शांति का प्रमुख केंद्र है।

महत्व:

जीण माता को शक्ति, साहस और रक्षा की देवी माना जाता है, और यह मंदिर शेखावाटी क्षेत्र का प्रमुख धार्मिक स्थल है।

२. ओमल सोमल माता मंदिर

ओमल सोमल माता का मंदिर सीकर क्षेत्र में स्थित एक लोक आस्था का प्रमुख केंद्र है। यह देवी स्थानीय रूप में शक्ति का प्रतीक मानी जाती है।

विशेषताएँ:

यह मंदिर ग्रामीण और लोक परंपराओं से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।

यहाँ विशेष रूप से गाँवों के लोग श्रद्धा के साथ पूजा करने आते हैं।

मेलों और जात (यात्रा) का आयोजन होता है।

महत्व:

ओमल सोमल माता को संकट दूर करने वाली और परिवार की रक्षा करने वाली देवी माना जाता है। यह मंदिर लोक—शक्ति उपासना का अच्छा उदाहरण है।

३. कालिका शक्ति मंदिर

कालिका माता मंदिर चूरू जिले में स्थित है और देवी काली (कालिका) को समर्पित है, जो शक्ति का उग्र रूप मानी जाती है।

विशेषताएँ:

यह मंदिर तांत्रिक और शक्ति साधना के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।

यहाँ विशेष रूप से अमावस्या और नवरात्रि के समय पूजा का महत्व बढ़ जाता है।

भक्त यहाँ बुरी शक्तियों से रक्षा और साहस की प्राप्ति के लिए आते हैं।

महत्व

कालिका माता को नकारात्मक शक्तियों का नाश करने वाली देवी माना जाता है। यह मंदिर शक्ति उपासना और तांत्रिक परंपरा से जुड़ा महत्वपूर्ण स्थल है।

राजस्थान के शेखावाटी क्षेत्र में भी इस परंपरा का अप्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव देखने को मिलता है, जहाँ शक्ति

उपासना और तांत्रिक परंपराएँ लोक आस्था के साथ जुड़ी हुई हैं।

समय के साथ यह परंपरा लोक संस्कृति में समाहित हो गई और मंदिरों, लोक देवी—देवताओं तथा अनुष्ठानों के माध्यम से जीवित रही।

चौंसठ योगिनी और शक्ति उपासना का संबंध

चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा, शक्ति उपासना का ही एक विशिष्ट एवं गूढ़ रूप है। इसमें देवी की ६४ शक्तियों को अलग—अलग योगिनी के रूप में पूजा जाता है।

योगिनियाँ देवी की सहायक शक्तियाँ मानी जाती हैं

ये प्रकृति की विभिन्न ऊर्जाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं

तांत्रिक साधना में इनका विशेष महत्व होता है इस प्रकार, योगिनी उपासना और शक्ति उपासना एक—दूसरे के पूरक हैं।

धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक महत्व

यह परंपरा स्त्री शक्ति के महत्व को दर्शाती है आध्यात्मिक साधना में उन्नति का मार्ग प्रदान करती है लोक परंपराओं, त्योहारों और अनुष्ठानों को प्रभावित करती है

समाज में आस्था और सांस्कृतिक एकता को मजबूत करती है

वर्तमान परिप्रेक्ष्य

आज के समय में चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा का प्रत्यक्ष स्वरूप कम दिखाई देता है, लेकिन इसका प्रभाव अभी भी शक्ति उपासना, नवरात्रि, देवी मंदिरों और लोक आस्थाओं में देखा जा सकता है।

यह परंपरा भारतीय सांस्कृतिक धरोहर का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, जिसे समझना और संरक्षित करना आवश्यक है।

मुख्य शब्द

चौंसठ योगिनी, शक्ति उपासना, तंत्र साधना, शेखावाटी क्षेत्र, देवी परंपरा, आध्यात्मिक शक्ति, लोक संस्कृति, धार्मिक अनुष्ठान

शोध प्रविधि

इस शोध पत्र में गुणात्मक (Qualitative) एवं वर्णनात्मक (Descriptive) शोध प्रविधि का उपयोग किया

गया है। अध्ययन के लिए प्राथमिक एवं द्वितीयक दोनों प्रकार के स्रोतों का सहारा लिया गया है।

प्राथमिक स्रोतों के अंतर्गत शेखावाटी क्षेत्र के मंदिरों, धार्मिक स्थलों एवं स्थानीय लोगों से साक्षात्कार एवं अवलोकन शामिल हैं। द्वितीयक स्रोतों में प्राचीन ग्रंथ, शोध लेख, पुस्तकें तथा ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेजों का अध्ययन किया गया है।

इसके अतिरिक्त तुलनात्मक पद्धति (Comparative Method) के माध्यम से चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा और शक्ति उपासना के बीच संबंधों का विश्लेषण किया गया है। सांस्कृतिक एवं धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण से डेटा का विश्लेषण कर निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत किए गए हैं।

शोध पत्र अध्ययन के उद्देश्य

इस शोध का मुख्य उद्देश्य चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा और शक्ति उपासना के मध्य संबंध को स्पष्ट करना है। इसके अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित उद्देश्य निर्धारित किए गए हैं। चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा की उत्पत्ति एवं स्वरूप का अध्ययन करना।

शक्ति उपासना के विभिन्न रूपों एवं उसके धार्मिक महत्व को समझना।

दोनों परंपराओं के अंतर्संबंध का विश्लेषण करना।

शेखावाटी क्षेत्र में इन परंपराओं के प्रभाव एवं प्रचलन का अध्ययन करना।

स्थानीय लोक संस्कृति एवं धार्मिक परंपराओं पर इनके प्रभाव को पहचानना।

तांत्रिक साधना में योगिनी परंपरा की भूमिका को स्पष्ट करना।

शोध पत्र के सकारात्मक पहलू

यह शोध पत्र कई दृष्टिकोणों से महत्वपूर्ण एवं उपयोगी सिद्ध होता है....

यह अध्ययन भारतीय धार्मिक एवं सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के एक कम चर्चित पहलू को उजागर करता है।

चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा और शक्ति उपासना के बीच संबंध को स्पष्ट कर नई समझ प्रदान करता है।

शेखावाटी क्षेत्र की सांस्कृतिक विरासत को समझने में सहायक है।

यह शोध तांत्रिक साधना और देवी उपासना के गूढ़ पक्षों को सरल रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है।

भविष्य के शोधकर्ताओं के लिए यह एक आधार (Base Study) के रूप में कार्य कर सकता है।

यह स्थानीय परंपराओं के संरक्षण और जागरूकता बढ़ाने में सहायक है।

निष्कर्ष

प्रस्तुत शोध के समग्र विश्लेषण से यह निष्कर्ष स्पष्ट रूप से उभरकर सामने आता है कि चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना भारतीय धार्मिक, दार्शनिक एवं सांस्कृतिक परंपरा के अत्यंत गहन, बहुआयामी एवं परस्पर संबद्ध आयाम हैं। ये दोनों परंपराएँ केवल आध्यात्मिक साधना तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि मानव जीवन के व्यापक सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक एवं आर्थिक संदर्भों में भी अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं।

चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा, शक्ति उपासना का एक विशिष्ट तांत्रिक और रहस्यमयी स्वरूप है, जिसमें देवी की 64 शक्तियों को अलग-अलग योगिनियों के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित किया गया है। यह परंपरा इस तथ्य को स्थापित करती है कि ब्रह्मांड में विद्यमान प्रत्येक ऊर्जा, शक्ति के किसी न किसी रूप का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है। योगिनी साधना के माध्यम से साधक न केवल बाह्य शक्ति की आराधना करता है, बल्कि अपने भीतर निहित चेतना एवं ऊर्जा के उच्चतर स्तर को जागृत करने का प्रयास भी करता है। इस दृष्टि से यह परंपरा आत्म-परिवर्तन और आध्यात्मिक उत्कर्ष का सशक्त माध्यम सिद्ध होती है।

दूसरी ओर, शक्ति उपासना भारतीय धार्मिक चेतना का आधार है, जिसमें देवी को सृष्टि की मूल शक्ति के रूप में स्वीकार किया गया है। यह उपासना केवल धार्मिक आस्था का विषय नहीं है, बल्कि यह जीवन के संतुलन, नैतिक मूल्यों और आध्यात्मिक उन्नति का मार्ग भी प्रशस्त करती है। चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा और शक्ति उपासना के अंतर्संबंध का विश्लेषण यह दर्शाता है कि योगिनियाँ शक्ति की विविध अभिव्यक्तियाँ हैं, जो ब्रह्मांडीय ऊर्जा के विभिन्न आयामों को प्रकट करती हैं। अतः दोनों परंपराएँ एक-दूसरे की पूरक एवं अभिन्न अंग हैं।

शेखावाटी क्षेत्र के संदर्भ में यह अध्ययन विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण सिद्ध होता है। यहाँ शक्ति उपासना न केवल धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों तक सीमित है, बल्कि यह

जनजीवन का अभिन्न अंग बन चुकी है। नवरात्रि, देवी—जागरण, हवन, मेलों एवं अन्य धार्मिक आयोजनों के माध्यम से यह परंपरा निरंतर जीवित एवं सक्रिय बनी हुई है। इन आयोजनों में समाज के सभी वर्गों की भागीदारी सामाजिक एकता, सामूहिक चेतना एवं सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता को सुदृढ़ करती है। यद्यपि चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा का प्रत्यक्ष स्वरूप यहाँ व्यापक रूप से दिखाई नहीं देता, फिर भी इसके तांत्रिक एवं आध्यात्मिक तत्व लोक आस्थाओं, देवी—पूजा एवं पारंपरिक अनुष्ठानों में स्पष्ट रूप से विद्यमान हैं।

सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण से यह परंपरा स्त्री शक्ति के सम्मान एवं उसकी महत्ता को स्थापित करती है। देवी को सर्वोच्च शक्ति के रूप में मानने से समाज में महिलाओं की भूमिका को भी विशेष महत्व प्राप्त होता है, जिससे सामाजिक संतुलन एवं समानता को बढ़ावा मिलता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, यह परंपरा पारिवारिक मूल्यों, परंपराओं एवं सांस्कृतिक धरोहर के संरक्षण में भी महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देती है।

आर्थिक दृष्टि से भी शक्ति उपासना एवं संबंधित धार्मिक गतिविधियाँ स्थानीय स्तर पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव डालती हैं। मंदिरों, मेलों, उत्सवों एवं धार्मिक आयोजनों के माध्यम से व्यापारिक गतिविधियाँ बढ़ती हैं, जिससे स्थानीय कारीगरों, व्यापारियों एवं सेवा प्रदाताओं को रोजगार के अवसर प्राप्त होते हैं। इस प्रकार यह परंपरा स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करने में भी सहायक सिद्ध होती है।

सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से, चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना ने कला, स्थापत्य, लोकगीत, लोकनृत्य एवं चित्रकला को भी प्रभावित किया है। विशेष रूप से शेखावाटी क्षेत्र की भित्ति चित्रकला एवं लोक परंपराओं में देवी उपासना के प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से देखे जा सकते हैं। यह दर्शाता है कि यह परंपरा केवल धार्मिक ही नहीं, बल्कि सांस्कृतिक अभिव्यक्ति का भी एक सशक्त माध्यम है।

वर्तमान परिप्रेक्ष्य में, यद्यपि आधुनिकीकरण एवं बदलती जीवनशैली के कारण तांत्रिक परंपराओं का प्रत्यक्ष स्वरूप कुछ हद तक सीमित हो गया है, फिर भी शक्ति उपासना की परंपरा आज भी व्यापक रूप से

प्रचलित है। आधुनिक समय में इन परंपराओं को नारी सशक्तिकरण, सांस्कृतिक पहचान एवं आध्यात्मिक जागरूकता के प्रतीक के रूप में भी देखा जा रहा है।

अतः समग्र रूप से यह निष्कर्ष निकाला जा सकता है कि चौंसठ योगिनी परंपरा एवं शक्ति उपासना भारतीय संस्कृति की अमूल्य धरोहर हैं, जो अतीत से वर्तमान तक निरंतर समाज को प्रभावित करती रही हैं। इनका संरक्षण, संवर्धन एवं वैज्ञानिक एवं ऐतिहासिक दृष्टिकोण से अध्ययन अत्यंत आवश्यक है, ताकि भविष्य की पीढ़ियाँ भी इस समृद्ध परंपरा से प्रेरणा प्राप्त कर सकें।

सन्दर्भ ग्रन्थ

प्रमुख धार्मिक एवं तांत्रिक ग्रन्थ

देवी माहात्म्य

कालिका पुराण

दुर्गा सप्तशती

कुलार्णव तंत्र

रुद्रयामल तंत्र

योगिनी हृदय तंत्र

तंत्र एवं शक्ति उपासना से संबंधित ग्रन्थ

तंत्रालोक —Abhinavagupta

शक्ति और शाक्त — Arthur Avalon

सर्प शक्ति (The Serpent Power)

शाक्त तंत्र — N. N. Bhattacharyya

शाक्त धर्म का इतिहास

आधुनिक शोध एवं विश्लेषणात्मक ग्रन्थ

हिंदू देवी परंपरा — David Kinsley

दिव्य स्त्री शक्ति के तांत्रिक रूप

योगिनी परंपरा और मंदिर — Vidya Dehejia

दुर्गा उपासना का इतिहास — D. C. Sircar

भारतीय इतिहास एवं संस्कृति संबंधी ग्रन्थ

भारतीय संस्कृति का इतिहास — Ram Sharan Sharma

राजस्थान का इतिहास —Gopinath Sharma

शेखावाटी का इतिहास और संस्कृति

भारतीय धर्म और संस्कृति —K. M. Munshi

भारतीय धार्मिक परंपराएं



कबड्डी खेल में योग आसनों का महत्व: एक शोधात्मक अध्ययन

डॉक्टर राम कुमार ठाकुर (खेल अधिकारी)
इंदिरा गांधी कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, रायपुर. छत्तीसगढ़

सारांश:

कबड्डी एक उच्च—तीव्रता वाला भारतीय पारंपरिक खेल है जिसमें शक्ति, गति, संतुलन, सहनशक्ति एवं मानसिक एकाग्रता की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता होती है। योग, विशेषकर योगासन, शरीर एवं मन के समग्र विकास में सहायक होते हैं।

इस अध्ययन का उद्देश्य कबड्डी कौशल में सुधार करना था। यह अध्ययन खिलाड़ियों की योगिक अभ्यास के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाता है। कबड्डी एक टीम गेम है जिसमें किसी उपकरण की आवश्यकता नहीं होती, सांस रोकने की क्रिया मस्तिष्क को चुस्त रखती है। इस शोधपत्र का उद्देश्य कबड्डी खिलाड़ियों के प्रदर्शन में योगासन के योगदान का विश्लेषण करना है। अध्ययन से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि नियमित योगाभ्यास से खिलाड़ियों की लचीलापन, श्वसन क्षमता, मानसिक स्थिरता और चोटों से बचाव में महत्वपूर्ण सुधार होता है।

परिचय:

कबड्डी भारत का एक लोकप्रिय खेल है, जो अब अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी प्रसिद्ध हो चुका है। इसमें रेडिंग, टैकलिंग और तेज निर्णय लेने की क्षमता आवश्यक होती है। दूसरी ओर, योग एक प्राचीन भारतीय पद्धति है जो शारीरिक, मानसिक एवं आध्यात्मिक संतुलन प्रदान करती है। कबड्डी में योगासन का समावेश खिलाड़ियों के समग्र प्रदर्शन को बढ़ाने में सहायक सिद्ध हो सकता है।

कबड्डी के लिए किसी विशेष पोशाक या

महंगे उपकरण की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। कबड्डी खिलाड़ी का शरीर मांसपेशियों के खिंचाव, सहनशक्ति और धीरज के साथ विकसित होता है। इसकी इस विशेषता के कारण इसमें हृदय संबंधी सहनशक्ति और प्रतिरोधक क्षमता भरपूर होती है। लचीलापन और चपलता विकसित होती है क्योंकि इतने छोटे क्षेत्र में तेजी से चलना पड़ता है। खिलाड़ियों की आंखें और शरीर की गति तेज हो जाती है। मानसिक दबाव के कारण मन और क्षण पर नियंत्रण रखना मुश्किल हो जाता है। शारीरिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक रूप से, खिलाड़ी को अपनी प्रतिक्रिया समय, ऊर्जा और स्थान पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना होता है। योग अभ्यास कबड्डी कौशल को बेहतर बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

अध्ययन का उद्देश्य: इस अध्ययन का उद्देश्य कबड्डी खिलाड़ियों में योगासन के प्रभाव से कौशल को विकसित करने में सहायता करना है। जिसमें निम्नलिखित बिंदु महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- रेडर की क्षमता में सुधार करना।
- खिलाड़ी के सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण को विकसित करना।
- विकासात्मक स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देना।
- लचीलापन, सहनशक्ति और चपलता विकसित करने में सहायता करना।
- शारीरिक क्षमता में सुधार करना।
- विस्फोटक शक्ति को बढ़ाना।
- मानसिक एकाग्रता एवं तनाव नियंत्रण में योग की भूमिका को समझना।

अध्ययन का महत्व:

कबड्डी खिलाड़ियों के लिए बुनियादी आवश्यकताएँ चपलता, त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया, गति, विस्फोटक शक्ति और सामर्थ्य जैसे विशिष्ट गुण हैं। इन शारीरिक कौशलों के साथ—साथ मानसिक कौशल भी महत्वपूर्ण हैं। इसलिए यह खेल मनो—शारीरिक कौशल का खेल है। यह केवल शारीरिक खेल नहीं है। इस खेल के लिए कुशाग्र बुद्धि एवं तत्काल निर्णयन क्षमता की आवश्यकता होती है। इस खेल के लिए अच्छे कौशल की आवश्यकता होती है। इसलिए यह अध्ययन भारतीय मनोविज्ञान, यानी योग

के माध्यम से इन दोनों गुणों को बेहतर बनाने पर जोर देता है। अधिकांश प्रशिक्षक केवल अभ्यास को ही महत्व देते हैं। लेकिन केवल अभ्यास ही पर्याप्त नहीं है। कबड्डी के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए बुनियादी कौशल सुधार प्रशिक्षण आवश्यक है।

योग प्रशिक्षण के साथ उपरोक्त कौशल को कैसे सुधारें: शोधकर्ता ने कबड्डी खिलाड़ियों को एक महीने की ट्रेनिंग दी है, रोजाना १ घंटा। सभी खिलाड़ी निम्नलिखित आसन का अभ्यास करते हैं: सर्वांगासन, धनुरासन, पश्चिमोत्तासन, पवनमुक्तासन, मत्सासन, नौकासन, भुजंगासन, शलभासन, वक्रासन, अर्धमत्सेन्द्रिय आसन, उष्ट्रासन। इसके साथ ही प्रशिक्षक उन्हें त्राटक, कपालभाति और प्राणायाम भी सिखाते हैं। प्राणायाम में अनुलोम—विलोम, उज्जई, शिथली और शीतकारी प्राणायाम और ओउम जप। कार्यक्रम के अंत में विश्राम के लिए योग निद्रा का सहारा लिया गया। प्राणायाम में पूरक, रेचक और कुम्भक महत्वपूर्ण हैं। यह इस खेल के आक्रामक खिलाड़ी रेडर के कंट को सुधारने में मदद करता है जो कि कबड्डी खेल की आत्मा है।

योग प्रशिक्षण के बारे में कोच और खिलाड़ी की टिप्पणी: कोच ने बताया कि आमतौर पर वयस्क और जूनियर लड़कों के लिए कंट का समय बीस से पच्चीस सेकंड होता है। लेकिन इस प्रशिक्षण से यह समय बढ़कर पच्चीस से तीस सेकंड तक हो गया है। खिलाड़ी खेल के प्रति अधिक सकारात्मक, सहज और लचीला रवैया अपनाते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि वे तरोताजा महसूस करते हैं और इस प्रशिक्षण से उनकी शारीरिक क्षमता में सुधार हुआ है।

निष्कर्ष:— कबड्डी खेल में योगासन का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है। यह खिलाड़ियों के शारीरिक, मानसिक एवं भावनात्मक विकास में सहायक होता है। इसलिए, कबड्डी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में योग को अनिवार्य रूप से शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। इस अध्ययन के महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम निम्न हैं:—

- योग प्रशिक्षण रेडर के कौशल को बेहतर बनाने में सहायक है।
- योग प्रशिक्षण शारीरिक और मानसिक कौशल को बेहतर बनाने में मदद करता है।

- आत्मविश्वास बढ़ाने में सहायक है।
 - सकारात्मक सोच को बढ़ावा देता है।
 - योग प्रशिक्षण खिलाड़ी की एकाग्रता को बढ़ाता है।
- चर्चा:** अध्ययन से स्पष्ट होता है कि योगासन कबड्डी खिलाड़ियों के लिए अत्यंत लाभकारी है। यह न केवल शारीरिक क्षमता को बढ़ाते हैं बल्कि मानसिक स्थिरता और आत्मविश्वास को भी मजबूत करते हैं। आधुनिक खेल प्रशिक्षण में योग को शामिल करना खिलाड़ियों के प्रदर्शन को नई ऊंचाइयों तक पहुंचा सकता है।

सुझाव:

- कबड्डी प्रशिक्षण में नियमित योग सत्र शामिल किए जाएं।
- खिलाड़ियों को योग प्रशिक्षक के मार्गदर्शन में अभ्यास कराया जाए।
- प्रतियोगिताओं से पहले और बाद में योगाभ्यास को अनिवार्य किया जाए।

सन्दर्भ ग्रन्थ सूची:

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