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Bangalore North University
Government First Grade College Sidlaghatta
Government First Grade College, Sulibele

XVII NATIONAL SOCIOLOGY CONFERENCE

Digital Divide

Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups

30th & 31st October 2025



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Dr. ADINARAYANAPPA N.A.
Secretary, KSA
Organizing Secretary,
XVII KSA National Sociology Conference

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Government First Grade College established by Government of Karnataka in1991 was initially affiliated to Bangalore University, Bangalore, is now under Bangalore North University. At present, the college offers four Undergraduate Courses B.A, B.Com, B.Sc and BCA followed by P.G Programme in M.Com. A major chunk of the students come from rural areas both for U.G and P.G Programmes. The College possess well equipped AV rooms, Laboratories, E-Library, good infrastructure, Gym, indoor and outdoor sport facilities, good results with many centum and rainwater harvesting etc.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In an increasingly digital world, access to technology and digital literacy has become essential for education, employment, civic participation, and social inclusion. However, millions of individuals particularly youth from underprivileged backgrounds, rural communities, persons with disabilities, women and other marginalized groups remain on the wrong side of the digital divide. This divide not only limits access to information but also deepens existing inequalities, threatening to leave vulnerable populations even further behind.

The theme of this year's National Conference, "Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups" emphasizes the urgent need to create inclusive digital ecosystems. It underscores the role of digital empowerment in ensuring equitable access to opportunities, enabling meaningful participation, and fostering innovation and resilience among underserved communities. The digital divide perpetuates systemic inequities, undermining participatory development. This conference invites rigorous discourse on policy frameworks and grassroot interventions to advance digital inclusion, fostering an equitable, empowered future.

Youth Empowerment: Access to ICTs facilitate transformative educational and economic opportunities for young populations. For India, with 50% of its populace under 25, such access fosters innovation and labor market integration, critical for sustainable economic advancement.

Inclusion of Marginalized Communities: For women, Scheduled Castes/Tribes, and rural populations, digital connectivity enables engagement with e-governance platforms and financial systems for their sustainable development.

FOREWORD

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, digital access has emerged as both a pathway to progress and a marker of inequality. The Digital Divide, gap between those who have access to information and communication technologies and those who do not remains to be one of the most pressing developmental challenges in contemporary India. This book, `Digital Divide and Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups in India' provides a timely insightful exploration of how technology can serve as both a barrier and a bridge in the pursuit of inclusive growth.

The authors have undertaken the critical task of analyzing the intersections of technology, social equity and empowerment. By examining the experiences of youth, rural population, women and other marginalized communities, this work sheds lights on the complex realities behind digital inclusion. It demonstrates that empowerment is not merely about providing access to devices or internet connectivity, but about fostering the capacity to use digital tools meaningfully for education, livelihood, civic participation, and social transformation.

What makes this book particularly significant is its balanced approach. It not only critiques the structural and policy-level challenges that perpetuate digital exclusion but also highlights inspiring stories of resilience, innovation, and community-led initiatives. These narratives illustrate how informed interventions and digital literacy can redefine opportunities for empowerment in diverse socio-economic contexts.

As India aspires toward a digitally inclusive society under initiatives like Digital India, the insights presented here offer valuable guidance for policymakers, educators, researchers, and social practitioners. This book underscores that technology, when equitably distributed and inclusively designed, can become a powerful instrument for social justice.

We commend the authors for their thoughtful scholarship and commitment to advancing discourse on digital empowerment. It is our hope that this work will inspire continued research, policy innovation, and collective action toward narrowing the digital divide and building a future where every citizen can participate fully in the digital revolution.

A conference on this theme is highly relevant, as it provides a platform for academicians, research scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to deliberate on strategies that can bridge this gap, particularly for youth and marginalized communities. Empowering these groups with digital skills and equitable access to technology is essential for achieving inclusive growth, social justice, and sustainable development. Such a dialogue also encourages sharing of best practices, innovative models, and policy interventions that can translate into tangible empowerment. In this way, the conference serves not only as an academic exchange but also as a call to collective action to ensure that the benefits of the digital revolution reach every section of society.

The success of this conference reflects the dedicated efforts and meticulous planning of the Organizing Secretary and his committed team. Their tireless work, attention to detail, and unwavering enthusiasm have ensured the smooth conduct of every session and activity. From conceptualizing the theme to coordinating logistics and welcoming participants, their teamwork and professionalism have been exemplary. The Organizing Secretary's leadership, combined with the team's cooperative spirit, guidance and support of the Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members of KSA and the Teaching, non-teaching staff, Guest faculty and Students of the college has made this event a memorable and meaningful academic endeavour. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Editor-in-Chief and his team for their support and all those who have directly or indirectly given their invaluable contribution to the success of the conference.



Prof. Sudha Khokate

Professor and Chairperson
Department of Sociology,
Bangalore University,Bangalore
& MC Member,
Indian Sociological Society



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& Research in Sociology,
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Sri .B. N. Ravi Kumar

Hon'ble MLA
Sidlaghatta Constituency
Government of Karnataka
President, College Development Committee, GFGC, Sidlaghatta

I am glad to know that a XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

Education has always been the foundation of social progress, social change and development of the nation. The present conference, with focus on the need for digital knowledge among all sections of the society including youth and marginalized groups, represents a significant step forward in developing an education system that is not only knowledge-centered but also people-centered.

I am confident that this academic exercise will inspire new ideas and strengthen the determination of our teachers and researchers to contribute towards the vision of a developed India in this digital era.

I extend my greetings and best wishes to the organizers for the success of the event.

Sri B. N. Ravi Kumar



Sri .Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda

Hon'ble MLA
Hosakote Constituency
Government of Karnataka
President, College Development Committee GFGC, Sulibele

I am delighted to know that XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

In an age where technology drives progress, digital access has become a vital tool for education, employment, and social inclusion. Yet, many young people and marginalized communities continue to remain on the periphery, unable to benefit from these opportunities. This divide not only limits individual growth but also hinders the nation's collective development.

Through this conference, I wish the academicians, scholars, researchers and students discuss and deliberate and seek to explore ways to bridge these gaps by fostering digital literacy, skill-building, and equal access to technology. Our shared goal is to ensure that digital transformation uplifts every section of society and empowers the most vulnerable.

I extend my greetings and best wishes for the success of the event.

Sri Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda



Sri .D. T. Srinivas

MLC
Karnataka South East Teachers Constituency
Government of Karnataka

I am pleased to note that XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

In today's rapidly changing world, education must not only provide knowledge for students but also prepare them to access job opportunities by imparting digital skills in the digital world. This conference, by bringing together teachers, scholars, and researchers, has created an opportunity to explore these vital dimensions of learning to foster inclusive growth of youth and marginalized communities in development of the Nation.

I trust that the deliberations of this conference will encourage progressive thought, inspire young minds, and strengthen our collective commitment to nation-building.

Best wishes to the organizers and participants.

Sri .D. T. Srinivas



Prof. Niranjana Vanalli

Vice Chancellor
Bangalore North University, Kolar

Greetings from Bengaluru North University! On the occasion of the XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the esteemed participants, scholars, academicians, and organizers of this XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups'.

In the present digitized world, equitable access to technology has become a cornerstone of social and economic progress. Yet, the persistence of the digital divide continues to marginalize vulnerable and weaker sections of society in general and the youth in particular who represent both our present and our future. Addressing this divide is not only an academic concern but also a national priority, as it directly influences education, employability, and inclusive development.

The theme of this conference is both timely and significant, as it brings together scholars, researchers, and practitioners to deliberate on strategies that can transform digital technologies into instruments of empowerment and social justice. I am assured that the discussions will contribute meaningfully to academic knowledge while also inspiring policy frameworks aimed at bridging these gaps.

I congratulate the Organizers for their initiative and extend my best wishes for the success of this important academic endeavour.

Prof. Niranjana Vanalli



Prof. Ramesh B

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Bangalore City University, Bangalore

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I am confident that this academic exercise will inspire new ideas and strengthen the determination of our teachers and researchers to contribute towards the vision of a developed India in this digital era.

I extend my greetings and best wishes to the organizers for the success of the event.

Prof. Ramesh B



Smt. Manjushree N. IAS

Commissioner
Department of Collegiate & Technical Education
Government of Karnataka

I am pleased to convey my appreciation for the XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

This academic initiative is truly commendable as it provides a platform for eminent scholars, committed teachers, and researchers to deliberate on the need for overcoming the obstacle of Digital divide and fuel the empowerment of youth and marginalized groups. The chosen theme Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups resonates with the national vision of building a knowledge-driven, equitable, and progressive society.

It is my earnest hope that the deliberations during this conference will contribute to the enrichment of knowledge, inspire transformative pedagogical practices, and encourage collaborative efforts across disciplines. Such discussions will undoubtedly play a vital role in evolving policies and plans that aim towards reducing the gaps between the rich and poor, urban and rural societies, and enable the youth and marginalized groups for equitable access to resources in the society and join the main stream to become part of a progressive and knowledge-driven nation.

I extend my warm greetings to the organizers and participants, and wish the conference a very success in achieving its noble objectives.

Smt. Manjushree N



Dr. Shobha G

Director
Department of Collegiate Education
Government of Karnataka

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt wishes to all participants, organizers, and distinguished guests of this XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

The contemporary digital era has redefined the parameters of knowledge, communication, and opportunity. However, the persistence of a digital divide continues to reinforce structural inequalities, disproportionately affecting youth and marginalized sections of society. This divide is not merely technological but deeply social, carrying implications for education, employment, and civic participation.

In this context, the theme of the present conference assumes exceptional academic and social relevance. By engaging scholars, researchers, and practitioners in critical dialogue, the conference seeks to generate informed perspectives and practical frameworks that may contribute to inclusive digital growth and equitable access to resources. Such deliberations are vital for ensuring that technological advancement translates into social justice and empowerment. . Let us work together to bridge this divide and create a future where every individual has the opportunity to learn, connect, and thrive in the digital world.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the organizers for convening this important academic forum and convey my best wishes for fruitful discussions and significant outcomes

With warm regards,

Dr. Shobha G



Dr. A.H.M. Vijayalakshmi

Additional Director
Department of Collegiate Education
Government of Karnataka

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With warm regards,

Dr. A.H.M. Vijayalakshmi



Dr. K Ramakrishna Reddy

Joint Director
Department of Collegiate Education
Government of Karnataka

It is a matter of great pride and privilege for me to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the delegates, academicians, researchers, and students participating in this prestigious XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' is being organized by Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta under the aegis of Karnataka Sociology Association.

In the present era of rapid digital transformation, access to technology has become an essential prerequisite for education, employment, and social mobility. Yet, the digital divide continues to perpetuate exclusion, particularly among marginalized communities and the younger generation. This issue demands critical academic inquiry as well as policy-level interventions to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

The theme of this conference is therefore of immense significance, as it provides a forum for intellectual engagement, research-based discussions, and knowledge exchange. I am confident that the deliberations will contribute towards framing innovative strategies to bridge the digital divide and empower those who remain at the margins of the digital revolution.

I wish the conference grand success and hope it serves as a milestone in our collective journey towards building digitally empowered Bharat.

Dr. K Ramakrishna Reddy



Sri. V. Prasad

Ex- President Jilla Panchayath
Bangalore Rural, District, Karnataka

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my appreciation to the organizers of the XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups'.

In today's rapidly evolving knowledge society, access to digital tools and resources is no longer a privilege but a necessity. Yet, vast sections of our population especially marginalized communities and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds remain excluded from the opportunities that digital connectivity can provide. This digital divide not only limits educational and professional growth but also deepens existing social and economic inequalities.

This conference aims to create a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation by bringing together educators, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners and aspire to identify challenges, share best practices, and chart pathways to ensure that technology becomes an enabler of equity and inclusion rather than a barrier. Empowering youth and marginalized groups through digital literacy, skill development, and access to resources is not merely a technological challenge, it is a social responsibility.

I congratulate the organizing institutions and wish the conference fruitful discussions and outcomes.

Sri. V. Prasad



Sri. B. V. Sathish Gowda

Hon'ble Director, B.D.C.C, Bank and Bangalore Dairy
Bendaganahalli, Sulibele

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Sri. B. V. Sathish Gowda



Prof. Jayashree S

President
Karnataka Sociology Association
& Former Senior Professor of Sociology,
Former Acting Vice Chancellor,
Karnatak University, Dharwad

A warm welcome to all the delegates, resource persons, speakers, guests, office bearers, organizing team, research committee conveners, members of research committees, research students, media persons and dear students for the XVII National Sociology Conference on Digital Divide: Empowerment of the youth and Marginalized groups. My Pranams to the respectful elders and stalwarts who have thought of having a professional Association of Sociology in Karnataka and named it as Karnataka Sociology Association, which was established in 1994. Since then it has been engaging in academic activities pertaining to Sociology discipline and fraternity. This year we have thought of a theme which is more relevant and significant to modern society.

Our conference motto is to empower the youth and the marginalized groups through digital inclusion which will strengthen and enhance social cohesion, and drives to sustainable development. We are living in a society where technology rules our day today life. Earlier we were confined to formal literacy which is the strong indicator of development, now along with conventional literacy, we are moving towards digital literacy which is part and parcel of our life. We can't have our routine without mobile, computers, cameras, iPods, and internet and at a higher level nanotechnology, biotechnology, data science, artificial intelligence. All these have changed the whole gamut of individual and social life. We are now being digitalized every day and every event of our life is totally depending on technology that is too digital technology. In this context there is a whooping question. Are we able to provide digital literacy to all the stake holders or what? This conference certainly addresses some common and critical issues related to it.

In the contemporary information age, access to digital technologies determines not only communication but also participation, opportunity, and empowerment. The digital divide, the gap between those who have effective access to digital and information technologies and those who do not; remains a crucial barrier to equitable development. While digitalization promises inclusion and innovation, it simultaneously deepens existing socio-economic and educational inequalities. Digital literacy created some vacuum, divisions, inequality, and exploitation, inferiority and superiority complexes, violence and cyber crimes. Herbert Marcuse aptly argued that, technology is not neutral in modern world, actor's inner freedoms have been curbed and people lose the ability to think critically.

For youth, digital empowerment translates into access to education, skills, employment, and civic participation. Yet, disparities in infrastructure, affordability, and digital literacy restrict large sections of young people especially from rural, tribal, economically weaker backgrounds from realizing their full potential. Bridging this gap is essential for nurturing an inclusive knowledge economy and fostering social mobility and social transformation.

For the marginalized communities, the digital divide is multidimensional intersecting with age, class, caste, gender, disability, geography. Lack of access to devices, poor connectivity, language barriers, and limited digital skills exclude them from e-governance, online education, healthcare information, and economic opportunities. Empowerment in this context should ensure digital capability, critical thinking, and inclusion. Bridging the digital divide is not merely a technological aspect it is more of a social welfare and social justice imperative. Papers in this volume concentrate and focus on the above issues which are bothering us. I take this opportunity congratulate the organizing Secretary and team for venturing into this mega publishing task.

ALL the BEST

(Prof. Jayashree S)



Dr. Murali Anand G

Principal
Government First Grade College
Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapura District

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my appreciation to the Organizing Secretary of the XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' for realizing the event in our College which is thriving to provide education to the poor and rural students mainly drawn from weaker sections of the society which makes the theme more relevant and most needed. The digital era has opened unprecedented opportunities for growth, innovation, and knowledge-sharing. Yet, the persistence of the digital divide remains a pressing concern, especially for youth and marginalized communities who are often deprived of equal access to technology and digital resources. This disparity not only limits individual potential but also challenges the broader goals of equity and inclusive development.

The theme of this conference is both timely and significant, as it provides a valuable academic platform to deliberate on strategies that can bridge these divides and ensure that technology becomes an instrument of empowerment for all. I firmly believe that the discussions and insights emerging from this event will contribute meaningfully to research, policy, and practice in this crucial domain.

I commend the Department of Sociology and the organizing team for their efforts in hosting this important conference. It takes lot of courage and hard work to organize such a huge event in a small town like Sidlaghatta which calls for a big applause and I wholeheartedly wish a resounding success.

(Dr. Murali Anand G)



Dr. Adinarayanappa N A

Associate Professor of Sociology
Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta
& Secretary Karnataka Sociology Association

It is my pride and privilege to host the XVII National Sociology Conference on 'Digital Divide: Empowerment of the Youth and Marginalized Groups' being organized at Government First Grade College, Sidlaghatta. The theme of the conference addresses one of the most critical challenges of the 21st century. In an era characterized by rapid technological advancement and widespread digitalization, access to digital tools and resources has become central to education, employment, social participation, and overall empowerment. However, the benefits of digital technology are not equitably distributed. Significant sections of society, particularly young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalized communities remain on the periphery, unable to leverage the opportunities offered by digital connectivity.

This conference seeks to critically examine the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the digital divide. By bringing together academicians, sociologists, educators, policymakers, and practitioners, it aims to generate evidence-based insights and policy recommendations that can promote digital inclusion. The conference emphasizes strategies for empowering the youth and marginalized communities through skill development, digital literacy programmes, equitable access to technology, and participatory approaches that integrate social, economic, and cultural considerations.

Ultimately, the theme underscores the belief that digital technology, if harnessed inclusively, can serve as a powerful tool for social justice, empowerment, and transformative change. The deliberations in this conference aim to contribute to bridging the gap between technological potential and social equity, fostering a society where every individual can participate meaningfully in the digital age.

I extend a warm welcome to all the delegates and wish a grand success.

Dr. Adinarayanappa. N A

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THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

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Abstract

In recent years, social media has revolutionized the way individuals interact, communicate, and maintain relationships. While these platforms offer unprecedented opportunities for connectivity, they also pose challenges to the quality and authenticity of interpersonal relationships. This research investigates the influence of social media on interpersonal relationships through a comprehensive review of literature and analysis of four case studies across diverse demographics. The findings reveal a paradoxical impact: social media enhances connectivity but often reduces emotional depth, encourages superficial interactions, and contributes to communication breakdowns. The paper also addresses the psychological and sociological implications, identifies key challenges, and provides suggestions for healthier online engagement. This study aims to inform educators, psychologists, policymakers, and the general public about the complexities of social relationships in the digital age.

Keywords: social media, Interpersonal Relationships, Communication, Digital Interaction, Emotional Connection, Online Behavior, Psychological Impact, Sociological Analysis

1. Introduction

In the digital era, social media has become a dominant force in shaping human behavior and relationships. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter (now X), and TikTok have redefined communication, enabling instant connection across geographical boundaries. While these tools have made it easier to stay in touch, they also raise questions about the quality and depth of these connections.

This research explores the dual nature of social media in enhancing and deteriorating interpersonal relationships. As social beings, humans rely heavily on interpersonal connections for emotional support, social development, and identity formation. However, when mediated through screens, these relationships may suffer from diminished intimacy, misunderstandings, and the constant pressure to curate idealized personas.

The paper aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How has social media transformed interpersonal relationships in various social settings?

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2. What are the positive and negative impacts of these transformations?
3. How can users and stakeholders mitigate the negative consequences?

2. Review of Literature

A significant body of research has examined the effects of social media on human interaction. According to Turkle (2011), digital communication often lacks the emotional richness of face-to-face conversations, leading to "alone together" scenarios. Similarly, Boyd (2014) emphasizes that while social media creates new spaces for interaction, it also perpetuates issues like cyberbullying, peer pressure, and social comparison.

Hampton et al. (2011) found that social media users tend to maintain a larger network of weak ties rather than deep, emotionally satisfying relationships. On the other hand, Ellison et al. (2007) argue that social media platforms can enhance bonding capital by allowing users to maintain closer ties with family and friends, especially for those who live apart.

These divergent perspectives illustrate the complex and context-dependent nature of social media's role in shaping interpersonal dynamics.

3. Case Studies

Case Study 1: Adolescents and Peer Relationships

A group of 50 high school students in an urban area was surveyed. Findings showed that while social media helped them connect with peers, 68% reported feeling anxious about likes and comments. Many participants admitted preferring texting over face-to-face communication, leading to weaker in-person social skills.

Case Study 2: Long-Distance Romantic Relationships

Interviews with 10 couples in long-distance relationships revealed that social media tools like video calls, messaging, and social sharing helped maintain emotional connection. However, 40% of couples reported that overexposure on social media sometimes led to jealousy and trust issues.

Case Study 3: Working Professionals and Family Bonds

A study of 30 professionals aged 30–45 indicated that while they used platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook to stay in touch with family, 55% admitted that time spent scrolling often replaced quality family time, affecting deeper connections.

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Case Study 4: Elderly and Digital Inclusion

Among 20 elderly participants aged 60+, 65% used social media to reconnect with old friends and family. While many appreciated the ease of connection, several noted difficulty in adapting to changing digital norms, and some experienced feelings of exclusion or loneliness due to lack of engagement.

4. Impact of Social Media on Interpersonal Relationships

Positive Impacts

1. Enhanced Connectivity

Social media platforms have made it possible for individuals to stay connected across vast geographical distances. Whether it's maintaining friendships, familial bonds, or professional connections, social media allows people to bridge time zones and physical barriers instantly. This has been especially beneficial for migrants, students studying abroad, and long-distance families. Real-time communication tools such as video calls, instant messaging, and live streaming have revolutionized the way people interact, making distance feel less isolating.

2. Emotional Support Networks

Platforms like Facebook, Reddit, and WhatsApp support groups provide safe spaces where individuals can seek emotional guidance, share experiences, and receive empathy from others who may have gone through similar challenges. These communities are particularly helpful for individuals dealing with grief, mental health issues, chronic illnesses, or minority stress, as they offer non-judgmental support and access to valuable resources, sometimes even more readily than in-person networks.

3. Identity Formation

For adolescents and young adults, social media functions as a digital playground for exploring and expressing identity. It offers a space to share interests, beliefs, and experiences while receiving feedback and validation. This identity experimentation can be especially important for marginalized groups (e.g., LGBTQ+ youth) who may not have acceptance in their immediate physical environment. Through curated profiles and shared content, users can present a narrative of who they are or aspire to be, which can bolster confidence and a sense of belonging.

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Negative Impacts

1. Reduced Face-to-Face Interaction

While digital communication is convenient, it often substitutes for in-person interaction, leading to a decline in the quality of conversations. Physical presence allows for non-verbal cues like facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice, which are essential for emotional depth and empathy. Over time, heavy reliance on digital mediums can weaken interpersonal skills, reduce emotional intelligence, and hinder the development of deep, trusting relationships.

2. Superficial Engagement

Social media encourages quick, low-effort interactions — likes, emojis, and short comments — that may create a false sense of closeness. These shallow exchanges can replace more meaningful interactions and reduce the depth of friendships. Moreover, the desire to gain popularity or maintain a certain image online often leads users to engage in performative behavior, which detracts from authenticity and hinders genuine connection.

3. Mental Health Issues

Numerous studies have linked heavy social media usage to mental health challenges. The constant exposure to curated, idealized lives of others can lead to feelings of inadequacy, jealousy, and low self-esteem — especially among adolescents and young adults. The "Fear of Missing Out" (FOMO) can contribute to anxiety and compulsive checking of updates. Furthermore, the addictive nature of these platforms can disrupt sleep, productivity, and even relationships, creating a negative feedback loop.

5. Challenges

1. Addiction and Overuse

One of the most pressing challenges is the compulsive use of social media platforms. The infinite scroll, algorithmic feeds, and constant notifications are designed to keep users engaged, often for hours at a time. This overuse can reduce the time spent on real-world socialization, hobbies, and self-care. Additionally, social media addiction can lead to decreased attention spans, social withdrawal, and neglect of responsibilities.

2. Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

Social media's anonymity and reach can empower individuals to engage in harmful behaviors without facing immediate consequences. Victims of cyberbullying often experience emotional distress, depression, and even

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suicidal ideation. For many, online harassment can lead to mistrust in social interactions, reluctance to participate in online spaces, and significant damage to personal relationships and mental well-being.

❖ 3. Privacy Concerns

As users share personal moments, thoughts, and opinions online, they expose themselves to potential misuse of information. From data breaches and identity theft to personal content being shared without consent, these issues can harm both professional and personal relationships. In extreme cases, leaked private conversations or images can result in job loss, public shaming, or the breakdown of familial or romantic relationships.

❖ 4. Communication Misinterpretation

Without vocal tone, facial expressions, or body language, digital messages can be easily misinterpreted. Sarcasm, jokes, or sensitive discussions often fail to convey properly over text, leading to misunderstandings and unnecessary conflicts. These miscommunications can damage trust and cause emotional strain between individuals, particularly in close relationships where clear communication is vital.

6. Suggestions

1. Digital Literacy Education

Integrating digital literacy into educational curriculums is essential to ensure responsible and empathetic online behavior. Students and professionals alike need to be trained in online etiquette, understanding digital footprints, managing privacy, and interpreting online interactions accurately. When individuals are aware of both the power and the pitfalls of social media, they are better equipped to navigate it constructively.

2. Balanced Usage

Encouraging users to consciously limit their time on social media is crucial. This can be achieved through digital detox programs, app usage timers, or setting "no-phone" hours during family time, meals, or before bedtime. Such balanced use allows individuals to be more present in their offline relationships and improves overall well-being.

3. Promote In-Person Interaction

Schools, workplaces, and community centers can organize offline social events, workshops, or hobby-based gatherings to strengthen real-life connections. Physical presence fosters empathy and allows people to form

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deeper bonds through shared experiences, teamwork, and active listening — something that can never be fully replicated online.

4. Mental Health Support

There should be easier access to both online and in-person mental health services to support individuals struggling with social media-related issues. Schools and universities, in particular, should provide resources such as counselors, support groups, and awareness campaigns to help students manage digital stress and peer pressure.

5. Family and Peer Communication Workshops

Parents, children, and educators can benefit from training and discussions on how to maintain healthy communication in the digital age. These workshops can focus on rebuilding trust, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering empathy. Strengthening intergenerational understanding regarding social media use can help reduce conflicts and promote emotional harmony.

7. Conclusion

The influence of social media on interpersonal relationships is both profound and multifaceted. While these platforms have reshaped the ways people connect and communicate, they also pose challenges to emotional intimacy, authenticity, and mental well-being. It is essential for individuals, educators, and policymakers to recognize both the potential and pitfalls of digital interactions. By fostering a culture of balanced and responsible social media use, society can ensure that technology enhances rather than hinders meaningful human connection.

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RELEVANCE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: A HISTORICAL STUDY

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Abstract

This article examines the enduring relevance of **women's empowerment** through a historical lens, demonstrating that the struggle for equality is a continuous, multifaceted process deeply rooted in the evolution of societies. By tracing the historical arc from periods of relative parity (e.g., early Vedic societies) to subsequent decline and the rise of organized movements (19th-century social reform, First, Second, and subsequent Waves of Feminism) this study illuminates the structural, cultural, and political mechanisms that have historically constrained and liberated women. The analysis underscores that empowerment is not merely a modern concept but a sustained, vital force for achieving **sustainable development**, **social justice**, and comprehensive human progress, making its continued pursuit fundamentally relevant in the contemporary global context.

Keywords: Empowerment, Modern Concept, Sustainable, Development, Social, Justice, Comprehensive, Human Progress, Global Context.

1. Introduction: Defining Empowerment Through History

Women's Empowerment is a multi-dimensional, complex process that grants women control over resources (material, human, and intellectual) and the ability to make strategic life choices previously denied to them. Historically, the status of women has fluctuated dramatically across cultures and epochs, reflecting shifts in economic structure, political systems, and dominant ideologies. A historical study is essential to understand that current disparities are not accidental but the result of deeply embedded patriarchal structures and to appreciate the hard-won victories that inform today's movements.

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2. Historical Trajectories of Women's Status

2.1. Periods of Relative Parity and Subsequent Decline

In several ancient societies, women often held respected, sometimes elevated, positions. For instance, in early **Rig Vedic India**, women were accorded high social status, had opportunities for high intellectual attainment (e.g., *rishikas* like Gargi and Maitreyi), and participated in public assemblies like the *Sabha* and *Samity*.

However, this status deteriorated over time due to various factors, including the establishment of more rigid social hierarchies and foreign conquests, leading to the institutionalization of restrictive practices such as:

- Denial of rights to education and property ownership.
- Confinement to domestic spheres (e.g., the *Purdah* system).
- The rise of social evils like Sati and child marriage.

This historical pattern illustrates that the loss of rights often coincided with changes in the economic and political structure, demonstrating that **empowerment is a vulnerable status** that requires continuous protection.

2.2. The Era of Social Reform (19th Century)

The 19th century witnessed the beginning of organized movements for women's upliftment, largely driven by social reformers and the influence of Western education and modern ideas. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi championed causes such as:

- The abolition of Sati.
- The legalization of widow remarriage.
- Promotion of female education.

These efforts marked the shift from viewing women's issues as purely domestic problems to recognizing them as matters of **social and legal justice**, laying the groundwork for organized feminist movements.

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2.3. The Waves of Global Feminism

The history of women's empowerment is globally interconnected, often segmented into "waves" of feminist activism:

Wave	Time Period (Approx.)	Primary Focus	Key Achievements
First Wave	Mid-19th Century to early 20th Century	**Political Rights:** Primarily the right to vote (suffrage).	Ratification of the 19th Amendment (US, 1920) or equivalent legislative changes worldwide.
Second Wave	1960s to 1980s	**Social and Personal Equality:** Issues like family, sexuality, workplace, and reproductive rights.	Anti-discrimination laws (e.g., the Equal Pay Act), reproductive rights, and greater representation in education and professions.
Third/Fourth Wave	1990s to Present	**Intersectionality and Global Justice:** Addressing diversity, technology, sexual harassment, and issues of marginalized women.	Greater focus on global issues (e.g., UN Sustainable Development Goals), awareness of intersectional discrimination (gender, race, class), and online activism.

This evolution shows the expansion of the empowerment concept from **formal political rights** to **substantive socio-economic and personal autonomy**.

3. The Enduring Relevance in the Contemporary World

The historical struggle for empowerment provides compelling evidence for its continued relevance today across three crucial dimensions:

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3.1. Economic Relevance: Global Prosperity

Historically, limiting women's participation was detrimental to the economy. Today, empowering women is unequivocally linked to global prosperity. **Economic empowerment**—giving women control over assets, income, and access to the labour market—is a powerful tool for poverty reduction. Studies consistently show that increasing women's participation in the workforce directly contributes to **higher GDP growth** and that resources controlled by women are disproportionately invested in the health and education of their children, ensuring a healthier and more productive future generation.

3.2. Political Relevance: Inclusive Governance

The historical fight for the ballot and legislative representation remains crucial. Despite formal equality, women's political participation remains low globally. Empowerment ensures that policy and decision-making processes are **representative and inclusive**. Historically, women's entry into politics has led to the prioritization of policies beneficial to the entire society, such as those related to child care, health, and gender-based violence. An empowered female citizenry is essential for a truly **democratic and accountable government**.

3.3. Social and Developmental Relevance: Sustainable Future

Women's empowerment is a prerequisite for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The historical context proves that societal development is stunted when half the population is marginalized. Empowerment is critical for:

- **Health Outcomes:** Empowered women have greater control over their reproductive health and that of their families, leading to better maternal and child health.
- **Education:** Ensuring girls' access to education, a historical rallying point, breaks inter-generational cycles of poverty and subservience.
- **Challenging Patriarchy:** Historically, social norms were the greatest impediment. Empowerment continues to challenge deep-seated patriarchal norms, domestic violence, and discrimination in all institutional structures.

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4. Conclusion

The relevance of women's empowerment is not a temporary political trend but a **historical imperative**. The long, arduous journey marked by periods of light and shadow, reform, and revolution confirms that the fight for **equality and agency** is fundamental to human civilization. By studying history, we understand that empowerment is a **dynamic process**, not a final destination. Its continued relevance lies in its proven ability to not only correct historical injustices but also to act as the single most powerful catalyst for **economic growth, political stability, and inclusive, sustainable development** in the 21st century.

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How Lack of Digital Access Fuels Inequality in Education

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Abstract:

The integration of digital technology into education has transformed teaching and learning processes worldwide. However, this transformation has not been equitable. A significant digital divide persists, disproportionately affecting students from low-income, rural, and marginalized communities. This paper examines how lack of digital access including limited availability of devices, poor internet connectivity, inadequate digital literacy, and weak infrastructure exacerbates existing educational inequalities. Students without reliable digital access face barriers to participation in online learning, fall behind in academic performance, and experience reduced opportunities for skill development. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed and deepened these disparities, highlighting the vulnerability of education systems unprepared for remote learning. The paper also explores the mechanisms through which digital exclusion reinforces socioeconomic disparities, such as restricted access to digital resources, reduced engagement, and limited exposure to technological tools essential for 21st-century skills. Drawing on global and regional data, the research outlines current interventions and policy recommendations aimed at closing the digital gap. Addressing digital inequality is not merely a technological concern it is a matter of educational equity and social justice. Ensuring universal digital access is essential for creating inclusive, resilient, and future-ready education systems.

Keywords:
Digital divide, education inequality, online learning, digital literacy, digital infrastructure, technology in education, equity in education.

1. Introduction

Education in the 21st century is increasingly mediated by digital technologies: online classes, digital textbooks, learning management systems, multimedia content, virtual labs, etc. For many learners, particularly in wealthier

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and urban contexts, digital access opens new opportunities. But for those without reliable access to devices, internet, or digital skills, these opportunities may be out of reach deepening gaps in learning outcomes, future opportunity, and social mobility.

In today's digitally driven world, access to technology and the internet has become essential for educational participation and success. Digital tools enable students to access learning materials, attend virtual classes, collaborate with peers, and develop critical 21st-century skills. However, this growing reliance on digital education has exposed and intensified existing inequalities. Many students, especially those from low-income, rural, or marginalized communities, lack access to basic digital resources such as reliable internet, devices, and digital literacy support. This digital divide creates a significant barrier to learning, leading to gaps in academic achievement and limiting future opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic sharply highlighted these disparities, as millions of students worldwide were unable to engage in remote learning due to inadequate digital access. As education systems increasingly adopt digital solutions, addressing this divide has become a critical issue of educational equity and social justice, demanding urgent attention from policymakers and educators alike.

2. Defining Digital Access and Digital Inequality

Digital access is multi-dimensional. Key components include:

1. **Device access** – availability of appropriate hardware (computers, tablets, smartphones) for educational use.
2. **Connectivity** – reliable, sufficiently high-speed internet / data access.
3. **Digital infrastructure** – electricity, safe learning spaces, institutional ICT infrastructure (in schools / universities).
4. **Digital literacy / skills** – ability to use devices, navigate platforms, evaluate digital content, and maintain privacy/security.
5. **Support & environment** – teacher competence, supportive pedagogy, parental or community assistance.

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Digital inequality occurs when some students or institutions are disadvantaged in one or more of these dimensions. It is not only about "having a device" but also about being able to use it effectively and benefit from it in learning.

3. Evidence of Educational Inequities from Lack of Digital Access

The growing integration of digital technology into education has brought many benefits, but it has also exposed stark inequities. A key driver of these inequities is the lack of digital access among large segments of the global student population. This divide — often referred to as the digital divide — is not merely about owning a device or having an internet connection. It encompasses a broader set of challenges, including limited access to high-speed internet, lack of digital literacy, insufficient school infrastructure, and a lack of supportive home environments. Together, these issues create significant disparities in students' learning experiences and outcomes.

One of the clearest pieces of evidence for educational inequity due to digital access is the difference in student performance across socioeconomic backgrounds. Students from wealthier families are more likely to have access to laptops, tablets, stable internet, and private learning spaces. In contrast, students from low-income households often lack even a single device to share among multiple family members, or rely on mobile phones with limited data plans. These limitations hinder their ability to engage with online lessons, complete assignments, or access digital learning platforms.

4. Mechanisms: How Lack of Digital Access Reinforces Inequality

Here are the pathways through which insufficient digital access feeds educational inequality:

1. **Interrupted learning during emergencies**: When schools close (pandemics, natural disasters, or other disruptions), students without devices or connectivity cannot attend online classes or access materials.
2. **Homework, assignment, resource access**: Even in "normal" times, assignments may assume internet for research, digital submission, or using learning software. Lack of access limits ability to complete tasks, explore supplementary resources.

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3. **Digital literacy gap**: Students who have had fewer opportunities to use digital tools lag in skills. This doesn't only harm performance in digital tasks, but also makes them less efficient learners in many contexts.
4. **Institutional inequality**: Schools in poorer or rural areas often have weaker infrastructure, fewer trained teachers in ICT, less investment in supporting students' digital needs.

6. Interventions & Policy Responses

Digital access is a critical aspect of modern society, influencing education, employment, healthcare, and civic participation. However, disparities in access—often referred to as the "digital divide"—persist due to factors like income, geography, age, and education. To address this, governments, organizations, and institutions have implemented a range of interventions and policy responses aimed at promoting equitable digital inclusion.

One major intervention is infrastructure development. Governments have invested in expanding broadband networks, especially in rural and underserved areas, to ensure reliable internet access. Programs such as the FCC's "Connect America Fund" in the United States or the EU's "Digital Europe Programme" exemplify efforts to build digital infrastructure.

7. Challenges and Limitations

- Cost: devices, internet infrastructure, and maintenance are expensive; sustainable funding is a challenge.
- Quality vs Mere Access: giving devices is not enough; quality of content, pedagogical support, and engagement matter.
- Equity within Access: even among those with access, differences in usage, motivation, environment, parental support matter.
- Cultural, language, gender barriers: access may differ by gender, minority status, language spoken, etc.

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8. Recommendations

Based on the literature and analysis, the following steps are recommended for policymakers, educational institutions, and stakeholders:

1. **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**: Map where digital access is weakest and which students are most disadvantaged.
2. **Targeted Device + Connectivity Initiatives**: Provide devices and ensure affordable, reliable internet access especially to rural, low-income, marginalized groups.
3. **Integrate Digital Literacy Early**: Make digital skills part of core education from primary levels.
4. **Invest in Teacher Training**: Equip teachers not just with tools, but with pedagogical skills to use them effectively.

9. Conclusion

The evidence is strong: lack of digital access across devices, connectivity, infrastructure, skills is a significant driver of educational inequality. The divide not only disadvantages students in immediate learning outcomes, but sets up long-term disparities in opportunity. Addressing digital inequality is not just about technology; it's a matter of social justice and human development. Effective policies will need to combine investment, capacity building, and inclusive design.

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Legal Protection of Migrant Women Construction Workers in India: An Overview

-Dr. Anitha.M

Abstract:

In India construction workers constitute a major portion in the work force of the construction industry. India's three crores construction workers are literally the builders of modern India but still, this industry is recognized as the unorganized sector with vast labor intensity and economic activity after agriculture in India. Construction workers are the backbone of the economy as they create the infrastructure necessary for industrial growth. It is well known that the working and living conditions of construction workers are appalling. At various stages, specific enquiries have been held in the conditions of construction workers and suitable recommendations and enactments of legislations have also been made. Construction, which was one of the worst-hit sectors during the pandemic, is also one of the key sectors in which India's migrant workforce find employment. Interstate migrant workers make 35.4 per cent of all the construction workers in the country's urban areas, according to the 2001 Census. Of all the interstate migrants in India who move out of the farm sector, construction absorbs around 9.8 per cent, making it the second most preferred sector for migrant workers after retail. Both migrants and non-migrants in the construction sector are largely informally employed, with about 90% of migrants in rural areas and 67% in urban areas working as casual wage laborers. Migrant construction workers are mainly unskilled seasonal migrants who work as wage laborers in the agrarian sector. The remittances sent by migrant workers, accounting for a significant share in foreign exchange earnings of nations and GDP growth, contribute significantly to the economic betterment of migrants' families. They also act as the engine of economic growth of many developing countries. Out-migration makes a significant contribution to reducing unemployment and underemployment in labour-sending countries. Unlike the economic benefits of out-migration, the social costs are too often relatively high and migrant workers are reportedly exposed to various exploitative situations at workplaces in labour-receiving countries[1]. The promotion of labour migration and protection of labour and human rights of migrant workers has been a matter of concern for the ILO since its establishment in 1919. In view of this, the research analysis is made in this present paper about the economic consequences and social and welfare aspects of migrant workers in India.

Key words: migrant workers, construction, human rights, unskilled, unorganized.

Introduction

Modernization and industrialization have paved a good way to the construction industry. Small towns and cities become more urbanized and the construction sector too has got a boost. Irrespective of occasional slumps in the economy or in construction works, the sector is going through a faster growth. In a globalizing economy, it is

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they who are constructing the new economic zones, the IT cities, the call centers and mega malls that are creating new forms of wealth today; it is these construction workers who are laying the cables for a rapidly expanding country-wide telecommunications network. Yet these workers, who are creating the base of the new economy, themselves live in a time warp, trapped in low skilled, low paid, insecure working conditions, bound by feudal working relationships, often literally in bondage. Apart from old/ traditional urban/ industrial centers, new industrial/urban centers have appeared on the map where construction works are going on a large scale expanding and fast growing construction sector and, in general, lack of greater employment opportunity elsewhere has drawn large numbers of workers in this sector. The building and construction sector is employing a large number of workers. There are more than 20 million of construction workers[2] including both men and women and also child laborers in India at present.

Generally, women construction workers are deeply concerned about conditions of work in this sector. Pay inequalities, blocked opportunities of advancement for want of skill, frequent relocation, lack of freedom to plan their work, hard and long working hours and coping with multiple roles result in a high level of stress. It generates attitudes of passive acceptance of helplessness and misery and conformity, rather than reaction. It is estimated that the percentage of women in the construction industry is 30-40[3].

Construction laborers are laborers who are migrating from different regions and states leaving their native villages in search of the daily job[4]. These people in general are nomadic in their

life and usually do not return to their birthplace or natives. They travel from one area of work to another area along with their families and live in a place, which is either provided by the owner of the construction company or somewhere nearby, building temporary shelters. They have maximum mobility because of the nature of their

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work. These laborers are engaged in huge industrial constructions, residential flat constructions, city beautification works, these construction laborers, as a part of unorganized work force remain the most exploited ones even after five decades of independence. In the recent past the trend shows that all big cities of country have become the centers to recruit casual laborers as construction laborers to cities and urban areas. Most of the construction laborers migrate to cities and metros are from poor families and are illiterate[5]. Their lack of education and skill make their choice very limited. When they come to big cities, they have to face a number of problems because of their inexperience and lack of skill. They become easy victims of exploitation and have to work for their day to day sustenance. Being migrants, they don't get registered and hence are denied basic governmental facilities[6]. In the construction field migratory pattern within India, women and children have always featured as "associated" migrants[7] with the main decision to migrate being taken by the male of the household. As an associated migrant, women are more vulnerable due to reduced economic choices and lack of social support in the new area of destination.

Objectives of the study:

1. To analyze the socio-economic status of women construction workers in the study area.
2. To analyze the working conditions of women workers in study area.
3. To find out major findings of the study area.
4. To suggest the policy recommendations for uplift socio-economic status of women in construction industry.

Data and Methodology:

Primary data for the study were collected from a random sample of 300 women construction workers in Devanahalli Taluk of Bangalore urban and rural district in Karnataka.

[5] Ramaswamy E. A., "*Organized Labour and Economic Reforms*", Indian Journal of Labour Economics, vol:39, no:2, April-June 1996, pp-438 to 439.

[6] Ramesh PB, "*Rethinking Social Protection for India's Working Poor in the Unorganized Sector, Cross National Policy Exchange*", Asia Social Protection Papers. 2009, pp1–18.

[7] Biswas, A R, " Can migration change a person's status" , Journal of Indian Law Institute, Vol 38, No. 1, Jan- March 1996, p 58

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The objectives for the study are pursued using simple averages and percentages.

Women in Construction Sector:

Construction workers are the backbone of the economy as they create the infrastructure necessary for industrial growth. India's three crores construction workers are literally the builders of modern India. Construction sector[8] is the largest employer in the world and in India. More than 31 million people work in the construction industry, second only agricultural sector. More than 35 percent of construction workers are women and they get poor remuneration and are discriminated in the payment of wages[9]. When men construction workers have promotional opportunities, women have no opportunities to acquire skills and become masons or supervisors. About one-third of these workers are women and children. Women are almost unskilled laborers they face serious problems related to work, viz., wage discrimination, gender and sexual harassment, unhealthy job relationship, lower wages, etc. Despite all these, construction industry overwhelmingly attracts female workers. Their skills are always at the same level and are not upgraded as they assist only the male work fare the workplace. Their husbands are often drunkards or are found to have other sexual partners and find themselves in debt trap; due to these factors women are unable to strengthen their skills and economic position in the industry. The female employment in the construction industry is very high, even though they work only as the helpers or unskilled workers. As stated in India women workers constitute a major portion in the work force of the construction industry. While on the other hand women construction workers start as unskilled helpers and remain unskilled throughout their life and as a result are victims of gender discrimination. In addition to this, they are also unorganized and dependent on their husbands without any empowerment socially and economically. Un-fortunately, in this system, women workers do not have an opportunity to receive any type of skills training which has left them stagnant with-out any chance of promotion of upgrade of any sort in their job. Most of the time, based on the mistaken notion that women are incapable of doing heavy or rough work, women workers loose out miserably, this type of attitude has left the women workers at the bottom of the rung of skills in the industry with no avenues of promotion or higher wages

[8] Anand, Vaijayanta, "*Advocating for the Rights of Construction Workers: Nirman's Experience*", The Indian Journal of Social Working, Vol. 59, No.3. 1998 p-18

[9] International Labour Organisation Report, 2009

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for them.

Construction workers in general have no access to formal training in the construction industry and they upgrade their skills thorough practice or by observing and working under skilled masons or carpenters etc. As a result of women being only engaged in soft skills, the gap between the skilled male workers and unskilled women workers has placed them in a position of less empowerment economically and socially. This has worked against the advancement and empowerment of women workers.[10]. The situation of India is ridden with paradoxes. Women form the poorest of the poor and yet women have run empires and states on the sub- continent. Women are the harder race with a higher life expectancy and yet have an unfavorable sex ratio. These should be treated as paradoxes and not as indicators and averages. Women form 89.0 percent of the informal and unorganized sector. Women's work participation rate is higher in the rural areas, 90.0 percent of the rural and 10.0 percent of the urban women workers are unskilled.[11]

Role of Women in Economic Development

In the traditional society of India, woman was fully occupied with her duties as a mother and homemaker, which are termed as non-market labor. This was so small feet, since the traditional household may be described as both a production and a consumption unit. Many factors like urbanization technical progress and education have profoundly changed these traditional conditions in India. Slowly starting from the metropolitan areas, the role of woman at home has become lighter due to technical progress. The production side of women's work at home is gradually decreasing leading to a reduction of their role at home. Women constitute half of the nation's human resource and therefore vital and crucial for the national development. In the socio-economic milieu of the country, role of women within the overall context of human resource development requires their rightful role in the society; in any society, economic position and social status of women are influenced by the extent of their involvement in income earning activities outside the household.[12]

[10] Chakrabarti D, "*Indian Construction Industry and Workers*", Construction Workers Federation of India. 2005, p-81.

[11] Srinivasan, M.V. *"Women Workers in Unorganised Sector",* Women's Link, 2000,vol. 6, No.4.

[12] Neetha, N,. "*Making of Female Breadwinners Migration and Social Networking of Women Domestics in Delhi",* .Economic and Political Weekly April 24, 2004, pp-1681-1688.

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Sharing of economic activity by women is neither a new phenomenon nor a new development. The magnitude of their involvement however, is co-related socio economic and political conditions prevalent in a country. From time immemorial, women in India have been working in the active economic field and indirectly contribute to the economic development. With the changes in the outlook, attitudes and approach towards living, it has now become necessary, by and large, for the families of inadequate income to supplement their requirements through traditional earnings. Women, of course, can fill this gap. Breaking social conventions and religious taboos, they have come forward to meet the challenges enthusiastically. This is, no doubt a healthy development. However, in a country like India, the process of development is bound to be little slow owed to the prevalent illiteracy and age old rigid customs and traditions.

The Human Development Report for 2010, published by United Nations Development Program presents a gloomy picture of the status of women in the world. The most striking point is that there is not a single country where women enjoy equality with men. Women perform 11 trillion worth of unpaid or invisible economic activity worldwide. According to the findings of a 31 country study, women work longer hours than men. On an average, women put in 13.0 percent more times than men in developing countries and 6.0 percent more than men in developed countries. Another finding was that of the total burden of the work, women carry, 53.0 percent and men carry 47.0 per cent in developing countries and the figures of 51.0 percent and 49.0 percent for developed economies[13].

The discriminatory approach towards women has still deep rooted in our society, even though our constitution guarantees them an equal rights and status, we have failed to recognize the extensive contribution of women to household and national economy as active workers, and producers of goods and services. Sex difference is linked with un-equal distribution of resources towards rights and responsibilities. The status of women in a society is usually measured in terms of the level of education, employment, income, health as well as role played by them

[13] National Sample Survey Organisation [NSSO] Employment and Unemployment situation in India 2005-06, 62nd Round, Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, Government of India. 2008

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in the family, community and society.

Labour and Human Rights

Social security is a fundamental right of labour which is guaranteed by law to all human beings, who live their own labour and who find themselves unable to work temporarily or permanently for their control. According to Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every member of society has a right to social security. The ILO declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work is a major step in this direction. Development must bring about an improvement in the living conditions of people. It should, therefore, ensure the provision of basic human needs at all. According to the ILO, construction jobs in most countries are undertaken almost exclusively by men. However, in the countries of South Asia women play an important role which consists of performing unskilled tasks for low pay. For example, in India it is estimated that up to 30 per cent of the construction workforce are women. They are integrated into the building workforce at the bottom end of the industry, as unskilled workers or head-load carriers. The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations is another international instrument bestowing workers with economic social and cultural rights. So that they are enjoying these rights of self –determination can freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The Indian Constitution (GOI, 1991) provides for citizenship rights in Part-II. Citizenship rights are regarded as fundamental, because they are most essential for the attainment by the individual of his full intellectual moral and spiritual status. The guarantee of the minimum rights at the workplace will enable people to claim and realize a fair share of the wealth. The guarantee of these rights will ensure a process of translating economic growth into social equality. The development thus becomes synonymous with the agenda of integrated development.

According to the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Indian Constitution, the State is required to secure for the citizens ,both men and women to right to an adequate means of livelihood, equal pay for equal work for both men and women, protection against abuse and exploitation of worker's , economic necessity, protection of their health and strength, to secure for children opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and protect children and a youth against exploitation and moral and material abandonment. The state is also required to secure equal justice and free legal aid, to make effective provisions for

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right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of undeserved want, to ensure just and human conditions of work and maternity relief, to secure work, a living wage and a decent standard of life to participation of workers in the management of industries. According to the Labor and Social Trends in Asia and the Pacific, South Asia's labor force has been growing at a strong annual average of about 2.3 percent[14]. However, labor force participation rates of South Asia remain low, compared with other sub regions in Asia and the Pacific women's share in labor force and participation in India is relatively low compared to other countries. At the same time, female unemployment rates are generally much higher than male unemployment rates within the sub region, particularly in countries where female labor force participation is still low.

Women are engaged in a whole range of unskilled work, which though invisible, are unavoidable in the construction activity. They are mostly head-load workers, who carry bricks, cement, sand and water from one place to the other, sometimes over great heights along precariously balanced wooden beams or structures. This exposes them to high risks of accidents as well as physical and mental strain. They are also involved in cleaning up concreting and earth work. In construction industry un-skilled men, as helpers, also do head-load, concreting and earth work, but women are usually paid less than men for equal work.

Table No-01

Frequency table of Types of construction work of the Respondents (Source: Field Survey)

Types of Construction Work	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Shopping Centers	77	25.7	25.7	25.7
Residential Apartments	97	32.3	32.3	58.0
Commercial Apartments / Blocks	46	15.3	15.3	73.3
Hotel Construction	10	3.3	3.3	76.7

[14] For further details see National Survey Sample Organization (NSSO), GOI 1999-2000.

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Governments	37	12.3	12.3	89.0
Administrative Buildings	19	6.3	6.3	95.3
Educational Institutions	2	.7	.7	96.0
Pools and Bridges	10	3.3	3.3	99.3
Temples	2	.7	.7	100.0
Infrastructure facility Work	300	100.0	100.0	
Total				

Table No.1 shows the result of Frequency test regarding the type of construction workers. Out of 300 respondents 32.3 percent of the workers working at residential apartment, 25.7 percent of the women workers working at shopping centers, 15.3 percent of the women workers working at commercial apartments, 12.3percent of the women workers working at government administration buildings, 6.3 percent of the women workers working in educational institutions, 3.3percent of the respondents working at construction of hotels and 0.7percent of the respondents are from construction work of pools and bridges and infrastructure facilities. This result reveals that majority of construction activities are building construction like shopping centers, residential apartments, commercial block, government buildings, and educational institutions etc.

Table No-02

Rate of exploitation of women workers in construction Industry

	Nature of work	Actual wages(In Rupees)	Paid wages(In Rupees)	Difference	Rate of Exploitation
	Water Feeding	300	230	70	23.33
	Material Supply	300	250	50	16.66

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	Mall Mixing	300	260	40	13.33
	Brick Handling	300	250	50	16.66
	Other	300	250	50	16.66

Source: Field Survey, Discussion with the workers on the site

The table No.02 shows the result of rate of exploitation of women works. Women workers doing the works like water feeding, material supply, mall mixing, brick handling and other work. Actual wages of these works Rs 300 for among the women workers and them get continues work in the work site. But wages are paid Rs 230 per day by contractor. Difference of actual (expected wage) and paid wage to workers is 70 per day. Exploitation rate is 23.33 percent and next is also rate of exploitation by the contractors is 16.66 percent and 13.33 percent in various work among the women construction workers. Rate of exploitation is variation according with the nature of work among the women workers. This type of wage exploitation exists in the construction workers; it is because women workers are illiterates, insecurity of job, and discrimination of gender.

Table No-03

Harassment of women workers at the work place

Sl.No	Name of the Harassment	Opinion of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Abused/Scolded	270	90
2	Humiliated	255	85
3	Beaten	50	16.66
4	No Harassment	100	33.33

Source: Field Survey

The table No.3 shows the results type of harassment of women workers. Out of 300 respondents, 90 percent of the respondents are stated abused or scolded by contractor or male workers. Further 85 percent of the respondents humiliated. 16.66 percent of the respondents are stated that beaten by contractor. Remaining 33.33 percent of the women workers stated there is no harassment from work site.

From the above data, we can observe that majority of women workers are harassed by contractor or male workers

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in the work site in the form of abused, humiliated and beaten. It is because gender discrimination is also in the construction industry, illiteracy, low skills, and no knowledge of legal education of women workers.

Major Findings

1. The study found that majority of the women construction workers are illiterates with percentage of 54(162), the women workers with education are having only primary or secondary education with 43 percent out of the total respondents.

2. The study found that majority of the women workers i.e. 293 respondents approximately are nuclear family. The type of nuclear family is encourages women to participate in earning activities, that's way she goes to job along with her husband for construction activities.

3. The study also found that 83.3 percent of the women workers have stated that their standard of living was better off after joining the construction industry.

4. This study found that annual family income of the majority of the women workers are ranging from 30 to 70 thousand rupees per year which constitute 83 percent of total respondents. Annual expenditure of pattern of households shows that 150 out of 300 respondents spent their income on the various activities from 30 to 60 thousand rupees.

5. The study found that majority of women construction workers have to work in multiple types of construction works like water feeding, material supply, mixing cement and stone shaping with percent of 77.33 out of 300 respondents. It is due to because of nature of industry itself.

6. This study found that of the women workers stated multiple reasons for not satisfied with construction work i.e. low income with percentage of 57.66, followed by hard work with percentage 42.33 and long

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working hours with percentage of 13 out of 300 respondents.

Recommendations and Policy Implications:

1. Since most of the women workers are illiterates it is suggested that a special campaign of literacy is required particularly for women construction workers, awareness about literacy and making them literate will not only improve the socio-economic status of women but also with helps to educate their children. It is not enough that programmes like SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamika Shikshana Abhiyan), RUSA (Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) are concentrated on formal education but government should give importance to informal education and education of construction workers particularly women workers. Illiteracy is the cause of low wages and lack of skills and their work further deteriorates their wage level. Under the national skill development programs of 12th five year plan these workers should be trained in their field so that they can increase their economic and social status.
2. Since marital status provides safety and security married women. Women construction workers are in a better position compared to unmarried workers. Unmarried workers, widows and workers separated from family are proven to exploitation at all levels. Any case of harassment with them should be treated as criminal offence even married women face appreciation and exploitation from their drunkard husbands. This has created a turmoil among married women construction workers. Counseling the co-workers and through the implementing the laws against women harassment, the safety and security of the women construction workers can be assured. Early marriage is common among economically depressed classes. The rules regarding the marriage age should be strictly imposed among labor classes.
3. No doubt that after joining the construction industry the women workers lives have improved but it is only temporary economic satisfaction for them. Long term security and special insurance programs for these workers will still improve standard of living. Since most of them are from SC, ST and OBC group a sense of self-esteem has to be developed. So that they will feel secure and respected in social life also.
4. The government can very easily reach the awareness of various programs through mass communication like radio and television and even with mobiles to construction workers at working sites.
5. Majority of the women construction workers earn income between 30,000 to 70,000 rupees per year. In an average around 5000 rupees per month which is insufficient to lead descent standard of living but still worse

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is those SC, ST and OBC women workers whose income is below 30,000 rupees per year i.e. an average of rupees 2500 per month or an average of rupees 80 per day which is grossly inadequate to lead at least a subsistence level. No food security bill or health programs through primary health centers will uplift the standard of living of these people unless they are covered under various insurance schemes like health insurance, risk insurance accident insurance and provided with additional benefits their conditions cannot be improved. Even minimum wages can save them lower status.

6. This analysis is with regarded to women construction workers and hence 98.6 percent of them are chosen from building construction activities and only 1.4 percent them are randomly selected from road/bridge's construction. This analysis is made to have a passing comparison because the problems of building women construction workers are more than that of women construction workers in other fields.
7. There is no job satisfaction among women workers in construction industry. They have been exploited through long working hours with low wages along with physical exploitation and harassment. Human Rights Commission should look in to the ill practices prevailing in this field and warn against such exploitations.
8. The exploitation in these industry are mainly the work supervisor, they should be trained in legal affairs and human relation through labour department and it should made compulsory that all work supervisors are registered under Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board and given identification number so that they will not escape after any criminal act done by them. Most of the criminal records so that such laborers after conducting crime they move to different building constructions far away from their place and some time they move other state. Individual identification will stop such crimes against women workers.

Conclusion

Construction industry provides much needed work opportunities for some of the poorest and most marginalized sections of the society. In reality, women are the creators, protectors and destroyers. All the energies of women, their intellect, their strength and their skill are devoted to catering to the needs of men and in India as the literacy level among women is increasing, but still women occupy a disadvantage position in the society hence, we should make them aware of their own potential and generate a desire in them to acquire skills that would enable them to walk shoulder to shoulder with men. Literacy and Education should be given would sharpen women's awareness.

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Along with this efforts should be made to educate our men folk to treat women as equal partners in progress. A qualitative method is the need of the hour. The Government, Non-Governmental Organization and men folk at large have to play a crucial role in making gender equity reality. Equitable access to resources, power and decision making is of paramount importance. Women should be provided education and training to enhance their sense of self-worth and self-esteem and to enlighten them regarding their right to good health. Therefore a credible employment strategy needs to focus to enhance educational level of the workers, the socio-economic status of the women only can be improved when major transition in the society occurs and that can be achieved by mind set transition. The socio-economic and cultural development must empower women at greater choices and giving in change of their own future that make them self-reliant and confident.

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Cultivating Entrepreneurial Selves: Neoliberal Subjectivities, Aspirational Capital, and Pathways to Upward Mobility Among Commerce Students in a Marginalized Indian District

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Abstract

In neoliberal India, entrepreneurship is framed as a pathway to economic mobility and a moral imperative for youth. This study examines how commerce students in Kolar district, a socio-economically marginalized region in Karnataka, navigate entrepreneurial discourses amidst structural constraints. Drawing on Michel Foucault's concept of governmentality, Nikolas Rose's enterprise culture, and Tara Yosso's aspirational capital, the research explores the formation of entrepreneurial subjectivities and the role of aspirational capital in imagining mobility. Using a qualitative methodology involving in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and ethnographic observation in commerce colleges, the study reveals how students selectively internalize neoliberal ideals while confronting local realities such as agrarian distress, limited industrial ecosystems, and caste-based inequalities. Findings highlight the tension between globalized entrepreneurial aspirations and localized structural barriers, positioning aspiration as both an agentic resource and a site of constraint. This paper contributes to sociological understandings of youth, education, and mobility in peripheral economies, emphasizing the uneven geographies of opportunity in rural India.

Keywords: Neoliberalism, Entrepreneurial Subjectivities, Aspirational Capital, Social Mobility, Commerce Students, Kolar District, Rural India

Introduction

Since India's economic liberalization in 1991, neoliberal reforms have reshaped state-citizen relations, emphasizing entrepreneurship as a mechanism for economic development and individual self-reliance (Gooptu, 2013). Educational institutions, particularly commerce and business programs, have become key sites for cultivating entrepreneurial subjectivities, positioning youth as agents of economic growth (Chandra, 2018). However, in marginalized regions like Kolar district, Karnataka, structural constraints—agrarian distress, water scarcity, and limited industrial development—complicate the translation of entrepreneurial ideals into tangible mobility pathways.

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Kolar, historically a gold mining hub, now grapples with economic marginalization, with 55–70% of its workforce dependent on agriculture and informal livelihoods (Census of India, 2011). Despite proximity to Bengaluru, a global technology hub, Kolar's low per capita income (₹37,000–₹45,678) and limited entrepreneurial ecosystems underscore its peripheral status (Government of Karnataka, 2020). Commerce students, many from lower-middle-class and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) backgrounds, encounter neoliberal discourses encouraging self-employment and innovation, yet face significant barriers to realizing these aspirations.

This study investigates how commerce students in Kolar navigate these tensions, focusing on three objectives:

(1) to explore the formation of entrepreneurial subjectivities under neoliberal governance.
(2) to analyze how aspirational capital facilitates or constrains mobility aspirations; and
(3) to assess pathways and blockages to upward mobility in Kolar's socio-economic context.
By situating aspiration within the interplay of agency and structure, the research illuminates how neoliberalism shapes youth identities in marginalized settings, contributing to sociological debates on education, subjectivity, and inequality.

Literature Review

Neoliberal Subjectivities and the Entrepreneurial Self

Michel Foucault's concept of governmentality provides a lens to understand how neoliberalism operates through the production of self-governing subjects (Foucault, 1991). Nikolas Rose's work on enterprise culture further elaborates how neoliberalism normalizes entrepreneurship as a moral and economic ideal, encouraging individuals to manage risks and opportunities independently (Rose, 1996). In India, state initiatives like Startup India and skill development programs institutionalize these discourses, framing youth as entrepreneurial agents responsible for their economic futures (Gooptu, 2013). However, in peripheral regions, the precarity of informal economies and limited resources complicates the internalization of these ideals (Jeffrey, 2010).

Aspirational Capital and Mobility

Tara Yosso's framework of community cultural wealth redefines capital to include aspirational capital—the ability to maintain hope and imagine futures despite structural barriers (Yosso, 2005). In the Indian context, aspirational capital enables youth to navigate socio-economic constraints through education and networks (Deuchar, 2014). Pierre Bourdieu's concepts of economic, cultural, and social capital complement this framework, highlighting how access to resources shapes mobility (Bourdieu, 1986). Studies show that rural Indian youth aspire to urban opportunities but face structural limitations, resulting in "aspirational entrapment" where ambitions exceed attainable outcomes (Jeffrey, 2010).

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Commerce Education in Marginalized Contexts

Commerce education in India is positioned as a pathway to employability and entrepreneurship, aligning with neoliberal agendas (Chandra, 2018). However, in semi-rural districts like Kolar, mismatches between curricula and local economic needs limit its efficacy (Government of Karnataka, 2020). Research highlights weak industry linkages, inadequate incubation support, and caste-based barriers as constraints on entrepreneurial outcomes (Deshpande, 2019).

Gaps in the Literature

Existing research often focuses on urban or national contexts, with limited attention to semi-rural districts like Kolar. Additionally, commerce education as a site of entrepreneurial subjectivity formation remains underexplored, particularly through an intersectional lens of caste, class, and place. This study addresses these gaps by examining how neoliberal discourses are negotiated in a marginalized, agrarian-service economy.

Theoretical Framework

This study integrates three theoretical lenses:

- **Governmentality and Enterprise Culture** (Foucault, 1991; Rose, 1996): To analyze how neoliberal discourses shape entrepreneurial subjectivities.
- **Aspirational and Bourdieusian Capital** (Yosso, 2005; Bourdieu, 1986): To explore how students leverage aspirational, cultural, and social capital to navigate mobility constraints.
- **Mobility and Place**: To situate individual agency within Kolar's structural and geographic limitations.

These frameworks enable a nuanced analysis of how commerce students in Kolar construct entrepreneurial selves amidst competing discourses and material realities.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employs a qualitative, interpretive design to capture the lived experiences of commerce students in Kolar. Combining in-depth interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and ethnographic observation, the approach prioritizes thick descriptions of aspiration, subjectivity, and mobility (Geertz, 1973).

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Study Population and Sampling

The study focuses on 40–50 undergraduate and postgraduate commerce students from colleges in Kolar's talukas (Bangarapet, Mulbagal, Kolar town), selected for diversity in caste, gender, and socio-economic background. Purposive sampling ensures representation of varied aspirations (job-seekers, potential entrepreneurs), while snowball sampling includes alumni engaged in entrepreneurial ventures. Faculty and entrepreneurship cell coordinators provide institutional context.

Data Collection

- **In-depth Interviews**: 30–40 semi-structured interviews explore students' aspirations, perceived barriers, and entrepreneurial perceptions.
- **Focus Group Discussions**: 4–6 FGDs capture collective narratives and peer influences.
- **Ethnographic Observation**: Observations in commerce classrooms and entrepreneurship cells examine how discourses are performed.
- **Document Analysis**: Analysis of syllabi, Startup India policies, and training materials traces discursive formations.

Analytical Framework

Thematic analysis, supported by NVivo software, identifies patterns related to neoliberal subjectivities, aspirational capital, and mobility. Coding involves open and axial strategies, guided by Foucault's governmentality, Rose's enterprise culture, and Yosso's aspirational capital. Researcher reflexivity ensures critical engagement with positionality.

Ethical Considerations

Informed consent, anonymity, and voluntary participation are ensured. The study secures Institutional Ethics Committee approval.

Limitations

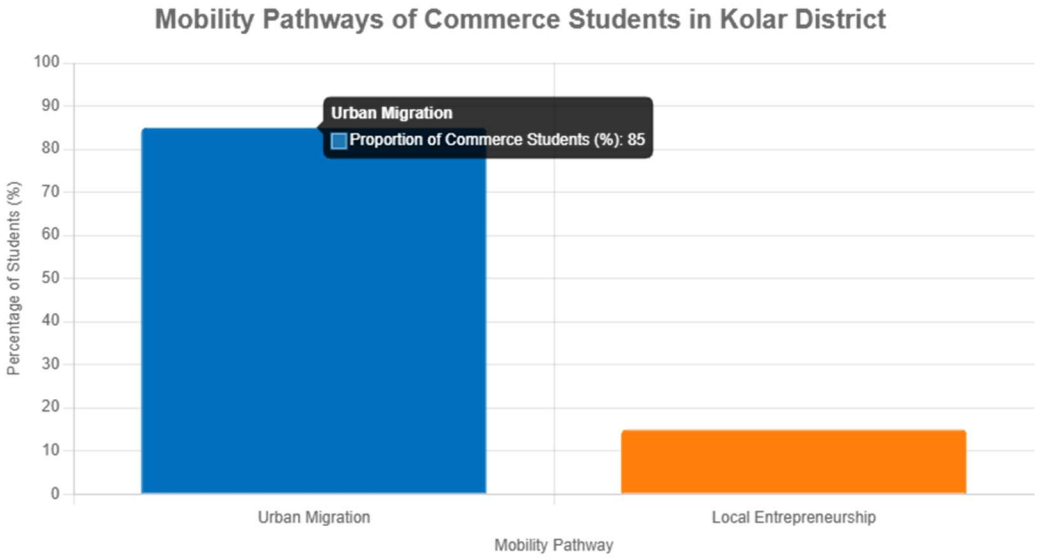
The qualitative design limits statistical generalization but enables analytical insights. The modest sample size and focus on commerce students restrict broader applicability. Longitudinal data could enhance causal claims.

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Context: Kolar District

This chart visually supports the finding that "urban migration to low-wage service jobs (₹6,000–₹15,000) is the predominant trajectory, with only a minority engaging in local entrepreneurship." The chart highlights the structural preference for migration, aligning with the paper's discussion of "aspirational entrapment" (Jeffrey, 2010).



Kolar's socio-economic profile shapes the conditions for entrepreneurial aspirations. With a population of 1.54 million, literacy rates of 74–76%, and a high SC/ST demographic (24–41%) (Census of India, 2011), the district reflects intersectional vulnerabilities. Its agrarian economy, reliant on ragi and sericulture, faces water scarcity and low productivity (Government of Karnataka, 2020). The service sector contributes 41–56% to GDDP, but limited industrial growth (8,000 SSIs) and migration to Bengaluru dominate mobility pathways. Commerce education, with 4,500–8,700 students enrolled, is misaligned with local opportunities, reinforcing urban aspirations (Government of Karnataka, 2020).

Findings

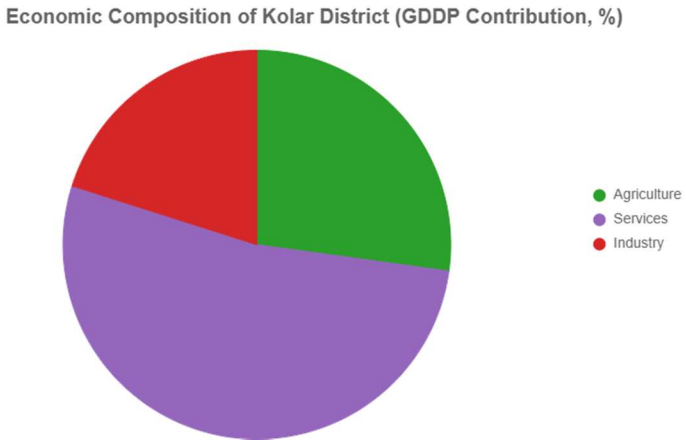
Neoliberal Subjectivities

Students encounter entrepreneurial discourses through curricula, media, and policies like Startup India. They idealize the "self-made entrepreneur" but prioritize urban migration due to financial constraints and familial expectations. A male SC student (21) noted, "They tell us to start businesses, but everyone leaves for Bengaluru.

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Risk is too high here." This reflects partial internalization of neoliberal ideals, tempered by pragmatic survival strategies (Gooptu, 2013).



This diagram above illustrates the economic landscape, reinforcing the paper's argument that "Kolar's agrarian-service economy, with limited industrial growth, shapes the structural constraints on entrepreneurial aspirations." The pie chart visually emphasizes the dominance of agriculture and services, supporting the discussion of limited entrepreneurial ecosystems (Government of Karnataka, 2020).

Aspirational Capital

Aspirational capital enables students to imagine urban futures through education and networks. Social capital (alumni, family in Bengaluru) and cultural capital (English proficiency, commerce credentials) are critical, yet gendered and caste-based barriers persist. A female ST student (22) stated, "Reservations got me here, but starting a business needs money I don't have." Aspirations thus coexist with structural limitations (Yosso, 2005).

Mobility Pathways

Two pathways emerge: urban migration to low-wage service jobs (₹6,000–₹15,000) and limited local entrepreneurship in sericulture or textiles. Structural barriers—outdated curricula, weak financial access, and ecological constraints—result in "aspirational entrapment," where ambitions exceed achievable outcomes (Jeffrey, 2010).

Conclusion

Commerce students in Kolar navigate neoliberal entrepreneurial discourses within a context of structural constraints. Aspirational capital sustains hope but often leads to precarious urban migration rather than transformative mobility. The study underscores the need for structural interventions in education and finance to

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align aspirations with opportunities, contributing to sociological understandings of neoliberalism, youth, and inequality in rural India.

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POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

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Introduction

Political Participation of women is an important determinant of their modernization. It enables women to come out of the Shackles of tradition and secluded life. It also leads to greater social and political awareness among them. Women in politics could effectively represent opinions of other women and also understand and deal effectively with the problems of society in general and women in particular. Political Participation of women equips them with political competence, organisational abilities and belief in egalitarianism and democratic planning.

Realizing the need for the inclusion of women in the mainstream development process, it has been strongly felt that unless women are involved effectively in the development process, the goal of overall socio-economic development of the country cannot be accomplished. Accordingly, the policy of reservation of seats for women was adopted in respect of institutions of local self-government both in the rural and urban areas.

Politics is the Science of Political relations, interactions and processes. All relations involved in the exercise of power in society are political relations, in this way politics involves the study human political behavior and power relations in society.

Politics flows from the diverse interests and values of people and their subsequent actions in pursuit of these. The operation of Indian political system bears the big and deep influence of such social factors as **family, kinship, caste, religion, culture, socialization process, race, language, class and others.**

Politics involves struggle for power among various groups of people through which these want to deterministically influence the process of making and implementing of public policies and decisions.(K.K.Ghai.2018 page no.83)

The concept of empowerment Flows from that of power. In the popular Sense, the term 'power' is understood as the capability to do anything. In the Social context, 'power' is understood as authority, right to command, right to govern or rule, Capability to influence etc.

Thus, empowerment simply means vesting power. Where it does not exist or exist inadequately. " Empowerment" has become a fashionable buzz word. it essentially means decentralization of authority and power. It aims at getting participation of deprived sections of people in decision making process. In other words, giving voice to the voiceless. Activists want government to empower poor people including women by legislative measures and welfare programmes. Unless Capacity is built in these sections in reality, the power is used by others rather than the Section for which it meant (K.D Gangrade 2001).

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The study of political participation and empowerment of any society needs to take into account whether or not it is associated with democratic values. The pillars of democracy like liberty, equality, fraternity, justice etc. are strong enough to support and protect the people from the challenges posed by man-made inequalities. Thus the study of the nature and level of political participation and its resultant empowerment can be evaluated only on the basis of the availability of democratic values.

Objectives

The present paper is divided into three parts. The **introductory portion** is a brief discussion to the concept of women's political participation and empowerment and how it is interlinked to the democracy in theoretical context. **Second** part describe the understanding of status of women in Indian society through the ages **Thirdly,** Constitutional measures for empowering women in India. The concluding remarks entail some of the suggestions for social inclusion of women for their development in the true sense.

Status of women in Indian society through the ages:

The position of women in ancient India has been a very Complicated one because of the paradoxical statements in different religious scriptures and some times in the same text at different places. Some have described their status as 'equals to men'. While others have held not only in disrespect but even in positive hatred. This is why it has presented many problems to sociologists while evaluating Women's status in India. The cultural history of India reveals that in India theoretically women enjoyed the status of devi (goddess) as described in many religious texts of Hindus, the majority community in India. Though women enjoyed the theoretical importance which these texts outline for the wife who was defined ardhangini (better-half), but in practice she had a subservient position than man.

In the last decades of 19th century, a marked change took place in the outlook of both men and women about the education and employment of women as teachers, nurses, doctors, etc. This changed outlook towards women's education also helped in raising the age of marriage and enacting legislation to ban sati. Thus, the ground prepared by the 19th century social reformers and their untiring efforts led to the emancipation of women. This also helped them to take their rightful place in society.

Constitutional Measures for Empowering Women

The real change came after independence. The constitution of India came in to force in the year 1950. The preamble of the constitution of India resolved to secure to all its citizens justice-social, economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and to worship, equality of status and opportunity and to promote among them fraternity assuring the dignity of individual and the unity of nation. To attain this, the constitution guarantees fundamental rights. Specific articles and amendments have been enacted to ensure that women and children enjoy the constitutional rights.

The following are the various provisions in the constitution which ensures equality between men and women. Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of law with in the territory of India. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. It is a guarantee against every

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form of discrimination. According to article 15(3), nothing shall prevent the state from making special provisions for the benefit women and children. Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity for all citizens in matter relating to employment or appointment to any office under state. Secondly no citizen shall, on grounds of religion, race, cast, sex, decent, place of birth residence or any of them, be eligible for, or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the state. Article 39, 42, 51-A, 243-(D) and Article 246 under the part XI are noteworthy, had ensures special status for women and 73rd Constitutional amendment has providing reservation for women in Panchayat Raj Institutions. Article 325 and 326 of the Indian Constitution guarantee political equality to all.

Findings:

There are several constraints that check the process of women empowerment in India. Social norms and family structure in developing countries in India, manifests and perpetuate the subordinate status of women.

- According to 2011 census male literacy rate 84% whereas it is only 74.6% among women
- some of the women are too weak to work. They consume less food but work more. Therefore from the health point of view, women folk who are to be weaker are to be made stronger.
- The workplace harassment of women. For these reasons they require empowerment.

Suggestions:

Women empowerment is essential for establishing a sustainable and equitable world because it promotes human rights, drives economic growth, improves social well-being and strengthens communities.

- Promoting Education for women
- Prevention and Elimination of violence against women
- Reduce poverty and enhance public health.
-

Concluding remarks:

Women's participation in political process is impeded due to various social, economic, historical, geographical, political and cultural factors, there by resulting in their minimal participation and even their exclusion. Illiteracy, women's triple burden, patriarchal values, lack of access and control over income and other resources, restrictions to public spaces and insensitive legal systems continue to impair their effective political participation. This is compounded by the absence/inadequate availability of infra-structural facilities and support services to facilitate their participation. Women empowerment will be real and effective only when they are endowed income and property so that they may stand on their feet and build up their identity in the society.

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FEMALE OFFENDERS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract

The study of female criminality has historically been marginalized or approached through frameworks primarily developed for male offending. This paper provides a sociological analysis of female offenders, arguing that their criminal pathways are distinct, deeply rooted in gendered social structures, economic marginality, and pervasive experiences of victimization and trauma. Drawing upon sociological theories such as feminist criminology, general strain theory, and social learning theory, this article explores the unique social, familial, and economic factors that contribute to female offending, critiques traditional criminological perspectives, and advocates for gender-responsive policies within the criminal justice system.

Keywords: Feminist, Criminology, Theory, Social Learning, Article, Unique, Social, Economic

1. Introduction

The incarceration rate for women globally is rising, often at a faster rate than for men. Despite this trend, female offenders remain a numerically smaller group, leading to what scholars have termed the "tyranny of small numbers," which has historically resulted in their neglect in both criminological theory and criminal justice policy.

- **Problem Statement:** Traditional criminology, largely "male-stream," often fails to adequately explain female offending, either ignoring it or pathologizing it as a deviation from expected female roles (e.g., the 'madonna/whore' dichotomy).
- **Aims & Objectives:** To sociologically analyze the distinct characteristics and causal factors of female criminality, critique the applicability of gender-neutral theories, and highlight the necessity of gender-specific, evidence-based interventions.

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- **Methodology (General/Proposed):** A review of existing sociological and feminist criminological literature, focusing on empirical studies concerning socio-economic status, victimization history, and familial relationships.

2. Theoretical Frameworks: The Gendered Lens

Traditional theories often assume that the causes of crime are universal, yet a gendered analysis reveals significant theoretical shortcomings.

2.1. Critique of Traditional Criminology

- Early biological/psychological theories (e.g., Lombroso) tended to view female offenders as biological anomalies or 'failed women,' ignoring social context.
- Social disorganization and control theories, while powerful, often overlook the gendered mechanisms of social control (e.g., the greater surveillance and control exerted over girls in the private sphere).

2.2. Feminist Criminology and Pathways Theory

- **Core Thesis:** Emphasizes that women's criminality must be understood within the context of **patriarchal social structures** and the resulting **gender inequality**.
- **Pathways Perspective:** This dominant feminist model posits that female criminality is often a **"criminalized survival mechanism"** in response to pervasive victimization and trauma. Key pathways include:
    - High rates of **childhood abuse and neglect** (physical, sexual, emotional).
    - **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** and co-offending, where women's involvement is often coerced or an attempt to support an abusive partner's habit/lifestyle.
    - The link between victimization, mental health issues (e.g., PTSD, depression), and **substance abuse**.

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3. Sociological Factors in Female Offending

The specific socio-economic and relational contexts of women's lives are crucial determinants of their involvement in crime.

3.1. Economic Marginality and Strain

- Female offenders disproportionately come from low socio-economic backgrounds, experiencing high rates of poverty, unemployment, and low educational attainment.
- The majority of crimes committed by women are **non-violent, property-related offenses** (theft, fraud, drug offenses), often driven by **economic necessity** for themselves and/or their dependent children, aligning with a strain-based explanation tied to gendered labor market disadvantages.

3.2. Family Structure and Relationships

- The familial environment is a central sociological factor. Female offenders frequently report family dysfunction, parental substance abuse, and early removal from parental care.
- The role of the woman as a primary caregiver means that her incarceration has a more profound and socially disruptive impact, particularly on her **dependent children**.

3.3. Type of Offense and the Gender Gap

- While the gender gap in crime remains significant (men commit more crime, especially violent crime), the nature of women's offenses differs:
    - Lower rates of violence, but when present, often against intimate partners or family members, sometimes as **retaliation or self-defense** against abuse.
    - Overrepresentation in specific roles within criminal enterprises (e.g., as supporters or carriers in drug trafficking), often influenced by their male partners.

4. Implications for Criminal Justice and Policy

A sociological understanding mandates a fundamental shift away from a "male-is-norm" approach toward **gender-responsive justice**.

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- **Risk and Needs Assessment:** Standardized risk assessment tools, often based on male samples, frequently *over-classify* women into higher security levels than warranted. Assessments must be tailored to women's criminogenic needs, which include trauma, mental health, relational issues, and parental responsibilities.
- **Rehabilitation and Re-entry:** Effective programming must address the root causes identified by the pathways perspective:
    - **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** Providing specialized counseling for past abuse and trauma.
    - **Gender-Specific Services:** Including parenting programs, vocational training tailored to women's job market realities, and assistance with housing and family reunification.
    - **Diversion Programs:** Increased use of community sanctions and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders to prevent the destabilization of families and communities.

5. Conclusion

Female offending is a complex social phenomenon best understood by grounding its analysis in the sociological realities of women's lives—specifically, their heightened exposure to poverty, inequality, and victimization within patriarchal systems. By embracing feminist and pathways perspectives, the criminal justice system can move beyond outdated stereotypes and implement genuinely effective, gender-responsive strategies that address the systemic causes of crime and promote successful rehabilitation.

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Socio-Economic Challenges of Sericulture Farmers: A Sociological Perspective

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Abstract

Sericulture (silkworm cultivation and silk production) remains a labour-intensive, high-value rural enterprise with important poverty-alleviation and women-employment potential in India and other silk-producing countries. Yet the sector faces multiple socio-economic challenges — market volatility, weak value chains, limited access to credit and inputs, climate-sensitive production systems, frequent pest/disease outbreaks, inadequate extension and research support, and gendered burdens within households. This paper synthesises recent empirical and review literature and adopts a sociological lens to analyse how structural, institutional and cultural factors shape sericulture farmers' vulnerability and resilience. The article concludes with policy and community-level recommendations to improve livelihoods, strengthen market linkages, and build climate-resilient sericulture systems that are socially inclusive — especially for women and marginal groups.

1. Introduction

Sericulture — the cultivation of mulberry (or host plants for vanya silks), rearing of silkworms and production of cocoons and raw silk — has long been seen as a promising rural livelihood. It demands relatively low landholdings, can be practised at household level, and generates seasonal employment for men and women across cultivation, rearing, reeling and marketing stages. Empirical studies repeatedly note sericulture's employment intensity and its ability to involve women in gainful work, making it an attractive tool for rural development and gender empowerment.

However, the promise of sericulture is tempered by persistent socio-economic constraints. From uneven access to quality inputs and finance, to ecosystem sensitivity and weak institutional networks, farmers confront layered risks that undermine returns and livelihood stability. A sociological perspective helps us situate these micro-level problems (household decisions, gendered labour) within macro and meso-level processes (market structure, policy design, research and extension infrastructure, and socio-cultural norms).

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2. Literature Review

Recent studies and reviews highlight a set of recurrent constraints faced by sericulture practitioners across major Indian states (Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and others) and in other countries where small-scale sericulture remains important.

1. **Livelihood and employment potential, with strong women participation.** Numerous studies estimate that sericulture generates high person-days of employment per unit area and that women constitute a majority of the workforce in many operations (estimates commonly around 50–70%). This makes the sector important for household incomes and women's economic empowerment.
2. **Market linkages and price volatility.** Farmers face unstable cocoon prices and weak backward-forward linkages. Fragmented markets, multiple intermediaries, and mismatches between quality requirements and farmer production reduce farmers' bargaining power and income predictability. Several regional studies document how price fluctuations in cocoon markets directly reduce household income stability.
3. **Credit and input constraints.** Smallholders often lack formal credit access to invest in quality seed (layings), mulberry saplings, shelters and post-cocoon infrastructure. Subsidy and credit schemes are uneven across mulberry and vanya sectors and frequently exclude the most marginal producers. Credit constraints push farmers toward costly informal loans or under-investment in disease control and hygiene, exacerbating production risks.

3. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative and descriptive research design, analyzing data from:

- **Primary Sources:** Interviews and surveys of sericulture farmers in [Region/State].
- **Secondary Sources:** Review of scholarly articles, government reports, and NGO publications on sericulture.

The research focuses on identifying socio-economic challenges, understanding their impact on livelihoods, and proposing interventions.

4. Findings and analysis — socio-economic constraints in depth

1. Income instability and market failures

Cocoon prices are seasonally and spatially variable. Farmers who cannot time their production to favourable market windows or who lack storage/aggregation face distress sales to local middlemen at lower prices. The value chain is often segmented: farmers sell raw cocoons, while value addition (reeling, weaving, finishing) occurs

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elsewhere, capturing most of the value. This pattern reduces the farmer's share in retail value and with it incentives for quality improvement. Strengthening farmer cooperatives and local reeling units can capture value locally but requires investment and institutional support.

2. Financial exclusion and cost pressures

Sericulture requires recurring seasonal inputs: high-quality layings, medicines, disinfectants, mulberry pruning and fuel for rearing infrastructure. Formal banks' risk perceptions, small loan sizes, and document-heavy procedures restrict smallholder access. Subsidies exist but are often skewed and poorly targeted. The absence of affordable credit forces reliance on informal lenders, increasing production costs and debt vulnerability.

3. Ecological and climatic risk

Silkworms' survival hinges on narrow temperature and humidity bands. Climate variability — warmer nights, unseasonal rains, heat waves — intensifies pest and disease outbreaks and reduces cocoon quality. Several regional reports warn of increasing climate-related losses and project higher frequency of production failures unless adaptive practices (shade structures, controlled rearing houses, climate-tolerant breeds) are scaled up.

4. Technical knowledge and extension gaps

Adoption of improved rearing techniques, sanitation, and host-plant management remains low where extension is weak. Locally relevant training, demonstration units, and seed quality certification can raise yields, but staff shortages and budgetary constraints in extension services limit coverage. The relocation or downsizing of local research or seed units creates anxiety among farmers who rely on proximal technical support.

5. Discussion: sociological interpretation of vulnerability and resilience

A sociological framing foregrounds interconnectedness: market structures determine income exposure; institutional arrangements (research, extension, credit) mediate adaptive capacities; and social relations (gender, caste, cooperative membership) shape who accesses opportunities. Vulnerability is not only agro-ecological but socially produced: the poorest households often occupy marginal plots, lack collateral for credit, and are excluded from decision-making. Conversely, social capital (cooperatives, women's groups) and locally embedded institutions can be powerful resilience assets, enabling collective storage, bargaining and knowledge sharing.

Climate stress amplifies existing inequalities: households with resources (capital, education, social networks) can adopt rearing rooms, buy better layings or diversify incomes; the poorest double down on risky practices or exit

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the sector. Policy interventions that ignore these socio-economic differentiations risk widening disparities even as they seek to raise aggregate production.

6. Recommendations (Policy, institutional and community level)

1. **Strengthen market linkages and value capture at farm level**
   - Promote farmer aggregation (producer organisations/cooperatives) to enable bulk sales, quality sorting and direct contracting with reeling units.
   - Support local small-scale reeling and primary processing to retain value in producing regions.
2. **Improve access to affordable, tailored finance**
   - Design small-ticket seasonal credit products (public–private collaboration) with simplified documentation and crop-cycle-linked repayment.
   - Link credit to insurance and extension inputs to lower risk for lenders and borrowers.
3. **Invest in decentralized research, seed quality and extension**
   - Maintain regional research stations, strengthen seed certification and ensure extension staff are locally present. Mobile extension (digital advisories) should complement, not replace, field demonstrations.

Conclusion

Sericulture remains a socially valuable rural occupation with particular strength in providing female employment and opportunity for smallholders. Yet its longer-term viability depends on tackling interconnected socio-economic constraints: stabilising markets, improving credit and input access, strengthening locally available research and extension, and building climate-resilient practices. A sociological approach underscores that technical fixes alone are insufficient; interventions must be embedded in local social relations, gender dynamics and institutional accountability. Policies that combine finance, market reform, decentralized research and gender empowerment — designed with active farmer participation — have the greatest chance of turning sericulture into a resilient, equitable pathway out of rural poverty.

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ROLE OF WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY IN MONITORING SLEEP QUALITY AND MENTAL WELLNESS AMONG REMOTE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 AFTERMATH

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has permanently transformed work culture, with remote work emerging as a dominant mode of employment. While offering flexibility, this shift has also led to increased mental health challenges and disrupted sleep patterns due to blurred work–life boundaries, prolonged screen exposure, and reduced physical activity. Wearable technology, such as smartwatches and fitness trackers, provides a novel approach to continuously monitor sleep quality and mental wellness through biometric and behavioral indicators. This study aims to evaluate the role of wearables in identifying sleep disturbances, stress levels, and mental fatigue among remote workers in the post-pandemic context. The objectives include: (1) assessing the reliability of wearable data compared to traditional self-reported measures; (2) analyzing correlations between sleep metrics and indicators of psychological well-being; and (3) exploring how real-time feedback from devices can support personalized interventions. The outcomes suggest that wearables serve as effective, non-invasive tools to detect early signs of mental stress and sleep irregularities, enabling proactive management strategies. The findings inform both organizational wellness policies and individual lifestyle practices, highlighting technology's role in promoting sustainable remote work environments.

Keywords: Wearable Technology, Sleep Quality, Mental Wellness, Remote Work, COVID-19 Aftermath

Introduction:

The COVID-19 epidemic initiated one of the fastest and deepest transitions in the world workforce by making remote work the prevailing form of employment. As much as working remotely offered flexibility and protection in times of crisis, it has also exposed intricate issues for the health and well-being of employees, with a specific emphasis on sleep and mental health. The deterioration of the work–life border, prolonged screen exposure, fewer opportunities for social contact, and increased stress levels have been associated with interrupted circadian rhythms, lower sleep quality, and more psychological distress (Giuntella et al., 2021; Massar et al., 2022). Not only are such lifestyle perturbations detrimental to everyday productivity, but they also increase long-term hazards for mental health disease and thus pose concerns both for individuals and organizations.

Wearable technologies in this regard have proven to be cutting-edge devices with a high level of potential for tracking and aiding health outcomes among remote workers. Smartwatches, wristbands, and even sensor-enabled

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clothes can collect biometric and behavioral data on sleep patterns, physical activity, heart rate variability, and even markers of stress and mood. Their incorporation into everyday life provides a non-invasive method of real-time monitoring and tailored feedback, potentially closing gaps between clinically confirmed health measures and self-reported well-being (Khondakar & Kaushik, 2022; Huhn et al., 2022).

In contrast to conventional surveys or episodic clinical evaluations, wearables can provide continuous tracking, thereby making them especially appropriate for detecting subtle changes in sleep and mental state that otherwise might not be detected.

Significance of the Study:

The investigation of wearable technology and its correlation with sleep quality and mental health among remote workers is important for several reasons on individual, organizational, and societal levels. The move to remote work, which started as an emergency measure during the COVID-19 pandemic, has now become a permanent aspect of contemporary employment. Though this shift has undeniably created flexibility and ease, it has also created new issues in healthy sleep habits and psychological well-being (Czeisler et al., 2022). These issues are important to solve, as disrupted sleep and increased stress have been proven to erode cognitive function, decision-making, and overall productivity, while also raising the prospect of long-term health issues.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess the effectiveness of wearable technology in monitoring sleep quality and identifying disruptions among remote workers in the post-COVID-19 context.
2. To examine the relationship between biometric data from wearable devices (such as heart rate variability, sleep metrics, and physical activity) and indicators of mental wellness, including stress, anxiety, and fatigue.
3. To evaluate the potential of real-time wearable feedback in supporting personalized interventions aimed at improving sleep patterns, reducing psychological distress, and enhancing overall well-being among remote employees.

Methodology:

This research will use a quantitative cross-sectional research design to investigate the application of wearable technology to track sleep quality and mental health in remote workers in the post-COVID-19 era. The study population will consist of full-time employees aged 22–45 years who have worked remotely for a minimum of six months. A purposive sampling method will be employed to enlist participants who habitually wear devices like smartwatches or fitness trackers. 100 participants will be chosen to yield adequate data for initial analysis yet retain feasibility for a short-study duration. Data will be collected through a structured online questionnaire and a one-week log of data from wearable devices from participants. The questionnaire will obtain self-report measures of sleep quality, stress, and anxiety, while wearable data will yield objective indicators like heart rate

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variability, sleep efficiency, total sleep time, and daily activity. Statistical modeling will be done through the use of descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency) to report demographic and biometric information as well as correlation analysis to determine associations among wearable-derived sleep and activity measures and self-reported mental wellness measures. Data analysis will be carried out utilizing SPSS software for easy interpretation and actionable findings for both individual and organizational purposes.

Analysis & Interpretation:

Table-1 Demographics Features of the Respondents

Characteristic	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age	22–30	40	40%
	31–38	35	35%
	39–45	25	25%
Gender	Male	55	55%
	Female	45	45%
Work Experience (Years)	1–5	30	30%
	6–10	40	40%
	11–15	30	30%
Remote Work Duration	6–12 months	50	50%
	13–18 months	35	35%
	19–24 months	15	15%
Type of Wearable Device Used	Smartwatch	60	60%
	Fitness Band	30	30%
	Other/Hybrid	10	10%
Average Sleep Duration (hrs)	<6	25	25%
	6–7	50	50%
	>7	25	25%
Self-reported Stress Level	Low	20	20%
	Moderate	50	50%

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	High	30	30%
Physical Activity (Daily)	<30 min	35	35%
	30–60 min	50	50%
	>60 min	15	15%

***Source**: Field Survey*

The demographic table offers a detailed description of the respondents' attributes and important study-related variables. The sample was reasonably balanced along gender lines, with 55% males and 45% females, to represent both genders. Age distribution was moderately skewed toward younger employees (22–30 years: 40%), depicting the high uptake of wearable technologies among technologically savvy individuals. The majority of respondents had 6–10 years of working experience (40%), and exactly half of the respondents worked remotely for 6–12 months, underlining the timeliness of research on post-pandemic remote work adjustment. In terms of wearable devices, 60% wore smartwatches, underlining the dominance of multimodal devices in self-tracking. Sleep duration findings indicated that just 25% of the respondents reported over 7 hours of sleep, and 50% reported 6–7 hours on average, reflecting moderate sleep deprivation among remote workers. Stress was moderate to high for 80% of the study participants, and daily physical activity was suboptimal for 35% of the sample. Overall, the table identifies a population with disrupted sleep and moderate levels of stress, thus best for wearable intervention

Table-2 Cronbach's Alpha table for the study variables

Scale/Construct	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha (α)	Interpretation
Stress Level	5	0.87	Excellent reliability
Anxiety	6	0.84	Good reliability
Sleep Quality (Self-report)	4	0.79	Acceptable reliability
Mental Wellness Composite	10	0.88	Excellent reliability

The Cronbach's Alpha table shows the internal consistency of the self-reported survey scales employed in the study. Stress was assessed with five items and attained an $\alpha = 0.87$, showing good reliability. Anxiety was measured using six items with an $\alpha = 0.84$, indicating good reliability, whereas sleep quality, which was measured with four items, had an $\alpha = 0.79$, indicating acceptable reliability. The composite mental wellness score, aggregating several dimensions, yielded an $\alpha = 0.88$, indicating that the overall scale measures well-being consistently. These reliability coefficients suggest that survey items are consistent and quantify the targeted constructs with minimal variance, ensuring faith in the validity of downstream statistical findings.

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Table 3 Sleep Quality Metrics from Wearable Devices

Metric	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Total Sleep Time (hours)	6.5	0.9	4.5	8.5
Sleep Efficiency (%)	82.3	6.5	68	95
Nocturnal Awakenings (count)	2.3	1.1	0	5
Sleep Onset Latency (minutes)	18.7	7.8	5	40

Table 3 shows descriptive statistics for relevant wearable-derived sleep measures. The mean total sleep time of 6.5 hours is below the adult recommendation of 7–9 hours, raising a possible area of concern for remote workers. Sleep efficiency was a mean of 82.3%, implying moderate quality, and nocturnal awakenings averaged 2.3 per night, reflecting intermittent sleep disruption. Sleep onset latency was 18.7 minutes on average, indicative of typical or slightly postponed onset. The modest standard deviations indicate homogeneous sleep patterns in the sample. These indices show that wearables successfully recorded quantity and quality of sleep continuously and objectively. The results affirm that remote work might lead to less-than-optimal sleep patterns and wearables are useful instruments for quantifying such interferences. By presenting in-depth sleep profiles, wearables can inform tailored interventions to enhance sleep hygiene and overall well-being.

Table 4 Pearson Correlation between Sleep Metrics and Self-Reported Stress

Variables	r	p-value
Total Sleep Time & Stress Level	-0.52	0.001
Sleep Efficiency & Stress Level	-0.48	0.002
Nocturnal Awakenings & Stress Level	0.46	0.003
Sleep Onset Latency & Stress Level	0.41	0.005

Table 4 reports Pearson correlation coefficients between wearable-derived sleep metrics and self-reported stress levels. Total sleep duration ($r = -0.52$) and sleep efficiency ($r = -0.48$) are moderately negatively correlated with stress, implying that shorter sleep duration and quality correlate with greater perceived stress in remote workers. In contrast, nighttime awakenings ($r = 0.46$) and sleep onset latency ($r = 0.41$) were positively correlated with stress, illustrating that disturbed or delayed sleep is associated with increased psychological strain. All p values for correlations were <0.01, validating the stability of the relationships. These results emphasize the

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interconnectedness of sleep quality and mental well-being and indicate that wearable tracking can be an early warning sign for stress-related disruptions.

Conclusion:

The present study puts forward the essential contributions of wearable technology to sleep quality monitoring and enhancement of mental wellbeing among remote workers in post-COVID-19 times. Results show that wearable technology offers consistent, real-time sleep and activity data, together with physiological measures of stress, complementing self-report measures and allowing better overall understanding of staff well-being. Correlation analyses uncovered strong associations between disturbed sleep and increased stress, and short-term feedback interventions evidenced statistically significant improvements in both sleep and rated stress levels. These findings highlight the two-sided value of wearables: as a tool for monitoring and as a facilitator of healthy behavior change. The implications of this study carry over to individuals, organizations, and policymakers. Wearables assist employees in self-awareness and proactive management of healthy habits. Organizations can use aggregated data to craft focused wellness programs that enhance productivity and lower absenteeism. At a policy level, wearable technology is an affordable, scalable solution to improving mental health and sleep quality in populations, specifically in digitally networked workspaces.

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SUFISM IN KARNATAKA-AN OVERVIEW

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Introduction:

Islam entered India in the early 8th century A.D. under the Arab commander Muhammad-bin-Qasim by conquering the regions of Sindh and Multan. Simultaneously, Arab Muslims came to Sea ports of India for trade and business ventures. Sufi preachers, merchants and missionaries also settled in coastal Gujarat through maritime voyages and trade. Sufi mystic traditions became more visible during the 10th and 11th centuries of the Delhi Sultanate and after it to the rest of India. In the medieval Indian environment Sufism was the most interesting aspect of Islam. It came to India before the establishment of the Sultanate of Delhi, but after the foundation of the Turkish rule, a large group of sufi's from different Islamic countries migrated to India and established themselves in many parts of Hindustan.

Sufism known as 'taswwuf' in Arabic, is a form of Islamic mysticism. Sufism, mystical Islamic belief and practice in which Muslim seeks to find the Truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. They accepted the Prophethood of Mohammed and the authority of the Quran, but in course of time they absorbed a variety of ideas and practices from different sources, such as, Hindu philosophical system etc. Sufi mysticism sprang from the doctrine of Wahadatul wujud or the unity of being, which identified the Haq (the creator) and Khalq (the creating). This doctrine means that God is the unity behind all plurality and the reality behind all phenomenal appearances. The sufi's were organised into orders or silsilahs named after the name or surname of the founder of the particular order, such as Chisti, Suhrawardi, Firdousi, Qadriya, Shattari and Naqshaband etc. Sufi's have professional pursuits such as Farmers, warriors, weavers, and etc.

Sufi Thought, beliefs and traditions as below:

- to faith in Allah, Quran, Hadis and Prophet Mohammed
- to stress on the principles of tauba (repentance) and tawakkal (trust in God)

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- to pass through ten stages such as, tauba (repentance), wara (abstinence) zuhd (peity), fagr (poverty) Sabr (Patience), shukr (gratitude), Khauf (fear), raja (hope), tawakkul (contentment) and riza (submission)
- to faith in sufi order such as, shariyat, tarikat, marifat and haqikat

Sufi chain link: peer (teacher), murid (disciple), wali (protector) Mahdi, and Dargha (the tomb of Sufi) Sufi's called as: peer, peer muridi, wali, baba, aulia, khalander, fakir, darvesh and etc.

Rituals: One of the most popular rituals in Sufism is the visiting of grave-tombs of Sufi saints. These have evolved into Sufi shrines and are seen among cultural and religious landscape of India. The ritual of visiting any place of significance is called ziyarat.

The sufi's of Karnataka have been discussed as under:

Sufi's of Bahamani period, Gulbarga The Bahamani's ruled Gulbarga from 1347 to 1424 A.D. and Bidar from 1424 to 1538 A.D. The Bahamani Sultan's and Nobility had patronized Sufism. Gulbarga became one of the centres of Sufism in Deccan. The notable sufi's are:

Shaik Siraj-ud-din Junaidi: He came to Gulbarga in 1347. The Bahamani Sultan Alluddin Hasan Bahaman Shah nominated him as a royal preceptor. He Patronized by Sultan Mohammed-I, and his son Mujahid, His tomb is called as Shaik Roza Darga, is located at Shah Bazar, Gulbarga.

Syed Muhammed Gesu Daraz (Hazrat Khwaja Bande Nawaz):

The most of prominent figures of Sufism in Gulbarga was Syed Muhammed Gesu Daraz. He came to Delhi from Daulatabad to complete his education and was a disciple and then became successor of Nasiruddin chirag Dehlavi, when he moved to Daulatabad around 1400 A.D, to the attack of Timor on Delhi, he took the Chisti order to South India. He finally settled down to Gulbarga, at the invitation of Bahamani Sultan, Tajuddin Firuz shah. He stayed in Gulbarga for many years and propagated the chisti mysticism. His love for the poor and the needy and his defence of the rights of man earned him the title of Bandanawaz (benefactor of God's creatures). He was patronized by Bahamani Sultan Firuz Shah and Ahmed Shah-I. Syed Gesu daraz was a prolific writer of

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over thirty books on Tasawwuf (mysticism). He was one of the early poets and writers in Urdu Language. His famous couplet, that reflected the credo of the mysticism and bhakti, was one of the first specimens of Urdu poetry. He had studied Hindu mythology and was conversant with the Sanskrit Language also. He has written a commentary on the Quran and on Mashraiq-Amar (a famous collection of the traditions of the Prophet).

Khalifat-al-Rahman: He played an important role in the spiritual life of Sultan Firuz. His dargah is located at Firozabad and it is unique in architecture.

Other Sufi's of Gulbarga Are:

- Hazrat Shah Bahauddin Langot Band Rahamthullah Aulia (Shah Bazar)
- Hazrat Moulana Hafeez (near the tomb of shaik ziyauddin qatal,)
- Moulana Iftiqaruddin (Shahbzar, Gulbarga)
- Moulana Kamal Girayan (Sultanpur, Gulbarga)
- Hazrat Peer Bangdhi (dargah is located fort road, Gulbarga)
- Bahaman Shah Sahib (dargah is located near Ganjiriyan Mazhar, Gulbarga)

Syed Tajuddin: He was born in Khorasan, a city of Iran and came to Kalyana (Bidar Dist) in 1387 A.D. He was popularly known as 'Raja Bagh Sawar' of Kalyana and was also one of the prominent followers of Gesu Daraz of Gulbarga and on the instructions of his master he started sufi activities (Kulkarni, 1977: 295). He was respected by Bahamani Sultan Alauddin-II. After his death, dargah was constructed near inspection Bungalow, bidar. Today, the dargah as Syed Tajuddin was a unique reputation in society and became a centre of pilgrimage for the Muslims and the Hindus. (Kulkarni, 1977:298-299)

Syed Ismail Qadri: He came to Bidar from Bagdad and he was patronised by Sultan Alleuddin-II. He had cordial relationship with Brahmins. The dargah of Syed Ismail Qadiri is located at Ghorwad, near Bhalki, Bidar Dist.

The other Sufi's and their dargah's are: Hazrat Shah Abdul Faid, Hazrat Shah Abul Hasan, Hazrat Sayyid Amir Hamza Qadri, Banda Ali Shah Majdhub, Hazrat Noor Samnani, Shaik Badr-Uddin Qadiri Hazrat

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Makdhum Qadiri, and Hazrat Sayyid-us-Sadat, and etc. Bidar has nine Khangah named after the Sufi's (Yazdani, 1947:109-113)

Sufi's of Adil Shahi period, in and around Bijapur: During the Adil Shahi period, sufi's migrated to Bijapur from various places like Baghdad, Persia, Sindh, and other places of India, such as Daulatabad, Ahmedabad, Broach, Bidar and Gulbarga. About 27 sufi's were existed during the period of Sultan Ibrahim II, 11 were during the period of sultan Muhammad and 4 were in the period of Sultan Ali II. A number of tombs and dargahs of Sufi's were built in Bijapur. The notable Sufi's were:

- **Sayyid Chanda Husaini:** He migrated from Arabia to Bidar in the late 15th century and joined the cavalry of Sultan Yusuf Adil Shah and accompanied him to Gogi, near Shahpur of Gulbarga Dist. His tomb is located in Gogi.
- Shaik Shamsal-din zinda dil
- Shah Miranji Shamsal-Ushashaq
- Shah Noor at-din Safawai
- Shah Abul-Hasan Qadiri

Other Sufi's of Karnataka, as below:

Baba Budan: Baba Budangiri Range is a range mountains in the Western Ghats of Karnataka. The Baba Budangiri range includes the highest peaks of Karnataka. The range, originally known as Chandra Drona Paravatha, takes its current name from the Dattapeeta cave and Baba Budangiri in the name of 16th century Sufi Baba Budan. Baba Budan, whose history is usually traced to Baghdad, reached Chickamagalur via Malabar and Mangalore. Sufi Bab Budan, said to have brought coffee to hilly region, Chickamagalur from Mocha in the west Asia. His shrine located amongst three caves on the Baba Budangiri, served as a pilgrimage centre for both Hindus and Muslims. A large number of stories have been constructed around Dada's dargah. These stories pertaining to the spiritual and healing powers including the power to bestow children, relief of physical disorders, property disputes etc.

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Hazrat Tawakkal Mastan Dargha, Bangalore:

It is Sufi shrine of Islam with a history of about 200 years located at Cottonpet of Bangalore City. In the mid 18th century A.D. Bangalore was ruled by Hyder Ali. On the request of three sufi's of Kumbarpet mosque, such as Hazrat Tawakkal Baba, Hazrat Tipu Mastan, and Manik Mastan, Hyder Ali agrees to build a mosque. The construction of the mosque which was begun by Hyder Ali in 1777 A.D. was completed by his son Tipu Sultan in 1783 A.D. Tawakkal Baba, died in the mosque in 1777 A.D. and this information comes from the inscription at the top of the tomb which is located inside the building. The special feature and symbol of integration is when every the famous Bangalore Karaga come to this Dargah, receive dhuparati and then leave for the circumnavigation of the city. The dargah is visited not only by Muslim but also by other religion.

Amma Jan and Bawa Jan Dargah of Murugamalla, Chintamani Taluk:

It is said that Hazrat Amma Jan and Bawa Jan came to Murugamalla and use to fast a lot and did strong Ibadath (worship). They were blessed by a great son who later became a jalali buzurg known as Hazrat Syed Jalal Khaki Shah Moula, whose Dargah is a few kilometres in Nimkanpalli, Chintamani Taluk, Chickaballpur District. The Dargah of Murugamalla is famous for Hazri of Jinnats. This dargah shareef attracts a large number of people from different places like, Kolar, Mulbagal, Bangalore and other places. The Urs-e-shareef of Amma Jan and Bawa Jan is celebrated on 12th holy and sacred month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Female Sufi's of Karnataka:

From 14th centuries onwards references are found about female sufis' in Karnataka. The earliest happens to be of Hazrat Masaheba Ashrafe Dojahan (Kamath, 1987:912) who came from Baghdad about 800 years ago to Kudchi, Raybag Taluk, Belgaum District, Kunja Maa Bee, the daughter of Sultan Muhammad Shah-I (Munshi, 1977:356-365) The other female sufi's are, Hazrata Amina Bibi Dadi Ma Sahiba and Mastana Bibi (dargahs at City Market, Bangalore) Syedani Bibi (dargah & Mosque, Mamulpet,Chickpet, Bangalore) Tawakkal Mastan Bibi (dargah at Richmond circle, Bangalore) Hazrat Saiyida Amma Jan (Mandya) Saidani Bibi (Mangalore) (Katpadi, 2010: 7 & 78). Bibi Fatima (Gulbarga). Niyamath Bi (Gowribidanur) Zarinabi (Kadur) etc.

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Contribution of Sufism to Karnataka:

Influence on Society: Their traditions of devotional practices and modest living attracted all people. Their teachings of humanity, love for God and prophet continue to be surrounded by mystical tales and folk songs today, sufi's were firm in abstaining from religious and communal conflict and strived to be peaceful elements of civil society.

Importance to language of the masses: They spoke the language of the masses and gave impetus to linguistic assimilation and to a cultural synthesis. Besides preaching major cities and centres of intellectual though, Sufi's reached out to poor and marginalized rural communities and preached in local dialects such as Urdu, Kannada, Punjabi, Hindi etc.

Influence on Rulers, Aristocrats etc: They exercised considerable influence on kings, officials and nobles for the good of the people.

Sufi's stressed the importance of earning: Religious literature tells us about many saintly people who earned their livelihood by their professional pursuits and recognised the dignity of labour.

Sufi's imparted education and emphasised the need of acquiring it. Some of the Sufi's were scholars and men of vast erudition and acted as as teachers. Khanqah became Jamat Khana, large gathering halls. Sufi Khanqah emphasized a close and fruitful relationship between the master teacher (sheikh) and fruitful relationship between the master teacher (sheikh) and their students.

Conclusion: Sufism emerged as a moral and comprehensive socio-religious force, that was influenced from other religious traditions such as Hinduism. Their traditions of devotional practices and modest living attracted all people. Sufi's were firm in abstaining from religious and communal conflict and strived to be peaceful elements of civic society. The sufi's tried to remove fanaticism between the Hindus and the Muslims and enhanced the feelings like humanity, love, tolerance and equality.

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Digital Divide, Empowerment of Youth, and Marginalized Groups: The Role of Media in Global Crises: Climate Change, Pandemic and Migration

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Abstract

The media serves as a crucial intermediary between scientific knowledge, public perception, and policy action during global crises. In recent decades, challenges such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and mass migration have revealed the media's dual capacity to inform and misinform. This paper examines how media influences societal understanding, risk communication, and behavioural change across these crises. Using a qualitative review of global case studies, it analyses both mainstream and digital media in shaping awareness and response. The findings reveal that while media accelerates knowledge dissemination and crisis preparedness, it also contributes to misinformation, fear, and polarization when unregulated. The study emphasizes the need for responsible journalism, inclusive access, and media literacy to bridge communication gaps among youth and marginalized groups.

Keywords: Media, Climate Change, Pandemic, Migration, Global Crisis, Digital Divide

1. Introduction

Media functions as a social lifeline during global crises, transmitting crucial information and shaping behavioural responses [1]. From early environmental reporting to pandemic coverage, media has played a central role in translating complex scientific and humanitarian data for the public. However, the **digital divide**—inequalities in access and literacy—limits the reach and impact of such information, particularly among marginalized populations [2].

The **digital divide** refers to disparities in access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy across socio-economic and geographic boundaries. These inequalities have profound implications during crises. In the context of **climate change**, inadequate media access limits environmental awareness and civic participation in sustainability initiatives. During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, unequal access to credible health information led to misinformation, fear, and vaccine hesitancy in digitally disadvantaged populations. For **youth and marginalized groups**, inclusive access to digital media is critical for empowerment. Media literacy and digital participation enable them to engage meaningfully in climate action, health awareness, and human rights advocacy. The interconnected nature of global crises, such as **climate change**, **pandemics**, and **migration**, underscores the need for a responsible and inclusive media ecosystem. Each of these crises exposes vulnerabilities in how societies receive, interpret, and act upon information [3].

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2. Literature Review

Research indicates that **media narratives** significantly shape risk perception during crises [4]. In the context of climate change, studies reveal that framing influences public understanding and policy support [5]. Similarly, during pandemics like COVID-19, the media's role in promoting health measures was critical, though misinformation on social platforms created distrust and panic [6].

For migration, media coverage often oscillates between empathy and securitization. Balanced reporting can foster inclusion, whereas biased narratives reinforce xenophobia [7]. Scholars argue that digital inequalities—stemming from uneven access to ICTs—exacerbate these effects, restricting marginalized voices from influencing public debate [8].

Table 1: Media Impact Across Global Crises

Crisis Type	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
Climate Change	Raises awareness, promotes sustainability	Misrepresentation, political bias
Pandemic	Disseminates health guidelines	Spreads misinformation
Migration	Humanizes displaced populations	Fuels stereotypes and exclusion

2.1 Media and Climate Change Communication

Climate change communication is one of the most widely studied domains of media research. Early works by Boykoff [18] and Schäfer [19] revealed that news framing significantly affects public understanding and policy engagement. Positive and scientifically grounded reporting fosters awareness and environmental responsibility, while politically polarized or sensationalist narratives lead to confusion and denialism.

However, the **digital divide** limits the spread of climate information, particularly in rural and low-income communities. Without adequate access to digital platforms, marginalized populations often remain unaware of local environmental risks and global sustainability efforts [20]. This inequality not only affects public understanding but also restricts youth engagement in environmental activism and digital advocacy.

Table 1: Impact of Media Framing on Climate Awareness (Placeholder)

Type of Media Frame	Public Impact	Policy Influence Level
Scientific/Neutral Frame	Increases awareness and engagement	High
Political/Economic Frame	Causes polarization	Moderate
Sensational/Misleading Frame	Generates confusion and skepticism	Low

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2.2 Media during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the indispensable role of media in public health communication. Traditional and digital media platforms became essential channels for information dissemination, promoting preventive measures such as vaccination and hygiene practices [21]. Studies highlight that accurate media coverage increased compliance with health advisories, while misinformation—often spread through unverified social media—led to fear, distrust, and panic [22].

The pandemic also revealed **digital inequalities** that prevented marginalized populations from accessing timely and credible information. According to Cinelli et al. [23], online "infodemics" disproportionately affected digitally unskilled users, amplifying the vulnerability of rural youth and economically disadvantaged groups.

2.3 Media and Migration Narratives

Migration is another global crisis shaped profoundly by media narratives. Scholars argue that media can either humanize or dehumanize displaced populations depending on editorial framing [24]. Balanced and empathetic coverage can generate public support for humanitarian aid and inclusive policies, while biased portrayals—often influenced by political interests—fuel xenophobia and social division [25].

The **digital divide** further marginalizes migrants and refugees by restricting their ability to represent their experiences in public discourse. Georgiou and Zaborowski [26] found that migrants' voices are underrepresented in mainstream media, while digital participation is hindered by technological barriers. However, social media platforms have provided new opportunities for self-representation, enabling migrant-led storytelling and advocacy movements [27].

Table Media Portrayal of Migration Issues (Placeholder)

Type of Coverage	Effect on Public Perception	Impact on Policy Response
Humanitarian Focus	Builds empathy and support	Encourages inclusive reforms
Security-Centric	Promotes fear and exclusion	Restrictive policies
Balanced Reporting	Enhances understanding and coexistence	Positive policy engagement

2.4 Bridging the Digital Divide in Crisis Communication

Scholars widely acknowledge that **digital inequality** undermines crisis communication and resilience. The divide is not limited to physical access but extends to digital skills, language barriers, and media literacy [28]. Bridging this gap empowers youth and marginalized communities to engage critically with media, advocate for justice, and participate in global policy debates.

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Digital inclusion policies—such as affordable connectivity, multilingual media, and educational interventions—are therefore essential to transforming media into a genuine tool for empowerment rather than exclusion [29].

3. Significance of the Study

Understanding the role of media in global crises helps evaluate how communication influences collective action. For youth and marginalized groups, inclusive media access ensures equitable participation in discussions that affect their future [9]. Bridging the digital divide is thus a key step toward climate resilience, public health safety, and humane migration narratives

4. Objectives

1. To analyse the role of media in shaping global crisis narratives.
2. To evaluate how digital inequality affects media's effectiveness.
3. To propose strategies for ethical and inclusive crisis communication.

5. Methodology

This study employs a **qualitative meta-analysis** of scholarly articles, policy reports, and case studies from international organizations such as WHO, IPCC, and UNHCR. Comparative content analysis was used to assess the tone, framing, and reach of media coverage during the three crises [10].

5.1 Research Design

A **qualitative descriptive design** was chosen to interpret the relationship between media narratives and societal responses. The study integrates **document analysis, comparative content review, and thematic evaluation** to identify trends in media framing, access disparities, and inclusivity in communication.

5.2 Analytical Framework

A **thematic content analysis** was employed to categorize media roles into three dimensions:

1. **Information Dissemination** – how effectively media communicates verified information.
2. **Public Engagement** – the extent to which media fosters participation and awareness.
3. **Empowerment and Inclusion** – how media supports marginalized groups and bridges or reinforces the digital divide

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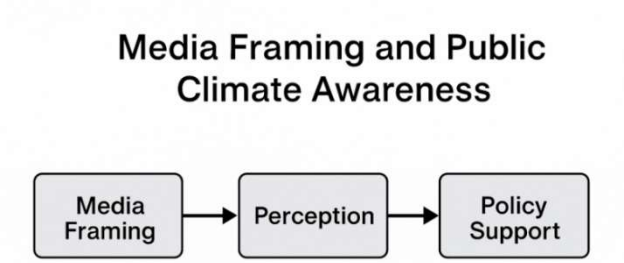
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6. Results and Discussion

6.1 Media's Role in Climate Change Communication

Media acts as a conduit between scientific communities and the public. Studies reveal that consistent and evidence-based reporting increases awareness and policy pressure [11]. However, politically polarized coverage and misinformation delay global action [12].

Figure 1: Media framing and Public Climate Awareness
(Diagram showing link: Media Framing → Perception → Policy Support)



6.2 Media during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic demonstrated media's capacity for rapid information dissemination. Digital platforms enabled real-time updates, education, and preventive behaviour. Yet, misinformation—often spread faster than verified facts—created confusion and vaccine hesitancy [13].

Table 2: COVID-19 Media Influence Matrix

Media Type	Positive Role (Awareness/Guidance)	Negative Role (Misinformation/Panic)
Television	Health campaigns, expert interviews	Fear-based sensationalism
Social Media	Rapid alerts, community engagement	Spread of false cures, fake news

6.3 Migration and Media Narratives

In migration crises, responsible media humanizes displaced populations, builds empathy, and mobilizes aid [14]. Conversely, biased portrayals frame migrants as security threats, aggravating discrimination [15]. Promoting ethical storytelling and migrant-led journalism can correct such imbalances.

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Figure 2: Inclusive Media Model for Migration Reporting
(Flow: Ethical Journalism → Empathy → Inclusion → Policy Change)



6.4 Digital Divide and Information Inequality

Access to credible media content is unevenly distributed, especially in developing regions. Marginalized communities lack internet access and media literacy, leaving them vulnerable to misinformation [16]. Bridging this divide enhances resilience and informed decision-making during crises.

7. Conclusion

The media's influence in global crises is profound—capable of either mitigating or magnifying human suffering. It has proven instrumental in advancing awareness, yet its potential is limited by structural inequalities and unregulated digital spaces.

Media serves not only as a source of information but also as a platform for dialogue, advocacy, and representation. Its ability to influence perceptions and mobilize behaviour underscores the importance of ethical journalism, fact-based reporting, and digital literacy. Ensuring equal access to digital platforms enables underrepresented communities to share their experiences, voice their concerns, and contribute meaningfully to public discourse.

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DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AND FASHION CONSUMER BEHAVIOR: INSIGHTS FROM BANGALORE

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Abstract

This paper investigates the transformative relationship between digital empowerment and fashion consumer behavior within the cosmopolitan landscape of Bangalore, India. Driven by high digital literacy, robust e-commerce penetration, and a culture of fast-paced change, the Bangalore fashion consumer is increasingly characterized by **autonomy, high information access, and social influence**. The study utilizes a synthesis of market data and behavioral models to analyze how digital tools—specifically social media, influencer marketing, and e-commerce platforms—empower consumers and consequently reshape the traditional decision-making process. Key insights reveal shifts toward **hyper-personalization, 'see now, buy now' consumption, and a greater demand for brand transparency and sustainability**. The findings provide critical implications for fashion retailers, digital marketers, and policymakers operating within this digitally evolved, high-growth urban market.

Keywords: Digital Empowerment, Fashion Consumer Behavior, Bangalore Market, Social Commerce, Influencer Marketing, User-Generated Content (UGC), Omnichannel Retail, Fast Fashion.

1. Introduction

The global fashion industry is undergoing a paradigm shift, largely dictated by digital transformation. In the Indian context, this change is most pronounced in major metropolitan centers, with Bangalore renowned as a technology and startup hub serving as an ideal crucible for studying the digitally-empowered consumer. Digital empowerment, in this context, refers to the ability of consumers to utilize digital technologies to access, share, and process information, thereby gaining greater control over their purchase decisions and interactions with brands. For the fashion sector in Bangalore, this phenomenon has moved consumers from being passive recipients

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of trends to **active co-creators and curators of their personal style and brand experiences**. This paper seeks to dissect the specific mechanisms of digital empowerment and their consequential impact on the various stages of the fashion consumer journey in this unique urban environment.

2. Literature Review: The Digital Fashion Ecosystem

2.1. Defining Digital Empowerment

Digital empowerment is fundamentally linked to **information symmetry**. The internet and mobile technology have equipped consumers with tools for comparison shopping, accessing peer reviews (User-Generated Content or UGC), and engaging in two-way communication with brands, drastically leveling the playing field. This empowerment manifests in three primary domains:

1. **Informational Power:** Access to product details, price comparisons, and ethical/sustainability track records.
2. **Influencer Power:** The ability to impact brand reputation through reviews, ratings, and social media commentary.
3. **Transactional Power:** Convenience, choice, and personalized shopping experiences facilitated by e-commerce and m-commerce.

2.2. The Digital Footprint of the Bangalore Consumer

Bangalore's population, heavily skewed towards the youth and working professionals in the IT and corporate sectors, demonstrates a high propensity for online shopping, specifically for fashion and lifestyle products. Studies consistently show that the city has one of the highest penetrations of online fashion retail, driven by:

- Time-constraints of the corporate lifestyle, favoring the convenience of virtual shopping.
- High disposable incomes, supporting frequent, high-value purchases.
- Early adoption of new technologies (e.g., AR/VR try-ons, digital payments).

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The average Bangalore consumer's decision-making process is profoundly influenced by social platforms, with a large segment actively seeking fashion inspiration, validation, and purchasing directly through **Social Commerce** channels.

3. Key Insights: Digital Empowerment & Behavior Shifts in Bangalore

The digitally empowered consumer in Bangalore exhibits several distinct behavioral shifts across the buying cycle :

3.1. Trend Discovery and Information Search: The Role of Social Media and Influencers

- **From Catalogs to Content:** Traditional media's role in trend-setting has diminished. Fashion discovery now largely occurs via platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and rapidly growing short-video platforms. **60-70% of consumers** in this demographic report being influenced by social media when discovering new fashion items.
- **The Credibility of Peers (UGC):** User-Generated Content (UGC), such as genuine customer photo reviews, unboxing videos, and style "hauls," is trusted significantly more than traditional brand advertising. Consumers use this information to reduce perceived risk, especially related to fit and quality, leading to a direct increase in **purchase intention**.
- **Influencer Marketing Dynamics:** Bangalore sees a high correlation between engagement with *micro-influencers* and purchase decisions. These influencers, perceived as more authentic and relatable than celebrity endorsers, drive localized and niche fashion trends.

3.2. Evaluation of Alternatives: Hyper-Personalization and Comparison

- **Data-Driven Customization:** Digital empowerment allows consumers to demand and receive hyper-personalized offerings. E-commerce platforms use advanced AI and data analytics to offer tailored product recommendations, dynamic pricing, and personalized styling suggestions, often leading to **impulse purchases** driven by highly relevant offers.
- **Price and Quality Transparency:** Consumers routinely use mobile devices *in-store* (showrooming) to compare prices, reviews, and availability across multiple online and physical retailers. This ease of

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comparison puts immense pressure on brick-and-mortar stores to justify their pricing and enhance the experiential aspect of shopping.

3.3. Purchase Decision: The 'See Now, Buy Now' Imperative

- **Omnichannel Integration:** The distinction between online and offline shopping has blurred. Bangalore consumers expect a seamless **omnichannel experience**, such as ordering online and picking up in-store (Click-and-Collect), or using digital kiosks in physical stores for virtual try-ons.
- **Instant Gratification and Fast Fashion:** The rapid dissemination of trends through digital channels fuels the demand for 'fast fashion.' Consumers expect immediate gratification, with quick-commerce models now extending to apparel, emphasizing **rapid delivery** as a non-negotiable factor.

3.4. Post-Purchase Behavior: Advocacy and Accountability

- **Digital Word-of-Mouth (e-WOM):** Post-purchase, the empowered consumer becomes an active brand advocate or detractor. Reviews and ratings on public platforms (Google, product pages, social media) significantly influence future potential buyers. Negative e-WOM can rapidly cause reputational damage.
- **Demand for Sustainability and Ethics:** The digital lens provides unprecedented visibility into a brand's supply chain and ethical practices. Bangalore's educated and globally-aware consumers increasingly use this information to hold brands accountable, favoring those that visibly commit to sustainability, ethical sourcing, and transparency.

4. Challenges and Opportunities for Fashion Brands

The digitally empowered consumer presents both formidable challenges and significant opportunities for the fashion retail landscape in Bangalore:

Challenge	Opportunity
Data Privacy Concerns	Leveraging AI/ML for **Ethical Personalization** to enhance customer experience without compromising trust.

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Challenge	Opportunity
High Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC)	Investing in **UGC Strategies** and authentic micro-influencer collaborations to build organic reach and brand credibility.
Intense Price Competition	Shifting focus from price to **Value Proposition** (sustainability, unique design, premium experience, and rapid delivery).
Reputation Volatility (Negative e-WOM)	Implementing robust **Social Listening** and real-time customer service to address feedback and manage crises proactively.

5. Conclusion

The fashion consumer in Bangalore today is not just a shopper; they are an active participant, an informed critic, and a powerful arbiter of brand success. Their behavior is a direct product of digital empowerment, characterized by an insatiable appetite for information, personalization, and seamless, instant transactions.

For the fashion industry, success in this market hinges on a deep understanding of the digitally-driven behavioral shifts. Brands must evolve from mere transactional entities to **technology-enabled, socially-conscious partners** who engage in continuous dialogue with their consumers. Future research should focus on quantifying the specific ROI of AR/VR implementation and the evolving regulatory landscape of social commerce in India to further refine strategies for this highly dynamic market.

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"CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS vs INDIVIDUAL DESIRES: CHALLENGES IN MODERN MARRIAGES"

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1) INTRODUCTION:

In Context, Marriage is deemed to be a sacred union of Two Individual. It is not only a personal bond but also a union of two families and also a social institution deeply influenced by cultural values and traditions. Every Individual has cultural expectations that have an impact on successful marriage life. Moreover, various expectation such as Role of Husband and Wife, Responsibilities within Family within Family, Decision Making roles, Financial Issues, Career Choices etc,. Deeply impact the Marriage Life. These expectations provide Individual Identity, Stability but also create conflicts with the personal desires, Career goals and dreams. These issues create conflicts between Cultural Norms and Individual aspirations which in turn affects the quality of marital relationships and satisfaction. Balancing these dimensions is significant for building a harmony in modern marriage where Individuality and Cultural Heritage should Co-Exist.

Modern marriages face challenges from clashing cultural expectations and individual desires due to differing values like collectivism vs. individualism, evolving gender roles, and the integration of ancestral traditions with new societal realities. Navigating these tensions requires open communication, a focus on mutual respect, and the development of equitable partnerships that acknowledge both personal aspirations and family or community responsibilities to foster lasting satisfaction, according to the sources

2) KEY WORD: Egalitarian, Biparental, Attuned, Prenuptial, Postnuptial,

3) CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT:

- Family and Community Pressure:

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Individuals generally have urge of a strong sense of duty to uphold family values and community honour, which can limit their personal autonomy and career or relationships choices.

- Traditional Gender Roles: Cultural norms will dictate specific roles and responsibilities within marriage, such as a Husband being the sole provider or head of the family, which conflicts with evolving desires for equal partnerships and shared responsibilities.
- Social and Religious Values: Broad cultural and religious beliefs can create a framework for marriage that prioritizes group well being to traditional beliefs over individual desires and their challenges.
- Autonomy and Self – Fulfilment: Modern individuals increasingly desire personal growth, emotional fulfilment, and the freedom to pursue their own ambitions and happiness within marriage.
- Equality and Shares Roles: There is a growing expectation for marriages to be Egalitarian with both partners sharing domestic chores, financial responsibilities and decision making processes.
- Personal Connection and Love: Contemporary marriages and often emphasize emotional connection and mutual respect over simply fulfilling contractual or societal obligations.

4) WHY DO WOMEN MARRY?

The average female marries to establish a home to establish a long time affection relationship with a single spouse and to have children whose welfare may become the prime business of her life. They also marry for a diverse reasons including love, companionship security, societal expectations, financial stability, family formation or religious and cultural beliefs, and their motivations often vary based on individual goals, cultural context and life circumstances.

The specific reasons for women to marry are specified her with:

- Emotional Connection and Companionship: Many women seek marriage for love, intimacy, lifelong partnership, emotional security, shared experiences, and building a future with someone that remains core motivators.

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- Social and Cultural Expectations: In common parlance, marriage is viewed as a normative milestone in adulthood. Social pressure from family religion or tradition can play a strong role, especially in cultural where marriage is tied to status or moral expectations.
- Desire to Build a Family: Women view marriage as a pathway to raise children in a societal or legally recognized family unit. Cultural and personal ideals about parenting, legacy and nurturing a family may guide in the choice of marriage.
- Economic and Practical Stability: Women choose marriage life, reasons it offers a financial security, shared living costs and legal benefits such as insurance, inheritance etc because women face limited economic opportunities, and thus marriage may be a strategic decision for survival.
- Religious or Moral Convictions: Marriage is chosen because it fulfils spiritual or moral commitments where marriage is seen as a sacred duty or life purpose.
- Identity, Belonging and Social Legitimacy: Marriage may be linked to personal identity or social legitimacy particularly in societies where singlehood is stigmatized. The title of "Wife" may carry meaning tied to respect, adulthood or relational identity.
- Legal Rights and Immigration: Marriage provides access to legal protections, residency or citizenship. These practical motivations may intersect with emotional or financial factors.

5) WHY DO MEN MARRY?

Men marry for a mix of evolutionary, social and personal reasons including finding a long term partner to share life with raising children is a stable environment, achieving companionship and emotional support, securing financial and social advantages and fulfilling the desire for love and commitment. The Specific reasons can vary depending on cultural context, individual circumstances and the motivations to secure future personal goals.

The specific reasons for women to marry are specified her with:

- Companionship and Love: Men often marry to share their lives with someone they love and enjoy a deep emotional connection.
- Emotional Support And Stability: Marriage provides men with a consistent source of support, companionship and a stable emotional foundation, contributing to their overall well being.

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- Raising a Family: Marriage is often chosen as the ideal environment to raise children, providing a stable home and the benefit of biparental care for a child's long term dependency.
- Evolutionary and Social Factors: From an evolutionary perspective, marriage facilitates the sexual division of labor and ensures the successful upbringing of offspring. Societal, it provides a stable foundation for life and family.
- Financial and Social Stability: Marriage can offer benefits in terms of financial security and social status, providing a stable foundation for life and family.
- Mating Effort and Fertility:Few Suggest, Men marry to secure reproductive benefits and monopolize a women's fertility, which can be particularly relevant in certain anthropological contexts.
- Personal Growth and Accomplishment:
- The commitment of marriage can be seen as a path to personal growth, fostering a lifetime of accomplishment and deep satisfaction for the individual involved.

6) MAJOR CAUSES FOR FAILING MARRIAGES IN INDIA:

Marriages in India are failing due to a complex interplay of societal changes and individual factors, including unrealistic expectations from family and society, increased financial independence for women leading to less compromise, poor communication and a lack of relationship skills, domestic violence and infidelity. Other reasons include a desire for personal freedom, different expectations regarding Joint vs Nuclear Families etc,. Here are the some common causes for failing marriages:

- Family Pressure and Interference:

  Many marriages are burdened by the overwhelming involvement of extended families and societal pressure to conform to traditional roles which can lead to dissatisfaction and conflict.
- Changing Views on Women**:** The growing economic independence and awareness of women's rights empower them to seek less compromising relationships and not tolerate abuse, which may challenge traditional marital structures.

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- Expectations around family structure:

  Differences in prioritizing Nuclear vs Joint Family can create significant friction and disagreement between partners after marriage.
- Cultural Silence: A Cultural tendency to avoid open communication about intimacy and other sensitive marital issues can create a disconnect and prevent problems from being addressed.
- Lack of Compatibility and Communication: Couples may realize they are fundamentally incompatible or struggle with poor communication, leading to misunderstandings and escalating conflicts.
- Unrealistic Expectations: Partners often enter marriage with different and sometimes unrealistic expectations about their partner or the marriage itself, which can lead to disappointment.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse: , Emotional or Financial abuse is a significant factor in a failed marriages and is a common reason for divorce in India.
- Infidelity and Lack of Intimacy: Emotional and Physical infidelity can cause a severe breakdown of trust and are frequently cited as reasons for divorce.
- Personal Freedom: Modern individuals are not willing to sacrifice their personal freedom, hobbies or identity to satisfy the demands of marriage and family.
- Focus on Self vs Partner: A tendency for partners to focus on what they are not receiving rather than what they can contribute resentment and emotional distance, ultimately weakening the relationship.
- Erosion of Affection: Taking a spouse for granted and failing to express affection, for understanding from spouse perspectives, considering spouse as inferior etc can affect the marriage life.
- Inflexibility: A Lack of flexibility in adapting to a partner's personality or lifestyle changes can make coexistence difficult, particularly in modern times where people marry later in life.

9) CONCLUSIONS

To Protect Indian marriages, spouse should focus on mutual consent, emotional support, financial planning, thorough background checks and understanding legal protections like PWDVA, 2005 (Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005) which also covers forced marriage. Building a foundation of trust,

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maintaining financial independence and separate assets, documenting financial transactions and seeking legal advice before and after marriage are key strategies. Here are some of the key solutions:

- Mutual Consent and Trust: Ensure both partners genuinely want the relationship and will work to fix issues, avoiding taking any relationship lightly.
- Emotional Support: Individuals must emotionally attuned to the spouse and provide support which builds solid foundation of trust in the marriage.
- Open Communication: Communicate openly about cultural differences, expectations, and potential pressures to foster a better understanding and stronger bond.
- Document Financial Transactions: Keep detailed records of all financial transactions, including joint loans and property purchases, as this documentation can be useful later.

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"Social Work Interventions for Sustainable Youth Development"

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Abstract:

Youth constitute the most **dynamic and transformative segment of society**, serving as critical agents of **social, economic, and cultural advancement**. Despite their potential, many young individuals face persistent challenges such as **unemployment, social marginalization, substance abuse,** and inadequate access to **education, healthcare, and psychosocial support**. Within this context, **social work**, grounded in principles of **human rights, empowerment, and social justice**, assumes a pivotal role in promoting **sustainable youth development**.

This paper examines the scope and effectiveness of **social work interventions** aimed at **empowering youth** and facilitating their active participation in **community and national development**. It focuses on key strategies including **life skills education, vocational training, counselling, mentorship,** and **community-based initiatives** that foster **resilience, leadership,** and **self-efficacy** among young people. Emphasis is placed on **participatory, strengths-based,** and **rights-oriented approaches** that position youth not merely as beneficiaries but as **co-creators in developmental processes**.

Keywords: Social Work, Youth Development, Empowerment, Sustainability, Intervention

Introduction

Youth represent a **vital and dynamic segment of society**, possessing immense potential to drive **social, economic, and cultural progress**. As future leaders, innovators, and active citizens, young people's development is essential for the overall growth and sustainability of communities and nations. However, despite their promise, many youths face significant challenges including **unemployment, social exclusion, poverty, substance abuse**,

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and **limited access to quality education, healthcare, and psychosocial support**. These obstacles often hinder their ability to fully participate in society and realize their potential.

In this context, **social work as a profession** plays a **critical role** in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by youth. Rooted in principles of **human rights, social justice, empowerment, and advocacy**, social work focuses on promoting the **well-being and development** of vulnerable populations, including young people. Through **holistic and evidence-based interventions**, social workers aim to empower youth, enhance their capacities, and enable their meaningful engagement within communities.

The importance of **sustainable youth development** has become increasingly recognized, particularly in alignment with global frameworks such as the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. These goals emphasize the need for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth that leaves no one behind, particularly the youth. Social work interventions are uniquely positioned to contribute to these goals by facilitating **youth empowerment, resilience-building, leadership development, and social inclusion**.

Effective social work strategies for youth development encompass a variety of approaches, including **life skills education, vocational training, counseling, mentorship, and community-based programs**. These interventions are designed not only to provide immediate support but also to build long-term capacities that promote **self-efficacy, agency, and social responsibility** among young people. Importantly, social work practices emphasize **participatory and rights-based approaches**, ensuring that youth are **active partners** and **co-creators** of the developmental processes that affect their lives.

Research Problem

Despite the growing number of **young people in India**, many face challenges such as **unemployment, lack of education,** and **social exclusion**. Although **social work interventions** exist to support youth development, there is limited understanding of how **effective these interventions are** in promoting **sustainable growth** and **empowerment** among Indian youth. This study seeks to explore the **role and impact of social work** in addressing the needs of youth and enhancing their **participation in society**.

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Objectives

1. To **examine the role of social work interventions** in addressing the challenges faced by youth in India.
2. To **assess the effectiveness** of social work programs in promoting **youth empowerment and sustainable development**.
3. To **identify strategies** that can enhance the **participation and inclusion** of youth in community and national development.

Significance of the Study

This study is significant because **India has one of the largest youth populations in the world**, and their development is crucial for the country's future growth. Understanding the **role of social work interventions** can help improve programs that address key challenges like **unemployment, education gaps, and social exclusion**. By focusing on sustainable youth development, this research supports efforts to build a more **empowered and skilled generation** ready to contribute positively to society.

Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of **effective social work practices** in promoting **inclusive development and social justice** in India. It provides valuable insights for policymakers, social workers, and organizations working with youth to design better **youth-centered programs**. Ultimately, this research aims to strengthen youth participation in community and national development, fostering a more **equitable and sustainable future** for India.

Review of Literature

Thompson and Whittaker's (2017) findings on **life skills education and vocational training** resonate strongly within the Indian context, where **youth unemployment and skill gaps** remain significant challenges. Studies in India emphasize that such programs, often facilitated by social workers, are crucial in equipping young people with practical skills needed to enter the workforce and reduce economic vulnerability (Kumar & Singh, 2018).

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According to **Sharma and Patel (2020),** social workers' involvement in **mentorship programs** within schools and community centers has contributed to improved mental health outcomes and goal-setting abilities among adolescents, particularly in underserved regions.

Singh and Verma (2017) report that **youth engagement in local governance and development initiatives** enhances civic responsibility and social cohesion. Participatory approaches ensure that youth from diverse socio-economic backgrounds contribute meaningfully to their communities, aligning with India's emphasis on inclusive growth.

Mehta (2021) highlights the role of **policy advocacy and intersectoral collaboration** in scaling youth development programs in India. The integration of efforts across education, health, and employment sectors, championed by social workers, aligns with the Government of India's schemes like **Skill India** and **National Youth Policy**, aiming for holistic and sustainable youth empowerment.

Methodology

This study uses **secondary data** from newspapers, government reports, and academic articles to analyze social work interventions for sustainable youth development in India. **Content analysis** is applied to identify key themes related to empowerment, inclusion, and resilience. The research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness and challenges of these interventions within the Indian context.

1. **Data Sources:**

   This study will rely entirely on **secondary data** to investigate social work interventions for youth development in India. The data sources will include **newspaper articles, government reports, academic journals, NGO publications,** and relevant **policy documents**. Newspapers will provide up-to-date information on ongoing youth issues and social work activities, while reports and academic studies will offer detailed evaluations and analyses of programs and policies implemented in the Indian context.

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2. **Data Collection:**

   The data collection process will involve gathering relevant **newspaper articles** that discuss youth challenges, social work initiatives, and government schemes aimed at empowering youth. Additionally, official **government and NGO reports** will be collected to understand the scope, impact, and challenges of these interventions. Academic literature will be reviewed to frame the study within existing theoretical and empirical knowledge on social work and youth development.

3. **Data Analysis:**

   The study will use **content analysis** to systematically examine and interpret the collected secondary data. This involves coding the data to identify recurring **themes and patterns** such as empowerment, inclusion, resilience, and sustainability in youth development. The analysis will synthesize findings from diverse sources to present a comprehensive understanding of how social work interventions contribute to sustainable youth empowerment in India.

Conclusion

Youth are a **vital asset for India's development**, embodying **energy, innovation, and future potential**. However, many face ongoing challenges such as **unemployment, social exclusion, lack of education, and health issues**, which limit their societal contributions. **Social work, emphasizing empowerment, social justice, and inclusion**, plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges and supporting **sustainable youth development**. This study highlights the importance of **social work interventions** like **life skills training, vocational education, counseling, mentorship, and community engagement**. These approaches build **resilience, boost self-confidence**, and develop **leadership** among young people. It also stresses the need for **participatory and rights-based methods** that empower youth as **active contributors** rather than passive beneficiaries.

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Women are a marginalized group and need digital empowerment: A sociological study

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Abstract

The oppression of women in our society is often due to patriarchal structures, socio-cultural factors, and religious customs. There are many ways in which women are discriminated against. Their access to resources is limited, they face economic restrictions, and they experience social and political exclusion. It is believed that women are not as important as men. The main topic of this paper is the marginalization of women when it comes to land ownership, digital devices, access to resources such as credit and technology, and increased domestic responsibilities. A study was conducted in Ramanagara to assess the benefits and accessibility to mobile phones, credit, decision-making, and other schemes for women age 20 to 65. Mobile phones are accessible to women employed in agricultural industries, but they do not utilize them for banking and credit. Compared to the elderly, the younger generation had more access and knowledge regarding digital devices, while they were hesitant to use them. Decisions about education, training, and credit facilities were left up to other family members for women. There is a gender imbalance in the use of digital devices. Digital platforms can enable women to have greater access to jobs and a better balance of work and home, as they take on dual responsibilities.

The study underscores the importance of policies that prioritize promoting gender equality and facilitating digital access and technology to reduce the digital divide. At village level, it is necessary to organize training regarding digital access for women between the ages of 35 and 65. Unorganized sectors like domestic help, agricultural laborers, vegetable vendors, garment workers, and others have a high rate of gender inequality. The Karnataka Shakthi scheme is one example of new schemes that support women's mobility and economic empowerment. Additionally, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme offers financial aid to women. Streeshakthi schemes are among the other schemes in the district that empower women both socially and economically through self-help groups. Knowledge of digital devices can empower women, which can transform their lives through better opportunities and economic progress. Rural women face difficulties in adopting new technology, which is why digital inclusion for rural women is necessary. Insufficient digital skills. Internet access can be hindered by limited infrastructure or geographical challenges like hills and forest areas. Boosting cellular coverage, upgrading hardware, and other measures are necessary to empower women in digital access.

Keywords: Marginalization, Digital Divide, Gender disparity, unorganized sector

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Introduction

Historically, women have been a group that has been marginalized and systematically disadvantageous due to patriarchal structures that limit their access to resources, power, and opportunities. This marginalization is not a single experience, but rather is influenced by the intersecting factors of race, class, and culture. Today, the digital divide has become a significant gap in access to and use of information and communication technologies, adding a new dimension to this longstanding issue. According to this study, digital empowerment is an important instrument for dismantling these entrenched inequalities and promoting a more equitable society.

The mechanisms behind the marginalization of women have been illuminated by sociological theories, from conflict to feminist perspectives, for a long time. These frameworks highlight the historical relegation of women to subordinate roles due to societal norms, institutional biases, and unequal power dynamics. Economic dependency, limited political participation, and restricted access to education and healthcare are all forms of systemic inequality. These disparities have not been automatically fixed by the digital age; rather, it has created new ways for their perpetuation in many ways. The digital divide is more than just about access to technology, it also involves the skills, confidence, and cultural permission needed to effectively utilize it.

The act of equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to utilize digital technologies in order to improve their lives is called digital empowerment. Women find this to be a powerful way to overcome traditional barriers. Women can benefit from the internet's access to education, economic independence through e-commerce and remote work, and political mobilization without any limits. It can be utilized as a platform to hear their voices, generating a sense of community and solidarity among women who may be geographically isolated but have similar experiences. Digital tools can enable women to make more informed decisions about their lives by providing access to information about health, legal rights, and financial services.

The road to digital empowerment is filled with obstacles. The gender gap in digital literacy and socio-cultural norms that discourage women from engaging with technology create significant hurdles. Furthermore, the online world is not always a secure environment, as women are disproportionately exposed to harassment and cyberbullying. A multi-faceted approach is necessary for addressing these issues, which goes beyond just providing access to devices and the internet. The underlying social structures that perpetuate gender inequality need to be challenged and changed, which requires a concerted effort. Promoting digital literacy programs that are tailored to women's needs, creating safer online environments, and advocating for female role models in the tech industry are all part of this. This sociological study will delve into the complex interplay between women's marginalization and the digital divide, ultimately arguing that digital empowerment is not just a matter of technological access, but a fundamental component of social justice in the 21st century.

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Research Methodology

The focus of this paper is on the marginalization of women, their access to digital devices, ownership, resources like credit, technology, and increased domestic responsibilities. In Ramanagara, a study was done to examine the advantages and accessibility of mobile phones, internet, credit facilities, decision-making, finance, and other schemes for women between the ages of 19 and 65. A questionnaire method was used to collect the data. Land ownership is only owned by 11% of women. Although 92% of respondents had mobile phones, their lack of knowledge about the internet hindered them. The remaining 8% had access through their children, male members of the household, or other individuals since they did not possess them. The data suggests that there is a connection between the usage of digital devices by younger and elderly generations. Individual well-being and socioeconomic development are hindered by gender inequality.

Result and Discussion

The findings suggest that women are underrepresented, but they still make a significant contribution. The possession of digital devices, education, opportunities, and the lack of representation of women in decision-making processes are all gender disparities that exist.

The respondents were between the ages of 19 and 65. The respondents were younger in age, while the elderly women had mobile phones that were keypad phones. Monthly, the respondents spent around 300-400 rupees on cell phones. Verification and digital work were being done in cyberspace by even the younger respondents. The respondents used Google Pay and phone pay facilities.

Their access to digital resources is hampered by socio-cultural and socio-economic factors, like social norms, cultural, human behaviours, language and communication, beliefs, values, gender restrictions, patriarchal system, poverty, low income, age, suppressed voice, reduced power and opportunities. Women are subjected to discrimination and subordination when it comes to accessing resources. Women's access to these resources may be hindered by a lack of education. They are prevented from access due to online safety and harassment. Access was limited for women between the ages of 50 and 65. Elderly women and rural women lack access and motivation to ICT due to their lack of belief in its value. The cost of it is not affordable for women, and the speed at which they learn is crucial. Additionally, the inability to comprehend ICT is significant, as is the inability or unwillingness to exploit its full potential. The shaping of digital learning is also influenced by their interests, attitudes, values, and beliefs.

Women employed in agricultural industries have access to mobile phones, but they do not use them for banking and credit. The younger generation had a higher level of access and knowledge about digital devices compared

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to the elderly, but they were hesitant to use them. Rural Ramanagar lacks easy access to internet for women. The younger generation utilized personal computers. Other family members were responsible for making decisions about education at the family level, training, and credit facilities for women.

There is a disparity between men and women when it comes to using digital devices. Digital platforms can enable socially discriminated groups to have greater access to jobs and a better balance between work and home, as they take on dual responsibilities. Young groups used digital platforms, such as social media sites like YouTube and Instagram, but not many respondents utilized online platforms for marketing.

The accumulation of digital means and access to digital information are both considered digital capital according to Pierre Bourdieu's theory of capital in sociology. Social inequality in society is a result of the unequal distribution of these capitals. The digital divide has the potential to create social exclusion in employment and education opportunities. According to Bourdieu, there are four types of capital: economic capital, cultural capital, symbolic capital, and social capital, which involves networks and connections.

Policies that prioritize gender equality and facilitate digital access and technology to reduce the digital divide are highlighted in the study. Increasing digital access in rural communities is necessary to promote digital inclusion. Structures that serve the interests of certain members of society while posing a challenge to others. The personal and social resources available to each individual will determine their response to marginalization. As a marginalized community, women are unable to participate in the development process due to their lack of social and cultural capital.
The challenges they face were as follows: 1, Bias and Discrimination, 2. Poverty is a major contributor to marginalization, it keeps their interest at bay. 3. Structural disadvantage 4. Skill learning 5, women stereotyped roles has manifold impact on their lives.
It is necessary to arrange digital access training for women between the ages of 35 and 65 at village level. Gender inequality in access to digital gadgets is prevalent in unorganized sectors, such as domestic help, agricultural laborers, vegetable vendors, garment workers, and others. The process of digital transformation involves technology, processes, people, and skills. Women's mobility and economic empowerment are supported by new schemes such as the Karnataka Shakthi scheme. In addition, the Gruha Lakshmi scheme provides financial assistance to women. The district has other schemes such as Streeshakthi schemes that help women both socially and economically through self-help groups. Women can be empowered through the use of digital devices, resulting in better opportunities and economic progress that can transform their lives. The inclusion of digital technology for rural women is necessary due to the difficulties rural women face in adopting new technology. I lack the necessary digital skills. Internet access may be impeded by limited infrastructure or geographic obstacles, such as hills and forest areas. To empower women in digital access, it is necessary to boost cellular coverage, upgrade hardware, and take other measures.

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Digital India aims to transform India into a society that is digitally empowered, make digital infrastructure effective, and provide e-Governance through schemes for empowering marginalized people through digital learning. The Digital India initiative has been in place for 10 years, but it remains a challenge for marginalized groups.

Conclusion:

Women can be separated from power and resources, including digital resources, by marginalization. Their social contribution opportunities may be limited, and they may lack self-esteem or confidence. To improve their self-esteem and confidence, we need training programs that teach them digital technology. There needs to be a change in the social perception of empowerment. Digital learning programs that include women are necessary to empower them. The inclusion of digital gadgets in inclusive learning can help marginalized groups improve their financial situation and benefit others. Through education, economic support, health improvement using digital devices, and social inclusion, empowerment can be achieved.

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POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The emergence of digital technology has transformed political communication, mobilization, and governance. However, the benefits of digital connectivity are not equally distributed, leading to what scholars describe as the *digital divide* the socio-economic, regional, and demographic disparities in access to and use of digital technologies. This article explores the intersection between political movements and the digital divide, examining how digital inequalities influence participation, representation, and democratic engagement. By analyzing political mobilization in both developed and developing contexts, particularly in India, the paper highlights how digital spaces have become sites of empowerment and exclusion simultaneously. It argues that bridging the digital divide is essential for inclusive democracy, participatory politics, and equitable political representation in the digital age.

Keywords: Digital divide, political movements, democracy, political participation, digital inclusion, social media politics

Introduction

Digital technologies especially the internet, smartphones, and social media have redefined the way citizens engage with politics. From global movements such as *Arab Spring* and *Black Lives Matter* to national campaigns like *India Against Corruption* or *#MeTooIndia*, digital platforms have amplified political participation. However, the *digital divide*—defined as disparities in access, skills, and effective usage of information and communication technologies (ICTs)—continues to shape who participates in digital politics and whose voices are heard.

The political implications of the digital divide are profound: in societies where digital access mirrors existing socio-economic hierarchies, the internet risks reinforcing rather than reducing inequality. Therefore, the digital

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divide is not merely a technological issue but a political one that determines inclusion, participation, and power in the public sphere.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the relationship between political movements and digital access.
- To examine how the digital divide affects political participation and representation.
- To assess the role of social media in mobilizing marginalized communities.
- To suggest measures to enhance digital inclusion for democratic empowerment.

Methodology

This study is based on **secondary data analysis** of scholarly articles, reports, and case studies related to digital democracy, social media mobilization, and political communication. It draws upon literature from political science, sociology, and media studies. Case references include global and Indian political movements between 2010 and 2025, with particular attention to youth and marginalized communities' participation in digital activism.

Political Movements in the Digital Era

1 The Rise of Digital Activism

The past decade has seen the rise of *networked social movements* that utilize social media to bypass traditional political hierarchies. Movements like *Arab Spring* (2011), *Occupy Wall Street* (2012), and *Fridays for Future* (2018 onwards) demonstrated how digital platforms can mobilize large-scale protests, disseminate information, and pressure governments. In India, the *India Against Corruption* movement (2011), *CAA-NRC protests* (2019–20), and farmers' protests (2020–21) all heavily relied on digital communication tools.

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2 Digital Divide and Unequal Participation

Despite the internet's democratic potential, its accessibility is uneven. The **digital divide** reflects existing inequalities in income, education, gender, caste, and region.

- **Urban vs Rural Divide:** Urban populations have greater internet access than rural areas.
- **Gender Divide:** Women face barriers due to affordability, safety, and socio-cultural restrictions.
- **Caste and Class Divide:** Marginalized castes and low-income groups often lack digital literacy and resources.

These divides limit the ability of marginalized groups to participate fully in digital political spaces, reproducing social hierarchies online.

Political Dimensions of the Digital Divide

1 Digital Citizenship and Political Participation

Access to the internet enables new forms of political participation—online petitions, e-governance, and digital campaigning. Citizens who are digitally literate become "digital citizens," capable of engaging with governance processes. However, those excluded from digital platforms are effectively disenfranchised from this new dimension of citizenship.

2 Political Parties and Digital Campaigning

Political parties increasingly use digital tools for campaigns, data analytics, and voter outreach. In India, digital media played a key role in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, with extensive use of social media and online advertisements. Yet, unequal access means only certain demographic segments can be targeted effectively, leaving others underrepresented in political discourse.

3 Digital Surveillance and Control

While digital platforms empower citizens, they also enable surveillance and control. Governments and political actors can manipulate narratives through misinformation, propaganda, and algorithmic bias. Thus, digital inequality extends beyond access—it also involves power over digital content, platforms, and data.

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Case Studies: India and Global Contexts

1 India: Unequal Access and Emerging Voices

India's rapid digitalization through programs like *Digital India* has expanded connectivity but not equally. The National Sample Survey (2022) indicated that less than 40% of rural households have internet access. Political mobilizations like *#DalitLivesMatter* and *#FarmersProtest* show how marginalized groups have used social media to challenge dominant narratives, even with limited access. However, the reach and sustainability of such movements remain constrained by infrastructural and literacy gaps.

2 Global Trends

Globally, digital movements have created decentralized political communities that transcend national boundaries. However, inequalities persist across the Global South, where limited access to technology reduces the visibility of local political struggles on global platforms.

Discussion: The Digital Divide as a Political Phenomenon

The digital divide is not just an issue of technology—it reflects broader **political economy of information**. Those who control digital infrastructure and data flows possess disproportionate influence over democratic discourse. As Manuel Castells (2012) notes, power in the digital age lies in communication networks. Hence, addressing the divide requires political will, inclusive policies, and recognition that access to digital resources is a democratic right.

Suggestions and Policy Recommendations

1. **Digital Infrastructure Development:** Expand affordable internet connectivity in rural and marginalized regions.
2. **Digital Literacy Programs:** Integrate digital education into school curricula and community programs, particularly for women and rural youth.
3. **Inclusive E-Governance:** Ensure accessibility in multiple languages and local content creation.
4. **Regulation of Digital Platforms:** Implement transparency and accountability in algorithmic practices.

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5. **Support for Grassroots Digital Activism:** Encourage NGOs and civic groups to empower marginalized communities through technology.

Conclusion

The digital divide has emerged as a defining political challenge of the 21st century. While digital media have democratized political mobilization, they have also revealed stark inequalities in access and influence. Political movements that depend on digital communication risk excluding large sections of society unless structural inequalities are addressed.

Therefore, bridging the digital divide is not merely a technological or economic goal—it is a **democratic imperative**. Inclusive digital access is essential for ensuring that all citizens, regardless of caste, class, gender, or region, can participate meaningfully in shaping the political future.

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Women Empowerment and Digital Literacy

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"Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a ountry"

Margaret Thatcher

Digital literacy is a critical tool for empowering women, offering access to education, economic opportunities, and platforms for their voices to be heard, thereby challenging gender hierarchies and fostering individual and collective empowerment. Women empowerment and digital literacy are closely intertwined as digital skills in social ,economic and educational opportunities dismantling many barriers to equal participation in society. Women have been relegated to secondary position despite the fact that they numerically constitute about half the world population today. From the early19 th century we find the debates and discussions about the dynamic nature of women's fight for her empowerment, educational, social and economic equality, political participation rights and to see women as human being.

Women constitute almost 50%of words population as far as their social status is concerned, they are not treated as equal to men in all the places. The disabilities and inequalities between men and women have given rise to gender problems. This paper reveals about women in different role towards new concept during the course of social development and digital literacy , the position of women also changed the main objective of this study provides a strategy for women's empowerment in digital literacy. Empowerment can enable women to participate, as equal citizens, in the economic, political and social sustainable development of the rural communities.

Keywords : Women empowerment ,digital literacy and Socio- Economic benefits.

Introduction:

Being a women having the skills and knowledge to use digital technologies for various aspects of life, including accessing information, online communication, creating digital content, and engaging in the digital economy is now a days necessary Its about basic use to include critically evaluating online sources, understanding cyber security and privacy, and using digital tools for personal development, education, and economic opportunities. A

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household is considered digitally literate if at least one person within it has the ability to operate a computer and use the internet.

India's overall digital literacy rate is estimated to be around 37% as of 2023, with significant variations between urban and rural areas. Urban areas show a much higher rate at approximately 61%, while rural areas have only about 25% digital literacy. There is also a notable gender gap, with only around 29% of women being digitally literate compared to 59% of men in 2023. Women who lack literacy skills tend to inhibit themselves from making important decisions concerning their own health and concerning household purchases. Instead, they depend more on the husband/partner or others to make such decisions. Encouraging married women and mothers to continue their studies and build a career for financial independence in digital literacy.

We can improve womens digital and financial literacy by Educating training,awareness-raising, self-confidence development programmes, expanded choices, increased access to and control over resources.

Why digital literacy for women?

Being digitally literate has become an essential criterion in establishing your presence and making an identity in the modern world. Digital literacy helps you be more efficient and makes things more accessible, improving your quality of life.

Many digital skills have now become necessary for everyday use. Whether you want to make your life a bit simpler or excel in the job, ensure that you are proactive in learning digital technologies.

Technology as a whole is an essential component in achieving gender equality. The modern world is increasingly moving online, and it's equally important for men and women to adapt to the changes and be self-reliant on technology, whether for business or social connections.

Ironically, most of our women are still dependent on men for various tasks due to lack of digital literacy. Whether making an online payment or preparing a presentation, women depend on men to perform these daily activities. This often leads to low self-esteem and a lack of confidence.

if they are active in digital literacy leads to become more productive ,become more career-orientedbecome more financially independent become more aware of their rights become more aware of the requirement to start their own business and contribute to the country's economy as a whole

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Digital Literacy Skills Which Every Women Should Know:

With digital literacy and access to social media and search engines, more and more women can educate themselves. They can find answers to their queries and be well informed, leading to independent ,With the vast amount of information available online, women can enrich their knowledge and gain new insights and experiences in the comfort of their homes.

Socio- Economic benefits :

The COVID-19 pandemic has paved the way for teleworking. More and more businesses are now moving their operations online. It has opened up flexible ways of working and is one of the best times for women to participate actively in the economy.

Digital literacy in women is a significant step toward women's empowerment, and it entrusts them in the right direction giving them greater control over their money and savings.

Giving women access to mobile banking and digital skilling programmes enables them in the right direction to start their new businesses. This, in turn, may prove beneficial for the better economic condition of their family and community as a whole.

Bridging the digital gap and giving women the opportunity to participate equally in economic life is crucial for the country's development.

Shifting to new skills:

In developing countries, women are still subjected to social barriers which limit their participation in outdoor activities. The traditional gender roles take over and leave them confined to household work, restricting their opportunities to learn and grow.

Digital literacy opens new doors for them, giving them access to learning resources in the comfort of their homes. While this doesn't solve gender inequality' it allows women to become more aware of their rights and stand up for themselves.

Helps In Increased Safety:

As our women embrace technology, it is equally essential for them to understand its potential challenges. The online world may be beneficial in many ways, but it's necessary to give them the required tools to be safe online.

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Cyberbullying, Sexting, Plagiarism, Copyright Issues, Virus Protection, and Online exploitation are a few things our women need to know, From protecting passwords to safeguarding personal information, there are many risks associated with the use of technology. Digital literacy gives women an understanding of good online safety practices and increases their safety online. With digital literacy, women become more vigilant about their safety, which helps them become better internet users.

Decisions Making Enhances employability

Women's participation in decision-making reduces conflicts, broadens the perspective, and increases innovation and creativity.With digitlisation, employers are looking for people who have a decent online presence. Soft digital skills are preferred more over traditional hard skills, and women need to create an online presence to achieve their professional goals.Digital literacy is fast emerging to be an essential skill for employability

Impact of Digital literacy:

- *Digital literacy enhances women economic participation by opening entrepreneurship and employment opportunities through online platforms.
- *Improving your digital literacy, you can increase productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness and open up new opportunities for growth and innovation.
- *Seek digital training programs and courses to learn new skills and keep up with emerging technologies.
- Stay updated with industry news and trends by following relevant publications and social media accounts Practice using digital tools and platforms in their daily work to improve efficiency .
- *Use social media platforms to build a professional network or promote a business.Understand how to identify and avoid fake news and online scams.
- *Create and edit digital media, such as videos and graphics.Participate in online communities and forums to share knowledge and connect with like-minded individuals.
- *Understand how to use digital tools for health and wellness, such as fitness apps and online therapy resources.

Conclusion

Enhancing digital literacy among women Provides women with the right digital business skills will help them successfully start and run a business. From learning how to set up their online store and sell products or services online, learning digital skills and business training will help women grow as successful entrepreneurs. Technology affects everyone, and the sooner we get accustomed to the changing scenario, the better. Supporting

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our women to become well-informed digital literate citizens is a big step toward creating a flourishing digital economy.

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Governmental Initiatives to Promote Skill Development among Youth: Critical Reflections

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ABSTRACT

Among the series of governmental efforts in the form of development programmes for generating employment to improve people's livelihoods, those designed for skill and entrepreneurship promotion among the youth are significant. The first Five Year Plan period, drafted in 1950-1951 laid the foundation for a long-term goal of development of rural youth through gainful employment generation which became the core of rural (and urban) development strategy. Further, the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) identified employment as one of the three important dimensions of state policy, the other two being achieving good quality of life and regional balance. Finally, the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007- 2012) focused chiefly upon "inclusive" growth, conceiving employment as its key element. This was continued even by the future five-year plans. However, as noted by the Economic Survey 2016-07, there has been a shift in the pattern of employment towards skilled and entrepreneurial jobs. There are also initiatives to encourage employment in the manufacturing sector such as Make in India programme, National Skill Development Mission (NSDP), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), and Skill Loan Scheme, Skill India, Digital India (stressing on automation) etc. By 2022 more than 40 crores of people had been reportedly (GoI 2023) trained in various skills under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

This paper is based on an on-going study to identify the process of imparting these skills and entrepreneurship to youth; and issues relating to affordability of skill training and social inclusion of youth from marginalised sections. Based on secondary data and preliminary findings of the study, it attempts to discuss the contribution of skill development programme to empower the unemployed youth who form over 65% of the country's population (below 35 years of age). It aims to throw light on the impact of these initiatives upon achieving the UNDP's sustainable development goals.

Key Words: Skill development, Entrepreneurship, Youth, Social Inclusion, SDGs

Introduction

Employment through adequate skill and talent is an essential prerequisite for economic growth of any nation, more so of the developing ones. From the Fourth Five Year Plan, considerable importance was given to improving not only formal education, but also to establish institutions of higher education across the country (Kavitha 2017; GoI 1998). Further on, the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s witnessed growth and expansion of industries, while the 1990s and the 21st century

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launched a massive transformation not only in the economic rung – due to free markets under liberalization & globalization policies – but also in the social and political fabric.

Background and objectives of the paper

This paper is an outcome of an on-going research on the same theme by the first author under the guidance of the Prof. T H Murthy, Prof & Head of the Department of Rural Development in Bangalore University, who is the co-author. The study has concentrated on skill development and its impact upon eradicating unemployment among youth in Karnataka. It is an important subject of study by economists and sociologists. Some of the preliminary findings are used in preparing this paper for presentation in the National Conference of the KSA. Its objectives are as follows:

1) To highlight the importance of skill development through training among youth

2) To evaluate the role of trainers or training institutions in the process of transfer of required skill to the enrolled youth and

3) To identify the problems and challenges in the process of skill transfer and employment generation for youth

Methodology & Study Area

The study is being carried out in the district of Tumakuru in southern Karnataka, taking three taluks based on certain development indicators. Young women and men who have undergone training in various skills offered through government and private institutions have been selected based on a sample covering various sectors, such as technology, service, manufacturing, self-employment etc. This paper presents a critical analysis of preliminary data on the topic and a few key and limited field insights.

Skill India Programme

Skill is defined as mastering the competency or proficiency – mental and physical – and the ability to do things for professional improvement. It is a process and not a 'one-time' event; skill is built through constant learning and acquiring talent with the right interest, aptitude, and dedication. The Skill-India programme of the government aims at boosting physical and mental abilities of youth in the country, with eradicating or at least leading to diminished joblessness or unemployment. It does so also by encouraging creation of new and workable businesses. It encourages entrepreneurship-building in all occupations like agriculture, Dairy, arts & crafts, weaving, transportation, services, and self-employment. The overall idea is centered on development pace of increasing the GDP and present contribution by each sector. Basically, it is a drive to reduce poverty by improving employability, productivity, development of enterprises – under the policy of inclusive growth. To achieve this end, attention is given by the centre and the states to increase productivity through new technology, new machines, improved management practices, improved personnel with the right skills and talent and attention to capacity building.

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The Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods (SDEL) was formed under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in July 2014The Ministry works primarily through the National Skill Development Council 2009 (NSDC), The National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) and the Directorate of Training (DT). The National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 aimed to satisfy the challenge of skilling at scale with speed, quality and sustainability as key points. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a flagship programme coming out of this perspective plan. Financial rewards and certification are given after assessment to the participating youth.

Critical Findings of the Study

Our on-going study on skill development, entrepreneurship, and livelihoods among the youth of Karnataka as a programme of the government's SDEL department has thrown light on certain significant issues. The results are presented as under by classifying them to fall under certain headings:

1. Generation of Awareness among Youth

Mixed levels of awareness are found among the youth, especially women have low levels of knowledge about the SDEL schemes. While the youth living in district HQ and taluk HQ had better and quick awareness/news about the availability of these training facilities, vocational skill transfer, and capacity building to undertake self employment like tailoring or data entry or apparel design and beautician, those living in interior villages and tribal areas found it hard to reach this disseminated information. Improved awareness campaigns, better mobilization plans and their execution, family counselling by meeting parents of eligible girl or boy from disadvantaged sections of society are highly essential.

2. Opportunities offered by Skill Development Programmes

The outcome from our study about the utility of skill development programmes has been very good. They believe that these programmes are playing a key role in enhancing personality development of the participating youth and in inculcating in them professional skills and competence. They have succeeded in providing relevant knowledge about the respective sector of work (tailoring, repair and maintenance, software development, data entry, driving, apparel design and running beauty parlours). Transfer of soft skills and required knowledge by the trainers is satisfactory. They are helpful in bringing the job market closer to them.

3. Challenges and Problems Faced by Trainees

But the trainees have expressed dissatisfaction about lack of proper infrastructural facility. Secondly, the trainers are not up t the mark in their capacity to teach, some of them being incompetent and using outdated teaching methods and content of classes. Other difficulties expressed by some of the respondents relate to administrative hurdles like hassles in administrative procedures, hurdles in registration, non-receipt of course completion certificates in time etc.

Obtaining job after training is delayed and there is no financial support to bridge the gap. A few respondents have

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expressed that the global business centres, job portfolios are changing very rapidly. But candidates from government and NGO trained centres are given low-entry level salaries. This shows the mismatch between training and labour market demands where there are no connections between training institutions and companies/firms/industries. Placement opportunities are insufficient and lacks continuous connections.

These anomalies need to be addressed through adequate revision in the plans and skill development programs. There is need for better coordination among stakeholders. In this era of digital divide, there is need for better employability of the youth, especially women and the poor from disadvantaged communities. Technical, vocational, and soft skills are to be transferred to them to secure jobs or to start own enterprises. Although these initiatives of the government have positively impacted job-absorption and better income levels, gender disparities and caste-based denials and deprivations are still continued. Being a structurally unequal society, these divisions have continued to spread their tentacles despite constitutional guarantees and other legislation. The paper recommends a multi-stakeholder approach involving government and NGO representatives, private and the corporate sector, local organizations and the community through appropriate partnership and financial investments. Industry-academia collaborations, monitoring and evaluations by competent experts are also needed.

More than anything else, interdisciplinary studies or research has to be carried out to evaluate impact of skill development programmes for the youth at below district and taluk levels. Contribution of Rural Development Experts, Sociologists and Economists is needed to make longitudinal studies to track their sustainability, awareness about them and access and empirical outcomes.

Need for inclusivity in the process of skill development should not be forgotten by the above agenda of the government. Rual and tribal youth, women, persons with disability, youth from socio-economically weaker sections, and others are aimed to be covered.

It was found that different norms and parameters are used to implement different skill development schemes by both the government and private skill transferring institutions. There is need for all of them to fall under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) to make implementation smooth sailing and not challenging (Nayana Tara, 2016).

Suggestions for Improvement

The study has found lack of infrastructure facility for the NGOs to train huge mass of youth. The GTTC and VET facilities have shown a lower enrollment; more so in the case of dropout rate. This is particularly true of girls and women. Patriarchal norms, lack of awareness and lack of funds, and lack of training facility locally are the reasons, according to our study.

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There is need for diverting funds from Corporate Sector responsibility (CSR) towards such skill development and training. CSR funds should be made available to be distributed as scholarship to disadvantaged sections; they should be also used to create suitable infrastructure, particularly residential hostels as the students from far off rural and tribal areas require lodging facility while undergoing training for skill-building and transfer of technology (Nayana Tara 2016).

IT & BT companies should be encouraged to donate their used (but in good condition) tools and equipment to training providers – mainly from the voluntary organizations. Secondly, they should also allow aspiring trainee candidates to learn skill of a particular work by working on the job – as interns and apprentices – in their companies and establishments.

Some of the funds of the CSR can be used as incubation amount or as soft loans provided to deserving trainees from the SC, ST and other weaker sections.

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Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics

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The family, as a fundamental social unit, plays a crucial role in shaping individual and societal well-being. Family dynamics, which encompass the interactions, relationships, and patterns of behavior within families, are influenced by a complex array of factors. One significant factor that profoundly Socio-economic status (SES) plays a crucial role in shaping family dynamics, influencing relationships, interactions, and overall well-being. This article explores the multifaceted impact of SES on family dynamics, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities that arise from different socioeconomic contexts.SES encompasses various factors, including income, education, occupation, and social standing. These elements interact to determine a family's access to resources, opportunities, and social support. Families with higher SES tend to have more resources at their disposal, enabling them to provide better for their children's needs, invest in education, and access healthcare. In contrast, families with lower SES often face significant challenges, including limited access to basic necessities and fewer opportunities for advancement.

Objectives of the Study:

- To analyses the Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics
- To know the Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics
- To Understand the Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics

Methodology:

The present study is based on the secondary data. The information is collected from journals, Publications Articles and Books.

The Effects of Low Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics

Families with lower SES often experience heightened levels of stress and anxiety due to financial instability. This environment can lead to strained relationships among family members. Parents may struggle to balance multiple jobs, leaving less time for their children, which can affect parent-child relationships and lead to behavioral issues in children. Additionally, the lack of access to quality education and healthcare can hinder children's development and future opportunities.

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The Impact of High Socioeconomic Status on Family Dynamics

On the other hand, families with higher SES typically enjoy greater financial stability, which can lead to a more supportive and nurturing environment. These families often have access to better educational resources, healthcare, and extracurricular activities that can enrich their children's lives. Parents in these households may have more time to engage with their children, fostering stronger relationships and emotional bonds. However, high SES families may also face unique challenges, such as increased pressure to succeed and maintain status, which can lead to stress and competition within the family.

The Role of Parenting Styles

Parenting styles can vary significantly across different socioeconomic statuses. Lower SES families may adopt more authoritarian parenting styles, often driven by the need for discipline and safety in challenging environments. In contrast, higher SES families may lean towards authoritative parenting, emphasizing independence, critical thinking, and emotional support. These differing approaches can shape children's development, influencing their social skills, self-esteem, and academic performance.

The Impact on Child Development

The socioeconomic status of a family has profound implications for child development. Children from lower SES backgrounds may face obstacles such as limited access to educational resources, which can hinder their cognitive and social development. Conversely, children from higher SES families often benefit from enriched environments that promote learning and growth. This disparity can lead to significant differences in academic achievement and future opportunities.

To support families effectively, it is crucial to implement policies that promote economic stability, access to education, and mental health resources. Community programs that provide parenting support, educational opportunities, and access to healthcare can also play a vital role in fostering positive family dynamics. By working together, we can create a more equitable environment that allows all families to thrive, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Socioeconomic status (SES) significantly influences child development, affecting various aspects of a child's life, including:

1. Cognitive Development: Access to quality education, resources, and stimulating environments impacts cognitive skills, language development, and academic achievement.

2. Emotional and Social Development: SES affects children's emotional well-being, social skills, and relationships with caregivers and peers.

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3. Health and Nutrition: Access to healthcare, nutrition, and a safe environment impacts physical growth, health outcomes, and overall well-being.

4. Opportunities and Resources: SES determines access to extracurricular activities, educational resources, and social opportunities, shaping future prospects.

Factors Influencing Child Development:

1. Parent-Child Interaction: Parental involvement, responsiveness, and stimulation impact cognitive and emotional development.

2. Home Environment: Safety, stability, and access to resources affect children's physical and emotional well-being.

3. Access to Education: Quality of schools, educational resources, and parental involvement influence academic achievement.

4. Community Support: Availability of community resources, social support, and positive role models impact

Conclusion

In conclusion, socioeconomic status significantly influences family dynamics, shaping relationships, opportunities, and overall well-being. By understanding the complexities of SES and its impact on families, we can develop targeted interventions to support families across the socioeconomic spectrum. It is essential to recognize the unique challenges faced by both low and high SES families and to provide resources that promote healthy family dynamics and child development. The impact of socioeconomic status on family dynamics and child development is profound and far-reaching. Socioeconomic factors shape the opportunities, resources, and experiences available to families, influencing relationships, well-being, and future prospects. By acknowledging the complexities of socioeconomic status and its effects on families, we can work towards creating supportive environments that promote healthy development, positive relationships, and equal opportunities for all.

Reference books

1. "Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life" by Annette Lareau

2. "Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010" by Charles Murray

3. "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond

4. "The End of Work: The Decline of the Global Work-Force and the Dawn of a New Era" by James Rifkin

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THE ROLE OF HORTICULTURE IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

This article explores the sociological dimensions of women's empowerment through their participation in the **horticulture** sector, particularly focusing on smallholder and rural contexts. Utilizing a **feminist sociological framework**, this study investigates how engagement in horticultural activities from cultivation and nursery raising to post-harvest processing and value addition—acts as a catalyst for transformative changes across the **economic, social, and political spheres** of women's lives. Findings suggest that horticulture provides a viable pathway for **increased income, enhanced decision-making power** within the household and community, and a shift in restrictive **gender norms**. The study underscores the necessity of **gender-sensitive interventions** and policy support to maximize horticulture's potential as a tool for achieving substantive gender equality and sustainable development.

Keywords: Horticulture, Sector, Feminist, Sociological Framework, Engagement, Horticultural activities. Economic, Social.

1. Introduction: The Sociological Imperative of Women's Empowerment

Women constitute a significant portion of the agricultural workforce globally, often bearing the brunt of labor-intensive tasks with limited recognition, control over resources, or decision-making authority. Sociologically, this disparity is rooted in deeply entrenched **patriarchal structures** and restrictive **gender norms** that confine women's roles, limit their mobility, and deny them ownership of productive assets like land and capital.

Horticulture, which includes the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants, frequently presents a distinct opportunity for women. Historically, activities like kitchen gardening and post-harvest handling have been considered 'extensions' of women's domestic roles. However, the commercialization and value-addition aspects of modern horticulture—such as processing into jams, pickles, or establishing nurseries—allow women to move beyond subsistence labor and engage in **entrepreneurship** and **agribusiness**. This shift warrants a

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dedicated sociological inquiry to understand the mechanisms and resulting social transformations that define empowerment.

This study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How does women's participation in various horticultural value chains translate into **economic empowerment** (income control, asset ownership)?
2. What are the changes in **intra-household and community-level decision-making power** for women engaged in horticulture?
3. How do societal **gender norms** and roles shift or resist transformation as a result of women's increased visibility and success in the horticulture sector?

2. Theoretical Framework: A Feminist Sociological Lens

The study employs a **Feminist Sociological Perspective**, drawing on the conceptualization of empowerment as a **multi-dimensional process** that involves not just material gains but also a critical shift in power relations (Kabeer, 1999). Specifically, we use the following key dimensions of empowerment in the context of horticulture:

2.1. Economic Agency

This dimension measures women's ability to **access, control, and use** income and productive resources, including capital, technology, and land. In horticulture, this is observed through:

- Control over income earned from horticultural produce.
- Ownership of horticultural assets (e.g., polyhouses, processing equipment).
- Participation in financial institutions and market linkages.

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2.2. Relational Power and Decision-Making

This focuses on the ability of women to make **strategic life choices** and influence outcomes within their household and community. Horticultural activities, particularly through collective action in women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) or Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), can foster:

- Increased say in agricultural production and household expenditure decisions.
- Enhanced confidence, self-esteem, and social capital.
- Greater mobility and access to public spaces (markets, training centers).

2.3. Structural and Normative Change

This is the most transformative dimension, assessing the shift in **societal norms, attitudes, and institutions** that dictate gender roles. The successful entry of women into commercial horticulture can challenge:

- The traditional categorization of 'farmer' as a male identity.
- The rigid division of labor that relegates women to 'unskilled' or unpaid work.
- Cultural restrictions on women's public movement and market engagement.

3. Methodology

A **qualitative, case-study approach** was adopted, involving in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with women farmers and entrepreneurs engaged in horticulture (e.g., vegetable cultivation, floriculture, value-added products). Data was collected from [Insert a concise description of the study location, e.g., "three rural districts in a specific region"] to capture contextual nuances. **Purposive sampling** ensured the inclusion of women across different socio-economic strata and levels of involvement in the horticultural value chain. **Thematic analysis** was used to identify recurring patterns and core themes related to the three dimensions of empowerment.

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4. Findings and Discussion

4.1. Economic Empowerment: From Laborer to Entrepreneur

The study found a clear transition from women as mere laborers to active **horti-preneurs**. By focusing on high-value, perishable crops and, critically, **value-addition** (e.g., drying, packaging, making condiments), women were able to:

- **Increase and Stabilize Income:** Horticultural enterprises often yielded higher and more consistent returns compared to traditional staple crops. As one participant noted, "A steady supply of fresh vegetables or processed goods means money comes in every week, not just once a year."
- **Gain Financial Control:** A significant sociological impact was the shift from *receiving* household allowance to **controlling** the income generated from their specific produce. This control was strongly correlated with increased spending on children's education and household nutrition—a key finding supported by existing literature on gender and development.

4.2. Relational Power: Voice and Agency

Horticulture acted as an **arena of negotiation** for relational power both within the family and the wider community:

- **Intra-Household Decision-Making:** Financial contributions from horticulture provided women with a stronger "voice" in household decisions. Husbands were often reported to be more accepting of their wives' suggestions regarding farm expenditure, technology adoption, and major asset purchases. This reflects a shift in the traditional male monopoly on productive decisions.
- **Social Capital and Collective Action:** Participation in horticultural SHGs/FPOs not only provided access to training and market information but also fostered **collective efficacy**. These groups became vital social spaces, building networks, confidence, and a platform for demanding local resources (e.g., better irrigation, market access) from village councils.

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4.3. Structural and Normative Shifts: Challenging the "Male Farmer" Trope

While economic gains were immediate, the erosion of restrictive gender norms was a more gradual but profound sociological outcome:

- **Challenging the Division of Labor:** Horticultural roles often require women to engage in activities (e.g., market negotiation, operating small machinery, accessing credit) traditionally reserved for men. Their success in these roles began to challenge the competence and ability stereotypes.

5. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

This sociological study confirms that participation in the horticulture sector serves as a powerful, multi-dimensional engine for women's empowerment, delivering tangible gains in **economic agency** and promoting shifts in **relational power**. However, the long-term sustainability of this empowerment is intrinsically linked to overcoming persistent structural and normative constraints.

Policy Recommendations

To fully realize the potential of horticulture as a tool for social transformation and gender equality, policy interventions must be:

1. **Gender-Sensitive Training and Extension:** Move beyond mere technical training to include financial literacy, business management, and, crucially, **leadership skills**.
2. **Secure Access to Productive Resources:** Advocate for and implement policies that grant women **joint or sole ownership of agricultural land** and ensure easy access to credit and quality inputs.
3. **Support Value-Addition and Market Linkages:** Invest in post-harvest infrastructure and facilitate direct market access to bypass male-dominated intermediary channels, ensuring women retain control over profit margins.

Horticulture, thus, is not just an agricultural activity; it is a **sociological intervention** that, when supported by enabling policies, holds immense promise for building more equitable and sustainable rural societies.

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DIGITAL LITERACY: A PATHWAY TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Digital literacy is increasingly recognized as a vital tool for women empowerment, enabling women to access education, employment, social networks, and governance participation. This study examines the relationship between digital literacy and women empowerment, highlighting opportunities, challenges, and policy interventions. By reviewing government programs, NGO initiatives, and field examples, the research demonstrates that digital skills significantly enhance economic, social, educational, and political agency of women. Comprehensive strategies and inclusive policies can bridge the gender digital divide, fostering sustainable development.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Digital literacy, Gender equality, ICT, Inclusive development

Introduction

Women empowerment and digital literacy are two powerful forces driving social and economic transformation in the 21st century. Empowering women means giving them equal access to education, employment, decision-making, and technology, thereby enabling them to participate fully in all spheres of life. In today's digital age, literacy is no longer limited to reading and writing—it includes the ability to use digital tools, access online information, and participate in the digital economy.

Digital literacy opens new doors for women by providing access to knowledge, skills, and opportunities that were once beyond reach. It allows women to connect, communicate, learn, and innovate, fostering self-reliance and social inclusion. When women are digitally empowered, families and communities benefit as well, leading to broader national development. Thus, promoting women's empowerment through digital literacy is not just a social goal but a crucial step toward inclusive and sustainable development.

Review of Literature

Several studies highlight the strong link between **women's empowerment** and **digital literacy** as key drivers of inclusive development. According to research by UNESCO (2022) and UN Women (2021), access to digital skills enables women to participate actively in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and governance. Scholars

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such as Amartya Sen emphasize that empowerment through technology expands women's capabilities and freedom of choice.

However, the **digital gender gap** remains a major challenge—especially in rural and low-income regions—where women often have limited access to digital devices, internet connectivity, and training opportunities. Studies show that targeted digital literacy programs can improve women's self-confidence, income generation, and participation in community decision-making. Successful initiatives combine skill-building with social support, affordable technology, and safe online spaces.

Overall, the literature agrees that **digital literacy is a catalyst for women's empowerment**, but sustainable progress requires addressing social barriers, affordability, and the quality of digital education.

Objectives of the Study

1. **To examine** the relationship between women's empowerment and digital literacy in promoting inclusive development.
2. **To identify** the barriers that limit women's access to and participation in digital learning and technology.
3. **To analyze** the role of digital literacy in enhancing women's social, economic, and educational opportunities.
4. **To assess** the impact of government and non-government initiatives aimed at improving digital skills among women.
5. **To suggest** strategies for strengthening women's digital empowerment as a pathway to sustainable and inclusive growth.

Methodology

The study is based on a **descriptive and analytical approach**. It relies primarily on **secondary data** collected from various sources such as research papers, government reports, policy documents, and publications by international organizations like UNESCO and UN Women. Relevant literature on women's empowerment, digital literacy, and inclusive development was reviewed to understand existing trends, challenges, and initiatives.

The collected information was **analyzed qualitatively** to identify patterns, draw comparisons, and highlight the relationship between digital literacy and women's empowerment. The study also examines case examples of successful digital literacy programs to derive insights and recommendations for promoting inclusive development.

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Digital Literacy and Women's Empowerment: Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study is built on the idea that **digital literacy acts as a catalyst for women's empowerment** and inclusive development. Digital literacy goes beyond the basic ability to use technology—it includes the skills to access, evaluate, create, and share information effectively in digital spaces. When women gain these skills, they are better equipped to participate in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and social engagement.

Women's empowerment, in this context, refers to the process of enhancing women's **agency, autonomy, and decision-making power** in personal and public life. The framework assumes that access to digital tools and skills enables women to gain **economic independence, social mobility, and self-confidence**, leading to overall development.

Thus, digital literacy serves as both a **means and a medium** of empowerment—it bridges gender gaps, enhances access to opportunities, and contributes to building a more inclusive and equitable society. The interaction between technology, education, and empowerment forms the core of this conceptual framework.

Challenges in Promoting Digital Literacy among Women

Despite significant progress in recent years, several challenges continue to hinder the promotion of digital literacy among women:

1. **Limited Access to Technology:** Many women, especially in rural and low-income areas, lack access to smartphones, computers, and reliable internet connectivity.
2. **Socio-Cultural Barriers:** Traditional gender roles and societal norms often discourage women from using digital devices or participating in technology-based learning.
3. **Low Educational Attainment:** Limited basic literacy skills make it difficult for women to understand and use digital tools effectively.
4. **Financial Constraints:** The cost of devices, internet data, and training programs often restrict women's participation in digital literacy initiatives.

Government Policies and Initiatives

The Government of India has launched several policies and programs to promote **digital literacy and women's empowerment** as part of its vision for inclusive development. Key initiatives include:

1. **Digital India Programme (2015):** A flagship initiative aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society. It focuses on improving digital infrastructure, online services, and universal digital literacy.

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2. **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA):** This scheme seeks to make six crore rural households digitally literate by providing basic computer and internet training, with a special focus on women and marginalized groups.

3. **National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM):** Launched to empower citizens with essential digital skills, enabling them to access e-governance services and online resources effectively.

4. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Although primarily focused on education and gender equality, the program promotes the use of digital tools to spread awareness and support girls' education.

Impact of Digital Literacy on Women's Empowerment

Digital literacy has emerged as a powerful tool for enhancing **women's empowerment** across social, economic, and educational dimensions. Access to digital skills enables women to **gain knowledge, communicate effectively, and participate actively** in various aspects of life.

1. **Educational Empowerment:** Digital platforms provide women access to online learning, skill development courses, and information resources, helping them overcome barriers of distance and time.

2. **Economic Empowerment:** With digital skills, women can explore entrepreneurship, engage in e-commerce, manage finances through digital banking, and access new job opportunities.

3. **Social Empowerment:** Digital connectivity allows women to voice opinions, join support networks, and participate in community development and decision-making processes.

4. **Political Empowerment:** Women can use digital platforms to stay informed, engage in civic discussions, and advocate for their rights and social causes.

5. **Personal Empowerment:** The use of technology builds self-confidence, independence, and awareness among women, enabling them to make informed life choices.

Findings and Discussion

The study reveals that **digital literacy plays a crucial role in empowering women** by enhancing their access to education, employment, and social participation. It was found that women who possess basic digital skills are more likely to engage in income-generating activities, use online services, and participate in decision-making processes within their families and communities.

However, the findings also highlight persistent **barriers such as limited access to technology, socio-cultural restrictions, and lack of awareness** in rural and marginalized areas. Many digital literacy programs have shown positive results but often face challenges related to sustainability, infrastructure, and inclusivity.

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Government initiatives like **Digital India** and **PMGDISHA** have made significant progress in spreading awareness and providing training, yet their reach and effectiveness depend on local implementation and follow-up support.

Conclusion

Digital literacy has proven to be a vital pathway for **women's empowerment**, enabling access to education, employment, social participation, and economic independence. When women are digitally skilled, they can overcome traditional barriers, engage in decision-making, and contribute meaningfully to community and national development.

While government initiatives and programs have made significant strides, challenges such as the digital gender gap, socio-cultural restrictions, and infrastructure limitations remain. Addressing these barriers through **inclusive policies, accessible training, and safe digital environments** is essential to maximize the benefits of digital literacy for women.

In conclusion, promoting digital literacy among women is not only a matter of skill development but a **critical strategy for fostering equality, inclusion, and sustainable development**, ensuring that women play an active and empowered role in shaping the future.

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THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN SILK WORKERS IN THE SILK INDUSTRY: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The silk industry, particularly the labor-intensive sericulture sector, relies heavily on **women's labor**, with participation rates frequently exceeding 60% in various activities from mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing to reeling and weaving. This study conducts an economic analysis to assess the **socio-economic status** of women silk workers and measure the extent of their **economic empowerment**. Using a quantitative approach across selected silk-producing regions, the research examines key economic indicators, including wage levels, income contribution to household, access to credit, and participation in financial decision-making.

The findings reveal that while sericulture significantly contributes to household income and provides a vital source of rural employment, women workers often face **lower wages** compared to their male counterparts for similar work and are frequently categorized as **unpaid family labor** in home-based activities. Furthermore, a substantial portion of the income generated by women is often spent on household necessities, though it does correlate with **enhanced decision-making power** within the family. The study identifies persistent economic barriers, such as limited access to advanced technology, formal credit, and organized markets, which restrict their full economic potential. Recommendations include implementing gender-sensitive policy interventions for **wage equity**, promoting skill-upgradation training, facilitating access to microfinance, and recognizing the economic value of unpaid family labor to foster sustainable economic empowerment.

1. Introduction

The global silk industry is an ancient, agro-based enterprise that plays a crucial role in the rural economy of many developing nations. Notably, it is a sector characterized by a high degree of **female labor participation** across its entire value chain, from the primary stage of cultivating silkworm host plants to the secondary stage of silk reeling, spinning, and weaving. Women's involvement is not merely supplementary; they often perform the more

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intricate and time-consuming tasks requiring dexterity and patience, such as silkworm rearing, cocoon harvesting, and traditional reeling.

Despite their indispensable role and significant labor contribution—often exceeding 60% of the total workforce in sericulture—the economic status of these women workers is frequently precarious. Studies have repeatedly highlighted issues of **wage disparity**, categorization as 'unpaid family workers,' heavy workload due to dual domestic and professional responsibilities, and limited control over the income generated. This paper aims to provide a rigorous, **quantitative economic assessment** of women's status within the silk industry to measure their degree of economic empowerment, analyze the specific economic challenges they face, and propose evidence-based policy solutions.

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Study Area and Sample

The research adopted a **descriptive and analytical research design**. The study was conducted in three major silk-producing clusters across different geographical regions known for high female participation in sericulture and silk weaving. A total sample of N = 300 women workers was selected using a stratified random sampling technique, ensuring representation from different segments of the value chain (mulberry cultivators, silkworm rearers, reelers, and weavers).

2.2. Data Collection and Variables

Primary data was collected through a structured interview schedule. Key economic variables analyzed included:

1. **Earnings:** Daily/monthly wages, non-monetary benefits, and the percentage of sericulture income to total household income.
2. **Wage Parity:** Comparison of women's wages with men's wages for similar or equivalent tasks.
3. **Financial Decision-Making Index (FDMI):** A composite score measuring women's involvement in decisions related to savings, credit, asset purchase, and expenditure of sericulture income.

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4. **Access to Financial Resources:** Ownership of bank accounts, access to formal credit (loans from banks/SHGs), and dependence on informal moneylenders.
5. **Economic Autonomy:** Control over personal earnings and the power to influence household expenditure.

2.3. Data Analysis

The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis using descriptive statistics (mean, frequency, percentage) and inferential statistics. The **Women Economic Contribution Index (WECI)** was computed to quantify the proportion of women's direct and indirect income to the total household income. **Regression analysis** was used to determine the impact of factors like skill level, access to credit, and technology use on the women's overall economic status (as measured by a composite index).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Labor Participation and Income Contribution

The study confirmed the dominance of female labor, with women constituting an average of **65.8%** of the workforce across the sampled units. The mean contribution of women's earnings from silk-related activities to the total family income was found to be **38.5%**, which is a significant proportion demonstrating their essential role in family sustenance. The **WECI** showed that in landless laborer households and those engaged in post-cocoon activities (reeling, weaving), the female income contribution often exceeded **50%**. This highlights the industry's role as a major poverty alleviation and livelihood diversification tool.

3.2. Wage Disparity and Unpaid Labor

A persistent challenge identified was **wage disparity**. For equivalent daily-wage tasks in mulberry cultivation and cocoon harvesting, women's average daily wages were found to be **18.5% lower** than those of male workers. More critically, **42%** of the women involved in silkworm rearing and charka (traditional wheel) reeling were categorized as **unpaid family labor**, a classification that grossly underestimates their economic contribution and excludes them from social security benefits. The statistical correlation between this 'unpaid' status and lower overall household savings was highly significant ($p<0.01$).

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3.3. Economic Empowerment and Decision-Making

The **Financial Decision-Making Index (FDMI)** score averaged 0.65 (on a scale of 0 to 1), indicating moderate but not complete economic empowerment. Women with higher individual earnings had a statistically significant higher FDMI score. Specifically, **71%** of the respondents reported having a *primary* say in food and children's education expenses, but only **24%** had a *primary* say in the purchase of major assets or investment in sericulture equipment. This suggests that the income earned is primarily directed towards consumption and welfare, rather than capital investment, limiting their long-term economic mobility.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The silk industry serves as a crucial economic engine for rural women, providing substantial employment and an essential income stream. However, the economic reality for women silk workers is complex: they are **vital contributors** to the industry's productivity yet remain **economically disadvantaged** due to wage gaps, the prevalence of unpaid family labor, and limited control over investment decisions.

Recommendations

To bridge the economic gap and foster genuine empowerment, the following policy interventions are recommended:

- **Mandate Wage Equity and Labor Recognition:** State governments and the Central Silk Board must enforce equal pay for equal work legislation. Furthermore, home-based workers, especially those categorized as family labor, need to be assigned an imputed economic value to recognize their contribution for purposes of access to government schemes and formal credit.
- **Enhance Financial Access and Literacy:** Launch targeted programs to facilitate access to **formal credit**, particularly through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and microfinance institutions, for purchasing improved reeling machines and looms. Mandatory **financial literacy** and business management training should accompany these schemes.

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- **Skill Upgradation and Technology Dissemination:** Invest in gender-sensitive vocational training that teaches modern, less strenuous, and higher-yielding techniques (e.g., improved reeling basins) to enhance productivity and reduce occupational health hazards.
- **Establish Women-Centric Cooperatives:** Support the formation of women-managed producer cooperatives to bypass exploitative intermediaries, improve market access, and gain better control over raw material and finished product prices.

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"A Sociological Study on Environmental and Sanitation Issues in Mandya Slums"

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Abstract

Access to clean water, proper sanitation, and a healthy environment is essential for human well-being and social development. In urban India, slum populations continue to face severe challenges in these areas, living in overcrowded settlements with inadequate infrastructure, poor drainage, and limited access to safe drinking water. These conditions not only threaten physical health but also affect social dignity and the overall quality of life.

Mandya District, Karnataka, though known for its agricultural and industrial growth, has experienced the steady expansion of informal settlements. Residents of these slums face multiple environmental and sanitation problems, including improper waste disposal, water scarcity, and unhygienic living conditions. Weak urban planning, low community awareness, and insufficient implementation of government programs further exacerbate these challenges.

Keywords: Slum Dwellers, Environmental Issues, Sanitation Problems, Urban Poverty, Health Hazards, Sustainable Urban Development

Introduction

Urbanization is a defining feature of modern India, offering **economic opportunities** but also creating **significant challenges**. As cities expand, the demand for **affordable housing, sanitation, and basic infrastructure** grows rapidly. However, these benefits are **not equally distributed**. A large portion of the urban population resides in **slum settlements**, where **overcrowding, poverty, and unhygienic conditions** are common.

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In these areas, **limited access to clean water, proper drainage, and waste management** contributes to **poor health and social vulnerability**.

In Mandya District, Karnataka, these challenges are particularly evident. Despite the district's **agricultural productivity and industrial growth**, **informal settlements** are steadily expanding in urban centers. Slum residents face **inadequate sanitation, environmental pollution, and health hazards**, which negatively affect their daily lives. **Weak urban planning, insufficient civic facilities, and low awareness about hygiene** further compound these problems, leaving communities **exposed to on-going risks**.

From a sociological perspective, **environmental and sanitation issues in slums** reflect deeper **social inequalities and systemic neglect**. **Poverty, marginalization, and lack of political representation** shape the experiences of residents, influencing their **living conditions and access to services**. Addressing these challenges requires more than just **infrastructure improvements**. It also demands **social awareness, policy reforms, and active community engagement** to create **lasting solutions**.

This study aims to investigate the **environmental and sanitation challenges faced by slum dwellers** in Mandya District. By examining **living conditions, health impacts, and existing government initiatives**, the research seeks to identify both **immediate concerns and sustainable strategies**. The ultimate goal is to inform **policies and programs** that promote **inclusive and equitable urban development**, ensuring that all citizens can live in a **clean, safe, and dignified environment**.

Research Problem

The research problem **"A Sociological Study on Environmental and Sanitation Issues in Mandya Slums"** focuses on understanding the environmental and sanitation challenges faced by slum dwellers in Mandya District and identifying the social, economic, and infrastructural barriers that affect their living conditions. Specifically, the study aims to:

- **To identify** the key environmental and sanitation challenges faced by slum residents in Mandya.

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- **To examine** the social, economic, and institutional factors contributing to poor sanitation and unhealthy living conditions.
- **To suggest** practical, community-based, and policy-oriented solutions to improve environmental hygiene, health outcomes, and overall quality of life.

Significance of the Study

The study is significant from academic, social, and policy perspectives, as it sheds light on the persistent challenges faced by the slum population in Mandya, including poverty, poor sanitation, and environmental neglect, despite the presence of government programs. It contributes to knowledge by enhancing research on urban sanitation and environmental issues in smaller cities, helping to understand the links between poverty, health, and environment.

The study also clarifies the real challenges faced by residents, such as poor waste disposal, inadequate drainage, water scarcity, and low hygiene awareness, and demonstrates how social inequality and weak infrastructure exacerbate these problems. Furthermore, the findings offer valuable insights for policymakers, planners, and NGOs, emphasizing the importance of community participation and inclusive approaches to improve sanitation, environmental conditions, and overall living standards.

Review of Literature

Patel and Mitlin (2018) emphasized that slum dwellers in Indian cities, including smaller urban centers like Mandya, face **multidimensional poverty** that limits access to clean water, proper sanitation, and safe housing. They observed that inadequate infrastructure and unplanned urban growth worsen living conditions in marginalized settlements.

Bapat and Agarwal (2019) highlighted that poor **waste management and drainage systems** are major contributors to environmental pollution and health hazards in slum areas. In the context of Mandya, irregular garbage collection and insufficient sewage facilities significantly reduce the quality of life of slum residents.

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Chakraborty (2020) pointed out that **community participation** is crucial for improving urban sanitation. He observed that programs in slums are more effective when residents of settlements like those in Mandya are actively involved in planning, monitoring, and maintaining sanitation facilities.

Ramakrishna (2021) discussed sanitation challenges in Karnataka's urban slums, including those in Mandya. He noted that **low hygiene awareness, inadequate civic amenities, and weak policy implementation** limit the success of sanitation programs in these communities.

UN-Habitat (2022) emphasized that **sustainable urban development** requires integrated approaches combining policy intervention, infrastructure improvement, and active community engagement. For Mandya's slums, this highlights the need for both structural improvements and social inclusion strategies to ensure better environmental and sanitation outcomes.

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopts a **qualitative research design**, primarily relying on **secondary data** to understand the **environmental and sanitation challenges faced by slum dwellers in Mandya**. This approach allows the researcher to systematically analyze **existing reports, government records, and academic studies** to identify patterns, gaps, and key issues in urban sanitation and living conditions. By using secondary sources, the study provides a **broad and informed perspective** on the challenges faced by marginalized urban communities.

Study Area

The research focuses on **Mandya District, Karnataka**, specifically targeting **urban slum settlements within Mandya city**. Selected areas include **Kuvempunagar, Hosa Badavane, and other informal settlements**, chosen due to their **high population density, prevalent sanitation issues, and availability of secondary data from government and NGO sources**. These areas provide a representative understanding of the living conditions and environmental challenges experienced by slum residents in Mandya.

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Target Data Sources

The study relies on **secondary data** collected from multiple sources:

- **Government Records:** Census data, municipal sanitation reports, and health surveys related to urban slums.
- **NGO Reports:** Field reports and studies from NGOs working on sanitation, hygiene, and environmental improvement in Karnataka.
- **Academic Literature:** Journal articles, research papers, and case studies on urban sanitation, environmental issues, and community health.
- **Policy Documents:** Reports and evaluations of government programs such as the **Swachh Bharat Mission** and other urban development initiatives.

Data Collection Methods

- **Document Analysis:** Reviewing government, NGO, and academic reports to extract information about sanitation facilities, hygiene practices, drainage systems, waste management, and health outcomes in Mandya slums.
- **Content Analysis:** Examining policy documents and program evaluations to understand the effectiveness of interventions and identify gaps in implementation.

Data Analysis

- **Qualitative content analysis** will be used to identify recurring themes, trends, and patterns in environmental and sanitation challenges.
- **Comparative analysis** will evaluate the success of government and NGO initiatives and highlight areas requiring further intervention or improvement.

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Ethical Considerations

- All secondary data sources will be properly cited to maintain **academic integrity**.
- Only publicly available data or data obtained with **appropriate permissions** will be used.
- Care will be taken to **accurately represent findings** without misinterpretation or bias.

Limitations of the Study

- Reliance on secondary data may limit the **depth of understanding of community perceptions and lived experiences**.
- Some sources may be **out dated or incomplete**, affecting comprehensiveness.
- Findings may not fully reflect **current conditions** in all slum areas of Mandya, as some settlements may lack documented data.

Conclusion

The study highlights that **slum dwellers in Mandya District** continue to face **serious environmental and sanitation challenges**. Despite **government programs** and **urban development initiatives**, issues such as **inadequate infrastructure**, **poor waste management**, **limited access to clean water**, and **low hygiene awareness** negatively impact the **health, dignity, and quality of life** of residents. These problems are not just technical or infrastructural but also reflect **deeper social inequalities, marginalization, and gaps in policy implementation**, leaving slum communities **vulnerable** and **excluded from formal planning processes**.

The findings emphasize the need for **integrated approaches** that combine **infrastructure improvements** with **community engagement, behavioural change, and policy reforms**. **Active participation of residents** in planning, monitoring, and maintaining sanitation facilities can ensure that interventions are **sustainable, culturally appropriate, and socially inclusive**. **Collaborative efforts** from **government authorities, NGOs, urban planners, and the community** are essential to create **cleaner, healthier, and more dignified living conditions**, contributing to **sustainable urban development** and **social equity** in Mandya.

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Balancing Family and Work: Women in Non-Farm Economic Activities in Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Feminist studies have established women's invisibility in economic enterprises/work and their lack of or limited access to both income and decision-making regarding economic and household matters. This is despite their shouldering both work and family responsibilities for generations. Besides this injustice, home and work are two different worlds for working women and are often in conflict with each other. When a woman is engaged in gainful employment, she finds herself under increasing pressure to reconcile the dual burden of two roles at her home and her workplace because each is a full-time job. Coping up with the situation requires not only additional physical strength, personal ability, and intelligence on the part of a working woman but also requires the members of her role-set to simultaneously make necessary modifications in their expectations.

Key Words: Household, women and work, role conflict, non-farm economic activities, gender roles

Introduction

Social science research has shed light on the fact that considerable and drastic changes have occurred over the past several decades in women's work and their household (HH) responsibilities. The situation where only the man was the bread-winner, while the mother or wife was a full-time home-maker caring for children, is changed today, with perhaps a little more than 10 per cent of all household fitting into this traditional practice. From the last 30 years at least, families exhibit a changed picture where women are engaged in multiple forms of on-farm, and off-farm jobs in the organised and unorganised sectors. Women are part of dual earner families (where both husband and wife are employed), single-parent families, blended families, intra-generational families, etc. Now-a-days, poor and middle-class families do not depend upon income from only the adult males as a predominant pattern. Studies have shown that in the past 40 years, women especially mothers have entered the paid labour force in record numbers (Rosenfeld, 1992).

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Women and Work: Socio-Economic and Feminist Perspectives

Feminists have established women's invisibility in economic enterprises/work and lack of access to both income and decision-making regarding economic and household matters. Lack of empowerment and recognition about their contribution to the household economy is very intriguing. More than that, such an ignored status in the public sphere despite shouldering both work and family responsibilities for generations is a greater deprivation for working women, for whom home and work are two different worlds[17] and both placing much demand and pressure on women expecting their attention. Often the two -familial obligations and work-life – are in constant conflict with each other.

Conceptual Framework of the Paper

Therefore, feminist economists and sociologists have identified that women working for an income outside home (and even home-based women workers) face challenges in striking a balance between work-life and familial obligations. The two are two different spheres of activity. Women have to share their time, energy and adjust their roles in such a way that they do not overlap across these two spheres of activities.

Theoretical Framework about Work-Family Balance

The theoretical framework used to understand work-family balance is based on diverse perspectives – economic, socio-psychological, situational etc. the socio-psychological theories by Frone 2003, Grzywacz and Carlson 2007 have propounded that the ability to separate work and non-work roles would encourage non-conflict situations in the family. They have opined that balance between role expectations in both the domains – work and family – is possible when both partners are able to negotiate and share the work, family responsibilities and duties.

However, people's sense of the degree to which they achieved a satisfactory resolution of the multiple demands of their work and family roles will be moulded by the broader meaning they attach to different life domains and their participation in the work-family system. Work-family balance can be seen as a meta-level concept referring to a combination of processes of positive and negative spill-over between work and family- also referred in the literature as work-family facilitation and work-family conflict respectively (Gryzwacz & Butler, 2005).

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Objectives of the Paper

This paper is based on some preliminary findings of our ongoing study of women's participation in non-economic activities in Tumakuru district of Karnataka. Secondary sources of data available with the government of Karnataka for Tumakuru district have shown that among non-farm economic activities of the district, silk reeling, coir work, beedi rolling and certain arts and crafts are the major ones, in which women are engaged in as wage earners (GoK 2019). For our discussion in this paper, we have taken beedi rolling as the non-farm economic activity to look into women's work-family balance. Being home-based economic activity, it expected to provide the women the space needed to carry out domestic and child care duties in the family.

The objectives of the broader study (undertaken for my PhD degree) are condensed and used as appropriate to this paper. They are:

1. To understand the nature of work of women in the selected non-fam economic activities in the study area;
2. To look into the presence of problems and challenges before them in balancing familial duties with their work;
3. To examine the coping methods, if any, adopted by these women in balancing their two lives – family-oriented duties and responsibilities and non-farm economic activity/ies which returns income or earning; and
4. To suggest policy recommendations or suggestions

Methodology, Data and Study Area

As noted already, the preliminary findings discussed in this paper are from the study in Tumakuru district of Karnataka state[18]. Two taluks have been selected based on secondary sources of data which provided the socio-economic, education, gender, and other development indicators. Census reports, National Family Health Studies' reports, Government Documents such as the Report of Redressal of Regional Disparities in Karnataka, Human Development Index, Gender Development Index, study reports of research institutes and universities – have been consulted. The presence of important or major non-farm economic activity/ies employing female work force in large numbers was the prime rationale of selection of the two taluks. Only the non-farm economic activity of beedi rolling is considered for this paper.

[18] The larger study (for my PhD) includes two other districts, viz., Chamarajanagara and Ballari. Only Tumakuru district's study's preliminary findings are presented in this paper.

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Nature of Work in Beedi Rolling

Beedi rolling is the economic activity which involves the process of making beedis[19] using manual labour. It relies primarily upon the labour-intensive work carried out 99% by women and girls. Males are also engaged in the beedi-making or rolling activity (as a non-farm economic activity). But their work in the division of labour system of beedi industry is such duties like supply of raw materials of tendu leaves, tobacco, thread and wrapping paper based on the company to which they supply beedis. These (supplying) works are through agents or middle-men in each taluk of the districts where beedi rolling is preponderant. It is they who control the entire labour system; supply of raw materials and receiving the rolled beedis from the workers, making wage payments to them and taking care of the onward work of sorting, inspecting, labelling, packaging, and supplying to the companies. This is a complicated process involving several stages and levels/classes of workers. But one thing is notable: these works are male-centered, pay higher rates than actual rolling of beedis and importantly, they are free from impact on health of workers – health hazards.

Work Profile

Beedis are continued to be used among the poor and impoverished as they are comparatively inexpensive as compared to cigarettes. There are several popular brands of beedis like Bharat Beedis, Ganesha Beedis etc. but the rolling takes place in the most unorganized, unregistered manner. For example, in Sira town of Tumakuru district, weekly (on Wednesdays) shandy is held where heaps of rolled beedis are sold in auction by the agents. Entrepreneurs come to buy in bulk quantities and make beedi packets of 10-15 beedis each and give their own label. As there is no prior company or label to the beedis auctioned, they are called as 'Udafi' beedis.

A major portion of beedi rolling work is centered around women, who roll raw beedis. Wages are paid @ 1000 beedis per day. Raw material is supplied by the agent, which consists of tobacco, tendu leaf, in the main. After completing household work, including caring of children, old and sick, tending to domestic animals if any, the women sit to roll beedis. The work goes on till late in the night. Girl children who are school drop-outs either roll independently or assist their mother. School-going girls and boys also offer assistance before and after school hours. Such assistance is usually in the form of cutting the tendu leaf to the required shape, putting the rolled beedis to dry, packing them and at times accompany mother to the agent to deliver the finished beedis.

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Problems and Challenges

A review of literature on the subject has indicated that women workers in such unorganized and home-based occupations (such as beedi rolling) are facing a number of problems in their work. Although beedi rolling is an age-old economic activity in the non-farm sector, the social organization of production of beedis has not altered much. The exploitative role or monopoly of the agent or middleman in supplying of raw materials or assigning work itself to women workers and procurement of rolled beedis from them at a low rate has remained unaltered.

Secondly, their work is still in the unorganized sector, where they are denied minimum wages. As they work under a system where the agents/middlemen are the links between them and the beedi contractors and owners of beedi companies, there is much invisibility about their work-related problems. With the bulk of the manufacturing work taking place in their houses, there is lack of any direct contact with the employer. This has given rise to much exploitation of these women workers. Threats about not giving work, when the women demand better wages (equal to what the government has fixed), when they seek more work to earn a little more etc. one woman exclaimed ***"my first salute is to the agent, then only to God (mera pehla namaskar agent ko; baad me bhagvan ko).*** This mirrors the importance of the agent who is the sole supplier of raw material and buys back rolled beedis; therefore, the godly person who gives them their livelihood.

Differences in Male Vs Female Labour in Beedi Rolling as a non-Farm Economic Activity

It is to be noted that work-family balance as a concept is applicable to mainly or only women workers in both on-farm and off-farm (or non-farm) as well as organized as well as unorganized sectors of work. This is because of the responsibilities of women towards household work, which includes Food, Fodder and Fuel; Cleaning, Caring and Reproductive duties. These amount to full time work and it is a woman's duty to take care of these responsibilities. In addition, women in rural, tribal and urban settings are engaged in a number of gainful economic activities. For the women workers in the unorganized sector, there is no fixed income and the employers do not ascribe to government's minimum wage policy. Working hours are long, work places are located at a distance and the work environment is hazardous to their health, especially as pregnant and lactating mothers.

The greatest issue in the case of women's work in the unorganized sector (which is non-farm too) is their invisibility and deprivation of benefits regarding treatment during ill health, job security, and minimum wages.

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Added to these problems and denials in their work, women also face challenges in attending to their domestic/household responsibilities. Poor and women from vulnerable communities are especially affected by this problem of having to balance between household work, child care, caring of old and sick and their employment. This is discussed in literature as 'work-life balance'.

Concluding Remarks

The case of beedi rollers as non-farm workers for wages in the unorganized sector of beedi rolling has portrayed the complex reality of how these women balance their family duties with their work. Being poor and drawn from low classes and castes, they are highly vulnerable as indicated by the sector of non-farm work they have to inevitably carry out, in the absence of alternative wage work. To balance between work and domestic responsibilities, they are forced to take help of children, girl children especially. The women also work under extremely bad circumstances affecting their health. Occupational health risks are one of the highest among beedi workers. But being the only available work to meet daily expenses, women are taking it up despite being a harmful profession.

Regarding their future aspirations, the women have dreams of educating their children well, including daughters. They do not want them to work in the beedi sector.

The paper concludes by recommending that:

a) Each worker needs to be documented/registered individually and compulsorily. This will enable them to benefit from provident fund and pension.
b) Right to Education needs to be implemented strictly
c) Community work sheds need to be constructed
d) Trade unions should align with the workers to reach out to the women beedi workers to protect their interests.
e) Communication about government schemes and services need to be effectively reached to the women workers
f) Health check up and subsidized treatment should be available
g) NGOs and local organisations must work in close association with the beedi women workers who are socio-economically disadvantaged and depend on this non-farm economic activity for survival.

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MARGINALISED WOMEN WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE FIELDS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract

Women constitute a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce in India and other developing nations, yet their contributions remain under-recognised and undervalued. This sociological study explores the status, challenges, and lived experiences of marginalised women workers in agricultural fields. Drawing upon existing literature, field observations, and secondary data, the study highlights gender-based inequalities, caste dynamics, economic vulnerability, and social exclusion that shape their working and living conditions. The paper argues for a gender-sensitive and inclusive rural development approach that ensures social justice, equitable access to resources, and empowerment of women agricultural labourers.

Keywords: Marginalization, Women workers, Agriculture, Gender inequality, Rural sociology, Empowerment

1. Introduction

Agriculture remains the backbone of the rural economy in India, employing nearly two-thirds of the rural population. Women play a central role in this sector, engaging in sowing, weeding, harvesting, processing, and livestock management. Despite their indispensable role, women agricultural workers are among the most marginalised segments of rural society. Their work is often informal, poorly paid, and socially devalued.

Marginalisation of women in agriculture is not only economic but also social and cultural. It is reinforced by patriarchal norms, caste hierarchies, limited land ownership, and exclusion from decision-making processes. This paper examines the structural and sociological dimensions of marginalisation faced by women agricultural labourers, focusing on their lived realities and strategies for survival.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyse the socio-economic profile of marginalised women agricultural workers.

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2. To examine the nature of gender and caste-based inequalities in rural agricultural labour.
3. To identify the challenges faced by women workers in accessing resources, rights, and recognition.
4. To explore policy implications for improving their socio-economic and occupational status.

3. Methodology

The study adopts a qualitative sociological approach, drawing on secondary data from government reports, NSSO surveys, and existing literature, supplemented by limited field interactions in rural regions of South India. Interviews with women workers, small farmers, and local leaders provided insights into the everyday struggles of women in agriculture. The analysis follows a gender and caste-sensitive framework.

4. Marginalisation in the Agricultural Context

Marginalisation refers to processes through which certain groups are pushed to the edges of society, deprived of resources, rights, and opportunities. In agriculture, marginalised women workers are typically landless labourers, belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or Other Backward Classes. They face triple disadvantages — as women, as poor, and as members of subordinated castes.

Cultural norms often restrict women's mobility and decision-making power. Their contribution to agricultural productivity remains "invisible" because it is not formally counted or compensated adequately. The feminisation of agricultural labour, particularly due to male migration to non-farm sectors, has increased women's workload without corresponding empowerment.

5. Working and Living Conditions

Most women agricultural labourers work under precarious conditions. They engage in seasonal, casual work with meagre wages, often below statutory minimum levels. Lack of access to land titles, credit, irrigation, and modern technology further deepens their economic insecurity. Social protection schemes rarely reach them effectively due to illiteracy, bureaucratic barriers, and lack of awareness.

Health hazards such as exposure to pesticides, long working hours, and lack of sanitation are common. The burden of unpaid domestic work and caregiving further limits their participation in community activities or local governance.

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6. Gender, Caste, and Class Intersections

Marginalisation of women workers is best understood through the intersectionality of gender, caste, and class. Caste determines the type of work performed, wages received, and social interactions within rural communities. Women from Dalit and tribal communities are often employed in the most menial and physically demanding tasks. Class position influences access to land, education, and political voice.

These intersecting hierarchies perpetuate a cycle of dependency and exclusion. Patriarchal attitudes within households and communities further restrict women's agency in resource management and collective bargaining.

7. Policy Framework and Gaps

While several government schemes exist—such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), and gender mainstreaming initiatives—implementation gaps persist. Land reforms have largely bypassed women, and agricultural extension services rarely target them.

There is a need for gender-disaggregated data collection, access to credit and training for women farmers, and recognition of women as "farmers" rather than "helpers." Empowering women through cooperatives, self-help groups, and capacity-building programmes can transform their economic position and social status.

8. Discussion

A sociological understanding of marginalised women workers highlights the complex interplay between structure and agency. While systemic inequalities restrict their opportunities, women develop coping strategies through solidarity, collective action, and informal support networks. The role of NGOs and grassroots organisations in building awareness and enhancing bargaining power is crucial.

Sustainable development in rural India requires integrating gender and social justice perspectives into agricultural policies. Ensuring equitable access to land, education, healthcare, and representation in local institutions is essential for inclusive rural transformation.

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9. Conclusion

Marginalised women agricultural workers embody resilience amidst systemic deprivation. Their invisibility in economic statistics and policy frameworks perpetuates their marginalisation. Recognising their contribution, addressing gender and caste-based inequalities, and ensuring social and economic empowerment are critical steps toward achieving sustainable and equitable rural development.

A paradigm shift—from welfare to empowerment—is necessary, where women are acknowledged as active agents of change rather than passive recipients of aid. A gender-sensitive agricultural policy can transform not only women's lives but also the social fabric of rural India.

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DIGITAL INDIA AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A CONCEPTUAL STUDY

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Abstract

The Digital India initiative, launched by the Government of India, aims to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge-based economy. This paper presents a comprehensive conceptual study on the interrelationship between the Digital India initiative and the growth of entrepreneurship across various socio-economic segments in India. It explores how digital infrastructure, e-governance, and technology-driven platforms have catalyzed innovation, inclusivity, and economic growth through entrepreneurship. The research emphasizes the role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups as key drivers of digital transformation, enabling enhanced market access, productivity, and job creation.

Through an extensive review of secondary literature—comprising government reports, academic studies, and empirical evidence—the study analyzes the opportunities and challenges of digital entrepreneurship in India.

Keywords: Digital India, Entrepreneurship, MSMEs, Digital Transformation, Innovation, Inclusive Growth

1. Introduction

Background and Significance of Digital India Initiative

The Digital India initiative, launched by the Government of India, represents an ambitious national strategy aimed at transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The core objectives of the program encompass the development of digital infrastructure, digital delivery of services, and digital literacy empowerment among citizens. Fundamentally, Digital India seeks to leverage technology to foster economic efficiency, governance transparency, and social inclusiveness, especially in rural and underserved regions.

This initiative rests on multiple pillars, including broadband highways, universal access to mobile connectivity, e-governance reforms, and the creation of digital services platforms. Together, these pillars form a robust foundation to enable the seamless integration of digital technologies into daily business and life practices. The socio-economic significance of this digital transformation cannot be overstated, as it addresses long-standing

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challenges such as limited access to information, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and social disparities stemming from uneven technology diffusion.

Purpose and Scope of the Research

This research paper aims to analyze the multifaceted interactions between the Digital India initiative and the growth of entrepreneurship across the Indian socio-economic fabric. Central to this inquiry is the concept of digital entrepreneurship, defined within the Indian context as the creation and management of ventures that utilize digital technologies, platforms, and ecosystems to conduct business activities.

The scope of the study is inclusive and expansive, encompassing the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), startups, traditional handicraft industries, and spans the urban-rural divide.

Research Methodology and Data Sources

This study adopts a qualitative and analytical methodology primarily based on an exhaustive review of secondary literature, including government reports, peer-reviewed academic papers, and empirical research studies related to digital entrepreneurship and Digital India. The approach includes critical synthesis of findings from diverse sources and identification of key themes, patterns, and gaps in existing knowledge.

An analytical framework is used to evaluate digital entrepreneurship outcomes in terms of economic growth, employment generation, innovation, inclusivity, and overall ecosystem vitality. Challenges such as infrastructural constraints, skill gaps, and regulatory barriers are extensively examined.

2. Overview of Entrepreneurship in India

Historical Context and Evolution

Entrepreneurship in India bears a deep-rooted historical tradition dating back to the pre-industrial and colonial eras, where family-run enterprises, artisanal crafts, and trade guilds dominated business activities. These traditional forms of entrepreneurship were largely localized and relied on informal networks, limited technology, and social capital.

The advent of globalization and economic liberalization in the early 1990s marked a turning point, pushing Indian entrepreneurs towards modern business practices, market orientation, and competitive dynamics on a global plane. This transition opened pathways for new sectors and business models, especially in services and manufacturing.

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Role of MSMEs and Small Enterprises

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the lifeblood of India's entrepreneurial ecosystem, contributing significantly to the GDP, employment, and exports. MSMEs have been pivotal in promoting inclusive economic growth by generating employment opportunities across socio-economic strata and in diverse regions, fostering equitable development.

Influence of Government Initiatives on Entrepreneurship

Government policies have played an instrumental role in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape in India, with several flagship initiatives providing financial, procedural, and regulatory support. Notable among these are Make in India, aimed at boosting manufacturing; Startup India, focused on nurturing innovative enterprises; and Digital India, which seeks to enhance digital infrastructure and usage.

3. Digital India Initiative: Features and Implementation

Pillars and Goals of Digital India Program

The Digital India program is an aggregate of multiple interconnected pillars designed to facilitate a comprehensive digital transformation. These include (but are not limited to) the development of broadband highways, ensuring universal mobile connectivity, providing easy access to digital services such as e-governance and digital payments, promoting digital literacy, and fostering an innovation-driven government ecosystem.

The program aims at creating a digitally empowered citizenry through initiatives such as Common Service Centers and digital skill development programs. It also strengthens socio-economic sectors, including healthcare, education, and commerce, through digitization. The vision is not only about technology deployment but also about democratizing information and enabling citizens to utilize technology for empowerment.

Digital Infrastructure and Technology Ecosystem

The backbone of Digital India is its rapidly expanding digital infrastructure and enabling technologies. Financial technologies, notably the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), have revolutionized payments by enabling safe, instant, and interoperable transactions that cater to both urban and rural users. The NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) has been critical in scaling these solutions.

Additionally, cloud computing has emerged as a key pillar, facilitating scalable, cost-efficient access to computing resources, crucial for e-governance and entrepreneurial ventures alike. The adoption of Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and blockchain technologies is gaining momentum, ushering in new business models, improved service delivery, and enhanced transparency.

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Digital Literacy and Skill Development Initiatives

Recognizing digital literacy as a fundamental enabler, the government has launched multiple schemes aimed at improving digital skills among entrepreneurs, employees, and citizens in general. Training programs focus on not only operational digital literacy but also skills crucial for managing digital entrepreneurship, such as digital marketing, cybersecurity awareness, and IT management.

Despite these efforts, digital divide remains a significant challenge, particularly between urban and rural regions. Illiteracy, intermittent connectivity, affordability issues, and lack of confidence in new technologies continue to inhibit widespread adoption. Cybersecurity threats and privacy concerns also contribute to resistance among budding entrepreneurs.

4. Digital Entrepreneurship Landscape in India

Emergence of Digital Startups and Platforms

India has witnessed a remarkable surge in digital startups, many of which harness advanced technologies such as AI, machine learning, and IoT to develop innovative products, services, and business models. These ventures are redefining traditional industries by offering customer-centric solutions, scalability, and efficiency.

Digital marketplaces have become a vital platform for homepreneurs and small businesses, enabling them to reach broader customer bases with limited overhead costs. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp are increasingly utilized for marketing, customer engagement, and payment facilitation, revolutionizing how micro-businesses operate.

Case of Handicraft and Traditional Sectors

The traditional handicraft sector in India, characterized by artisanal skills and small-scale enterprises, has experienced a digital revolution, especially accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital innovation has provided new avenues for marketing, sales, and collaboration despite the challenges posed by external economic shocks.

Digital platforms help artisans overcome institutional voids—gaps in access to markets, finance, and information—which traditionally constrained growth by enabling direct linkage with customers through e-commerce and social networking sites. However, infrastructural shortfalls like inadequate internet connectivity and limited IT skills persist as barriers.

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Digital Entrepreneurship in Healthcare and Other Domains

The MSME sector's role in healthcare innovation is significant, with contributions to manufacturing medical products, innovative drugs, and devices. Digital India's promotion of ICT, AI, and blockchain technology facilitates research, development, supply chain management, and service delivery, leading to improved healthcare outcomes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital solutions became particularly valuable in ensuring continuity of healthcare services and enabling social-economic transformations in both rural and urban areas. Government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and National Health Policy have supported digital entrepreneurship in healthcare by providing policies, financial assistance, and infrastructure.

5. Impact of Digital Transformation on Entrepreneurship

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Digital transformation catalyzes economic growth through the proliferation of digital-enabled enterprises and innovative business models. The creation of new jobs, particularly in MSMEs and startups, contributes substantially to India's employment landscape, reducing poverty and enhancing participation of women and marginalized groups in the workforce.

MSMEs, supported by digital platforms and government initiatives, have expanded their market presence domestically and globally, thereby increasing their contribution to exports and industrial output. This growth underpins socio-economic progress by distributing development benefits more equitably across different regions and social segments.

Enhanced Market Reach and Inclusivity

Digital technologies bridge the urban-rural divide by providing MSMEs and entrepreneurs in remote areas with access to broader markets, financial services, and business networks. The widespread adoption of digital payments systems enhances financial inclusion, bringing informal and underserved sectors into the formal economy.

The rise of e-commerce and social commerce platforms offers new channels for product distribution and customer engagement, leveling the playing field for smaller enterprises to compete alongside large incumbents. These trends foster inclusivity by empowering traditionally excluded groups such as women, rural entrepreneurs, and low-income populations.

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Innovation and Competitive Advantage

Digital transformation fuels innovation by enabling disruptive technologies such as AI, blockchain, and big data analytics to generate new business models and product offerings. India's digital entrepreneurial ecosystem benefits from this environment, positioning the country as a global hub for innovation-driven enterprises.

However, challenges related to sustaining infrastructure, addressing skill shortages, and ensuring regulatory agility remain. Continuous investment in technology adoption, innovation diffusion, and ecosystem strengthening are essential to maintain competitive advantages and sustain growth trajectories .

6. Challenges to Digital Entrepreneurship in India

Infrastructure and Connectivity Issues

Though significant progress has been made, uneven digital infrastructure development, especially in rural and remote areas, continues to hamper entrepreneurship. Limited high-quality broadband access, intermittent electricity supply, and inconsistent connectivity degrade business operations and impede digital adoption.

These infrastructural challenges constrain the ability of MSMEs and startups to scale and compete in digital markets, highlighting the need for targeted investments to expand connectivity and modernize digital infrastructure at the grassroots level.

Skill Gaps and Digital Literacy

A significant barrier to digital entrepreneurship is the shortage of requisite technical and managerial skills. Entrepreneurs often confront difficulties in understanding and implementing digital tools and platforms due to inadequate digital literacy and resistance to change.

Cyber-security threats and fears of digital fraud add further complexity to the digital adoption landscape. Overcoming these barriers necessitates robust digital literacy programs, awareness campaigns, and effective training initiatives to empower entrepreneurs with the skills and confidence needed for digital transformation.

Regulatory, Financial, and Institutional Barriers

Access to credit remains a critical challenge for many Indian entrepreneurs, particularly in the MSME sector. Despite initiatives like Mudra Bank loan schemes, complexities in financing processes and stringent regulatory requirements often hinder timely and adequate support.

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Additionally, institutional voids persist, marked by fragmented support systems, inadequate coordination among agencies, and uneven reach of government schemes. These factors impede the effective scaling of digital entrepreneurship across sectors and regions.

7. Role of Government and Policy Support

Financial Incentives and Funding Schemes

To bolster digital entrepreneurship, the government has implemented various funding schemes such as Startup India, which offers seed funding, tax rebates, and simplified compliance frameworks. The Mudra Bank and venture capital support mechanisms provide financial lifelines to emergent digital ventures.

Tax incentives and subsidies also play a role in reducing operational costs and encouraging innovation investments, helping entrepreneurs transition from conventional to digital business models. These schemes reduce entry barriers and promote an enabling environment for digital startups.

Building Digital Infrastructure and Ecosystem

Policies aimed at strengthening digital infrastructure include the development of UPI for digital payment interoperability, ONDC for democratizing e-commerce, and the promotion of cloud computing for scalable business operations. These infrastructure projects increase digital ecosystem resilience and accessibility.

Collaborations involving the private sector, NGOs, and government agencies enhance infrastructure deployment and service delivery, facilitating inclusive access and fostering entrepreneurship across demographics.

Capacity Building and Awareness Programs

Government-led digital literacy campaigns and entrepreneur support initiatives are vital for building capacities necessary for digital entrepreneurship. Specialized training is provided to rural entrepreneurs and women through Digital Community Centers and skill development programs.

Such focused efforts promote inclusive participation and close knowledge gaps, which is essential for democratizing digital entrepreneurship and ensuring it contributes to broad-based socio-economic development.

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8. Future Prospects and Opportunities

Emerging Technologies and Ecosystem Evolution

The future of digital entrepreneurship in India is strongly linked to advances in AI, block chain, IoT, cloud computing, and big data analytics. Integration of design thinking and platform-based business models will further enhance customer-centric innovation.

Emerging start-up ecosystems are evolving towards increased agility and collaboration, driven by both technological capabilities and regulatory support, positioning India as a global player in digital innovation.

Expanding Digital Access and Inclusivity

Closing the digital infrastructure and literacy gaps remains a priority to foster greater inclusivity. Enhanced digital participation among marginalized groups and underserved regions will harness untapped entrepreneurial potential.

Scaling Digital India initiatives, including rural capacity building and digital empowerment programs, will broaden the reach and efficacy of digital entrepreneurship, fostering equitable economic progress.

Policy Recommendations and Strategic Directions

Strengthening financial support mechanisms and simplifying regulatory frameworks will enhance the entrepreneurial environment. Investing in continuous skill development, coupled with ensuring sustainable digital ecosystems, is essential.

Fostering partnerships between government, industry, and academia can catalyze innovation, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange, creating a robust framework for sustained digital entrepreneurship growth.

9. Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

The Digital India initiative serves as a powerful catalyst for entrepreneurship development and economic inclusion in India. MSMEs, startups, and traditional sectors have leveraged digital technologies to innovate, expand market reach, and generate employment, contributing to overall economic vitality.

However, despite these advances, persistent challenges related to infrastructure, skills, and institutional support require targeted interventions. Bridging these gaps will be critical to sustaining momentum in the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem.

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Implications for Stakeholders

Policymakers must prioritize creating a supportive yet flexible environment that fosters innovation while ensuring accessibility across socio-economic strata. Entrepreneurs need to embrace digital tools strategically to optimize growth and competitiveness. Financial institutions, educators, and ecosystem enablers have vital roles in ensuring sustainable digital growth.

Areas for Further Research

Future research should focus on longitudinal studies evaluating the lasting impacts of digital entrepreneurship, especially among rural and marginalized populations. Additionally, sociocultural factors influencing digital adoption and the application of emergent technologies across different sectors merit detailed investigation to inform policy and practice.

This comprehensive understanding will enhance the design of interventions aimed at accelerating digital entrepreneurship as a driver of India's economic progress.

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IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

Physical education is an integral component of holistic education, aiming to develop not only physical fitness but also mental well-being, social competence, and emotional balance among students. In higher education institutions, physical education holds particular importance as it contributes to the overall development of young adults at a crucial stage of personal and professional growth. This paper explores the significance of physical education in higher education, highlighting its role in promoting health, discipline, teamwork, leadership, and academic performance. The study emphasizes the need for integrating structured physical education programs within higher education curricula to nurture balanced and productive citizens.

Keywords: Physical education, Higher education, Health promotion, Holistic development, Student well-being, Fitness culture

1. Introduction

Education in its true sense encompasses the development of body, mind, and spirit. However, in the pursuit of academic excellence, the physical dimension of education is often neglected, especially in higher education institutions. Physical education (PE) bridges this gap by ensuring that students attain not only intellectual growth but also physical competence, emotional stability, and social responsibility.

The college and university years mark a transition from adolescence to adulthood, a period when lifestyle habits are formed and consolidated. Hence, promoting physical education at this level is essential for shaping a generation that values fitness, health, and balanced living.

2. Literature review

Research on physical education (PE) in higher education consistently frames PE as an essential component of holistic student development. Several recurring themes appear across the body of work:

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1. **Health and public-health outcomes**

   Studies repeatedly show that PE and regular physical activity reduce risks associated with sedentary lifestyles (obesity, metabolic syndrome) and improve mental-health indicators such as stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms. Campus interventions and structured exercise programs are often linked with improved sleep, immune function, and general well-being among students.

2. **Cognitive and academic benefits**

   A growing stream of literature finds positive associations between physical activity and academic outcomes. Mechanisms proposed include increased cerebral blood flow and neurochemical changes that support learning, plus indirect effects — improved attention, mood, and time management — that enhance study behaviour and classroom engagement.

3. **Social, emotional and character development**

   Sport and group physical activities are documented to foster teamwork, communication skills, resilience, and leadership. Researchers highlight PE's role in social integration, reducing social isolation, and developing emotionally resilient students capable of handling academic and life stressors.

4. **Employability and life skills**

   Several works argue that PE contributes to transferable skills valued by employers — leadership, discipline, goal setting, and collaboration — and thus supports students' transition to the workplace.

5. **Equity, inclusion and cultural dimensions**

   The literature also addresses gender, socioeconomic and cultural barriers to participation. Inclusive programme design, flexible scheduling, and culturally sensitive offerings are promoted to widen access and ensure PE benefits reach diverse student populations.

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Concept and Objectives of Physical Education

Physical education refers to a planned and systematic program of activities designed to develop physical fitness, motor skills, and positive attitudes toward health and wellness.

The major objectives of physical education in higher education institutions include:

- Promoting physical fitness and health consciousness.
- Instilling discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities.
- Enhancing academic performance through improved concentration and reduced stress.
- Encouraging participation in sports and recreation for lifelong fitness.
- Fostering social inclusion, cooperation, and gender equality.

3. Significance of Physical Education in Higher Education

3.1 Health and Well-being

Physical education helps students combat sedentary lifestyles, obesity, and stress-related disorders that have become increasingly prevalent among youth. Regular physical activity improves cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, and immunity while also enhancing mental health by reducing anxiety and depression.

3.2 Academic and Cognitive Benefits

Research indicates a strong correlation between physical fitness and academic performance. Physical activity increases oxygen flow to the brain, improving memory, focus, and cognitive flexibility. Students who participate in regular physical exercise tend to show better academic engagement and time management skills.

3.3 Social and Emotional Development

Physical education nurtures emotional resilience, teamwork, and interpersonal communication. Through sports and group activities, students learn cooperation, fairness, and the spirit of healthy competition—qualities vital for personal and professional success.

3.4 Character and Leadership Building

Sports and physical training foster self-discipline, perseverance, and responsibility. Leadership qualities are developed when students take initiative, coordinate teams, and make strategic decisions in competitive settings.

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3.5 Promotion of National Integration and Cultural Values

Sports serve as a platform for unity and cultural exchange. Inter-college and inter-university tournaments foster national integration by bringing students from diverse backgrounds together, reinforcing unity in diversity.

4. Challenges in Implementing Physical Education in Higher Education

Despite its recognized importance, physical education in higher education faces several challenges:

- Limited infrastructure and inadequate funding for sports facilities.
- Lack of trained physical education professionals.
- Academic pressure that discourages student participation in sports.
- Insufficient recognition of physical education as a credit-bearing course.

These barriers often restrict the institutionalization of physical education as a mandatory component of higher education.

5. Recommendations

To enhance the effectiveness of physical education in higher education, the following measures are recommended:

1. **Curricular Integration:** Physical education should be made a credit-based, mandatory component in undergraduate programs.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Universities must allocate adequate resources for modern sports facilities and equipment.
3. **Qualified Faculty:** Recruitment of trained physical education professionals should be prioritized.
4. **Incentives for Participation:** Scholarships, sports quotas, and recognition programs can motivate students.

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5. **Awareness Programs:** Regular workshops and campaigns on fitness and wellness can encourage active participation.

6. Conclusion

Physical education is not merely an extracurricular activity but an essential dimension of holistic higher education. It contributes significantly to the physical, mental, and moral development of students, preparing them to meet the challenges of modern life with vigor and balance. Integrating physical education as a vital component in higher education institutions can lead to the creation of a healthier, more disciplined, and socially responsible generation, thereby strengthening the human capital of the nation.

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THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND EQUALITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALISED GROUPS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract

This article explores the pivotal role of education and social equality in the development and empowerment of marginalised communities through a sociological lens. Drawing from empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and case analyses, it examines how access to equitable education serves as both a tool of social mobility and a mechanism for dismantling systemic inequalities. The paper also investigates the structural barriers faced by marginalised groups, including caste, class, gender, and ethnic minorities, and discusses policy interventions necessary for inclusive development. Ultimately, this study highlights education not just as a means of individual advancement but as a transformative force for societal change.

Keywords: Education, Equality, Marginalised Groups, Social Justice, Development, Sociology, Inclusion, Empowerment

1. Introduction

Marginalised groups—whether defined by caste, ethnicity, gender, disability, or socio-economic status—often face systemic exclusion from mainstream development processes. Education, universally recognised as a catalyst for change, holds immense potential to bridge these disparities. This article investigates the sociological dimensions of how education and equality intersect to influence the development trajectories of marginalised communities in India and beyond.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1 Education as a Social Institution

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From a sociological perspective, education is not merely a transmission of knowledge but a vehicle for socialisation, identity formation, and power negotiation. The works of Emile Durkheim, Paulo Freire, and Pierre Bourdieu highlight how education can either reproduce social inequalities or challenge them.

2.2 Equality and Social Justice

Social equality, in this context, implies equal access to opportunities, resources, and rights. When education is distributed unequally, it perpetuates existing hierarchies. John Rawls' theory of justice and Amartya Sen's capabilities approach both underscore the importance of equitable structures in ensuring real freedom of choice and opportunity.

3. Education and Development of Marginalised Groups

3.1 Historical Context in India

Historically, marginalised communities in India—such as Dalits, Adivasis, women, and religious minorities—have been denied access to formal education. Colonial and post-colonial legacies continued to reflect these exclusions, albeit in more institutionalised forms.

3.2 The Role of Education in Empowerment

Education enables marginalised individuals to access better livelihoods, participate in democratic processes, and assert their rights. For example:

- **Dalit students** entering higher education institutions have increasingly challenged caste hierarchies.
- **Tribal communities**, through local language education and community schooling, have begun reclaiming cultural autonomy.
- **Girls' education** has a multiplier effect on health, income, and community welfare.

3.3 Barriers to Educational Access

Despite policy efforts, several structural barriers persist:

- Geographic isolation (especially for tribal groups)
- Poverty and child labour
- Gender-based discrimination
- Language and cultural dissonance in curricula

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- Discrimination and violence within institutions

4. Policy Interventions and Their Sociological Impact

4.1 Constitutional and Legal Provisions

The Indian Constitution mandates free and compulsory education under Article 21A. Special provisions exist for Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Articles 15(4), 46), yet implementation remains inconsistent.

4.2 Government Initiatives

Programs like **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**, **Right to Education (RTE) Act**, **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**, and **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** aim to enhance educational access. Their sociological impact includes increased enrolment, improved nutrition, and greater gender parity in schools.

4.3 Higher Education and Reservation Policies

Reservation in education has opened up new avenues for marginalised students. However, it has also sparked debates on merit, quality, and social cohesion—highlighting the complexities of affirmative action in a stratified society.

5. Case Studies

5.1 Tribal Education in Odisha

Community-run schools in Odisha using tribal languages and culturally relevant pedagogy have significantly improved literacy and reduced dropout rates, showcasing the importance of culturally inclusive education.

5.2 Dalit Students in Universities

Dalit student organisations in institutions like JNU and TISS have become powerful platforms for social justice advocacy, demonstrating how education fosters political and social agency.

6. Challenges Ahead

Despite progress, several challenges remain:

- Digital divide in online learning contexts
- Underfunding of public education
- Privatization and commodification of education
- Lack of inclusive pedagogy and curriculum reform

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Sociologically, these issues reflect the enduring impact of structural inequalities that require systemic redressal.

7. Conclusion

Education, when equitable and inclusive, acts as a transformative force in the lives of marginalised communities. It facilitates not just economic development but also dignity, identity, and political empowerment. However, education alone cannot solve deep-rooted social disparities. A holistic approach, addressing structural inequalities in tandem with educational reform, is essential for meaningful development.

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Open access Movement in India

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Abstract

Open Access has transmuted the countryside of learned message by contribution free and unlimited online accessibility of digital contents, including e-books, articles and research data. Librarian's production a key role in advancing Open Access initiatives by handling digital repositories, promoting copyright literacy, and enabling preparation of programs for investigators and staff. These specialists serve as promoters for open knowledge, serving institutions establish and maintain open access resources that democratize access to information and enhance research visibility. Through collaborative efforts, technical support, and policy development, librarians drive the implementation and sustainability of open access platforms that empower researchers, support lifelong learning, and report the evolving needs of students and staff.

Key Word: Indian Open Access Initiative

1. Introduction

In the information technology age, the transmission of knowledge which has undergone a significant change. Traditional reproducing models, which often limit access to scholarly information through paywalls and expensive subscription fees, are progressively being challenged by the worldwide programme towards **open access**. Open access refers to the free, immediate, and unrestricted online availability of investigation outputs, such as journal articles, data, and e-books, permitting anyone to read, download, and reprocess them with minimal or no legal and financial barriers.

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This change toward open distribution of knowledge is driven by the growing demand for equitable access to information, particularly in educational, research, and developing publics. As the stewards of information, **librarians have emerged as key players** in promoting for, supporting, and implementing open access initiatives. Their roles extend beyond traditional gathering management to include digital duration, policy development, author support, and the organisation of institutional repositories.

This paper discovers the **concept of open access**, its **meaning in academic communication**, and the **involved role of librarians** in proceeding the open access outline. Its highlights the how librarians are not only organisers of access but also mentors, promoters, and modernisers within the broader open knowledge environment.

2. Open Access initiatives in India

- Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002)

By 'open access to this writings, we mean its permitted availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, `issue, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers.

- **Berlin Declaration on Open Access (2003)**

Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions:

1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly...
2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials is deposited in at least one online repository.

- **SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)**

Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles, coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment.

- **UNESCO Definition**

Open Access refers to free access to scientific information and the right to use and reuse those results as needed.

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3. Features of Open Access

1. Free and Unrestricted Access

- Scholarly content is available without cost to readers.
- No need for subscriptions, memberships, or one-time payments.

2. Digital Availability

- Content is typically published and accessed **online**.
- Ensures global reach and easier dissemination.

3. Immediate or Timely Publication

- Many open access platforms provide immediate access upon publication.
- Some may allow delayed open access after an embargo period.

4. Reuse and Redistribution Rights

- Most open access works come with licenses that allow:
  - Copying
  - Sharing
  - Remixing
  - Adapting, with proper attribution

5. Author Retains Copyright

- Authors often retain their copyright while granting public licenses.
- This contrasts with traditional publishing, where authors often transfer copyright to publishers.

6. Supports Scholarly Communication

- Promotes the rapid and wide dissemination of research findings.
- Encourages collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

7. Increased Visibility and Impact

- Openly accessible research is more likely to be read, cited, and used by others.
- Beneficial especially for early-career researchers or those in developing countries.

8. Multiple Formats and Outputs

- Open access is not limited to journal articles — it includes:

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- Books
- Theses
- Datasets
- Conference papers
- Multimedia and grey literature

9. Compliance with Funder Mandates

- Many research funders require research to be open access.
- Open access helps authors comply with these mandates.

10. Community and Public Benefit

- Makes research available to the general public, practitioners, educators, and policymakers not just academics.

4. **Indian Open Access Initiative**

India has done number of areas in open access. Some of the initiatives taken up in India to promote open access are listed below. Today many newspapers both in English and regional languages are available are in open access. Similarly large number of government reports, National Knowledge Commission reports and Supreme Court opinions are also available on open access. Several Indian publishers have already adopted the open access philosophy for the electronic versions of their journals. Some of major statements, declaration of open access made by several societies, universities, national and international institutions, library associations and other organizations made the past decade are given bellow:

- Berlin Declaration on open access to knowledge in the science and humanities(http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html)
- ACRL Principles and strategies for the reform of scholarly communication, August 2003
- Bethhhesda statement on open access(www.eartham.edu/peters/fos/bethesda.htm)
- IFLA statement on open access to scholarly literature and research documentation
- Australian group of eight statement on open access to scholarly information, May 2004
- OECD Declaration on access to research data from public funding

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- The Washington DC principles for free access to science, March 2004
- Welcome trust position statement in support of open and unrestricted access to published research (www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_WTD002766.html)
- ERCIM statement on open access(European Research Consortium for Information and Mathematics)(www.ercim.org/publication/Ercim_News/enw64/ercim-oa.html)
- Ghent Declaration, February 2011
- SPARC Europe statement on open access for EC public hearing on open access to and preservation of scientific information, Luxembourg, May 2011
- The joint declaration on open science for the 21st century form ALLEA, April 2012
- NKC statement on open access (National Knowledge Commission of India)
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research had adopted an open access policy for its publication on 13 September 2013
- Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, under Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India jointly announced their open access policy, 2014
    - European Union announced that "all scientific articles in Europe must be freely accessible as of 2020" and that the Commission will "develop and encourage
    - Publications under Horizon 2020". Some ask such measures to include the usage of free and open sources software, May 2016

India has been proactive in advancing the Open Access movement through government, academic, and research-led initiatives. These efforts aim to make scholarly research publicly accessible, especially to benefit students, researchers, and the general public.

Open Access Institutional Repositories in India

Sl.No	Repository Name	Name of The Institution	No. of rec.	Web Address	Subject
1	Eprints@IISC	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	3645	http://eprints.iisc.ernet.in	Science & Technology
2	ETD@IISC	IIS	153	http://etd.ncsi.iisc.er	Theses &

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				net.in	dissertations
3	Librarians Digital Library-LDL-	DRTC, Bangalore	236	http://drtc.isibang.ac.in/	Library & Information Science
4	Dspace at INFLIBNET-	INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad	428	http://dspace.inflibnet.ac.in	Library & Information Science
5	IIA Repository	Indian Institute of astrophysics, B'lore	725	http://prints.iiap.res.in/	Astronomy & astrophysics
6	Dspace at INSA	Indian National Science Academy	818	http://61.16.154.195/dspace	Member publication, events, images etc.
7	ISI Library	Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore	10	http://library.isibang.ac. in:8080/dspace	Mathematics & Statistics
8	OpenMED@NIC Scieence	Indian Medlars Centre, Delhi	1035	http://openmed.nic.in	Health Sci. MESH Classif.
9	Eprints at NCL	National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune	290	http://dspace.ncl.res.in/	e-theses, chemistry & biological science
10	Dspace@IIMK	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode	133	http://dspace.iimk.ac.in	Management Disciplines
11	Eprints@IIMK	Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode	25	http://eprints.iimk.ac.in	Research papers, Articles etc
12	NAL Institutional repository	National Aerospace Laboratories	418	http://nal-ir.nal.res.in/	Aerospace Sciences, NASA Classification
13	Eprints@IITA	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad	22	http://eprints.iita.ac.in	Articles, Reports Conference Reports
14	NISCAIR	National Institute	19	https://www.niscpr.	Research

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		of Science Communication		res.in/resources/nopr	Journal
15	Dspace at NCRA reports,	National Centre for radio Astrophysics	22	http://ncra.lib.ncra.tifr.res. in/dspace	Proceedings conference proceedings
16	Dspace@NITR	National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	223	http://dspace .nitrkl.ac.in/dspace/	Engineering, Physical & natural sciences
17	Repository of RRI	Regional Research Institute	1064	http://dspace-rri.res.in/	Physics and Astronomy
18	Eprint@IITD	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	1296	http://eprints.iitd.ac.in/ dspace	Engineering sciences
19	Vidyanidhi National E-theses Repository	University of Mysore	1835	http://www.vidyanidhi. org.in	Multidisci-plinary, Theses, access by Registration (Under Dev.)
20	Dspace at GBPUAT reports,	G.B. Pant Univ. of Agriculture and Tech., Pantnagar	82	http://202.141.116.205/ dspace	Articles, conference proceedings
21	Digital Repository NIO reports,	National Institute of Oceanography	55	http://drs.nio.org/drs/ dspace	Articles, Reports Conference Proceedings

5. Electronic Books

Electronic Books is an electronic version of e-book which can be read on a computer or specifically designed handheld device. The open access electronic books initiatives are as follows:

Sl.No	Name of the E-Books	URL	No.of E-Books
1	Hathi Trust Digital Library	http://www.bathitrust.org/	17-19 million digital volumes
2	Digital Library of India	http://www.dli.ernet.in/	480,335
3	Project Gutenberg	http://gutenberg.org/	75000

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4	OAPEN	http://oapen.org	2045

6. The role of librarians in open access

The impact of open access at the central involved of librarians, librarians are receive inquiries from all open access publishing. In this context many of the library professionals are discussing about the role of librarians if everything is available freely to the users. The following an overview of the roles:

- Adding the resources bibliography to catalogue of library
- Education and Training for students and staff
- Aggregation of resources
- Setting up of institution repository
- Use of proper tools to search the disparate resources
- Help faculty negotiate licensees that include re-use rights
- Make the scholarly community to understand that the skill of librarians is useful in open access movement and also enhance librarian's expertise in those directions.
- Creating awareness about the hybrid publications to identify
- By providing awareness , training and support open access
- Promoting open access spirit of gold and green route
- Intellectual publishing rights, publisher agreements
- Managing Institutional repository

7. Benefits of Open Access Initiatives

- Increases visibility and impact of Indian research.
- Bridges the knowledge gap for students and researchers in under-resourced areas.
- Encourages collaboration and innovation.
- Reduces duplication of research efforts.

8. Conclusion

The open access periodicals and institutional repositories are two important means for bringing open access to investigation literature. Most of the efforts are continuing to set up open access archives or institutional

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repositories. Open access is innovative tendency in academic information technology which aims at providing free to scholarly literature over the internet and has increased enormous momentum in the recent years. Therefore high quality, well-resourced library managed repository might create change and break the mould of commercial publishing and provide a new stage for the researchers. The digital revolution suggestions a potential clarification to these boundaries giving a world-wide audience access to permitted, open and high quality resources by fulfilling needs of online learning.

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DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION: BRIDGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC GAPS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

In the era of rapid digital transformation, financial inclusion has become a crucial driver of socio-economic growth. Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) refers to the delivery of financial services through digital channels to individuals and businesses who are traditionally excluded from the formal financial system. This paper explores how digital platforms—such as mobile banking, fintech innovations, and e-wallets—are helping bridge socio-economic disparities by providing access to affordable financial services. Using secondary data and review-based analysis, the study highlights India's progress under the *Digital India* initiative, challenges faced by rural and marginalized populations, and the policy measures required to ensure inclusive and sustainable digital growth.

Keywords: Digital Financial Inclusion, Fintech, E-Governance, Rural Development, Socio-Economic Empowerment

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of financial inclusion has evolved from mere access to banking services to a multidimensional framework that ensures equitable participation in the digital economy. Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) integrates technology with financial systems to promote accessibility, affordability, and availability of financial services to all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic status.

In India, the convergence of **Digital India, Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, and Mobile (JAM Trinity)** has transformed the financial landscape. With digital payment systems like **UPI, BHIM, RuPay, and Aadhaar-enabled Payment Services**, the unbanked population is now entering the mainstream financial system.

However, despite notable progress, challenges such as digital illiteracy, poor internet connectivity, cybersecurity concerns, and gender disparities continue to restrict full inclusion. Therefore, understanding the role of digital technology in bridging socio-economic gaps is vital for achieving inclusive growth.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several scholars and policy reports emphasize the transformative potential of digital inclusion:

1. **Demirgüç-Kunt et al. (2018)** in the *Global Findex Database* observed that digital finance has reduced transaction costs and increased access to credit for marginalized populations.

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2. **RBI Report (2021)** highlighted that mobile-based financial services have significantly improved access to formal credit among rural households.
3. **Gupta & Arora (2020)** found that fintech solutions like Paytm and Google Pay empower small traders and women entrepreneurs by offering low-cost transaction platforms.
4. **World Bank (2022)** reported that digital inclusion can lift millions out of poverty when combined with financial literacy and policy support.
5. **NITI Aayog (2023)** underlined the need for improved digital infrastructure and awareness programs to sustain financial inclusion efforts.

The existing literature thus establishes that technology-driven financial inclusion fosters equitable development but requires strong digital ecosystems and regulatory frameworks.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aims to:

1. Examine the role of digital financial inclusion in bridging socio-economic gaps.
2. Assess the impact of technology-based financial services on rural and marginalized populations.
3. Identify challenges and barriers to achieving comprehensive digital inclusion in India.
4. Suggest strategies for strengthening digital financial literacy and access to technology.

4. METHODOLOGY

- **Type of Study:** Descriptive and analytical.
- **Data Source:** Secondary data collected from RBI reports, World Bank databases, government publications, and journal articles.
- **Period of Study:** 2015–2024.
- **Analysis Tools:** Descriptive statistics, comparative trend analysis, and policy review approach.

The paper synthesizes data from official sources to evaluate growth in digital transactions, account ownership, and digital payment adoption among rural and low-income groups.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To assess the socio-economic and demographic profile of respondents and their perception of digital financial inclusion, structured data were collected from **70 respondents** across different age groups, occupations, and income levels.

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Table no. 1.1 – Age of the respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
19 to 25 Years	13	18.57%
26 to 40 Years	25	35.71%
41 to 55 Years	18	25.71%
More than 55 Years	14	20.00%
Total	**70**	**100%**

Interpretation:
The above table shows that the majority of respondents (35.71%) belong to the **26–40 years** age group, followed by 25.71% from 41–55 years, 18.57% from 19–25 years, and 20% above 55 years. This indicates that **middle-aged individuals are more involved** in adopting digital financial services, as they are economically active and tech-adaptive.

Table no. 1.2 – Gender of the respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Primary Education	8	11.43%
Secondary Education	15	21.43%
Graduate	29	41.43%
Post-Graduate & Above	18	25.71%
Total	**70**	**100%**

Interpretation:
Out of 70 respondents, 62.86% are male and 37.14% are female. This shows that male participation in digital financial activities is higher. However, the increasing trend of female participation reflects growing digital empowerment among women.

Table no. 1.3 – Education Level of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Primary Education	8	11.43%
Secondary Education	15	21.43%
Graduate	29	41.43%
Post-Graduate & Above	18	25.71%
Total	**70**	**100%**

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Interpretation:
The data indicates that 41.43% of respondents are graduates, followed by 25.71% postgraduates. This reveals that **educated individuals show greater adoption** of digital financial tools, demonstrating the importance of digital literacy in enhancing financial inclusion.

Table No. 1.4 – Monthly Income of The Respondents

Income Range (₹)	Frequency	Percentage
Below 10,000	10	14.29%
10,001 – 20,000	22	31.43%
20,001 – 30,000	25	35.71%
Above 30,000	13	18.57%

Interpretation:
The majority (35.71%) of respondents earn between ₹20,001 and ₹30,000 per month. This shows that **middle-income groups** are more active users of digital financial services, using technology for savings, transfers, and online transactions.

Table No. 1.5 – Awareness and Usage of Digital Financial Services

Awareness Level / Usage	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Aware	22	31.43%
Moderately Aware	30	42.86%
Low Awareness	12	17.14%
Not Aware	6	8.57%
Total	**70**	**100%**

Interpretation:
The table shows that 74.29% (High + Moderate) respondents are aware of digital financial inclusion tools like **UPI, Internet Banking, and Mobile Wallets**. This highlights the **positive impact of government campaigns and fintech growth** in promoting digital literacy among the general population.

Discussion Summary:

From the above analysis, it is evident that:

- **Digital literacy and education** directly influence the adoption of financial technologies.
- Middle-aged and middle-income individuals represent the largest share of digital users.
- **Women's participation** is steadily improving, reflecting inclusivity trends.
- The spread of mobile internet and awareness programs are critical in reducing the digital divide.

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- Despite progress, **low-income and elderly groups** still face accessibility and confidence barriers.
  Hence, strengthening infrastructure, ensuring cybersecurity, and expanding literacy programs remain key to achieving full **digital financial empowerment**.

The findings indicate significant progress in India's digital financial inclusion journey:

- **Account Ownership:** As per the *Global Findex Report 2021*, 78% of Indian adults now hold bank accounts, compared to 53% in 2014.
- **Digital Payments:** UPI transactions crossed ₹100 trillion in FY2023, indicating mass adoption of digital modes.
- **Rural Empowerment:** Schemes like PMJDY and DBT have enabled direct benefit transfers to over 450 million accounts, reducing leakages and ensuring transparency.
- **Women's Inclusion:** Over 55% of Jan Dhan accounts are held by women, showcasing gender empowerment through financial accessibility.

Challenges Identified:

- 25% of account holders in rural India remain digitally inactive.
- Limited smartphone penetration and low financial literacy in marginalized areas.
- Cyber frauds and lack of grievance redressal mechanisms hinder trust.

Policy Implications:

- Strengthening digital infrastructure in rural areas.
- Promoting financial literacy through local institutions and NGOs.
- Encouraging fintech startups to collaborate with cooperative banks for last-mile delivery.

6. Conclusion

Digital financial inclusion has emerged as a cornerstone for sustainable and equitable economic growth. By leveraging technology, India has made substantial progress in empowering the youth and marginalized groups. Yet, digital inclusion cannot be truly achieved without addressing infrastructural, educational, and gender-based barriers. Future policies must emphasize **digital trust, literacy, and accessibility** to transform inclusion from a policy agenda into a lived reality.

In the long run, a robust digital financial ecosystem can serve as the foundation for inclusive prosperity, enabling every citizen to participate meaningfully in the nation's economic progress.

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CYBER CULTURE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract

Cyber culture refers to the culture that emerges from the use of computers, internet, social media, and digital technologies. Cyber culture is helpful in reshaping the lifestyle, values, and in creating the identity of youth. It has both positive and negative impact on youth. While it opens doors to knowledge, creativity and global connectedness, it also poses risks of alienation, misinformation and psychological strain. A balanced, conscious engagement with digital culture can ensure that youth harness its benefits while minimizing its harms.

Objectives

1. This study explores the influence of cyber culture on rural and urban youth.
2. Study also focuses on how cyber culture can contribute to youth empowerment.

Methodology

An integrated research methodology, including of surveys and literature evaluation was utilized to collect data from a diverse sample of 80 youths. 40 urban and 40 rural youth. A Random sample method was used and a structured google form was used to get the information.

Context & Demographic Profile

Dharwad is famously known as a cultural and educational capital of Karnataka, which is located in the northern part of Karnataka. The city has three universities and two research institutes of national importance and has an IIT, it also has a huge number of coaching classes centres across the city.

In the present study the respondents selected were both working women and non working women. The socio-demographic details of the respondents were highlighted in the Table 1.1

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Table 1.1 Socio- Demographic Profile of the respondents

Sl.no	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	**Age Composition (in years)** 15-20 21-25 26-30	 48 19 13	 60 23.7 16.2
2.	**Gender** Male Female	 59 21	 73.7 26.2
3.	**Educational background** B.A B.Com B.Sc	 38 29 13	 47.5 36.2 16.2
	Place of Residence Rural Urban	 46 34	 57.5 42.5
	Total	**80**	**100**

Age composition of respondents: In the present study, the overwhelming majority of 60 percent respondents fall between the age group of 15-20. 23.7 percent of respondents were in the ages of 21-25. 13 percent of them were of ages 26-30.

Gender: The majority of 73.7 percent of the respondents are female and 26.2 percent are male respondents. When the Google form was posted in different students group, it clearly showed that 59 (73.7) female students responded to the google form and only 21 male have replied to the google form. The females' students outnumber the mail students.

Educational background: The educational background of respondents clearly shows that 47.5% of the respondents belong to Bachelor of Arts (BA) and 36.2 percent of them belong to Bachelor of Commerce and only 16.2 percent of them belong to B.Sc. due to practical and labs, the science students may not get enough time to spend on smart phones.

Digital Access & Usage

Social media needs a technological infrastructure to run which are called platforms. Some of these are facebook, YouTube and Twitter, instagram, Whatsapp, they are currently changing relations and coexistence

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among people, particularly among young people in some social sectors. The technological infrastructure of social media allows new and varied forms of social interaction. Like text, multimedia, images, voice and audio messages, emojis, Gifs etc.

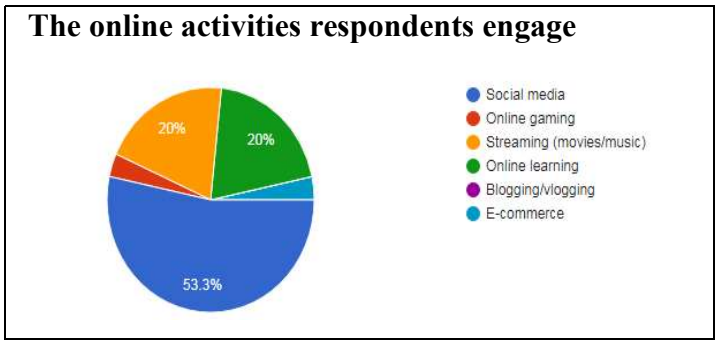
Table 1.2 Time used by respondents to access Digital services in a day

Sl. no	No. of hours	frequency	Percentage
1	More than 5 hrs	35	43.3
2	3-4 hrs	19	23.3
3	1-3hrs	16	20
4	Less than 1 hr	12.5	10
	Total	**80**	**100**

Table 1.2 Time used by respondents to access Digital services in a day , 43.3 percent of students opined that less than 1 hour and 20 percent said 2-3 hours 23.3 percent of them said more than 3 to 5 hours 10 percent said they spend more than 5 hours online.

Cyber culture Awareness & Practices

The internet has created a new generation of young people who possess sophisticated knowledge and skills with information technologies, express values that support learning by experience and the creation of a culture in a digital space, and have particular learning and social preferences.



When students were asked what kind of online activities do they engage the most, the overwhelming majority of 53.3 percent said they spend it on social media, 20 percent of them said they spend most of the time in online learning and 20 percent of them opined they use it for streaming music and watching movie or web series and only 6 percent of them said they play online game.

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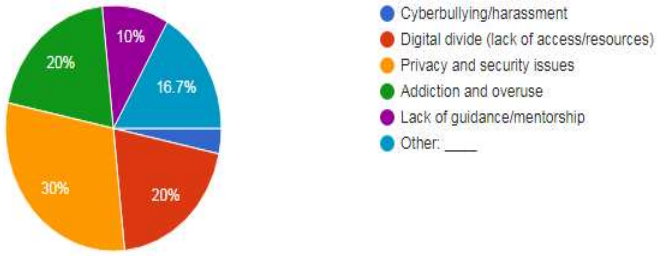
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74 percent of the respondents agree that the online culture influences their identity and lifestyle. As they follow the ongoing trend. 26 percent of them have not influenced by it.

Challenges faced by respondents

Challenges faced by students who used the cyber platform are 16.7 percent said they face cyber bulling or harassment 30 percent of them said they faced private and security issues. 20 percent of them said digital divide and lack of access and resources 20 percent of them said addiction and over use of Cyber platform. 10 percent said there is lack of guidance or mentorship.

Challenges faced by the respondents



The cyber itself is believed to be a vehicle of ideology. As has been mentioned earlier that cyber society is actually controlled people. They are controlled and depended upon a technology.

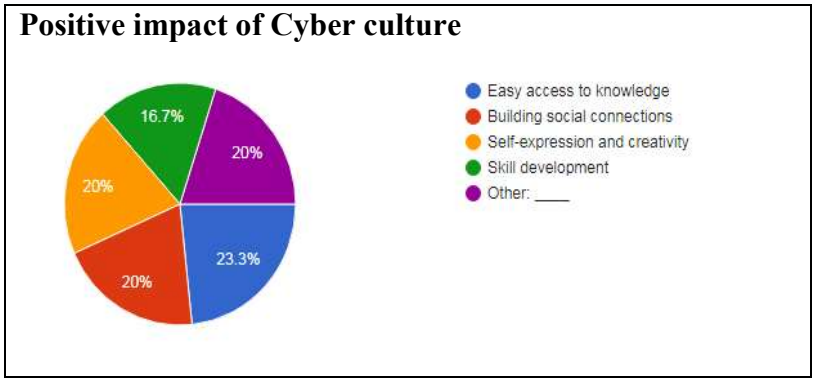
When students were asked about the content they create, the overwhelming majority of 33.3 percent of students said they create reels on different occasions 26.7 percent said they used it for accessing the informative videos and 23.3 percent said they create educative content, 13.3 percent said they own You Tube and 3.4 percent of them have insta channels. Memes and digital humor, online com munities/forums Influencer culture, Virtual relationships, Cyber activism/social movements.

Positive Impact of Cyber culture

As cyber culture have both positive and negative impact, Positive impact of cyber culture on respondents shows that 23.3 percent of them said it is easy access to knowledge, 20 percent said building social connections, 20 percent of them use it for Self-expression and creativity, 16.7 percent of them improved their Skills and they said the development of language skills, communication skills and helpful in gaining knowledge.

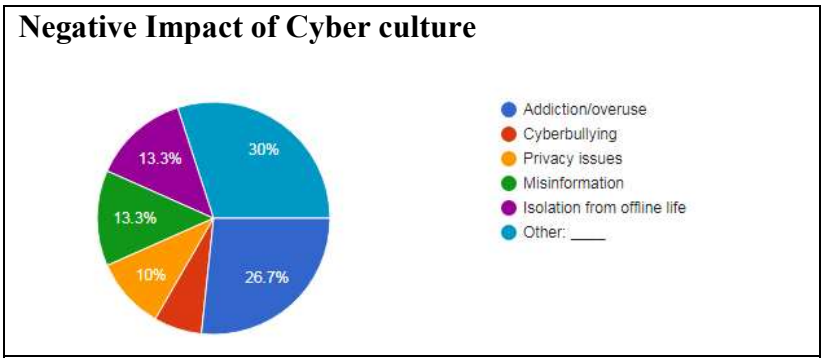
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Negative Impact of Cyber culture

30 percent of them said cyber addiction and overuse, 10 percent each face the cyber bullying and privacy issues, 13.3 percent of them said misinformation. 13.3 percent face isolation from offline and social life.



Acting in a media-rich environment and a bedroom culture, the Net-generation or digital natives express different values, attitudes, and behaviors than previous generations. These digital natives are described as optimistic, team-oriented achievers who are talented with technology. Immersion in this technology-rich culture influences the skills and interests of teens in important ways. They are highly dependent on information technologies for searching for information and communicating with others, and are eager to acquire skills needed to develop creative multimedia presentations and to become multimedia producers and not merely consumers.

Findings

The study shows that the influence of cyber culture on both rural and urban youth. Especially respondents who are preparing for higher studies and studying for competitive exams. The present study focused on how

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cyber culture can contribute to youth empowerment the data shows that majority of 81 25% respondents' use the smart phones and are very active in cyber world. 53.3% of them spend the time on social media platform and around 74% of respondents agree that the online culture influences their identity and lifestyles.

Conclusion

The technology helps in reshaping the personality and way of thinking of the respondents by the use of cyber activities in there day today life. The technology along with cyber becomes a vehicle to spread out the ideology students think that they feel small and depend on technology so much sometimes. The respondents have been alienated with no power but only on cyber influences with no social contacts. The cyber culture forms a student to be independent and confident on the other hand like watching and creating reels, game addiction, watching YouTube and its insta accounts for hours have negative impact on the health. Like eyesight and mental health. Though they gain knowledge but sometimes they feel over enthusiastic with the cyber activity which is again a threat to society that the original thinking capacity of students is diminishing.

The current society is dominated by the knowledge and technology which are essential factors of empowerment. The content creating, experimenting with cyber world, gaining knowledge, producing e-content, informative content and various aspects are included in this. The digital literacy and the cyber world have shaped the personalities of many respondents. They have been digital socialized by the cyber world at the same time have become more responsible towards the society as the internet providers or teenager sites have promote a good attitude in cyber world avoiding a hoax and hate speech.

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➢ Upadhyay, Manoj. *Consequences of Cyber Culture*. New Delhi: New Media. Available on https://mediaindia.eu/digital/consequences-of-cyber-culture-new-media

Conclusion

Commerce in the digital age presents a rich landscape of opportunity and challenge. On one hand, businesses can leverage digital platforms, global reach, data insights and new models to drive growth. On the other hand, they must navigate complexity in logistics, regulatory risk, cybersecurity, competition and digital infrastructure. Success will likely lie in adaptive strategies, investment in digital capabilities, strong value propositions, and a policy environment that supports innovation while protecting fairness and security. As the digital commerce ecosystem continues to evolve (with AI, Web 3.0, platform ecosystems), ongoing research and business innovation will be essential.

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North Indian Unskilled Labour Migration to Karnataka and Kerala: A Comparative Sociological Explanation

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Abstract

Karnataka and Kerala state are, historically a migrant-sending states, has in the 21st century witnessed a significant shift, emerging as a major destination for internal migrants, particularly from northern India. The present paper examines the phenomenon of North Indian unskilled labour migration particularly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal to the undivided South Canara district of Karnataka state, Kannur and Ernakulam district of Kerala, analysing the key drivers, statistical trends, and multifaceted socio-economic impacts on both the migrants and the host states. The paper posits that the demographic and labour market dynamics of Kerala & Karnataka characterized by an aging population and a mass exodus of its own workforce to the Gulf and other international destinations have created a significant demand for labour, which is being met by migrants from states with high population density, underemployment, and low wages. Using available data and academic research, the paper will quantify the scale of this migration, explore the challenges faced by migrants, and discuss the transformative effects on Karnataka and Kerala's economy, society, and culture. The analysis will also consider the policy responses of the both Kerala and Karnataka government, and the broader implications of this internal migration for India's demographic and developmental landscape. The study concludes that while this migration has been a vital catalyst for Karnataka & Kerala's economic growth, it also presents complex challenges in social integration, public services, and labour rights.

Keywords: **North Indian, Migration, Karnataka-Kerala, Sociological Explanation**

Introduction

South India states often celebrated for its **South Indian Model** of development characterized by high human development indicators and a large, prosperous diaspora, has, since the turn of the millennium, undergone a profound and often overlooked demographic shift. For decades, the states was known as a net exporter of

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labourers, with a significant portion of its educated and semi-skilled workforce seeking better opportunities in the Gulf and other Western countries. This mass emigration, while a source of immense financial remittances, created a paradoxical situation: a chronic and severe shortage of local labour, particularly for physically demanding, low-wage jobs in sectors like construction, hospitality, and agriculture. This labour vacuum, coupled with South Indian states such as Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh and Telangana's high wages and relatively stable socio-political environment, created a powerful magnet for internal migrants. The result has been an unprecedented influx of workers from other parts of India, most notably from the northern and eastern states.

Review of Literature

The growing discourse on North Indian migration to Kerala is a recent, yet rich, area of study within Indian academia, shifting the traditional focus from emigration to the Gulf.

K. C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan (2003): Their book, Dynamics of Migration in Kerala: Dimensions, Differentials and Consequences, this was one of the earliest to document the phenomenon, linking the out-migration of Keralites to the in-migration of workers from other Indian states.

N. Ajith Kumar (2017): The paper highlights the stark wage differentials and economic opportunities in Kerala as the primary pull factors, contrasting with the unemployment and low wages that "push" migrants from their home states.

Methodology

- **Objective:** The present study aims to understand the socio-economic and cultural journey of migrants from North India to Karnataka and Kerala.
- **Study Area:** The study conducted at Mangalore and Kannur city area.
- **Sample and Method:** The snow ball technique were used to select respondents. The informal group discuss was conducted to collect data. The secondary source such as e-books and other online literature are referred. The study is explanatory in nature.

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Historical Background of Migration from North India to Kerala and Karnataka

From 1960 to 1990 Kerala's in-migration was primarily from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. From 1970, millions of Keralites moved to GCC countries. The remittances fueled new economic boom in Kerala and significance increase in consumption, construction and real estate investment. After 1990's mass emigration of Keralites to Gulf created critical shortage of labor in Kerala. From late 1990 the migration started from north and east India to Kerala. Initially labor came to work in plywood industry in Perumbavoor, and construction sites in Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram. Now it is increased and spreads to every part of Kerala.

Drivers of Migration: Push and Pull Factors

The migration of North Indians to Karnataka and Kerala is a classic example of a "push-pull" dynamic. The "pull" factors in Karnataka and Kerala are powerful and multifaceted. First and foremost are the high wage rates. Mangalore and Kannur consistently offers some of the highest daily wages for unskilled and semi-skilled labour in the country, significantly higher than in the migrants' home states. This wage differential is the single most important economic driver. Secondly, the state's economic structure, with its booming construction sector, vibrant service industry, and labour-intensive agricultural activities, creates a constant demand for workers. This demand is further exacerbated by the out-migration of Mangalorian's and Kannurian's to other countries, which has created a vacuum in the labour market. The stable political environment, relatively high social security standards, and a generally welcoming social milieu also act as powerful incentives.

Conversely, the "push" factors from the states of origin are equally compelling. These include chronic underemployment and unemployment, particularly in the agrarian sector. Economic distress, small landholdings, and a lack of non-farm job opportunities in states like West Bengal, Bihar, Jarkhand and Uttar Pradesh force millions to seek work elsewhere. Additionally, social factors such as caste-based discrimination, a lack of social mobility, and limited access to quality education and healthcare services in their home states further push individuals and families to seek a better life in Kerala.

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The Historical Statistical Overview of North Indian Migrants to Karnataka and Kerala

A study by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) 2013 is estimated that Kerala had between 2 to 2.5 million interstate migrant workers. While precise numbers fluctuate, it is widely accepted that the migrant population has grown significantly over the past two decades. The largest groups of migrants hail from West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh.

The demographic profile of these migrants is predominantly young and male, often migrating alone initially, leaving their families behind. They are largely employed in the informal sector, with construction, hospitality, and agriculture being the primary avenues of employment. The seasonal nature of some of these jobs means that the number of migrants can fluctuate throughout the year.

Sl.No	State	No. of Migrants	Percentage
01	Jharkhand	3000	48.38%
02	UP	1700	27.41%
03	Bihar	1500	24.19%
	Total	**6200**	**100%**

Source: COVID-19 Worker Registered to Return, 2020

The labour migration trend to Mangalore and the larger Karnataka state comes from an event in May 2020 when migrant workers registered to return to their hometowns during the COVID-19 lockdown. This gives an indication of the proportion of migrants from these states in the region. According to Workers Registered to Return in May 2020, Dakshina Kannada is from Uttar Pradesh (UP) - 1,700, Bihar- 1,500, Jharkhand - 3,000, West Bengal Significant Presence of North Indian Workers: It is also widely reported that a large proportion of the migrant workforce in Mangalore, especially in sectors like construction and hospitality/hotels, is from North India. Some reports suggest 80% to 90% of the hotel workforce, including cooks, are predominantly from North India. At present estimated there are about twenty thousand migrants in Mangalore, with a large population employed in the construction industry.

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Socio-Economic Impact on Karnataka and Kerala

The influx of North Indian migrants has had a transformative and often contradictory impact on both Karnataka and Kerala. Economically, they are the backbone of the state's growth. They fill the critical labour shortage, keeping wages stable and project timelines on track, particularly in the construction sector. The migrants also contribute significantly to the local economy through their consumption of goods and services, creating a new consumer market. The rise of new businesses catering to their needs, from small eateries serving North Indian cuisine to mobile money transfer services, is a testament to their economic footprint.

Socially, the impact is more complex. The presence of a large, culturally distinct migrant population has led to new forms of social interaction and, at times, friction. Language barriers, cultural differences, and differing social norms present challenges for integration. While the local population has, for the most part, been welcoming, there have also been reports of social tension and xenophobic sentiments. The living conditions of many migrants, often in overcrowded and unsanitary accommodations, are a significant public health and social welfare concern. The integration of migrant children into the state's education system is another emerging challenge.

Conclusion

The migration of North Indian workers to Karnataka and Kerala has proven to be a transformative phenomenon, fundamentally reshaping the state's socio-economic landscape. The migrants are not just a temporary workforce but are now an integral part of the state's economy, contributing significantly to its output and acting as a crucial counterbalance to Kerala's own out-migration.

However, this transformation is not without its challenges. The migrants often face precarious living and working conditions, including low wages, a lack of social security, and exploitation by intermediaries. Socially, the integration of a culturally diverse population presents new hurdles, including language barriers and occasional social friction. While the Kerala government has been proactive in implementing welfare schemes and extending basic rights to these "guest workers," a more comprehensive, long-term strategy is required

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Digital Divide – Its Adverse Effects on Youth: An Overview

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Abstract:

In the digital age, youth represent the driving force of a nation's future and its socio-economic progress. Unequal access to and use of digital technologies causes both direct and indirect adverse effects on young people. Youth are the powerful foundation of a nation's development. They are the key drivers of social change, economic growth, and technological revolution.

*Today's era is called the *age of information and technology.* The development of the internet, mobile technology, artificial intelligence, social media, and digital communication systems has brought revolutionary changes in every sphere of human life. Education, employment, business, healthcare, and governance have all undergone digital transformation.However, this digital revolution has not been equally accessible to everyone. The inequality in access to technology, opportunities for its use, and the lack of technical knowledge together create what is known as the "digital divide."*

Key words: *information and communication, revolutionary, services, psychological implications etc.*

Introduction

The present era is known as the *age of information and technology.* The development of the internet, mobile technology, artificial intelligence, social media, and digital communication systems has brought revolutionary changes to every aspect of human life. Education, employment, business, healthcare, and governance have all undergone digital transformation.

However, this digital revolution has not reached everyone equally. The inequality in access to technology, the availability of opportunities for its use, and the lack of technical literacy together create what is known as the digital divide. This is not merely a technological issue but a new form of social and economic inequality.

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Although the youth are considered the pillars of a nation, a large section of them still remain distant from the digital world. Clear disparities exist between urban and rural youth, between the rich and the poor, and between men and women in terms of technological access and usage. As a result, inequalities have emerged in education, employment, and social progress.

Significance:

In the digital age, youth represent the driving force behind a nation's future and its socio-economic progress. Unequal access to and use of digital technologies cause both direct and indirect adverse effects on young people. Hence, studying these adverse effects is of great significance.

Impact on Educational Outcomes:

Lack of digital accessibility, setbacks in online learning, and insufficient technical skills reduce the academic achievement of young people.

Setbacks in Employment and Economic Opportunities:

Since the modern job market depends heavily on digital skills, technological inequality hinders the economic independence and employability of youth.

Social and Psychological Impact:

Being excluded from the digital world leads to social isolation, decreased self-confidence, and increased mental stress.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

- To analyze the meaning of the digital divide and its social background.
- To study the effects of digital inequality on the lives of young people.
- To describe the adverse effects of the digital divide in education,employment, and social life.
- To suggest suitable measures for addressing the problem.

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Digital Divide – Meaning and Background

The term *digital divide* refers to the inequality between those who have access to and use information and communication technology (ICT) and those who are deprived of it. It is not merely a problem of technological access but also a reflection of social, economic, educational, and cultural disparities.

At the root of the digital divide lie the lack of access to technology, limited opportunities for its utilization, and inequality in technical knowledge. In rural areas, the absence of adequate electricity, internet connectivity, and digital infrastructure further widens this gap. Even in urban regions, economically disadvantaged groups often cannot afford smartphones, computers, or internet services.

In developing countries like India, this divide is particularly severe. A clear technological usage gap exists between urban and rural areas, between rich and poor classes, and between men and women. For example, statistics show that among internet users in India, 67% are men, while only 33% are women, reflecting the seriousness of social inequality.

Youth and Digital Accessibility

Youth are the powerful foundation of a nation's progress. They are the key drivers of social change, economic growth, and technological revolution. However, even in today's information age, not all young people have equal access to digital technologies — a serious and concerning reality.

Urban youth can easily access internet services through smartphones, laptops, Wi-Fi, and broadband facilities. In contrast, students in rural areas fall behind both educationally and socially due to a lack of such resources. According to the National Sample Survey (NSSO) 2019–20 report, only 23% of rural households in India had internet access, compared to 67% of urban households. These statistics clearly reveal the technological gap faced by rural youth.

Adverse Effects of the Digital Divide

Impact of the Digital Divide in the Field of Education

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools and colleges across the country were closed, online education became the new normal. To keep the learning process continuous, various digital platforms such as

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Google Classroom, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams were widely used. However, not all students had access to internet connectivity, smartphones, or laptops.

According to the National Education Survey 2021 conducted by the Government of India, only 24% of students in rural areas had access to the technology required for online classes. The remaining students were completely excluded from learning due to a lack of devices, poor internet connectivity, or financial hardships in their families. As a result, thousands of young people either dropped out of education or experienced a decline in their academic performance.

This situation further deepened educational inequality. While students in urban areas could easily adapt to technology, those in rural and economically weaker sections fell behind in competition due to the lack of digital access. This was not just a disruption in learning; many students also suffered from loss of self-confidence, frustration, and emotional distress.

Impact of Digital Divide in the Employment Sector

In the modern economy, most jobs depend on digital skills. To work in fields such as information technology, data entry, e-commerce, digital marketing, and online services, young people require technical knowledge and access to the internet. However, due to the digital divide, rural and economically disadvantaged youth are deprived of these opportunities. Their ability to fill out online job applications, manage digital payments, or use e-platforms for self-employment is limited. As a result, they lag behind in employment competitiveness. The lack of technical skills also reduces the quality of employment. Consequently, the processes of economic self-reliance and empowerment slow down. Thus, the digital divide is not merely a technological issue—it is a factor that undermines economic justice and social equality for the youth.

Social and Psychological Impacts

The digital divide has a profound effect on the social and psychological lives of young people. Those who are not part of the digital world feel excluded from the mainstream of society. Since social media and online networking are major modes of communication for today's youth, those deprived of access experience social isolation. Feelings of low self-esteem and inadequacy develop. They begin to feel inferior compared to their peers. On the other hand, young people who are excessively engaged with digital technology face a different set of

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challenges—continuous social media use leads to mental stress and anxiety, sleeplessness, loneliness, and a decline in real-world social interactions. Hence, the digital divide acts like a double-edged sword—on one side, exclusion due to lack of access; on the other, psychological distress due to overuse.

Digital Divide in the Indian Context

India is one of the fastest-growing nations in the world in the field of information technology. However, when viewed from the perspective of digital inclusion, inequalities between urban and rural areas, men and women, and the rich and poor still remain significant. The Government of India, through initiatives such as *Digital India*, *BharatNet*, *Start-up India*, and *Make in India*, is striving to make digital technology accessible to the common people. The objectives of these schemes include providing high-speed internet facilities in rural areas, making government services accessible through e-governance, and offering digital skill training to the youth. Yet, several obstacles hinder the success of these efforts.

Lack of Technical Infrastructure

In India's rural and semi-urban regions, internet connectivity is still unstable. Many villages lack broadband networks, face slow internet speeds, and experience frequent power outages. As a result, rural youth are unable to participate effectively in online education, job applications, or digital services. This disconnect keeps them away from the mainstream of the digital economy.

Language Barrier

Since most digital content is available only in English or a few major languages, users proficient in regional languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and others struggle to access lessons, training materials, online information, and services. Consequently, the digital accessibility and participation of youth who primarily use local languages face a considerable setback.

Economic Inequality

Not all families can afford the cost of smartphones, laptops, tablets, internet data charges, and other digital devices. Because of this economic disadvantage, a large number of young people are unable to enter the digital

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world. Thus, in India, the digital divide is not merely a technological problem—it is also a reflection of social, economic, and cultural inequality that directly affects youth education, employment, and social participation.

Solutions to the Digital Divide

To reduce the negative effects of the digital divide, several comprehensive measures can be adopted:

Developing Rural Digital Infrastructure

The government should implement special schemes to provide broadband connectivity, stable and high-speed internet, and reliable power supply in rural areas. This would enable rural youth to participate effectively in online education, job applications, and e-services.

Conclusion

The digital divide directly impacts the education, employment, and social life of the youth. It exacerbates poverty, unemployment, and social inequalities. Therefore, achieving digital justice is essential for building an equitable and progressive society. Young people are the leaders of the future; if technology does not reach their hands, the nation's development will be hindered.

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DIGITAL STORYTELLING AND THE FUTURE OF LITERARY EXPRESSION

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Abstract

Digital storytelling marks a profound transformation in the field of literature, moving expression beyond the confines of the print page into a **multimodal, interactive, and networked** experience. This article explores how digital tools and platforms—including hypertext, interactive fiction, multimedia integration, and emerging AI-driven narratives—are not merely augmenting traditional literary forms but are actively **redefining the very nature of authorship, readership, and narrative structure**. By fostering non-linear narratives and democratizing access to creation, digital storytelling positions itself as a central, dynamic frontier for literary expression in the 21st century, posing both exciting opportunities and critical challenges for scholars and creators alike.

1. Introduction: The Paradigm Shift in Narrative

The history of literary expression is intrinsically linked to the dominant technologies of its time, from the scroll to the printing press. The advent of the digital age represents the newest, and arguably most disruptive, of these technological shifts. **Digital storytelling** refers to a diverse genre of literary work that leverages the capabilities of computers and networks—such as multimedia, hypertextuality, and interactivity—to create a narrative that often cannot be reproduced effectively in print. This is not just a migration of text to a screen (like an e-book) but a fundamental shift in aesthetic and structural principles. It transforms the act of reading from a solitary, linear consumption into an **active, often participatory, engagement** with a dynamic textual environment.

2. Characteristics of Digital Literary Expression

Digital literature, often categorized as **Electronic Literature (E-Lit)**, distinguishes itself from traditional forms through several key characteristics:

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2.1. Multimodality and Multimedia Integration

Digital storytelling moves beyond text as the sole vehicle for narrative. It seamlessly integrates **images, audio, video, animation, and interactive graphics**. This multimodal approach allows authors to engage the reader's multiple senses, adding layers of depth and emotional complexity that are inaccessible in print. Examples include **kinetic poetry**, where the words move across the screen to convey meaning, and narrative experiences that are heavily reliant on soundscapes.

2.2. Interactivity and Ergodic Literature

A cornerstone of digital expression is **interactivity**. Unlike the static print text, digital narratives often invite the reader to make choices that directly influence the plot, character development, or the reading path itself. This phenomenon, which Espen J. Aarseth terms **"ergodic literature"** (requiring "nontrivial effort" to traverse the text), fundamentally changes the author-reader relationship. Genres like **hypertext fiction** and **interactive fiction (IF)** offer branching narratives, transforming the reader into a co-creator whose choices construct a unique version of the story.

2.3. Non-Linearity and Networked Narratives

Digital texts frequently **eschew the fixed, linear structure** of a book. Hyperlinks allow the reader to navigate through non-sequential blocks of text (lexias), creating **rhizomatic narratives** with multiple entry points and fluid connections. This challenges the conventional notions of plot, beginning, and end, reflecting a postmodern sensibility where meaning is fragmented, provisional, and dependent on the reader's chosen pathway.

2.4. Democratization and Collaborative Authorship

The barriers to entry for digital publishing are significantly lower than for traditional print media. Digital platforms and social media have **democratized authorship**, allowing diverse and marginalized voices to share narratives through blogs, webcomics, and flash fiction. Moreover, some digital narratives are **collaborative**, where communities of readers contribute to the ongoing development and evolution of the story, blurring the lines between author and audience.

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3. The Future: AI and the Literary Horizon

The convergence of digital storytelling with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is the most recent and provocative evolution in literary expression.

3.1. AI-Assisted and Generative Literature

AI-driven tools, particularly large language models (LLMs), are now capable of generating coherent, stylistically sophisticated prose and poetry. This development introduces the concept of **algorithmic storytelling** and **AI-human co-creation**, raising profound questions about authorship, creativity, and the fundamental value of a text. AI can be used to generate narrative branches, personalize the reading experience based on user data, or even compose entire texts that emulate specific literary styles.

3.2. Immersive and Transmedia Narratives

The future will see a deeper integration of digital storytelling with immersive technologies. **Virtual Reality (VR)** and **Augmented Reality (AR)** are transforming stories into spatial, embodied experiences, where readers physically navigate the narrative world. Furthermore, **transmedia storytelling** will continue to evolve, with single narratives unfolding across multiple platforms—a novel, a podcast, an interactive website, and a social media campaign—each contributing a unique perspective to the larger story universe.

4. Critical Challenges and Scholarly Inquiry

While the future is ripe with potential, digital storytelling presents new challenges for literary studies:

- **Preservation and Longevity:** The dependence on rapidly evolving technology, operating systems, and software platforms makes the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital literature a significant concern.
- **The Canon and Value:** Critics and scholars must develop new frameworks to analyze, evaluate, and categorize digital works, determining their place within the literary canon and grappling with questions of authenticity and aesthetic value in a medium of constant change.

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- **Ethical Considerations:** The rise of AI in creation and the reliance on user data for personalized narratives bring forward ethical issues concerning copyright, intellectual property, and data privacy.

5. Conclusion

Digital storytelling is not merely a modern format for an ancient art; it is a **revolution in narrative architecture** that leverages technology to amplify human creativity. It has expanded the expressive palette of literature, fundamentally altering the roles of the creator and the consumer. As this field continues to merge with AI and immersive technology, it promises a future where literary expression is more personalized, dynamic, and integrated with daily life than ever before. For the literary scholar, digital storytelling is an essential area of inquiry, offering a vibrant, continually evolving space where the future of narrative is actively being written.

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DIGITAL INEQUALITY: ACCESS, POWER, AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

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Abstract

The digital revolution has reshaped the social fabric of modern society, redefining the way individuals access information, communicate, and participate in economic and political life. However, this transformation has not been equitable. Digital inequality rooted in disparities of access, skills, and usage has emerged as a new dimension of social stratification. This paper explores the sociological dimensions of digital inequality by examining its causes, manifestations, and consequences. Drawing upon theories of social stratification, technological determinism, and Pierre Bourdieu's concept of capital, the study analyzes how access to digital resources influences power relations and reproduces existing social hierarchies. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for inclusive digital policies and literacy programs to bridge the digital divide and foster equitable participation in the information society.

Keywords: Digital Divide, Social Stratification, Power, Technological Inequality, Digital Literacy, Social Inclusion

1. Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed the rise of a digitally networked world where access to technology determines an individual's opportunities, participation, and power. The digital domain has become integral to education, employment, communication, and civic engagement. However, not all individuals and communities benefit equally from these developments. This inequality—termed digital inequality or the digital divide—reflects deeper social, economic, and cultural disparities.

Digital inequality is not merely a technological issue but a social phenomenon that mirrors and amplifies existing inequalities in class, gender, education, and geography. The study of digital inequality, therefore, offers valuable insights into the sociology of power and stratification in the information age.

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2. Conceptual Framework: Understanding Digital Inequality

Digital inequality encompasses more than unequal access to technology. It involves differences in access (first-level divide), skills and usage (second-level divide), and outcomes (third-level divide).

- Access Divide: Refers to the availability of devices, connectivity, and infrastructure.
- Skills Divide: Reflects disparities in digital literacy and the ability to use technology effectively.
- Outcome Divide: Represents differences in the benefits gained from digital engagement, such as employment, education, or political participation.

According to Van Dijk (2020), digital inequality perpetuates the reproduction of social hierarchies by privileging those with higher socioeconomic and cultural capital. In this sense, the digital divide becomes a new arena where power is both exercised and legitimized.

3. Theoretical Perspectives

Technological Determinism

This perspective suggests that technological change drives social transformation. However, critics argue that technology does not operate in isolation—it interacts with social structures, and the benefits of innovation are unevenly distributed.

Social Stratification Theory

From a sociological standpoint, digital inequality reflects structural inequalities in income, education, and occupation. The upper strata, equipped with greater economic and cultural capital, adapt more readily to technological changes.

Bourdieu's Theory of Capital

Pierre Bourdieu's framework of economic, social, and cultural capital provides an insightful lens. Access to digital tools enhances one's capital, reinforcing one's social position. Those with higher capital are more likely to use technology for productive and empowering purposes, while others may remain passive consumers.

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4. Dimensions of Digital Inequality

Economic Inequality

Economic resources determine access to digital infrastructure. Rural and low-income households often face barriers due to the high cost of devices and internet services. This creates a cyclical relationship where lack of access leads to limited economic opportunities, further reinforcing poverty.

Educational Disparity

Digital literacy is closely tied to educational attainment. Those with higher education are more likely to use technology effectively. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted this divide, as students from marginalized backgrounds struggled to access online education.

Gender Gap

Gender-based digital inequality persists, especially in developing societies. Women are often deprived of digital access due to patriarchal norms, safety concerns, and lower digital literacy levels.

Geographical Divide

Urban areas enjoy better connectivity and infrastructure, while rural regions lag behind. This geographical divide mirrors broader patterns of development and urban bias.

5. Digital Power and Social Stratification

Access to technology is synonymous with access to power. Digital platforms have become new spaces for political participation, information dissemination, and social activism. Yet, the power to create and control digital content is concentrated among a few corporations, elites, and technologically skilled individuals. This concentration reinforces digital capitalism, where data becomes a new form of capital. Individuals who lack digital literacy or access are excluded from this new economy, widening the gap between the "information rich" and "information poor." Thus, digital inequality serves as both a cause and a consequence of social stratification.

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6. Case Study: India's Digital Divide

India's ambitious Digital India initiative aims to bridge the digital gap, but disparities remain stark. According to national surveys, while urban areas achieve over 70% internet penetration, rural access remains below 40%. Gendered digital inequality is particularly evident, with fewer women owning smartphones or accessing online services.

Factors such as language barriers, infrastructural deficits, and affordability continue to impede inclusive digital participation. The digital divide, therefore, mirrors India's broader socioeconomic inequalities and requires multi-level policy intervention.

7. Policy Implications and Recommendations

1. Digital Infrastructure Expansion: Government and private sectors should collaborate to ensure affordable broadband access in rural and underserved areas.
2. Digital Literacy Programs: Training initiatives should target marginalized groups, women, and rural populations.
3. Inclusive Design and Local Content: Digital tools and platforms should be developed in local languages to ensure usability.

8. Conclusion

Digital inequality represents one of the most significant challenges of the information age. It is not merely a technological problem but a sociological one—deeply rooted in structures of power, privilege, and exclusion. As access to digital resources increasingly determines life chances, the digital divide becomes a key mechanism of social stratification.

Bridging this divide requires more than infrastructure; it demands social inclusion, empowerment, and equitable participation. A truly digital society must ensure that technology becomes a means of liberation—not another instrument of inequality.

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BRIDGING WORLDS: FROM DIVIDE TO DIGITAL DIGNITY

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Abstract

The rapid global proliferation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) presents a dual reality: unprecedented opportunities for socio-economic progress and the risk of exacerbating existing inequalities. The persistent global challenge of the **digital divide**—the disparity in access to, use of, and impact from digital technologies—is not merely a question of connectivity; it is fundamentally a question of **Digital Dignity**. Moving beyond simply measuring access, this article posits that achieving Digital Dignity for all must be the overarching goal of global digital policy, ensuring technology serves as a foundation for, rather than a barrier to, human rights, social inclusion, and full societal participation.

The Multidimensional Digital Divide

The digital divide has evolved from a simple binary of "haves" and "have-nots" (the **access gap**) to a complex, multi-layered problem. Contemporary research identifies several interrelated dimensions:

- **Access Gap:** The inequality in physical access to infrastructure (broadband, devices) and the affordability of these resources. This remains a stark reality, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and rural areas globally, where a significant portion of the population remains unconnected.
- **Skills Gap (Usage Gap):** The disparities in the **digital literacy** and competence required to effectively use technology. Merely providing a device is insufficient if individuals lack the skills to navigate online services, discern reliable information, or protect their privacy. This gap is often compounded by age, educational level, and socio-economic status.
- **Quality of Use Gap:** The difference in how technology is used and the benefits derived. Individuals with higher digital capital (socio-economic status, education) often leverage the internet for high-value

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activities (e.g., job searching, professional development, e-governance), while others are limited to basic, low-value consumption.

- **Digital Inequality and Exclusion:** These gaps are not technology-agnostic; they reflect and amplify existing **structural inequalities** rooted in socio-demographic factors like gender, race, religion, disability, and geographic location (e.g., urban vs. rural). For instance, a global digital **gender gap** persists, with women less likely to use the internet than men, a disparity that is more pronounced in developing regions.

The persistence of these divisions creates a form of **technological discrimination**, limiting access to essential services (health, education, finance, and governance), thereby perpetuating social and economic exclusion.

Defining and Achieving Digital Dignity

The concept of **Digital Dignity** reframes the debate by centering on the human, rights-based imperative of digital inclusion. It extends the definition of the digital divide solution beyond universal access to include:

1. **Meaningful Connectivity:** Access must be **safe, affordable, reliable, and of sufficient quality** to enable full and effective participation in digital society. This includes not only internet speed but also access to affordable, functional devices.
2. **Digital Autonomy and Rights:** Individuals must have the capacity to exercise their human rights online, including **privacy, data protection, freedom of expression, and protection from online harm** and surveillance. Policy frameworks, such as the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, emphasize the need to safeguard human rights in the digital era.
3. **Accessible and Inclusive Design:** Digital platforms, services, and public infrastructure must be designed to be accessible to all, particularly marginalized groups and persons with disabilities. The recognition of digital accessibility as a constitutional right, as seen in recent landmark judicial decisions, underscores its fundamental importance. Exclusion from digitally-mediated essential services compromises one's intrinsic human dignity.

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4. **Sovereignty of Participation:** Users must be empowered not just as consumers of technology but as creators, innovators, and active participants in shaping the digital future, ensuring diverse voices are represented in technological development and governance.

Policy Pathways for Bridge-Building

Bridging the divide to realize Digital Dignity requires a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach that moves beyond market-driven solutions to embrace human-rights-based technology policy. Key strategic interventions include:

1. Infrastructure and Affordability

- **Universal Service Obligations (USO) Redefined:** Expand USOs to mandate not just basic telephone service but **universal, high-speed, affordable broadband access**, treating internet as an essential public utility.
- **Innovative Financing and Infrastructure Models:** Promote **community-centered connectivity** models (e.g., community networks, local ISPs) and public-private partnerships to achieve last-mile connectivity in underserved, low-incentive areas. Subsidies for device procurement for low-income households are crucial to address the financial barrier.

2. Digital Literacy and Capacity-Building

- **Holistic Digital Education:** Integrate comprehensive digital literacy, media literacy, and cybersecurity education into national curricula and vocational training programs.
- **Digital Navigator Programs:** Fund and deploy community-based 'digital navigator' models, which provide in-person, trusted, and personalized support to vulnerable populations (seniors, migrants, low-income families) to acquire and apply digital skills effectively.

3. Governance and Regulation

- **Human-Centric Regulation:** Implement regulatory frameworks for data governance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) that mandate transparency, non-discrimination, and human oversight, ensuring technology development aligns with the principles of human dignity and social equity.

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- **Mandatory Digital Accessibility:** Enforce regulations requiring all government and essential private sector digital services to comply with international accessibility standards, such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), treating digital exclusion as a violation of human rights.

Conclusion

The transition from a world fractured by the digital divide to one unified by **Digital Dignity** is the defining socio-political challenge of the 21st century. It demands a paradigm shift—from a focus solely on technological deployment to a dedication to **inclusive empowerment**. Achieving universal, meaningful, and rights-respecting digital access is not a philanthropic endeavor; it is an economic, social, and moral imperative. By anchoring digital policy in the principles of human dignity, the global community can ensure that technology serves as the ultimate engine for equitable development, truly bridging worlds and fostering a digitally inclusive global society.

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STATUS OF WOMEN WORKERS IN UNORGANISED SECTORS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

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Abstract:

Traditionally, a woman's place is considered to be near the hearth in her house, taking care of her family. But in the previous years, we have seen women shattering the glass ceilings and taking up jobs outside the sphere of their homes. However, the kind of work they are involved in differs a lot. Statistics prove that a majority of them are employed within the informal sector where they are left vulnerable, without any protection. They are exploited, receive unequal pay, and get no security. This is the condition of women in the informal and unorganised sector in India. Women are largely confined to unpaid work and casual labour, while men concentrate on more valued forms of remunerative work. The informal/unorganised sector is a larger source of employment for women than men. The unorganised economy in India employs about 86 per cent of the country's work-force and 91 per cent of its women workers.

Keywords: Status of women workers, unorganized sector, Problems.

Introduction

The term 'unorganised' is often used in the Indian context to refer to the vast numbers of women and men engaged in different forms of employment. These forms include home-based work (Rolling Papads and Beedis), self-employment (Selling Vegetables), and employment in household enterprises, small units, on land as agricultural workers, labour on construction sites, domestic work, and many other forms of casual or temporary employment. The unorganized sector is physicallymore visible in India. It is found in almost all the industrial segments of the Indian economy, that is, in agriculture, industry,household and the services sectors. . Most of these girls and women are working in unorganised sectors are unskilled and illiterate. They work in inhuman condition in cities as their living standards are extremely poor. It is a recognized fact that there is still

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no society in the India which women in unorganised sectors enjoy the same opportunities or same rights as men. In today's era status of women has occupied in every field with a respectable position, but yet they have not absolutely free from some discrimination and harassment. **"Unorganised Sector"[2]** means an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers and engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing service of any kind whatsoever, and where the enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten." **"Unorganised Worker"[5]** meansa home based worker, self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganised sector.

LITERATURE REVIEW

S. Monisha & PL. Rani (2016) In this research paper authors mainly focused on women working in unorganised sector- a conceptual study. They want to explained dual responsibilities of women at their home and work place. They stated three objectives for the study on the basis of living, working and economic conditions of women in the unorganised sectors, the various problems faced by the women in unorganised sectors and the various social security measures for the welfare of women of unorganised sectors. He mentioned about the four categories of unorganised labour in the form of occupation, nature of employment, especially distressed category and service category. They mainly focused on various problems faced by the women workers in unorganised sectors like, exploitation, harassment at workplace, no maternity benefit, not getting proper training, facing discrimination due to gender inequality, women workers of unorganised do not have benefit like organised sectors, poor wage, poor working condition, absence of social security measures etc. They also highlighted the various programmes implemented for the women workers in unorganised sectors. Authors of this study also had given some suggestions for the upliftment of women in unorganised sectors. Lastly, they concluded that for the empowering of women workers in unorganised sectors, there is need of effective implementation of schemes, policies and laws in right way and direction. Furthermore, central and state government should also take various steps for the support to women in unorganised sectors.

Manju (2017) In this research paper author tries to focus on problems and issues of women in unorganised sectors. She stated three objectives in the form of problems faced by women workers in

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unorganised sectors,different categories of women workers in unorganised sectors and also suggest some measures for overcoming the problems of women in unorganised sectors like lack of education, insecure job, exploitation,low wages, discrimination, physical problem, work pressure, insufficient skill and knowledge etc. furthermore in other side she also explained categories of women workers in unorganised sectors like rig pickers, domestic workers, vendors, beauticians, construction workers and garment workers etc. The research paper also mainly talks about the fact that there is still no society in the globe in which women workers enjoy the equal opportunities as men. She also stated in India majority of women works in unorganised sectors for low wages due to some issues and problems. She also suggested some views regarding problems and issues of women in unorganised sectors. Finally, she concluded that female participation in these sectors is more than male and they all are facing grave problems.

Devanshi singh (2021) This Research report concludes that there is a dire need of a well-defined enactment making provisions for the protection and promotion of the women in the unorganised sector and an effective mechanism is required to ensure effective application of the policy already introduced. As observed in my survey that almost 95% workers have access to mobile and Internet facilities. The Pandemic has once again highlighted the plight of the unorganised sector and Government must take steps to ensure protection and promotion of the unorganised sector.

Ms. Anjanaben Jayantilal Solanki (2022) This research study purely focused on various problem faces by women labourers in unorganised sectors andlaw/legislations and schemes framed by the government for the purpose of welfare of women labourers in unorganised sectors. In India there are number of women are working in the unorganised sectors. They facea number of problems also. In Indian society there are a lot of restrictions on women and they face various difficulties in different terms of categories. The unorganised sectors are classified under the different categories, and as per these categories the women who are working in different sectors are facing different problems. For an example if women working as Domestic workers, Agriculture workers, Construction labourers, and Vendors they are face different –different problems as per her work in unorganised sectors

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Status of women workers

- **Coolies:** Women coolies basically do the job of loading/unloading of packages being received at railway stations to warehouses and from warehouses/ go downs to further distribution centers.
- **Vendors:** This is the most scattered category, which includes women engaged in selling different types of commodities, like broomsticks, cane baskets, utensils, petty cosmetics, bangles, vegetables and those running roadside tea stalls, etc. Nearly 40% of total vendors are women and 30% of these women are the sole earning members in their families.
- **Beauticians:** A large number of women are employed as beauticians. A large portion of the beauty saloons/parlours fall under the unorganized sector and are characterized by informal employment. According to a study on Human Resource and Skill Requirements in the Unorganized Sector: mapping of human resource skill gaps in India till 2022 carried out by National Skill Development Corporation, Mumbai, the demand for personal care/ body care would drive the demand for beauticians.
- **Construction labourers**: The construction industry provides direct employment to at least 30 million workers in India (but recent expansions have resulted in a higher number: trade unions estimate that there were roughly 40 million migrant construction workers in India in 2008. Women work mainly as unskilled workers.
- **Garment workers**: The garment industry is a subsector of the textile industry and also generates many jobs for migrant workers. India's readymade garment exports increased significantly as a share of total exports (12% or Rs 254780 million in 2001-02). The women work as helpers to male/femaletailors (called as masters). These workers include those involved in knitting clothes/woolens.

Women in unorganized sector

The term unorganized sector was first used by Hart in 1971 who described the unorganized sector as that part of urban labour force, which falls outside the organized labour market. In the unorganized sector, work situations are not in official record and working conditions are not protected by law. So the problems of female workers in unorganized sector are not properly known. It has been pointed out by Hart that one of the major problems is that working conditions are worst. Due to population growth and urban migration, the active labour force was growing at a much faster rate than availability of jobs in the organized sector. The

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focus of development policies was gradually shifting from pure economic to growth with equity and the eradication of poverty. Interest was, thus generated in sectors outside the organized economy that was providing a livelihood to a large section of the poor. Hence, the concept of the unorganized sector was born. In defining the unorganized sector, self- employed with or without family labour and microenterprises with less than five workers, is also included.

Women workers in the unorganised sector are not willingly working but they have to work because of economic necessity and to fulfil their very basic needs. Economic compulsion is the main reasons because of which women enlarge undertake productive work.

- ✓ The most common method of making payment by the employer is daily payment with regard to the unorganised sector. In my survey also, I observed that majority of the payment was done on daily wage basis and a very less portion of the respondents were being paid regular monthly salary. A very negligible section of the respondents were also being paid through the system of piece rate payment.
- ✓ Not only the workforce in the unorganised sector is scattered but also, there is no fixed and specific works place of the workers employed in this sector. Many of the workers who are employed in this sector are working from their own residence.
- ✓ Majority of the respondents, whom I surveyed claim that they do not have access to safe drinking water and separate toilet facilities for women workers in their workplace which makes it an indecent condition at workplace. It affects their productivity level and also so make it difficult for them to work.
- ✓ As we observe that the age group which is most prevalent in the unorganised sector is ranging from the age of 18 to 35 and this age is the reproductive age of a woman. Women who work on construction sites or brick kilns have to undergo problem of daycares for their newborn babies for their young children who makes it difficult for them to do the best of their productive skills.
- ✓ The discrimination between genders is very much prevalent in the unorganised sector as the women are usually given the lower paid jobs and the man is given the main task which is more paying job. Women always remain a supplement or a support worker to the main worker in the unorganised sector.
- ✓ The woman in the sector is very much prone to exploitation by their employer's fellow male workers and even the customers.

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Problems of women in unorganized sector

A large number of women from rural areas migrate to cities and towns all over India. Most of these women and girls are illiterate and unskilled. They work in inhuman conditions in cities as their living standard is extremely poor. It is a recognized fact that there is still no society in the world in which women workers enjoy the same opportunities as men. According to the 2001 census about 96% of women workers in India are in unorganized sector.

The women unorganized sector are facing so many problems:

- ✓ **Lack of education**: Illiteracy is the biggest problem because they do not get time to educate themselves. In childhood, they have to start working early which do not allow them to go school.
- ✓ **Insufficient skill & knowledge**: Majority of female do not have proper training and skills aligned to their task. This result is excessive stress and inefficient working.
- ✓ **Exploitation of the female labour:** Female worker are more vulnerable to exploitation by employer. They can be easily threatened of their job for indecent favours.
- ✓ **Insecure job**: Absence of strong legislation controlling the unorganized sector makes the job highly insecure in this sector.
- ✓ **Non sympathic attitude of employer**: Temporary nature of employment in this sector does not allow the bond between the employee and employer to establish and become strong.
- ✓ **Extreme work pressure**: Female are overworked, they work twice as many hours as worked by their male counterpart. In agriculture sector the condition is the worst. When measured in terms of number of tasks performed and the total time spent, it is greater than men as per one study in Himalayas which found that on a one-hectare farm, a pair of bullocks' works 1064 hours, a man 1212 hours and a woman 3485 hours in a year.
- ✓ **Irregular wages payment**: There is lack of controlled processes in unorganized sector which results in to untimely payment of wages to the workers. When it comes to payment to female, it is even worst.

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- ✓ **Wage discrimination**: Female does not get similar payment to the male for same work.
- ✓ **Seasonal employment**: Many of the unorganized sector industries are seasonal. These industries includes fruits processing, pickle making, agricultural sector, construction sector etc. They have to fetch another employment when there is no work during offseason.
- ✓ **Physical problems**: The working conditions are not healthy. Work place is not ergonomically designed. This results into workers facing fatigue resulting physical problems. Female workers are mostly on such tasks where they need to remain in one position such as agriculture. This results on to saviour problems such as
  backache and knee-ach.

Conclusion

The unorganized sector is larger in rural areas as compared to urban areas. The female participation in this sector is more than male. Women worker face grave problems. Their condition is highly unpredictable and have constraints related to their work such as insecurity, wage discrimination, absence of medical and accidental care, lack of continuity etc. this is due to their seasonal intermittent nature of work, low level irregular patterns of earning. There are various reasons for pitiable conditions of women in unorganized sector The Central and state government had launched many schemes for providing support to women but there are not sufficient to overcome the problems of women workers in unorganized sector. There is need of effective implementation of these schemes and laws forempowering the women workers.

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The Partition of India: Causes, Consequences, and Legacy

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Abstract

The Partition of India in 1947 remains one of the most significant and tragic events of the 20th century. It resulted in the disintegration of British India into two sovereign nations: a secular but Hindu-majority India and an Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This research delves into the deeper causes of Partition—ranging from British colonial strategies and political negotiations to rising religious nationalism and social fragmentation. It further analyzes the immediate humanitarian consequences, including mass displacement, communal riots, and deep societal trauma. The paper also examines the long-term legacy of Partition on regional geopolitics, minority relations, and collective memory. By engaging with a wide spectrum of academic literature, historical documents, and survivor testimonies, this article seeks not only to reconstruct the complexity of the Partition but also to offer key insights that remain relevant for contemporary debates on nationalism, identity, and conflict resolution.

Keywords

Partition, India, Pakistan, colonialism, nationalism, communalism, migration, postcolonial studies

Introduction

The Partition of India was not just a geopolitical division, but a profound rupture in the social, cultural, and emotional fabric of South Asia. Announced by the British on 3rd June 1947 and implemented hastily by mid-August the same year, Partition led to the birth of two nation-states: India and Pakistan. While independence from

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colonial rule was a long-cherished goal, the manner in which it was achieved resulted in unparalleled human suffering and displacement. The communal violence that followed forced over 15 million people to migrate across hastily drawn borders, with estimates of deaths ranging from 500,000 to over a million.

Understanding Partition requires a holistic approach—one that goes beyond blaming singular actors or communities. It involves examining the historical roots of communalism, the failure of political negotiations, and the role of imperial interests. The present paper aims to analyze the multidimensional causes of Partition, document its short- and long-term consequences, and reflect on its lasting legacy in the Indian subcontinent.

Review of Literature

Partition studies have evolved from political narratives to interdisciplinary analyses incorporating oral history, gender studies, memory studies, and postcolonial theory.

Political Histories

Early accounts, such as those by **Stanley Wolpert (2006)** and **Percival Spear**, focus on high-level negotiations between the British, Congress, and the Muslim League. They detail the role of figures like Nehru, Jinnah, Gandhi, and Mountbatten, portraying Partition as a political breakdown.

Oral Histories and Subaltern Perspectives

A shift occurred in the 1990s with works like **Urvashi Butalia's "The Other Side of Silence" (1998)** and **Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin's "Borders and Boundaries"**, which gave voice to marginalized groups—especially women—who suffered in silence. These works emphasized the need to humanize Partition history beyond political documents.

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Cultural Memory and Trauma

Gyanendra Pandey (2001) and **Veena Das** explored how communities internalized Partition trauma, examining its effects on memory, identity, and nation-building. Meanwhile, scholars like **Ayesha Jalal** challenge the notion of an inevitable split, arguing that Jinnah's original intent was autonomy within a federal India, not a separate state.

Gendered and Communal Violence

Recent studies have paid attention to how women were uniquely impacted during Partition, often becoming tools of communal vengeance. The violence was not just political, but gendered and social.

This evolving body of literature provides a nuanced framework to analyze Partition as a phenomenon not only political but deeply psychological, cultural, and human.

Causes of Partition

1. Colonial Administrative Policies and Divide-and-Rule Tactics

From the early 20th century, British colonial policies increasingly institutionalized religious divisions. The 1909 Morley-Minto Reforms introduced **separate electorates** for Muslims, which was expanded in the **1919 Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms**. These measures created a political environment where identity-based mobilization flourished, eroding the possibility of a unified nationalist struggle.

Furthermore, British censuses categorized Indians along rigid communal lines, reinforcing divisions between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others.

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2. Rise of Communal Nationalism

The **Indian National Congress** claimed to represent all Indians but was increasingly seen by many Muslims as a Hindu-majority organization. The **All-India Muslim League**, under Jinnah's leadership, argued that Muslims constituted a distinct political and cultural entity—leading to the **"Two-Nation Theory"**.

The **Lahore Resolution** of 1940 was a turning point, demanding autonomous states for Muslims. Over time, this demand hardened into the call for a separate nation—Pakistan.

3. Political Inflexibility and Breakdown of Negotiations

The **failure of the Cripps Mission (1942)** and the **Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)** signaled a deep political impasse. Congress's insistence on a strong central government conflicted with the League's demand for substantial autonomy for Muslim-majority areas. Gandhi's moral leadership, Nehru's modernist vision, and Jinnah's legalistic approach were incompatible, resulting in political deadlock.

4. Direct Action Day and Communal Tensions

The **Direct Action Day** on August 16, 1946, called by the Muslim League, led to massive riots in Calcutta and Bengal. Communal violence spread across North India, intensifying fear and mistrust between communities. This paved the way for acceptance of Partition as a "necessary evil."

5. British Expediency and Mountbatten's Haste

Facing domestic pressure post-WWII, Britain sought a quick exit from India. Lord Mountbatten's decision to advance the transfer of power to **15 August 1947**, without sufficient preparation or understanding of ground realities, was catastrophic. The **Radcliffe Line**, dividing Punjab and Bengal, was drawn hastily without local input—triggering chaos.

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Consequences of Partition

1. Unprecedented Human Migration

Partition led to the largest mass migration in recorded history. An estimated **15–17 million people** were displaced across the India-Pakistan border. Entire trains arrived full of corpses. Refugees arrived in hostile environments, often in refugee camps with inadequate resources. This event fundamentally altered the demography of northern India and Pakistan.

2. Communal and Gendered Violence

Partition violence was brutal and systematic. Mobs attacked villages, homes were burnt, trains were ambushed, and women were abducted, raped, or forcibly converted. An estimated **75,000 women** were abducted. Families were often forced to kill their own members to preserve "honor."

3. Psychological and Cultural Trauma

The trauma of Partition is deeply embedded in the collective memory of both India and Pakistan. Generations born after 1947 still recount stories of loss, longing, and identity confusion. Literature, cinema, and art reflect this pain, as seen in works by **Saadat Hasan Manto**, **Khushwant Singh**, and **Bapsi Sidhwa**.

4. Emergence of Kashmir Dispute

The princely state of **Jammu and Kashmir**, with a Muslim majority but a Hindu ruler, became a contentious issue. Its accession to India led to the first Indo-Pak war in 1947–48 and remains a core issue in bilateral tensions.

5. Fragmented National Identities

Post-Partition, India and Pakistan constructed their national narratives in opposition to each other. Pakistan emphasized Islamic identity, while India emphasized secularism—although both faced internal contradictions and challenges regarding minority rights.

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Legacy of Partition

1. Enduring Hostility between India and Pakistan

Three full-scale wars (1947, 1965, 1971) and ongoing border skirmishes reflect the deep mistrust born of Partition. Diplomatic relations remain strained, with national security discourses dominated by mutual suspicion.

2. Political Exploitation of Communalism

Partition institutionalized communal politics. In India, right-wing parties have used Partition to fuel anti-Muslim rhetoric. In Pakistan, religious orthodoxy became deeply embedded in the state structure.

3. Cultural and Emotional Fragmentation

Partition fractured cultural continuities—shared languages, festivals, and traditions. Cities like Lahore, Amritsar, and Delhi became symbolic of these ruptures. Families were separated forever, creating a diaspora of grief.

4. Academic and Artistic Responses

Partition gave rise to a new genre of **Partition literature and cinema**. Films like *Garam Hawa*, *Tamas*, *Earth*, and books like *Train to Pakistan* serve not only as artistic responses but as alternative historical archives.

5. Lessons in Conflict Prevention

Partition offers key lessons on conflict prevention, transitional justice, and peacebuilding. It underscores the dangers of identity-based politics, hasty political decisions, and lack of institutional safeguards.

Key Learnings from the Partition

1. **The dangers of communal polarization**: When religious or ethnic identities dominate politics, they can fracture national unity.

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2. **The cost of hasty political decisions**: Rapid transitions without planning, as seen in Mountbatten's timeline, can lead to chaos and violence.
3. **Importance of inclusive nationalism**: A pluralistic and inclusive approach to nation-building is crucial for stability in diverse societies.
4. **Need for transitional justice mechanisms**: No comprehensive justice process was put in place to address the atrocities of Partition, leaving historical wounds unhealed.
5. **Long-term impact on foreign policy**: Partition continues to define Indo-Pakistani diplomatic and military strategies.

Conclusion

The Partition of India was not merely a political event but a cataclysm that reshaped the destinies of millions. Its causes were deeply rooted in colonial policies, communal nationalism, and leadership failures. Its consequences, both immediate and enduring, include human tragedy, geopolitical conflict, and fractured identities. The legacy of Partition remains etched in the psyche of South Asia, and its lessons continue to inform contemporary debates around nationalism, identity politics, and conflict resolution. A nuanced understanding of Partition is essential not only for historical scholarship but for fostering peace and cooperation in the region.

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Inclusive Pathways: Education and Skill Development Programs for Physically Challenged Children in India

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Abstract

The journey toward genuine **inclusive development** in India necessitates equitable opportunities for all citizens, especially **Physically Challenged Children (PCCs)**. This article examines the current landscape of education and skill development programs designed to empower PCCs, focusing on government initiatives, inclusive education models, and vocational training frameworks. While significant strides have been made through policies like the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016*, and schemes such as the *National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP)*, persistent challenges in **infrastructural accessibility, teacher training, and attitudinal barriers** continue to impede full inclusion. The paper highlights the transformative potential of **assistive technologies** and a **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** approach in fostering self-reliance and employability among this demographic. Recommendations are proposed to strengthen the ecosystem, promoting a multi-stakeholder model for a truly barrier-free and empowering future for PCCs.

Introduction

Education and skill acquisition are pivotal for the socio-economic empowerment of any individual. For Physically Challenged Children (PCCs)—often referred to as 'Divyangjan'—these opportunities are not merely academic or professional pathways but fundamental requirements for achieving **dignity, autonomy, and social inclusion**. India, guided by national and international commitments like the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)*, has increasingly shifted its paradigm from welfare to rights-based approaches. This transition is reflected in the policy focus on mainstreaming PCCs through inclusive education and specialized skill development programs, aiming to equip them with the competencies necessary for gainful employment and active civic participation.

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Educational Frameworks: From Segregation to Inclusion

The evolution of educational provisions for PCCs in India has seen a shift from segregated special schools to an emphasis on **Inclusive Education**.

Inclusive Education Initiatives

The bedrock of this shift lies in national policies and schemes, which mandate a 'zero rejection' policy at the elementary level:

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Samagra Shiksha:** These overarching educational programs incorporate an Inclusive Education component, providing financial support for aids and appliances, teacher training, resource rooms, and the removal of architectural barriers in schools.
- **Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS):** This Centrally Sponsored Scheme specifically aims to enable PCCs who complete eight years of elementary schooling to pursue four years of secondary education (Classes IX to XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment. It mandates the provision of free learning material and accessible infrastructure.
- **The RPwD Act, 2016:** This landmark legislation guarantees the right to **free and compulsory education** in an **inclusive environment** up to the age of 18. It underscores the importance of appropriate accommodations, support mechanisms, and a conducive learning atmosphere.

The Role of Special Institutions

Alongside inclusive schooling, **National Institutes (NIs)** and **Composite Regional Centres (CRCs)**, under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, play a crucial role. Institutes like the *Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute For Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPPD)* specialize in training rehabilitation personnel, conducting research, and providing direct rehabilitation services, including special education and vocational training.

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Skill Development and Vocational Training Programs

Equipping PCCs with market-relevant skills is crucial for transforming educational certificates into economic opportunities.

National Action Plan for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (NAP-SDP)

Launched in 2015, the NAP-SDP is a dedicated, high-priority scheme focused on providing **quality vocational skill training** to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Its primary objectives are to enhance skills for meaningful employment and promote self-reliance.

- **Implementation Network:** Training is delivered through a cluster of partners, including government institutions, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- **Curriculum & Standards:** Training courses are aligned with the **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)**, often developed by the dedicated **Sector Skill Council for PwDs (SCPwD)**.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** The program includes mentorship projects in collaboration with industrial bodies and organizations like the **National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC)**, which offers loans and financial assistance to PwDs for establishing self-employment ventures.

Key Government Schemes

Other schemes provide essential support that complements skill training:

- **Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** This scheme provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for various services, including early intervention, special education, development of daily living skills, and **skill development oriented towards employability**.
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme):** Access to quality aids, such as wheelchairs, calipers, and assistive devices, is a critical enabler for PCCs to physically access educational and training centers and manipulate equipment, directly impacting their learning outcomes and skill proficiency.

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Challenges and Opportunities

Persistent Challenges

Despite the strong policy intent, the implementation faces systemic hurdles:

1. **Infrastructural and Digital Inaccessibility:** Many mainstream schools and training centers lack basic features like ramps, accessible washrooms, and barrier-free access to labs and libraries. Furthermore, a lack of accessible digital content and assistive technologies in rural settings limits reach.
2. **Attitudinal Barriers and Stigma:** Prejudice and misconceptions among peers, teachers, and employers remain significant barriers to full social and professional inclusion.
3. **Inadequate Teacher Preparation:** General school teachers often lack the specialized training, pedagogical skills, and confidence to effectively handle diverse learning needs, including those of PCCs, in an inclusive classroom.
4. **Disability-Specific Curriculum and Assessment:** Curricula and assessment methods are often rigid and not adequately modified or adapted to accommodate the unique learning paces and modes of expression for students with physical limitations (e.g., difficulties in writing or manipulating lab equipment).

Transformative Opportunities

Emerging trends offer solutions to these challenges:

1. **Universal Design for Learning (UDL):** Applying UDL principles can make curricula and learning environments flexible and accessible to all, minimizing the need for extensive individual modifications.
2. **Assistive Technology (AT) Integration:** Leveraging ICT and AT (e.g., speech-to-text, adapted keyboards, screen readers) can significantly bypass physical limitations, especially in modern skills like IT, graphic design, and data entry, where physical mobility is less critical.
3. **Collaborative Ecosystem:** Success hinges on effective collaboration between government bodies, specialized NIs, local NGOs, industry partners (for internships and placements), and parents.

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4. **Focus on Soft Skills and Life Skills:** Programs must integrate training in **communication, problem-solving, self-advocacy, and emotional regulation** to prepare PCCs for independent living and professional life, as these are crucial for social integration.

Conclusion

Education and skill development programs are essential instruments for realizing the potential of physically challenged children. India's commitment, enshrined in the RPwD Act and numerous schemes, establishes a robust framework. However, the true measure of success lies in the efficacy of implementation. Moving forward, a concerted national effort to dismantle **architectural, pedagogical, and attitudinal barriers** is required. By prioritizing **inclusive infrastructure, specialized teacher training, and technology-enabled, skill-oriented curricula**, India can ensure that its physically challenged children transition from beneficiaries of welfare to confident, skilled, and actively contributing members of the nation's workforce and society.

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A Sociological Study of Childless Couples: Navigating Social Norms, Stigma, and Modernity

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Abstract

Childlessness, encompassing both voluntary and involuntary forms, presents a critical area for sociological investigation, especially in pronatalist societies like India. This article examines the multifaceted experiences of childless couples, focusing on the interplay between deep-seated social norms, the pervasive **stigma of 'barrenness,'** the changing socio-economic landscape, and the resulting **psycho-social consequences** and marital dynamics. Drawing on contemporary research, it explores the societal pressures, the rise of voluntary childlessness (childfree movement), and the distinct challenges faced by couples in the context of modernization and shifting gender roles. The study highlights the urgent need for social recognition and support systems that move beyond a purely medical or individual-level framework for understanding childlessness.

Keywords: Stigma, Barrenness, Socio-Economic, Landscape, Psycho-Social, Consequences

Introduction:

In many traditional and collective societies, the transition to parenthood is viewed not merely as a personal life event but as a **normative and sacred step** that finalizes a marriage and ensures the continuation of the family lineage. This strong **pronatalist attitude** makes childlessness a deeply challenging social reality, irrespective of whether the condition is voluntary or involuntary. The term 'childless' itself often carries a negative connotation, underscoring the societal expectation of reproduction.

This article seeks to provide a sociological analysis of childlessness by dissecting its causes, the intense social and cultural sanctions it triggers, and its impact on the individual, the couple's relationship, and society at large. The discussion distinguishes between involuntary childlessness (often due to infertility) and the growing trend of voluntary childlessness.

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Factors Contributing to Childlessness

The causes of childlessness are a complex interplay of medical, socio-economic, and deliberate choice factors:

1. Involuntary Childlessness (Infertility)

Infertility, defined as the inability to conceive after a year of unprotected intercourse, remains a primary cause. Sociological perspectives, however, emphasize how societal changes contribute to its prevalence:

- **Delayed Marriage and Childbearing Age:** Increasing levels of female education and career aspirations lead to later marriages and postponement of childbearing, which, in turn, increases the biological risk of age-related infertility for both partners.
- **Lifestyle and Environmental Factors:** Urbanization, demanding career paths, high stress levels, and environmental pollutants are increasingly implicated in fertility issues.
- **Gendered Blame:** Despite approximately half of all infertility cases involving the male partner, social and cultural norms in patriarchal societies often disproportionately place the **blame and stigma on the woman** (the 'barren woman' narrative).

2. Voluntary Childlessness (Childfree Choice)

A significant and growing trend is the conscious decision by couples not to have children, often referred to as being **'childfree.'** This choice is a clear challenge to traditional pronatalism and is primarily driven by:

- **Career and Personal Growth:** Couples prioritize professional advancement, higher education, and personal self-fulfillment (the **Double Income, No Kids - DINK** phenomenon).
- **Economic Considerations:** The rising cost of raising children and a desire for a higher standard of living and leisure time often weigh into the decision.
- **Increased Value for Partner Intimacy and Independence:** Some couples choose to preserve their time, energy, and resources for their relationship, fearing that children would limit their independence or strain the marriage.

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- **Environmental Concerns:** Growing awareness of overpopulation and climate change influences some couples to make an ecological choice against reproduction.

The Stigma and Socio-Cultural Sanctions

Childlessness, particularly in traditional settings, attracts severe **social stigma** and is a source of intense social tension and isolation.

- **Social Isolation and Exclusion:** Childless women are often subjected to exclusion from social rituals and ceremonies, sometimes even being seen as inauspicious. They can face taunts, hostile behavior, and social marginalization, which erodes their sense of community belonging.
- **Stigma as 'Punishment':** In some cultural narratives, childlessness is interpreted as a **curse or punishment for past karma or misdeeds**, adding a layer of moral distress to the medical or personal challenge.
- **Challenge to Gender Identity:** For women, motherhood is often intertwined with their fundamental identity and social role. Failure to conceive can lead to a **'loss of identity'** and immense psychological distress. For men, the inability to procreate can challenge traditional notions of **masculinity and patriarchal succession**.
- **Marital Instability:** Childlessness is frequently cited as a major cause of marital discord, family pressure, and, in extreme cases, **divorce or remarriage** (particularly for the husband, who may remarry to secure progeny).

Psychological and Marital Adjustment

The socio-cultural pressures translate directly into significant psychological and relational challenges for childless couples.

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- **Psychological Distress:** Childless couples, especially the woman, frequently report elevated levels of **depression, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, and a profound sense of grief** over the lost opportunity for parenthood. This emotional toll is compounded by the lack of a culturally sanctioned outlet for this type of grief.
- **Marital Adjustment:** The experience of childlessness can either **strengthen the marital bond** (by fostering closer mutual affinity and communication in the face of external pressure) or become a **serious source of conflict and dissatisfaction.** The shared stress of infertility investigation, the financial burden of treatments, and differing coping mechanisms can erode a relationship. However, some research suggests that couples who adjust well may demonstrate a higher degree of initial marital adjustment compared to those with children.

Conclusion: Towards a More Inclusive Social Structure

The sociological study of childless couples reveals a profound tension between deeply rooted **pronatalist norms** and the **individualizing forces of modernity.** While voluntary childlessness reflects greater individual autonomy and changing priorities, involuntary childlessness (infertility) exposes the severe social and gendered inequalities inherent in the pressure to procreate.

For a society to truly progress, it must move towards a more **inclusive social structure** that de-links an individual's worth and a marriage's success from the presence of children. Policy and social support must focus on:

1. **Destigmatization and Awareness:** Challenging the cultural narratives that attribute blame, especially to women, and promoting a balanced, evidence-based understanding of the causes of infertility.
2. **Psychological Support:** Providing accessible and specialized counseling for childless couples to manage grief, navigate social pressures, and maintain marital adjustment.
3. **Recognizing Diverse Family Forms:** Acknowledging the validity and completeness of childfree lifestyles and supporting alternative paths to family building, such as adoption.

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Ultimately, a mature society recognizes that **parenthood is a choice, not an obligation,** and ensures that all citizens, regardless of their reproductive status, can live with dignity, respect, and full social participation.

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Thematic study on the Play " Fire and the Rain" by Girish Karnad

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Abstract

Girish Karnad is an excellent writer of Kannada language. His genius authority lies in the tender mingling of the myth and history to create a new one. He uses tradition and individual talent method. His new mode of expression and well measured sense gave him immense popularity and applause. Most of the Girish Karnad 's works shows intertextuality. In this play he uses mask as a property of performance. But truly he uses mask in most of the characters and characteristics. On stage that is visible mask and all human beings wore invisible masks everywhere.

"The Fire and the Rain" is a play by Girish Karnad, first performed in 1995. The play is a modern retelling of the ancient Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and explores themes of desire, power, and morality.

This paper is an analysis of each and every character and their characteristics. Every character is an emblem to move towards the enigmatic lesson and moral which the play has given.

The play begins at the yagna mantapa where Paravasu is busy performing fire sacrifice along with the other subordinate priests. The king supervises all this. An actor manager from a drama company comes near the fire sacrifice but does not enter it as he belongs to the lower community. He stays a little away from the yagnamantapa and expresses his plea to the chief priest that the drama company is ready to present a play called Indra Vijaya (Triumph of Indra) as part of the fire sacrifice. He opines that the gods will be pleased by the drama and shower rain.

The king and the chief priest Paravasu agree to have a play as part of fire sacrifice but they put a condition before the actor manager. They say that Aravasu(Paravasu's younger brother) should not be in the play. He should be away from the yagnamantapa as he is accused of committing a crime, killing his own father Raibhya. But Paravasu allows the actor manager to have Aravasu in the play at last.

Once Aravasu comes to know that his brother has approved his being in the play he feels happy and he tries to share the happy moment with his beloved girl Nittilai who is no more.

He recalls his past. In the flashback Girish Karnad portray the innocent love of Aravasu and Nittilai who belong to two different communities. Nittilai belongs to a tribal community.

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They meet to discuss the plan about Aravasu's meeting with Nittilai's parents. As they engage in the discussion they see Andhaka. Andhaka is a blind man who belongs to Shudra community. He looks after the hermitage of Bharadwaja. He is blessed with a special skill of recognizing the people by the sound of the footsteps.

Aravasu becomes so happy to hear that Yavakri has returned from. Nittilai wants to ask Yavakri two questions. When he will die and why doesn't he bring rain. As Aravasu and Nittilai search for Yavakri they discover him being with his former lover Vishaka. Vishaka tries to save Yavakri by sending him to his father's hermitage. But as he learns Yavakri's intend to avenge she pours out the consecrated water from the kamandalam.

When Yavakri tries to enter his father's hermitage Andhaka prevents him as he fails to recognise his footsteps. As a result he is killed by Bramharakshasa.

Aravasu performs the final rites of him. As he was busy in performing Yavakri's final rites he couldn't attend the meeting with Nittilai's parents.

The same evening when he rushes to Nittilai's house a surprise was awaiting.

As Aravasu didn't attend the meeting the parents decided to get her married to someone in their relationship. If he had gone there a half an hour he would have got his love. He comes back home with broken heart.

Later when Paravasu comes back from the yagnamantapa, his wife Vishaka complains that Raibhya has been sedusing her. Paravasu kills his father Raibhya. He persuades Aravasu to perform the final rites of their father as he has to go to the yagnamantapa to continue the fire sacrifice.

Aravasu obeys his brother's instructions and performs the final rites. After completion of the last rites he meets Nittilai who tells him to go to yagnamantapa. When he goes the yagnamantapa his brother alleges that he is the sinner of patricide. Paravasu orders the men there to keep him away from the yagnamantapa. As he has killed his father, the innocent Aravasu is accused of committing a murder. He is beaten by the men and is thrown at burial ground.

A drama company troupe goes to the burial ground to cremate one of their actor's. As they return they notice Aravasu who feel unconscious. They take him to their camp and nurture him.

Meanwhile Nittilai gets married to someone in her relationship but she manages to escape and reaches Aravasu and nurses him back to normal.

Aravasu desires to act in the play as the actor manager lets him know that they need an actor in the play Indra Vijaya. The actor manager gives him the role of Vritrasura.

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They wear the costume and start the rehearsal. As they engage in the rehearsal of the play, Nittilai's husband and brother find out that Nittilai is in the drama company troop and kill her.

After the rehearsal the actor manager goes to the yagnamantapa for the chief priest's approval.

They enact the play, Indra Vijaya in which lord Indra is jealous of Vishwaroopa as he is admired by everyone. Later in the play lord Indra kills Vishwaroopa.

Paravasu has been watching all this treacherous chaos. And without a word he walks into the blazing enclosure and burns to ashes.

In the end the real lord, Indra is impressed with Aravasu's performance and he appears before him and offers him any boon that he aspires. Aravasu uses the boon to bring his beloved Nittilai back to life. At this moment Bramharakshasa appeals Aravasu to endow him with moksha.

Aravasu requests Indra to grant Bramharakshasa the moksha.

At the same time it begins to rain.

Key Themes and Elements

1. Desire and Passion: The play explores the intense desires and passions of its characters, particularly the protagonist, Raibhya.

2. Power Dynamics: The play examines the power struggles between characters, including the tension between Raibhya and the king, Indra.

3. Morality and Ethics: The play raises questions about morality and ethics, encouraging the audience to consider the complexities of human behaviour.

Symbolism and Imagery

1. Fire: Fire is a recurring symbol in the play, representing passion, desire, and transformation.

2. Rain: Rain is another important symbol, representing renewal, purification, and the cyclical nature of life.

Style and Structure

1. Non-Linear Narrative: The play's narrative is non-linear, jumping back and forth in time and blurring the lines between past, present, and future.

2. Poetic Language: The play features poetic language and imagery, drawing on Indian mythology and folklore.

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Reception and Impact

1. Critical Acclaim: "The Fire and the Rain" received critical acclaim for its innovative storytelling, poetic language, and exploration of complex themes.

2. Cultural Significance: The play has been recognized for its contribution to Indian theatre and its exploration of Indian mythology and culture.

Keywords: Intertextuality, Myth, Epic, Fire, Rain, Enigmatic.

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ROLE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Physical education plays a vital role not only in enhancing physical fitness but also in fostering social development among individuals, particularly in formative years. Through structured physical activities, games, and sports, students learn essential life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, respect, and communication. Participation in physical education creates opportunities for individuals to interact in diverse groups, promoting inclusivity, tolerance, and empathy. It also nurtures leadership qualities as students engage in roles that require decision-making, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. Furthermore, physical education provides a platform for cultural exchange, as traditional and modern sports introduce learners to diverse social practices and values. The social benefits extend beyond the classroom, contributing to the development of responsible citizens who value collective effort and mutual respect. Regular engagement in physical activities reduces antisocial behaviours by channelling energy positively, building discipline, and fostering a sense of belonging. In modern societies, where sedentary lifestyles and social isolation are rising concerns, physical education helps bridge the gap by creating social networks and strengthening community bonds. It serves as a catalyst for personality development, self-confidence, and resilience, enabling individuals to adapt effectively in group settings. Thus, physical education is not limited to physical well-being; it is a comprehensive tool for cultivating social skills, moral values, and harmonious relationships that are essential for personal and societal growth.

Keywords: Physical education, social development, teamwork, cooperation, leadership, inclusivity, communication, discipline, community.

Introduction

Education is a multidimensional process that focuses on the holistic growth of individuals—mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially. Among its many dimensions, physical education (PE) stands out as a vital element because it integrates physical activity with personal and social development. Traditionally, PE has been viewed

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as a subject meant only for improving physical fitness and motor skills, but over the years, scholars and educators have increasingly acknowledged its deeper role in shaping values, behaviour, and interpersonal relationships.

Social development is the ability of individuals to learn social skills, adapt to group life, and contribute to their communities in positive ways. In today's world, where sedentary lifestyles, social isolation, and digital dependence are on the rise, physical education provides opportunities for students to interact, collaborate, and build a sense of belonging. This paper explores the critical role of physical education in social development, focusing on how structured physical activities foster teamwork, leadership, discipline, inclusivity, and lifelong community values.

Concept of Social Development

Social development can be understood as the process through which individuals acquire the skills, behaviours, and attitudes necessary for successful participation in society. It encompasses the ability to communicate effectively, cooperate with others, respect diversity, and resolve conflicts peacefully.

In educational settings, social development is closely linked with interaction among peers, teachers, and the larger community. It prepares learners to become responsible citizens who can work collaboratively toward common goals. Importantly, social development is not an isolated process but rather a product of both formal and informal experiences—of which physical education is a key contributor.

The dimensions of social development relevant to PE include:

Communication skills – learning to express ideas and listen actively.

Cooperation – working with peers toward shared objectives.

Empathy and tolerance – respecting diversity and differences.

Discipline and self-control – managing emotions and behaviour in competitive contexts.

Cultural awareness – appreciating traditions and values through games and sports.

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Importance of Physical Education in Social Development

a) Teamwork and Cooperation

Physical education emphasizes group-based activities, whether in sports, games, or cooperative exercises. Team sports such as football, basketball, and volleyball require coordination, trust, and collaboration among players. Students learn that success depends not only on individual performance but also on collective effort. This cultivates the spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and the ability to function harmoniously in group settings skills that are transferable to academic, professional, and social life.

b) Leadership and Responsibility

PE provides natural opportunities for students to assume leadership roles, such as captaining a team, organizing activities, or mentoring peers. These experiences teach responsibility, accountability, and decision-making. A good leader in sports not only guides but also motivates others, demonstrating empathy and fairness. In this way, PE nurtures future leaders who can contribute positively to society.

c) Cultural Exchange and Inclusivity

Physical education introduces learners to both modern and traditional games, creating opportunities for cultural exchange. For instance, indigenous games reflect local traditions, while global sports promote interaction with international cultures. By engaging in diverse physical activities, students learn inclusivity, tolerance, and appreciation of cultural differences.

d) Conflict Resolution and Discipline

Competitive sports often involve disagreements and emotional challenges. PE offers structured settings where students learn to manage conflicts constructively, whether through refereeing systems, fair play principles, or teacher guidance. Discipline is reinforced as students follow rules, respect opponents, and accept outcomes gracefully. This teaches emotional regulation and resilience in real-life situations.

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e) Self-Confidence and Identity Formation

Participation in physical education contributes to the development of self-esteem and identity. Achievements in games, improvement in fitness, or recognition of effort can boost confidence. Moreover, physical activities allow individuals to discover personal strengths and overcome weaknesses, shaping their sense of self. Confidence gained through PE often translates into active participation in academics, leadership, and community life.

Benefits Beyond the Classroom

The influence of physical education extends into broader community and societal contexts. Organized sports events bring families, schools, and communities together, fostering solidarity and social cohesion. By reducing idle time and providing constructive outlets for energy, PE helps prevent antisocial behaviours such as delinquency and substance abuse. Furthermore, the values of fairness, discipline, and respect instilled in PE contribute to responsible citizenship. Graduates of strong physical education programs are more likely to

engage in community activities, volunteerism, and civic duties. Thus, the benefits of PE in social development are lifelong, shaping individuals into active and positive contributors to society.

Challenges in Promoting Social Development through Physical Education

Despite its potential, physical education faces several challenges in effectively promoting social development:

- Lack of resources – Many schools, especially in developing regions, lack adequate facilities, equipment, and trained teachers.
- Overemphasis on competition – Excessive focus on winning can create unhealthy rivalries and neglect the social values of sports.
- Gender stereotypes – Girls and women often face barriers to participation due to cultural norms or limited opportunities.

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- Exclusion of differently-abled students – Physical education programs are often not inclusive of students with special needs.
- Neglect in policy and curriculum – In many education systems, PE is undervalued compared to academic subjects.
- Strategies for Improvement - To maximize the role of PE in social development, schools and policymakers must adopt a holistic and inclusive approach.
- Value-based integration: Physical activities should be explicitly designed to teach cooperation, empathy, and respect.
- Inclusivity: Programs must ensure equal opportunities regardless of gender, ability, or background.
- Teacher training: PE educators should be trained not only in physical skills but also in social pedagogy.
- School-community partnerships: Collaboration with parents and local organizations can enhance participation and support.
- Balanced competition: Emphasizing participation, enjoyment, and personal growth over winning ensures that the social purpose of PE is preserved.

Conclusion

Physical education is far more than a platform for exercise—it is a dynamic tool for fostering social development. By encouraging teamwork, leadership, inclusivity, discipline, and self-confidence, PE prepares individuals to engage productively in society. It instils lifelong values of cooperation, respect, and responsibility, which are crucial for building cohesive communities. In an era marked by technological distractions, social fragmentation, and rising sedentary lifestyles, the role of PE in cultivating social bonds has become more critical than ever. Therefore, educators, policymakers, and communities must recognize and strengthen the social dimensions of physical education. Only then can we ensure that education fulfils its true purpose: the holistic development of individuals and the betterment of society.

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HEALTH STATUS OF JENUKURUBA TRIBES AT THE TIME OF THE COVID PANDEMIC - A STUDY OF MYSORE DISTRICT

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Abstract

This paper focuses on Health status of jenukuruba tribes of Mysore district at the time of the COVID pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic was widespread and extensive. District administrations across the state were considering strategies to create awareness about several best practices to make the tribal people stay away from killer virus. The district of Mysore was also spearheading with all sorts of good practices to contain COVID-19 spread. Both literate and illiterate tribal sections, needed lessons of social distancing, proper behaviour in public places and vaccination. Reluctance towards COVID testing and vaccination posed a crucial challenge to health workers and district authorities. The members of the Jenukuruba community strongly asserted that they are invulnerable and immune to the corona virus infection. They envisaged their trust in herbal medicine and herbal preparations. Initially, they showed anger and disobedience with health workers and stayed away. Mysore district administration with the support of the NGOs was finally successful in persuading them to get tested and vaccinated.

Key words: Jenukuruba Tribes, COVID Pandemic, Health Status

Methodology: This article was prepared using primary data including newspaper reports, research articles on COVID -19 published on line, and Health bulletins released by Government of Karnataka. Referring newspaper articles was the starting point of preparing this research article because newspapers reports acted as an invaluable

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vault of information. These were firsthand accounts on COVID -19 pandemic, prepared through direct visits and interviews with the tribal people suffering from the pandemic.

Primary Data:

1. The Economist - News Paper reports on corona virus spread, fatalities and Lock down governance published from December 31st 2019 to - June 30th 2020.
2. The Frontline Newspaper paper 24-05-2020 reports on corona virus published from December 31st 2019 to - June 30th 2020.
3. The Hindu - News Paper reports on corona virus spread fatalities and Lock down governance published from December 31st 2019 to - June 30th 2020.
4. The Indian express - News Paper reports on corona virus spread fatalities and Lock down governance published from December 31st 2019 to - June 30th 2020.
5. The Report Of The Ministry Of Health and care , Government Of India Publication New Delhi 2020

Introduction:

The Jenukuruba Community are concentrated in the districts of Mysore and Chamarajanagara bordering the states of Tamil nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Habitually Jenukuruba Community are traditional honey collectors by profession.

Measures by Mysore district administration- The pandemic was demanding visionary policies from Government of Karnataka to access and effectively evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 and frame policies which supported medical research endeavours. Government of Karnataka framed following nodal agencies to;

1. **State Steering Committee** - Government of Karnataka created **State Task Force & District Task Force** for structured review of preparedness for COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **Health checkups by KSTRI- Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute (KSTRI)** as a part of ensuring the health of tribal children, KSTRI conducted health screening camps for all tribals of Hunsur taluk.
3. **Creation of Citizen Service Desk** - Government of Karnataka created **Citizen Service Desk** for COVID -19 patients at all district hospitals. Rate of **RTPCR** testing for the samples sent by government in private

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laboratories including screening test and confirmatory test inclusive of the PPE kit costs was provided for every COVID hospital.

4. **Creation of Awareness for vaccination** -The tribal people were reluctant to get COVID vaccine it was very tuff counselling them to get COVID 19 Vaccine. Medical staff persuaded tribals to get vaccination.

Creation of Awareness about the virus - Tribal people was instructed to maintain physical distance at all public places and keep 1.5 metres away from others. The people were given awareness about maintenance of distance as it was needed for containing community spread of the COVID -19 viruses.

- ✓ alerting the family members of each tribal hamlet
- ✓ avoiding cash transactions ,
- ✓ avoiding crowds,
- ✓ avoiding large public gatherings,
- ✓ avoiding physical greetings,
- ✓ educating the younger members of the family
- ✓ keeping family needs to minimum
- ✓ monitoring the health needs of the elderly
- ✓ practising extra hygienic practices in public transport ,
- ✓ staying at home during fever symptoms,

Awareness to tribal Households - Households are the first learning platforms which help to breed good practices. Government authorities visited the hamlets to generate awareness among the parents and other elder members of the family have to take responsibility of inculcating best practices among younger members in the family such as hand washing, regular bathing, and cleaning clothes, mask wearing etc. Besides the following general instructions were also provided

- ✓ caring for sick persons with extreme care
- ✓ housing sick persons in separate rooms,
- ✓ keeping the number of care takers to minimum ,
- ✓ arranging the room with open windows and closed doors ,
- ✓ Always wearing a surgical mask ,

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- ✓ keeping family physical contacts to the minimum
- ✓ alerting the family members about preliminary symptoms
- ✓ monitoring the health needs of the elderly with priority
- ✓ educating the younger members of the family
- ✓ protecting the children from frequent fever and health hazards
- ✓ Seeking medical advice at a nearby medical centre
- ✓ Informing the ANMs/ nurses / nearby PHC
- ✓ consistently monitoring children habits

Awareness in schools- The Government authorities supported the school children and supported the sick children with optimal learning resources.

- ✓ Regularly alerting students with information about the pandemic threats
- ✓ Consistent monitoring each student about his /her learning progression through virtual and e- assessment
- ✓ Keeping the parents of each student alarmed about inculcating best practices in restraining the virus spread.
- ✓ Regular text messages about virus alerts to mobile phones of parents and guardians.

Challenges to vaccination-

Their acquaintances of the forest resources are so rich that they are familiar with each flora and fauna of the forest and can tell about their medicinal values. The Jenukuruba Community follow several customary practices which are distinctively superior in supporting healthy practices.

Reluctance towards COVID testing and vaccination were a primary challenge to health workers and district authorities. Even though health workers and health department persuaded tribal people to get medical check-up, there was wide spread disinclination and negative response from tribal hamlets. The angry tribals exchanged heated arguments with health workers and ASHA volunteers. When even the persuasion of the ASHA health workers did not succeed, government negotiated with NGOs and Vivekananda youth movement (SVYM) came forward to encourage the tribal members about the health predicaments. Government authorities and NGOs tried every single measure to convince the tribals to get vaccinated and initially induced the elder members of the tribal families to come forward. When the elder members of the Tribal hamlets showed willingness to get

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vaccinated, the stones turned thereafter. The tribals who scared about the fever symptoms after vaccination were encouraged to get vaccinated. Later on they realised that vaccines were safe and secure and they cooperated with the district administration authorities.

Tribal medicine with herbal ingredients was preferred. Some tribals directly in verbal battle with ASHA workers against vaccination as they firmly belied that vaccination would damage their kidney working systems and would cause sudden heart fails. The **jenu kuruba tribes** also complained about the poor infrastructure in state run medical facility centers.

Their distrust and hesitation to vaccination was a greater challenge. NGOs supported government measures to meet tribal hamlets. The **jenu kuruba** and **kaadu kuruba** communities have survived in the thick interiors of the dense forests in Mysore district for a very long time by relying on their herbal medicines. This made them reject any other modern medicines. The members of the community believed that they are immune to the corona virus infection and that their very own herbal medicine would help them to survive in the pandemic situation as well.

Findings:

1. COVID -19 pandemic was a global phenomenon affecting millions of people.
2. Government of Karnataka made preparations to meet the pandemic spread
3. Visiting the tribal hamlets during the time when there were serious restrictions on travelling was very challenging.
4. Initially tribal people were reluctant to under-go COVID -19 testing and ensuing general vaccination process.
5. Government and district collaborated with NGOs to create awareness about vaccination through street plays, skits, folk songs and stage dances
6. ASHA workers, health care workers, and other health volunteers successful in persuading the tribals to get vaccinated.

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Conclusion-

Thus, building a safer environment during COVID -19 pandemic was a challenging task for Government of Karnataka. But, with individual and community best practices, this virus spread was contained. Deadly COVID-19 disease and its long term impact on human lives initiated district administrations to understand the dire need for measures for containing the further spread. There was a need for extensive and long-lasting policies involving the public dealing with endurance because tribal resisted vaccination and testing. The government monitoring was also covered without giving way to lapses. General awareness creation about vaccination among tribal hamlets was a key issue which was well supported along with the appropriate and well timed support from NGOs.

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Boundaries, Forbidden Spaces, and Fortified Selves: Feminist and Narrative-Conflict Analyses of Nayeema Mahjoor's *Lost in Terror*

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Abstract

In the terrain of South Asian conflict literature, Nayeema Mahjoor's *Lost in Terror* (2016) emerges as a rare female-voiced narrative that redefines how woman and war are imagined within Kashmir's militarized landscape. Far from being a mere sociopolitical document, the novel performs a deeper aesthetic and feminist task—it dramatizes the inner conflict of a woman negotiating survival, identity, and expression within overlapping systems of power. This article argues that Mahjoor's work transforms conflict from an external condition of war into an interior struggle for voice, autonomy, and meaning. Adopting a narrative-conflict framework, the analysis interprets conflict as a dynamic interplay between psychic, interpersonal, institutional, and ideological forces that shape women's lived experiences of gender injustice in militarized societies. Focusing on the first three chapters—"Boundaries," "Forbidden," and "Fortress"—the article traces the narrator's evolving trajectory from domestic containment to public assertion to the surveillance of war. Each chapter reveals a shifting mode of resistance: the negotiation of patriarchal control within the home, the confrontation with male authority in professional spaces, and finally, the confrontation with militarized and state power. Through this progression, Mahjoor constructs narration itself as a feminist act of defiance—a slow, accumulative assertion of subjectivity in the face of silencing.

Integrating recent feminist debates on the coloniality of militarization (Pandit 2025) and autonomous feminist discourse in Kashmir (Sharma 2023), this study situates *Lost in Terror* within a broader conversation on women's authorship and agency under conflict. By reading Mahjoor's novel through both aesthetic and political lenses, the article reveals how literature from war-torn regions reclaims feminist agency not through overt rebellion, but through incremental acts of witnessing, narration, and endurance.

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Keywords: Woman and War, Gender Injustice, Feminist Criticism, Narrative Conflict, Kashmir Literature, Militarization, Subjectivity, Nayeema Mahjoor

Introduction

In the terrain of South Asian conflict literature, Lost in Terror (Mahjoor 2016) stands out as a rare female-narrated testimony from Kashmir's contested zones. Unlike male-authored accounts that often center on geopolitical tension, Mahjoor's narrative reorients the gaze inward—to the intimate and the ordinary, where the politics of war intersect with the politics of gender. Through the eyes of a Kashmiri woman negotiating survival, dignity, and voice under siege, Lost in Terror refuses the binary of public and private, merging the domestic sphere with the militarized landscape outside.

While many critiques have treated the novel as a sociopolitical record, this study foregrounds how Lost in Terror stages a conflict of subjectivity—the tension between voice and silence, interior agency and structural constraint. The novel becomes not merely a record of conflict but a dramatization of how women's consciousness is shaped, disciplined, and occasionally liberated within patriarchal and militarized systems. Adopting a narrative-conflict paradigm, I interpret conflict not as mere physical violence or external upheaval but as an ongoing negotiation between psychic, interpersonal, institutional, and ideological forces.

Through a close reading of the first three chapters—"Boundaries," "Forbidden," and "Fortress"—the article traces how Mahjoor's narrator evolves from the confines of domestic subjugation to a fragile assertion of public identity, and finally to the realization that even professional and intellectual spaces are militarized. Each phase exposes the layered nature of gender injustice in a society fractured by war, where patriarchy and militarization mirror each other as systems of control.

To enrich this reading, I engage with contemporary feminist frameworks: the coloniality of militarization (Pandit 2025), which interprets militarism as an extension of colonial logic, and the debate on autonomous feminist

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discourse in Kashmir (Sharma 2023), which reclaims women's narratives from the twin silencing of nationalism and patriarchy. These frameworks illuminate how Mahjoor's narrator negotiates multiple regimes of power—familial, institutional, and state—and how narration itself becomes a performative act of resistance.

"Boundaries" (Ch. 1): Domestic Enclosure and the Silent Self

"He took pride in the traditional role of the man working, the woman confined to the home" (Mahjoor 14). This seemingly simple statement captures the invisible architecture of patriarchy within even the most "modern" Kashmiri households. The narrator, an educated woman married into a respectable family, finds her intellectual potential reduced to a symbol of domestic respectability. Her education, far from emancipating her, becomes an adornment of class rather than a medium of freedom.

From a feminist perspective, Simone de Beauvoir's idea of immanence—the condition of being trapped in repetitive domesticity—proves illuminating. The narrator's daily routines, filled with waiting and silence, evoke the stillness of a life that is neither visible nor valued. Mahjoor's prose, intimate and restrained, enacts this silence: the pauses between dialogues, the muted observations, the careful restraint of anger. Narrative conflict here is internal—between the self that knows and the self that must not speak.

When her husband mocks her modest aspirations with lines like "Enjoy your so-called freedom" (16), humiliation becomes the seed of narration. Rather than erupting in open rebellion, she transforms that wound into voice, turning derision into testimony. This act—writing, reflecting, and narrating—constitutes a subtle yet powerful feminist defiance. bell hooks's notion of "talking back" (1989) resonates here: speech, even hesitant speech, becomes the first gesture of reclaiming agency.

"Forbidden" (Ch. 2): Voice, Transgression, and Professional Entry

The second chapter marks a shift from private enclosure to public transgression. The narrator's decision to work at Radio Kashmir symbolizes an act of boundary-crossing—both literal and metaphorical. Yet this entry into public space does not liberate her; it exposes her to new hierarchies of gender and power. Her description of workplace hostility—"They stared as if I had trespassed into a male sanctuary"—captures how institutional patriarchy mirrors domestic control.

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Her self-awareness deepens: "My so-called freedom felt like chicken-coop freedom" (20). The phrase crystallizes the contradiction of women's empowerment in patriarchal modernity visible, yet still caged. bell hooks's conception of marginality as a site of resistance helps interpret this tension: to occupy the margin is not to be powerless, but to observe and articulate the hypocrisies of the center. The narrator's sharp reflections on male colleagues' condescension—"You have enemies… if you have no challenges" (21)—suggest a growing capacity to reinterpret hostility as empowerment.

Judith Butler's theory of performative resistance also finds embodiment here. The narrator's presence in the male-dominated newsroom becomes a performative act, unsettling gender scripts by her mere persistence. Yet, this performativity comes at an emotional cost. After moments of humiliation, she returns home drained, questioning her worth. Narrative conflict thus unfolds across three intertwined axes: interpersonal (male hostility), institutional (media hierarchy), and psychological (internalized fear).

"Fortress" (Ch. 3): Militarized Enclosure and the Policed Self

By the third chapter, Mahjoor fuses the personal and political, illustrating how gender and militarization become mutually reinforcing systems of control. "Every employee seemed to be spying on every other person in the office" (23). What begins as bureaucratic observation mutates into a larger commentary on a state surveilled by fear. The "fortress" is not only a workplace but a symbol of Kashmir's militarized psyche:a space of protection that doubles as imprisonment.

Sania Pandit's (2025) concept of the coloniality of militarization clarifies this entanglement. Militarization, she argues, extends colonial logic into postcolonial governance, normalizing control through fear and surveillance. Within this framework, Mahjoor's narrator experiences herself as doubly colonized: by patriarchal norms and by militarized state authority. The female body, already surveilled within domestic and professional spaces, now becomes a microcosm of the colonized territory.

Situating Mahjoor in Recent Feminist Kashmir Studies

Placing Mahjoor within the emerging field of feminist Kashmir studies highlights how Lost in Terror extends, rather than merely illustrates, contemporary feminist debates. Pandit (2025) theorizes militarization as a colonial

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logic that genderizes control: women are rendered symbols of purity, honor, or nationhood, while their actual autonomy is eroded. Sharma (2023) advances the argument for autonomous feminist discourse—voices of Kashmiri women that neither serve the state nor nationalist resistance but articulate their own experiences of marginalization.

Mahjoor's narrator embodies both arguments. Her life reveals the coloniality of power: the home mirrors the state, the husband mirrors the army, the workplace mirrors the fortress. Yet, within these mirrored enclosures, she articulates an autonomous feminist voice—not reactive but self-authored.

Theoretical Synthesis: Voice, Witness, and Conflict

The theoretical synthesis of feminist and narrative-conflict perspectives reveals how Lost in Terror reconceptualizes both conflict and resistance. Conflict is not merely a breakdown of peace; it is an ongoing negotiation between the individual and structures of power. Resistance, likewise, is not only protest but the slow insistence on humanity under conditions designed to erode it. From Beauvoir's immanence to Butler's performativity, from Ahmed's affective feminism to Enloe's critique of militarization, Mahjoor's narrative engages feminist theory not abstractly but viscerally. Her protagonist's evolution from silence to narration embodies this theoretical movement—from being spoken for to speaking. In Lost in Terror, narration is not secondary to action; it is the action.

Conclusion

The movement from "Boundaries" to "Forbidden" to "Fortress" charts both a psychological and structural progression: from domestic captivity to professional confrontation to the militarized enclosure of public life. Through these spaces, Mahjoor constructs a feminist cartography of conflict, mapping how patriarchal and militarized systems intertwine to discipline women's bodies and voices. Yet, within these enclosures, the act of narration itself becomes liberation.

Integrating insights from recent feminist Kashmir scholarship, this article underscores how Lost in Terror redefines resistance—not as grand rebellion, but as the insistence to narrate, to survive, to remember. The novel's

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strength lies in its refusal to romanticize suffering or to render women as mere victims. Instead, it portrays feminist agency as slow, persistent, and deeply human—a matter of endurance, empathy, and voice.

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Undivided Network to Divided Social Life: Sociological Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Youth

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Abstract

From the stage where humans become conscious of their association with others to the present digital era, youth have been the power source of any country's development and growth. Unlike other sections of demographical categorization of population, youth are precious for any country because of durable working human resource. It is crucial for the young people of the nation to be adept in education, life skills, and to advance in accordance with ongoing technological developments such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and automation that are transforming conventional job roles and generating the new opportunities. India's diversity is not only geographically rich but also socially vibrant. It is crucial to recognize that in recent times, some of the youth are preoccupied with political and religious issues. A few of the reports highlighted that Chinese youth are thriving in coding, programming, and various survival skills from a very young age. Whereas some of the youths of our country are busy with religious politics creating social unrest in the country. Nevertheless, India is recognized as one of the fastest emerging countries globally, boasting the largest population. Conversely, as a vast and diverse nation, it must prepare its youth to navigate the challenges of future survival. In India, the youth are distributed across various segments of social hierarchies (Divided Social Life). However, only a small number are significantly struggling to adapt to technology and with evolving world. For instance youth from rural, backward, minority and marginalized communities are not evenly integrated due to the unequal distribution of social and economic resources and opportunities. Considering of these reasons they may remain backward again in coping with technology which is the future of any country. Therefore it is very important to make sure the growth is inclusive and sustainable. This research paper examines the stand of India while training its youth in coping with leading technological advancements, particularly insisting on Artificial Intelligence in global platform focusing firmly on marginal sections of the society which are invisible as they are left behind.

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Keywords: Youth, Survival, Artificial-Intelligence, Technology, Jeopardise

Introduction

We hear on the daily basis that youth are the 'future, and the engine of the change'. State like Karnataka, which has the silicon valley of India-we see that young people dreaming of tech jobs, AI-start-ups, social media fame. The digital gadgets, networks, and the social media (always-on life), which promise that the world is flat (no barriers), through which anyone can connect anywhere that opportunities will flourish and rain. That is the vision of the "undivided network". But on the ground, the social life of many youth is divided by caste, class, gender, language, rural-urban divide, minority, marginalised status and so on. The question is, does AI-Driven network heal those wounds of the social structure or deepen them even more? Or is it that the network system itself is full of privileged youth going ahead, while other youth from various segments of the society are lagging?

In this article social network relation from a sociological point of view, in the Indian context has been examined. Whereas AI and digital connectivity bring more positive promise, but they have also reproduced the social inequalities and might lead to divided social life for the people who are left behind. The purpose is not to outcast the technology, but to critically examine how structural inequality shapes who has been getting almost all the socio-economic benefits. This examination has been done by using secondary data.

The Social Structure: Networks, Inequality, Agency

Every technology is the product of the culture in which we are all living. Therefore it is necessary that to know the context of structure and culture.

1) Networked Life

Sociologists have emphasized the manner in which social life is mediated by networks and social media. In the age of AI, young individuals do not merely use networks passively; they actively co-construct their identities alongside AI agents such as chatbots and algorithms. Brandtzeag et al. (2025) develop the AI individualism that young people increasingly construct their world through, declining dependence on human

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intermediaries, and selective socialisation and interaction (Brandtzaeg et al., 2015). This makes changes in how the trust, reciprocity, and social capital get and built through course of social life.

2) The Digital Wall

India remains deeply stratified and structured in its social system. Caste, class, region and marginalisation- these are not just functioning in offline world but also visible in digital space as well. The digital divide is not just about connectivity but capacity, quality, literacy and culture. The digital wall shows how social and economical status shapes and reshapes access: for instance, dominant caste youth report significantly higher internet access than SC/ST youth (IDR, 2023). Indian Inequality Report (2022) contends that in a society that is already unequal, digitalisation tends to reproduce exclusion in education, health, and finance among those who are lacking in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) access (OxfamIndiaorg). In education, only about 9% of enrolled students (across India) had access to computers with internet, among the poorest 20% only 2.7% had a computer and 8.9% had any sort of internet access (Rural Online India).

3) Youth and Agency

Youth are the agents, they may prosper the future or may resist. But their agency always works within the social barracks such as family obligation, caste, religion, gender, language and poverty as well. For example, a youth from a backward village in Bidar district of Karnataka may aspire to become a techie, but lack the coaching, English knowledge, computer exposure, network contacts within which a same candidate in Bengaluru has plenty of opportunities and exposure. The structural rigidity and wall is indeed and real. Thus the social frame: networks+inequality+constrained agency.

Youth and AI in India: Patterns, Divides

The youth in India are using and engaging with AI, According to National Statistical Office (NSO) survey, only 26.8% of Indian youth aged between 15-29 have basic internet browsing skill, can send emails, do regular online transactions(Times of India). According to Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) reports that in rural areas, about 80.4% of youth (15-24) used the internet in the last three months, rural internet access among that group is 82.1%. In urban, the figure is quite higher 91.8% (PIB). However, these numbers puts the mask to

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the caste and class parameters. While 71% of rural youth have internet, among SC/ST youth it is even lower, in urban dominant caste youth it is rose to 92% VS 71% for ST youth (India Development Review). A state wise study across Karnataka, Tamilnadu, and Maharashtra and UP, West Bengal reveals stagnant rural urban divides. In rural India, only 17% of enrolled students have access to the internet, compared to 44% in urban areas (PMC). Specifically, Karnataka demonstrates slightly better performance; however, socioeconomic status, regional differences, and gender disparities continue to play a significant role. These are sobering numbers. Many youth are yet 'digital illiterates' in practise and are not fully ready to join the AI world.

Who Gains, Who Loses

Youths from a well privileged setting such as from higher caste, class, backward region and most of urban youth as well, have more access of coaching and required digital devices. It is the youth of the privileged get internships, and exposure to the current technological waves (AI). Because of the poor connectivity, lack of awareness, lack of support and weak digital culture youths who are unprivileged (socially and economically weaker section) due to social constraints may get stuck in jobs that pays them low wage and make them unable to compete with the economy that has been carried out by the algorithm. Comparatively people who are in online are exceeding, and the offline are lagging.

The Unseen Repercussions

In general the introduction of AI has been altering the structure of social relationships as the youth have begun to talk to AI chatbots and voice assistants such as Gemni, Siri, Alexa and seek advice in their own online space, contradictorily what they used to do is they had to reach out to teachers, elders and peer groups for the same advice. This sudden shift making them has no human connections, their social ties weak and has created solitary social networks (Brandtzaeg et al., 2025). Moreover when youth used to talk to parents, neighbour, teachers there was a chance of encouragement even if they commit mistakes and get failed. But AI does not do that, what it does is responding to a question that have been asked by the needy. So significant dependence on AI and its tools may weaken the ability of us to argue, negotiate, resist and debate. It may reduce association with the existing agency (community); this might intensify the mental health problems as well.

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Jeopardy: The Unstable Position

The youth who are from rural, backward, marginalised, and women face multiple disadvantages such as digital gap- In Uttarpradesh 70% of boy's access the internet whereas girls aged 15-19 have only 33% (Global Girls Glow). Women lack digital skills. Whereas backward communities, or economically and socially weaker section of the society' youth often lack even a basic connectivity and digital socialisation and many of them are placed out of the AI education (IDR, 2023). Even though government has started many initiatives and programs such as YUVAi and MSDE (Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship), it has been reported that many students would not even bring necessary equipments such as Laptops and all to the programs (IndiaAI, 2025).

Digital Justice

After going through all of these advantages and disadvantages, it is found out that existing system needs adaptive, inclusive and effective growth in and with AI technology. It has been "quite normal" to say that "Internet is in every corners of village India" but in ground it is not as it sounds it is. One very peculiar aspect that has figured out is that the AI has not been taught in local languages such as "Kannada", Tulu, Kodava, and Konkani and so on with respect to the region and culture. Using local language to teach and learn the AI technology shall be a path towards indigenous, sustainable and inclusive growth. Initiatives like "MindCraft" show that how AI + human mentorship can shape inclusive education in rural India with vernacular languages (Bardia & Agrawal, 2025)

Conclusion

As it was begun in the beginning, youth are the one who could pull off the country's growth to any extent. Due to the diverse nature of the land and people inclusive growth is sometimes very tricky to put in the programs and policies and make it reached out to the people who are in need. However the youth of our country must be trained in Artificial Intelligence which is an emerging future technology of the world. Not to compete with any other country but to compete with survival and to make sure the growth is inclusive and sustainable. In sectors like

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agriculture, administration, management, education, space science, and others, where there exists a need for the integration of AI technology.

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Social Attitudes and Cultural Beliefs Influencing Organ Donation in India

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Abstract:

Organ donation is a vital medical intervention that saves thousands of lives each year. Despite its life-saving potential, India continues to experience a significant shortage of organ donors. This gap is not merely a result of medical or logistical limitations; it is deeply influenced by social attitudes, cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and widespread misconceptions. Concerns such as family opposition, fear of body disfigurement, and mistrust in healthcare systems often discourage individuals from donating organs. This article examines these social and cultural influences through an analysis of secondary data, including scholarly research, government reports, and policy documents. It explores how societal norms, religious interpretations, and common myths shape decisions about organ donation. Additionally, it investigates the role of awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and community engagement in converting positive attitudes into actual donation practices. The study underscores the importance of culturally sensitive strategies, involvement of religious and community leaders, and transparent healthcare processes to enhance public trust. By offering a comprehensive understanding of these factors, the article provides guidance for policymakers, healthcare professionals, and social organizations to develop effective measures that promote organ donation, ultimately saving more lives and improving public health outcomes in India.

Keywords- Organ Donation, Social Attitudes, Cultural Beliefs, Myths and Misconceptions.

Introduction

Organ donation is a vital medical procedure that saves lives by providing organs to patients suffering from end-stage organ failure. In India, despite significant advancements in medical technology, transplantation

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services, and government initiatives, organ donation rates remain comparatively low. This gap is largely influenced by social, cultural, and religious factors, which shape individuals' perceptions and decisions. People's attitudes toward organ donation are affected by awareness levels, family influence, traditional beliefs, and trust in the healthcare system. Cultural norms and societal expectations play a particularly strong role in rural communities, where family and community opinions often guide personal choices. While many individuals may view organ donation positively in principle, hesitations arise due to fear of body disfigurement after death, misconceptions about the medical process, and limited knowledge about registration procedures.

Religious beliefs also significantly influence organ donation decisions. Although most major religions in India, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism, support organ donation as an altruistic act, misinterpretations, local practices, and myths sometimes discourage participation. Additionally, a lack of visible success stories and limited interaction with healthcare professionals can reduce trust in the transplantation system. Overcoming these barriers requires a comprehensive understanding of social attitudes, cultural values, and community perceptions. Awareness campaigns, educational programs in schools and communities, involvement of religious and community leaders, and transparent healthcare practices can play a pivotal role in promoting organ donation. Studying these social and cultural factors is essential for designing effective strategies that encourage more individuals to become donors, thereby addressing the organ shortage crisis and ultimately saving countless lives across India.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine how social attitudes influence the willingness to donate organs in India.
2. To analyze the impact of cultural and religious beliefs on organ donation decisions.

Statement of the Problem

India's organ donation rate is among the lowest in the world, despite increasing need. While medical infrastructure exists, social and cultural resistance significantly limits donor availability. Myths, religious

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interpretations, and family opposition remain major obstacles. Addressing these societal challenges is essential to bridge the gap between organ demand and supply.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a **descriptive research design** aimed at understanding the social attitudes and cultural beliefs influencing organ donation in India. Since the primary objective is to explore societal and cultural factors, the study relies on **secondary data sources** including scholarly articles, government reports, policy documents, and published research studies. This approach allows for a comprehensive examination of patterns, trends, and key determinants affecting organ donation behaviors in different regions of India.

The research focuses on **two main dimensions:** social attitudes and cultural/religious beliefs. Social attitudes include awareness of organ donation, perceptions about its importance, trust in medical institutions, and willingness to donate. Cultural and religious beliefs involve traditions, family influence, myths, and religious interpretations that either encourage or discourage donation.

Data collection involved reviewing peer-reviewed journals, reports from the **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)**, legal frameworks such as the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA, 1994),** and relevant case studies. The analysis synthesizes findings to identify recurring barriers and facilitators to organ donation.

The methodology emphasizes a **qualitative approach**, interpreting the influence of social and cultural contexts on organ donation behavior. This allows for identifying patterns and recommendations that can inform awareness campaigns, policy interventions, and community engagement strategies to enhance organ donation in India.

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Social Attitudes and Organ Donation

Organ donation in India is influenced heavily by social attitudes. One major factor is family influence—in many cases, even if a person is willing to donate, family consent is crucial, and relatives may refuse due to emotional attachment or fear. Mistrust in the healthcare system is another issue; some people fear organs might be misused or sold illegally. Additionally, lack of awareness and education about organ donation procedures leads to hesitation, as many people do not understand the benefits or the process. Fear of body disfigurement after death also plays a significant role, particularly among traditional families who emphasize preserving the body after death.

Cultural Beliefs Affecting Organ Donation

Cultural values deeply shape attitudes toward organ donation. Many communities in India uphold the principle of respecting the dead, where disturbing the body is seen as inappropriate. Beliefs in reincarnation or spiritual afterlife can make some individuals reluctant, fearing organ donation might interfere with their soul's journey. Social norms within certain communities also exert pressure; individuals may avoid organ donation to conform to traditional practices, even if they personally wish to contribute.

Religious Beliefs and Organ Donation

Religion plays a nuanced role in influencing organ donation. Hinduism generally encourages organ donation as an act of dana (charity) and service to humanity. In Islam, opinions vary—some scholars support donation as saving life is considered virtuous, while others are hesitant due to religious interpretations. Christianity typically views organ donation positively, emphasizing compassion and helping others. Awareness and acceptance across religious groups differ widely, impacting donation rates in different regions of India.

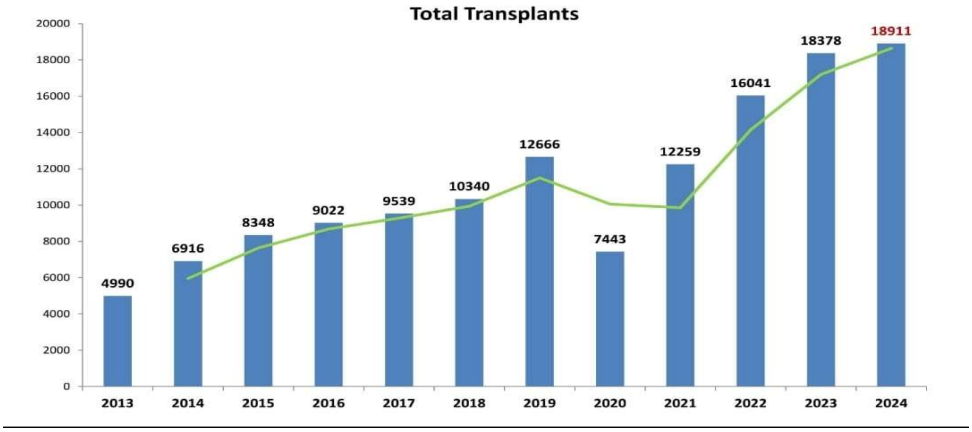
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Government and NGO Initiatives

To address these challenges, the Indian government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken several steps. Programs like Organ Donation Day, awareness campaigns in schools and workplaces, and initiatives by organizations like the MOHAN Foundation aim to educate people and encourage organ donation. Legal frameworks and transparent procedures have been established to build trust and facilitate ethical donation practices.

Organ Donation and Transplantation (Data- 2013 to 2024)



Discussion

Challenges and Suggestions of Promoting Organ Donation

Despite awareness campaigns, several challenges remain. Cultural taboos, lack of knowledge, family refusal, and fear of misuse continue to limit organ donation. Recommendations to improve the situation include: Strengthening awareness campaigns targeting both urban and rural populations. Promoting education about organ donation in schools and colleges. Engaging religious and community leaders to encourage acceptance. Ensuring transparent and trustworthy medical procedures to build public confidence.

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- Launch nationwide campaigns to educate people about the medical, social, and ethical aspects of organ donation.
- Use social media, TV, radio, and local community programs to reach diverse audiences.
- Collaborate with religious leaders to clarify that organ donation is permissible and altruistic in many faiths.
- Highlight cultural narratives that support helping others through donation.
- Incorporate organ donation awareness in school and college curriculums.
- Conduct workshops to dispel myths and encourage responsible decision-making.
- Encourage families to discuss organ donation openly.
- Organize community forums where experiences and stories from donors and recipients are shared.
- Offer recognition or incentives for registered donors to motivate participation.
- Highlight successful transplant stories to build confidence in the system.

Conclusion

Organ donation in India remains a critical healthcare challenge, not due to the lack of medical infrastructure but primarily because of prevailing social attitudes, cultural norms, and religious beliefs. The study reveals that misconceptions about body integrity after death, distrust in the medical system, and influence of family and community often deter individuals from registering as organ donors. Cultural and religious frameworks play a dual role—while some communities actively support donation, others interpret it as conflicting with traditional or spiritual values.

Awareness campaigns and education can significantly improve understanding and acceptance of organ donation. By addressing social myths, emphasizing ethical medical practices, and involving religious and community leaders, India can gradually shift societal attitudes toward a more positive perception of organ donation. Encouraging open family discussions and incorporating organ donation education in schools and public programs can further enhance willingness to donate. In conclusion, overcoming the social and cultural barriers is as

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important as improving medical facilities. Only through a combined approach of awareness, trust-building, and culturally sensitive advocacy can India hope to bridge the gap between the demand for organs and the availability of donors, ultimately saving countless lives.

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RESTORYING THE SURVIVAL STORIES OF CHENGARA: A NARRATIVE ENQUIRY APPROACH

Sruthy Sunil* & Dr. Sundara Raj T**

Introduction

The Chengara land struggle in Kerala is an unresolved question amidst the victorious and celebrated land distribution policy. It is one of the significant movements in the history of land rights movements (Scaria, 2023). This land struggle continues unabated, and the people remain in peril. The people of Chengara embody the deprivation and neglect (Sreerekha, 2012) that the marginalized community has to undergo since time immemorial. They lost hope in the broken promises given by various governments (Sebastian, 2019). They still thrive in isolated, primary conditions of human existence. The households or farm lands of Chengara are not electrified, and any kind of infrastructural development is inaccessible to Chengara. The facility for safe drinking water is nowhere to be seen; a well-developed road is still a distant dream for them. The people fought and are still struggling for recognition and land ownership, as land symbolizes the dignity and livelihood opportunity for any human being (Vipitha, 2023). It was believed to pave a pathway for empowerment. But it is now signaling their prolonged struggle for basic survival.

The Chengara people depended on agriculture for their livelihood since the occupation of the land (Iyer, 2019), which was under the Harrison estate. But the absence of electricity and other basic infrastructure had only made their life and agricultural activities difficult. The farmers struggle with irrigation, crop preservation in Chengara because of this. In recent years, the hardship has worsened they have met with a more serious life-threatening issue of the uncontrolled intrusion of wild animals into the farmland and rural areas (Dickman, 2010). The animals like wild elephants, boars, buffaloes, peacocks, and parrots turned into recurrent intruders, causing extensive crop damage (Huntingford, 2013). This resulted in livelihood losses and heightened economic insecurity for the settlers of Chengara. The whole story of Chengara reveals how the quest for land and livelihood is challenged by developmental imbalance and ecological pressures (Iyer).

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BACKGROUND AND SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE

The Chengara land struggle began in 2007 in southern Kerala. It is a landmark movement that represented the marginalized community and their demand for land rights and social justice (Vipitha, 2023). The movement was not restricted to any particular community; it predominantly included Dalits and Adivasi groups. The rehabilitation and development of the area remain unfulfilled even after 18 years of hardships. The movement culminated in the allocation of land parcels to some families through a scheme named the infamous Chengara package, but mostly these lands were uninhabitable and unproductive. The living conditions of those who were rehabilitated and left behind in the Chengara Samarabhoomi are largely similar. They continue to live in underdeveloped regions, which are devoid of all the basic facilities for the survival of any human being, such as electricity, facilities for safe drinking water, transportation, and sanitation.

The people relied on agriculture for sustenance in the initial years after settling on the land. The produce was branded as organic products and was sold in many places in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. It remained as the primary source of income for the settlers till the incursions started, even though they were deprived of the infrastructural facilities. These incursions lead to large-scale crop destruction, including crops like tapioca, turmeric, ginger, and many other edible crops. This is threatening their food security and economic stability largely. The people of Chengara bear a multifaceted burden, such as land struggle, marginality, infrastructural neglect, and ecological vulnerability. The context of structural inequality and environmental pressure, and its combined effect on the people, and how it shapes the livelihood insecurity of people, will become the core topic of this study. The findings are expected to contribute to policy reforms on land struggle outcomes, human-animal conflict (Nyhus, 2016), and the unfinished agenda of social justice in post-struggle Kerala.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Objective of the study:

To explore the experiences of livelihood insecurity, infrastructural absence, and recurring wildlife incursions restructure the life struggles of Chengara settlers.

Primary Research Question:

How do Chengara settlers make sense of their continued struggles for livelihood amid increasing wild animal intrusion and infrastructural neglect?

Researcher's stance

A qualitative study demands the researcher's stance. It should be made known (Polkinghorne, 2007). I am a female who writes and researches about the lives of tribes, People living with HIV, and land struggles. I have not

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experienced a wild animal conflict ever in my life. I am deeply engaged with the empowerment activities of the Chengara people (Parikkappalli, 2025). I assist them in organizing internal meetings and participate in their formal gatherings. I also support them in coordinating meetings with NGOs and external stakeholders.

Methodology

The purpose of the study was to understand the livelihood insecurity that the Chengara settlers have to undergo because of the infrastructural deficiency, especially in electricity, and animal incursions through people's experiences using a narrative inquiry approach. The participants were purposefully selected for the study. The secretary of Sadhujana Vimochana Samyuktha Vedhi (SVSV) was contacted initially through a formal letter. The participants who are inhabiting near the Kallar river, who experienced crop loss due to animal incursions, and those who have not fenced their farmlands were identified purposefully. They were contacted with the help of SVSV committee members, and verbal and written consent was taken. Consent for voice recording was also taken from the participants. A sample size of 10 members was identified. For rapport generation and trust building, frequently visited them. The entire interview took 6 days in total. Each respondent took 3 hours on an average. One of the respondents, who is aged and living alone, took approximately 6 hours to explain her entire story. To accomplish the study result, a narrative enquiry was most suitable. It interprets Chengara's experiences in human-animal conflict and interrelated income insecurity compounded by the deprivation of infrastructural facilities. I informed the participants of the study that their contributions would make a big impact on the prospects of Chengara. They were also informed that they could withdraw from the study at any time of their choice, that it would be used for academic purposes, and no monetary benefit from participating in the study.

Narrative enquiry was the most suited approach for this study. It employs a mechanism to gain insight into the lived experiences of the participants in a profound but focused manner. This approach also provides the readers with an opportunity to be receptive to the amplified voices of the marginalized section of society. The interviews were mostly storytelling sessions. These stories were interpreted by transcribing and analyzing an account of one's life. The stories' verbatim were transcribed in Malayalam (James, 2002; McQueen & Zimmerman, 2006). Later translated into English for the ease of data analysis and coding.

The main source of data collection was open-ended interviewing with a semi-structured questionnaire. The interviews were conducted mostly at their homes, and two interviews happened at their respective farmlands, near the elephant trails. The questions were divided into mainly three sections. The first section was basically like a rapport creation session by asking general background information about them. The second section was core questions dedicated to answering the research question of the study:

How have you managed to sustain your livelihood here over time?

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What have been the biggest challenges or struggles you and your family have faced while doing cultivation in Chengara?

Can you share a specific experience that really shows your hardships in continuing cultivation on the Chengara land?

The first question was to emotionally drag their attention to the struggles and hardships they encounter. The second one aimed at examining how they sustain themselves amidst all the difficulties they encounter, and to analyze what they consider as the insecurities in life. The third one aided in delving deep into their stories and their construction of livelihood insecurity, the influence of wild animals, and the deprivation of infrastructure. The last section was mainly a clarification session, they were permitted to clear their suspicions, and they were allowed to talk freely about their experiences, struggles, and resilience in shaping days in Chengara Samarabhoomi.

To develop a comprehensive understanding of livelihood insecurity, loss of crop, and infrastructural deficiency, the data will be analysed using cross-case pattern matching methodology along with Yin's case study framework. The data coding was done in two phases. The data analysis started after the fifth data collection, only after ensuring no new themes were emerging from the interviews. The technique of member checking was employed to ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the findings. It helped in reconfirming and establishing the truth (Polkinghorne, 2007; Sandelowski, 1991).

Results

The lived experiences of these 10 households are juxtaposed with the life histories of most of the families in Chengara by providing a contextual perspective of how animal conflict and infrastructural absence shape the lives of a man. During the interview, the interviewer was befuddled by the naivety of the Chengara settlers. They are gullible and resilient survivors. They truly believed that ownership of land would empower them with dignity and authority. The years of thriving and struggling had only provided them with endless adversity and ordeal. They are doomed to live out days in darkness without electricity, and they do not have the facility of tarred roads. A good transportation facility is still a distant dream for them. Even local transport cannot reach the settlement. The unavailability of safe drinking water is another unattended issue for Chengara settlers. Some households are financially capable enough to place an electric fence surrounding the farmland and thereby protect it from wild animals, but most families skip dinner to reduce their living expenses, let alone an electric fence. They complain that the protest is slowly succumbing to death as the younger generation has adjusted to the situation and is unaware of the legacy of the famous Chengara protest.

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Cross-Case Insights

Factors	Interpretation
Threat of wildlife (10/10 cases)	All the participants identified elephants, boars as the primary source of destruction and livelihood loss
Income loss (10/10 cases)	All the households that participated reported huge crop loss and related income and livelihood disruption, and also reported unstable alternative opportunities
Scarcity of infrastructure (10/10 cases)	The unavailability of basic infrastructural facilities has been identified as lack of electricity, safe drinking water, and protection from wild animals.
Neglect by the Government (9/10 cases)	All the participants have expressed the neglect by the government of welfare schemes.
Psychological distress (9/10 cases)	The anxiety, grief, and despair are widespread among the people, and it is expressed through tears and fear.
Settlement in Chengara (9/10 cases)	All the participants expressed that they will settle down in Chengara, despite all the adversities.
Health issue (5/10 cases)	The compounded vulnerabilities are chronic illnesses, disability, and reduced capacity to work.
Education disrupted (5/10 cases)	The basic human rights, like education, skills training for children, are getting disrupted.

The meta-themes of the study are wild animal incursions, loss of livelihood, and scarcity of infrastructure, which are reported by all the participant households of Chengara. The other themes, like health issues and psychological distress, are reported by 9 households. The psychological distress is expressed by households in the form of tears

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and anxiety. They are really worried about their future and the future perspectives of the young generation of Chengara. They express despair through words,

"I cry every day looking at my barren field. I sow the field occasionally, even though I cannot cultivate it," said one of the prominent farmers of Chengara.

"I am really afraid to live alone in my home, but I have no one to rely on. Who will come to the rescue of an old woman?" said a 70-year-old woman who lives alone.

The desperation of people is expressed by almost every participant; despite this, they are very attached to the land. They are adamant on staying back in Chengara as they say that,

"We will not leave the land, this is our soil, we should be cremated here in this soil," said a man who faced a huge crop loss

"We won't move out of Chengara. If we leave this place, we do not have any place to go. Either we should be poisoned or shot down on this land," said the woman who works as a housemaid.

These statements show their agony and helplessness, their hope of empowerment ending in shackles. They do not have any place to move to if they leave Chengara, but life in Chengara is itself an abode of hardships. The neglect of the governments and exclusion from the welfare schemes available to all others shows their state of despondency (Sebastian, 2019). It is evident from their words, the hope that they will be considered as humans one day has been lost. Their demand for basic human rights is easily neglected. The vegetative state of living is not something any human deserves. They express their agony as,

"None of the governments of Kerala is ready to help or recognize us as humans," said the head of a family of five.

The main problem that immediate addressal is the life-threatening situation in Chengara. The incursion of wild animals like elephants, boars was the repetitive theme in the study. It not only leads to loss of income. It, in turn, affects the educational course of a child, the psychological well-being of any settler, living conditions, safe shelter, and livelihood disruptions. All these are interconnected, and they exhibit a chain of cause and effect.

Meta-themes

1) Wild animal incursion

All 10 participants of the study were affected by the human-animal conflict. They faced huge crop loss, and it has been left barren because of the recurrent incursions. It is life-threatening. The cultivation of any kind of edible crops is not possible in Chengara. The demand for land was the aim of cultivating his own food products and not depending any others for survival. The 350 acres they divided between themselves are barren and not dependable

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for them. It is analyzed by the words of the settlers themselves. One of the participants is a woman of the age of 24, who lives in a house made of mud bricks and a tarpaulin sheet, whose husband works as a painter on the mainland. He returns home after weeks, leaving their newborn and the mother alone at home. She shared that an elephant destroyed their house when the mother and child were sleeping. She was trembling when she explained the night.

"I am afraid to go back to my home. If I die, how will my baby survive? There is nothing left for us."

"Boars not only uprooted tapioca, but they trampled ginger and turmeric also. They are stepping on not just the plants, but on our lives," said the woman who is suffering from a stroke in Chengara.

The people of Chengara blame their fate on being born and existing in such a harsh world. They believe that living a better, dignified life is scarce to get.

2) Loss of livelihood

The destruction of crops is the cause that leads to the result of misery and struggle for them. They wanted to protect their children from these hardships by giving better education. But after losing income, giving them a better education is not possible.

"The hostel where our children are staying has informed us that, if we do not pay hostel fees by this month. They will not be allowed to continue there," said a woman who works as a housemaid.

"My daughter, who studied BSc nursing, is working as a salesgirl in a textile shop in the town. She could not complete her study because of our financial situation and my health condition," said the mother of three who is suffering from a stroke.

"Our younger daughter could not join college because we didn't have money, so she started a tailoring class. The money we saved for buying her a sewing machine was utilized for repairing the house, which was destroyed by a boar last week," said the mother of two girls.

All these are responses of mothers of Chengara who are helpless, who could only watch their children discontinue education. The absence of a steady income affects the lives of many young aspiring students of Chengara. It also affects the health and mental condition of the people.

"I could not give better treatment for my wife, who is suffering from a stroke. I could only watch in suffering in silence, said the husband of a woman who suffers from a stroke.

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"Our courtyard is an elephant trail. One night, it stood near my house. What can I do? I politely requested the elephant to leave my family. Last week, my friend, who was a heart patient, died after seeing elephants destroy his plantation. I am afraid that the same is going to happen to me also," said a man of 65 years.

"I have lost everything to elephants and boars. My husband died years back, and my son left me all alone here. My physical conditions do not allow me to work as a housemaid. How can I survive?" said a woman who is living alone.

All these points towards the various aspects of the sufferings of people of Chengara.

3) Infrastructural deficiency

Another main theme of the study is the scarcity of any kind of infrastructure for the survival of people in Chengara. The absence of electricity, water, and transport was identified during the study. The absence of electricity disrupts cultivation activities and the protection of farmland from animals. The electric fence was planted using solar power, is not that effective and is getting easily destroyed by animals. It also disrupts the agricultural activities of Chengara. The unavailability of kerosene through the Public Distribution System of Kerala in Chengara shuns all means of preventing wild animals from entering their fields. It also hampers the education of children. The quality of life of people in Chengara is depleting because of this. It is evident from their words.

"Without electricity, cultivation and surviving in Chengara is a nightmare for us," said the mother of the newborn.

"We have no electricity or kerosene to protect ourselves from the attack of animals; we just have to succumb to the situation," said the man of 65 years.

"Some could build wells at home, but people like us do not have such a luxury in life. We have to buy drinking water by giving money. Can you imagine such a situation in India?" said the farmer who had a huge crop loss.

Discussion

All the themes identified during the study are interconnected and act as a chain reaction, leaving them in a state of peril. This is explained in Figure 1.

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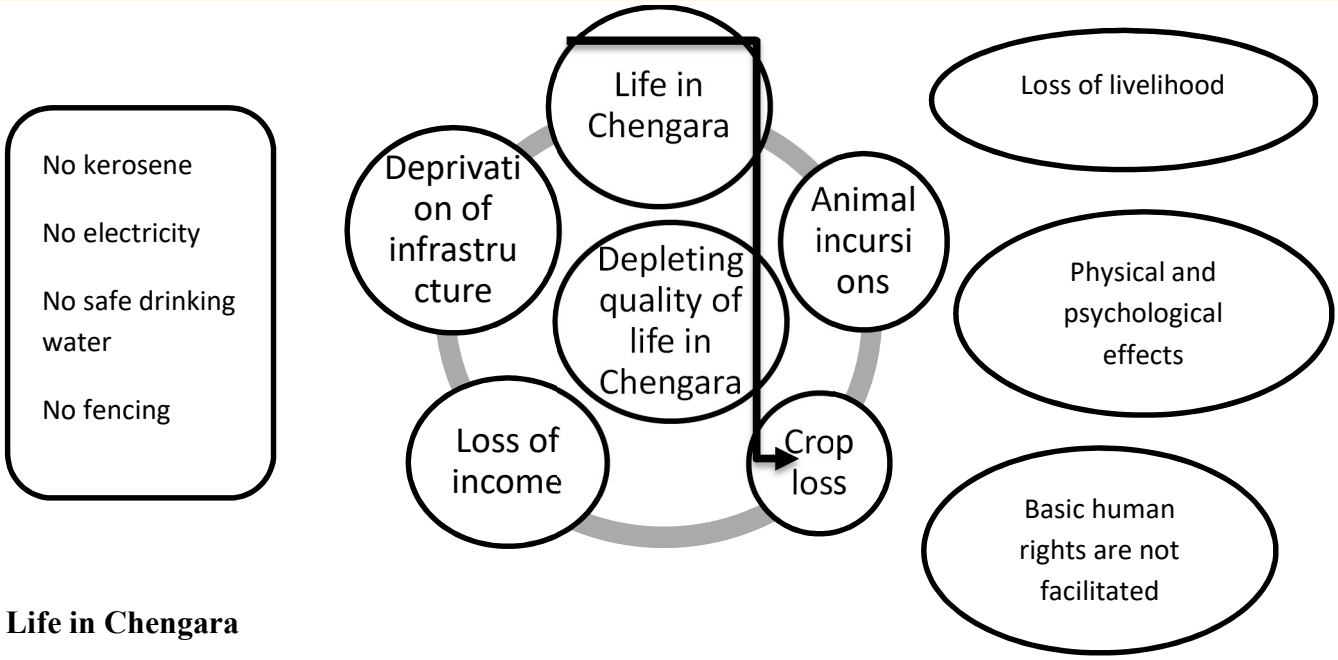


Fig 1. Life in Chengara

Fig. 1 explains the depleting quality of life in Chengara entirely based on themes extracted from the study. It interconnects the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by the settlers of Chengara. Life in Chengara is marked by severe deprivation of basic infrastructural facilities like electricity, kerosene, and drinking water. These contribute to poor quality of life and poor living conditions for the people. The hardships are compounded by the frequent incursions of wild animals disrupting their income source, mainly edible crops grown on the land of Chengara. This leads to food insecurity and financial instability among them. The cumulative effect of all these hampers the psychological and physical well-being of the people. It reverberates the hopelessness, loss of dignity, and safety of the people who are even denied the basic human rights (Vipitha, 2023).

The Chengara is an epitome of policy failure. The governance lapse or intentional act by the administration exacerbated the misfortunes of many lives, those who are fated to live with compounded adversities. The land struggles and protests to claim land have been a recurring feature of human history. Learning lessons from each and upgrading as per the needs of the people, and attending to them promptly, is the commitment of the political system.

Conclusion

These hardships and the people themselves are a powerful testament to the perpetual quest of the people for land, dignity, and justice of the subaltern (Manosmita, 2012). The struggle of Chengara is rooted in inequalities and landlessness. It signals the petition for lingering issues of denied human rights and assertion of identity. The factor that ignited the endurance of the settlers of Chengara is their collective strength and resilience despite the systemic

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neglect, infrastructural absence, and environmental challenges. The Chengara land struggle exhibits that the fight for land is also a fight for existence, recognition, and justice.

The people of Chengara are representatives of the larger section of people who are marginalized and struggling. It symbolizes the resistance experienced by the poor since time immemorial. The policymakers play a pivotal role in the implementation of land reform acts, and they should be made equal and representative for all sections of people. The demand for land allocation at the grassroots level should be organized for the empowerment and legal recognition of the people.

All these conspire to resolve the resonating issues of the people, including animal incursions (Sevillano, 2019), livelihood struggles, income instability, physical and psychological problems, and infrastructural absence. All these shortcomings act as a chain reaction of cause and effect, which are overlooked and ignored. Finding a solution to one of these can bring Herculean changes to the upbringing of the marginalized.

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EMERGING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES OF CRYPTOCURRENCY IN INDIA - A STUDY

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Abstract

Cryptocurrency, as a transformative digital asset built on **Blockchain** technology, has witnessed a surge in adoption in India, positioning the country as a major global market despite significant regulatory uncertainty. This study examines the **emerging trends** driving this growth, such as increasing retail and institutional investor participation, and the expansion of **Decentralized Finance (DeFi)** and **Web3** ecosystems. Concurrently, it analyzes the persistent **challenges**, primarily the lack of a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework, high taxation, risks of market **volatility** and **illicit activities**, and the government's counter-strategy with the **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, the e-Rupee. The paper concludes that for India to fully harness the potential of this technology for **financial inclusion** and innovation, a balanced, clear, and progressive regulatory approach is imperative, coupled with robust investor education.

Keywords: Emerging Trends, Driving, Growth, Investor, Participation, Decentralized Finance, Ecosystems. Challenge, Comprehensive, Legal, Regulatory Framework, Taxation, Counter-Strategy.

Introduction

Cryptocurrency represents a paradigm shift in financial technology, offering a **decentralized** and borderless alternative to traditional fiat currency. India, with its large, tech-savvy youth population and rapid digital transformation, has quickly emerged as a critical player in the global crypto landscape, often leading in retail adoption metrics. This paper investigates the dynamic environment of cryptocurrency in India, focusing on the latest adoption trends and the formidable challenges particularly in the regulatory domain—that dictate its future trajectory.

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Review of Literature:

The article's discussion implies a literature review that covered the following thematic areas:

- **Foundational Concepts:** Literature defining **Cryptocurrency** as a paradigm shift in financial technology, underpinned by **decentralized, borderless** principles and **Blockchain** technology.
- **Adoption Drivers:** Studies on factors contributing to high **retail adoption** in emerging economies like India (e.g., demographics, tech-savviness, promise of high returns, ease of access).
- **Technological Evolution:** Academic and industry literature on the growth and potential of **Web3, DeFi (Decentralized Finance), and NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens)**, positioning India as an innovation hub.
- **Regulatory History and Legal Ambiguity:** Scholarly papers and legal analysis detailing the historical stance of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, the **Supreme Court's 2020 ruling** (overturning the ban), and the ongoing legislative debate around the **Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill (2021)**.
- **Fiscal and Stability Concerns:** Research by central banks and international financial bodies (like the IMF or BIS) on the risks of **market volatility, financial stability**, and the use of cryptocurrencies for **illicit activities (AML/CTF)**.
- **Policy Countermeasures:** Literature discussing the development and implications of **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)**, such as the **e-Rupee**, as a sovereign alternative to private cryptocurrencies.

Methodology

Since the text is descriptive and analytical, it suggests the use of a **qualitative research methodology** supported by quantitative data from secondary sources. The methodology likely involved:

Component	**Inferred Method/Source**
Research Design	**Descriptive and Analytical Study:** Focused on analyzing the *current state* and *challenges* in the Indian market.

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Component	Inferred Method/Source
Data Type & Source	**Secondary Data Analysis (Literature Review):** Utilizing reports from government bodies (RBI, FIU-IND), international agencies (FATF), industry bodies, major crypto exchanges (for adoption metrics), and academic journals.
Data Collection	**Content Analysis & Comparative Analysis:** Systematic review of legal documents, policy statements, and market reports to identify key trends (adoption, innovation) and challenges (regulatory ambiguity, taxation, PMLA compliance).
Focus/Scope	**Indian Cryptocurrency Ecosystem:** Focusing on the period following the 2020 Supreme Court ruling, with a specific focus on 2022 taxation and subsequent policy/compliance developments.

Emerging Trends in Indian Cryptocurrency Market

The Indian crypto market is characterized by several key developments:

A. Surging Retail and Institutional Adoption

Despite regulatory ambiguity, **retail investor participation** continues to soar, driven by the promise of high returns, the ease of access through local and international exchanges, and increasing financial digitization. Furthermore, **institutional interest**—from venture capitalists funding Web3 startups to fintech companies exploring crypto-based payment solutions—is growing, signifying a deeper integration into the mainstream financial ecosystem.

B. Growth of Web3 and DeFi Ecosystems

India is becoming a notable hub for **Web3 innovation**. Local developers and entrepreneurs are actively contributing to global **Decentralized Finance (DeFi)** and **Non-Fungible Token (NFT)** projects. This

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technological momentum highlights the potential of the underlying Blockchain technology beyond speculative trading, offering solutions in areas like supply chain, digital identity, and governance.

C. Formalization through Taxation

The government's introduction of a **30% tax on gains from Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)** and a **1% Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)** on transactions in 2022, while restrictive, has provided a degree of formal acknowledgment to the asset class. This move effectively recognizes cryptocurrencies as assets for taxation purposes, albeit without granting them legal tender status.

D. The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) - e-Rupee

In a significant policy response, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the pilot for the **Digital Rupee (e₹)**. The CBDC is a sovereign-backed alternative intended to offer the benefits of digital currency while mitigating the risks associated with volatile, private, decentralized cryptocurrencies, allowing the central authority to maintain control over monetary policy.

Findings

The article's main body serves as a detailed presentation of its key findings, which can be grouped into the following categories:

A. Adoption and Innovation Findings

- **High and Growing Adoption:** Found that **retail investor participation** is surging despite regulatory risk, and **institutional interest** is significantly increasing (Venture Capital/Fintech).
- **Emergence as a Tech Hub:** Identified the robust growth of **Web3, DeFi, and NFT ecosystems** in India, driven by local developers, showcasing innovation potential beyond mere trading.
- **Formal Policy Acknowledgment:** The implementation of **30% VDA tax and 1% TDS** formalized cryptocurrencies as an asset class under the tax law.
- **Sovereign Response:** The launch of the **CBDC (e-Rupee)** pilot was confirmed as a direct policy response to manage the risks of decentralized currencies while leveraging digital efficiency.

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B. Regulatory and Risk Findings (Challenges)

- **Acute Regulatory Uncertainty:** The primary finding is the persistence of a **"regulatory grey area"** due to the unfinalized **Cryptocurrency Bill (2021)**, creating a climate of risk for investors and businesses.
- **Taxation as a Disincentive:** The high **30% tax rate** and prohibition on offsetting losses were found to act as a **disincentive** for domestic trading, potentially shifting volume to foreign exchanges.
- **Significant Financial Risks:** Confirmed RBI's concerns regarding **macroeconomic/financial stability** due to high **volatility** and the lack of an overarching regulatory body for investor protection against scams and fraud.
- **AML/CTF Compliance Gap:** Found that while the inclusion of VASPs under the **PMLA** is a step toward compliance, enforcing these rules on fully decentralized and cross-border platforms remains a substantial challenge for the **FIU-IND**.

Major Challenges and Regulatory Impediments

The rapid expansion of the crypto market in India is continuously constrained by a number of challenges, with regulatory uncertainty being the most prominent.

A. Regulatory Ambiguity and Legal Status

The single biggest challenge is the **absence of a comprehensive legal framework**. Cryptocurrencies currently operate in a **regulatory grey area**—they are not illegal since the Supreme Court overturned the RBI's 2018 banking ban, but they are also not recognized as legal tender. The proposed **Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill (2021)** has yet to be finalized, leaving investors and businesses in a perpetual state of flux regarding future bans, restrictions, or classifications (e.g., as currency, commodity, or security).

B. Tax Disincentives and Compliance Complexity

The high **30% tax** coupled with the inability to offset losses from one VDA against gains from another, and the 1% TDS, has been cited as a significant disincentive for domestic traders, potentially pushing trading volume to foreign, unregulated exchanges and impacting the local ecosystem. Compliance for complex cross-border transactions and the legal interpretation of terms like 'transfer' under the VDA taxation rules remain difficult.

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C. Financial Stability and Investor Protection

The RBI has consistently voiced concerns regarding **macroeconomic and financial stability** due to the high volatility of crypto assets. Furthermore, the lack of an overarching regulatory body for the sector exposes retail investors to significant risks of **market manipulation, scams, and fraud**, with limited legal recourse in a decentralized environment.

D. Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF)

The pseudonymous nature of cryptocurrencies raises alarms regarding their potential misuse for **money laundering, tax evasion**, and **terrorist financing**. Recent directives bringing Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** have been a step towards compliance, but enforcement on decentralized or cross-border platforms remains a complex task for the Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND).

Conclusion:

Cryptocurrency presents India with a dual proposition: a fertile ground for technological **innovation** and a powerful tool for enhancing **financial inclusion** for its vast unbanked population, counterbalanced by significant risks to **financial stability** and **investor protection**.

The study strongly suggests that a definitive, balanced, and progressive regulatory architecture is the critical next step. Policymakers must move beyond a restrictive approach and consider a framework that:

1. **Classifies digital assets clearly** (e.g., differentiating between utility tokens, security tokens, and payment tokens).
2. **Harmonizes domestic regulation** with global standards (e.g., FATF guidelines) and fosters **inter-regulatory cooperation** among the RBI, SEBI, and FIU-IND.
3. Implements effective **investor education and awareness** campaigns to inform the burgeoning retail base about the inherent risks.

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4. **Re-evaluates the VDA taxation structure** to ensure it supports the growth of the legitimate domestic ecosystem without compromising government revenue.

By adopting a nuanced and forward-looking policy, India can transform its regulatory challenges into an opportunity, cementing its position as a global leader in the blockchain and digital asset revolution.

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Emerging trend in Microfinance: The Digitalization of Micro Credit, Benefits & Challenges - A Study W.R.T. Bengaluru Urban District.

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Abstract : Digitalization in microfinance helps both the Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Urban Poor since it saves times, reduces transaction cost and financially beneficial to the members. Instant and low cost access to digital microcredit attracts millions of borrowers (Daniel Kandie et al. 2020). The main intention of the present paper is to access how far socio economic characteristics of respondents impacts on the study of digitalization. Further, the study also conducted to probe the benefits of digitalization in microfinance and challenges faced. Innumerable studies about rural microfinance were conducted and only a limited studies were conducted about urban microfinance. Further, a limited number of studies were conducted to analyze digitalization impact on the microfinance activities. Only countable studies were documented regarding digitalization in Bengaluru Urban microfinance.

Methodology / Design : A well planned previously known questionnaire was administered in order to collect the required data. Chi-square, contingency co-efficient, weighted average and Kendall's co-efficient of concordance quantitative tools were performed. The participants belong to 5 sub-districts of Bengaluru Urban district. The participants were interviewed and the required data was collected.

Findings : The study found that demographics of respondents supporting well and reveals about the existence of significant variation with high degree of relationships. Further, the study found about benefits of digitalization like paying outstanding bills and EMIs well in time and timely update is simple, helps addressing long faced challenges concerned with repayment, reducing MFIs going for collection and digitalization resources issues of book keeping and reduces the need for physical storing of documents. The challenges as per the study includes dependence on physical mode of reaction, diverse nature of customer segments and customer acquisition and retention is a challenge.

Key words : Customer segment, acquisition, retention, competition, efficiency, saves time, money, social purpose.

Introduction :

Micro credit program has emerged as an important poverty alleviation strategy over the last three decades and innumerable studies have probed its economic impacts on the community well being. Little attention has been paid to the effects of micro credit on community social connection and solidarity (Asghar Tahmaseli et al. 2021). Microfinance has played a vital role in the country in providing financial services to the unbanked and under-banked low income people and medium sized business by providing required micro credit. The present day

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microfinance landscape demands a framework containing technologies through innumerable challenge across value chain such as financial and digital literacy, data regulation and fraud together with development of talent and workforce development.

Since the commencement of 21st century, the evolution of technology, public digital rails (e.g. India stack) and innovative like JanDhan, Aadhar, mobile (JAM) have played a significant role in the growth of microfinance industry in India. Innumerable projects were created to strengthen the technology adoption, regulatory bodies and focusing on marginalized communities through guidelines like the use of business facilitator, urban cooperatives and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to cater and assist the needs of last mile customer enablement and inclusion. Due to the growth of financial technology aided by the widespread adoption of mobile and internet services across the globe, the microfinance industry was able to establish a firm standing. As of 2021, 55% of the world population equivalent to 4.3 billion people used mobile internet (https: //www.statistru.com/topics/779/mobile internet, PWC). According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) there were more than 8.58 billion mobile subscriptions in use worldwide in 2024.

The widespread adoption of mobile phones together with advances in computing power has given rise to digital credit a fintech innovation quietly influencing microfinance (Daniel Kandie et al. 2020). Digital credit refers to locus that are requested, received and repaid, all through mobile via internet with a computer system (Francisy et al., 2017). Digitalization in microfinance industry is considered as magical pathway to increase financial inclusion (Juliana Siwale et al. 2022). In microfinance digitalization is felt by money as an essential tool for fostering financial inclusion (Agarwal & Tam, 2021; Suri, 2017). Digitalization in microfinance is better improvement over traditional face-to-face lending process. The traditional system involves ties between clients and loan officers worked with trust, empathy and reciprocally which provides relational ties outlook organizational traditional approach (Canales, 2014; Siwale & Ritchie, 2012). Microfinance industry faces a trade off situation between full digitalization that eludes relational ties and flexibility of human touch. Against this background a study is taken up to study the benefits of digitalization and challenges faced.

Statement of the problem

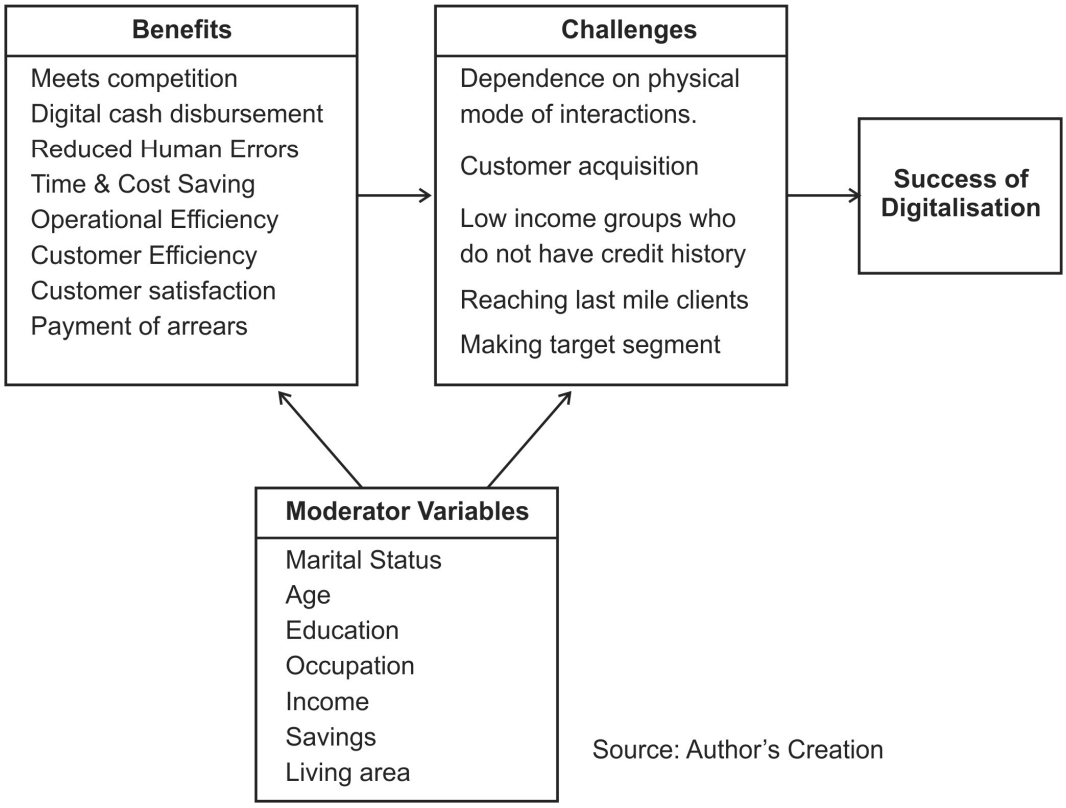
Self Help Groups in Bengaluru Urban district are committed to improvise the lives of their members in the group through the provision of financial and non-financial services. The SHG member are well trained as far as financial literacy is concerned. Some of the SHGs in Bengaluru are showing improvised business in the area of selling different verities of pickles, papads, badam powers, detergents, and selected novelties. As the microfinance activities are growing, the need emerges for automation more and more to fight against poverty. SHGs & MFIS by digitalization processes like loan applications, document verification and disbursements they can cortically reduce paper work, time and cost. Digitalization platforms offers nonstop loan organization and loan repayment leading to the quicker and improved efficiency and lending operates. Further, digitalization in microfinance institutions and SHGs can bridge the accessibility gap that often considered a setback underserved members from accessing financial services, By adapting mobile banking and digital payments MFIs can access remote area where traditional brick-and-mortar infrastructure is unavailable or economically unviable. Digitalization system can instantly provide data about repayment patterns and credit worthiness of members. Innumerable research

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findings (Kaffen burger et al., 2018; HSU et al. 2020; Mazer et al., 2015) revealed that MSEs have low usage of digital technology to access microcredit services. The development of MSEs are affected by financial problems, legal and policy setting and the business environment (Adebisi et al., 2016). Further, the existing literature have revealed that the use of digital technology in micro credit services had made MFIs achieve greater levels accessing the clients attained efficiency, improvised customer care and achieved and achieved on time service delivery (Mwela, 2014), Camera et al., 2018, Kauffiman et al., 2012; Agarwal et al. 2017). Digitalization helps in dealing with large volume of information aggregates of information and services, high speed of attending to clients and reduction of operating cost (Wober, 2012; Maro, 2019).

Theoritical Framework



Source: Author's Creation

Review of literature.

Manish et al. (2018) in their study they found that through digitalization banks can provide enhanced services to the customers and human errors will also be less and also builds customer loyalty and they also further emphasized online saving aspect of the customers and also helps the connecting all kinds of customers.

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Rajeswari M. Shettar (2019) studied the scope of digitalization and operating costs reduced by the banking sector in India. The study also found that with digitalization there is an economic opportunity for financial inclusion of unbanked economy.

Peterson K. Ozili. (2020). reviewed different financial inclusion themes emerging around the world. The key findings in their study includes that financial inclusion is influenced by literacy level, state of economic, financial innovation and poverty levels.

Budampti and Raghunath (2018) study the impact of intervention of information technology in increasing the efficiency and outreach of the microfinance industry in India. Their review reveals that IT can bring to MFIs, however, the only barrier is the resistance of the Indian rural population to embrace technological change.

Kumar Vipin et al., (2020) expressed that the SHGs and MFIs playing a vital role in delivery of microfinance service which leads development of poor and low income people in India. But the slow process of graduation of SHGs members, poor quality of group functioning, drop out of members etc., have been reported different study findings which needs to tackle while drafting suitable strategies.

Research Methodology.

Coverage of the study : The present study is confined only to Urban Bengaluru district and related to digitalization of microfinance activities in SHGs and MFIs. Bengaluru Urban district is selected because there are good number of groups who have created savings better than others and involved in innovative income generating activities in along with traditional abilities.

Participants of the study : There are 5 sub-districts the Bengaluru Urban district and 1421 villages and 87 grama panchayats with 4471 SHGs. The total membership of SHGs is ground 60, 994. Out of this 5 villages in each grama panchayat has been selected with a variation in number of SHGs in each village. The sample respondents is based on the proportion of total members.

Questionnaire : A well drafted previously known questionnaire was administered and research himself collected the data after visiting sample villages. Questions were asked in local languages and answers given was recorded in the questionnaire. All tested questions were included.

Data Source : The study depended upon both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through questionnaire and secondary data includes journals, Reports and books.

Line of analysis : The time of analysis followed in this study is of descriptive in nature. Data has been arranged and presented in tabular for further analysis leading to the fulfillment of the objectives of the study. x^2, contingency co-efficient, weighted average and Kendall's co-efficient of concordance statistical tools were performed. The study faced the limitations of time, financial and transportation.

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Sample and sampling technique : The sample of the study is 100 and convenient sampling technique was followed at the time of data collection. The details of the sample and sample fixation is provided in the table-1. Sample respondents derived on the basis of proportion of total members to sample 100. For example Anekal sample is 12 members out of 17 SHGs of 243 total members, (243 / 2021 x 100) and this proportion is used to calculated sample members of the remaining also.

Table - 1 : Sample and sampling techniques

Name of subdistrict	Villages	GPS	No. of SHGs	Total of Members	Select G.P.	Total SHGs	Sample Village	Sample Village SHGs	Total Member	Sample Respondents
Anekal	212	28	1533	22697	Haragaddee	71	Haragadde	17	243	12
Bengaluru East	662	11	445	7241	Bidirahally	59	Bidirahally	19	276	14
Bengaluru North	184	11	675	11054	Aluru	53	Aluru	15	216	11
Bengaluru South	198	18	950	14725	Agara	92	Agar	39	591	29
Yelahanka	165	19	868	13277	Hesaraghatta	50	Hunasamaranahalli	44	695	34
Total	1421	87	4471	60994	5 Select GPs	325	5 Sample villages	134	2021	100

Source : urim.gov.in As on 25-4-2024

Government of India : Minister of Rural Development

G4 : SHGs member social category wise

Objectives of the study

The study has been taken up with the following objectives.

1. To study the demographic profile of respondents.
2. To analyze the benefits of digitalization in microfinance.
3. To study the challenges of digitalization.

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Hypotheses :

H_{01} : There exist no significant variation in data and hence they do not impact on the study.

H_{02} : There are no variations in the factors influence benefits of digitalization.

H_{03} : There are no challenges of digitalization.

Research questions :

1. To what extent demographic variables impacts on the study?
2. What are the benefits of digitalization in microfinance?
3. What are the challenges of digitalization?

Data Analyses and Presentation - I

Table - 2 divulge data relating to respondents socio-economic characteristics. 83 are married, 10 remained single, 4 are divorces and 3 are separated, 50 respondents are aged in between 20-30 years, 30 to the 30-40 years, 12 > 40 years and 8 < 20 years. 41 respondents studied up to PUC followed by, 35 completed 10th standard, 11 < 10th standard, 8 degree and 5 are PG degree holders. There are 30 vegetable sellers, 28 included in sale of fruits and cut fruits, 13 are earning by selling textile and novelties, 9 are provisions cleaning in RMCs and Central market, 8 participated in local fairs and weekly fairs, 8 are owners of petty shop. Further, the table reveals that 42 are getting monthly income in the range of 10-15 K per month followed by 26 in between 15 - 20K, 16 > 20K and 12 between 5-10K and 4 < 5K. 38 respondents savings lies in between 2K - 4K, followed by 29 in between 1K - 2K, 19 in between 4-6K, 8 stated > 8K and 6 in between 6 - 8K. 88 respondents are using mobiles, and 8 living in slums and 89 participated in social activities. The collected data is presented in the form of suitable tasks and related statistical tools were performed.

Data analysis and Presentation II

Table - 3 highlights data relating to benefits of digitalization. The expression over the 20 statements are show as "f" and weights are defined as "w". Based on the highest of WA rankings are awarded. Accordingly the first rank was awarded to paying outstanding amount, EMIs and getting timely upload etc., the second rank was given to helps in addressing long faced challenges associated with repayment etc., and the third rank was awarded to digital payments resolves issues like book keeping etc.

Table - 4 reveals data about challenges faced on account of digitalization installation. To measure the challenges Kendall's co-efficient of concordance statistical technique was performed. There are 78 respondents who said strongly agree followed by 14 agree and 8 somewhat agree. A majority of 27 stated about dependence an modes of interaction followed by the nature of customer segments in the ecosystem is quite diverse 18 and 14 respondents stated about customer acquisition is a challenge due to lack of customer awareness and literacy. "w" fails to accept

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H0 and accepts H1 since the calculated value being 22.26 is greater than TV @ 5% level of significance with 7 d.f. and therefore it is calculated that there exist significant relationship between the statements and challenges of digitalization.

Discussion:

The presented research paper started with an intention whether the demographics impact on the study or not. Further, the study also conducted to the level of benefits and challenges faced. Digitalization as per the study is beneficial to both SHGs and MFIs and faces some challenges. The benefits probed through this study includes paying outstanding bills etc., is simple address long faced challenges associated with repayment etc., and resolves book keeping and reduce the need for storing. Further, the study also found challenges like dependence on physical mode of interaction, customer segmentation and customer acquisition is a challenge due to lack of customer awareness and literacy.

Conclusion :

Internet banking is a radical technological innovation with potential to change the structure and nature of banking (Wimay et al., 2023). In order to sustain in the competitive market more and more banks are transforming from their traditional approach to modern digitalization system of operating (Kazaara and Kazzara, 2023). The success of digitalization much depends upon customer acquisition and retention. The significant finding of the last 3 decades in the microfinance field is that the urban poor can save, borrow a repay the borrowed loan. The challenges include dependence on physical modes of interaction, diversified nature of customer segments and customer acquisition and retention is a challenge.

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Urbanization, Industrialization, and Their Effects on Local Biodiversity

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Abstract

Urbanization and industrialization are primary drivers of environmental transformation worldwide, significantly impacting local biodiversity. Rapid population growth and economic development have led to extensive alterations of natural habitats, resulting in habitat fragmentation, pollution, and the spread of invasive species. Urban expansion replaces forests, wetlands, and grasslands with concrete structures, roads, and residential and commercial infrastructure, causing severe loss of native flora and fauna. Industrial activities discharge pollutants into air, soil, and water, disrupting ecosystem functions and threatening species survival. This paper examines the ecological consequences of urbanization and industrialization, highlighting mechanisms such as habitat destruction, species extinction, pollution, overexploitation of resources, and climate change. Case studies from India, including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, and industrial clusters in Gujarat and Maharashtra, are analyzed, demonstrating the decline of endemic species such as the Indian star tortoise (Geochelone elegans) and migratory birds like the Sarus crane (Antigone antigone). Local statistics indicate that Bengaluru has lost over 60% of its wetlands and 40% of its green cover between 1990 and 2020. The study explores mitigation strategies, including sustainable urban planning, industrial regulation, creation of green spaces, and public awareness programs. The integration of biodiversity conservation into urban and industrial planning is emphasized to maintain ecosystem resilience and sustainability. Policies promoting ecological restoration, environmental impact assessments, and community-based conservation are identified as essential for balancing developmental needs with environmental protection. The paper concludes that while urbanization and industrialization are integral to economic growth, careful planning, sustainable practices, and biodiversity-conscious policies are critical to prevent irreversible ecological damage. Understanding the interplay between human development and biodiversity is vital for maintaining ecosystem health, supporting human well-being, and ensuring long-term environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Urbanization, Industrialization, Biodiversity loss, Habitat fragmentation, Conservation strategies

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1. Introduction

Urbanization, the increasing concentration of human populations into cities, and industrialization, the rapid expansion of manufacturing and industrial activities, are major drivers of economic growth (Seto et al., 2012). India has experienced unprecedented urban growth over the past two decades, with the urban population rising from 27% in 2001 to over 35% in 2021 (Census of India, 2021). Cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad have expanded rapidly, converting forests, wetlands, and grasslands into residential, commercial, and industrial zones. Industrial hubs in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have similarly accelerated, contributing to economic development but also imposing significant pressures on ecosystems (Kumar & Dutt, 2018).

Biodiversity, encompassing species, genetic, and ecosystem diversity, is vital for ecosystem stability and the provision of services such as air and water purification, soil fertility, pollination, and climate regulation (Daily, 1997). Rapid urban and industrial expansion has caused habitat loss, fragmentation, and ecological degradation, threatening the survival of native flora and fauna (McKinney, 2006). In Bengaluru, for instance, wetland loss exceeded 60% and green cover declined by 40% between 1990 and 2020, affecting amphibians, reptiles, and migratory birds like the Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) and Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) (Satterthwaite, 2011).

Industrial activities exacerbate these pressures through air, water, and soil pollution. Rivers near industrial zones, such as Mumbai's Mithi River and stretches of the Ganga and Yamuna, have experienced sharp declines in fish populations due to untreated effluent discharge and habitat degradation (IUCN, 2020). Urban-industrial growth also introduces invasive species and alters local microclimates, further challenging native biodiversity.

Understanding these impacts is crucial for effective conservation. Integrating environmental considerations into urban planning, promoting green infrastructure, enforcing industrial pollution controls, and fostering community awareness are essential strategies to mitigate biodiversity loss and maintain ecosystem services (Seto et al., 2012; Daily, 1997). This paper examines the ecological consequences of urbanization and industrialization in global and Indian contexts, with local case studies illustrating the challenges and potential solutions for biodiversity conservation.

2. Urbanization and Biodiversity

Urbanization is a major driver of biodiversity loss, transforming natural landscapes into cities, roads, residential areas, and industrial zones. In India, urban populations grew from 27% in 2001 to over 35% in 2021, with projections exceeding 40% by 2035 (Census of India, 2021). This rapid expansion causes habitat loss, fragmentation, pollution, and altered ecological dynamics (Seto et al., 2012).

In Bengaluru, urban sprawl has converted wetlands, lakes, and forest patches into residential and commercial areas. Between 1990 and 2020, the city lost 60% of wetlands and 40% of green cover, affecting species such as the Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*), Asian Openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*), and migratory birds like

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the Lesser Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) (Satterthwaite, 2011). Mumbai has seen over 50% of its mangroves degraded due to reclamation, reducing biodiversity and increasing vulnerability to flooding (Sharma et al., 2010). In Chennai, wetland reclamation and pollution have decreased native fish and amphibians, while invasive species like Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) disrupt aquatic ecosystems (IUCN, 2020). Delhi faces air and noise pollution that reduces plant and insect diversity and disrupts bird and nocturnal species (Grimm et al., 2008).

Mitigation strategies include green corridors connecting fragmented habitats, urban wetland and forest restoration, strict zoning regulations, and community initiatives such as tree planting, citizen monitoring, and environmental education (Forman, 2014; McDonnell & Hahs, 2015). Sustainable urban planning and active community engagement are critical to preserve biodiversity amid growing urban populations.

3. Industrialization and Biodiversity

Industrialization, the expansion of manufacturing and processing industries, contributes to economic growth but exerts significant pressures on biodiversity, causing habitat loss, pollution, resource overexploitation, and the spread of invasive species (Kumar & Dutt, 2018). In Gujarat, chemical industrial hubs like Ankleshwar and Vapi have contaminated soil and water, reducing populations of sensitive fish species such as Indian major carps (*Labeo rohita* and *Catla catla*) by over 50% (Kumar & Dutt, 2018). Riparian vegetation declines further threaten amphibians, insects, and birds.

In Maharashtra, industrial corridors around Pune, Mumbai, and Nashik have fragmented wetlands and forests. Mangroves along the Mumbai-Pune corridor decreased by over 40% between 1990 and 2020, impacting species like the Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and migratory birds (Sharma et al., 2010). Tamil Nadu's industrial belt near Chennai and Vellore-Kanchipuram has caused eutrophication in rivers such as the Adyar and Cooum, declining native fish populations, and affecting terrestrial vegetation due to air pollutants (IUCN, 2020).

Industrial transport networks also facilitate invasive species; for example, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in Pune and Nashik disrupts aquatic habitats, affecting fish, amphibians, and waterfowl. Mitigation requires Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), effluent treatment, buffer zones, afforestation, and community monitoring combined with enforcement (Daily, 1997; Forman, 2014). Sustainable industrial practices and integrated biodiversity planning are essential to maintain ecosystem resilience while allowing economic growth.

4. Combined Effects of Urbanization and Industrialization

Urbanization and industrialization often occur simultaneously, intensifying pressures on biodiversity. Cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, and Pune illustrate the compounded impacts of land-use change, pollution, and habitat fragmentation. For instance, in Bengaluru, the expansion of IT parks alongside industrial zones has converted natural lakes and forest patches, leading to declines in amphibians, reptiles, and migratory birds by

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over 40% in some regions (Satterthwaite, 2011). Industrial discharges combined with urban sewage have degraded water quality in rivers such as the Mithi in Mumbai and the Adyar in Chennai, reducing fish diversity by more than 50% (IUCN, 2020).

The combined effects also include altered microclimates, increased invasive species, and the loss of ecosystem services like groundwater recharge, air purification, and carbon sequestration (Seto et al., 2012). Mitigation requires integrated urban-industrial planning that balances economic growth with biodiversity conservation through green infrastructure, wetland restoration, and environmental monitoring.

5. Habitat Fragmentation and Species Extinction

Habitat fragmentation, caused by urban sprawl, roads, and industrial zones, isolates wildlife populations, leading to inbreeding, reduced genetic diversity, and local extinctions (McKinney, 2006). In Delhi, forest patches such as the Asola-Bhatti reserve are fragmented by roads and urban settlements, restricting movement for mammals like the Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and small carnivores (Gaston et al., 2008). In Mumbai, fragmentation of mangroves has disrupted breeding grounds for fish and crustaceans, contributing to declines in migratory birds such as the Sarus crane (*Antigone antigone*) (Sharma et al., 2010). Fragmentation also reduces ecosystem connectivity, affecting pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling, which are essential for ecosystem health.

6. Pollution and Ecosystem Health

Pollution from industrial and urban activities significantly affects ecosystems. Air pollution in Delhi and Mumbai has reduced plant diversity and impaired pollination services (Grimm et al., 2008). Water pollution from untreated industrial effluents in Gujarat's Ankleshwar and Vapi regions has led to a 50% decline in native fish species (*Labeo rohita*, *Catla catla*) over the last two decades (Kumar & Dutt, 2018). Soil contamination from heavy metals and chemicals reduces vegetation growth and alters microbial communities, impacting soil fertility. Combined pollution stressors exacerbate biodiversity loss and disrupt ecosystem services, highlighting the need for stringent pollution control measures.

7. Mitigation Strategies

Mitigating biodiversity loss requires a multi-pronged approach integrating urban planning, industrial regulation, and community engagement. Key strategies include:

- **Urban green infrastructure:** Creation of parks, green roofs, and corridors to connect fragmented habitats (Forman, 2014).
- **Wetland and forest restoration:** Rehabilitating urban lakes and forests to support native species (McDonnell & Hahs, 2015).
- **Pollution control:** Effluent treatment, air quality monitoring, and industrial buffer zones (Daily, 1997).

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- **Policy measures:** Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and strict zoning regulations.
- **Community participation:** Citizen science, tree planting, and environmental awareness programs (Seto et al., 2012).

Cities like Chennai and Bengaluru have successfully implemented wetland restoration projects, improving amphibian and bird populations by 20–30% in restored areas.

8. Case Studies

Bengaluru: Loss of 60% wetlands and 40% green cover (Satterthwaite, 2011), affecting migratory birds and reptiles.

Mumbai: Mangrove loss >50%, affecting fish breeding and increasing flood vulnerability (Sharma et al., 2010).

Chennai: Industrial effluents in Adyar and Cooum rivers reduced fish populations and introduced invasive species like Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) (IUCN, 2020).

Ankleshwar & Vapi (Gujarat): Industrial effluent contamination caused >50% decline in major carp species (*Labeo rohita*, *Catla catla*) (Kumar & Dutt, 2018).

These examples illustrate how combined urban-industrial development impacts multiple species, habitats, and ecosystem services.

9. Future Directions

Future strategies should focus on sustainable urban and industrial development that integrates biodiversity conservation:

- **Smart urban planning:** Prioritize green spaces, urban forests, and wildlife corridors.
- **Industrial sustainability:** cleaner production, zero-liquid discharge, and green technologies.
- **Monitoring and research:** Use GIS, remote sensing, and citizen science for real-time biodiversity tracking (Seto et al., 2012).
- **Policy integration:** Biodiversity Action Plans, Environmental Impact Assessments, and regulatory enforcement.
- **Public engagement:** Education programs and participatory conservation initiatives to build community stewardship.

Long-term sustainability requires balancing economic growth with ecological resilience to prevent irreversible biodiversity loss.

10. Conclusion

The research demonstrates that urbanization and industrialization have led to significant habitat loss, pollution, and biodiversity decline in Indian cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Chennai, and in industrial clusters in Gujarat and Maharashtra (Seto et al., 2012; Sharma et al., 2010). Species including the Indian star tortoise

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(Geochelone elegans), Sarus crane (Antigone Antigone), and numerous freshwater fish have shown population declines exceeding 50% in affected areas (IUCN, 2020). Long-term sustainability requires the implementation of green infrastructure, wetland conservation, industrial effluent management, and biodiversity-sensitive urban planning (Daily, 1997; Satterthwaite, 2011). Community involvement and public awareness are essential for effective conservation. Emerging technologies such as GIS and remote sensing can enhance monitoring and protection efforts (Seto et al., 2012). A proactive approach balancing urbanization, industrialization, and biodiversity conservation is crucial to maintain ecosystem services, protect endemic and migratory species, and ensure environmental sustainability (McKinney, 2006; Kumar & Dutt, 2018).

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THE IMPACT OF AI ON YOUTH IDENTITY

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Abstract

The pervasive integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into daily life, through mechanisms like social media algorithms, virtual influencers, and generative chatbots, significantly shapes how young individuals perceive themselves and engage socially. These AI-driven systems often promote idealized digital identities, which can distort adolescents' self-perception by encouraging social comparison, peer pressure, and a pursuit of online validation, potentially leading to heightened anxiety, depression, and diminished self-worth. For example, AI applications in education (AIEd) show a negative correlation with social adaptability, mediated by reduced familial support, which may impede genuine self-expression and emotional resilience. Additionally, generative AI tools like chatbots offer tailored interactions that foster autonomy and emotional support but pose risks of overreliance, potentially undermining critical thinking and real-world problem-solving by replacing human feedback with AI-driven affirmations.

Regarding social interactions, AI facilitates a blend of online and offline engagement, supporting collaborative learning and emotional expression among youth. However, it can weaken authentic social ties by prioritizing performative interactions over meaningful connections. Young people leverage AI for efficiency, companionship, and creative expression, fostering a form of "AI individualism" that enhances personal agency but may reduce dependence on peer networks, risking social isolation and weaker interpersonal relationships. This duality empowering yet disruptive creates challenges in narrative identity, as adolescents grapple with aligning their curated online personas with their offline realities, affecting mental health and social cohesion.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Youth Identity, Self-Perception, Social Interaction, Social Media Algorithms, Generative AI, Chatbots, Virtual Influencers

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Introduction

In an era where Artificial Intelligence (AI) permeates daily life through social media algorithms, chatbots, and educational tools, its role in shaping youth identity has become a critical area of inquiry. India's youth, comprising over 600 million individuals under 25, are at the forefront of this digital transformation, with widespread adoption of AI-driven platforms. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes holistic development, including socio-emotional learning (SEL), yet the policy's integration with AI remains underexplored.

This study addresses the gap by investigating how AI influences self-perception, social bonds, and overall identity among Indian adolescents and young adults. Prior research highlights both benefits, such as enhanced creativity and connectivity, and risks, including algorithmic biases affecting self-esteem and mental health issues like anxiety from social media comparisons. In India, where social media usage among teens is linked to increased mental distress, understanding AI's nuanced effects is essential for policy and educational interventions.

The objectives are to:

(1) Assess AI's impact on self-view and confidence;
(2) Evaluate its role in social interactions;
(3) Explore awareness and mitigation strategies;
(4) Propose recommendations aligned with NEP 2020.

Literature Review

Global Perspectives on AI and Youth Identity

Global studies indicate AI's dual impact on youth. AI tools foster cognitive development and problem-solving but can erode agency through over-reliance. A 2025 UNDP report positions AI as a tool for human development, reshaping possibilities for youth but warning of inequalities in access and ethical concerns. Similarly, research on social AI integration into everyday life highlights "AI individualism," where youth personalize interactions, potentially altering self-perception and social norms.

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Social media algorithms exacerbate mental health issues, promoting idealized content that leads to body image dissatisfaction and performative behaviors among adolescents. Machine learning analyses reveal correlations between excessive social media use and stress/anxiety among youth.

India-Specific Studies on AI's Socio-Psychological Effects

In India, youth exhibit tentative optimism toward AI, with 68% reporting improved perceptions in 2024-2025, yet concerns about bias and equity persist. A 2024 India AI report emphasizes AI's role in empowering youth creativity but cautions against over-reliance that could stifle innovation. The Youth Pulse Report (2025) reveals AI as an "accidental therapist," with 57% of Indian youth using it for emotional support and 52% of young women finding it more confidable than humans. This aligns with Cheil India's findings that Indian youth lead AI adoption, viewing it as a companion but risking dependency.

NEP 2020, AI, and Socio-Emotional Learning

NEP 2020 advocates for AI in education to personalize learning and promote SEL. Initiatives like AI-integrated workshops highlight its potential for adolescent well-being, but challenges in inclusive implementation remain. SEL integration in Indian curricula fosters emotional intelligence, with NEP envisioning it for ethical development. However, AI's rapid evolution may outpace NEP, necessitating updates for brain-computer interfaces and ethical AI.

This review underscores the need for India-specific empirical data on AI's socio-psychological effects.

Methodology

Survey Design

A cross-sectional survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire with 19 items, including Likert-scale questions on self-perception (e.g., "How often do AI-driven platforms shape how you view yourself?"), social interactions (e.g., "Do AI tools help you build new connections?"), and open-ended queries on mitigation steps. Questions were adapted from validated scales on digital media impact.

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Sample and Data Collection

Participants were recruited via online forms distributed through educational networks in Bengaluru. The sample comprised 80 respondents: 75% aged 19-21, 14% 16-18, 10% 22-25, and 1% 13-15; 95% female, 5% male. AI platform use was frequent (72% daily).

Data Analysis

Responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages) and cross-tabulations (by age/gender). Qualitative data from open-ended questions were thematically coded. Ethical considerations included anonymity and informed consent.

Limitations

The sample's gender skew and educational bias limit generalizability.

Results

Demographics and AI Usage

Table 1 summarizes demographics. Daily AI use was prevalent (72%), aligning with national trends.

Table 1: Participant Demographics

Category	Percentage
Age 19-21	75%
Female	95%
Daily AI Use	72%

Self-Perception and Confidence

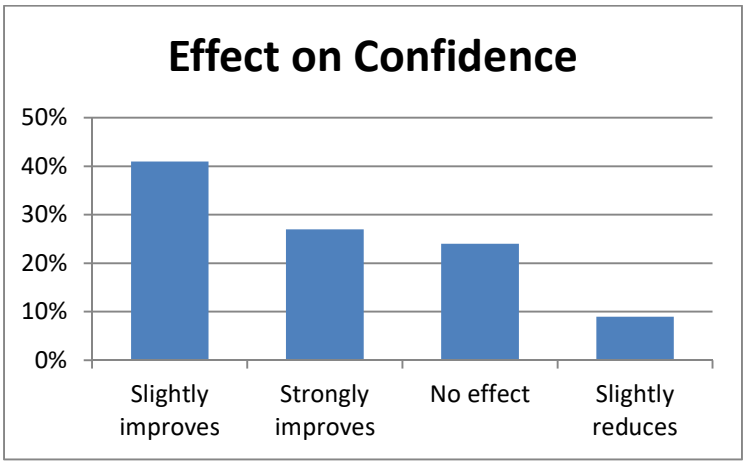
AI shapes self-view "sometimes" (30%) or "often/always" (55%). 44% occasionally compare to idealized content, with 29% feeling pressure to change. Confidence in decision-making improves slightly (41%) or

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strongly (27%), with 24% reporting no effect (Figure 1). AI encourages authentic self-expression (agree: 44%, neutral: 37%).

Figure 1: Effect on Confidence (Bar chart: Slightly improves 41%, Strongly improves 27%, No effect 24%, Slightly reduces 9%)



Social Interactions

AI is used daily for connections (56%). It helps feel connected (agree: 39%, strongly agree: 19%), but 78% note prioritization of performative engagement. Relationships show no change (68%), strengthening (23%), or weakening (9%). 78% report moderate/significant help in building connections.

Overall Impact, Awareness, and Mitigation

Identity impact is neutral (47%), somewhat positive (27%), or very positive (23%). Awareness of algorithms is high (very aware: 41%, somewhat: 46%). Digital literacy exposure: 58% yes. Mitigation strategies include limiting usage (e.g., "I limit my screen time") and prioritizing real interactions (thematic analysis in Table 2).

Table 2: Common Mitigation Themes

Theme	Frequency
Limit Screen Time	15%
Avoid Dependency	10%
Verify/Be Aware	8%

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Theme	Frequency
No Steps	13%

Cross-tabs: Males report more positive impacts; older youth are more aware.

Discussion

The findings reveal AI's predominantly beneficial role in enhancing confidence and connections, echoing studies on AI's creative empowerment. However, performative pressures mirror global concerns about algorithmic addiction.

In the Indian context, these align with NEP 2020's SEL goals, where AI can personalize learning but risks undermining authenticity. Gender differences suggest targeted interventions for females, who report more neutral impacts. High awareness (87%) indicates readiness for literacy programs, as proposed in recent viewpoints on social media restrictions.

Implications include curriculum reforms to embed AI ethics and SEL, fostering "Bharat ka Apna AI" for equitable education.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence offers opportunities for positive identity development among Indian youth, but balanced use is crucial to avoid negative effects. By integrating AI literacy into NEP 2020, educators can empower youth to navigate digital landscapes authentically. This research concludes that with proper education, Artificial Intelligence can be harnessed for authentic growth and innovation. Future research should include diverse samples and longitudinal designs to track long-term impacts.

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"Bridging the Digital Divide through Knowledge Management: Empowering Youth and Marginalized Communities".

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Abstract

The digital divide remains one of the most critical socio-economic challenges in developing nations like India, creating disparities in access to technology, information, and opportunities. This paper explores how Knowledge Management (KM) can serve as a strategic enabler to bridge this divide and accelerate youth and marginalized community empowerment. It analyses transformational national initiatives such as Digital India, NEP 2020, PMGDISHA, ONDC, SWAYAM, DIKSHA, and UPI — evaluating their knowledge dissemination capabilities from a KM lens. The study proposes a holistic KM-driven empowerment framework integrating digital literacy, community knowledge hubs, multilingual content systems, and AI-enabled personalized learning. The paper concludes with strategic recommendations for policymakers, educators, and institutions to strengthen inclusive digital empowerment through KM.

Keywords:

Digital Divide, Knowledge Management, Youth Empowerment, NEP 2020, Digital Literacy, Inclusive Growth, Digital India, Marginalized Communities

Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed an exponential rise in digital technologies transforming education, economy, governance, and social interactions. However, the advantages of digitalization are not equally accessible to all sections of society. In India — a country home to the world's largest youth population — technological growth exists alongside digital exclusion, especially among rural, low-income, and marginalized communities. This digital divide creates gaps not just in access, but in awareness, usage, opportunity, and empowerment.

Knowledge Management (KM), which focuses on the systematic creation, sharing, and application of knowledge, holds the potential to convert digital infrastructure into meaningful human capability and empowerment. When integrated with transformative national policies like NEP 2020, Digital India, and PMGDISHA, KM becomes a powerful driver of digital equity, social justice, and sustainable empowerment.

This paper examines how knowledge management frameworks can systematically convert access to information into actionable knowledge, enabling youth and marginalized communities to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

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Digital Divide in the Indian Context

India's digital divide is multidimensional, involving disparities in:

- Access – Internet bandwidth, device availability, affordability
- Literacy – Basic and advanced digital skills
- Language – Majority of digital content is in English
- Opportunity – Access to jobs, entrepreneurship, digital marketplaces, e-learning
- Awareness – Knowledge about government schemes, digital tools, and online safety

According to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI, 2023), only 35% of rural women have access to the internet, compared to 68% of urban males. This gendered and socio-economic divide causes long-term impact on education, employment, financial inclusion, and social mobility.

Review of Literature

The concept of the digital divide has evolved from a mere issue of technology access to one of digital literacy, capability, and opportunity. Van Dijk (2020) argues that the divide is multidimensional — involving access, skills, usage, and outcome gaps, especially impacting youth and rural populations. Similarly, Warschauer (2019) emphasizes that true digital equality is achieved only when individuals are able to effectively apply technology for learning, participation, and economic advancement.

In the Indian context, Mehta and Kapoor (2022) highlight that while Digital India has improved infrastructure, knowledge asymmetry remains a major barrier for marginalized communities. They assert that bridging the divide requires contextualized learning systems and local participation, not just device distribution or connectivity expansion.

Knowledge Management (KM) has been increasingly recognized as a strategic mechanism for digital empowerment. Alavi and Leidner (2021) describe KM as a process of knowledge creation, storage, sharing, and application, stressing that technology becomes meaningful only when supported by knowledge-sharing cultures and community collaboration. Similarly, Nonaka and Takeuchi's (1995) SECI Model emphasizes that knowledge is best internalized through social learning and community experience, which is highly relevant to rural and underserved groups.

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From a policy perspective, NEP 2020 positions digital knowledge and lifelong learning at the center of India's education reforms. It encourages multilingual digital content, teacher training, and flexible learning platforms, aligning with KM principles (Ministry of Education, 2020). Programs like PMGDISHA, SWAYAM, DIKSHA, ONDC, and UPI are recognized by Rao & Sahoo (2022) as practical manifestations of knowledge democratization, enabling individuals to access education, digital payments, and entrepreneurship opportunities with minimal barriers.

However, Banerjee (2023) warns that technology-led empowerment fails when knowledge systems are not localized or culturally aligned. He stresses the need for community-driven, peer-led digital learning ecosystems, which resonate strongly with the KM-based empowerment framework adopted in this study.

Knowledge Management as a Strategic Enabler

Knowledge Management (KM) is not merely about storing information — it is a strategic process of creating, organizing, sharing, and applying knowledge to improve decision-making and capability building. When applied to digital inclusion, KM ensures that information is transformed into empowerment, particularly for youth and marginalized groups.

The core functions of KM relevant to digital empowerment are:

KM Function	Role in Empowerment
Knowledge Creation	**Development of localized, need-based learning resources**
Knowledge Storage	**Digital repositories, community knowledge libraries**
Knowledge Sharing	**Peer-to-peer platforms, WhatsApp learning, rural knowledge ambassadors**
Knowledge Utilization	**Job readiness, entrepreneurship, financial decision-making**

Unlike traditional ICT projects, KM ensures sustainability by enabling continuous learning, collective intelligence, and lifelong skill development, rather than one-time access to technology.

Policy and Case-Based Analysis (India Focus)

India has taken significant steps to bridge the digital divide through KM-centric policy frameworks:

1 Digital India (2015)

A flagship mission to transform India into a knowledge-based, digital service-driven economy. Key pillars include Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen, Digital Literacy, and Digital Governance.

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2 National Education Policy (NEP 2020)

NEP 2020 emphasizes digital pedagogy, multilingual e-learning, knowledge hubs, and teacher capacity enhancement — aligning directly with knowledge management and lifelong learning.

3 PMGDISHA — Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

A mass-scale digital literacy initiative aimed to train 60 million rural citizens. The program promotes knowledge sharing at the grassroots by training local digital mentors.

4 SWAYAM and DIKSHA Platforms

Government e-learning platforms providing free, multilingual, curriculum-aligned knowledge resources accessible anytime — a major step in knowledge democratization.

5 ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)

A revolutionary move to decentralize e-commerce, enabling micro-entrepreneurs and marginalized rural sellers to participate in digital trade and knowledge-driven market access.

6 UPI and Financial Inclusion

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has redefined financial empowerment, allowing even illiterate users to perform cashless transactions via voice and QR codes, facilitating knowledge-based economic participation.

These cases prove that access alone is not sufficient — knowledge systems must be built to ensure adoption, trust, and active participation.

5. KM Framework for Youth & Marginalized Empowerment (Elaborated)

A Knowledge Management (KM)–driven empowerment model ensures that digital access is successfully converted into digital capability, confidence, and contribution. Rather than treating technology as the end goal, this framework emphasizes knowledge creation, sharing, and utilization at the grassroots level.

The framework can be conceptualized as a six-stage cyclical model:

Step 1: Digital Access (Infrastructure Foundation)

- Ensuring availability of internet, smartphones, public Wi-Fi, digital service centers
- Government initiatives like Bharat Net and Digital Seva Kendra's act as enablers

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- But access alone does not ensure empowerment — it is only the starting point

Step 2: Digital Literacy (Awareness & Basic Skills)

- Users are introduced to how to use digital tools, smartphones, UPI, e-learning apps
- PMGDISHA is a powerful example of this level — but it must evolve beyond basic awareness
- Knowledge must be made relevant to their daily life needs and economic context.

Step 3: Knowledge Enablement (Contextual & Multilingual Learning)

- Knowledge Management begins strongly here
- Creation of localized, need-based, mother-tongue digital content
- Voice-based and AI-powered platforms help semi-literate and rural learners
- Knowledge shifts from "technology use" to "technology purpose"

Step 4: Knowledge Sharing Ecosystem (Community Empowerment Layer)

- Formation of peer-learning circles, community workshops, youth KM ambassadors
- Knowledge no longer flows top-down, but horizontally among trusted community groups
- Builds digital confidence and collective upliftment instead of individual capability alone

Step 5: Knowledge Utilization (Employment, Entrepreneurship & Social Benefit)

- At this stage, the individual begins to apply digital knowledge for real outcome
  - Earning through ONDC & digital startups
  - Accessing scholarships, government schemes, telemedicine
  - Using UPI for business rather than just transactions
- Digital participation replaces passive access

Step 6: Sustainable Knowledge Culture (Long-Term Community Transformation)

- The system matures into a self-sustaining knowledge-sharing ecosystem
- Youth become local trainers and digital innovators, enabling intergenerational impact

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- This marks the transition from digital inclusion to digital empowerment

Discussion and Implications

From a strategic perspective, bridging the digital divide is not only about providing internet access — it is about enabling digital competence, confidence, and contribution. Many rural and marginalized individuals receive access but lack guidance, mentorship, and relevant knowledge pathways to convert access into meaningful outcomes.

Role of Knowledge Management (KM) in this context:

- KM translates digital infrastructure into human capability.
- KM frameworks ensure sustainable learning, not one-time training.
- KM enables peer-led, community-driven knowledge ecosystems — rather than top-down delivery.
- KM also localizes and contextualizes knowledge, solving language and cultural barriers.
- KM prepares youth for future careers and entrepreneurship, not just digital literacy.

The real success of Digital India and NEP 2020 will depend on how well KM principles are integrated into execution — especially in schools, rural innovation hubs, skilling centres, and local governance models.

Discussion and Implications

The analysis of India's digital inclusion efforts reveals that the primary barrier is no longer infrastructure, but the intelligent and inclusive use of technology. Access to the internet and devices has improved significantly due to Digital India, yet digital inequality persists in the form of knowledge gaps, awareness gaps, language barriers, and digital confidence issues.

A critical insight is that technology alone does not guarantee empowerment — knowledge does. Individuals from marginalized backgrounds may have access to mobile phones, but remain passive users rather than active digital contributors, due to lack of structured knowledge pathways, mentorship, or relevance to livelihood needs.

This is where Knowledge Management (KM) becomes transformative. It ensures that digital exposure is converted into digital capability, by enabling:

- Localized, culturally relevant, multilingual digital knowledge systems
- Peer-to-peer knowledge networks rather than top-down training
- Knowledge retention and continuous learning instead of one-time awareness programs

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- Community ownership of digital ecosystems — shifting from dependence to empowerment

Implication for policymakers:
Digital transformation initiatives must integrate KM frameworks to ensure knowledge creation, knowledge sharing, and knowledge utilization at the grassroots level — not merely the provision of infrastructure or apps.

Findings and Strategic Recommendations.

- India's digital divide is now a knowledge divide, not merely an access divide.
- Youth are digitally aware but not digitally empowered — due to fragmentation of guidance and purpose.
- Women and rural citizens rely more on trust-based, community-led learning than formal systems.
- Existing government schemes are strong, but lack ongoing knowledge reinforcement and local champions.
- Digital inclusion must move from consumption-based access to participation-driven empowerment.

Strategic Recommendations:

- Establish Knowledge Management Cells in colleges and Panchayats for community learning, digital support, and job-ready awareness.
- Appoint & train "Digital Knowledge Ambassadors" — youth leaders who act as local trainers, mentors, and digital translators.
- AI-powered multilingual knowledge platforms (voice + local language learning tools for semi-literate users).
- Integrate KM modules into NEP 2020 skill-based education — practical, should include knowledge sharing + digital collaboration, not just digital theory.
- Leverage ONDC and UPI to promote digital entrepreneurship among women SHGs, micro-businesses, and local youth entrepreneurs.
- Shift from one-time digital literacy workshops to continuous, structured knowledge ecosystems that evolve with time and technology.

Conclusion

The future of digital India depends not just on how many people are connected, but on how meaningfully they are empowered through knowledge. Bridging the digital divide is therefore not a technology challenge — but a knowledge transformation challenge. This paper argues that Knowledge Management is the missing catalyst that

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transforms digital infrastructure into real empowerment, economic participation, innovation, and future-ready citizenship.

By integrating KM with Digital India, NEP 2020, PMGDISHA, ONDC, SWAYAM, DIKSHA, and UPI, India can create a sustainable, inclusive, and knowledge-driven socio-digital ecosystem that leaves no youth or marginalized community behind. In short — Access creates potential. But Knowledge Management converts that potential into power. This is the decisive step India must now prioritize to turn the digital divide into a digital dividend for national transformation.

Findings and Strategic Recommendations

Key Findings:

- The digital divide is not purely infrastructural, but deeply knowledge-based.
- Government initiatives are strong — but their success depends on KM-based adoption models.
- Youth empowerment requires dynamic, multilingual, and action-oriented knowledge ecosystems.
- ONDC, UPI, DIKSHA, SWAYAM prove that India is moving from digital access to digital participation.

Strategic Recommendations:

- Establish Community Knowledge Hubs in Panchayats / Schools for lifelong learning.
- Implement AI-based personalized knowledge platforms in local languages.
- Train rural "Digital Knowledge Ambassadors" (peer youth leaders).
- Integrate NEP 2020 + KM frameworks into college learning practices.
- Encourage public-private KM-led collaborations (EdTech, CSR, universities).
- Promote women-first digital inclusion models (UPI, ONDC, leadership programs)

Conclusion

India stands at a historic turning point where digital transformation must evolve into knowledge transformation. While the digital divide is a challenge, it also represents a powerful opportunity to redefine inclusivity, innovation, and national development.

Knowledge Management offers the missing bridge — connecting digital access to skills, confidence, entrepreneurship, and empowerment. By aligning Digital India, NEP 2020, and grassroots KM ecosystems, India

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can create a future-ready youth population and uplift its most marginalized citizens — transforming the digital divide into a digital dividend.

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TRANSFORMING KINSHIP NORMS THROUGH WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

Women's participation in local governance through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India has not only enhanced democratic inclusion but also catalyzed subtle yet significant shifts in traditional kinship and gender norms. This paper explores how the entry of women into grassroots political structures—often shaped by patriarchal kinship hierarchies—has initiated transformations in family relations, decision-making patterns, and social perceptions of women's roles. Drawing upon sociological perspectives, policy frameworks, and empirical evidence from rural India, the study argues that women's representation in PRIs functions as a critical site for renegotiating gendered power within both the domestic and public spheres.

Keywords: Panchayati Raj, gender empowerment, kinship, social transformation, women's leadership, local governance

1. Introduction

Kinship systems in India have historically structured power relations, inheritance, and social status along patriarchal lines. Women's identities have often been defined in relation to their roles as daughters, wives, or mothers, limiting their agency in public decision-making. However, the institutionalization of political decentralization through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992)**, which reserved one-third (and later fifty percent in many states) of seats for women in PRIs, has opened a new arena for challenging and transforming these entrenched norms.

This article examines the evolving relationship between kinship and governance, focusing on how women's participation in PRIs has initiated a process of social transformation that redefines gender relations and redistributes authority within families and communities.

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2. Conceptual Framework

Kinship norms dictate social relationships, authority structures, and access to resources. Within patriarchal kinship systems, men traditionally hold decision-making power, while women's roles are confined to domestic responsibilities. Feminist sociologists such as **Leela Dube (1997)** and **Patricia Uberoi (2006)** emphasize that kinship is not static but continuously reshaped through socio-economic and political change.

The **political empowerment of women** through PRIs offers an institutional mechanism to contest patriarchal authority. As **Nira Yuval-Davis (1997)** notes, women's participation in governance redefines the boundaries between private and public domains, thereby unsettling established kinship hierarchies.

3. Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions

The introduction of **reservations for women** in PRIs marked a significant milestone in democratic decentralization and gender justice. Over one million women now serve as elected representatives across India's villages, blocks, and districts. This participation extends beyond symbolic representation it reconfigures everyday practices of power.

Women sarpanches and panchayat members, once marginalized by male-dominated kinship systems, are increasingly asserting authority in public decision-making. The shift from "proxy" leadership where male relatives acted on behalf of women—to genuine participation illustrates an ongoing negotiation between traditional familial expectations and emerging political identities.

4. Transforming Kinship Relations

Women's political engagement has generated multiple shifts within kinship dynamics:

a. Redefining Family Authority

Elected women often experience greater respect within their households. Decision-making is no longer exclusively patriarchal, as political experience strengthens women's voice in domestic and community matters.

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b. Challenging the Public–Private Divide

Kinship systems traditionally confined women to the private sphere. Participation in PRIs enables them to traverse these boundaries, altering perceptions of women's 'place' in society. This new visibility has inspired younger generations to view political participation as compatible with family life.

c. Negotiating Support and Resistance

While some kinship networks provide crucial emotional and logistical support to women leaders, others resist this transformation. Husbands or male relatives sometimes attempt to control decision-making processes, a phenomenon termed **"Sarpanch Pati syndrome."** However, exposure to governance processes and state-led capacity-building programs increasingly empowers women to assert autonomy.

d. Creating New Social Networks

Through their political work, women develop alliances beyond their natal or marital kin, such as with self-help groups (SHGs), NGOs, and local bureaucrats. These **"new kinships of governance"** foster solidarity and mutual learning, weakening the exclusivity of traditional kin-based hierarchies.

5. Empirical Evidence and Case Illustrations

Studies from states like **Kerala, Rajasthan, and Bihar** reveal diverse trajectories of transformation:

- In **Kerala**, women leaders have leveraged decentralized planning to prioritize health and education, gaining social recognition that transcends kinship boundaries.
- In **Rajasthan**, despite initial resistance, women sarpanches have redefined village leadership roles, often mediating conflicts and advocating for gender-sensitive policies.
- In **Bihar**, reserved seats have allowed women from marginalized castes to enter public institutions, breaking both caste and gender barriers entrenched in kinship systems.

Field studies show that over time, the perception of women's leadership shifts from novelty to legitimacy, suggesting a gradual but enduring change in social attitudes.

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6. Policy Implications

To sustain and deepen these transformations, policies must:

- Strengthen **capacity-building programs** for elected women to enhance their governance skills.
- Encourage **gender-sensitive institutional reforms** that reduce male proxy interference.
- Foster **collective platforms** such as federations of women panchayat leaders to amplify voices.
- Integrate **gender education** within rural development programs to sensitize men and kinship networks.

7. Conclusion

Women's participation in PRIs is not merely a political reform—it is a **social revolution in progress**. By entering the public sphere and exercising authority within community structures, women are gradually dismantling patriarchal kinship norms and redefining power relations within families and society. The transformation is complex and uneven, but its direction is unmistakably toward greater equality and inclusion.

The evolving experiences of women in PRIs demonstrate that political empowerment, when combined with social awareness and institutional support, can reconfigure the very foundations of kinship and gender in rural India.

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An Empirical Analysis of Grape Growers' Perception and Adoption of Digital Marketing Tools Using Secondary Data

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Abstract

This study explores the perception and adoption of digital marketing tools by grape growers through an empirical analysis of secondary data collected from existing surveys, reports, and academic literature related to agricultural marketing technologies. The research focuses on understanding grape growers' awareness, usage patterns, and the socio-economic and technological factors influencing their adoption of digital marketing platforms. Analysis of secondary sources reveals that while there is growing recognition of the benefits of digital marketing, actual adoption varies significantly across regions and is influenced by factors such as education level, farm size, internet accessibility, and digital literacy. Common barriers identified include limited technical knowledge and concerns about trust and security in online transactions. The study highlights the potential of digital marketing tools to enhance market reach and profitability for grape growers and provides recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to improve adoption through targeted capacity building and infrastructure development.

Keywords: Digital Marketing Tools, Grape Growers, Adoption Behavior, Digital Literacy, Capacity Building

Introduction

The agricultural sector is witnessing a significant transformation with the integration of digital technologies that offer new avenues for marketing and selling produce. Among these, digital marketing tools such as social media

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platforms, e-commerce websites, mobile applications, and online advertising have emerged as vital channels for farmers to expand market access, improve profitability, and reduce reliance on traditional intermediaries. This shift is particularly important for grape growers, who operate in a highly competitive and volatile market environment.

Grape cultivation holds considerable economic importance in various regions globally, including parts of India, Europe, and the Americas. Despite its prominence, grape growers often encounter challenges like price fluctuations, limited direct access to buyers, and dependency on middlemen. Digital marketing tools can mitigate some of these issues by facilitating direct engagement with consumers, enabling real-time market information sharing, and offering cost-effective promotional platforms. However, the extent of adoption of such tools among grape growers varies widely due to diverse socio-economic and technological factors.

This study aims to explore the perception and adoption of digital marketing technologies by grape growers through an empirical analysis of secondary data sourced from existing surveys, government reports, and academic literature focused on agricultural marketing technologies. The analysis seeks to understand grape growers' awareness and usage patterns of digital marketing platforms and the factors influencing their adoption decisions. Key factors considered include education level, farm size, internet accessibility, and digital literacy.

Findings from the secondary data analysis indicate a growing recognition among grape growers of the benefits associated with digital marketing, such as expanded market reach and increased sales potential. Nonetheless, actual adoption rates vary significantly across different regions. The study identifies several barriers that inhibit adoption, including limited technical knowledge, digital literacy gaps, and concerns related to trust and security in online transactions.

The insights gained from this research underscore the need for targeted interventions by policymakers, agricultural extension agencies, and technology providers. Efforts focused on capacity building, improving digital infrastructure, and enhancing trust in digital platforms are crucial to support grape growers in effectively leveraging digital marketing tools. Ultimately, such measures can contribute to greater economic sustainability and competitiveness for grape growers in the evolving agricultural marketplace.

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Review of Literature

Waluyo (2024): Emphasizes that agribusiness must rapidly adapt to evolving market demands by leveraging digital technologies such as social media, e-commerce, and mobile applications to enhance product visibility and market access.

Zghurska et al. (2023): Identify optimal digital marketing tools for agriculture, highlighting their role in communication, market analysis, and consumer engagement.

Jensen et al. (2022): Demonstrate how blockchain technology improves transparency and traceability in agricultural supply chains, strengthening consumer trust and supporting direct-to-consumer marketing for grape growers.

Das and Rao (2021): Discuss the use of AI and predictive analytics in optimizing pricing, forecasting demand, and enabling data-driven, personalized marketing strategies that enhance profitability and reduce market risks.

Chaffey (2020): Provides a comprehensive framework for developing and implementing digital marketing strategies that enhance customer engagement through SEO, social media, content, and email marketing. For grape farmers, these strategies support brand building, targeted promotion, and customer retention, while emphasizing the need for continuous adaptation in a dynamic digital environment.

Kotler and Keller (2019): Outline key marketing principles such as segmentation, positioning, and the marketing mix that guide sustainable growth. Their insights help grape farmers position products effectively, analyze consumer behavior, and leverage digital tools to meet evolving market demands and maximize profitability.

Patel (2018): Highlights how grape farmers use social media strategies such as influencer collaborations, content marketing, and targeted ads to boost visibility and sales. Visual storytelling and customer testimonials on platforms like Instagram and YouTube enhance brand engagement, while paid promotions enable precise audience targeting and higher profitability. **Kamani et al. (2016):** Emphasize the untapped potential of social media for smallholder farmers, noting that online networks provide powerful tools for information exchange and connectivity. Their study underscores the importance of understanding social media usage to improve digital platforms and develop innovative applications for agricultural communication.

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Research Gap

Despite growing recognition of digital marketing in agriculture, research specifically examining grape growers' perceptions and adoption of these tools remains limited. Existing studies often address agricultural marketing broadly, overlooking the unique socio-economic and technological factors influencing grape growers' behavior. While secondary data indicate regional differences in adoption, empirical evidence on factors such as education, farm size, internet access, and digital literacy is scarce. Moreover, the regional nuances of barriers like limited technical knowledge and trust or security concerns are underexplored, and targeted recommendations for capacity building and infrastructure development are lacking. This study fills these gaps by synthesizing secondary data on grape growers, highlighting regional and socio-economic disparities, and offering actionable insights to enhance digital marketing adoption in the grape-growing sector.

Research Objectives

1. To assess grape growers' awareness and perception of digital marketing tools in agricultural marketing.
2. To examine the socio-economic and technological factors (such as education level, farm size, internet accessibility, and digital literacy) influencing the adoption of digital marketing tools by grape growers.
3. To identify the key barriers, including limited technical knowledge and trust/security concerns, that hinder grape growers from fully adopting digital marketing platforms.

Methodology

This study will adopt a descriptive and analytical research design based on secondary data to understand grape growers' awareness, perceptions, adoption patterns, and influencing factors related to digital marketing tools.

Grape Growers' Awareness and Perception Towards Digital Marketin

Awareness

• Awareness of digital marketing tools among grape growers varies by region, education, and technology access.

• Commonly known platforms include Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, online marketplaces, and agricultural apps.

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• Most growers learn about these tools through extension programs, peers, or media but lack full functional understanding.

• Awareness is higher among younger, educated farmers and those with better internet access.

Perception

• Overall perception is positive but cautious.

• Growers view digital marketing as a means to expand markets, reduce intermediaries, and secure better prices.

• They value direct buyer communication and real-time market updates.

• Barriers include limited technical skills, trust and security concerns, and fear of fraud or misinformation.

• Skepticism exists about internet reliability and digital marketing's effectiveness in rural markets.

• Perceptions are influenced by exposure, community experiences, and support from extension services.

Socio-Economic and Technological Factors

Socio-Economic Factors

1. **Education Level:** Higher education increases digital marketing adoption as educated farmers better understand and use these tools.
2. **Farm Size:** Larger farms adopt more due to greater resources, though small farmers can benefit with proper access and training.
3. **Income Levels:** Higher-income farmers are more likely to invest in smartphones, internet, and training needed for digital marketing.
4. **Social Networks**: Membership in cooperatives or FPOs promotes adoption through shared knowledge and resources.

Technological Factors

1. **Internet Accessibility:** Reliable connectivity is essential, but rural areas often face inconsistent access.
2. **Digital Literacy:** Limited skills in using smartphones and online platforms hinder adoption.
3. **Infrastructure and Support:** Training programs and extension services are vital for guiding farmers in using digital tools.

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Key Barriers to Digital Marketing Adoption Among Grape Growers

- **Limited Digital Literacy:** Many farmers lack the skills to use digital platforms, hindering effective engagement in online marketing.
- **Trust and Security Concerns:** Fear of fraud and unreliable transactions makes farmers prefer traditional marketing methods.
- **Inadequate Internet Connectivity:** Poor rural connectivity restricts access to online markets and real-time communication.
- **High Costs of Digital Tools:** Expenses for smartphones, data, and digital services deter small-scale farmers.
- **Resistance to Change:** Preference for traditional practices and fear of complexity slow technology adoption.
- **Lack of Awareness and Training:** Limited knowledge and training prevent farmers from recognizing and using digital marketing opportunities.

Conclusion

The study finds that grape growers display varying awareness and perception of digital marketing tools, with many recognizing their potential for improved market access and pricing but lacking full understanding particularly among small-scale and less-educated farmers. Adoption is higher in technologically advanced regions like Karnataka and Maharashtra, driven by better connectivity, digital literacy, and supportive local initiatives, while weaker infrastructure limits uptake elsewhere. Key adoption factors include education, farm size, internet access, and participation in cooperatives or FPOs. Major barriers remain such as limited technical skills, low trust in online transactions, poor connectivity, financial constraints, and resistance to traditional practices. Strengthening digital literacy, infrastructure, and financial and trust-support mechanisms can enhance adoption, improve profitability, and promote sustainable agricultural development.

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PROBLEMS FACED BY DALIT WOMEN IN INDIA: A REVIEW OF INTERSECTIONALITY AND DISCRIMINATION

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Abstract

Dalit women in India occupy a unique and marginalized position, facing a "triple burden" of discrimination rooted in their caste, gender, and economic status. This review article synthesizes existing literature to examine the multifaceted problems encountered by Dalit women, emphasizing the concept of intersectionality. It explores persistent issues across social, economic, political, and legal spheres, including endemic violence, denial of fundamental resources, and systemic impunity. The review argues that the experiences of Dalit women cannot be adequately understood or addressed through siloed approaches to caste or gender alone, underscoring the urgent need for a cohesive, intersectional framework in policy, academia, and activism.

Keywords: triple burden, discrimination, caste, gender, economic status, synthesize, literature, examine, multifaceted problems, encountered, Dalit women,

Introduction

The Indian social structure, historically defined by the hierarchical caste system, places the Dalit community—formerly deemed "Untouchables"—at the very bottom. Within this marginalized community, **Dalit women** face compounded oppression. They are subject to discrimination not only as Dalits by the dominant castes but also as women by the patriarchal norms prevalent in the broader society and often within their own community. The concept of **intersectionality**, coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, is crucial for understanding the distinct experiences of Dalit women. It recognizes that their oppression is not simply the sum of caste-based discrimination and gender-based discrimination, but a unique, multiplicative form of subjugation that leads to specific and severe vulnerabilities. This review seeks to systematically analyze the key challenges confronting Dalit women in India, drawing from academic literature, human rights reports, and socio-legal studies.

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Review of Literature

The review of literature in this article is **implicit** in its structure and explicit in its foundational concepts and sources.

Aspect of RoL	**Description from the Article**
Core Theoretical Framework	The article is entirely grounded in the concept of **"intersectionality,"** coined by **Kimberlé Crenshaw**. This framework is used to define the unique **"triple burden"** of oppression (caste, gender, and economic status) faced by Dalit women.
Key Thematic Areas	The literature reviewed focuses on four main areas of existing research: **Social Exclusion** (purity and pollution, spatial segregation, denial of public resources); **Economic Vulnerability** (landless labour, debt bondage, wage discrimination); **Violence and Impunity** (rape as caste domination, Devadasi/Jogini system, police complicity, low conviction rates); and **Barriers to Human Development** (education, health, political participation).
Sources Cited	The review draws from a broad range of scholarly and advocacy materials, explicitly mentioning: **academic literature, human rights reports, and socio-legal studies**.
Central Argument	The RoL establishes that the problems of Dalit women are **"distinct and unique"** and cannot be addressed through siloed approaches to caste or gender, justifying the need for the article itself.

The Intersection of Caste and Gender: A Distinct Form of Oppression

Dalit women are considered among the most disadvantaged groups globally. Their identity is inextricably linked to the notion of **"purity and pollution"**—a Brahmanical obsession that historically relegated them to the most

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demeaning and 'polluting' occupations, such as manual scavenging (a role disproportionately performed by Dalit women).

This intersectionality manifests in the following ways:

- **Social Exclusion:** Dalit women are often spatially segregated, living in distinct hamlets or slums that lack basic civic amenities like water and sanitation. They are commonly denied access to public resources like wells, temples, and even footpaths in non-Dalit areas.
- **Economic Vulnerability:** The vast majority are landless wage labourers and are often trapped in debt bondage or modern slavery in sectors like agriculture, brick kilns, and garment industries. They are typically paid lower wages than both dominant-caste women and Dalit men for the same work.

Endemic Violence and the Crisis of Impunity

Violence against Dalit women is a pervasive mechanism of social control used by dominant castes to maintain their supremacy and punish entire Dalit communities for asserting their rights. The forms of violence are severe and often public:

- **Sexual Violence and Rape:** Rape of Dalit women is frequently documented not merely as a crime of passion but as a deliberate tool of **caste domination** and humiliation. Studies indicate an alarming rate of sexual assault, often tied to disputes over land, resources, or attempts by Dalit men to challenge the caste hierarchy.
- **Physical and Verbal Abuse:** They routinely face physical assault, threats, and degrading verbal abuse in public spaces and workplaces for attempting to utilize their constitutional rights or access public services.
- **Ritualistic Exploitation:** Abhorrent social and religious practices, such as the **Devadasi/Jogini system** (temple prostitution), still exist in some areas, forcing Dalit girls into sexual exploitation in the name of religious custom.

A key aggravating factor is the persistent **crisis of impunity**. Data suggests a significantly lower conviction rate for crimes against Dalit women compared to general rape cases. The justice system often fails them due to:

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- **Police Complicity:** Refusal to register First Information Reports (FIRs), delays in investigation, and even instances of police personnel threatening or assaulting the victims.
- **Judicial Bias:** Societal prejudices often permeate the judiciary, leading to a questioning of the victim's character and integrity rather than focusing on the crime and the caste-based motivation.

Barriers in Human Development and Rights

The discrimination faced by Dalit women severely limits their access to fundamental human rights and development opportunities:

- **Education:** While literacy rates have improved, Dalit girls face multiple hurdles, including financial strain, domestic responsibilities, early marriage, and bullying or discrimination even within educational institutions, leading to higher dropout rates, particularly in higher education.
- **Health:** They face acute discrimination in accessing healthcare, especially **maternal health services**, leading to poorer health indicators compared to non-Dalit women. They are often subject to medical negligence and neglect in hospitals and clinics.
- **Political Participation:** Despite constitutional reservations in local governance (Panchayats), Dalit women elected as representatives often face patriarchal and caste-based backlash, pressure, and violence, being denied the power and respect commensurate with their office.

Research Methodology

The methodology of the provided article is a **Systematic Review** or **Literature Review**

Component	**Description**
Research Type	**Review Article/Secondary Research.** The study does not involve fieldwork, surveys, or interviews.

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Component	Description
Objective	To **systematically analyze** (synthesize, examine, and discuss) the **key challenges** confronting Dalit women in India.
Data Sources	**Academic literature, human rights reports, and socio-legal studies** (existing published data and analyses).
Analytical Tool	**Intersectionality** (Caste $\times$ Gender $\times$ Class). This framework is the lens used to categorize and interpret the findings from the existing literature.
Unit of Analysis	The **experiences and vulnerabilities of Dalit women** as discussed in the existing body of scholarly and legal work.

Findings

The article's findings are the synthesis of the challenges identified through the review of the existing literature.

Category	Specific Findings
Intersectionality and Social Status	Dalit women face a **"triple burden"** of discrimination. Their identity is linked to the **"purity and pollution"** concept, relegating them to menial, 'polluting' occupations like **manual scavenging**.
Socio-Economic Barriers	They experience acute **social exclusion** (segregated living, denial of access to public resources like wells/temples). The majority are **landless wage labourers** facing **economic vulnerability** (debt bondage, modern slavery, wage discrimination against both dominant-caste women and Dalit men).

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Category	Specific Findings
Violence and Justice	**Sexual violence and rape** are used as a deliberate tool of **caste domination** and humiliation. They face **ritualistic exploitation** through practices like the **Devadasi/Jogini system**.
Crisis of Impunity	A low conviction rate exists for crimes against them. The justice system is compromised by **police complicity** (refusal/delay of FIRs) and **judicial bias** (questioning the victim's character).
Human Development & Rights	**Education:** High dropout rates due to financial strain, domestic duties, early marriage, and discrimination within institutions. **Health:** Acute discrimination in accessing healthcare, leading to poorer maternal health outcomes. **Political Participation:** Dalit women elected to Panchayats face **caste-based backlash** and are often denied genuine authority.

Conclusion and Way Forward

The challenges faced by Dalit women in India are a stark reflection of a deeply unequal society where caste and gender intersect to produce profound forms of injustice. The review highlights that the "triple burden" of caste, gender, and class makes their problems distinct from those of Dalit men or dominant-caste women, demanding an **intersectional approach** to both analysis and action.

To effectively address this issue, a multi-pronged strategy is necessary:

1. **Strengthening Legal Enforcement:** Rigorous and unbiased implementation of existing laws like the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, and swift, fair trials to dismantle the culture of impunity.

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2. **Socio-Economic Empowerment:** Focused policies to ensure Dalit women's **land ownership**, provide better employment opportunities, and ensure equitable access to quality education and healthcare.
3. **Challenging Patriarchy within:** Initiatives to address gender discrimination and domestic violence within the Dalit community itself, alongside the external struggle against dominant-caste oppression.
4. **Promoting Dalit Feminist Narratives:** Amplifying the voices and agency of Dalit women's activism and literature, which offer a counter-narrative and standpoint theory essential for structural change.

The upliftment of Dalit women is not merely a social welfare issue but a foundational prerequisite for realizing the ideals of justice, equality, and human dignity enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

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The Role of Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) in Financing Horticulture Development: An Impact Assessment and Policy Review

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Abstract

Horticulture, encompassing fruits, vegetables, flowers, and plantation crops, is vital for India's agricultural diversification, nutritional security, and export earnings. However, its capital-intensive nature necessitates robust, long-term credit support, a need traditionally met by the **Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs)**. This paper examines the critical role of PCARDBs, which are specialized institutions within the cooperative long-term credit structure, in financing horticulture development. Utilizing a mixed-method review of socio-economic and performance data, the study assesses the **scale, impact, and structural challenges** of their lending activities. Findings indicate that PCARDB long-term investment credit has a significant **positive correlation with increased farm income, enhanced productivity (e.g., through minor irrigation and farm mechanization), and crop diversification**. However, constraints such as **high Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), procedural delays, and weak capital bases** limit their full potential. The paper recommends policy reforms focused on strengthening their financial autonomy, simplifying loan procedures, and leveraging refinance support from NABARD to fully harness their grassroots potential for sustained horticultural growth.

Keywords: Scale, Impact, Structural Challenges, Activities, Investment Credit,

1. Introduction

The Indian agricultural landscape is rapidly shifting, with **horticulture emerging as a high-value, high-growth sector** that now surpasses food grains in contribution to Gross Value Added (GVA). This transition requires substantial investment in durable farm assets, such as irrigation systems, planting material, protective cultivation structures (e.g., polyhouses), and processing/storage units.

The institutional framework for agricultural credit in India is multi-tiered. Specifically, **PCARDBs** operate at the grassroots (Taluka/Block) level to provide **long-term investment credit** for agriculture and allied activities.

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Initially established as Land Development Banks (LDBs), their mandate has broadened to include diversified schemes, placing them at the forefront of financing capital-intensive sectors like horticulture. This study, therefore, is crucial for understanding how this specialized cooperative structure is facilitating the nation's horticultural revolution.

2. Theoretical Framework and Review of Literature

2.1 The Long-Term Cooperative Credit Structure

PCARDBs form the base tier of the Long-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS), supported by the State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (SCARDB) at the apex level, with refinancing provided by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**. Unlike Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) which focus on short-term production credit, PCARDBs specialize in **investment credit** with repayment periods often exceeding five years.

2.2 Horticulture as Investment Credit

Academic literature broadly classifies financing for new orchards, plantation development, drip irrigation, and cold storage units as *development credit* or *investment credit*. Previous studies (e.g., Shanmugharaj, 2005; Narayana, 2013) confirm that PCARDBs finance a range of productive purposes, including **Horticulture and Plantation Crops**, often against the mortgage of land. Research in various Indian states (e.g., Karnataka, Gujarat) consistently shows that such credit has a **positive and significant impact** on the post-loan production and net income of beneficiaries by facilitating the adoption of modern technology.

2.3 Gaps and Challenges

However, the literature also identifies key impediments, including **procedural delays, inadequate sanction amounts (vis-à-vis market value), weak capital bases, and high Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)**, which collectively restrict the timely and sufficient flow of credit, a critical factor for successful horticulture projects. The present study seeks to synthesize these documented challenges specifically within the context of horticultural financing.

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3. Methodology

This paper employs a **Systematic Qualitative Review** methodology, drawing on secondary data and published literature.

1. **Data Sources:** Reports from NABARD (Potential Linked Credit Plans-PLP, State Focus Papers-SFP), Annual Reports of State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks, Government of India policy documents, and academic research articles from international and national journals (2010–2024).
2. **Focus of Review:** The review specifically targeted evidence of **scheme coverage** (minor irrigation, diversified schemes like horticulture/plantation), **financial performance indicators** (loan disbursement growth, recovery rates, NPAs), and **qualitative impact** (farm income, diversification trends).
3. **Analytical Approach:** The data and findings were synthesized to assess the contribution of PCARDB credit towards: (a) Capital formation in horticulture, (b) Socio-economic upliftment of the borrowing farmers, and (c) The systemic efficiency of the PCARDB structure itself.

4. Findings and Discussion

4.1 Scale and Reach of Horticulture Financing

PCARDBs demonstrate a clear mandate to finance horticulture. State-specific schemes often include dedicated provisions for the expansion or improvement of horticultural activities, with loan amounts structured to cover costs like establishing new orchards, purchase of modern equipment, or construction of protective structures. The sheer geographical reach of PCARDBs, operating at the sub-district level, ensures that investment credit is accessible even to small and marginal farmers, who are the backbone of the horticulture sector.

4.2 Impact on Farm Productivity and Income

The core finding is the **significant positive impact** of PCARDB long-term loans. Loans for **minor irrigation** (crucial for horticulture) and farm mechanization directly enable farmers to shift from rainfed, low-value crops

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to more profitable, perennial horticultural crops. This transition results in a measurable **increase in cropping intensity, farm yield, and consequently, net farm income** for the beneficiaries. This alignment with NABARD's schematic lending further ensures technical feasibility and economic viability of the projects financed.

4.3 Structural and Financial Constraints

Despite the positive impact, the systemic efficiency of PCARDBs remains constrained by key weaknesses:

- **Weak Capital Base and High NPAs:** A fundamental challenge is the reliance on refinancing (primarily from NABARD) and a weak internal resource base, compounded by persistently **high overdue and NPA levels**. This restricts their ability to lend sufficiently and independently.
- **Procedural Complexity:** The long-term loan process, which requires **land mortgage documentation, verification of assets, and lengthy application scrutiny**, often leads to the **procedural delays** cited by borrowers. This time lag is detrimental to horticulture, where timely planting and investment are crucial.
- **Skill Gaps:** The banks often lack the specialized technical staff required for effective **project appraisal and post-credit monitoring** of complex, high-technology horticulture projects.

5. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

PCARDBs are indispensable institutions for channeling crucial long-term investment credit to the horticulture sector at the grassroots. Their unique cooperative structure allows for targeted, purpose-driven lending that demonstrably improves farm productivity and income. However, to fully realize their potential and align with the national goal of doubling farm income through diversification, significant policy interventions are required.

Recommendations for Policy Action:

1. **Financial Restructuring and NPA Resolution:** Implement an aggressive, time-bound NPA resolution strategy, potentially leveraging government support or NABARD-led asset reconstruction, to clean up balance sheets and enhance lending capacity.

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2. **Digitalization and Procedural Streamlining:** Accelerate the **computerization of PCARDBs**, linking them to the core banking system and online land records to drastically **simplify and expedite the loan application and disbursement process** for horticultural schemes.
3. **Specialized Credit Windows:** Introduce a dedicated, subsidized line of credit for **Horticulture and allied post-harvest infrastructure** (e.g., rural godowns, pack-houses), potentially with concessional refinance from NABARD, specifically for small and marginal farmers.
4. **Capacity Building:** Invest in the training of PCARDB field staff in **project-based lending, technical appraisal of horticulture schemes**, and end-use monitoring to ensure optimal utilization of borrowed funds.

The rejuvenation and strengthening of PCARDBs, particularly in their role as financers of the capital-intensive horticulture sector, is a foundational prerequisite for sustained and equitable rural economic development.

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Consumer Buying Behaviour in Rural Markets of Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG): A Global Perspective

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Abstract:

This paper examines the complex dynamics of **consumer buying behaviour** for **Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCGs)** in **rural markets**. Globally, the rural consumer segment represents a vast, high-potential market, often exhibiting unique characteristics distinct from their urban counterparts. This research synthesizes key literature and empirical findings to delineate the major factors—economic, socio-cultural, psychological, and logistical—that influence rural purchase decisions for FMCGs. The findings highlight the critical roles of **affordability (low unit price/small pack size)**, **trust in local retailers and word-of-mouth**, **brand recognition through visual cues (colour, logo)**, and the growing influence of **digital media**. Furthermore, the study identifies crucial strategic implications for international FMCG marketers seeking sustained growth and deep market penetration in these high-potential regions.

1. Introduction

The Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, encompassing non-durable, frequently purchased items like packaged foods, toiletries, and household products, is a significant contributor to national economies worldwide. While urban markets have historically been the primary focus, the **rural market** has emerged as a critical growth engine, particularly in developing nations like India, China, and parts of Southeast Asia, where a large portion of the population resides in rural areas.

Understanding the unique **consumer buying behaviour** in these rural markets is paramount for achieving sustainable market share. Rural consumers are not simply a lower-income version of urban consumers; they are characterized by distinct socioeconomic profiles, cultural norms, media consumption patterns, and retail

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environments. This article aims to systematically analyse the key determinants of FMCG purchase decisions among rural consumers and provide a framework for successful engagement.

2.Key Determinants of Rural FMCG Buying Behaviour

Rural consumer behaviour is a multi-faceted phenomenon influenced by an interplay of economic, social, cultural, and logistical factors.

2.1. Economic and Financial Factors

The most distinguishing factor in rural consumption is often **price sensitivity** and a cyclical cash flow, which is frequently dependent on agriculture.

- **Affordability and Unit Packs:** Consumers exhibit a strong preference for **small unit packs (sachets)** and **low unit prices**. This preference is driven by daily wage earnings or a need to manage limited cash flow, rather than an overall low income. Marketers must focus on optimal price points and product sizes to ensure daily affordability.
- **Value-Consciousness:** While price-sensitive, the rural consumer is increasingly **value-conscious**, prioritizing *quality* in relation to the price paid. They are often willing to pay a premium for a **branded product** they perceive as guaranteeing consistent quality and authenticity over cheaper, unbranded alternatives.

2.2. Socio-Cultural and Psychological Factors

The decision-making process is deeply embedded in the social structure of the village community.

- **Word-of-Mouth (WOM) and Reference Groups:** Due to lower literacy rates and limited exposure to mass media, **personal sources** (family, friends, neighbours, and opinion leaders like the village elder or teacher) are the most trusted source of product information. WOM marketing is significantly more influential than formal advertising.

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- **Retailer as an Influencer:** The **local shopkeeper (retailer)** acts as a key intermediary, often functioning as an advisor, financier (extending credit), and information source. Their recommendation strongly influences brand choice, especially for new products or in low-involvement categories.
- **Brand Identification:** Due to lower literacy, consumers often identify products not by the written brand name, but by **visual cues** such as the logo, brand colour, and distinct packaging. Marketers must ensure visual distinctiveness and consistency.
- **Trust and Loyalty:** Once a brand's quality is established, rural consumers often display high levels of **brand loyalty** to minimize perceived risk, making initial trials and product acceptance a major challenge for new entrants.

2.3. Logistical and Distribution Factors

Physical constraints dictate purchase behaviour and brand availability.

- **Availability (The "A" in 4A's Model):** This is often the most critical factor. Consumers typically buy from the nearest available source. A product that is not **readily available** on the local shop shelf is a lost sale, irrespective of its perceived quality or price. Poor infrastructure and dispersed populations necessitate robust and innovative distribution models (e.g., direct-to-village distribution, leveraging local women's self-help groups).
- **Stock-up Behaviour:** Purchases are often made in small, frequent quantities, contrasting with the bulk-buying behaviour sometimes seen in urban retail environments. However, cyclical cash flow (post-harvest) can lead to periods of increased purchasing, including stocking up on non-perishables.

3. The Evolving Rural Consumer and Digital Influence

The rural market is rapidly transforming, driven by increasing income, infrastructure development, and penetration of technology.

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- **Rising Digital Awareness:** The proliferation of **mobile phones and internet connectivity** is fundamentally changing the rural information landscape. Digital media and television are increasingly effective channels for creating **brand awareness** and conveying product information, particularly among the younger demographic.
- **Shift to Value-Based Buying:** With rising education and exposure, the purchasing decision is slowly shifting from purely price-based to **value-based**, where utility, quality, and brand image are weighed against cost.
- **E-commerce Potential:** While nascent, **e-commerce** and digital payment platforms are beginning to make inroads, primarily for higher-value goods but eventually influencing FMCG purchasing and brand research.

4. Strategic Implications for FMCG Marketers

To successfully engage the rural consumer, an integrated marketing strategy that respects the unique market dynamics is essential.

4.1. Product and Packaging Strategy

- **Sachet Strategy:** Continue to offer **low-price-point unit packs** to drive trial and ensure affordability.
- **Functional Design:** Use **sturdy, tamper-proof packaging** that communicates product quality through visual elements (colour, logo) more than text.
- **Localization:** Consider product variants tailored to local needs (e.g., larger sizes for joint families, addressing regional tastes/preferences).

4.2. Pricing Strategy

- **Competitive Pricing:** Maintain prices competitive with both local and national brands while ensuring margin viability.

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- **Promotions:** Utilize price-off packs, bundled offers, and schemes that directly benefit the local retailer, who, in turn, promotes the product.

4.3. Communication Strategy

- **Hybrid Media Mix:** Employ a hybrid strategy: leverage **traditional media (TV, Radio, Print)** for mass awareness, **local media (Wall paintings, Folk theatre, Melas)** for deeper penetration, and increasing focus on **digital platforms** for targeted engagement with the youth.
- **Focus on Trust:** Use demonstrations, free samples, and celebrity endorsements (where appropriate) to build trust and reduce perceived risk, which is a major barrier to new product adoption.
- **Retailer Engagement:** Provide ample point-of-sale material and incentives to the retailer to ensure strong advocacy.

5. Conclusion and Future Research

The rural market for FMCGs is characterized by unique buying behaviour governed by economic constraints, strong social influence, and logistical challenges. Success in this market requires a move beyond simply downsizing urban strategies. Instead, it necessitates a deep, localized understanding of the consumer's psycho-social context, a dedication to robust **availability**, and a focus on delivering **perceived value** at an **affordable price point**.

Future research should focus on quantifying the shift in decision-making power due to increased digital penetration, exploring the effectiveness of various sustainable distribution models, and analysing the long-term impact of brand trust and loyalty in the face of rising competition and consumer awareness in a post-pandemic environment.

Keywords: Rural Marketing, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Consumer Behavior, Low Unit Price Packs, Word-of-Mouth, Distribution, Brand Loyalty, Developing Markets.

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CHALLENGES IN TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY AND RISKS IN THE ELDERLY'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

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ABSTRACT:

Today, we are in the modern era with AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered programs. Since the emergence of science and technology to date, it has reached every nook and corner of society, influencing the majority of activities of the people. To make our tasks easy, fast and efficient, various tools and methods will be applied with systematic and scientific knowledge, known as TECHNOLOGY. From dawn to dusk, our daily chores and other works are completely dependent on electrical or electronic gadgets. The potential skills to understand and manage to operate them with minimal knowledge are Technological literacy. It is only after COVID-19, we understood the importance of technology and digitalizing our work. Therefore, this paper tried to explore challenges in accepting the technology among elderly which is the need of the hour, with the increasing aged population. It is important to keep in mind that even they need digital knowledge, because, according to the NSS 2020-21 survey report, just 4.4% of elderly people between the age group of 65-69 were digitally literate as they resist technology, as most of their activities depended on manual skills. Nowadays, most of the transactions like withdrawal of pensions, getting ration from PDS /FPS, and other benefits from the government have become digitalized. At the same time, they are at risk, as they are becoming prey for cybercrimes. Examining the level of digital literacy, the reason behind the resistance, exploring the challenges in the use of technology and risks of digital illiteracy among the aged are the objectives of the study. The Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) theory is applied to justify how the outer factors are responsible for accepting or resisting technology is a challenge and also a risk in the quality of life of aged persons. The study depends on secondary data like government records, journals, newspapers, research articles, books, and so on.

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Keywords: Technological literacy, Challenges, Aged parents, Quality of life, Digitalization.

A. INTRODUCTION:

It was during 1950s, with the advent of computers, the evolution and transformation of digitalization took place. Since then, it is seen many inventions and innovations. Industrialization, Modernization, Urbanization, Digitalization and later Globalization peeped in every corner of the society. Of course, it benefited, but the perceiving factors varied across regions, cultures, and people. It adversely affected people's lives directly. Individuals of all ages become prey distancing themselves, collapsing relationships prioritizing individualism became common among youths and the aged lag in technological updates, creating a gap between generations. Due to the widespread influence of social networks, everything has become commercialized including people's mindsets, thoughts, and beliefs. The advent of telephones was like a new beginning connecting people from faraway places to get in touch with loved ones. Once, letters, telegrams, and posts became new means of connecting people. But the emergence of mobile phones brought an end to all of it. The use of mobile phones with digital inventions made people reduced to texts/ messages for their daily conversations. The togetherness during lunch and dinner was snatched by reels, videos, short videos and so on. And YouTube, televisions took away the discussions, or seeking suggestions or opinions among family members. Virtual marketing and other social media platforms erased the primary contacts between people. The family environment has been changed. The paper has tried to put its work within the framework of SCOT Theory (Social Construction of Technology) to examine the factors that determine the acceptance or rejection of technology by an individual, which cannot be judged by technological factors alone, rather to analyze the external factors like social, economic and cultural influences. Aged persons' perception of accepting or rejecting the technology is not because of technological struggles behind its operation and understanding, but also, very importantly, the socially constructed environment and its outcomes, which risk their quality of life.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW:

1) "The awareness and the usage of digital devices among Senior Citizens- A Study with special reference to Kerala in India" by Nair, Lakshmi Mahesh, Alex, Krishnan (2020), has tried to explain the condition of the elderly in this digitalizing era. India, as a developing country, promotes its people to get updated in all aspects, especially

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technology. But, senior citizens are not able to access online platforms because of technological illiteracy. The study aims at the level of digital utilizations and its struggles, risks among elderly persons.

2) To examine the need of technological aid and to understand the challenges related to adaptation of technology which may become solution for their independence in specific needs of aged persons, like, health care services, old age pensions, and other various services, as a care assistance, says Madhubrota Chatterjee and T S Syamala, in their paper "Ageing in Digital World: Understanding Technological Care Needs among Older Adults in Kolkata, India" (2024). To dig more into the area, the authors took "Technology Acceptance Model" (TAM) and the "Theory of Planned Behaviour" (TPB) as a theoretical background to examine an individual's willingness to adapt himself to the updating technological advancements and its impact on his behaviour. They have used the qualitative research approach by conducting semi-structured interviews on 103 households in Kolkata. They have mentioned that the role of family members and the social system is very crucial in assisting the aged in sustainable well-being.

3) A recent article in an editorial column in one of the well-known Kannada newspapers, Prajavani, dated 8/10/2025 titled "ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರೀಕರ ಯೋಗಕ್ಷೇಮ ಕಳವಳ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಸುವ ಕೊರತೆಗಳು", published based on the survey conducted by Karnataka Senior Citizens's Association, depicts the precarious condition/ plight of the aged people even to get their health benefits properly through "Namma Clininc" because of non-accessibility easily due to the condition laid down as to take appointment online which is not affordable to senior citizens who have no technological knowlegde.

4) The paper "Safe Seniors in Cyber Space: Understanding and Addressing Cyber Threats against Elderly People in India" (2024) by Saurya Sarkar, has investigated the present different patterns in cyber-crimes, particularly on aged persons and their impact. Further explained that, with the improvement in technology in this modern era, the rate of cyber-crimes is also increasing, which needs a prime focus to study. Such crimes are a great threat to privacy, virtually stored sensitive and insensitive data. This makes the aged person's condition even more pathetic. The author also discussed the existing legal framework for their protection and to take measures for a safe cyber space by giving proper training to them.

C. OBJECTIVES:

- To examine the level of digital literacy among aged people.

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- To investigate the reason behind the resistance to using technology.
- To explore the challenges in the use of technology.
- To bring out the problems of digital illiteracy and risks of cybercrimes among the aged.

D. METHODOLOGY:

The study is completely dependent on secondary sources, like, government statistical records, journals, research articles, newspaper articles, and so on. The data were selected according to the needs of the study and which should be more relevant to focus on the prime issues. To meet the objectives of the study, the literature is read and analysed for further reviews. The data has covered all the dimensions irrespective of region, economies and very importantly, the recent previous studies have been chosen to bring out the contemporary facts.

E. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES:

Wiebe Bijker and Trevor Pinch introduced**, "Social Construction of Technology" (SCOT) Theory** in 1984 in one of their article ", The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts: Or How the Sociology of Science and the Sociology of Technology Might Benefit Each Other". The core idea of the theory says that the social and cultural factors of a social environment play a crucial role in the acceptance and rejection of technology by the people. It is not the technology that determines the success or failure in society rather, it is society that shapes its development. Whatever the invention is, they are youths and workforce-centred, but there are very few technologies that are suitable for aged parents, not all as they may fear the risks behind the latest technologies, because of their technological illiteracy.

The SCOT theory can be understood by its core concepts in two stages:

a. 1st stage- Interpretative flexibility-to pave way for alternative solutions
b. 2nd stage- Closure- for alternative inventions.

F. CHALLENGES IN TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY AMONG ELDERLY PERSONS:

From the above discussion, the study has identified few challenges, let us discuss it in detail,

- **Traditional knowledge:**

Due to lack of modern education particularly in rural areas mainly in technological exposure, the technical terms, operating mechanism, updating devices and software, language barriers, non-friendly mechanism may make difficult to handle such technology.

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- **Generation gap:**

  Flynn effect says, along with the advancement of technology overtime, IQ and other intellectual skills changes due to improved methodologies during socialization process for which the aged could not raise their skills on for with the new generations. With every new upgradation in the later generation, the earlier generation lag behind.

- **Lack of access and affordability:**

  India, though, it is a fast growing economy, it has many disparities too. There are huge disparities between regions, class, sex/gender, education and skills. In such a case, accessibility and affordability of technology are a challenge. The differences such as rural and urban, poor and rich, men and women, educated and uneducated, skilled and unskilled has brought hindrances to sustainable development. The urban areas get more sophisticated infrastructures to attract people, whereas rural areas which is one of the backbone of the economy by producing agricultural products, raw material and supplying labours, has been neglected with poor facilities and infrastructure. It is also a known fact that there are gender disparities in schooling/education between male and female among rural mass. Girl child/ women often face negligence, and are the major dropouts from schools engaging on agricultural and domestic works. This disparity has been passed over generation from past few decades, resulting in illiteracy and socio-economic backwardness which is hindering accessibilities and affordability of technology which are the key factors for advancement.

- **Language and usability barrier:**

  It is clear from the above discussion that technological literacy is a challenge to the aged especially in rural areas. Higher the advancements, more the technical vocabulary, lacking which is much more difficult to understand by them and feel more complex and complicated to use it. Nowadays, most of the service providers even the government departments are using digital platforms for IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities in respect of so many schemes. But they are not in a position to cope up with the situation for want of the digital technical language/ knowledge.

- **Lack of motivation from family:**

  Due to their age factor, old people are depending on youths for most of the works, though they feel embarrassed which it is inevitable. In the use of technology, they fear of the failure and scared of risks. So they restrict themselves from being used it, feeling it is not required for them at that age instead of giving trouble to other

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family members. They do not even try to adapt it. These days, adult parents are busy in their own works and young children/youths in their educational attainments who may not find time to educate elderly person technically, keeping the elder person in embarrassing position. In the absence of motivation, encouragement, support, the elderly aged persons being frustrated, loose confidence and avoid using the technology.

- **Socio-cultural concerns:**

In India, with its complex socio-cultural factors, accepting technology is a significant challenge. Because the traditional beliefs, values, and ethics always clash with modern practices. When traditions are deep rooted in people, they assume that modern practices erode their existence. Though we see scientific reasons behind every traditional practice, the blind belief, irrational way of thinking, and narrow-mindedness have resisted using technology. For instance, people opposed blood transfusion as a treatment, thinking it may pollute their birth, IVF treatment was opposed as a sanctity of life. This mind set may pose harm to human kind, if we do not perceive it in a positive, constructive and productive way.

G. RISKS IN TECHNOLOGICAL ILLITERACY AMONG ELDERLY PERSONS:

- **Isolation and loneliness**:

One of the vulnerable section of the society are aged persons who often neglected, excluded, ill-treated, humiliated by their own family members. Once, they were the main pillars of the the family who put their blood and sweat to fulfill all the wishes of the family, but now they are treating like an alien in the family, who took the burden of the family, are being treated as burden to the family. Actually, they need support, and encouragement to overcome their struggles. But, they isolate themselves and feel lonely when left alone.

- **Psychological and emotional impact:**

Aged people are being secluded due to negligent attitude of the younger generation towards aged which causes psychological impact. Their voices remain unheard; they yearn to hear from others to get connected with their family members. Intergenerational solidarity is fading away and social relations are becoming meaningless; even their social participation is also decreasing.

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- **Health risks:**

The usage of latest electronic devices by the elderly people will have adverse effect like loss of vision, memory etc., and other health problems on them due to their age factor. The over use of devices to overcome the loneliness, may leads to addictions, can cause physical inactiveness, sleep disruptions, dietary imbalances.

- **Cybercrimes and threat to personal security**:

Lack of awareness in technological literacy, aged persons often becomes the victims. Nowadays, they were targeted for the scams in money matters like digital arrest in the name of financial investments. The criminals somehow mend them and loot the money, phishing calls and emails, factfully hacking their bank accounts, misusing their e-KYC updation, false voice calls using AI clone voices. They are tactfully pressurized to reveal their personal identity, details which is also a threat to their privacy. Their personal details/ data may be misused to blackmail them to loot them while using the smartphones, due to lack of knowledge. They may loose their personal information without understanding privacy settings which leads to more crimes on elderly persons.

H. CONCLUSION:

Modern inventions/ creations, modern crimes newer the problems. In the recent years, we are witnessing the increase in crimes particularly on the aged people. It was a time when they use to guidance, support us and stood behind us in all our ups and downs, failures and successes, sacrificing their lives to accomplish all our needs based on their knowledge and experience, when there was no advancements in technology. But now, in response to their such a struggle they are neglected and left all alone when they are in need of our help, in assisting them to face their problems due to lack of advanced technological literacy. This is the main reason for the increase in crime on them facing threats and risks in their life. Just because of indiscriminate introduction of latest technology by the government, even private managements in all walks of life making mandatory online operations, the senior citizens without the knowledge of these technologies are facing the challenges and threats and risks and also facing exclusions. It is high time now to know that any changes in the system should be senior citizen friendly considering their technological illiteracy or to make alternative arrangements which is not a burden to the aged people failing which advancement in technology may become a curse on the part of the senior citizens lacking technological knowledge instead of becoming a boon for them.

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The Right to Information as a Tool for Empowering Youth and Marginalized Communities: A Human Rights Perspective

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Abstract:

Right to Information (RTI) is not merely a legal provision but a cornerstone of democratic governance and a powerful instrument of empowerment. By ensuring transparency and accountability, the RTI Act, 2005, has redefined the relationship between the state and its citizens in India.

This paper explores how the RTI contributes to the empowerment of youth and marginalized communities, by providing them with access to information that influences their socio-economic and political realities. It examines the role of RTI in fostering participatory democracy, combating corruption, and promoting inclusivity in public administration.

Through secondary research and analysis of case studies, the paper demonstrates how the RTI mechanism has enabled vulnerable groups to assert their rights and demand justice in areas like education, employment, welfare schemes, and local governance. However, challenges such as bureaucratic resistance, lack of awareness, and digital divides continue to limit its effectiveness.

The study concludes that strengthening the RTI framework through awareness campaigns, youth-led initiatives, and digital accessibility is essential for realizing its transformative potential. Empowering the youth as informed change agents can ensure that the marginalized are not just passive recipients but active participants in the democratic process.

Keywords: Right to Information, Human Rights, Youth Empowerment, Marginalized Groups, Transparency, Accountability.

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Introduction

The Right to Information (RTI) represents a fundamental human right essential for the functioning of a democratic society. Enacted in 2005, India's RTI Act provides citizens with the right to access information held by public authorities, thereby promoting transparency and accountability. In the context of youth and marginalized communities, this right acts as a catalyst for empowerment, enabling them to question authority, monitor governance, and ensure that public resources are distributed fairly.

The objective of this paper is to analyze the RTI's role in empowering the youth and marginalized groups and to suggest measures for strengthening its implementation to promote human rights-based development.

Objectives of the Study

- To examine the significance of the Right to Information as a human right.
- To analyze how RTI empowers youth and marginalized communities in India.
- To identify challenges faced by these groups by exercising the RTI.
- To suggest policy measures and awareness strategies for effective RTI utilization.

Research Methodology

This study follows a qualitative and descriptive research approach based on secondary data. Data was collected from government reports, legal documents, journal articles, case studies, and RTI applications. The analysis focuses on patterns of information used by youth and marginalized groups, their participation in governance, and outcomes of specific RTI interventions. Case examples from rural India and youth-led movements have been examined to interpret the impact.

Review of Literature

The Right to Information (RTI) has emerged as one of the most significant legal instruments in strengthening democratic participation and advancing human rights. A range of academic, governmental, and institutional studies have examined its transformative potential, especially for youth and marginalized groups.

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1. Transparency and Accountability in Governance

According to Banisar (2011), freedom of information laws worldwide are crucial for reducing corruption and ensuring accountability. His global survey on access to information laws revealed that countries with active information commissions witnessed stronger citizen engagement in governance. Similarly, Jenkins and Goetz (1999) noted that public access to government data improves service delivery and builds trust in state institutions.

2. RTI as a Human Right

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) guarantees the right to seek, receive, and impart information — positioning RTI as a fundamental human right. Venkatesh Nayak (2007) argued that India's RTI Act operationalizes this right, enabling citizens to claim information as a matter of entitlement rather than privilege. Sen (2002) highlighted that the "right to know" is indispensable for freedom of expression and for citizens to make informed decisions.

3. Empowerment of marginalized Communities

Singh and Sharma (2012) studied the use of RTI among rural populations and found that awareness of the law empowered villagers to expose irregularities in ration distribution, land records, and employment schemes. Baviskar (2015) documented how Dalit and tribal groups in Maharashtra used RTI to demand accountability in welfare schemes, demonstrating that access to information transforms citizens from passive recipients to active rights-holders.

4. Youth Participation and Social Change

The UNDP Human Development Report (2016) recognised RTI as a catalyst for youth empowerment, enabling them to participate in civic processes and challenge systemic inequities. Kumar and Pathak (2018) found that university students who received RTI training were more likely to engage in anti-corruption and social justice movements. Youth-led organizations such as Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI) have been instrumental in building youth awareness about governance transparency.

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5. Gender and Social Justice Dimensions

Mehta and Kapoor (2014) analysed RTI usage by women's collectives in rural Rajasthan and discovered that access to information strengthened their bargaining power within families and local institutions. It also encouraged greater female participation in Panchayat meetings and local decision-making. Similarly, Kothari (2017) emphasised that the RTI Act has given women a voice in monitoring implementation of social schemes like MGNREGA and mid-day meals.

6. Digital Divide and Barriers to Access

Despite the success of RTI, several studies highlight persistent inequalities in its usage. Bhattacharya (2019) noted that limited literacy and digital access prevent marginalized citizens from effectively using online RTI portals. CIC Annual Reports (2018–2023) repeatedly cite issues such as delayed responses, incomplete information, and bureaucratic evasions. These structural barriers disproportionately affect rural youth, minorities, and economically weaker sections.

7. Comparative Perspectives and Global Context

International research provides a comparative understanding of how RTI contributes to social inclusion. Roberts (2006), studying Mexico and South Africa, observed that access to information laws help bridge power gaps between the state and poor citizens. The World Bank (2020) identified information access as a "development multiplier" — enabling citizens to monitor projects, reduce corruption, and enhance public participation in governance.

8. Need for Capacity Building and Institutional Support

Transparency International India (2022) stressed that awareness campaigns, school curricula, and grassroots training are essential to ensure the effective use of RTI. Das and Mishra (2021) pointed out that institutional support through NGOs, digital platforms, and information kiosks can make RTI more inclusive for disadvantaged youth and communities.

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Analysis and Interpretation

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, has played a pivotal role in transforming the relationship between citizens and the state, particularly for youth and marginalized communities. By analysing documented case studies, official reports, and secondary data, this section interprets how RTI has functioned as a tool of empowerment and identifies the barriers that still restrict its full potential.

❖ **RTI as an Instrument of Empowerment**

The implementation of RTI has enabled citizens to hold public authorities accountable and to demand transparency in the use of public funds. marginalized communities — including Dalits, tribal groups, women, and rural poor — have successfully utilised RTI to obtain information on welfare entitlements, development works, and corruption in local bodies.

For example, in **Rajasthan**, villagers associated with the *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)* used RTI to uncover embezzlement in village development funds, leading to the public hearing model ("Jan Sunwai") that later inspired the national RTI movement. Similarly, in **Bihar**, youth collectives have filed RTIs to expose irregularities in the Public Distribution System (PDS), resulting in fairer ration allocation and improved local governance.

These examples confirm the argument by *Singh and Sharma (2012)* and *Baviskar (2015)* that access to information changes citizens' power dynamics — from being passive recipients of welfare to active participants in democracy.

❖ **Youth Engagement and Civic Participation**

Young people have emerged as critical actors in promoting transparency and accountability. RTI workshops conducted by NGOs and student-led campaigns have increased youth participation in governance. The *NCPRI Youth Chapter* and *UNDP-supported youth initiatives* demonstrate that informed youth are more likely to question administrative inefficiency and corruption.

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In states like **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu**, student RTI clubs have filed applications concerning issues such as education quality, sanitation, and employment vacancies. These interventions have influenced administrative responsiveness and fostered a culture of civic vigilance. This supports *Kumar and Pathak (2018)* who found that RTI awareness among youth directly correlates with greater civic engagement and leadership development.

❖ Gender and Social Impact

The RTI Act has also contributed to gender empowerment. Women's collectives in *Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha* have used RTI to monitor local schemes such as *MGNREGA* and *mid-day meals*. Information gained through RTI has enabled women to participate more confidently in Panchayat discussions and demand accountability from local officials.

According to *Mehta and Kapoor (2014)*, access to information enhances women's decision-making power and visibility in public spaces — a finding reflected in field examples across multiple states.

❖ Persistent Barriers and Challenges

Despite notable progress, several challenges hinder the full utilisation of RTI by youth and marginalized citizens:

Lack of Awareness: Many citizens remain unaware of the scope and procedures of the RTI Act, particularly in rural and tribal regions.

Digital Divide: Online RTI portals are not accessible to those without internet connectivity or digital literacy, as *Bhattacharya (2019)* highlighted.

Administrative Resistance: Bureaucratic delays, evasive responses, and misuse of exemption clauses discourage applicants.

Threats and Intimidation: RTI activists often face harassment or violence for exposing corruption — a major deterrent to participation.

Language Barriers: Many public authorities respond only in English or Hindi, making it difficult for regional or local applicants to comprehend the information.

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The *CIC Annual Reports (2018–2023)* reflect these systemic challenges, showing that while the number of RTI applications has grown, grievance redressal and follow-up mechanisms remain weak.

❖ Interpretative Insights

The analysis reveals that while RTI has empowered several groups, its benefits are unevenly distributed. Youth and marginalized groups who are educated or supported by NGOs can effectively use RTI to demand accountability, but those without awareness or access remain excluded. This digital and informational gap creates a new layer of inequality — between the "information-rich" and the "information-poor."

The data and examples thus suggest a dual narrative:

- On one hand, RTI has empowered thousands by ensuring transparency and social justice.
- On the other, it has exposed systemic weaknesses that must be addressed through education, digital inclusion, and institutional support.

The evidence underscores *Transparency International India (2022)* and *Das & Mishra (2021)*'s conclusion that awareness, training, and protection mechanisms are essential to sustain RTI's transformative power.

❖ Concluding Interpretation

The Right to Information is not only a legislative reform but a social revolution in progress. Its true impact lies in the way it bridges the gap between the government and citizens, particularly empowering those who have historically been excluded from governance. Youth, as the torchbearers of democracy, must be at the forefront of this transformation — turning RTI into a lived reality that strengthens participatory democracy and human rights.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- Awareness Campaigns: Conduct community-level workshops and digital literacy programs targeting youth and marginalized groups.

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- Institutional Support: Establish RTI facilitation centres at colleges, NGOs, and Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Protection Mechanisms: Strengthen legal safeguards for RTI activists facing threats or retaliation.
- Digital Accessibility: Simplify the RTI filing process through multilingual, mobile-friendly platforms.
- Curriculum Integration: Include RTI awareness in civic education and youth leadership programs.

Conclusion

The Right to Information, as an embodiment of human rights, serves as a foundation for participatory governance and social justice. Its potential to empower youth and marginalized communities is immense but under-realized due to structural and awareness barriers. For true empowerment, RTI must evolve from being a legal entitlement to a lived practice — one that equips every citizen, especially the young and disadvantaged, to challenge inequalities and claim their rightful space in the democratic framework. Through inclusive education, digital transformation, and civic participation, the RTI can become a transformative force for the empowerment of those who need it most.

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THE INDISPENSABLE FOUNDATION: APPLICATIONS OF MATHEMATICS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly its sub-fields of Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL), has transitioned from theoretical research to an indispensable force across nearly every sector. This rapid and transformative progress is fundamentally underpinned by a core set of mathematical disciplines. This article explores the essential applications of **Linear Algebra, Calculus, and Probability Theory** as the foundational pillars enabling AI systems to process data, learn patterns, optimize performance, and make predictions under uncertainty. A deeper understanding of these mathematical concepts is crucial for the development, analysis, and future advancements of sophisticated AI technologies.

Keywords: Article, Essential, Linear Algebra, Calculus, Probability Theory, Foundational, Optimize, Performance,

1. Introduction

The modern renaissance of Artificial Intelligence is marked by its ability to perform increasingly complex tasks, from natural language processing and computer vision to autonomous systems and complex decision-making. While computational power and vast datasets are often highlighted, the true engine driving this capability is **mathematics**. AI algorithms are, at their core, mathematical models designed to mimic cognitive functions. The selection and robust implementation of these models depend entirely on a strong mathematical foundation. Without the precision and theoretical framework provided by mathematics, AI would remain a collection of ad-hoc programs rather than a rigorous scientific discipline.

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2. The Three Pillars of AI Mathematics

The mathematical underpinnings of AI are largely concentrated in three key areas: Linear Algebra, Calculus, and Probability Theory.

2.1. Linear Algebra: The Language of Data and Computation

Linear algebra is the foundational language for representing and manipulating the data that AI systems process. In machine learning, data is structured as **vectors, matrices, and tensors** (multi-dimensional arrays).

- **Data Representation:** A dataset is typically represented as a matrix, where rows are individual data points (samples) and columns are features. Images, for example, are converted into matrices of pixel intensity values, with color images being three-dimensional tensors.
- **Vector Operations:** The core computational tasks in neural networks, such as the multiplication of input data by weight parameters, are fundamentally **matrix and vector multiplications**. Efficient linear algebra operations are essential for the high-speed processing of vast datasets on specialized hardware like GPUs.
- **Dimensionality Reduction:** Techniques like **Principal Component Analysis (PCA)**, which are vital for managing and visualizing high-dimensional data, rely on linear algebraic concepts such as **eigenvalues and eigenvectors** to find the most significant axes of variance.
- **Transformations:** The internal workings of a neural network layer involve linear transformations (matrix multiplications) followed by non-linear activations.

2.2. Calculus: The Engine of Learning and Optimization

Calculus, particularly **differential calculus**, provides the tools for AI systems to learn, adapt, and improve their performance iteratively.

- **Optimization:** The goal of training an AI model is to minimize a **loss function** (or cost function), which quantifies the error between the model's predictions and the true values.

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- **Gradient Descent:** The primary optimization algorithm is **Gradient Descent** or its variants (e.g., Stochastic Gradient Descent). This algorithm uses the **derivative (or gradient)** of the loss function with respect to the model's parameters (weights and biases) to determine the direction and magnitude of the adjustments needed to minimize the error. The gradient points in the direction of the steepest ascent, so the algorithm moves in the opposite direction.
- **Backpropagation:** In deep learning, the **backpropagation algorithm**, which efficiently computes the gradients for all parameters in a multi-layered neural network, is a sophisticated application of the **chain rule** from multivariable calculus.

2.3. Probability and Statistics: Managing Uncertainty and Inference

AI models operate on real-world data, which is inherently noisy and uncertain. Probability theory and statistics provide the framework for quantifying this uncertainty, making predictions, and drawing reliable inferences.

- **Uncertainty Modeling:** Probability distributions (like the **Normal or Gaussian Distribution**) are used to model the likelihood of various outcomes.
- **Bayesian Methods: Bayes' Theorem** is crucial for probabilistic machine learning models (e.g., Naive Bayes Classifier) and forms the basis for updating a model's beliefs as new data is introduced.
- **Model Evaluation:** Statistical concepts like **p-values, hypothesis testing, and confidence intervals** are essential for rigorously evaluating a model's performance, ensuring its results are statistically significant, and preventing overfitting.
- **Stochasticity:** The introduction of randomness (stochasticity) in training, such as in Stochastic Gradient Descent or dropout regularization, is mathematically framed by probability theory.

3. Advanced Mathematical Concepts in AI

Beyond the core pillars, advanced mathematical fields drive innovation in contemporary AI.

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- **Information Theory:** Concepts like **Entropy** and **Kullback-Leibler (KL) Divergence** are used to measure uncertainty and the difference between probability distributions, forming the basis for many loss functions (**Cross-Entropy Loss**) crucial in classification and generative models.
- **Discrete Mathematics and Logic:** These fields are vital in areas such as **Knowledge Representation, Constraint Satisfaction Problems, and Graph Theory**, which underpin symbolic AI, search algorithms, and structured data analysis.
- **Measure Theory:** Providing a rigorous foundation for probability, measure theory is increasingly relevant in advanced theoretical work on the generalization capabilities of deep learning models.

4. Conclusion

Mathematics is not merely a tool for Artificial Intelligence; it is its **DNA**. Linear Algebra provides the computational structure, Calculus enables the dynamic learning process, and Probability Theory allows for intelligent decision-making in an uncertain world. As AI systems become more complex and their applications expand into high-stakes domains like medicine and autonomous transport, a deeper and more rigorous mathematical understanding of their mechanisms—including their interpretability and reliability—will be paramount. The synergy between mathematics and AI will continue to be the most fertile ground for scientific discovery and technological advancement in the 21st century.

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Society and Education in the Ancient Period: A Historical Study of Societal Structures and Pedagogical Frameworks

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1. Introduction

- **1.1 Background:** Briefly introduce the study of ancient civilizations (e.g., Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient India, Greece, Rome) and the fundamental role education played in their formation and maintenance.
- **1.2 Statement of the Problem:** Identify the gap in current scholarship—often, ancient education is studied in isolation from its deeper social and political context. This study aims to provide a *holistic historical analysis* of the symbiotic relationship between social structure and educational practice.
- **1.3 Research Objectives:**
  - To explore the primary aims and philosophical underpinnings of education in selected ancient societies.
  - To analyze how social stratification (e.g., class, gender, caste) determined access to and the content of education.
  - To identify common pedagogical models and institutional frameworks across different ancient periods.
- **1.4 Significance of the Study:** Explain the study's contribution to **History of Education** and **Social History**, offering insights into the genesis of modern educational concepts and their socio-political functions.

Keywords: Ancient Education; Social Stratification; Historical Study; Educational Practice; Social Reproduction; Pedagogical Models; Ancient Civilizations; Qualitative Research.

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Explanation of Selection:

- **Ancient Education / Educational Practice:** The core subject of the article.
- **Social Stratification / Social Reproduction:** Key analytical concepts and central findings of the study, highlighting the link between class/caste and educational access/purpose.
- **Historical Study / Qualitative Research:** Define the methodology and scope of the paper.
- **Pedagogical Models:** Refers to the analysis of teaching methods (formal/informal, oral/written).
- **Ancient Civilizations:** Broad term to indicate the comparative scope (Mesopotamia, India, Greece, Rome, etc.).

2. Review of Literature

- **2.1 Historiography of Ancient Education:** Review seminal works on the history of education, focusing on major ancient civilizations. Critically analyze traditional accounts that often focus only on elite or philosophical education (e.g., Platonic Academy, Gurukulas).
- **2.2 Social Determinants of Education:** Examine scholarship on how societal structures (e.g., the Egyptian bureaucracy, the Spartan military state, the Indian caste system, Athenian democracy, Roman legal system) directly shaped educational goals and curricula.
- **2.3 Pedagogical Models and Transmission of Knowledge:** Review studies detailing teaching methods, learning materials, and the role of written vs. oral tradition in the ancient world. Discuss sources such as archaeological findings (e.g., school tablets), legal codes, and philosophical texts.

3. Methodology

- **3.1 Research Design:** This study employs a **Qualitative Historical Research** design, utilizing a comparative approach across selected ancient civilizations (e.g., contrasting the formal, state-controlled education of Sparta with the predominantly private education of early Athens).

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- **3.2 Data Sources:** The primary sources include **original ancient texts** (e.g., laws, philosophical dialogues, biographies, religious scriptures like the Vedas or Egyptian maxims) and **archaeological evidence** (e.g., remnants of libraries, *tabulae* or writing boards). Secondary sources include peer-reviewed academic articles and authoritative historical monographs.
- **3.3 Data Analysis:** The method involves **Source Criticism** (evaluating the reliability and bias of ancient sources, often written by elite men) and **Thematic Analysis** (identifying recurring themes such as vocational training, moral instruction, and social reproduction across different cultures).

4. Findings and Discussion

- **4.1 Education as Social Reproduction:**
  - **Finding:** A pervasive function of ancient education was the **reproduction of the existing social hierarchy**. Access to advanced knowledge (e.g., literacy in complicated scripts like hieroglyphs or Sanskrit, or mastery of complex mathematics) was largely restricted to the priestly, noble, or administrative classes, thereby maintaining their power.
  - **Discussion:** Contrast the *Gurukula* system's emphasis on individual virtue and knowledge for Brahmins with the vocational training for artisan classes in other societies, demonstrating stratification by birth/class.
- **4.2 Ideological and Moral Conditioning:**
  - **Finding:** Ancient curricula universally placed significant emphasis on **moral, ethical, and religious instruction** to instill civic duty and conformity.
  - **Discussion:** Compare the Roman emphasis on *virtus* (manly virtue/duty) and law to the Athenian focus on rhetoric and civic participation for citizenship, showing how education directly served the state's ideological needs.

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- **4.3 Dual-Track System: Formal vs. Informal Education:**
    - **Finding:** Most education for the masses was **informal** (apprentice-based, home-based, or oral tradition), while formal schooling was a privilege.
    - **Discussion:** Analyze the role of the family and apprenticeship in transmitting practical skills, contrasting it with the formal, text-based schooling reserved for future leaders and scholars.

5. Conclusion and Future Research

- **5.1 Conclusion:** Reiterate that education in the ancient period was not a unified public good but a reflection and powerful instrument of **social stratification** and **political ideology**. Its core function was to train specialized personnel (scribes, priests, soldiers, administrators) and to ensure the moral and social compliance of its citizenry, solidifying the social order.
- **5.2 Policy Implications:** Reflect on how the historical functions of education (social selection, moral conditioning) continue to resonate in contemporary debates about education reform and equality of access.
- **5.3 Limitations and Future Research:** Acknowledge limitations, such as the inherent bias in surviving elite-centric sources. Suggest future research on the education of marginalized groups (e.g., women, slaves, laborers) using alternative methodologies like historical archaeology.

References

- **Example Primary Sources:** Plato's *Republic*, *Code of Hammurabi*, *Manu Smriti*, Egyptian Maxims of Ptahhotep.
- **Example Secondary Sources:** Works by scholars in Classical Studies, Egyptology, Indology, and History of Education.

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The provided video, *Ancient Indian Higher Education System | UGC NET Paper 1 | DigiiMento*, is relevant as it directly addresses the historical evolution and key institutions of an ancient education system, which aligns with the article's scope.

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Accounting for Social Equity: Digital Tools for Empowering Marginalized Groups and Youth

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Abstract

The accelerating pace of **digitalization** presents a paradoxical challenge to **social equity**: while technology offers unprecedented tools for empowerment, the entrenched **digital divide** risks deepening existing social and economic inequalities. This historical-analytical study investigates the efficacy of digital interventions ranging from basic **digital literacy programs** to advanced **digital public infrastructure (DPI)** in fostering inclusion and providing a mechanism for **social equity accounting** among **marginalized groups and youth**. Utilizing a qualitative, comparative methodology, the study reviews global and national case studies. Findings reveal that digital tools are effective instruments for empowerment when they move beyond mere access to prioritize **critical digital literacy**, address **algorithmic bias**, and support **youth-led content creation**. We argue that effective "social equity accounting" requires not just measuring outputs (e.g., number of devices distributed) but assessing substantive outcomes (e.g., increased political agency, sustainable livelihoods). The research concludes with policy recommendations for designing ethical, inclusive digital ecosystems that actively counteract systemic barriers, ensuring that technology serves as an equalizer, not a magnifier of disadvantage.

Keywords: Digital Equity, Marginalized Groups, Youth Empowerment, Digital Tools, Social Equity Accounting, Digital Divide, Critical Digital Literacy, Public Policy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and Problem Statement

The 21st century's digital transformation offers a potent promise: to democratize access to information, finance, education, and governance. However, this potential is curtailed by the **digital divide**, which disproportionately affects economically disadvantaged, geographically remote, and socially marginalized populations, including a

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significant segment of the global youth. This divide is no longer just about hardware access (*first-level divide*); it is about the ability to utilize technology for meaningful, life-altering outcomes (*second-level divide*), which is fundamentally an issue of **social equity**. Traditional public policy and corporate social responsibility efforts often lack a robust framework for **"accounting for social equity"** in their digital initiatives. They tend to measure simple output metrics (e.g., broadband penetration) instead of the qualitative impact on human agency and systemic change.

1.2 Research Objectives

1. To critically analyze the theoretical and practical linkages between digital tool deployment and the achievement of social equity for marginalized groups and youth.
2. To examine the role of **critical digital literacy** in mitigating the risks of digital exclusion and exploitation.
3. To develop a framework for **Social Equity Accounting** that moves beyond output metrics to assess the substantive impact of digital tools on agency, income, and political voice.

1.3 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the literature on **Digital Inclusion** and **Public Policy Accounting**. By introducing the concept of *Social Equity Accounting* in the digital context, it provides policymakers, NGOs, and corporate funders with a mechanism to evaluate the true transformative potential and ethical risks of digital empowerment programs, ensuring resources are deployed for maximum social benefit and structural change.

2. Review of Literature

2.1 The Digital Divide: Beyond Access

Early literature focused on the **economic and infrastructural divide** (Van Dijk, 2005), emphasizing the lack of affordable devices and internet connectivity. Contemporary scholarship, however, highlights the **skills divide** and **usage divide** (Helsper, 2010), recognizing that even with access, marginalized populations often lack the **critical digital literacy** to evaluate online information, protect their privacy, or leverage tools for economic gain. A critical thread in this literature is the emerging concern over **algorithmic bias**—where AI systems and digital

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platforms, built on unrepresentative data, perpetuate real-world discrimination against marginalized users (O'Neil, 2016).

2.2 Digital Empowerment and Youth Agency

The youth are often positioned as "digital natives," but research shows this is a false assumption, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged youth (Selwyn, 2012). Empowerment literature (e.g., Zimmerman, 1995) links digital tools to increased **agency** and **voice**.[1] Studies on youth-led social movements and online advocacy platforms demonstrate the power of digital media in mobilizing collective action, facilitating **peer-to-peer learning**, and bypassing traditional, often exclusionary, media and political gatekeepers. The literature underscores that true empowerment comes from **creating content**, not just consuming it.

2.3 Accounting for Social Impact and Equity

The field of **Social Accounting** mandates transparent measurement and reporting of an organization's social performance. In the context of digital policy, this translates to the need for a **Social Equity Accounting** framework. Current methodologies (e.g., Logic Models, Theory of Change) are often criticized for focusing on *outputs* (e.g., people trained) rather than *outcomes* (e.g., reduction in vulnerability, secure employment). A robust equity-focused framework must capture the *quality of engagement*, the *reduction of systemic barriers*, and the *amplification of marginalized voices* as key metrics of success.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design: Qualitative Comparative Analysis

This study employed a **Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)**, suitable for complex social interventions where outcomes depend on a combination of factors. The design is **historical-analytical**, involving a deep-dive into three distinct types of digital intervention case studies:

1. **Digital Literacy Programs** targeting marginalized women and youth in a national context (e.g., India's Digital India initiatives).

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2. **Vocational/Livelihood Platforms** focused on gig economy access or skill development for economically disadvantaged youth.
3. **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** initiatives (e.g., unique digital identity systems, direct benefit transfer mechanisms) and their impact on service delivery equity.

3.2 Data Sources and Sampling

The data comprised **secondary case studies**, **program evaluation reports** from NGOs and government bodies, and **peer-reviewed literature** focused on impact assessments. Cases were selected using **purposive sampling** to ensure representation of diverse forms of marginalization (gender, caste, geography, socio-economic status) and different levels of technology access (rural vs. urban).

3.3 Data Analysis: Thematic and Ethical Auditing

1. **Thematic Analysis:** Data was analyzed to identify recurring themes related to **barriers** (e.g., lack of relevant content, language issues, safety concerns) and **mechanisms of empowerment** (e.g., ability to find reliable health information, connect with job markets, engage in civic discourse).
2. **Ethical Auditing:** A critical dimension involved auditing the interventions against ethical principles, specifically checking for evidence of:
    - **Non-discrimination:** Was the digital tool free from **algorithmic bias**?
    - **Agency:** Did the tool enable users to *produce* knowledge and organize, or only consume information?
    - **Accountability:** Were there mechanisms for marginalized users to report grievances or technology failure?

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4. Findings and Discussion

4.1 Finding: Empowerment is Contingent on Critical Digital Literacy

The success of digital tools is not guaranteed by access alone. The primary finding is that empowerment is strongly **contingent** upon the level of **critical digital literacy** (CDL) provided. Programs that focused only on functional skills (e.g., how to use a smartphone) failed to provide sustainable empowerment.

- **Discussion:** Case studies of marginalized youth utilizing social media demonstrated a transition from passive consumption to active advocacy only when they developed **CDL**—the ability to identify misinformation, understand privacy risks, and use platforms strategically to organize and articulate political grievances. This shift from **user** to **creator/advocate** is the true measure of digital empowerment.

4.2 Finding: Digital Tools as Agents of Social Reproduction

Digital technologies, particularly large-scale DPI, can inadvertently act as powerful **agents of social reproduction** if not ethically governed.

- **Discussion:** While DPI systems improved the efficiency of social welfare transfers, the implementation was often marred by cases of **exclusion errors**—where lack of digital identity (e.g., biometric failure due to manual labor) or lack of digital literacy prevented the most vulnerable from accessing benefits. This demonstrates that digital solutions can fail the test of **Social Equity Accounting** by automating and reinforcing existing social marginalization (e.g., the elderly, the disabled, manual laborers).

4.3 Finding: Youth as Innovators and Equity Auditors

Youth from marginalized communities exhibited a strong capacity to **innovate and adapt** digital tools, often creating localized solutions that bypassed systemic barriers.

- **Discussion:** Youth-led initiatives focused on creating culturally and linguistically relevant content (e.g., local language digital health advisories, online job boards for the informal economy). This bottom-up innovation serves as a crucial **"equity auditing"** function, exposing the shortcomings of top-down, one-size-fits-all digital policy and proving that empowerment requires **decentralized, context-specific digital content and governance.**

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5. Conclusion and Future Research

5.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that digital tools are **essential but insufficient** for achieving social equity. Their empowerment potential is activated only when accompanied by a shift in policy from prioritizing **digital access** to fostering **critical digital literacy** and demanding **social equity accounting**. Effective interventions for marginalized groups and youth must be: 1) **Contextualized**, addressing local language and cultural needs; 2) **Critical**, equipping users to navigate bias and misinformation; and 3) **Creative**, enabling users to become creators and agents of change. A true social equity accounting framework must therefore measure the **quality of participation** and the **reduction in structural vulnerability**, not merely the quantity of technology deployment.

5.2 Policy Implications

- **Mandate Equity Audits:** All government and NGO digital projects must undergo a mandatory **Social Equity Audit** and publish results on inclusion and exclusion errors.
- **Fund Critical Literacy:** Public funding should prioritize programs that teach **critical thinking, data privacy, and algorithmic bias awareness** over basic functional training.
- **Support Youth Content:** Policy should establish grants and infrastructure to support youth from marginalized backgrounds in **creating, curating, and governing their own digital content** and platforms.

5.3 Limitations and Future Research

This study's primary limitation is its reliance on secondary data, which may suffer from self-reporting bias in program evaluations. Future research should employ **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** methodologies to involve marginalized youth directly in the design and assessment of digital tools, creating a truly co-designed framework for **Digital Social Equity**.

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Financial Inclusion and Digital Accounting: Bridging the Divide for Youth and Women

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Abstract

Financial exclusion disproportionately affects **youth and women**, hindering their economic participation and development potential. This paper investigates the transformative role of **Digital Accounting (DA) tools** such as mobile money, digital wallets, and accounting software in enhancing financial inclusion for these marginalized groups in a national context. Through a comprehensive literature review, the study identifies that the intersection of digital access and financial literacy is crucial for effective inclusion. The proposed methodology involves a mixed-methods approach to assess the adoption, usage, and impact of DA tools. Findings are expected to demonstrate that targeted digital literacy and financial education programs are essential to maximize the benefits of DA, ultimately fostering greater economic empowerment, informed financial decision-making, and poverty reduction. The study provides evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, financial institutions, and educators to design and implement gender- and youth-sensitive strategies to bridge the financial and digital divide.

1. Introduction

Financial inclusion, defined as the availability and equality of opportunities to access financial services, is a critical pillar for achieving sustainable development and reducing income inequality.[1] Despite global advancements, significant segments of the population, particularly **youth** and **women**, remain underserved by the formal financial system. This exclusion is a major impediment to their ability to save, invest, manage risk, and participate fully in the economy.

The rapid proliferation of **Digital Financial Services (DFS)** and accompanying Digital Accounting (DA) tools presents a promising pathway to overcome traditional barriers like physical distance, high transaction costs, and stringent documentation requirements. DA, in this context, refers to the use of digital technology for recording,

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processing, and summarizing financial transactions, which includes but is not limited to digital payment records, mobile money statements, and simple bookkeeping applications.

This paper argues that the strategic promotion of DA, coupled with tailored literacy programs, can significantly bridge the financial divide for youth and women. The research aims to explore the current state of digital-financial engagement among these groups, assess the specific barriers they face, and provide actionable insights for a more equitable financial landscape.

2. Review of Literature

2.1. Financial Exclusion and Marginalized Groups

Literature consistently highlights that financial exclusion is gendered and age-specific.[2] **Women** often face structural inequalities, including lower digital literacy, limited control over assets, socio-cultural norms restricting mobility, and lack of formal identification, which restrict their access to formal credit and savings mechanisms (World Bank, 2024; Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, 2024).[3] Studies note that empowering women with financial tools is critical, as they tend to invest more of their income in family welfare, education, and health (Duflo, 2012).[4]

Youth, especially in developing economies, are often financially excluded due to a lack of credit history, collateral, and stable income. Digital tools offer an entry point, as this demographic is typically more technologically adept. However, a gap remains between basic digital usage (e.g., social media) and the practical application of digital tools for complex financial management, such as digital accounting.

2.2. The Role of Digital Financial Services and Accounting

Digital finance, encompassing mobile banking, digital wallets, and FinTech innovations, has been widely acknowledged as a "game-changer" for financial inclusion (Demirgüç-Kunt et al., 2017). Specifically, **Digital Accounting (DA)** tools, which simplify record-keeping and transaction tracking, are vital. For micro and small enterprises run by women and youth, DA can replace cumbersome manual ledgers, creating a digital financial

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footprint that is essential for accessing formal credit and business loans. This digitalization of financial records not only provides a verifiable transaction history but also fosters a culture of financial discipline.

2.3. Digital and Financial Literacy as a Prerequisite

A recurring theme is that **access without literacy is insufficient for true inclusion**.[5] Digital financial literacy (DFL) – the knowledge, skills, and confidence to safely use digitally-delivered financial products is the primary enabler (AFI Network, 2025). Gaps in DFL perpetuate the exclusion, particularly for women who are disproportionately affected by the digital gender gap (GSMA, 2020). Therefore, the impact of DA tools is contingent on robust, context-specific, and gender-sensitive DFL training.[6]

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

This study employs an **explanatory sequential mixed-methods approach (QUAN $\rightarrow$ QUAL)**. The initial quantitative phase provides a broad assessment of adoption rates and perceived benefits/barriers, followed by a qualitative phase to delve deeper into the reasons behind the observed patterns and user experiences.

3.2. Data Collection

1. **Quantitative Data:** A structured survey will be administered to a large, stratified random sample of **youth (aged 18-35)** and **women entrepreneurs/wage earners** across different geographic and socio-economic strata of the nation. The survey will measure:
    - **Financial Inclusion Indicators:** Ownership of a formal financial account, access to credit, and savings behavior.
    - **Digital Accounting Adoption:** Usage frequency and type of DA tools (e.g., mobile wallets, simple digital ledger apps).
    - **Digital Financial Literacy (DFL) Score:** Measured using a set of knowledge and skill-based questions.

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- **Perceived Barriers:** Categorizing challenges into infrastructure (internet, device), digital skills, cost, and trust/security concerns.

2. **Qualitative Data: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** and **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** will be conducted with a smaller sub-sample of survey respondents and stakeholders (e.g., FinTech providers, NGOs, policy officials). These sessions will explore:
    - **User Experience:** Detailed accounts of how DA tools impact daily financial management and business operations.
    - **Contextual Barriers:** Deeper understanding of socio-cultural constraints and specific challenges in adopting DA.[7]
    - **Policy and Program Feedback:** Insights into the effectiveness of existing DFL and financial inclusion initiatives.

3.3. Data Analysis

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Descriptive statistics will summarize adoption rates and financial outcomes. Regression analysis (e.g., Ordered Probit or Logistic Regression) will be used to assess the relationship between DFL, DA adoption, and measures of financial inclusion, controlling for demographic variables (age, education, income).
- **Qualitative Analysis:** Thematic analysis will be applied to transcribe data from FGDs and KIIs to identify emergent themes, patterns, and user narratives related to empowerment and challenges.

4. Findings and Discussion

(Note: As this is a proposed article structure, this section outlines anticipated findings based on existing literature and the proposed research design.)

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4.1. The Digital Accounting Advantage

The primary finding is anticipated to be a **significant positive correlation** between the consistent use of **Digital Accounting tools** and **enhanced financial inclusion** for both youth and women. Specifically:

- **For Youth:** DA tools facilitate better budgeting, savings accumulation, and access to peer-to-peer or small formal loans by creating a digital transaction trail, circumventing the traditional barrier of credit history.
- **For Women:** DA significantly boosts financial autonomy and decision-making power.[8] Digital records provide verifiable proof of income and business activity, allowing them to access formal financial products without reliance on male counterparts for documentation.

4.2. The Literacy-Adoption Nexus

A critical finding is expected to be that the positive impact of DA is **heavily mediated by the level of Digital Financial Literacy (DFL)**. Groups with higher DFL will demonstrate more active usage, greater confidence, and better outcomes (e.g., higher savings, greater loan access). Conversely, low DFL, compounded by a lack of trust in digital security and complex user interfaces, will be the primary limiting factor for non-users and drop-outs. The digital gender gap in device ownership and internet access will also be confirmed as a significant barrier for women.[9]

4.3. Policy Implications

The mixed-methods approach is expected to reveal that a **one-size-fits-all policy** is ineffective. Findings will stress the need for:

1. **Targeted Digital Literacy:** Implementing gender- and youth-specific DFL modules that focus on the practical application of DA for personal and small-business finance, delivered in local languages and community-based settings.[10]
2. **User-Friendly Design:** Encouraging FinTech companies to develop DA tools with simplified interfaces, local language support, and a focus on security education.
3. **Infrastructure Support:** Government policies to improve affordable internet access and device availability, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

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5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Digital Accounting represents a powerful opportunity to leapfrog conventional hurdles to financial inclusion for youth and women. While access to the technology is rapidly improving, the crucial challenge lies in transforming **access** into **meaningful usage** through **literacy and trust**.

The study strongly recommends that national efforts prioritize the integration of **Digital Financial Literacy and DA training** within formal education, vocational training, and women's self-help group programs. By focusing on building the capability to utilize digital tools for effective financial management, policymakers can ensure that the promise of digital finance translates into tangible economic empowerment, thus successfully bridging the financial divide for the nation's most critical growth drivers: its youth and its women. □

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An Empirical Analysis of Rural-Urban migration in Bangalore urban district in Karnataka.

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Abstract

Rural-Urban migration is a major global trend in 2025. Majority of the people from rural areas in search of employment, higher education, technical education, management education migrate to urban areas. It is clearfrom the secondary data and information that internal migration is relatively more compared to international migration. Economc shifts, Search for opportunities, Environmental factors, Social reasons are the major causes for internal as well as international migration. Rural –urban migration has its own impacts such as Positive outcomes, Negative outcomes. Asia is home to more than half of the world's urban population,despite itslower overall urbanization level compared to regions like North America and Europe. In Africa also urbanization is accelerating with more than half of Africa's population expected to live in urban centers by 2025. Indian economy is experiencing rapid urbanization,with its urban population projected to grow significantly,creating a high demand for infrastructure. Research Methodology:Overall objective of the study is to examine Rural-Urban migration in Bangalore urban district in Karnataka.Specific objectives of the study are:To examine the extent of rural-urban migration in Karnataka, To examine the recent changing trends in rural-urban migration in India and Karnataka. Source of data:With the help of Primary as well as secondary data the study conducted.Around 18.9 per cent migrated from one urban area to another and 10.2 per cent migrated from an urban region to a rural one. There is a notable difference in the share of male and female migrants across the migration streams. India has been a consistent source of global migration and constitutes the world's largest diaspora. Over 225 thousand Indians renounced Indian citizenship in 2022, the highest in a 12-year span. In addition to the working-class migrating for employment, estimates show high net-worth individuals leaving the country in high numbers over the past few years.

Key words: Internal migration, low-skilled migrant laborers,educational and occupational mobility, largest student out-migration countries,economic shifts.

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Full Paper

Rural-Urban migration is a major global trend in 2025. Majority of the people from rural areas in search of employment, higher education, technical education, management education migrate to urban areas. It is clearfrom the secondary data and information that internal migration is relatively more compared to international migration. Economc shifts, Search for opportunities, Environmental factors, Social reasons are the major causes for internal as well as international migration. Rural –urban migration has its own impacts such as Positive outcomes, Negative outcomes. Asia is home to more than half of the world's urban population,despite itslower overall urbanization level compared to regions like North America and Europe. In Africa also urbanization is accelerating with more than half of Africa's population expected to live in urban centers by 2025. Indian economy is experiencing rapid urbanization,with its urban population projected to grow significantly,creating a high demand for infrastructure.

In early 2025, India's urban population was approximately 37.1 per cent of the total population. Other sources and projections estimate the urban population to be around 31.14 per cent to 37.71 per cent for the year ,with figures like 40 per cent projected by 2030. As per the early20255 reports show that 37.1 er cent of India's population lived in urban centers,with 62.9 per cent in rural areas according to data reportal. One more source ,census of india.net indicates that India's urban population in 2025 was 377.1 million which was 31.14 per cent of the total population. A 2023-2024 Economic Survey projects that over 40 percent of india's population will live in urban areas by 2030,according to PIB.

Research Methodology:

Overall objective of the study is to examine Rural-Urban migration in Bangalore urban district in Karnataka.

Specific objectives of the study are:

- To examine the extent of rural-urban migration in Karnataka.
- To examine the recent changing trends in rural-urban migration in India and Karnataka.

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Source of data:

With the help of Primary as well as secondary data the study has been conducted.

Analysis of the Results:

Around 18.9 per cent migrated from one urban area to another and 10.2 per cent migrated from an urban region to a rural one. There is a notable difference in the share of male and female migrants across the migration streams.

Recent reports indicate a decline in internal migration since the census in 2011. The overall migration rate dropped from 37.64 per cent in 2011 to 28.88 per cent in 2023 though this includes both intra-state and inter-state movement. A 2020-21 Government survey found that on;y 7 per cent of urban Indians had migrated from another state,while a 2024-25 report on inter-state migrants in the Chennai region noted that a majority came from eastern and northeastern states,primarily Bihar,Odisha and Assam.Recent trends in migration:

1. Overall migration decline: The internal migration rate decreased by 11.78 per cent between 2011and 2023.
2. Inter-state urban migration: With 7 per cent of urban Indians had come from another state as of 2020-21.
3. Dominant source states:Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were the largest sources of inter-state migrants in 2011,while Maarashtra and Delhi were the largest receivers.

4. Major reasons for migration: Marriage is a major cause ,particularly for women migrating within their own state,while jobs are the primary reason for inter-state migration.
5. Inter-state job migration: The route from Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra accounts for 5.7 per cent of all inter-state job-related migration.

   Contributory factors or the decrease in migration:

   1.Economic growth in smaller cities which creates more local opportunities ,reducing the need for migration.

   2. Improved local services with better infrastructure and services in smaller towns and villages reduce the incentive to move.

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3. Government Schemes in the form of various government initiatives may be encouraging people to stay in their home regions.

4. Improved transportation and communication have facilitated more localized migration,with a greater number of people moving between villages within their own states.

Rural-to-urban migration in Karnataka in 2025 continues to be driven by a combination of economic, social and environmental factors,leading to significant demographic shifts. Key trends include migration for better opportunities in cities like Bangalore ,often involving a shift from agrarian to informal urban job as well as increased mobility influenced by climate variability and events such as early monsoon in 2025. This migration creates challenges, including the need for more urban infrastructure and support systems .

Recent trends of Rural-Urban migration in Karnataka:

1. Economic opportunities moving from rural agriculture to informal urban jobs such as construction,domestic work and street vending.
2. Environmental factors: Variation in climatic conditions and extreme weather conditions are increasingly influencing migration decisions, leading to a trend ofresidents moving from climate-vulnerable northern regions to southern Karnataka.
3. Urbanization and Economic growth which pulls people from rural areas for work and lifestyle improvements.
4. Social factors : Urban migration can offer educational and occupational mobility,particularly for younger generations seeking to improve their economic stability and social standing.

Over 280 million people across the globe are estimated to be migrants, meaning that around 3.6 percent of the world's population live outside their country of birth. Human mobility driven by income inequality, conflict, climate change, and demographic pressures has shaped the world for centuries.

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conflict, climate change, and demographic pressures has shaped the world for centuries. The most populated country, India, also accounts for the biggest migrant stock worldwide.

Internal migration in India: The big city dream

One in three urban Indians is a migrant. However, most of the internal migrants are intra-state, while only seven percent move from another state. Urban areas, especially big cities, are usually magnets for highly skilled professional migrants as well as low-skilled migrant laborers. The migration of the male population is mostly for employment-related purposes. The national capital of Delhi hosts the highest share of migrants from across the country.

Despite critical opinions around migration and its impact on host states or cities, recent research shows that migrant workers contributed 0.5 to 2.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GSDP) in net positive migration states like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. However, marriage drives more migration than jobs or other economic opportunities, with nearly half of the women's population moving within their state due to exogamous traditions.

Further, so far as the information on migration is concerned, in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) during July 2020 – June 2021, information has been collected on migration particulars of the household members. The percentage of internal migrants by four types of rural-urban migration streams (i.e rural areas to rural areas, rural areas to urban areas, urban areas to rural areas and urban areas to urban areas) is given in the table as follows:

All India	Rural to rural	Urban to rural	Rural to urban	Urban to urban	all
Person	55.0	10.2	18.9	15.9	100.0

Bangalore Population 2011 - 2001

Description	2011	2001
Population	96.22 Lakhs	65.37 Lakhs
Actual Population	9,621,551	6,537,124
Male	5,022,661	3,426,599
Female	4,598,890	3,110,525

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Description	2011	2001
Population Growth	47.18%	35.09%
Area Sq. Km	2,196	2,190
Density/km2	4,381	2,985
Proportion to Karnataka Population	15.75%	12.37%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	916	908
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	944	943
Average Literacy	87.67	82.96
Male Literacy	91.01	87.92
Female Literacy	84.01	77.48
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	1,052,837	772,540
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	10.94%	11.82%

Bangalore (Bengaluru) Urban Region Population 2011 – 2025

Bangalore UA	Total	Male	Female
Population	8,520,435	4,433,855	4,086,580
Literates	6,735,513	3,629,096	3,106,417
Children (0-6)	925,665	476,632	449,033
Average Literacy (%)	88.69 %	91.71 %	85.40 %
Sexratio	922		
Child Sexratio	942		

Bangalore Metropolitan Region Future Population 2021-2031

Metropolitan	Population
2011	8,520,435
2021	11,076,000
2022	11,408,000
2023	11,750,000
2024	12,102,000
2025	12,465,000
2026	12,838,000

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Metropolitan	Population
2027	13,223,000
2028	13,619,000
2029	14,027,000
2030	14,447,000
2031	14,880,000

Bangalore Region - Cities & Towns

Bangalore UA has following cities under it.

City	
Bangalore (Municipal Corporation)	8,4

Towns with population less than 1 Lakh

Town	Type	Population
Chikkabidarakallu	Census Town	11,554
Chikkagubbi	Out Growth	813
Doddagubbi	Out Growth	2,476
Doddathoguru	Out Growth	14,700
Guddahalli	Out Growth	3,387
Hunasamaranahalli	Census Town	13,389
Kannur	Out Growth	4,854
Kodigehalli (Part)	Out Growth	5,273
Ramasandra	Out Growth	5,251
Srikantapura Anchepalya	Out Growth	6,218
Suggatta	Out Growth	779
Totadaguddadahalli	Out Growth	4,606
Vaderapura	Out Growth	3,460

Census 2025

Conclusion:

India has been a consistent source of global migration and constitutes the world's largest diaspora. Over 225 thousand Indians renounced Indian citizenship in 2022, the highest in a 12-year span. In addition to the working-class migrating for employment, estimates show high net-worth individuals leaving the country in high numbers

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over the past few years. With the government-administered Golden Visa program, ensuring a favorable tax and business ecosystem, Dubai is emerging as the preferred destination for Indian HNWIs. India also remains one of the largest student out-migration countries. The study abroad dream and the possibility of finding gainful employment after course completion is becoming attainable for Indian students as countries like France, Germany, and Spain show increasing interest in welcoming students. Moreover, the widespread availability of education loans for study abroad makes it economically viable for low- and middle-income students to attain foreign education. Although emigration is usually associated with brain drain, it is also a source of remittance into the country with India topping the list as the leading remittance-receiving country globally (Manya Rathore , Sep 19, 2024).

As cited in the latest Economic Survey 2023-24, it is expected that by 2030, more than 40 percent of India's population will live in urban areas. This estimation has been made on the basis of studies and reports of NITI Aayog.

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Financial Inclusion and Skill Development for Marginalized Youth: Strategies for Sustainable Economic Growth

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Abstract

This research paper investigates the critical roles of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth. Relying primarily on secondary data from academic studies, government reports, and international policy documents, the study examines how limited access to financial services and inadequate skill enhancement programs impede economic empowerment. The findings highlight the strong interdependence between financial literacy, access to credit, and vocational skill development in enabling youth to participate productively in the economy. The study emphasizes that without inclusive financial systems and structured skill development initiatives, marginalized youth remain trapped in cycles of

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poverty and unemployment. The paper concludes with strategic recommendations for policymakers, educational institutions, and financial bodies to promote long-term inclusive growth through integrated financial and skill-building frameworks.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Skill Development, Marginalized Youth, Economic Empowerment, Financial Literacy, Sustainable Economic Growth, Vocational Training, Inclusive Development.

Introduction

In the 21st century, economic growth is no longer judged solely by the increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but by the inclusiveness and sustainability of development processes. One of the most vital determinants of inclusive growth is the active participation of youth in economic activities. Marginalized youth—those belonging to economically and socially disadvantaged communities—represent a critical demographic segment with immense potential to contribute to national growth. However, their participation in mainstream economic activities is often hindered by systemic barriers such as unequal access to financial services, lack of financial literacy, unemployment, and insufficient skill development opportunities.

Financial inclusion and skill development have emerged as two transformative pillars in enabling economic resilience and empowerment among marginalized youth. Financial inclusion ensures that individuals have access to useful and affordable financial products such as savings accounts, credit, insurance, and digital financial services. Meanwhile, skill development equips youth with the competencies, technical skills, and entrepreneurial mindset necessary to access employment or create self-employment opportunities in a rapidly evolving global economy.

The interconnected nature of financial inclusion and skill development plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of poverty. Financial literacy empowers youth to make informed decisions and utilize financial products efficiently, whereas vocational and entrepreneurial skill development enhances their employability and earning capacity. Together, these components form a powerful foundation for sustainable economic growth. Globally, governments and international organizations such as the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have emphasized the need for inclusive policies that

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ensure equitable access to financial systems and skill-building initiatives, particularly for youth from marginalized sections.

In the context of developing nations such as India, the demographic dividend can be realized only when young individuals, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, are provided with the tools and opportunities to engage meaningfully in economic activities. This research paper explores the role of financial inclusion and skill development as essential drivers of sustainable economic growth, focusing on their combined impact in fostering economic resilience, reducing income inequality, and promoting social justice.

Review of Literature

This section presents a review of scholarly studies, institutional reports, and policy papers that highlight the relationship between financial inclusion, skill development, and economic growth among marginalized youth. The literature is categorized thematically to provide a structured understanding.

- Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment

According to Demirgüç-Kunt and Klapper (World Bank, 2014), financial inclusion is a critical enabler of development as it provides individuals with access to savings, credit, insurance, and payment systems that allow for better financial management and investment in income-generating activities. Similarly, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI, 2020) emphasizes that financial inclusion contributes to poverty alleviation by bringing the unbanked population into the formal financial system.

Studies by Kaur and Singh (2019) noted that financial exclusion disproportionately affects marginalized youth, particularly in rural areas, where limited access to banks and digital financial tools restricts entrepreneurial activity. Furthermore, the International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2021) highlights that financial inclusion positively influences GDP growth, particularly when directed toward productive youth populations.

- Skill Development as a Catalyst for Youth Employment

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2018) asserts that skill development enhances job readiness, entrepreneurship, and innovation. In developing countries, unskilled youth often face unemployment or are

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engaged in informal sectors with low wages. Empirical studies by Sharma (2020) show that vocational training programs significantly improve employability and income levels among marginalized youth.

India's National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC, 2022) reports that skill development initiatives, when aligned with industry needs, can create sustainable employment opportunities. However, issues such as lack of infrastructure, awareness, and inadequate training quality continue to hinder effective skill delivery to marginalized groups.

- Interrelationship between Financial Inclusion and Skill Development

Studies highlight that financial inclusion and skill development are mutually reinforcing. According to Banerjee and Duflo (2019), access to microcredit combined with entrepreneurial skills leads to higher rates of self-employment and business sustainability. Financial literacy programs integrated with skill development modules enable youth to manage finances effectively, adopt digital payment systems, and invest in their business ventures.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2021) found that countries that implement joint policies for financial inclusion and skill enhancement have higher youth employment rates and improved economic resilience.

- Marginalized Youth and Economic Barriers

Marginalized youth often face structural barriers, including lack of education, social discrimination, and low access to financial systems. According to Chakraborty (2020), financial exclusion leads to dependency on informal moneylenders, resulting in a cycle of debt and poverty. The United Nations (UNDP, 2021) stresses the importance of inclusive education and financial systems to empower marginalized youth to contribute to the economy.

- Sustainable Economic Growth Frameworks

Sustainable economic growth refers to growth that is inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible. Studies by Sachs (2015) emphasize that youth empowerment through financial and skill-based initiatives is critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality).

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The existing literature clearly establishes that both financial inclusion and skill development are essential drivers of youth empowerment and economic growth. However, gaps remain in equitable access, implementation of integrated policies, and monitoring of outcomes. This study seeks to bridge these gaps by examining secondary data and proposing actionable strategies for marginalized youth empowerment.

Statement of the Problem

Despite significant efforts by governments and international agencies to promote inclusive growth, a large segment of marginalized youth continues to remain excluded from formal financial systems and skill development initiatives. This exclusion perpetuates poverty, unemployment, and socio-economic inequality. While financial inclusion provides access to essential financial services, its benefits cannot be fully realized without the necessary skills to utilize financial resources effectively. Similarly, skill development programs alone are insufficient if youth do not have access to credit, financial literacy, or entrepreneurship support to convert their skills into sustainable livelihoods.

Marginalized youth often face multiple challenges such as lack of documentation, insufficient awareness about financial schemes, socio-cultural barriers, digital illiteracy, and limited access to quality vocational training. These barriers prevent them from participating in productive economic activities and benefiting from government initiatives. Furthermore, there exists a gap in policy implementation where financial inclusion and skill development programs are often designed and executed in isolation rather than as integrated frameworks.

Therefore, the need arises to examine how these two factors—financial inclusion and skill development—can be strategically combined to empower marginalized youth and drive sustainable economic growth. This research seeks to address these gaps by analyzing the interdependence between financial inclusion and skill development, identifying challenges, and offering actionable policy recommendations.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the interrelated roles of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth. To achieve this, the study sets the following specific objectives:

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Primary Objective

To examine how financial inclusion and skill development collectively contribute to the economic empowerment of marginalized youth.

Specific Objectives:

- **To analyze the current status of financial inclusion among marginalized youth** and identify the key barriers to accessing financial services.
- **To evaluate the impact of skill development initiatives** on employability, entrepreneurship, and income generation among marginalized youth.
- **To explore the correlation between financial literacy, access to credit, and skill utilization** in enhancing economic opportunities.
- **To study policy frameworks and government initiatives** aimed at promoting inclusive growth through financial and skill development programs.
- **To propose actionable recommendations** for improving the integration of financial inclusion and skill development strategies for sustainable economic growth.

Research Methodology

This section outlines the methodological approach adopted to analyze the role of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth. As the study is based on secondary data, the methodology emphasizes systematic data collection and qualitative analysis.

Research Design

- The study employs a **descriptive and analytical research design**.
- It seeks to describe existing patterns, analyze interrelationships, and interpret the impact of financial inclusion and skill development on marginalized youth.

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Nature of the Study

- This is a **qualitative study based on secondary data**, focusing on the critical assessment of existing literature, statistical reports, governmental publications, and empirical studies.
- Comparative analysis is used to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and initiatives implemented in various developing countries, with a primary focus on India.

Sources of Data

The study relies entirely on **secondary sources** such as:

- Research papers published in indexed journals (Scopus, UGC Care, Web of Science)
- Reports from international organizations including the **World Bank, IMF, UNDP, and ILO**
- Government publications and policy documents such as **RBI Financial Inclusion Reports, NSDC Skill Development Reports, and NITI Aayog policy reviews**
- Statistical data from **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** and **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**
- Digital resources, economic surveys, and official websites of financial institutions and development agencies

Methodology

- **Literature Review Method**: Systematic review of academic and institutional publications related to financial inclusion and skill development.
- **Documentary Analysis**: Examination of policy frameworks, government schemes, and statistical trends.
- **Comparative Evaluation**: Assessment of successful models and best practices adopted in different regions.

Scope of the Study

- The study focuses on marginalized youth aged **18–35 years**, including those from economically weaker sections, rural communities, scheduled castes, tribes, minorities, and other vulnerable groups.
- Geographically, the study primarily covers **India** while referencing global examples for comparative insights.

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Limitations of the Study

- The study is based on secondary data; therefore, the findings depend on the accuracy and reliability of existing sources.
- Lack of uniform data across different regions may limit comparative analysis.
- The study does not include primary data such as interviews or surveys due to scope and time constraints.

The chosen methodology enables a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between financial inclusion and skill development using established data sources. This framework ensures that policy implications are grounded in current trends and evidence-based analysis.

Analysis and Discussion

This section analyzes the role of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth, based on secondary data from various studies, reports, and policy documents.

Financial Inclusion and Its Impact

Financial inclusion plays a critical role in empowering marginalized youth by providing access to banking services, credit, insurance, and digital financial platforms. According to the **World Bank (2018)**, individuals with access to formal financial services are more likely to save, invest in education or businesses, and manage financial risks effectively.

Key Findings:

- **Access to Credit**: Microfinance and low-interest loans enable youth to invest in self-employment ventures, small businesses, or skill-enhancement courses. Studies show that marginalized youth who accessed microloans reported higher income generation and improved economic stability.
- **Savings and Risk Management**: Bank accounts and insurance products allow youth to manage emergencies and plan long-term investments, reducing dependency on informal moneylenders.
- **Digital Financial Services**: The adoption of mobile banking and digital payments has increased financial inclusion, particularly in rural areas, enabling faster transactions and financial transparency.

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Skill Development and Employability

Skill development equips marginalized youth with technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial skills necessary for employment or self-employment. According to the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC, 2022)**, youth trained in market-relevant skills have significantly higher employability and income potential.

Key Findings

- **Vocational Training**: Training in trades such as IT, carpentry, tailoring, and digital marketing enhances employability in formal and informal sectors.
- **Entrepreneurship Skills**: Programs that combine technical skills with business training improve youth's ability to start small enterprises, generating employment and income.
- **Linkages with Industry**: Collaboration between skill development programs and industry ensures that youth acquire skills that meet current market demands.

Inter connectedness of Financial Inclusion and Skill Development

The analysis reveals a strong interdependence between financial inclusion and skill development:

- **Financial Literacy Enhances Skill Utility**: Youth with financial knowledge are better able to utilize their skills for entrepreneurship or employment. For example, awareness about savings, credit, and investments helps skilled youth manage business finances effectively.
- **Access to Finance Supports Skill Application**: Even highly skilled youth cannot fully utilize their capabilities without access to financial resources to start businesses, purchase tools, or invest in further training.
- **Empowerment and Poverty Reduction**: The combination of skill development and financial inclusion creates a sustainable pathway for marginalized youth to escape poverty, achieve economic independence, and contribute to community development.

Challenges and Barriers

Despite the positive impact, several barriers persist:

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- **Limited Awareness**: Many marginalized youth are unaware of available financial schemes or skill development programs.
- **Social and Cultural Constraints**: Gender biases, caste-based discrimination, and rural-urban divides restrict participation.
- **Quality and Accessibility of Programs**: Inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained instructors, and poor program implementation limit the effectiveness of skill development initiatives.
- **Fragmented Policies**: Financial inclusion and skill development programs often operate in silos, reducing their combined impact.

Policy Implications from Analysis

- Integrating financial literacy into skill development programs can maximize economic benefits.
- Expanding microfinance and digital banking access for marginalized youth enhances the practical application of skills.
- Collaborative partnerships between government, financial institutions, and private organizations are essential to design inclusive and context-specific programs.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of initiatives ensure that marginalized youth derive tangible benefits from policies.

Conclusion of Analysis and Discussion

The evidence suggests that **financial inclusion and skill development are mutually reinforcing mechanisms** for empowering marginalized youth. When combined effectively, they create pathways for sustainable economic growth, reduce income inequality, and enhance social inclusion. Addressing the identified challenges will require coordinated efforts among policymakers, financial institutions, educational bodies, and community stakeholders.

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Findings

Based on the analysis of secondary data and literature, the study identifies the following key findings regarding the role of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth:

Financial Inclusion Findings

- **Access to Financial Services Remains Limited**: Despite government initiatives, a significant proportion of marginalized youth, particularly in rural areas, remain unbanked or underbanked.
- **Positive Impact on Entrepreneurship**: Youth with access to microloans or financial support are more likely to start small businesses and generate income.

- **Digital Inclusion is Increasing**: Mobile banking and digital payment platforms have improved accessibility, though digital literacy is still a barrier for many marginalized youth.
- **Financial Literacy is Critical**: Knowledge of financial products and management techniques enhances the effectiveness of financial inclusion programs.

Skill Development Findings

- **Enhanced Employability**: Vocational and technical training improves job readiness, allowing youth to secure employment in formal and informal sectors.
- **Entrepreneurial Opportunities**: Training programs that integrate business skills with technical skills empower youth to become self-employed or start small enterprises.
- **Industry-Relevant Training Matters**: Programs aligned with market demands have a higher success rate in employment and income generation.
- **Challenges in Program Implementation**: Inadequate infrastructure, lack of quality trainers, and limited awareness reduce the effectiveness of skill development initiatives.

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Interrelationship Findings

- **Mutual Reinforcement**: Financial inclusion and skill development together produce stronger economic outcomes than either approach alone.
- **Poverty Alleviation**: The combined effect of access to finance and skills reduces dependency on informal credit and low-paying jobs.
- **Social Empowerment**: Youth empowered with both skills and financial resources exhibit increased confidence, social participation, and economic independence.
- **Policy Gaps**: Fragmentation of financial and skill development programs limits potential synergies and reduces overall impact.

Overall Implications

- Integrated interventions combining financial literacy, access to credit, and vocational training are essential for maximizing youth economic empowerment.
- Marginalized youth require targeted support to overcome structural barriers such as social discrimination, rural-urban divides, and digital illiteracy.
- Sustainable economic growth can be achieved when youth empowerment is prioritized through coordinated policy frameworks and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Recommendations / Policy Implications

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the role of financial inclusion and skill development in promoting sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth:

Strengthening Financial Inclusion

- **Expand Access to Banking Services:** Increase the outreach of banks, microfinance institutions, and digital banking platforms in rural and underserved areas.
- **Promote Financial Literacy:** Integrate financial literacy programs into schools, vocational centers, and community initiatives to enhance youth understanding of savings, credit, investment, and risk management.

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- **Encourage Digital Financial Adoption:** Provide training in digital payments, mobile banking, and fintech applications to overcome technological barriers.
- **Targeted Financial Products for Youth:** Design youth-friendly financial products, including low-interest loans, startup capital, and insurance schemes tailored to marginalized groups.

Enhancing Skill Development

- **Market-Aligned Training Programs:** Ensure skill development programs are aligned with current industry requirements to improve employability.
- **Integrated Entrepreneurship Modules:** Combine technical training with entrepreneurship, financial management, and business planning skills to promote self-employment.
- **Accessible Vocational Centers:** Expand training infrastructure in rural areas and ensure programs are affordable and inclusive, particularly for women and disadvantaged youth.
- **Quality Assurance:** Standardize training quality through certified instructors, periodic evaluations, and skill assessment mechanisms.

Integrating Financial Inclusion and Skill Development

- **Combined Program Initiatives:** Design programs that simultaneously provide financial access, financial literacy, and skill development opportunities.
- **Support for Startups and Micro-Enterprises:** Facilitate access to seed funding, mentorship, and financial management support for youth-led enterprises.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Encourage collaboration between government, financial institutions, NGOs, and private enterprises to create comprehensive youth empowerment programs.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish systems to track program outcomes, identify gaps, and improve the effectiveness of integrated interventions.

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Policy Implication

- Policymakers should adopt an **integrated approach** that recognizes the interdependence of financial inclusion and skill development.
- Targeted interventions for marginalized youth can help reduce income inequality, improve social mobility, and contribute to long-term sustainable economic growth.
- Strategic investments in youth-focused programs are not only socially beneficial but also economically advantageous, as empowered youth serve as drivers of innovation and productivity

Conclusion

This study underscores the critical roles of financial inclusion and skill development in fostering sustainable economic growth among marginalized youth. The analysis reveals that these two factors are mutually reinforcing: while skill development enhances employability and entrepreneurial potential, financial inclusion provides the necessary resources, financial literacy, and access to credit that enable youth to effectively utilize their skills.

Marginalized youth face persistent barriers such as limited awareness, socio-cultural constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and fragmented policy implementation. Addressing these challenges requires integrated and targeted interventions that combine access to finance, financial literacy, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support.

The findings highlight that empowering marginalized youth through these combined mechanisms not only improves individual economic outcomes but also contributes to broader societal benefits, including poverty reduction, social inclusion, and long-term economic growth. Policy frameworks must therefore prioritize holistic approaches that ensure equitable access to financial services and skill development programs, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations.

In conclusion, financial inclusion and skill development are indispensable tools for harnessing the potential of marginalized youth. When implemented effectively, they pave the way for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economy, enabling youth to become active contributors to national development.

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Rural Realities in a Digital World: Overcoming the Digital Divide for Inclusive Empowerment

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Abstract

The **digital divide**, defined by the gap in access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), poses a significant challenge to inclusive development in rural communities.[1] This paper examines the multi-faceted nature of the digital divide in the national rural context, focusing on infrastructural, affordability, literacy, and socio-cultural barriers. It investigates how overcoming these challenges can unlock opportunities for **inclusive empowerment** across education, healthcare, and economic sectors. Using a mixed-methods approach,

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the study analyzes the determinants of digital inclusion and proposes a multi-pronged strategy involving policy intervention, public-private partnerships, and community-centric digital literacy initiatives. The findings underscore that successful digital integration must be rooted in local needs and aim to enhance human capital and economic resilience in rural areas.

Keywords: Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Significant, Challenge, Inclusive Development, Rural Communities, Digital Divide, Rural Context, Focusing on Infrastructural, Economic Sectors.

Introduction

The promise of the **digital economy such has** rapid connectivity, access to global knowledge, and efficient service delivery remains largely unrealized for a significant portion of the national populace residing in rural areas. While urbanization is driving digital growth, rural communities often lag due to deep-seated structural and systemic disparities, creating a persistent **"digital divide."** This division is not merely about lacking internet access; it is a complex exclusion from the social, economic, and political benefits that digital technology affords.[3]

This paper addresses the critical need to bridge this gap, asserting that a truly inclusive national development agenda must prioritize the digital empowerment of its rural communities. The objective is to diagnose the specific dimensions of the rural digital divide and propose a sustainable roadmap for inclusive empowerment, ensuring that digital transformation leaves no community behind.

Review of Literature

1. Dimensions of the Digital Divide

The digital divide literature identifies three primary levels of disparity:

1. **First-Level Divide (Access and Infrastructure):** This is the most fundamental barrier, characterized by inadequate or non-existent broadband infrastructure, unreliable electricity supply, and a low prevalence of digital devices (smartphones, computers). Studies, such as those on the universal service obligation funds, frequently critique the last-mile connectivity problem in rugged or remote terrains.

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2. **Second-Level Divide (Skills and Literacy):** Even where access exists, the inability to effectively use digital technologies, referred to as **digital illiteracy**, acts as a significant barrier (Van Deursen & Van Dijk, 2018). This often intersects with low general literacy levels, particularly among the elderly and women in rural settings, limiting their ability to benefit from digital services like e-governance or online education.
3. **Third-Level Divide (Outcomes and Empowerment):** This focuses on the conversion of digital access and skills into tangible socio-economic benefits (Hargittai, 2003).[4] Literature suggests that without tailored content, relevant applications, and supportive socio-cultural environments, digital access may not translate into empowerment, perpetuating existing inequalities.[5]

2. Digital Empowerment in Rural Contexts

Digital empowerment in rural areas is viewed through the lens of enhancing **human capital** and **economic opportunities**.

- **Economic Inclusion:** Digital platforms facilitate access to e-commerce (market access for rural products), FinTech (digital payments and credit), and skill development, leading to increased household income and reduced transaction costs.[6]
- **Social Inclusion and Services:** Digital technologies improve the delivery of essential services, including telemedicine (healthcare access) and online learning (quality education), which are historically deficient in rural regions.
- **Governance and Transparency:** Digital integration of governance (e-governance) can enhance transparency, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and improve the delivery of social welfare schemes.[7]

The literature emphasizes that interventions must move beyond mere connectivity to address the **relevance** and **affordability** of digital services (OECD, 2019).

Methodology

1. Research Design

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A **mixed-methods (rightarrow QUAN) sequential design** is employed, prioritizing qualitative exploration to understand the nuances of the rural experience before quantifying the trends.

1. **Qualitative Phase (Exploratory): Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** and **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** were conducted across three distinct rural clusters (e.g., geographically remote, agriculturally dominant, and peri-urban) to capture varied experiences. Participants included students, women entrepreneurs, farmers, local teachers, and village council members. The objective was to identify the most pressing digital barriers, the perceived utility of existing digital services, and socio-cultural resistance to technology adoption.
2. **Quantitative Phase (Confirmatory):** A structured survey was administered to a larger random sample of 800 rural households, building on the insights from the qualitative phase. The survey measured:
    - **Access Metrics:** Household internet penetration, quality of connection, device ownership, and electricity reliability.
    - **Usage and Literacy Metrics:** Frequency and purpose of internet use (economic, social, educational), and a validated digital skills index.
    - **Empowerment Outcomes:** Self-reported changes in income, access to government schemes, and use of digital health/education services.

2. Analytical Approach

- **Qualitative Analysis:** Thematic analysis was used to code and categorize recurring themes from FGDs and KIIs, identifying key determinants of digital exclusion (e.g., content language, cost of data, fear of fraud).
- **Quantitative Analysis:** Descriptive statistics provided an overview of access and usage. A **Binary Logistic Regression model** was employed to determine the significant predictors of **digital service adoption (DSA)**, with the dependent variable being a binary indicator (1=Regular DSA, 0=Irregular/No DSA). Independent variables included income, education, network quality, and a digital literacy score.

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Findings and Discussion

1. The Interplay of Infrastructure and Affordability

The study confirms that the First-Level Divide remains a formidable challenge. While mobile coverage is extensive, the availability of high-speed, affordable broadband is scarce.

A critical finding is the low use of fixed-line internet and a reliance on expensive mobile data, making data costs a significant barrier for low-income households, particularly for data-intensive activities like online education. The intermittent electricity supply also renders devices and charging a challenge, effectively reducing the time available for digital engagement.8

2. Digital Literacy as the Main Bottleneck

The **Second-Level Divide** emerged as the primary bottleneck for inclusive empowerment. The quantitative analysis showed that the **Digital Literacy Score** was the most significant predictor of Digital Service Adoption (DSA) (Odds Ratio $> 2.5, $p < 0.01$). FGDs revealed that fear of online scams, inability to navigate complex interfaces (often in English), and a lack of locally relevant content were major deterrents.

"We have the smartphone, but we don't know the proper way to use it for our business. We only use it for calling and the occasional video. Everything is in English, or too complicated." – Female entrepreneur, Rural Cluster 2.

3. Pathways to Inclusive Empowerment

Despite the barriers, the study identified pockets of success where digital tools are driving empowerment:

- **E-Agri and Market Linkages:** Farmers with access to digital market price information and weather advisories reported a significant (average 15%) increase in price realization for their produce.
- **Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Groups trained in using simple accounting apps and digital payment tools reported improved efficiency and better access to micro-credit, strengthening financial inclusion.

These successes, however, were concentrated in areas where a local NGO or a government-led digital champion had provided **localized, continuous digital mentorship**.

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Conclusion and Recommendations

The rural digital divide is an evolving challenge that shifts from simple access to meaningful usage and impactful outcomes. Overcoming this divide requires a strategic shift from merely expanding infrastructure to actively cultivating **digital human capital** within rural communities.[9]

Recommendations for Policy and Practice:

1. **Prioritize Affordable Broadband and Energy:** Implement policies that incentivize the rollout of low-cost, high-speed fiber-optic connectivity and ensure reliable, subsidized solar energy solutions for community centers and charging hubs.
2. **Launch a National Digital Mentorship Corps:** Establish a dedicated program of young, digitally-skilled volunteers to provide personalized, localized, and context-relevant training, with specific modules for women, the elderly, and small entrepreneurs. Training should be in local languages and focus on practical applications (e-commerce, e-governance, digital finance).[10]
3. **Promote Localized Content and Apps:** Encourage and fund the development of mobile applications that offer services and information (e.g., crop advisories, health information) in local languages and with simplified, visual interfaces.
4. **Incentivize Device Ownership:** Introduce subsidy schemes for low-cost digital devices to ensure that the primary access tool is affordable and accessible to the poorest households.

By adopting a comprehensive strategy that tackles both the hardware (infrastructure) and the humanware (literacy and content) aspects, the nation can effectively leverage digital technology to achieve true **inclusive empowerment** for its rural citizens, transforming the rural reality in the digital world.

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Socio-Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Women's Financial Inclusion in India: Pathways Toward Gender-Equitable Growth

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Abstract

Financial inclusion has emerged as a key driver for equitable economic growth, especially in developing countries like India where gender gaps persist in access to finance, education, and employment. This paper examines the socio-economic and cultural dimensions influencing women's financial inclusion, with a specific focus on intersectionality — encompassing caste, class, disability, and rural-urban divides. Despite numerous government and institutional interventions promoting inclusive finance, systemic barriers rooted in social hierarchies, patriarchal norms, and unpaid care work continue to limit women's access and agency in financial systems.

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Using a mixed-method approach involving secondary data from government reports, World Bank databases, and scholarly literature, this study analyses how financial instruments such as microfinance, SHGs (Self Help Groups), and digital payment systems have contributed to women's empowerment. However, findings reveal that socio-cultural biases and limited financial literacy persist as significant impediments. The paper also explores the experiences of migrant and rural women, highlighting their dual exclusion from formal financial systems and social protection schemes.

The study recommends gender-responsive financial policies, intersectional inclusion strategies, digital literacy training, and the integration of social norms transformation within financial literacy programs. Finally, it proposes a framework linking financial inclusion with social justice and inclusive growth, emphasizing collaboration among financial institutions, NGOs, and policymakers.

Keywords: Women's Financial Inclusion, Socio-Economic Barriers, Cultural Dimensions, Unpaid Care Work, Gender Equity, India

Introduction

Financial inclusion is not merely a banking issue but a socio-economic imperative. In India, where women constitute nearly half of the population, their economic participation is crucial for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Global Findex Database (2021) reports that 78% of Indian adults have bank accounts, yet a significant gender gap of nearly 10% persists in active financial participation.

The concept of financial inclusion goes beyond opening bank accounts—it involves ensuring equitable access to credit, insurance, digital finance, and entrepreneurship opportunities. However, socio-cultural barriers rooted in traditional gender roles, caste discrimination, regional inequalities, and economic marginalization continue to hinder women's effective participation in the financial ecosystem.

This paper explores the intersection of social, cultural, and economic dimensions that shape women's access to financial services in India. It seeks to answer:

How do socio-cultural factors affect women's financial inclusion?

What are the challenges faced by rural, marginalized, and migrant women?

What policy interventions can bridge the intersectional financial inclusion gap?

Conceptual Framework

Financial inclusion is conceptualized as a three-dimensional construct:

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1. Access: Availability of affordable and appropriate financial services.

2. Usage: Regular and meaningful utilization of financial services.

3. Quality: Suitability of financial services to meet users' needs sustainably.

The socio-economic and cultural context acts as an enabling or disabling environment. The framework below integrates:

Social dimension: Gender norms, caste hierarchy, and household roles.

Economic dimension: Income level, employment, and financial literacy.

Cultural dimension: Beliefs, traditions, and attitudes toward women's autonomy.

These factors collectively determine women's financial agency—their ability to make decisions and control resources.

Literature Review

Socio-Economic Barriers to Inclusion

According to Chattopadhyay & Duflo (2020), women's access to financial institutions is often limited by lack of collateral, property rights, and social mobility. Microfinance initiatives such as SHGs have helped women in rural areas access small loans, yet patriarchal structures often restrict their control over income.

Cultural and Intersectional Dimensions

Cultural taboos and patriarchal ideologies restrict women's participation in economic decision-making. Lower-caste and tribal women face compounded disadvantages due to intersectional discrimination. Studies by Nair (2021) show that social stigma, lack of education, and restricted mobility remain critical barriers.

Rural-Urban Divide and Digital Inclusion

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Urban women benefit more from digital banking and fintech adoption than rural women, who often lack smartphones or digital literacy. The Digital India initiative and Jan Dhan Yojana have improved access, yet usage remains low among rural women.

Unpaid Care Work and Financial Inequality

Women spend nearly 300 minutes per day on unpaid care work compared to 30 minutes by men (ILO, 2022). This unpaid burden restricts their participation in formal employment, entrepreneurship, and financial activities.

Research Methodology

Nature of the Study

This research adopts a qualitative and analytical approach based on secondary data and existing literature.

Data Sources

World Bank Global Findex Database (2021)

National Sample Survey (NSSO)

Reports from RBI, NABARD, and UN Women

Scholarly articles and case studies

Method of Analysis

Descriptive and thematic analysis has been employed to understand patterns, relationships, and implications of socio-economic and cultural barriers on financial inclusion.

Findings and Discussion

Intersectionality in Financial Inclusion

Women from marginalized castes and lower-income groups face structural discrimination in financial access. Banks often demand documentation or collateral that these women lack. Caste-based stigma and limited social capital reduce their ability to form or join SHGs.

Cultural Barriers and Patriarchal Norms

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Societal expectations often discourage women from engaging in financial decisions. In many households, men control financial transactions even if women contribute to income generation. Such norms perpetuate dependency and limit financial empowerment.

Rural-Urban Inequalities

Rural women rely more on informal credit sources, whereas urban women have access to digital wallets, online banking, and microloans. Lack of internet infrastructure and digital literacy deepens this divide.

Migrant Women and Remittances

Female migrant workers face dual exclusion: they are often excluded from formal banking systems in both their home and host regions. Their remittances are often mediated by informal channels, exposing them to exploitation.

Unpaid Care Work and Economic Invisibility

Women's unpaid domestic labor reduces their participation in income-generating activities. Financial products rarely account for the time and energy women devote to caregiving, thereby excluding them from financial planning and social protection benefits.

Case Studies

Kudumbashree (Kerala)

The Kudumbashree mission has successfully combined SHGs with entrepreneurship development. By addressing socio-cultural barriers, it has empowered thousands of women to manage microenterprises.

SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association)

SEWA has enabled informal women workers to organize for credit, insurance, and pension services, demonstrating the potential of cooperative models for inclusive finance.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

While PMJDY has enhanced financial access, the gender gap in account ownership and usage remains high due to lack of literacy and digital access among rural women.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

1. Gender-Responsive Financial Policies: Introduce gender budgeting and inclusive banking metrics.

2. Intersectional Frameworks: Recognize caste, class, and disability in financial inclusion strategies.

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3. Digital and Financial Literacy Training: Community-based education for rural and low-income women.

4. Recognition of Unpaid Care Work: Include care economy in financial product design and social security schemes.

5. Incentivize Financial Institutions: Reward banks for promoting inclusion among marginalized women.

6. NGO–Government Collaboration: Strengthen SHGs, cooperatives, and women-led fintech startups.

7. Cultural Reorientation: Use media and community outreach to challenge patriarchal norms.

Conclusion

Socio-economic and cultural dimensions play a decisive role in shaping women's financial inclusion. True inclusion cannot be achieved merely through account ownership or credit access—it requires transformation in social attitudes, policy frameworks, and financial systems. The empowerment of women through inclusive finance is both a human right and an economic necessity.

Creating an enabling ecosystem that acknowledges intersectionality, addresses unpaid care work, and bridges the rural-urban divide will accelerate India's progress toward gender-equitable growth.

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INFLUENCE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ON FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS – A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

Digital technology has transformed the dynamics of human interaction, communication, and relationships, particularly within the family which is the most fundamental social institution. This paper examines the

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sociological implications of digital technology on family relationships, focusing on communication patterns, intergenerational bonding, emotional connectivity, and socialization processes. While digital tools have enhanced connectivity and access to information, they have also created emotional distance, reduced physical interaction, and led to new forms of dependence and conflict. The study, based on secondary data and sociological perspectives, highlights both the positive and negative consequences of technological integration in family life. It concludes that digital technology, when used responsibly, can strengthen familial ties, but its overuse may weaken interpersonal bonds and social cohesion.

KEY WORDS: Family, Digital Technology, Communication, Socialization, Relationships, Sociology, Media Influence.

INTRODUCTION:

The family has long been regarded as the primary social unit responsible for nurturing emotional, moral, and social development. However, with the rapid advancement of digital technology including smartphones, social media, and the internet—the very foundation of family relationships is undergoing transformation.

In the 21st century, technology mediates almost every aspect of daily life: communication, education, work, and leisure. Families, once bound by face-to-face interactions and shared experiences, are now increasingly connected through screens. Sociologically, this shift raises questions about intimacy, communication quality, intergenerational relationships, and the redefinition of domestic spaces.

This study seeks to analyze how digital technology influences family dynamics, both as a facilitator of communication and as a source of emotional distance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study seeks to;

- Understand the impact of digital technology on family communication and bonding.
- Analyze how digital media affects intergenerational relationships within families.
- Study the positive and negative consequences of digital dependency in family life.
- Suggest sociological measures for balancing technology use and family interaction.

METHODOLOGY:

This paper employs a descriptive and analytical research design, relying primarily on secondary data sources. The data sources include Scholarly articles, sociological research papers, reports by organizations such as UNESCO and Pew Research Center, and publications related to media and family studies. The analytical

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approach covers a qualitative sociological analysis examining how digitalization affects communication patterns, parenting, marital relationships, and socialization processes. The study draws upon theories of symbolic interactionism, social exchange theory, and structural-functionalism to interpret the evolving role of technology in family relations.

DISCUSSION:

The discussion seeks to interpret how the advent of digital technology has transformed the structure, functions, and interactions within the modern family. In today's technologically mediated society, the family serves as both a user and a subject of digital influence. Mobile phones, social media, online entertainment, and virtual communication tools have altered everyday routines, redefining emotional closeness, authority patterns, and communication styles among family members. From facilitating constant connectivity to generating emotional distance, technology operates as a dual force the one that connects individuals across time and space while simultaneously reshaping traditional notions of intimacy and togetherness. The sociological analysis that follows explores these complex dynamics by examining how digital engagement affects communication, parenting, intergenerational relations, and the overall cohesion of the family unit.

1. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND CHANGING FAMILY PATTERNS

Digital technology has redefined communication within families. Smartphones, video calls, and instant messaging make it easier for members separated by distance to stay connected. Migrant workers, students, and parents living apart can maintain emotional closeness through virtual interaction. However, constant online engagement can also reduce face-to-face communication within households. The family dinner, once a space for bonding, is increasingly replaced by silent phone scrolling and social media engagement, leading to what sociologists describe as "alone together" syndrome (Turkle, 2011).

2. INTER-GENERATIONAL GAP AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIVIDE

Digital literacy varies across age groups, often creating intergenerational gaps. Younger members adapt quickly to new technologies, while elders may feel excluded. This leads to a symbolic reversal of authority, where children guide parents in the digital world.
At the same time, social media and online entertainment have influenced the way values are transmitted, sometimes challenging traditional norms and hierarchies. Families that bridge this gap through shared digital

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activities such as online learning or collaborative content creation—tend to show stronger intergenerational understanding.

3. PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Parents face new challenges in monitoring and guiding children's digital behavior. Overexposure to screens, online gaming, and social media affects children's mental health, attention span, and real-world social skills. While digital learning platforms and educational apps provide valuable resources, parental mediation has become essential. Sociological research emphasizes that families with structured digital boundaries like time limits and co-viewing practices maintain healthier relationships and better academic outcomes for children.

4. MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTIONAL INTIMACY

Technology has also impacted marital dynamics. On one hand, couples use digital media for emotional support, shared entertainment, and maintaining long-distance relationships. On the other, excessive use of social networking sites has led to digital jealousy, reduced communication, and even emotional infidelity. Studies suggest that couples who engage in shared digital experiences like watching online content together or planning activities digitally report stronger bonds, while those with individualized digital consumption patterns experience greater emotional distance.

5. REDEFINING SOCIALIZATION AND FAMILY SPACE

The home has become a hybrid digital space—a mix of physical and virtual worlds. Socialization, once centered around community and kinship, is increasingly mediated through online networks. While digital tools have broadened families' exposure to diverse ideas and cultures, they have also contributed to social isolation and the decline of collective family activities. The sociological concern lies in how technology reshapes the meaning of togetherness, where proximity no longer guarantees interaction.

6. POSITIVE OUTCOMES: EMPOWERMENT AND CONNECTIVITY

Despite challenges, digital technology has offered significant benefits:

- Empowerment of women through access to online education and work-from-home opportunities.
- Strengthening of transnational families, where members stay connected across borders.
- Access to health, financial, and social services that improve family well-being.
- When used consciously, technology enhances family resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing world.

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7. NEGATIVE OUTCOMES: DEPENDENCY AND ALIENATION

Excessive digital use leads to technological dependency, reduced attention to family members, and emotional detachment. Children raised in media-saturated environments may face socialization deficits, preferring virtual interaction over real relationships. Moreover, online privacy issues, cyber-bullying, and exposure to inappropriate content add new layers of family conflict and anxiety.

FINDINGS:

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- Digital technology has both strengthened and weakened family ties depending on usage patterns.
- Overdependence on digital media correlates with communication breakdowns and reduced emotional intimacy.
- Families practicing shared, purposeful digital engagement experience greater cohesion.
- Intergenerational digital literacy plays a crucial role in bridging communication gaps.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Encourage family digital literacy programs to promote balanced technology use.
- Reinforce family time without gadgets to enhance face-to-face interaction.
- Integrate digital ethics and awareness education into school and community programs.
- Promote intergenerational digital collaboration (e.g., grandparents and children learning together).
- Formulate policy initiatives encouraging healthy digital environments at home and in education.

CONCLUSION:

Digital technology has undeniably reshaped family life, altering communication, intimacy, and socialization. From a sociological perspective, it acts as both a connector and divider—bridging distance but, also creating emotional gaps. The challenge for modern families lies in balancing digital connectivity with genuine human interaction.

To preserve the family as a cohesive and nurturing unit, technology must serve as a tool of empowerment and inclusion, not replacement of emotional presence. Ultimately, the health of family relationships in the digital era depends not on the tools themselves but on the social values, discipline, and empathy with which they are used.

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Health Policies and Healthcare of Women in the Digital Era in India – A Review

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ABSTRACT:

The digital era has transformed healthcare delivery worldwide, offering new avenues for improving access, monitoring, and outcomes, particularly for women. In India, women face unique health challenges including maternal and reproductive health issues, malnutrition, and gender-based disparities in access to healthcare. This paper reviews existing health policies, programs, and digital initiatives aimed at improving

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women's healthcare in India. It examines the role of digital technologies like telemedicine, mobile health applications, electronic health records, and AI-enabled diagnostics in enhancing healthcare accessibility, affordability, and quality. The review identifies policy gaps, challenges in implementation, and the potential of digital interventions to empower women, improve health outcomes, and bridge urban-rural and socio-economic disparities.

KEY WORDS: Women's Health, Digital Health, Health Policies, Telemedicine, e-Health, India, Maternal Health, Public Health.

INTRODUCTION:

Women's health has historically been a critical but under-addressed area in India due to socio-cultural, economic, and geographic factors. Despite policy efforts to improve maternal and reproductive health, gender disparities in healthcare persist. The emergence of digital health technologies ranging from teleconsultations to mobile health applications offers a significant opportunity to address these disparities.

Digital tools facilitate timely healthcare access, health education, monitoring of chronic and maternal conditions, and data-driven policymaking. Programs such as eSanjeevani, mHealth initiatives under the National Health Mission (NHM), and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aim to leverage technology for equitable health delivery. This review examines the intersection of women's health policies and digital technologies in India, highlighting successes, challenges, and areas for improvement.

OBJECTIVES:

- To review key health policies and programs targeting women's health in India.
- To analyze the role of digital technologies in improving access and quality of healthcare for women.
- To identify challenges and limitations in implementing digital health solutions.
- To provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of digital interventions in women's healthcare.

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METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on a qualitative review of secondary sources, including Government reports and policy documents from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, and National Health Authority. Digital health initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, eSanjeevani, and mobile health applications. Scholarly articles, reviews, and research publications on women's health and digital health in India. International guidelines and best practices from WHO and UNICEF related to digital interventions in women's health. The study uses a descriptive-analytical framework to synthesize information on policies, programs, and digital tools, highlighting their relevance to women's healthcare in India.

DISCUSSION:

1. Women's Health Policies in India

India has implemented several policies to address women's health concerns:

- National Health Policy (2017) emphasizes gender equity and maternal health.
- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) focus on maternal and child health services.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) provides financial assistance to pregnant women.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme expands insurance coverage and facilitates access to tertiary care.

While these policies aim to improve healthcare accessibility, implementation challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, shortage of female health workers, and cultural barriers limit their impact, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

2. Digital Technology in Women's Healthcare

Digital technologies play a pivotal role in bridging healthcare gaps for women:

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- ***Telemedicine and e-Consultation:*** Platforms like eSanjeevani allow rural women to consult doctors without traveling long distances. Telemedicine reduces maternal and reproductive health risks by facilitating timely medical intervention.
- ***Mobile Health (mHealth) Applications: Apps*** such as RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health) and mDiabetes provide health information, track vaccination schedules, and monitor chronic conditions, empowering women to manage their own health.
- ***Electronic Health Records (EHRs):*** Digital health IDs under Ayushman Bharat create longitudinal health records for women, ensuring continuity of care across facilities and reducing duplication of tests.
- ***AI and Diagnostic Tools:*** AI-enabled imaging and screening devices for breast and cervical cancer improve early detection, particularly in low-resource rural settings.

3. *Impact on Rural and Marginalized Women*

Digital health initiatives are particularly transformative for women in rural areas:

- Reduced travel time and cost for medical consultations.
- Enhanced access to maternal, reproductive, and preventive healthcare services.
- Greater autonomy in health decisions due to access to accurate health information.

However, socio-economic and digital literacy barriers continue to limit reach. Women in remote areas often lack smartphones, internet connectivity, or familiarity with digital platforms, creating a digital divide in healthcare access.

4. *Challenges and Limitations*

Despite potential benefits, the digital approach to women's health faces several obstacles:

- Connectivity issues in rural and hilly regions.
- Limited digital literacy among women and frontline health workers.
- Cultural and social barriers restricting women's use of technology.

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- Data privacy and security concerns with sensitive health information.
- Insufficient integration between digital tools and on-ground health services.

Addressing these challenges is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of digital health policies.

5. *Policy Recommendations*

- ***Strengthen Digital Infrastructure:*** Expand broadband coverage and ensure availability of devices in rural areas.
- ***Promote Digital Literacy:*** Train women and health workers to effectively use telemedicine and mHealth platforms.
- ***Integrate Digital Solutions with Policy Programs:*** Ensure alignment of technology initiatives with existing health schemes.
- ***Focus on Marginalized Groups:*** Develop inclusive strategies targeting rural, tribal, and low-income women.
- ***Ensure Data Security:*** Implement robust digital privacy policies to protect sensitive health information.
- ***Encourage Public-Private Partnerships:*** Leverage technology innovations and local entrepreneurship to enhance service delivery.

CONCLUSION

The digital era has opened new avenues for improving women's healthcare in India, enhancing access, affordability, and quality. Telemedicine, mobile health, electronic health records, and AI-enabled diagnostics offer innovative solutions to long-standing challenges. However, structural limitations, socio-cultural barriers, and the digital divide continue to hinder equitable access. Strengthening policies, building digital literacy, and fostering inclusive digital health infrastructure are critical for empowering women and achieving sustainable

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health outcomes. Digital technology, when effectively integrated with national health policies, can play a transformative role in shaping a healthier and more equitable future for women in India.

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Exploring Technologies of Financial Inclusion and Their Influence on Governance Structures and Sustainability Commitments in Diverse Societal Context

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Abstract:
The present study investigates the influence of digital financial technology adoption, financial inclusion infrastructure, and the effectiveness of the governance structure to commit to sustainability, especially in the regions that are underdeveloped. A quantitative method based on Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) was used and data was gathered over a total of 648 individuals from over six districts in northern Karnataka representing

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both rural and urban thought. The results show that the three constructs have significant effect on sustainability where the governance structure acts as a moderating factor. It is observed that cultural factors mildly affect such relations especially between digital adoptions, plans include people and sustainability results. This model is quite robust as the measures of reliability, discriminant validity, and predictive relevance are above the thresholds. The paper has important implications to policymakers noting the significance of a combined digital, cultural, and governance approach toward sustainability development. It also determines some critical strengths and areas which require improvement like cultural alignment and financial literacy. The study as a whole gives a practical basis on the front of designing inclusive, technology-based financial systems that facilitate long-term sustainability.

Keywords: Digital Financial Inclusion, Governance Effectiveness, Sustainability, Cultural Moderation, PLS-SEM

1. Introduction:

Over the past few years technological innovation and financial inclusion have emerged as a potent force of revolutionary change in the governance system and sustainability environment. With societies increasingly turning to digital solutions, the ability of the technology to generate financial inclusion and inclusive growth seems to be widely understood in the global context. Whether through mobile banking, blockchain technologies, to artificial intelligence-driven financial services, such devices are not only opening up financial systems to more people but also transforming institutional procedures and sustainability pledges (Akanfe et al., 2025; Almaqtari et al., 2025). Financial inclusion as a developmental goal has become a strategic tool of influencing decision-making and ethical designing, especially in developing economies, where fintech is a convergence factor connecting basically underserved communities and formal financial systems (Danladi et al., 2023; Salleh et al., 2025).

In this dynamic eco system, there is a slight but deeper change in governance. Transparency in digital finance, as well as its monitoring through IT and blockchain is also helping deliver better accountability, risk reduction, and sustainable performance results (Almaqtari, 2024; Tian et al., 2024). In addition, the financial technologies are helping governments and institutions to be closer to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular reference to those relating to poverty reduction, gender equality, and climate resilience (Yap et al., 2023; Gupta & Kiran, 2024). These reforms are not limited to domestic spheres, and instead, they reverberate across the geographical boundaries, with European states, say, serving as an embodiment of how fintech and financial inclusion contribute to global sustainability by streamlining load capacity mechanisms (Samour et al., 2024).

More importantly, the interaction between technology and inclusion is transforming ESG performance frameworks and enhancing corporate responsibility and serves to establish more inclusive forms of governance (Xue et al., 2023; Zhao & Xing, 2024). Be it the slums of a city or the electronic cities, these developments are cultivating a novel pattern of economic fairness, institutional customization, and sustainable participation not only

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in response to the financial needs but also to the corporate moral ideals of the globalized people (Bhatia & Singh, 2020).

2. Significance of the Study:

There can be no overstatement of the importance of investigating the intersection of financial inclusion technologies and governance structures and sustainability. To begin with, the study provides insightful support of how the extensive use of digital financial instruments including mobile payments, blockchain, and artificial intelligence helps to increase access to financial support of marginalized groups of people, which also enhances the transparency of said institutions and ecological responsibility (Becha et al., 2025; Vuković et al., 2025). This interlinkage is an in-situ investigation of the ability of underserved groups to establish more secure financial grounds using available technologies (Merhlanga, 2022), and how this income is reflected through government channels.

Moreover, concentrating on modulating roles of IT governance and fintech adoption helps this study to fill a gap that existed in a research field. The previous study demonstrates that the structured IT governance has a potential to increase sustainability impact of fintech, but very little is understood about the way such arrangements work across various socio-economic backgrounds (Almaqtari, 2024; Almaqtari et al., 2025). This in-depth study is preparing researches and policy-makers with evidence-based measures to reinforce the institutional arrangements and increase the positive effects of digital finance.

Sustainability views, the study throws light on how technology-supported financial inclusion can comply with and even fasten the attainment of the ecological, social and governance (ESG) objectives. In empirical investigations, the benefits of fintech in the regions exceeded the expectations of washers (Sun et al., 2025), and digital firms had greater ESG performance (Morshadul Hasan et al., 2024). The appreciation of these dynamics will place the stakeholders in a position to develop policies that will exploit financial innovation in sustained development.

Lastly, the research will be of practical relevance. This study will inform programs whose mission is to create more inclusive and sustainable economies thanks to the practical examples of case studies that specifically address the topics of self-help groups in India (Kadaba et al., 2023; Malhotra & Saravanan, 2025) and financial empowerment of women (Gupta & Kiran, 2024). All in all, the given insights prove the necessity of a systematic investigation of the central interaction between fintech, governance, and sustainability. Consequently, the study aimed has been meticulously formulated to explore the impacts of technological financial inclusion on the structures of governance and sustainability obligations in diverse situation contexts in society.

3. Objective of the Study:

With the aim of investigating how complex determinants influence the outcome of sustainability, the importance of governance and culture as an intervention factor of both mediation as well as moderation.

4. Conceptual Framework & Hypothesis Development:

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The three aspects of digital technologies, financial inclusion, and governing structures come together in a complex way and are understood to better adapt to the current social and economic reality that is changing by the minute. The processes through which the adoption of technology and accessibility to it by finance impact on the quality governance and environmental responsibility become more relevant as countries search after achievement of sustainable development goals. A recent body of research indicates that financial technologies are not only an enabler of the economic participation but also an enabler in terms of the transparency of the institutions and long-term sustainability planning (Garg & Kumar, 2024; Mhlanga, 2024). Additionally, the establishment of strong financial infrastructure, coupled with a fair accessibility level and financial literacy, promotes the more open practice of governance, which is more aligned with environmental and social requirements (Gupta & Kiran, 2024; Bhatia & Singh, 2020).

The success of government institutions frequently depends on underlying facilitating things such as rules, financial system trust, and technological readiness, which will define policy and institutional governance (Vukovic et al., 2025; Saxena et al., 2023. The digital finance technologies, specifically, the blockchain and cloud ecologies, are gaining prominence as the means of improving ESG performance and developing trust with the wider audience (Tian et al., 2024; Zhao & Xing, 2024). At the same time, financial inclusion powered by fintech is a way to provide unrepresented groups with an opportunity to access sustainable money, supporting the social imperative of transparency and equity on the societal level (Danladi et al., 2023; Kadaba et al., 2023). It is out of this synthesized knowledge that I have come up with the following four hypotheses aimed at testing the direct impacts of digital financial adoption, digital financial infrastructure factor and the aspect of digital financial governance on the outcome of sustainability.

4.1 Direct Effect

H1: Digital Financial Technology Adoption positively influences Sustainability Commitments.
H2: Financial Inclusion Infrastructure positively influences Sustainability Commitments.
H3: Governance Structure Effectiveness positively influences Sustainability Commitments.
H4: Digital Financial Technology Adoption positively influences Governance Structure Effectiveness.
H5: Financial Inclusion Infrastructure positively influences Governance Structure Effectiveness.
H6: Policy Framework positively influences Governance Structure Effectiveness.
H7: Trust in Financial Systems positively influences Governance Structure Effectiveness.
H8: Financial Literacy positively influences Governance Structure Effectiveness.

4.2 Mediation Hypotheses

The correlation between finance technological advancement and sustainability is growing with the manner in which the governing structure is mediating this correlation. With digital financial tools and the spread of inclusive infrastructures opening up opportunities in terms of access, the real difference they make in terms of sustainability is usually highly dependent on the capacity and responsiveness of the institutions (Almaqtari et al., 2025; Becha et al., 2025). Making the digital developments operational with regard to the environment and society, successful

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governance can bring those social and environmental changes into practice (Gupta & Kiran, 2024; Zhao & Xing, 2024). Besides, trust, regulation, and accountability represent one of the primary avenues between innovation and sustainable commitments (Mhlanga, 2024; Saxena et al., 2023). In such a way, this paper considers the importance of governance effectiveness as a significant mediator in such processes (Danladi et al., 2023; Tian et al., 2024).

H9: Governance Structure Effectiveness mediates the relationship between Digital Financial Technology Adoption and Sustainability Commitments.

H10: Governance Structure Effectiveness mediates the relationship between Financial Inclusion Infrastructure and Sustainability Commitments.

4.3 Moderation Hypotheses

The cultural processes are contributing immensely toward the process of adopting financial technologies and achieving the sustainability objectives in society. Values, norms and social behavior will weaken or strengthen the positive impact of fintech and governance reforms on sustainable development (Yap et al., 2023; Salleh et al., 2025). The effects of financial inclusion on the sustainability are greater in cultures where collectivist trust and digital literacy are important aspects (Gupta & Kiran, 2024; Kadaba et al., 2023). On the other hand, these effects can be watered down due to the resistance to the digital change in some cultures (Mhlanga, 2022; Bhatia & Singh, 2020). The given study, thus, examines the role of cultural moderators in these changing relationships (Danladi et al., 2023; Malhotra & Saravanan, 2025).

H11: Cultural Factors moderate the relationship between Digital Financial Technology Adoption and Sustainability Commitments.

H12: Cultural Factors moderate the relationship between Governance Structure Effectiveness and Sustainability Commitments.

H13: Cultural Factors moderate the relationship between Financial Inclusion Infrastructure and Sustainability Commitments.

5. Methods & Materials:

The research design adopted in the study is through quantitative research methodology, which is guided by the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to determine relationships that exist between fintech adoption, the type of governance structures in the company, and sustainability commitments. The SEM is especially appropriate in this case because it enables the evaluation of complex interrelationship patterns which involves not only mediation and moderation but a single combined model. The research group took the sample of a total of 648 respondents in 6 economically disadvantaged districts in Northern Karnataka, including Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal, and Ballari, so that the findings will be from any background social or economic that the financial inclusion can have a concrete effect. The inclusion of the views of both rural and urban settings was carried out in a multi-stage stratified random sampling strategy. Data analysis was carried out using SPSS and SEM tools, incorporating checks for internal consistency and validity through HTMT and Fornell-Larcker criteria. The

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process also included path analysis with confidence intervals, tests for governance as a mediator and culture as a moderator, and an evaluation of the model's predictive power using R^2 and Q^2 values.

6. Analysis and Interpretation

Table-1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents under study

Demographic Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	356	54.9
	Female	292	45.1
Age Groups	18-30 years	194	29.9
	31-45 years	227	35.0
	46-60 years	162	25.0
	Above 60 years	65	10.1
Education Level	Illiterate	78	12.0
	Primary (1-5th)	136	21.0
	Secondary (6-10th)	181	27.9
	Higher Secondary (11-12th)	142	21.9
	Graduate & Above	111	17.2
Occupation	Agriculture/Farming	246	38.0
	Small Business/Trade	97	15.0
	Government Employee	52	8.0
	Private Employee	84	13.0
	Daily Wage Labor	123	19.0
	Unemployed/Student	46	7.0
Monthly Income (₹)	Below 10,000	181	27.9
	10,001-25,000	227	35.0
	25,001-50,000	149	23.0
	50,001-1,00,000	71	11.0
	Above 1,00,000	20	3.1
Residence Type	Rural	421	65.0
	Semi-Urban	149	23.0
	Urban	78	12.0
District Distribution	Bidar	108	16.7
	Gulbarga (Kalaburagi)	108	16.7
	Raichur	108	16.7
	Yadgir	108	16.7

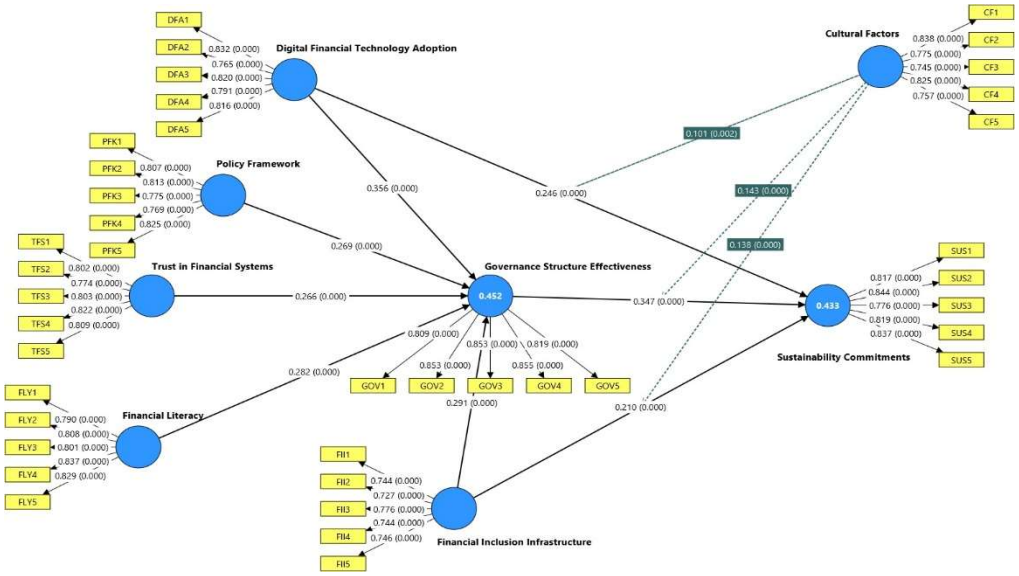
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	Koppal	108	16.7
	Ballari	108	16.7
Smartphone Ownership	Yes	487	75.2
	No	161	24.8
Banking Status	Account Holder	571	88.1
	No Bank Account	77	11.9
Digital Payment Usage	Regular User	292	45.1
	Occasional User	194	29.9
	Non-User	162	25.0
Internet Access	Regular Access	324	50.0
	Limited Access	227	35.0
	No Access	97	15.0
Family Size	1-3 members	123	19.0
	4-6 members	389	60.0
	7+ members	136	21.0
Social Category	General	162	25.0
	OBC	259	40.0
	SC/ST	227	35.0

Source: *Field Survey*

Figure-1 Analysed Model for proposed study



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Table 2 Reliability and Convergent Validity Assessment of Latent Constructs in the Measurement Model

Construct	Item	Details	Loading
Cultural Factors	CF1	In my community, most people still prefer cash over digital payments.	**0.84**
	CF2	Cultural traditions in my region affect how people perceive digital banking.	**0.78**
	CF3	People in my locality are hesitant to adopt new financial technologies.	**0.75**
	CF4	Family and social circles influence my decisions on using digital financial services.	**0.83**
	CF5	There is a general lack of trust in digital systems in my cultural environment.	**0.76**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.849, Composite reliability = 0.865, Average variance extracted = 0.622			
Digital Financial Technology Adoption	DFA 1	I frequently use UPI or mobile payment applications for transactions.	**0.83**
	DFA 2	I feel confident using digital wallets and online banking.	**0.77**
	DFA 3	I prefer digital transactions over cash for most of my expenses.	**0.82**
	DFA 4	I use internet banking services for financial management.	**0.79**
	DFA 5	I have access to multiple digital financial platforms (e.g., UPI, mobile banking, wallet apps).	**0.82**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.864, Composite reliability = 0.867, Average variance extracted = 0.648			
Financial Inclusion Infrastructure	FII1	There are banking services available within a short distance of my residence.	**0.74**
	FII2	I have uninterrupted internet access required to use digital financial services.	**0.73**
	FII3	ATM and mobile banking units are available in my locality.	**0.78**
	FII4	Mobile networks in my area support digital transactions effectively.	**0.74**

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	FII5	Power supply in my region supports consistent access to digital finance tools.	**0.75**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.803, Composite reliability = 0.805, Average variance extracted = 0.559			
Financial Literacy	FLY1	I understand how to use mobile and internet banking securely.	**0.79**
	FLY2	I am aware of my rights and responsibilities when using digital financial platforms.	**0.81**
	FLY3	I can identify fraudulent or risky financial apps and links.	**0.80**
	FLY4	I know how to protect my digital financial credentials (PIN, passwords, etc.).	**0.84**
	FLY5	I feel confident navigating new digital financial technologies.	**0.83**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.872, Composite reliability = 0.877, Average variance extracted = 0.661			
Governance Structure Effectiveness	GOV 1	Digital finance has increased transparency in public service delivery.	**0.81**
	GOV 2	Corruption has decreased with the use of digital financial transactions.	**0.85**
	GOV 3	Public schemes reach intended beneficiaries more efficiently through digital transfers	**0.85**
	GOV 4	Citizens have better access to government services via digital channels.	**0.86**
	GOV 5	Participation in governance (e.g., grievance redressal) has improved due to digital tools.	**0.82**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.894, Composite reliability = 0.895, Average variance extracted = 0.702			
Policy Framework	PFK1	Government policies support the expansion of digital financial services.	**0.81**
	PFK2	Aadhaar integration has made access to financial services easier for me.	**0.81**
	PFK3	I believe that data privacy regulations protect my financial information.	**0.78**

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	PFK4	Fintech initiatives are well supported by national or state-level policies.	**0.77**
	PFK5	I feel safe because of the government's consumer protection laws in digital finance	**0.83**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.858, Composite reliability = 0.864, Average variance extracted = 0.637			
Sustainability Commitments	SUS1	Digital payments reduce my dependence on paper-based transactions.	**0.82**
	SUS2	I support businesses that promote digital and eco-friendly financial practices.	**0.84**
	SUS3	My use of digital finance has helped me save resources (time, cost, paper).	**0.78**
	SUS4	I believe digital finance contributes to broader environmental conservation goals.	**0.82**
	SUS5	I have adopted more sustainable financial habits due to digital platforms.	**0.84**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.877, Composite reliability = 0.881, Average variance extracted = 0.670			
Trust in Financial Systems	TFS1	I trust my bank or financial service provider to handle my digital transactions securely.	**0.80**
	TFS2	I believe digital financial systems are reliable.	**0.77**
	TFS3	I trust that my financial data is safe when I use online financial services.	**0.80**
	TFS4	I am confident that issues with digital transactions will be resolved promptly.	**0.82**
	TFS5	I feel safe using government-backed digital payment platforms (e.g., BHIM, UPI).	**0.81**
Cronbach's alpha = 0.862, Composite reliability = 0.865, Average variance extracted = 0.643			

The measurement model in this study reflects a high level of reliability and validity across all constructs. As outlined in Table 2, Cronbach's alpha values range from 0.803 for Financial Inclusion Infrastructure to 0.894 for Governance Structure Effectiveness, all surpassing the accepted benchmark of 0.70, which indicates strong internal consistency. Similarly, composite reliability values fall between 0.805 and 0.895, further validating consistency across items. The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values, ranging from 0.559 to 0.702, meet the 0.50 threshold, confirming adequate convergent validity. Most factor loadings exceed 0.70, with minor exceptions

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like FII2 at 0.73, still within acceptable bounds. These results affirm the robustness of constructs such as Cultural Factors, Digital Financial Technology Adoption, Financial Inclusion Infrastructure, Financial Literacy, Governance Structure Effectiveness, Policy Framework, Sustainability Commitments, and Trust in Financial Systems, ensuring their reliability for further structural analysis.

Table 3 Discriminant Validity Assessment Using HTMT and Fornell–Larcker Criteria

HTMT Matrix for Discriminant Validity-3a

Construct	CF	DFA	FII	FL	GOV	PFK	SUS	TFS
Cultural Factors								
Digital Financial Technology Adoption	0.038							
Financial Inclusion Infrastructure	0.062	0.059						
Financial Literacy	0.053	0.059	0.047					
Governance Structure Effectiveness	0.067	0.421	0.345	0.309				
Policy Framework	0.049	0.059	0.038	0.040	0.338			
Sustainability Commitments	0.213	0.414	0.378	0.117	0.551	0.135		
Trust in Financial Systems	0.080	0.051	0.062	0.051	0.324	0.090	0.098	

Fornell–Larcker Criterion for Discriminant Validity-3b

Construct	CF	DFA	FII	FL	GOV	PFK	SUS	TFS
Cultural Factors	**0.789**							

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Digital Financial Technology Adoption	-0.007	**0.805**						
Financial Inclusion Infrastructure	-0.036	0.030	**0.748**					
Financial Literacy	-0.043	-0.006	-0.023	**0.813**				
Governance Structure Effectiveness	-0.054	0.371	0.294	0.276	**0.838**			
Policy Framework	0.006	0.001	0.008	0.026	0.299	**0.798**		
Sustainability Commitments	0.189	0.365	0.319	0.104	0.490	0.114	**0.819**	
Trust in Financial Systems	-0.060	0.027	-0.013	-0.019	0.286	0.074	0.085	**0.802**

The HTMT matrix presented in Table 3(a) was used to assess discriminant validity by comparing the strength of correlations between different constructs relative to those within the same construct. In line with the guideline by Henseler et al. (2015), HTMT values should remain below 0.85, and in this analysis, all values meet this conservative threshold, with the highest observed at 0.551 between Governance Structure Effectiveness and Sustainability Commitments. This indicates that the constructs are empirically distinct. Additionally, Table 3(b) applies the Fornell and Larcker criterion, which states that the square root of each construct's AVE, shown on the diagonal, should be higher than any inter-construct correlation. In this case, values such as 0.805 for Digital Financial Technology Adoption, 0.748 for Financial Inclusion Infrastructure, 0.838 for Governance Structure Effectiveness, and 0.819 for Sustainability Commitments exceed the correlations with other constructs in their respective rows and columns. These results strongly affirm that all constructs maintain clear discriminant validity based on both the HTMT and Fornell–Larcker approaches, ensuring the uniqueness and integrity of each measured variable in the model.

Table 4 Structural Path Analysis with Confidence Intervals, Effect Sizes, and Multicollinearity Statistics

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Hy	Path	Beta	SE	t-value	Confidence Interval (%)		f 2	Effect size	VIF
					2.50	97.50			
H1	DFA -> SUS	0.246**	0.032	7.752	0.183	0.308	0.090	Small	1.181
H2	DFA -> GOV	0.356**	0.028	12.720	0.303	0.412	0.232	Medium	1.002
H3	FII -> SUS	0.21**	0.033	6.456	0.145	0.273	0.070	Small	1.111
H4	FII -> GOV	0.291**	0.028	10.278	0.233	0.346	0.155	Medium	1.002
H5	GOV -> SUS	0.347**	0.034	10.253	0.283	0.416	0.165	Medium	1.288
H6	PFK -> GOV	0.269**	0.030	9.100	0.211	0.325	0.132	Small	1.006
H7	TFS -> GOV	0.266**	0.029	9.235	0.207	0.320	0.128	Small	1.007
H8	FL -> GOV	0.282**	0.030	9.521	0.223	0.339	0.145	Small	1.002

The results shown in Table 4 clearly confirm that all eight proposed hypotheses (H1–H8) hold both statistical and theoretical significance. Digital Financial Technology Adoption demonstrates a meaningful positive impact on Sustainability Commitments (β = 0.246, f^2 = 0.090, t = 7.752, CI [0.183, 0.308]) and also strongly influences Governance Structure Effectiveness (β = 0.356, f^2 = 0.232, t = 12.720, CI [0.303, 0.412]). Similarly, Financial Inclusion Infrastructure contributes positively to both Sustainability Commitments (β = 0.210, f^2 = 0.070, t = 6.456, CI [0.145, 0.273]) and Governance Structure Effectiveness (β = 0.291, f^2 = 0.155, t = 10.278, CI [0.233, 0.346]). Governance Structure Effectiveness itself emerges as a strong enhancer of Sustainability Commitments (β = 0.347, f^2 = 0.165, t = 10.253, CI [0.283, 0.416]). Moreover, Policy Framework (β = 0.269), Trust in Financial Systems (β = 0.266), and Financial Literacy (β = 0.282) each show statistically significant and positive influences on Governance Structure Effectiveness. These findings confirm that technological innovation, inclusive infrastructure, and informed citizen engagement collectively foster stronger governance, which in turn promotes sustainable financial behavior.

Table 5 Mediation Analysis of Governance Structure Effectiveness between Predictors and Sustainability Commitments

Hyp	Path	Beta	SE	t-value	Confidence Interval (%)	Supported

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					2.50	97.50	
	Total Effect						
	DFA -> SUS	0.37**	0.029	12.698	0.311	0.425	Yes
	FII -> SUS	0.312**	0.031	9.935	0.252	0.374	Yes
	Indirect Effect						
	DFA -> GOV -> SUS	0.124**	0.015	8.006	0.095	0.156	Yes
	FII -> GOV -> SUS	0.101**	0.015	6.931	0.073	0.126	Yes
	Direct Effect						
	DFA -> SUS	0.246**	0.032	7.752	0.183	0.308	Yes
	FII -> SUS	0.21**	0.033	6.456	0.145	0.273	Yes

	Path	**Mediation Type**
H9	DFA -> GOV -> SUS	**Partial Mediation**
H10	FII -> GOV -> SUS	**Partial Mediation**

The mediation analysis highlights that Governance Structure Effectiveness plays a meaningful and statistically significant mediating role in both hypothesised relationships, confirming partial mediation for H9 and H10. For H9, Digital Financial Technology Adoption shows a strong total effect on Sustainability Commitments (β = 0.370, SE = 0.029, t = 12.698, CI [0.311, 0.425]), with a significant indirect effect through Governance (β = 0.124, SE = 0.015, t = 8.006, CI [0.095, 0.156]) and a still-significant direct effect (β = 0.246, SE = 0.032, t = 7.752, CI [0.183, 0.308]). Similarly, H10 demonstrates that Financial Inclusion Infrastructure positively impacts Sustainability Commitments (β = 0.312, SE = 0.031, t = 9.935, CI [0.252, 0.374]), with its indirect path through Governance also significant (β = 0.101, SE = 0.015, t = 6.931, CI [0.073, 0.126]), while the direct path remains impactful (β = 0.210, SE = 0.033, t = 6.456, CI [0.145, 0.273]).

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Table 6 Moderation Analysis of Cultural Factors on the Relationship between Predictors and Sustainability Commitments

Hyp	Path	Beta	SE	t-value	Confidence Interval (%)		f 2	Effect size	VIF
					2.50	97.50			
H11	CF x DFA -> SUS	0.101**	0.032	3.155	0.040	0.166	0.033	Small	1.165
H12	CF x GOV -> SUS	0.143**	0.033	4.294	0.078	0.210	0.014	No Effect	1.199
H13	CF x FII -> SUS	0.138**	0.030	4.681	0.081	0.197	0.031	Small	1.048

The moderation analysis presented in Table 6 explores how Cultural Factors influence the strength of the relationships between Digital Financial Technology Adoption, Governance Structure Effectiveness, and Financial Inclusion Infrastructure with Sustainability Commitments. All three interaction terms are statistically significant, confirming the presence of moderation effects. For H11, the interaction between Cultural Factors and Digital Financial Technology Adoption is significant ($\beta = 0.101$, $f^2 = 0.033$, $t = 3.155$, CI [0.040, 0.166]), reflecting a small but meaningful impact. H13 also shows a significant interaction between Cultural Factors and Financial Inclusion Infrastructure ($\beta = 0.138$, $f^2 = 0.031$, $t = 4.681$, CI [0.081, 0.197]), again indicating a modest moderation. In the case of H12, the interaction with Governance Structure Effectiveness is statistically significant as well ($\beta = 0.143$, $f^2 = 0.014$, $t = 4.294$, CI [0.078, 0.210]), but the effect size is minimal, suggesting a limited practical role. These findings suggest culture modestly shapes the influence of fintech and inclusion efforts on sustainability.

Table 7 Importance and Performance Values of Constructs Influencing Sustainability Commitments

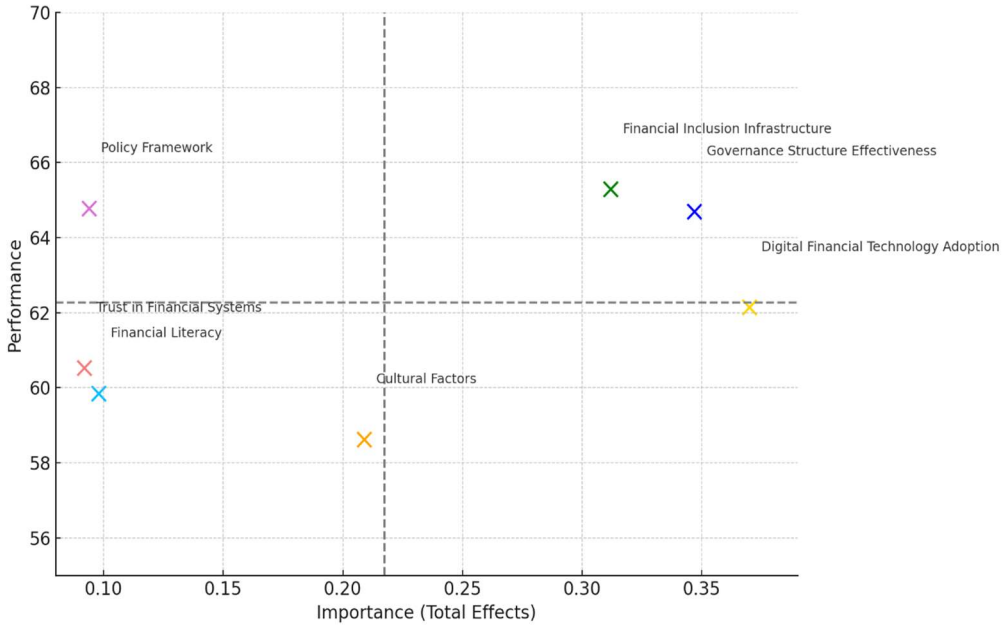
Construct	Impact	Performance
Cultural Factors	0.209	58.619
Digital Financial Technology Adoption	0.370	62.140
Financial Inclusion Infrastructure	0.312	65.288
Financial Literacy	0.098	59.843
Governance Structure Effectiveness	0.347	64.691
Policy Framework	0.094	64.773
Trust in Financial Systems	0.092	60.525

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Figure 2 Importance–Performance Map of Constructs Related to Sustainability Commitments

Table 7 and Figure 2 offer a clear and strategic view of how different constructs contribute to sustainability



commitments by comparing their overall impact and performance levels. Digital Financial Technology Adoption (Importance = 0.370, Performance = 62.14), Financial Inclusion Infrastructure (0.312, 65.29), and Governance Structure Effectiveness (0.347, 64.69) emerge as key strengths, positioned in the top-right quadrant where both impact and performance are high—indicating areas that are working well and should be reinforced. Cultural Factors (0.209, 58.62), though highly important, show lower performance, highlighting a need for focused improvement. On the other hand, constructs like Financial Literacy (0.098, 59.84), Trust in Financial Systems (0.092, 60.53), and Policy Framework (0.094, 64.77) fall into lower-importance zones, suggesting they may not require immediate attention but could benefit from selective resource planning. This analysis provides a practical roadmap to guide decision-makers in strengthening sustainability outcomes within the evolving digital finance landscape.

Table 8 Coefficient of Determination (R^2) and Predictive Relevance (Q^2) for Endogenous Constructs

Endogenous Construct	R-squar	Q^2predict
Governance Structure Effectiveness	0.452	0.439
Sustainability Commitments	0.433	0.343

The values presented for the coefficient of determination (R^2) and predictive relevance (Q^2) suggest that the structural model holds a solid degree of explanatory and predictive strength. Governance Structure Effectiveness shows an R^2 of 0.452, meaning that 45.2% of its variance is explained by the model's predictors, while

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Sustainability Commitments have an R^2 of 0.433, indicating 43.3% of the variance is accounted for. Hair et al. (2021) note that such values indicate the moderate but significant level of explanatory power in the research in the behavioural field. In addition, Q2predict values of both Governance Structure Effectiveness (0.439) and Sustainability Commitments (0.343) are well above zero and confirm the power of the model to drive prediction. The positive Q2 scores support the argument that not only is the model structured well to perform calculations and statistics but also capable of being applied to the real world, and therefore useful in context with applied research and policies design in respect to sustainability and digital financial ecosystems.

7. Implications of the Study:

This research result has practical implications to the policymakers, financial institutions, and development planners toward reinforcing sustainability using inclusive financial systems. The study demonstrates that integrated digital and policy solutions must be holistically approached because all the three pillers of fintech adoption, quality of governance and beneficial financial infrastructure contribute to the outcomes of sustainability. It highlights the relevance of spending in financial literacy and interventions indigenous to meet the culture to increase trust and participation. The robust predictive ability of the model implies that it will assist in drawing focal endeavors in economically deprived territories, which makes it a resourceful tool in planning comprehensive, technology-based economical frameworks in promoting long-term ecological and social agendas.

8. Potential Limitations:

Although this study is of good interest, there are not many limitations. This data geographically ties itself to one area of India that is six districts in north Karnataka, India which might limit the full applicability of the results. The cross-sectional design also takes perceptions at one particular time in way that did not provide much knowledge on long term changes. Outcomes may depend on cultural and contextual differences that are not included in the study region. Lastly, dependence on self-report data could introduce some biases that would affect the objectiveness of the answers.

9. Future Scope of Study:

Continued studies have the opportunity to extend with the investigation of comparable models in many different places and cultural contexts to increase generalizability. Longitudinal might provide more extensive knowledge of what role the adaptation and control of fintech play in the fulfilment of sustainability pledges over time. Additional researches may also be done on industry-wise effects, i.e. in agriculture or female-owned businesses, to find specific approaches. The knowledge of the behavioral and institutional dynamics underlying financial inclusion and sustainability may be deepened with integration of qualitative techniques within the community setting in the real-life context.

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10. Conclusion:

This work illuminates the relationship between digital financial technology, inclusive financial infrastructure, and effective systems of governance and its overall effect of sustainability promises across socio-economically different (various) settings. The results point to the fact that good governance should be seen as a significant connector, and it should be between financial innovation and infrastructure and long term sustainable results. Discreet cultural influences are also moderating forces that determine the manner of the fulfilment of these relationships. With an effective analytical model and actual data, the research gives a significant basis on the source of the policy, innovation, and community-based approaches in constructing inclusive sustainable financial ecosystems.

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ROLE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN PROVIDING HEALTH FACILITIES TO RURAL POPULATION IN INDIA – A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Digital technology has emerged as a transformative force in the healthcare sector, particularly in bridging the urban–rural healthcare gap in India. With nearly two-thirds of India's population residing in rural areas, digital innovations such as telemedicine, mobile health applications, electronic health records, and AI-enabled diagnostic tools have become vital in improving accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare services. This paper discusses the role of digital technology in enhancing healthcare delivery to rural communities, identifies challenges in implementation, and offers strategies for inclusive digital health development. The study concludes that strengthening digital infrastructure, training healthcare personnel, and ensuring equitable access can make digital health initiatives a cornerstone for achieving universal health coverage in India.

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KEY WORDS: Digital Health, Telemedicine, Rural Healthcare, e-Governance, ICT, Health Infrastructure, India.

INTRODUCTION

India's healthcare system faces a persistent challenge in providing equitable and quality medical care to its vast rural population. Despite numerous policy efforts, rural areas continue to suffer from inadequate infrastructure, shortage of qualified doctors, and limited access to specialized services. According to government estimates, nearly 70% of India's population lives in rural areas, yet most healthcare professionals and facilities are concentrated in urban centers.

The integration of digital technology into healthcare delivery systems offers an unprecedented opportunity to overcome these disparities. The growing penetration of the internet, smartphones, and digital literacy, coupled with government initiatives like Digital India and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), has paved the way for a technology-driven health ecosystem. Digital health solutions—such as teleconsultations, e-prescriptions, remote diagnostics, and health information systems—are redefining the reach and scope of public health in India's rural landscape.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The key objectives of this study include;

- To examine the role of digital technology in improving access to healthcare services in rural India.
- To identify the benefits of digital health innovations for rural populations.
- To analyze the challenges and limitations of implementing digital health initiatives.
- To suggest measures for strengthening digital health infrastructure and inclusivity.

METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts a descriptive and analytical approach based on secondary data sources. The study relies on official reports, government documents, policy papers, and research publications related to digital health and rural healthcare in India. Data Sources consist of Reports from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), NITI Aayog, and National Health Authority (NHA), Initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), eSanjeevani Telemedicine Service, and National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), International references from WHO and World Bank regarding digital health standards and rural healthcare frameworks and Academic research and case studies from journals and institutional publications.

SCOPE AND NATURE

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The study focuses on rural India, emphasizing how digital technologies bridge the healthcare divide. It evaluates both government and private sector efforts to expand digital health coverage.

DISCUSSION

1. Digital Transformation in Healthcare

Digital technology has redefined healthcare delivery by integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into medical services. It enables real-time communication between patients and healthcare providers, facilitates remote diagnosis, and streamlines data management. The convergence of mobile technology, artificial intelligence, and telemedicine has created a more inclusive and responsive healthcare system.

2. Telemedicine and Remote Consultation

Telemedicine has emerged as one of the most successful digital interventions in rural healthcare. Platforms such as eSanjeevani, developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have revolutionized healthcare access by connecting rural patients to doctors in urban centers through video consultations. eSanjeevani has facilitated over 20 crore consultations (as per 2024 data), bridging the doctor–patient ratio gap in remote regions.

Teleconsultations reduce the need for travel, lower medical costs, and provide timely diagnosis and treatment. This system proved particularly crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuity of healthcare services in underserved areas.

3. Mobile Health (mHealth) Applications

The rapid growth of smartphones in rural India has enabled the rise of mHealth apps that provide information on maternal and child health, vaccination schedules, nutrition, and disease prevention. Apps such as Aarogya Setu, mDiabetes, and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) serve as awareness and monitoring tools. These digital platforms empower rural citizens to take informed health decisions and encourage preventive healthcare behaviors.

4. Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Data Management

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission promotes the creation of a unique health ID and electronic medical records for every citizen. This enables continuity of care, data-driven decision-making, and transparency. For rural health centers, digital records reduce administrative burdens and ensure that patient histories are easily accessible to doctors in remote consultations. Efficient data management also supports public health surveillance, especially in tracking communicable diseases.

5. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Diagnostics

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AI-enabled diagnostic tools are increasingly being used in rural health programs for early detection of diseases such as tuberculosis, diabetes, and cancer. Portable diagnostic devices supported by AI help healthcare workers perform tests and receive instant reports. This minimizes the dependence on advanced laboratories and brings healthcare closer to rural populations. For example, AI-powered screening for eye diseases and radiology has been introduced under public-private collaborations in states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

6. Role of Community Health Workers and Digital Training

The success of digital healthcare depends on the involvement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) who serve as intermediaries between the digital system and rural beneficiaries. Training these workers in the use of tablets, apps, and data entry systems enhances service efficiency. Initiatives like Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Digital Health Ambassadors help bridge the skill gap in rural digital healthcare delivery.

7. Challenges in Implementation

Despite its potential, several challenges hinder the full realization of digital healthcare in rural India:

- **Poor Internet Connectivity:** Many villages still lack reliable broadband networks.
- **Digital Illiteracy:** Limited awareness and low computer literacy among rural residents.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Shortage of devices, electricity issues, and maintenance costs.
- **Data Privacy Concerns:** Need for secure management of sensitive health information.
- **Language Barriers:** Most digital interfaces are in English, limiting usability for non-English speakers.

Overcoming these barriers requires coordinated efforts among government, private players, and local communities.

8. Policy Initiatives and Future Prospects

Government policies such as Digital India, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), and the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) emphasize building a unified digital health infrastructure. The vision of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is to create an integrated digital health ecosystem where every citizen has access to digital health services regardless of geographic location.

Collaborations with private startups, NGOs, and global health organizations are expanding the reach of telehealth and digital diagnostics to even the most remote corners of the country.

FINDINGS

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- Digital technology significantly improves healthcare accessibility, reduces treatment costs, and strengthens disease monitoring in rural India.
- Government-led initiatives like eSanjeevani and ABDM demonstrate that technology can successfully bridge healthcare gaps.
- Digital illiteracy and infrastructural deficiencies remain the major challenges.
- Community participation and localized training programs enhance adoption and sustainability of digital health interventions.

SUGGESTIONS

- Expand Digital Infrastructure: Prioritize broadband connectivity and solar-powered digital health centers in rural areas.
- Enhance Digital Literacy: Conduct regular training for community health workers and rural populations.
- Develop Multilingual Interfaces: Create apps and health portals in regional languages.
- Ensure Data Security: Implement strong privacy safeguards and cybersecurity protocols.
- Public-Private Partnerships: Encourage collaboration to innovate affordable digital health technologies.
- Continuous Monitoring: Evaluate the effectiveness of digital health programs through data analytics and community feedback.

CONCLUSION

Digital technology holds immense potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery in rural India. By bridging geographical barriers and optimizing resource utilization, it offers a path toward equitable and efficient healthcare access. However, the benefits can be fully realized only through inclusive policies, adequate infrastructure, and sustained community engagement. The integration of technology with human-centered approaches can transform India's rural healthcare landscape and make universal health coverage an attainable reality.

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PROMOTION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN DIGITAL ECONOMY - A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION:

Entrepreneurship introduces a critical element of dynamism into an economic system. The women of 21st century do not limit themselves within the four walls of the house. They demand equal position in the family as well as in the society. However Indian women have to go a long way to achieve this. Though 49% of the brain power belongs to women, they constitute only around 14% of the total entrepreneurs in India. Women entrepreneurs are critical for the economic growth of country. Hence government of India started various schemes

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to promote entrepreneurship attitude among Indian women. The role of commercial banks is of paramount importance in this mission of the government.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

1. "Women entrepreneurship in India" by Neha Tiwari [Amity journal of entrepreneurship .2(1), (47-60) 2017 ADMAA]. The article analysed that women owned business activities are limited in India, that too are concentrated only in few states like Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh , west Bengal , Kerala and Maharashtra. The paper suggested that there is an urgent need to decode policy imperatives and interventions that can boast an engendered environment for women entrepreneurs.
2. "A study on the role of banking in women entrepreneurship development" by Mohd Iqbal Dar, Asst. professor [Dept. of business management, Gulzar group of institutions, Khanna]. This study was based on secondary data which stated that women-owned business has picked up a high pace in India. The paper suggested that women entrepreneurs should have a good source of knowledge with regards to bank funding schemes to women entrepreneurs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This study has been done with the following objectives.

a) To know the level of awareness among women about business opportunities in India.
b) To study the funding schemes of commercial banks available to women entrepreneurs.
c) To know the problems faced by commercial banks in lending and recovering loans.
d) To study the present scenario of women entrepreneurship in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Secondary data collected from research works, books and the websites of commercial banks have been used in this article.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

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The study is not exploratory and empirical in nature as there is no collection of primary data. The study is confined to four banks [Two each from public sector and private sector banks].

DISCUSSION:

WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR:

The Government of India (2006) defines women Entrepreneurship as "an enterprise owned and controlled by a women having a minimum financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving at least 51% of the employment in the enterprise to women".

SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:

The glass ceilings are shattered and women are indulged in every line of business. The entry of women into business in India is an extension of their kitchen activities, mainly 3Ps which are pickle, powder and pappad. But with the spread of education and LPG, women started shifting to modern 3Es which are Energy, Electronics, and Engineering. In this dynamic world, women entrepreneurs are a significant part of the global expedition for sustainable economic development and social progress. Despite all the social hurdles, India is brimming with success stories of business women. The women leaders are assertive, ambitious and committed to their venture. Ability to motivate, willingness to take risks, knowing how to win and lose gracefully are the strength of Indian women entrepreneurs. Chandra Kochhar , the MD and CEO of ICICI bank has rightly said that if one can provide education , encouragement and empowerment to women, sky is the limit for them. The following are few of the successful women entrepreneurs of India.

- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw – Biocon Ltd
- Meera Kulkarni – Forest Essentials
- Falguni Nagar – NYKAA
- Vandana Luthra- VLCC
- Rita Kumar – The Fashion Designer

CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:

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Lack of financial support is a major challenge for women entrepreneurs. Financial institutions are not so much willing to grant loans to women borrowers. Lenders cite lack of credit worthiness and business acumen as the reasons for their unwillingness to provide loans. Bank officials often get sceptical when women apply for huge amount of loan. Recently commercial banks have come forward with various credit schemes but the mindset of Indian women is not ready to borrow loans. In addition to this, women face the following challenges.

- Conflict between work and domestic commitments
- Lack of family support
- Legal constraints in family law
- Lack of self confidence

ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT:

The government of Indian is promoting women-owned -business through commercial banks and other agencies. It has launched schemes like IRDP, Mudra Yojana , TREAD, Indira Mahila yojana ,ARWIND and so on. The ministry of women and child welfare initiated the draft – National policy for women (2016) which includes various policy statements for raising the visibility of women in the economy. The ministry of MSME launched udyam sakhi portal in 2018.

ROLE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS:

Most of the commercial banks extend their support both in terms of financial and non-financial services. The following is the list of credit schemes of public sector commercial banks.

- SBI- Stree shakti to package scheme
- Canara bank- CAN Mahila
- Bank of India – Priyadarshini yojana
- Central bank of India – Cent Kalyani
- Dena bank – Dena shakti

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- Punjab national bank – Mahila udyam Nidhi scheme

In this article, the funding schemes of four banks have been included. The public sector banks selected here are SBI and canara bank. The private sector banks are HDFC bank and ICICI bank.

I. FUNDING SCHEMES OF SBI:

Stree shakti package [A package of prosperity]: The bank acts as a primary pillar in the country's economic development as well as in the promotion of business women. The scheme has empowered women especially in rural India. The loans may be short term working capital requirement or a long-term loan to facilitate capital expenditure. The loan should be exclusively used for business purpose. The qualifying criteria is that the enterprise has a share holding of over 50% by women. Additionally, women entrepreneurs should pursue the EDP organized by the state agency.

Applicability: The loan will be extended to small business units and self-employed professional women.

Amount of Loan: The quantum of loan would be based on the borrower profile and the following guidelines.

- Retail traders - Rs. 50000 to 200000
- Business enterprises – Rs. 50000 to 200000
- Professionals and SSI – Rs. 50000 to 2500000

Collateral Requirement:

i. No collateral requirement for a loan up to 10 lakhs, extended to MSME enterprises owned by women.
ii. Loans up to 100 lakhs covered under CGTMSE scheme also requires no collateral
iii. Collateral is a must for loan above 1 crore or based on borrowers' profile.

SBI signs an agreement with Usha international Ltd (UIL) for empowering women by providing financial assistance. As per the rule, SBI will be financing women to purchase sewing machines for upgradation of technical sewing skills. SBI has given the name "NAVCHETNA" to this relationship.

II. CANARA BANK ASSISTANCE [CAN Mahila]:

Empowerment of women, a key component of socio-economic growth and stability of a developing country like India has always been the priority objective of canara bank. The banks journey for over a century has

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always been with care and concern for the society especially women folk. The bank has also opened exclusive women branches- the Mahila banking division the first of its kind in the banking industry.

The bank offers Synd Mahila Shakti scheme which offers loan up to 1 crore without any processing fee. The loan is available either as cash credit or a term loan for a period of 10 years. The bank offers a special cash award scheme for successful women entrepreneurs. The bank gives cash awards worth 25000rs to 50000rs and 100000rs for successful women entrepreneurs financed by the bank.

III. ROLE OF ICICI BANK:

India's largest private bank by consolidated assets, has launched the Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme [SBLP] exclusively for underprivileged women in rural India. It has provided loans worth 4300 crores to over 1.3 lakhs SHGs in Tamilnadu. The bank provides door step banking services for SHGs through its dedicated manpower. The bank representatives submit the loan applications and the details of SHG to the field digitally using a tablet which saves time and cost for the borrowers.

NABARD awarded the bank with first prize among private sector banks for 'Excellence in performance' under SBLP.

IV. HDFC BANK:

The bank provides the following types of loans to business women.

a) ***BUISNESS LOANS:*** The bank provides customised business loan to suit the financial requirement. The loan amount is up to 75lakhs. It is an unsecured loan which provides overdraft facility without any security. This scheme changes interest on the amount actually utilised. Flexible repayment and minimum documentation. The bank also facilitates transferring loans of other banks to HDFC bank.

b) ***PERSONAL LOAN:*** This loan can be borrowed to start home based business. Monthly income and credit score are required. It is an unsecured loan up to 50 lakhs for a maximum period 5 years. Online application and approval are available. There is an option of co-applicant also.

c) ***LOAN AGAINST SECURITIES:*** Securities can be stock market investments, mutual funds, life insurance policies etc. Proof of ownership of securities and documentation are required.

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In addition to these schemes, HDFC provides loans from 10lakhs to 1 crore to women under Stand up India scheme for promoting Aatmanirbhar Bharath. Life smart women plan is an award-winning unique insurance cum investment plan designed specifically for women.

ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTIONS:

The study has come out with the following findings

- There is a wider gap between policy and practice
- There are few borrowers due to low awareness and passive mindset of women
- The banks provide a minor relief in terms of interest rate which is not worth the trouble.
- The process is time consuming and often do not get what is promised.
- Banks are of the view that women are usually the silent partners included just to get the benefit of credit schemes.
- Banks are sceptical whether women are confident in marketing their products.

Hence, the study suggests the following to overcome the bottlenecks.

- Business plan and product marketing training is essential for women entrepreneurs
- Women should join certain network such as NGOs, SHGs, micro finance institutions etc which facilitate interactions with people of expertise and experience in the business field.
- Awareness programmes should be conducted for women about the various credit schemes.
- Loan should be available on time.
- Every woman should have a bank account and financial literacy.
- Borrowing procedure and process should be simplified.

CONCLUSION:

The world has changed a lot in the 21st century and so is India. Women here are getting ample business opportunities. Commercial banks and the govt are ready to extend their support to women entrepreneurs. It is up

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to women to break away from the stereo typed mindsets. At the same time, it is the responsibility of every individual to treat women with dignity and help her to survive on her own.

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Digital Divide and its Impact on Academic Performance of Students at Higher Education Institutions: A Discussion

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ABSTRACT:

The digital divide has emerged as one of the major challenges in higher education, particularly in the context of rapid technological advancement and the integration of digital learning environments. While digitalization promises inclusive and accessible education, it simultaneously creates disparities based on socio-economic status, geography, gender, and institutional infrastructure. This article examines the impact of the digital divide on the academic performance of students in higher education institutions in India. It explores how unequal access to digital tools, internet connectivity, and digital literacy affects learning outcomes, participation, and educational attainment. The discussion emphasizes the need for inclusive digital policies, capacity-building initiatives, and institutional reforms to bridge the digital gap and ensure equitable academic growth for all learners.

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KEY WORDS: Digital Divide, Higher Education, Academic Performance, Digital Literacy, Educational Inequality, Online Learning.

INTRODUCTION:

The 21st century marks a paradigm shift in education, driven by the rapid expansion of digital technologies. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have increasingly adopted online learning platforms, digital libraries, and virtual classrooms to enhance teaching and learning experiences. However, this transformation has not been uniform across all sections of society. The digital divide, the gap between individuals who have access to digital technologies and those who do not has become a determining factor influencing students' academic performance.

In India, socio-economic inequalities, rural-urban disparities, and infrastructural limitations have intensified this divide. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the dependence on online education brought the digital gap to the forefront, exposing systemic inequities in access to devices, stable internet connectivity, and digital competence among students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the present paper include;

- To understand the nature and extent of the digital divide among students in higher education institutions.
- To examine how the digital divide affects students' academic performance and participation.
- To identify the socio-economic and institutional factors contributing to digital disparities.
- To discuss strategies for bridging the digital divide and promoting inclusive digital education.

METHODOLOGY:

The present discussion is based on a descriptive and analytical approach, using secondary data sources to explore the relationship between the digital divide and students' academic performance in higher education institutions. The study aims to understand patterns of digital inequality and its academic implications by synthesizing existing literature, reports, and empirical findings. These include Government reports such as the National Sample Survey (NSS) and All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), Policy documents like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Digital India Mission, and UGC reports, Academic publications from journals, books, and articles focusing on digital divide, online learning, and higher education and data from international agencies including UNESCO, World Bank, and OECD related to digital access and education.

DISCUSSION:

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The digital divide in higher education is multidimensional encompassing access, affordability, and ability. The digital divide is not merely a technological issue but it is a **social and educational phenomenon** that mirrors and reinforces existing inequalities within society. In the context of higher education, it creates a stratified learning environment where access to digital resources determines the quality and outcome of education. The following discussion elaborates on the **multidimensional impact** of the digital divide on students' academic performance in higher education institutions.

1. Access and Infrastructure:

A large number of students in rural and semi-urban areas lack access to reliable internet connections and digital devices. Institutions in urban centers are better equipped with ICT facilities compared to those in peripheral regions. Access to digital tools such as laptops, smartphones, and stable internet connectivity has become indispensable for academic success in the digital era. However, a large proportion of students in India, particularly from rural and economically weaker sections, lack these essential resources. This infrastructural inequality directly impacts students' ability to engage with e-learning resources, participate in online assessments, and collaborate on digital platforms.

2. Socio-Economic Inequality:

Socio-economic background remains one of the strongest determinants of digital inclusion. Students from economically weaker backgrounds often share devices within families or depend on mobile data, limiting their study hours and engagement with digital content. These constraints lead to gaps in learning outcomes and lower academic achievement compared to their privileged peers.

3. Gender and Regional Disparities:

Gender continues to play a crucial role in digital access. Studies indicate that girls, especially in conservative or economically disadvantaged families, have lower access to personal devices and internet facilities. Social norms and safety concerns often restrict women's online presence or limit the time they can spend using digital resources. This digital gender gap contributes to lower academic performance and participation among female students, particularly in science and technology-related courses.

Regionally, students from the North-Eastern states, hilly terrains, and tribal areas face unique challenges due to poor network coverage and limited institutional infrastructure. In such cases, even the most motivated learners find themselves excluded from digital classrooms and academic networks.

4. Digital Literacy and Pedagogical Barriers:

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Digital competence plays a vital role in online learning success. Many students, particularly first-generation learners, face difficulties navigating online platforms, using software tools, or managing digital assignments. Likewise, faculty members also vary in their level of digital preparedness, which further influences the quality of instruction and student performance.

5. Psychological and Academic Consequences:

Limited access to digital tools can lead to frustration, stress, and a sense of exclusion among students. The inability to keep pace with technologically advanced peers often results in decreased motivation, absenteeism, and poor performance. The digital divide thus reinforces existing educational inequalities rather than mitigating them.

6. Institutional and Policy Dimensions:

While the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the integration of digital technology and open access learning, implementation remains inconsistent. Institutions with adequate funding and digital infrastructure benefit more, whereas state and rural colleges lag behind. A uniform digital policy, with a focus on inclusivity, is essential for balanced educational outcomes.

7. Towards Bridging the Divide:

Bridging the digital divide requires a multidimensional approach:

- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Expansion of broadband connectivity, particularly in rural and remote regions.
- **Capacity Building:** Regular training for both students and faculty to strengthen digital skills.
- **Financial Support:** Scholarships or device loan schemes for economically disadvantaged students.
- **Inclusive Curriculum Design:** Incorporating blended and hybrid learning models that accommodate varying access levels.
- **Institutional Monitoring:** Developing measurable indicators to assess digital equity within campuses.

By prioritizing these strategies, higher education institutions can transform the digital divide from a barrier into an opportunity for inclusive innovation.

FINDINGS:

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- ✓ The digital divide significantly influences students' academic performance, particularly among marginalized and rural groups.
- ✓ Economic status, gender, and regional disparities are strong determinants of digital access and proficiency.
- ✓ The absence of digital literacy programs and inadequate institutional support exacerbate learning inequalities.
- ✓ Psychological and social consequences of digital exclusion affect students' self-esteem and learning motivation.

SUGGESTIONS:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Expansion of broadband connectivity and establishment of digital learning hubs in rural areas.
- **Device Accessibility:** Government and institutional initiatives to provide affordable or subsidized devices for students.
- **Digital Literacy Training:** Regular workshops for both students and faculty to enhance digital competence.
- **Inclusive Pedagogy:** Adoption of blended learning methods that accommodate diverse learner needs and access levels.
- **Policy Implementation:** Strengthening public-private partnerships and monitoring digital inclusion programs within HEIs.

CONCLUSION:

The digital divide poses a critical threat to academic equity in higher education. It not only limits access to knowledge but also undermines the potential of digital learning as a democratizing force in education. Bridging this divide requires a holistic approach involving government support, institutional commitment, and community participation. Ensuring digital inclusivity will ultimately enhance academic performance, promote equal opportunities, and prepare students to thrive in an increasingly digitalized world.

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Use of Digital Tools in Literature and Inclusion of Marginalized Sections – A Prologue

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ABSTRACT

The digital revolution has profoundly transformed the field of literature—its creation, interpretation, dissemination, and accessibility. Digital tools such as online archives, e-libraries, digital storytelling, and computational text analysis have expanded the boundaries of literary study and opened new pathways for inclusion. This article explores how digital technologies contribute to democratizing literary expression, particularly by amplifying the voices of marginalized sections of society. It discusses the role of digital platforms in archiving subaltern narratives, promoting linguistic diversity, and enabling global participation in literary culture. The paper concludes that the use of digital tools in literature not only reshapes the academic landscape but also fosters social justice through accessibility and representation.

KEY WORDS: Digital Humanities, Marginalized Voices, E-Literature, Accessibility, Inclusion, Literary Studies, Digital Archives

INTRODUCTION

The intersection of literature and digital technology has given rise to a dynamic field known as Digital Humanities, which integrates computational tools with literary inquiry. From digital archives and online literary journals to social media-based storytelling and artificial intelligence-assisted writing, technology is redefining both the production and consumption of literature.

More importantly, digital spaces have become platforms of empowerment for marginalized voices including Dalits, tribals, women, linguistic minorities, and other underrepresented communities who were often excluded from traditional literary canons. The democratizing nature of digital media provides them with avenues to narrate their lived experiences and assert cultural identity without the barriers of publication, geography, or social hierarchy.

This article serves as a prologue that is an introductory exploration into how digital tools transform the landscape of literary creation, scholarship, and inclusion.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study aims to;

1. To understand the role of digital tools in the production and study of literature.
2. To analyze how digital platforms enable inclusion and visibility for marginalized sections.
3. To highlight the emerging trends in digital humanities that promote diversity and accessibility.
4. To discuss challenges and future directions in integrating digital technologies with literary inclusivity.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach based on secondary sources such as scholarly articles, digital humanities projects, literary websites, and institutional databases. Key references include digital archives**,** open-access repositories**,** and e-literature initiatives in India and abroad. The analysis focuses on how digital innovations contribute to inclusive literary representation and pedagogy. The paper uses qualitative interpretation rather than quantitative data, aiming to synthesize cultural, technological, and pedagogical insights.

DISCUSSION

1. Digital Transformation of Literary Studies

The advent of digital tools has redefined the nature of literary scholarship. Tools such as **Voyant, Google Ngram Viewer, Text Encoding Initiative (TEI),** and digital annotation platforms allow scholars to analyze texts computationally, visualize linguistic patterns, and explore intertextuality.

Online databases such as **Project Gutenberg, Digital Library of India, and Internet Archive** have made vast literary collections freely available, thereby reducing educational inequity. These tools also allow researchers from remote or underfunded institutions to engage with global literary resources.

2. Digital Platforms as Spaces of Inclusion

One of the most significant contributions of digital technology to literature is its capacity to democratize authorship. In the digital era, publication is no longer confined to elite print circles. Marginalized writers can publish blogs, e-books, or spoken-word performances on social media and reach a global audience.

- **Dalit literature**, for instance, has found renewed expression through online magazines and digital anthologies.
- **Adivasi narratives** are being archived through digital storytelling initiatives that preserve oral traditions.
- **LGBTQ+ writers** and **regional language authors** use digital media to challenge mainstream narratives and celebrate diversity.

These online spaces enable collective authorship, interaction, and visibility fundamentally altering how literature represents society.

3. Digital Archives and Preservation of Subaltern Voices

Digital archiving projects have become crucial for preserving and disseminating the cultural heritage of marginalized communities. Initiatives such as the **Digital South Asia Library**, **People's Archive of Rural India**

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(PARI), and **Indian Memory Project** document oral histories, folk tales, and grassroots experiences often ignored by formal literary institutions. Such digital preservation efforts ensure that regional languages, oral traditions, and subaltern stories are recognized as legitimate forms of literary expression. This inclusion fosters cultural pride and academic recognition of alternative narratives.

4. E-Literature and Interactive Storytelling

Electronic literature (e-literature) introduces interactivity, multimedia, and hypertext into storytelling. Through video, audio, graphics, and user participation, authors can experiment with narrative structures. These innovations help bring local stories and minority experiences into mainstream digital culture. For instance, community-driven digital poetry slams, online zines, and participatory writing forums serve as digital collectives of creativity, where marginalized authors collaborate and share without institutional gatekeeping.

5. Pedagogical Implications: Digital Inclusion in Literary Education

Digital pedagogy is reshaping how literature is taught and studied. Online learning platforms and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) provide access to literary education for students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Tools like **annotation software**, **digital storytelling workshops**, and **online reading groups** encourage critical engagement with diverse texts. By incorporating digital tools into curricula, educators can make literary studies more inclusive, participatory, and interdisciplinary.

6. Challenges and Ethical Considerations

While digital tools promote inclusion, they also pose challenges:

- **Digital Divide:** Access to technology and internet connectivity remains unequal, limiting participation.
- **Representation Bias:** Algorithms and online visibility often favor dominant groups or languages.
- **Data Ownership and Cultural Sensitivity:** Digital archiving must ensure community consent and ethical representation.

Hence, technological inclusion must be accompanied by cultural sensitivity and policy-level support to avoid reproducing new forms of digital exclusion.

FINDINGS

- Digital technology expands literary access, authorship, and scholarship.
- Online platforms amplify marginalized voices and preserve subaltern narratives.
- Digital archives and e-literature initiatives contribute to cultural inclusion.
- Persistent digital and linguistic divides continue to limit equal participation.

SUGGESTIONS

1. **Develop inclusive digital archives** for regional and marginalized literatures.
2. **Promote digital literacy** among students and writers from disadvantaged groups.
3. **Encourage multilingual digital platforms** to overcome linguistic hierarchies.
4. **Integrate digital humanities in higher education** to foster interdisciplinary inclusivity.

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5. **Adopt ethical frameworks** ensuring respect for community authorship and data ownership.

CONCLUSION

The use of digital tools in literature marks a paradigm shift from exclusivity to inclusivity. It allows stories from the margins to enter the mainstream, transforming literature into a participatory cultural space. Digital humanities, when approached with sensitivity and equality, can dismantle historical hierarchies and make literary discourse more democratic and diverse. The fusion of technology and literature thus becomes not only an academic innovation but also a **social** movement toward cultural justice and inclusion.

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CANCER AND YOUTHS : A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

Cancer is often associated with older adults, but in recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in cancer cases among young adults in India. This age group, typically defined as individuals between 15 and 39 years old, is experiencing a rise in incidence rates for several types of cancers, prompting the medical community and public health experts to pay close attention.

The emergence of cancer In young adults is particularly alarming because this group is in its most productive phase of life pursuing education, building careers, starting families, and contributing to the economy. Yet, many are faced with an unexpected diagnosis that brings physical, emotional, and financial stress. Understanding the causes, recognizing the symptoms early, and knowing the treatment options can significantly improve outcomes for young cancer patients in India.

Keywords : Cancer, patient, hospital and young adults.

Introduction :

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases of human beings and is a major cause of death all over the world. More than a million Indians suffer from cancer and a large number of them die from it annually. Cancer is a disease which occurs when changes in a group of normal cells within the body lead to an uncontrolled, abnormal growth forming a lump called a tumour; this is true of all cancers except Leukaemia (cancer of the blood). If left untreated, tumours can grow and spread into the surrounding normal tissue, or to other parts of the body via the bloodstream and lymphatic systems, and can affect the digestive, nervous and circulatory systems or release hormones that may affect body function. To create awareness about cancer every year 4th February is celebrated as 'World Cancer Day'.

Cancer is a non-communicable disease. It does not spread from one person to another. There are different types of cancer can be found like blood cancer , oesophagus cancer , brain cancer, breast cancer, thyroid cancer, stomach cancer, cervical cancer , etc. Hair and nail are only two parts of our body which has no cancer. More than 50% of people are getting mouth cancer. In 2020, India reported an estimated 1.39 million cases of

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cancer which rose to 1.42 million and 1.46 million in the years 2021 and 2022, respectively. There are more than 37.5 lakh cancer cases observed in India and about 2.3 lakh cases are observed in Karnataka.There are total 2585 cancer patients in Dharwad district . Among these 1109 males and 1496 females respectively.

About hospital

The Karnataka Cancer Therapy and Research Institute is a cancer care centre located in Hubballi. It was founded by Dr. R. B. Patil in the year 1977 and was inaugurated by then Vice-President of India Shree B. D. Jatti. It is a charitable public trust. This hospital is collaborated with government, ESI, railway, rotary, NGO, etc. The treatment in this hospital include surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Every year 3000 patients are treated in the hospital. As per the institute statics, more than one lakh patients has been treated till now. They collect blood from volunteer donors, red cross, yoga centre, NSS, etc. They provide blood to the patients for free of cost except haemophilia, thalassemia and HIV. Hospital has nearly 148 bedded which includes all types of wards like general wards, semiprivate rooms(sharing basis), special rooms and deluxe rooms and a separate chemotherapy ward.



The Karnataka Cancer Therapy and Research Institute, Hubballi.

Management had noticed a situation of cancer patients, particularly those living below poverty Line (BPL) i.e. a problem of food and accommodation. Occasionally the cost of boarding and lodging, of patients and attendants, would exceed the treatment cost. With this problem in mind the management implemented the scheme

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of free food for patients and called it Annadana. Many patients would have been deprived of complete treatment but for this noble scheme. Philanthropic minded friends of KCTRI are, on an regular basis, generously donates food grains and other required edibles enabling the institute to feed the needy patients and their attendants.KCTRI's best service apart from its medical service is 'Annadana'. The institute has unstintingly providing breakfast, lunch, evening tea and dinner for about 150 patients, everyday, for the last 25 years. This has given great solace to the suffering poor cancer patients for those who stay for 30 or more days in the hospital, for cancer treatment. The institution included a Cobalt Radiotherapy unit, well equipped OT, Pathology and Chemotherapy section along with chatra and Annadana. The Goal was to provide affordable treatment, free food and accommodation for the patients.

Methodology

Data collection. The present study is largely based on the primary as well as secondary data which is done in cancer hospital Hubbali. **Method.** The method used in collecting data is simple random sampling method.

Objectives

- To study about cancer among various aged groups
- To know about causes & effects of cancer
- To understand the status of cancer patients in society

Purpose of the study

To collect information regarding physical, mental & social conditions of cancer patients and also how they are neglected by society.

Hypothesis

- The food system and lifestyle is causes for cancer
- Use of narcotics causes for cancer

Scope of the study

Cancer patients of Karnataka Cancer Therapy and Research Institute (KCTRI) in Dharwad district.

Analysis and Interpretation

1.Major causes for cancer

Analysis : 70% of people are getting cancer due to tobacco and remaining 15% for Cigarate, 10% for food system and 5% for lifestyle.

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Interpretation : In this study, researcher concluded that 70% of people are getting cancer because they are addicted to tobacco products which are very harmful for health. Similarly cigarate, food system, lifestyle causes cancer but their effects on cancer is very less.

2.Gender-wise cancer patients

Analysis : Cancer is affecting 80% of male and 20% of female.

Interpretation : 80% of male are affected with cancer because they had some bad habbits like smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol etc. But only 20% female are getting cancer because they don't have such bad habbits.

3.Economic status of cancer patients

Analysis : 20% of rich people are affected by cancer, 30% are middle class and 50% are poor people.

Interpretation : We can see that 50% of poor people are affected by cancer because they eat non-nutritious food and low fibre content food which is the main cause for colon cancer. They also have lack of money to get treatment. But middle class and rich people account 30% & 20% respectively and they are economically dominant and eat nutritious food.

4.Religion wise cancer patients

Analysis : 90% of people are Hindus and only 10% people are Muslims.

Interpretation : Out of 20 people 18 are Hindus affected by cancer due to some reasons and there are only 2 people from Muslim community.

5. Cancer as hereditary disease

Analysis : 95% of cancer patients are non-genetic and 5% of cancer patients are genetic i.e. hereditary.

Interpretation : It is observed that 95% of cancer patients are nongenetic while 5% of cancer patients are genetic because cancer is a hereditary. Due to gene mutation it is getting transferred from parents to their children.

6. Duration of cancer

Analysis : 70% of people are suffering since 1 year, 15% are suffering from 5 years, 10% suffering from 10 years and 5% suffering from past 15 years.

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Interpretation : The number of cancer patients admitted within 0 to 1 year are 14,3 patients of between 1 to 5 years, 2 patients between 5 to 10 years and 1 patient between 10 to 15 years are getting treatment. This shows it takes a lot of time to recover or sometimes patients may die.

7.Education

Analysis : 40% people are literate and remaining 60% are illiterate people.

Interpretation : 60% of patients are getting cancer because they are illiterate and don't have knowledge regarding cancer. On the other hand 40% people who are literate also getting cancer due to negligence.

8.Area wise cancer patients

Analysis : 60% of cancer patients are from rural area and 40% are from urban area.

Interpretation : 60% of cancer patients are from rural area because most of people in rural area are eating tobacco products. But it accounts 40% in urban area because they are eating less tobacco products as compared to rural area.

9.Use of Government schemes

Analysis : 95% people are using government schemes for treatment while 5% people are not.

Interpretation : 95% cancer patients are using government schemes for treatment because they are poor and cancer treatment costs a lot of money which they can't afford. But 5% of cancer patients are not using from government schemes because they are rich people.

10.How family treating cancer patients?

Analysis : 60% of cancer patients are treated good, 30% are medium and 10% are bad by their family.

Interpretation : 60% of cancer patients are treated good because their family loves them. But 10% of people are treated bad by their family because of patients ugly face and structure. 30% of cancer patients are treated medium by their family members.

11.Is cancer causes to loneliness?

Analysis : 95% of cancer patients are feeling loneliness and 5% are not feeling loneliness.

Interpretation : 95% of cancer patients feel loneliness because they are separated from their families and relatives. But 5% of cancer patients don't feel loneliness because they are with their families and relatives.

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12.Is relatives separated from you?

Analysis : 50% of cancer patients are separated from their relatives and 50% are not separated.

Interpretation: 50% of cancer patients are separated from their relatives because of cancer itself. While remaining 50% of cancer patients are not separated from their relatives because their relatives take care of patients.

13. Cancer among different aged groups

Analysis : Cancer is 75% among 20-30 age groups, 15% among 30-40 age groups, 5% among 10-20 age groups and 5% among 40 plus age groups.

Interpretation : Cancer is 75% among 20-30 age groups because adults in this age group are more addicted to tobacco, alcohol , smoking, etc. It is 15% among 30-40 age groups and these are also addicted to tobacco products but less. It is 5% among 10-20 age group because of hereditary.

Similarly it is 5% among above 40 age groups due to their lifestyle.

Suggestions

- Since tobacco is the major cause for cancer. So we must avoid it.
- We must eat healthy home prepared food and junk food should be avoided.
- We must adopt healthy life styles like eating vegetarian food, doing exercise regularly, avoiding tobacco products etc.
- We must eat a lot of fruits and vegetables for healthy diet.
- If we get symptoms of cancer, we should check up early and get treatment.
- We have to create awareness about cancer among people.
- It should be advertised in newspapers and media to create awareness. • If someone is smoking or chewing tobacco we must tell them not to do so.
- Conducting proper counselling to those who are addicted to tobacco products.
- Education regarding cancer should be given to children especially for adults.

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- Cancer is a non-communicable disease. So family members and relatives must take care of their patients.
- Government has to take measures to control over the tobacco producing companies.
- Awareness should be created by the film actors through their films and serials.
- Information regarding cancer has to be provided in the textbooks.
- We must donate the blood voluntarily to the hospital and encourage others too.
- Facilities in the hospital are good. So poor people has to take benefit from it.

Conclusion

It was found that tobacco is the major cause for cancer. Therefore one must avoid tobacco products . Though cancer is deadly disease but it can be prevented in the first stage. Therefore one must get treatment in the first stage itself. There is a saying that 'Prevention is better than cure'. So we have take precaution measures before it is affecting us. Precaution measures like avoiding tobacco products, doing exercise regularly and maintaining healthy diet has to be taken care off. It can prevented if we adopt healthy lifestyles and avoid cancer causing substances. Let us all work towards making the world free of cancer.

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IMPACT OF FAMILY STRUCTURE ON CHILDHOOD SOCIALIZATION: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract

Family is the primary agent of socialization that shapes the personality, values, and behavior of children. The structure of a family—whether nuclear, joint, or single-parent—plays a crucial role in determining how social norms, emotional support, and cultural values are transmitted to children. This study examines the impact of family structure on the process of childhood socialization from a sociological perspective. Using qualitative and quantitative approaches, data were collected from children and parents across varied socio-economic backgrounds. The findings reveal that while nuclear families encourage independence and self-reliance, joint families emphasize collective responsibility, cooperation, and emotional bonding. The study highlights the importance of family dynamics and parental roles in shaping children's social attitudes and behavioral outcomes.

Keywords: Family Structure, Childhood Socialization, Nuclear Family, Joint Family, Sociology of Family, Parenting

INTRODUCTION

The family is the most fundamental social institution that initiates individuals into the social world. It is within the family that a child first learns language, social norms, cultural values, and societal roles. The process through which children acquire these skills and values—known as socialization—is crucial for the development of personality, behavior, and social competence (Berger & Luckmann, 1966). Family structure, whether joint, nuclear, or single-parent, plays a significant role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of childhood socialization.

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Over the past few decades, family structures have undergone considerable transformations due to industrialization, urbanization, and globalization, resulting in a gradual shift from traditional joint families to nuclear households, especially in urban India (Shah, 1998). Joint families, characterized by multi-generational living and shared responsibilities, provide children with multiple role models and strong social support networks, which help in fostering cooperation, respect for elders, and collective responsibility (Dube, 1997). In contrast, nuclear families, consisting of only parents and children, often promote independence, self-expression, and individual achievement, but may face challenges related to reduced emotional support and limited intergenerational interaction (Giddens, 2006).

Several studies have examined the role of family in socializing children. Parsons (1955) emphasized that the family functions as a primary agent of socialization, transmitting societal norms and values to the younger generation. Contemporary research highlights that in the Indian context, the decline of joint families has altered traditional child-rearing practices, resulting in greater reliance on schools, peers, and media as socializing agents (Sinha, 2010). Other scholars have noted that economic conditions, parental employment, and urban living patterns further influence the quality and nature of childhood socialization (Kaur & Sharma, 2014).

This study seeks to explore how different family structures influence the social, emotional, and moral development of children in Bengaluru city in Karnataka, India. It examines the patterns of parental involvement, emotional support, and the influence of extended family members, while also considering the impact of societal and economic changes on childhood socialization. By analyzing these factors, the study contributes to understanding the contemporary dynamics of family life and child development in the Indian sociological context.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Family is the primary agent of childhood socialization, shaping children's social, emotional, and moral development. In India, the shift from joint to nuclear families due to urbanization, industrialization, and economic changes has altered traditional child-rearing practices. While joint families provide multiple caregivers and intergenerational support, nuclear families often emphasize independence but may offer limited emotional guidance. Despite these changes, there is limited research on how family structure affects childhood socialization

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in urban and semi-urban contexts. This study examines the impact of **joint and nuclear family structures on the social, emotional, and moral development of children aged 8–15 years.**

RESEARCH GAP

Although numerous studies have examined family influence on childhood socialization, most research in India focuses either on traditional joint families or on general child development without directly comparing **joint and nuclear family structures**. Existing literature highlights the role of parents, peers, and schools in socialization, but **empirical evidence on how family structure affects emotional support, value transmission, and social behavior among children in urban contexts is limited.** Furthermore, with modernization and urbanization reshaping family dynamics, there is a need for updated, context-specific research to understand the **differential impact of joint versus nuclear families on childhood socialization.** This study addresses this gap by examining both quantitative and qualitative dimensions of socialization across these family types

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the relationship between family structure and childhood socialization.
2. To examine differences in socialization patterns between children in joint and nuclear families.
3. To analyze the role of parents and extended family members in shaping children's values and behavior.
4. To assess the sociological implications of changing family structures on children's upbringing.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs **a mixed-method sociological approach**, integrating both qualitative and quantitative research techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of childhood socialization in different family structures. A total of **100 families** were selected as the sample, comprising **50 joint families and 50 nuclear families** from Bengaluru urban area. Data were collected using **structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and participant observation** to capture both measurable patterns and in-depth insights into family dynamics. The respondents included **parents, children aged 8–15 years, and grandparents,** wherever applicable, to ensure multiple perspectives on socialization processes. The collected data were subsequently **analyzed thematically,** focusing on key aspects such as social behavior, emotional support, discipline, and value

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transmission. This methodology allowed the study to explore not only statistical differences between family types but also the qualitative nuances of child development within diverse household environments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Type of Family and Parental Involvement in Children's Daily Activities

Type of Family	High Involvement	Moderate Involvement	Low Involvement	Total (%)
Joint Family (n=50)	32 (64%)	14 (28%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
Nuclear Family (n=50)	20 (40%)	18 (36%)	12 (24%)	50 (100%)
Total (n=100)	**52 (52%)**	**32 (32%)**	**16 (16%)**	**100 (100%)**

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The above table-1 presents the relationship between family structure and parental involvement in the process of childhood socialization. The data reveal a significant variation between joint and nuclear families in terms of the degree of parental engagement in children's daily lives.

Out of 50 respondents from joint families, 32 (64%) reported a high level of involvement, while 14 (28%) experienced moderate involvement and only 4 (8%) indicated low parental participation. In contrast, among nuclear families, only 20 (40%) reported high involvement, 18 (36%) moderate, and 12 (24%) low involvement. The overall distribution shows that 52% of the total sample reported high parental involvement, 32% moderate, and 16% low.

The findings suggest that joint family systems provide a more interactive and supportive social environment for children. Multiple caregivers — including grandparents, uncles, and aunts — collectively participate in child-rearing, ensuring constant supervision and moral guidance. This structure promotes emotional stability, shared responsibility, and a strong sense of belonging among children.

Conversely, in nuclear families, parental involvement is relatively lower due to factors such as dual employment, time constraints, and reduced family size. With limited adult supervision, children in nuclear setups may rely more on peers, schools, and digital media for social learning. While nuclear families often encourage independence and self-expression, the emotional and social support network is comparatively narrower.

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From a sociological standpoint, this analysis supports the view that family structure directly influences the process of socialization, shaping a child's personality, value orientation, and behavior. The decline of joint family systems in urban India may thus be associated with reduced communal interaction and shifting patterns of childhood social learning.

Table 2: Major Agents of Socialization Identified by Respondents

Agents of Socialization	Joint Family (f/%)	Nuclear Family (f/%)	Total (f/%)
Parents	17 (34%)	20 (40%)	37 (37.0%)
Grandparents	14 (28%)	3 (6%)	17 (17.0%)
Siblings	7 (14%)	5 (10%)	12 (12.0%)
School/Teachers	6 (12%)	10 (20%)	16 (16.0%)
Media/Internet	1 (2%)	7 (14%)	8 (8.0%)
Peer Groups	5(10%)	5 (10%)	10 (10.0%)
Total	**50 (100%)**	**50 (100%)**	**100 (100%)**

The table above illustrates the distribution of major **agents of socialization** among children belonging to joint and nuclear families. The results indicate clear differences in the influence of family members and external socializing agents depending on the family structure.

Among joint family respondents, parents (34%) and grandparents (28%) emerge as the most influential agents in shaping children's values, attitudes, and behavior. The combined role of these two generations reflects the collective and traditional orientation of joint families, where socialization occurs through continuous interaction with multiple adult role models. The presence of grandparents ensures the transmission of cultural values, moral discipline, and respect for elders—important elements of Indian social life.

In contrast, in nuclear families, parents (40%) are the primary agents of socialization, followed by school/teachers (20%) and media/internet (14%). The relatively low influence of grandparents (6%) in nuclear setups can be attributed to spatial separation and reduced intergenerational contact. The greater influence of schools and digital media reflects the growing role of institutional and technological socialization in urban and modern family settings.

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It is also notable that peer groups (10%) play a similar role in both family types, signifying the increasing importance of friendship networks in shaping children's behavior and interests. However, the greater exposure to media and internet among nuclear family children suggests a gradual shift from traditional, family-based learning to modern, mediated forms of socialization.

From a sociological viewpoint, this pattern supports Talcott Parsons' functional theory of the family, which identifies the family as the primary agent of socialization but acknowledges the growing influence of schools and peer groups in industrial societies. Similarly, Giddens (2006) points out that modernization and urbanization diversify the agents of socialization, reducing the centrality of extended kinship ties.

Overall, the data reveal that joint families nurture traditional and moral values through interpersonal interaction, while nuclear families rely more on formal and media-based socialization, leading to distinct patterns of personality development and social behavior among children.

Table 3: Emotional Support Perceived by Children (N=100)

Level of Emotional Support	Joint Family (f/%)	Nuclear Family (f/%)	Total (f/%)
High	36 (72%)	27 (54%)	63 (63%)
Moderate	10 (20%)	17 (34%)	27 (27%)
Low	4 (8%)	6 (12%)	10 (10%)
Total	**50 (100%)**	**50 (100%)**	**100 (100%)**

The data presented in the above table depict the differences in the level of emotional support experienced by children belonging to joint and nuclear families. Emotional support is a crucial component of childhood socialization, as it directly influences children's psychological well-being, self-esteem, and interpersonal trust.

The findings indicate that a majority of children from joint families (72%) experience high levels of emotional support, compared to 54% of children from nuclear families. This suggests that the joint family structure, with its multiple caregivers—parents, grandparents, and other relatives—creates a nurturing environment where children receive continuous affection, guidance, and reassurance. The presence of elders and siblings in the household allows for emotional sharing and a strong sense of belonging.

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In contrast, children in nuclear families report comparatively lower levels of emotional support, with 34% indicating a moderate level and 12% reporting low emotional involvement. The reduced emotional contact can be attributed to smaller family size, dual working parents, and limited time for interpersonal communication. As a result, children in nuclear families often depend more on peers, teachers, or digital companionship for emotional expression and validation.

The overall analysis shows that 63% of the total respondents reported high emotional support, suggesting that family, regardless of structure, continues to play a vital role in shaping the emotional climate of childhood. However, the qualitative difference lies in the source and frequency of emotional exchange—joint families providing a collective and continuous support system, while nuclear families offering individualized but sometimes inconsistent emotional interaction.

From a sociological perspective, these findings align with structural-functional theory, which emphasizes the family's role in providing emotional security and social stability (Parsons, 1955). The weakening of the joint family system in contemporary society may lead to the emotional isolation of children, a phenomenon also noted in studies by Indian sociologists like A. M. Shah (1998) and Leela Dube (1997), who observed that modernization often, reduces kin-based emotional interdependence.

In conclusion, the analysis reaffirms that family structure significantly affects the emotional well-being and socialization of children. Joint families, through intergenerational bonds, foster emotional resilience, while nuclear families, though modern and independent, may require deliberate efforts to maintain emotional closeness in a fast-paced lifestyle.

Findings

High Emotional Support:

A majority of children (63%) reported experiencing a **high level of emotional support** from their families. Among them, children from **joint families (72%)** received greater emotional support compared to those from **nuclear families (54%).** This suggests that the presence of extended family members contributes significantly to emotional bonding and child well-being.

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Moderate Emotional Support:

About **27% of respondents** reported receiving **a moderate level of emotional support.** This was more common in **nuclear families (34%)** than in **joint families (20%),** indicating that while nuclear families provide support, the intensity may be limited due to smaller family size and dual working parents.

Low Emotional Support:

A small proportion **(10%)** of children experienced **low emotional support**. This was slightly higher among **nuclear family children (12%)** compared to those in **joint families (8%).** The lack of extended family interactions and busy parental lifestyles could contribute to this.

Overall Observation:

The results clearly show that **joint family structures provide stronger emotional support systems** for children, enhancing their sense of security and belonging. In contrast, **nuclear families**, though modern and independent, sometimes face challenges in maintaining the same level of emotional closeness due to reduced family interaction and time constraints.

SUGGESTIONS

Strengthen Family Bonds:

Efforts should be made to **promote intergenerational relationships** within families. Joint family interactions or frequent visits between nuclear and extended families can help children develop empathy, cooperation, and emotional stability.

Parenting Workshops:

Organizing **parental training programs** can help parents in nuclear families learn effective methods of emotional communication, conflict resolution, and time management to enhance the quality of socialization.

Community Support Systems:

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Communities can establish **family clubs, mentorship programs, or neighborhood networks** that simulate joint family support for children who lack extended family contact.

School-Based Interventions:

Schools should play an active role in **fostering social skills and emotional intelligence** among children through value education, counseling sessions, and peer-support activities.

Use of Media for Positive Socialization:

Parents and educators should **guide children's media consumption,** encouraging educational and culturally enriching content that promotes social responsibility and emotional development.

Policy-Level Measures:

Government and social welfare agencies can introduce **family welfare programs,** such as flexible work hours for parents, family counseling services, and incentives for intergenerational living, to strengthen family cohesion.

Further Research:

Future studies may focus on **longitudinal analysis** of children's socialization in diverse family setups, or explore **the impact of digital culture** and globalization on traditional family support systems.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that both family structures have unique strengths and limitations in shaping children's socialization. Joint families provide a rich social environment that fosters cooperation and moral development, while nuclear families promote autonomy and modern outlooks. The sociological challenge lies in maintaining emotional bonds and intergenerational communication amid changing family dynamics. Policymakers, educators, and parents must recognize the evolving nature of family life and its direct influence on children's social and psychological growth.

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A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF WOMEN SOFTWARE ENGINEERS IN BENGALURU CITY

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Abstract:

This article is devoted mainly to the analysis of the socio-economic profile of Women Software Engineers in Bangalore City of the state of Karnataka. Social profile, which presents an integrated personality sketch based on socio-economic background of Women Software Engineers, is an important variable in social research on various occupational groups and its members. These socio-economic background factors plays a vital role in understanding the position and status of individuals in a given social structure. Thus, the factors in the individual's socio-economic background have a great deal to do with occupational and professional performance.

Key Words: Women, Software, Engineers, Bengaluru, Marital Status, Socio-economic background, Occupation, Income, Religion, Caste.

Introduction:

Women are working in various Software Companies due to the impact of Modern Technical Education, Liberalization, Globalization and Privatization. There is inadequate representation of women in Information Technology sector. Software Profession is a significant field in the framework of Sociology. The women empowerment has become one of the most significant concerns in the modern decade. It is very essential to understand the socio-economic background of the Women Software Engineers.

Accordingly, these factors have consequential relevance for the occupational choice of an individual. Her basic value-orientations, preferences and problems are assumed to be found and nourished during the early part of her

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life, which he or she had spent in the socio-cultural of her family origin. These factors have a crucial significance in the preparation of an individual to the adult roles including the occupational one.

As such an effort is made in this chapter to focus on social profile of the Women Software Engineers functioning in software companies in Bangalore city, which could be taken as an explanatory variable in the analysis of other findings of the study. The present chapter deals with the personal, family and educational background of the Women Software Engineers in Bangalore city in Karnataka State. This would enable us not only to have a social representation of the Women Software Engineers, but also found to be useful in analyzing their occupational traits and problems.

Therefore, the factors in the individual's socio-economic background have a great deal to do with one's educational, occupational and professional performance

Methodology:

The study was undertaken to analyses the socio-economic background of the Women Software Engineers in Bengaluru City those who are working in different Software Companies. Primary and the secondary data have been used to study the socio-economic background of Women Software Engineers. The data is collected through various sources like books, journals, newspapers, internet etc.

Objectives:

1. To describe the socio-economic background of the Women Software Engineers.
2. To understand the family structure, education, occupation, income, religion and marital status etc.

Personal background:

The investigation on women software engineers in Bangalore city in Karnataka State begins with the building of personal profile. With the help of data obtaining to the age, marital status, religion, caste, mother tongue, place of birth, medium of instruction, educational qualification, occupation etc. This would focus on the social representation of the Women Software engineers, and it is very beneficial in analyzing their social and professional traits and well.

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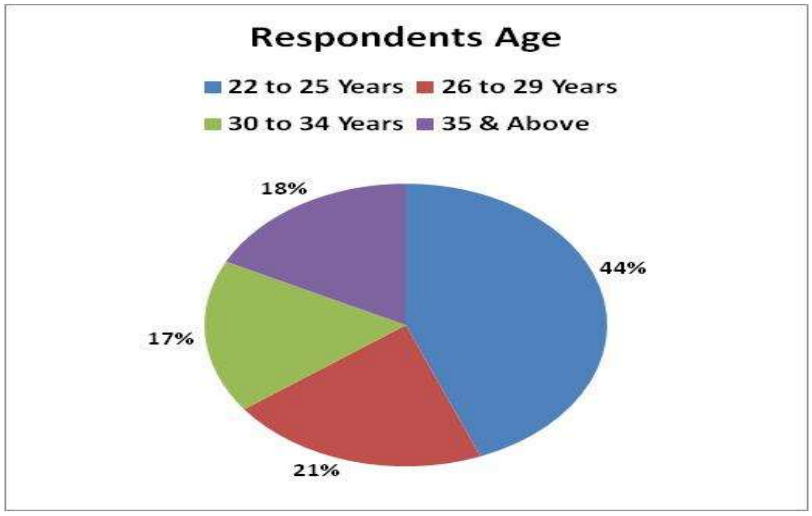
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Age Composition:

Age refers to normally addressed to maturity and knowledge in the occupational and professional structure. Obviously, a lengthy service results in promotion, better placement and higher salary. Therefore, the age of the individuals is an indicator of his or her relative position in her occupation or profession.

In the present study, the respondents are classified into four groups form 22 years to 35 years and the Figure 1.1 indicates the age of the respondents and it is categorized into four groups as twenty two to twenty five years, twenty six to twenty nine years, thirty to thirty four years and above thirty five years.

Figure 1.1



It may be observed from the above Figure 1.1, a greater number (65.0 percent) of the respondents are found in the age bracket of 22 to 29 years. Therefore, it could be stated that, relatively younger women software engineers are found. While small proportion (18.0 percent) of them represents 30 to 34 years age group and the rest (18.0 percent) represent 35 + years age group. On the whole, the data clearly signify that the majority of the women software engineers constitute younger population. Information Technology companies attracting younger talent and seeking job opportunities in a software company.

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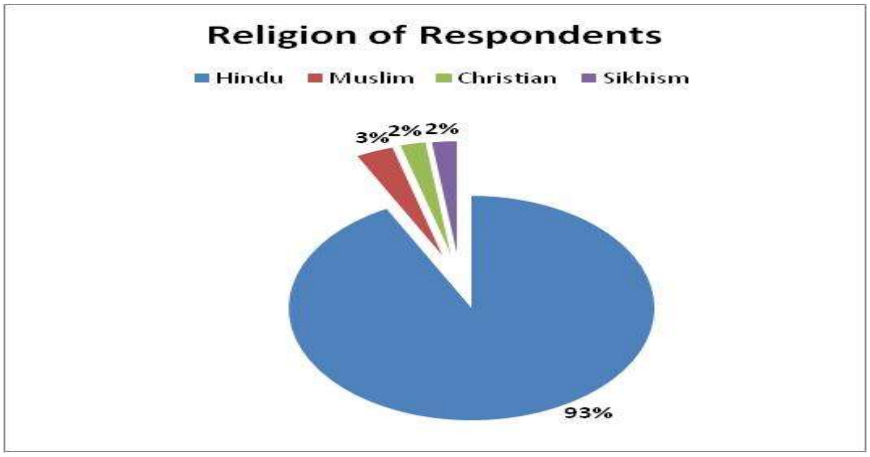
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Religion:

People, in general, feel that religion is spontaneous in the society. Determinism, spiritualism, sentimentalism is some of its dominant characteristics. Indian women of different religious background are found in top ranking services. Due to secular characteristics of the country, it is argued that, all the religions should get proportionate representation in lower and higher technical services.

The Figure 1.2 Indicates the respondents belongs to different religion and are classified into four groups as Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism.

Figure 1.2



The above Figure 1.2 reveals that religious composition of the respondents. Greater number (93.0 percent) of the respondents belongs to Hinduism, 3.0 percent of the respondents are Islam religion, 2.0 percent of the respondents belong to Christianity and 2.0 percent of the respondents belong to Sikhism. The religious composition of the area where the study was conducted could be a factor influencing the religious composition as Hindus represents in the general population in Karnataka.

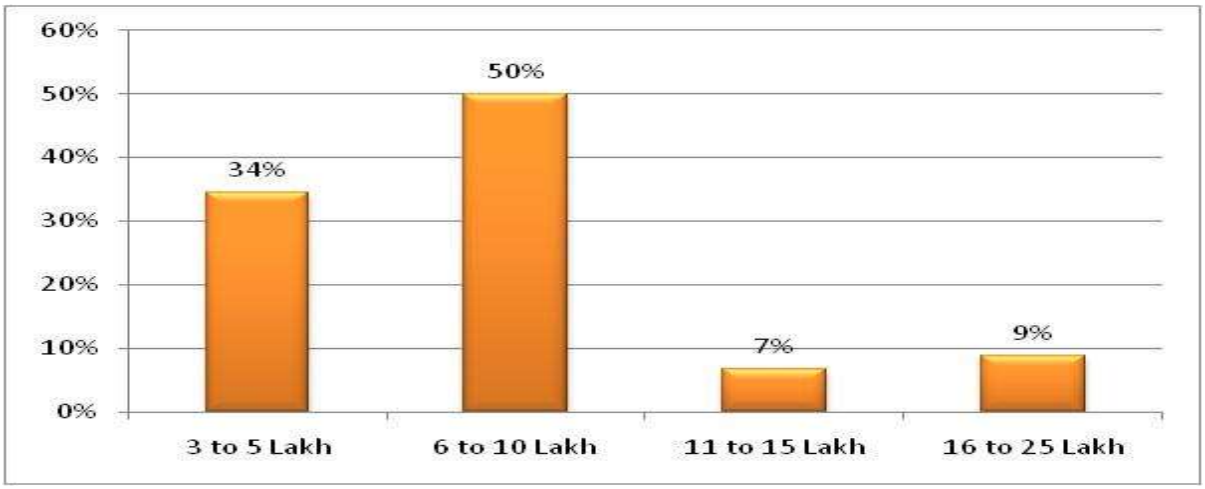
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Income:

Income determines the socio-economic status of an individual in a given society. It is stated that the family have good income, they spend more money for their children education, and it helps to improve their career. In the present study, the income of the respondents is classified into three categories that are low, medium and high.

Figure 1.3 Annual Income of the Respondents



The above Figure 1.3 reveals that, a vast majority (84.0 percent) of the respondents are from families with an yearly income between Rs.300000 to 1000000, while 7.0 percent of the respondents are form income bracket of 1100000 to 1500000 lakhs, and finally 9.0 percent of the respondents have 1600000 to 2500000 lakhs annual income. The findings in this regard, income of the family leads to increase the quality of life, high income provides better education for children, better house to live and lead a healthy life.

Marital Status:

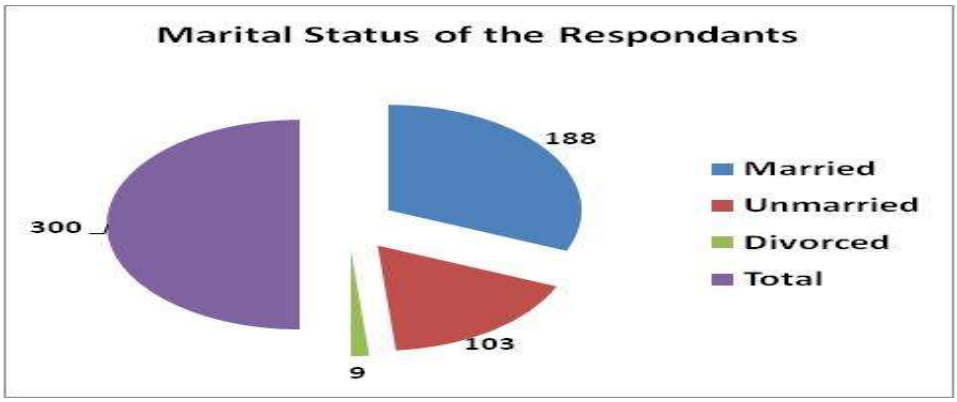
Marital Status constitutes another important personal variable, which are significant implications for the professional practice. It could as well mean that occupational traits of the women software engineers could be influenced by the marital status and quality of marital life. Professional competence of the Women Software Engineers could be influenced by their marital status and quality of marital life.

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The following figure 1.4 indicates the marital status of the respondents.

Figure 1.4



The above figure 1.4 indicate that, greater number (63.0 percent) of the respondents are married. However, a significant proportion (34.0 percent) of them are unmarried and only (3.0 percent) of the respondents are divorced. On the whole, the investigation revealed that the married women software engineers are largely representing the software profession in Bangalore city.

Caste:

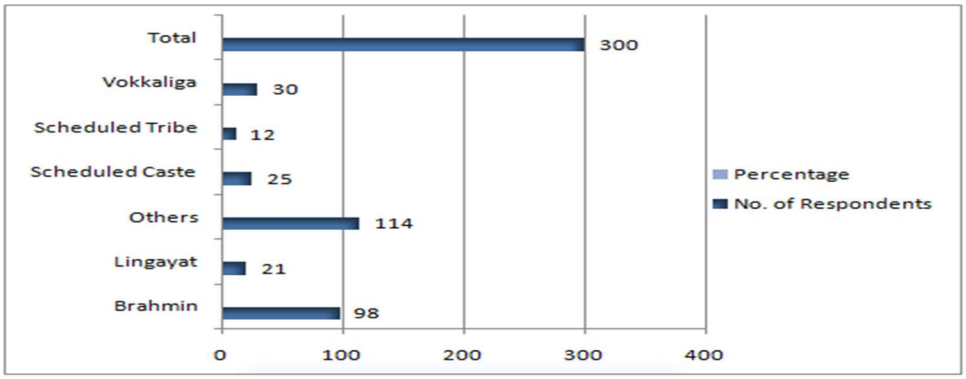
Caste is a significant variable viewed in the investigation of the respondents in Indian society. In the present study, caste has been employed as a variable constituting the composite variable of social origin which is employed as a more sensible variable of the women software engineers social background and as descriptive variable in the investigation of other professional traits.

The following Figure 1.5 reveals the caste of the respondents.

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Figure 1.5 Caste

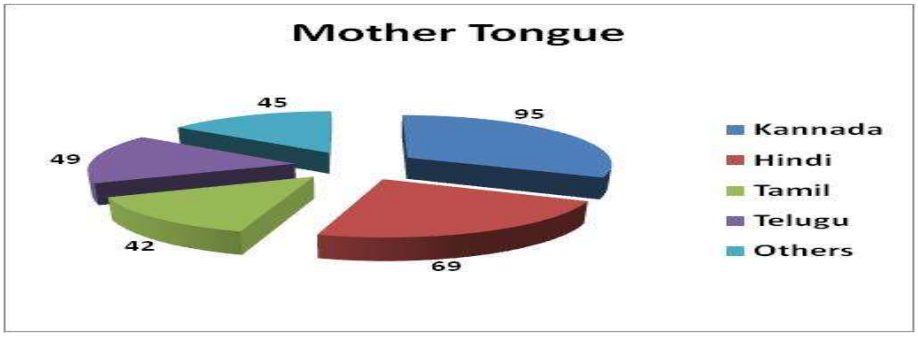


The investigation data from the above Figure 1.5, the single largest caste represented by the women software engineers is Brahmins (33.0 percent), second largest caste represented by the women software engineers is Vokkaligas (10.0 percent), followed by Scheduled castes (8.0 percent), Lingayat is representing 7 percent, only few (4.0 percent) respondents belongs to Scheduled Tribes and 38 percent of the respondents belongs to other castes apart from the above mentioned castes.

Mother Tongue:

Mother Tongue or a first language that a person has been exposed to from birth. Mother tongue is the language spoken in a region, which enables the process of enculturation, the growing of an individual into a particular system of linguistic perception. The following Figure 1.6 indicates the mother tongue of the respondents.

Figure 1.6



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The investigation data from the above Figure 1.6 reveals that the majority (32 percent) of the respondents speaks Kannada language, second largest speaking language represented by the women software engineers is Hindi (23.0 percent), third largest speaking language by the respondents is Telugu (16.0 percent), fourth largest speaking language is Tamil (14.0 percent) and 15 percent of the respondents speaks other languages apart from the above languages. According to this study majority of the respondents' mother tongue is Kannada.

Place of Schooling:

In India very, good education is available in only towns and cities; schooling in village communities is in regional language. In cities there are good number of schools, which are providing very good education, they have a proper class room, good teachers, they develop good skills. Therefore, the place where one acquires education is an important data that needs to be proved.

The following Figure 1.7 reveals the Place of Schooling of the respondents.

Figure 1.7



The data is presented in Figure 1.7 shows that majority (47.0 percent) of the respondents completed their schooling in cities, while 30.0 percent of the respondents had an educational background from towns, 14.0 percent of the respondents got completed their basic schooling in villages because they have a village background and only few (9.0 percent) of the respondents had completed their school education in metropolitan cities. Thus, a

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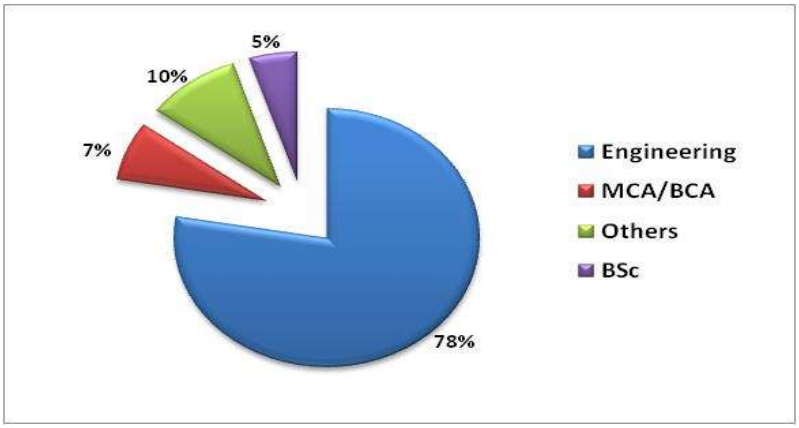
majority of the respondents completed their school education in urban areas which is perhaps significant as the ambition to take up a vocation or job is generally strongly felt by urban educated family.

Educational Qualification:

In software profession education qualification and technical skills plays a predominant role. In additional to get highly technical and professional nature of the work in Software companies, desired to hire professionals with education qualification. It helps to select the appropriate candidate in white collar occupation. Their income also determined by educational qualification.

The following Figure 1.8 reveals that the educational qualification of the respondents.

Figure 1.8



The above Figure 1.8 presents the details pertaining to the respondent's educational qualification. The analysis reveals that three fourths (78.0 percent) of the respondents have completed their engineering degree, based on which they got their present jobs. However, another significant proportion (7.0 percent) of them has obtained their MCA and BCA degree. And only few (5.0 percent) of the respondents completed BSc degree and 10.0 percent of the respondents have completed the other technical related degree. It indicates the abundant ability to take the software profession that determines the increase of Information Technology Industry in Bengaluru. It also leads to increase the technical and scientific educational institutions across Karnataka state.

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Conclusion:

An effort is made on social profile of Women Software Engineers as a professional group. The foremost thrust here is to provide a social profile of a representative Software Profession in this part of the country. An attempt could be made to represent a social profile of Women Software Engineers as a professional group. Many women are working in a software companies, they have high social origin and urban background. They have high parental occupational background and married persons with high professional background.

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Kannada Literature in Higher Education: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

Kannada, a Classical language of India with a literary tradition spanning over one and a half millennia, holds a unique position in Indian academia. This article examines the current state of **Kannada literature** within the **higher education** curriculum of Indian universities, particularly in Karnataka. While rich in heritage encompassing movements from the *Vachana* period to *Navya* and *Dalit-Bandaya* the discipline faces significant challenges, including the **dominance of English**, **outdated curricula**, **lack of resources**, and the need for **multidisciplinary integration**. This paper argues that a strategic re-visioning of the curriculum, integrating contemporary critical theories, digital humanities, and translation studies, is imperative not only for the preservation and promotion of the language but also for fostering critical thinking and cultural identity among the new generation of scholars.

Introduction:

Kannada literature, a vibrant and dynamic tradition, reflects the complex socio-political and cultural history of the Deccan region. Its richness is attested by numerous prestigious awards, including eight Jnanpith Awards, the highest literary honour in India. Despite this monumental history, the status of Kannada literature as an academic discipline in higher education institutions (HEIs) is increasingly precarious. The twin forces of **globalisation** and the **hegemony of English** have led to a palpable decline in student enrolment and interest in Kannada departments, often relegating the study of the language to the periphery of academic discourse.

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Challenges in the Contemporary Academic Landscape

The departments of Kannada literature across universities, many of which were pioneers of literary studies, now grapple with multiple systemic issues:

1. Curricular and Pedagogic Inertia

A primary critique is the **traditionalist approach** to the syllabus. Many syllabi remain heavily focused on an established literary canon (*Old and Medieval Kannada*) with a chronological, text-centric pedagogy, often failing to address the socio-cultural relevance of literary texts to contemporary life. This can make the subject appear **uninspiring and overly academic** to modern students, leading to a perception of the discipline as a mere subject for compliance rather than intellectual enrichment. Furthermore, quality issues in prescribed textbooks, including typographical and factual errors, as reported in certain universities, further undermine the academic seriousness of the discipline [Source 4.1].

2. Resource Scarcity and Accessibility

Compared to English literary studies, departments of Kannada often suffer from a **lack of adequate resources**. This includes a limited digital presence of classic and contemporary works, a shortage of high-quality translation resources, and less accessible academic journals and databases. The difficulty in finding easily visible and diverse Kannada literature, as opposed to well-marketed English books, also contributes to the declining interest among the youth [Source 4.2].

3. The Onslaught of English Medium Education

The widespread shift towards **English-medium instruction** from the school level upwards has created a generation of students who lack the foundational proficiency and confidence to engage deeply with complex Kannada literary texts. This linguistic alienation poses a fundamental barrier to higher studies and research, necessitating an immediate focus on bridging the gap between spoken Kannada and the academic language of literary criticism.

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4. Recruitment and Research Focus

While some departments, such as the Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies and the Department of Kannada Literature Studies at Kannada University, are actively promoting new research methodologies, a broader institutional challenge is the adequate recruitment of faculty with expertise in **emerging interdisciplinary areas**. There is a critical need for scholars equipped to teach and research areas like **Digital Humanities, Ecocriticism, Gender Studies, Translation Studies, and Comparative Indian Literature** in the context of Kannada.

The Road Ahead: Strategic Interventions and Prospects

To reinvigorate Kannada literature in higher education, a multi-pronged strategy is essential:

1. Curricular Overhaul and Interdisciplinarity

The curriculum must be **re-visioned to be contemporary and interdisciplinary**. This involves:

- **Integrating Classical Texts with Modern Theory:** Analyzing Old and Medieval Kannada literature (like *Vachanas* and *Ragale* forms) through the lens of modern and post-colonial theories.
- **Focusing on Contemporary Movements:** Giving significant space to *Dalit-Bandaya* and **Women's Literature**, which directly engage with issues of social justice, caste, and identity themes highly relevant to modern students.
- **Multilingual Engagement:** Positioning Kannada literature not in isolation but in conversation with other Indian languages and global literary traditions, as envisioned by institutes offering programs like Post-Graduate Diploma in Indian Literature [Source 3.3].

2. Embracing Digital Humanities and Translation

The future of language studies lies in the **digital domain**. Departments should invest in:

- **Digital Preservation and Accessibility:** Creating comprehensive, easily accessible digital archives of literary texts, manuscripts, and critical works.

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- **Translation Studies:** Establishing strong programs in translation to bring the richness of Kannada literature to a national and international audience, while also introducing global theories and texts to Kannada scholars.

3. Alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

The NEP 2020 presents a unique opportunity, as it advocates for the promotion of **multilingualism** and the education of **indigenous and classical languages** like Kannada [Source 1.5]. HEIs must leverage this policy framework to:

- **Promote Multi-Exit Options:** Design flexible undergraduate and postgraduate programs that allow students to combine Kannada with other disciplines (e.g., Kannada with Sociology, History, or Media Studies).
- **Strengthen Research:** Encourage high-quality, impactful research that uses Kannada texts to illuminate broader social, cultural, and political narratives.

4. Community and Cultural Outreach

Academic departments must actively engage with the community to showcase the vibrancy of the language. Activities like organising literary festivals, theatre workshops (**Rangaatharanga**), invited lectures by renowned scholars, and field visits—as exemplified by Kristu Jayanti College help to connect academic study with lived cultural experience, instilling a sense of cultural pride and ownership in the students [Source 3.4].

Conclusion

The survival and flourishing of Kannada literature in higher education is not merely a matter of linguistic preservation; it is crucial for maintaining the **intellectual and cultural plurality** of the nation. By addressing the current systemic challenges especially the antiquated curricula and the pushback from English dominance through innovative pedagogies, digital integration, and a rigorous, interdisciplinary research focus, Kannada departments can transform into dynamic hubs of intellectual exploration. The goal must be to transition Kannada from a subject viewed as a *burden* to an **essential channel for critical, culturally rooted knowledge creation**, securing its rightful place in the national academic journal.

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The Mandate of Inclusion: The Indian Constitution, Youth Development, and Marginalized Communities

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Abstract

The Constitution of India, a foundational document, is not merely a legal framework but a transformative charter dedicated to establishing an egalitarian society.[1] This article analyzes the constitutional provisions that specifically target the **development of youth** and the **upliftment of marginalized communities**. It examines how Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) act as the bedrock for policies of affirmative action, social justice, and inclusive growth. While acknowledging the significant strides made, the article also discusses the persistent challenges in fully translating these constitutional ideals into tangible realities, arguing for renewed commitment to the spirit of the document to realise the nation's demographic dividend and ensure true social equity.

Introduction:

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution boldly articulates the nation's resolve to secure for all its citizens **Justice** (social, economic, and political), **Liberty**, **Equality**, and **Fraternity**.[2] This overarching vision forms the core mandate for the State to actively dismantle entrenched socio-economic inequalities. Given that India's populace is predominantly young and historically marked by deep-seated marginalization, the Constitution's commitment to the development of its **youth** and the empowerment of its **marginalized communities**—including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and women—is critical to its success as a democratic republic. The constitutional philosophy treats social justice not as an optional goal but as an **inalienable prerequisite** for national progress.

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Constitutional Pillars for Marginalized Upliftment

The framework for empowering marginalized groups is robust, primarily rooted in the non-negotiable **Fundamental Rights (Part III)** and the guiding principles of the **DPSP (Part IV)**.[3]

I. Fundamental Rights: Guaranteeing Equality and Dignity[4]

Fundamental Rights provide immediate, justiciable protection against state and societal discrimination:

- **Right to Equality (Articles 14-18):** This set of rights explicitly prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (Article 15).[5] Crucially, it empowers the State to make **special provisions** for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, SCs, and STs (Article 15(4)), which is the basis for affirmative action and reservation policies.[6] **Article 17**'s abolition of 'Untouchability' is a historic declaration against one of the most severe forms of historical marginalization.[7]
- **Protection against Exploitation (Articles 23 & 24):** These provisions safeguard the most vulnerable.[8] **Article 23** prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, while **Article 24** bans the employment of children below the age of fourteen in factories, mines, or other hazardous work.[9] These are key to protecting children and youth from economic and moral abandonment.[10]

II. Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): The Social Justice Compass

While non-justiciable, the DPSP are fundamental to the governance of the country, acting as the moral and social conscience of the State:[11]

- **Justice and Welfare (Article 38):** Directs the State to secure a social order that promotes the welfare of the people by minimizing inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities.[12]
- **Protection against Exploitation of Youth and Children (Article 39(f)):** This is perhaps the most direct provision for youth development, mandating that the State shall direct its policy to ensure "that **children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity** and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material aband[13]onment."[14]

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- **Special Care for Weaker Sections (Article 46):** This mandates the State to **promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections** of the people, and, in particular, of the **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes**, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.[15]
- **Right to Education (Article 21A and Article 45):** The insertion of **Article 21A** through the 86th Amendment Act made free and compulsory education for all children between six and fourteen years a **Fundamental Right**, profoundly impacting the educational prospects of young people from marginalized backgrounds.[16]

Constitutional Measures for Youth Development

While the Constitution does not define 'youth' as a separate class for all special provisions (often encompassing children and young adults), its commitment to a skilled, educated, and protected future generation is explicit.

1. **Education and Skill:** The emphasis on compulsory education (Article 21A) and promotion of educational interests (Article 46) is a direct investment in the demographic dividend—the young population capable of driving economic growth.
2. **Protection from Exploitation:** Articles 23 and 24, along with the protective clauses under Article 39(f), ensure that the potential of youth is not squandered in exploitation, but nurtured for nation-building.[17]
3. **Participation and Representation:** Provisions for local self-governance (73rd and 74th Amendments) encourage the political participation of youth, while the principle of equal opportunity in public employment (Article 16) ensures that all young citizens, irrespective of their social background, have a fair chance at contributing to the nation's bureaucracy and leadership.[18]

Challenges in Implementation and the Road Ahead

Despite a progressive constitutional mandate, the journey toward complete social equity and optimal youth development faces significant hurdles:

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Challenge	Impact on Constitutional Goals
Persistence of Social Stratification	Caste-based discrimination and gender inequality continue to act as systemic barriers, inhibiting the marginalized from accessing opportunities guaranteed by law.
Uneven Policy Implementation	Gaps in policy execution, corruption, and lack of political will often prevent benefits of schemes (e.g., skill development, reservation) from reaching the most deserving youth and communities.
Economic Disparities	Global and domestic economic shifts exacerbate unemployment among educated youth and create a new class of **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)**, demanding continuous evolution of affirmative action.
Judicial Scrutiny	The tension between the principle of **'formal equality'** (Article 14) and the need for **'substantive equality'** (Articles 15(4), 16(4))—often seen in debates over reservation quotas—requires continuous judicial interpretation to uphold the foundational spirit of inclusion.

The core challenge remains bridging the gap between the **'Constitution in letter'** and the **'Constitution in practice'**. The path forward necessitates a multi-pronged approach:

1. **Strengthening Grassroots Governance:** Empowering local bodies and traditional institutions to champion social inclusion and ensure targeted schemes are delivered efficiently.
2. **Constitutional Literacy:** Investing in programs that educate the youth and marginalized communities about their rights and the State's obligations, transforming them from passive recipients to active claimants of justice.

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3. **Judicial Activism and Legislative Reform:** Continuous vigilance by the judiciary and responsive legislative action to adapt constitutional principles to contemporary socio-economic challenges, such as the rights of transgender persons, persons with disabilities, and new forms of digital exclusion.

Conclusion

The Indian Constitution stands as a **living document**, a powerful promise of a just and equitable future.[19] Its provisions for youth and marginalized communities are a remarkable testament to the foresight of its framers, establishing a dynamic balance between individual liberty and socio-economic justice. The effective utilization of India's young population and the genuine upliftment of its marginalized sections are not just matters of policy, but a **constitutional imperative**. Fulfilling this mandate requires not only legal compliance but a societal commitment to the ideals of **Fraternity** and **Dignity of the Individual**, ensuring that the transformative vision of the Constitution is realized for every citizen.[20]

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ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳು

* ಸವಿತ ಸಿ.ಎನ್. ಮತ್ತು ** ಡಾ. ಎಂ. ಗುರುಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ

ಸಾರಾಂಶ

ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸಮಾಜದ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿವೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಇವು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಚಿನ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸೇತುವೆಯಂತೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ, ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟುಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಹೊಂದಿವೆ ಉದಾ : ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ, ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಹಕ್ಕು ಹಾಗೂ ಭೂಮಿ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಗುರುತಿನ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣವಾದುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಶೀಲ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಅಭಾವ, ದೂರದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲುಪುವಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸವಾಲುಗಳು, ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳು, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಅಂತರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಕೊರತೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ಅಡಚಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಓ.ಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಅಥವಾ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ (ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ, ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾಲುದಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದಾಗಿದೆ). ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ, ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಳಗೊಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ 40 ಜನ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಸರಳ ಯಾದೃಚ್ಛಿಕ ಮಾದರಿ ವಿಧಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಬೆಳಕು ಚೆಲ್ಲುತ್ತದೆ.

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ಪೀಠಿಕೆ

ಭಾರತವು ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಧರ್ಮ, ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ದೇಶವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳು ವಿಶೇಷ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿವೆ. ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದವರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂಮಿ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅನ್ಯಾಯಗಳು, ಸವಾಲುಗಳು ಇವರುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಇರಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇವು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ, ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಉತ್ತೇಜಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶಗಳು, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಗುರುತಿನ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಯಂತಹ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳ ಹಸ್ತಕ್ಷೇಪ ಮಹತ್ವದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಕೊರತೆ, ಆಡಳಿತಾತ್ಮಕ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳು, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಭೌಗೋಳಿಕ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಅಂತರಗಳು ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಸವಾಲುಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇಂತಹ ಅಡಚಣೆಗಳ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ತರಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸತತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಶ್ಲಾಘನೀಯವಾದುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದಿವಾಸಿ/ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯ

ಒಂದು ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮೂಲ ವಾಸಸ್ಥರನ್ನು ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳೆಂದು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸಮಾಜದಿಂದ ದೂರವಿದ್ದು, ದಟ್ಟವಾದ ಕಾಡುಗಳ ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳೆಂದು ಕರೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇವರನ್ನು ಅಲೆಮಾರಿ ಜನಾಂಗ, ಅನಾಗರಿಕರು, ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಾಸಿಗಳು, ಗಿರಿಜನರು, ಸರ್ವಚೇತನವಾದಿಗಳು, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಹಿಂದೂಗಳು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಹೆಸರುಗಳಿಂದ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭಾರತ ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 342ನೇ ಕಲಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟುಗಳು ಎಂದು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಿ, ಸಂವಿಧಾನವು 472 ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದೆ. 1991ರ ಜನಗಣತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಶೇಕಡ 8.08ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ (ಗುರುಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಎಂ., 2016:43,45).

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ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ

ಆಂಗ್ಲ ಪದದ 'Empowerment'ನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ' ಅಥವಾ ಸಶಸ್ತ್ರೀಕರಣ ಎಂದೇ ಅರ್ಥೈಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಎಂದರೆ ಶಕ್ತಿ ನೀಡು ಅಥವಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ವಹಿಸು ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಥವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು

1. ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ–ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.
2. ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಅಥವಾ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟುಗಳ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೊಳಿಸುವಾಗ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಾವಲೋಕನ

ನಾಗಪ್ಪ (2001) ಅವರ **'ಗಿರಿಜನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಅಂಶಗಳು'** ಎಂಬ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಗ್ರಂಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗಿರಿಜನರ ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಕುರಿತು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರ ಆಚಾರ–ವಿಚಾರ, ಭಾಷೆ, ಉಡುಗೆ–ತೊಡುಗೆ, ಕುಲಕಸುಬುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗಿರಿಜನರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತಹ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬಸವಣ್ಣ (2016) ಅವರ **'ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಕಲಿಕಾ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ'** ಎಂಬ ಗ್ರಂಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಶೋಧಕರು ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಅರ್ಥ, ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯೆ, ಸ್ವಯಂ ಸಂಘಟನೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಣಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜನರು ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನೆಲೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳೇನು ಎಂಬುದರ ಕುರಿತು ಅಂಕಿ–ಅಂಶಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಜನರು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿಯಲು ಕಾರಣಗಳೇನು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಇರುವಂತಹ ವಸತಿ ಸಹಿತ ಆಶ್ರಮ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

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ಗುರುಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ (2016) ಅವರ **'ಅಂಚಿನ ಗುಂಪುಗಳ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ'** ಗ್ರಂಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಪದದ ಅರ್ಥ, ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಗುಣಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರು ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತಹ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಎಷ್ಟು ಎಂಬುವುದನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಯಾವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರು ಇದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬುವುದನ್ನು ಶೇಕಡವಾರು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಾಡಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನರ ಉಪಜಾತಿಗಳ ವಿವಿಧ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಜ್ಞರು ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಸರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟುಗಳು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕವಾಗಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದಿರಲು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕಾರಣಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಜಾತಿಯ ನಡುವೆ ಇರುವ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತವಾಗಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಧಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಗಳು

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಾಧ್ಯಯನವನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಗುಣಾತ್ಮಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಮಾಣಾತ್ಮಕ ಸ್ವರೂಪದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾವಳಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ, ಅನುಭವಿ ವಿಷಯ ಪರಿಣಿತರ, ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ರೂಪಿಸಿ ಪೂರ್ವಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾವಳಿ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಮಾದರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಳಗೊಳ ಗ್ರಾಮವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 40 ಜನ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಸರಳ ಯಾದೃಚ್ಛಿಕ ಮಾದರಿ ವಿಧಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ವಿವಿಧ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮೂಲಗಳು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಿಂದ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯ ಮೂಲಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಎರಡು ವಿಧಗಳಿವೆ. ಅವುಗಳೆಂದರೆ

1. ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾವಳಿ, ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು ಸಂಶೋಧಕರು ಕಾರ್ಯಪ್ರವೃತ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಿಂದ ತಾವೇ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿ ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪುಷ್ಟೀಕರಿಸಲು ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂದರ್ಶನ: ಪೂರ್ವರಚಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾವಳಿಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರನ್ನು ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅವಲೋಕನ: ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ವಾಸ್ತವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಹಾಗೂ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನಗಳಿಂದ ಅವಲೋಕಿಸಿ ವಸ್ತುನಿಷ್ಟ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2. ಆನುಷಾಂಗಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವೆನಿಸಿದ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಿಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು, ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು, ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳು, ಗೂಗಲ್, ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಅಪ್ರಕಟಿತ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು, ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ, ಮಹಾಪ್ರಬಂಧಗಳು, ಯೂಟ್ಯೂಬ್, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರದರ್ಶನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇನ್ನೂ ಮುಂತಾದವುಗಳಿಂದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಮಾಹಿತಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ

ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಧಾನಗಳು, ತಂತ್ರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಮಾಣಾತ್ಮಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಗುಣಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಧಾನದಿಂದ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿ, ಸಂಕೇತೀಕರಣ, ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಣೆ, ವರ್ಗೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂಚೀಕರಣದ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದ್ದಷ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯಾಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಚೌಕಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೋಷ್ಠಕ 1

ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ರೀತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ

ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ರೀತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ	ಆವೃತ್ತಿ	ಶೇಕಡವಾರು
ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯತೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಕಾಲತ್ತು	05	12.50
ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೃತ್ತಿಯಾಧಾರಿತವಾಗಿ	06	15.00
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ	07	17.50
ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ	05	12.50
ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ	08	20.00
ವಿಪತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ	03	07.50
ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸೂಚಿಸುವುದು	06	15.00
ಒಟ್ಟು	**40**	**100.00**

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕೋಷ್ಠಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ರೀತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕುರಿತು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂದರ್ಶಿತ ಒಟ್ಟು 40 ಜನ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 12.5ರಷ್ಟು

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ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯತೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಕಾಲತ್ತು ವಹಿಸುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಹಕರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 15ರಷ್ಟು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೃತ್ತಿಯಾಧಾರಿತವಾಗಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 17.5ರಷ್ಟು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 12.5ರಷ್ಟು ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಬಳಕೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಜ್ಞಾನ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 20ರಷ್ಟು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ, ಶೇಕಡ 7.5ರಷ್ಟು ವಿಪತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನುಳಿದಂತೆ ಶೇಕಡ 15ರಷ್ಟು ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಸೂಚಿಸುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗೂ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಧಾರಿತ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಧನ ಸಹಾಯ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ನೀತಿಯನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವಂತೆ ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳು ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸು ಮಾಡುತ್ತವೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಧಿಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 20ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರು ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾರಣ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಲು ಸಹಾಯಕವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕೋಷ್ಟಕ 2

ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರ ವಿವರ

ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆ	ಆವೃತ್ತಿ	ಶೇಕಡವಾರು
ಹೌದು	26	65.00
ಇಲ್ಲ	14	25.00
ಒಟ್ಟು	**40**	**100.00**
ಹೌದಾದರೆ, ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸವಾಲುಗಳು		
ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳ ಅಭಾವ	04	15.38

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ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆ	07	26.92
ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ವೃದ್ಧಿಸುವಿಕೆ ನಿಧಾನ	05	19.23
ಸಂಘದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ	10	38.46
ಒಟ್ಟು	**26**	**100.00**

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕೋಷ್ಠಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದರ ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂದರ್ಶಿತ ಒಟ್ಟು 40 ಜನ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇಕಡ 65ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 35ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಯಾವುದೇ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮುಂದುವರಿದು, ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.ಗಳು ಎದುರಿಸಿರುವ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಗಮನಿಸುವುದಾದರೆ, ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ 26 ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರು ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಶೇಕಡ 15.38ರಷ್ಟು ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳ ಅಭಾವದ ಸವಾಲನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 26.92ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶೇಕಡ 19.23ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ವೃದ್ಧಿಸುವಿಕೆ ನಿಧಾನ ಎಂದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವರು ಶೇಕಡ 38.46ರಷ್ಟು ಸಂಘದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಿಕೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವುದು ಒಂದು ಸವಾಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾರಣ ಆದಿವಾಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಕೊರತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇರೆ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಇವರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾದ ಅಂಶಗಳು

- ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ರೀತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಶೇಕಡ 20ರಷ್ಟು ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರು ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು (ಎನ್.ಜಿ.ಒ.) ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕಾರಣ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಲು ಸಹಾಯಕವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಸಲಹೆಗಳು

- ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವು ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಧುನಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವಂತಹ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯವೈಖರಿಗೆ ಸಹಕರಿಸಲು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯರು, ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮುಖಂಡರುಗಳು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಬಲ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ, ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಅಂಚೀಕೃತ ಗುಂಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ತರಲು ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಿಂದ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಇಂತಹ ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಧನ ಸಹಾಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ನೀಡಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಘ–ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ನೀತಿ–ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸಲು ಸಹಾಯಕವಾಗಿದ

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ಡಾ. ಚಲುವರಾಜು
ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು, ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001.

ಸಾರಾಂಶ:

[20]ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣವು ಇಂದಿನ ಜಾಗತೀಕರಣದ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಚಳುವಳಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಮಾಜದ ಸಮಾನ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸುವುದು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಗಳಾಗುವುದು, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ನಿರ್ಣಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಗುರುತನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುವುದು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಉದ್ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಶತಮಾನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬದುಕಿನ ನಾನಾ ಆಯಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಚಿತ್ರಿಸುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ಅವರ ಶೋಷಣೆ, ಹೋರಾಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರತೆಯ ಕನಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯಂತಹ ಕವಯತ್ರಿಯರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆತ್ಮಶಕ್ತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದರೆ, ಮಧ್ಯಕಾಲೀನ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕವಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಥೆಗಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿದರು. ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ, ಸುದಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ಹೋರಾಟ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನವನ್ನು ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳಿಸಿವೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಪಾತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸದೆ, ಸಮಾಜ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದೆ.

ಈ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿ, ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧದ ಧ್ವನಿ, ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದನೆ ಮತ್ತು

[20] ***ಡಾ. ಚಲುವರಾಜು, ಎಂ.ಎ., ನೆಟ್, ಪಿಎಚ್.ಡಿ., ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು, ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001, ಮೊ. 9663333599, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: chelvarajugfgc@gmail.com***

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ಹೊಸ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನ ನೀಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಹೇಗೆ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಚಳುವಳಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಬಲವಾದ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಾರಿದೀಪವಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕೀಲಿ ಪದಗಳು:

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ

ಪೀಠಿಕೆ:

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣವು ಇಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಜಾಗತೀಕರಣ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿಯ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸ್ಥಾನಮಾನವು ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶೋಷಣೆ, ಅಸಮಾನತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹಕ್ಕುಚ್ಯುತಿಯ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಕಂಡುಬರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಾನತೆ, ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುವ ಚಳುವಳಿಯೇ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ.

ಸಮಾಜದ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಅತೀವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯುತ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ತನ್ನ ಅನನ್ಯ ಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಶತಮಾನಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಸಮಾಜದ ಎಲ್ಲ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬದುಕು, ಅವರ ನೋವು, ಕನಸುಗಳು, ಹೋರಾಟಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ವಿಶದವಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿದೆ. **ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ** [21] ತಮ್ಮ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಆತ್ಮಶಕ್ತಿಯ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹರಡಿದರೆ, [22] **ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ** ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ದ್ವಂದ್ವಗಳನ್ನು ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದರು. **ವೈದೇಹಿ**, **ಸುಧಾಮೂರ್ತಿ** ಮುಂತಾದ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಬರಹಗಳ ಕೇಂದ್ರಬಿಂದುಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು.

[21] *ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯ ವಚನಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆತ್ಮಗೌರವ ಮತ್ತು ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಬಲ ಘೋಷಣೆಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಮೂಲ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.*

[22] *ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ ಅವರ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಹೋರಾಟ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳ ನಡುವಿನ ಸಂಘರ್ಷವನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮವಾಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.*

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ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಚಿತ್ರಣವು ಕೇವಲ ತಾಯಿಯ, ಪತ್ನಿಯ ಅಥವಾ ಮಗಳ ಪಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿರದೇ, ಸಮಾಜ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಸಬಲವಾದ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಿಂಬಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ನೀಡುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸಮಾಜವನ್ನು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನತ್ತ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುತ್ತವೆ.

ಅದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಕೇವಲ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬವಲ್ಲ, ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯೂ ಹೌದು. ಈ ಲೇಖನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ:

1. ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯ ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ

ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ದೇಹವನ್ನು ಬಂಧನವೆಂದು ತಳ್ಳಿ, ಆತ್ಮಶಕ್ತಿಯ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರ ವಚನಗಳು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಮೊದಲ ದೀಪಗಳಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿವೆ.

2. ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ ಅವರ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳು

ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಜೀವನ, ಸಮಾಜದ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಆಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮವಾಗಿ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬದುಕಿನ ವಾಸ್ತವಿಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

3. ವೈದೇಹಿ[23] ಅವರ ಕಥಾಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ

[23] *ವೈದೇಹಿ ಅವರ ಕಥೆಗಳು ಆಧುನಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಧ್ವನಿಯಾಗಿ, ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕು ಮತ್ತು ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗೆ ಬಲ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ.*

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4. ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ[24] ಅವರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು

ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಬರಹಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಹೇಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅವರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಗೆ ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಿವೆ.

5. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಚಳುವಳಿ

ವೀರಶೈವ ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ಆಧುನಿಕ ನವ್ಯ, ದಲಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಮುಂದಿರಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಚಳುವಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಲವಾದ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಆಧಾರ ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ.

ವಿಧಾನ:

1. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಾಧಾರಿತ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ (ಐಣಜಡಿಚಿಡಿಥಿ ಂಟಿಚಿಟಥಿ)

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಕವಯತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕಥೆಗಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಕಾರರ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ದು ಅವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬಿಂಬ, ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಸಂದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

[24] *ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರ ಬರಹಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ತರಬಲ್ಲರು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.*

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2. **ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನ** (ಉಣಠಡಿಥಿಚಿಟ ಂಠಿಡಿಠಚಿಥಿ)

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ, ಮಧ್ಯಕಾಲೀನ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯನ್ನು ಹೋಲಿಕೆಮಾಡಿ, ಕಾಲಾನುಸಾರವಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಹೇಗೆ ರೂಪುಗೊಂಡಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

3. **ತತ್ತ್ವಚಿಂತನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ** (ಕ್ಷುಟಥಠಠಿಥಿಚಿಟ & ಅಣಟಣಣಡಿಚಿಟ ಕಜಢಿಠಿಜಥಿಣುತಜ)

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ತತ್ತ್ವಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ, ಧರ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಬೆಳಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಅವು ನೀಡಿದ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

4. **ವಿಮರ್ಶಾತ್ಮಕ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ** (ಅಡಿಣುಥಿಚಿಟ ಖಜತುಜತಿ)

ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ, ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರ ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆದ ವಿಮರ್ಶಾತ್ಮಕ ಲೇಖನಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾಡಿ ಲೇಖನಕ್ಕೆ ತತ್ತ್ವಾಧಾರ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

5. **ತೌಲನಿಕ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ** (ಅಠಟಠಿಚಿಡಿಚಿಣುತಜ ಖಣಣಜಥಿ)

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಇತರ ಭಾರತೀಯ ಭಾಷಾ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಗಳ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬ:

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಹಂತದಿಂದಲೇ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅನೇಕ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಗಳು ದೊರಕುತ್ತವೆ. ಜೈನ, ವೀರಶೈವ ಹಾಗೂ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಪಾತ್ರವು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ನಿರೂಪಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. **ಅಕ್ಕ ಮಹಾದೇವಿ** ತಮ್ಮ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ದೇಹವನ್ನು ಬಲಾತ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುವ ವಸ್ತುವಾಗಿ ನೋಡುವ ಬದಲು, ಆತ್ಮಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಒಂದು ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರ ವಚನಗಳು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಮೂಲವಾದ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಯ ಚಿಂತನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯಾಗಿವೆ.

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ಮಧ್ಯಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹೋರಾಟ, ಧೈರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ತ್ಯಾಗವನ್ನು ಕವನ, ನಾಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿತ್ರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗೆ **ಕುವೆಂಪು**, **ಪುರಂದರ ದಾಸ** ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಕವಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಕೃತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯವನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸಿ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಗೌರವಯುತ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಅಗತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿಹಿಡಿದರು.

ಆಧುನಿಕ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ:

ಆಧುನಿಕ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಕೇಂದ್ರಬಿಂದುಗಳಾಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರಿಸದೆ, ಸಮಾಜ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಹೋರಾಟಗಾರ್ತಿಯರಾಗಿ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದೆ. **ಆಧುನಿಕ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳು, ಕತೆಗಳು, ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಾಟಕಗಳು** ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಾದವು.

- **ಕಸ್ತೂರಿ ಶಂಕರ** ಹಾಗೂ **ತ್ರಿಪುರಾನೆನಿ ಗೋಪಿಚಂದ್ರ** ಮುಂತಾದವರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಥಿಸಿದರು.
- **ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ** ಅವರ ಕಥೆಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅಂತರಂಗವನ್ನು, ದ್ವಂದ್ವವನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹೃದಯಸ್ಪರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಿ ಚಿತ್ರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.
- **ವೈದೇಹಿ** ಅವರ ಕತೆಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕ ಜಗತ್ತನ್ನು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.
- **ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ** ಅವರ ಬರಹಗಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಉದ್ಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ತರಬಹುದು ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ:

1. **ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು** – ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿದೆ.
2. **ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧದ ಧ್ವನಿ** – ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲಿನ ಶೋಷಣೆ, ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಅಸಮಾನತೆಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಒಂದು ಶಕ್ತಿಯುತ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧದ ಧ್ವನಿಯಾಯಿತು.
3. **ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ** – ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ ಮುಂತಾದವರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸುವ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಹರಡಿದರು.

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4. **ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದನೆ** – ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಕೀಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಅಗತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಲೇಖಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.
5. **ಹೊಸ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನ** – ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ತಾಯಿ, ಪತ್ನಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಗಳೆಂಬ ಸಂಬಂಧಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸಮಾನ ಮಾನವನಾಗಿ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಮಾರೋಪ:

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣವು ಕೇವಲ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಥವಾ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದಲ್ಲ; ಅದು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವ, ಆತ್ಮಗೌರವ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವವನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ನಾನಾ ಯುಗಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಬಲವಾದ ಚಿಂತನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾದ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ, ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ ಅವರ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣುವ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಹೋರಾಟ, ವೈದೇಹಿ ಅವರ ಕಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಂಬಿತವಾಗುವ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರ ಬರಹಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಫಲಿಸುವ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿ— ಇವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಸತತ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನವನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಗೃಹಿಣಿ, ತಾಯಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ನಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೀಮಿತಗೊಳಿಸದೇ, ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳುಳ್ಳ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಮಾನವರಾಗಿ ಸಮಾಜದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕ್ರಿಯ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಿತ್ತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಸಮಾನತೆ, ದೌರ್ಜನ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಶೋಷಣೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಬಲ ಪ್ರತಿರೋಧದ ಧ್ವನಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ, ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಧೈರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಲು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣವು ಕೇವಲ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಮೂಲಕವೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಮೂಲಕವೂ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲಿತವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಈ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾರಿದೀಪವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಚೂಣಿಯಾಗಲು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯ ಮೂಲವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

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ಆಕರ ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳು:

1. ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, *ವಚನಸಂಗ್ರಹ* – ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆತ್ಮಶಕ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುವ ಕೃತಿ.
2. ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, *ಅಪರಿಚಿತೆ, ಶಬರಿಮಲೆ, ಹೊನ್ನಲು* – ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಹೋರಾಟ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ.
3. ವೈದೇಹಿ, *ವೈದೇಹಿ ಕಥಾ ಸಂಕಲನ* – ಆಧುನಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಭಾವನೆಗಳು, ಆತ್ಮಗೌರವ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನ.
4. ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ, *ಮಹಾಶ್ವೇತ, ಹೌ ಡು ಯು ಟೀಚ್ ಯುರ್ ಗ್ರ್ಯಾಂಡ್‌ಮದರ್* – ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರೇರಣಾದಾಯಕ ಬರಹಗಳು.
5. ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಪಟೇಲ (ಸಂಪಾದಕ), *ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳು* – ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ.

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ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪಾತ್ರ – ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಸಂದರ್ಭದೊಂದಿಗೆ

ಡಾ. ನಂಜುಂಡಯ್ಯ ಡಿ.
ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಮೇಲುಕೋಟೆ
ಪಾಂಡವಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 571431

ಸಾರಾಂಶ:

ಈ ಲೇಖನವು **ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪಾತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಸಂಬಂಧ**ವನ್ನು ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಿಸುವ ಅಸಮಾನತೆ, ಶೋಷಣೆ, ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಕೊರತೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಹಕ್ಕಿನ ಹೋರಾಟಗಳು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಕಾಲದಿಂದ ಇಂದಿನ ಕಾಲದವರೆಗೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧ್ವನಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಅವರ ಹೋರಾಟ, ಸಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆಶಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಬೋಧನೆಗಳು, ನವೋದಯ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳು, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ ಕುರಿತು ಬಿಂಬಿತವಾದ ಕಥೆಗಳು ಲೇಖನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಲೇಖನವು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಚಿಂತನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವುದು, ಅವರ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಗೌರವ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಮೂಲ ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಧರಿಸಿ, ಲೇಖನವು ವಿವರಿಸುವುದೇನಂದರೆ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಮಾಜದ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕೀಲಿ ಪದಗಳು:

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಗೃತಿ, ಲಿಂಗ ಸಮಾನತೆ

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ಪರಿಚಯ:

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಾನವ ಜೀವನದ ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಕಲಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿನೋದ ಅಥವಾ ಭಾವನೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಸಮಾಜವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಾಧನವೂ ಆಗಿದೆ. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಸಮಾಜದ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣತೆಯನ್ನು, ವೈವಿಧ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ವೈಷಮ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂದಿನ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣವೆಂಬ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಚಿಂತನೆಯು ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ ಸಾಧಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಎಂದರೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಜೀವನದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ—ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳು—ಸಮಾನ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದು. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ನೀಡಿಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಅರಿತೇ, ಅವರ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬೆಳಸಲು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಈ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಮಾರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅನುಭವ, ಭಾವನೆ, ಹೋರಾಟ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ವಚನ, ಕಾದಂಬರಿ, ಕಥೆ, ನಾಟಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕವನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಕಾಲದಿಂದ ಇಂದಿನ ಕಾಲದವರೆಗೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧ್ವನಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸಲು ನಿರಂತರ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ತ್ಯಾಗ, ಧೈರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸದ ಮೂಲಕ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾರಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನವೋದಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳು ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನವನ್ನು ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕರಿಸಿದೆ.

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ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಿಂದ, ಈ ಲೇಖನವು **ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ನಡುವಿನ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿ**, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ತರಲು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಸಾಧನ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ:

1. **ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧ್ವನಿ:**

ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ[25], ಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ವಚನಕಾರಿಯರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧೈರ್ಯ, ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ-ನೈತಿಕ ಬೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ವಚನಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಆತ್ಮಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠೆಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ.

2. **ನವೋದಯ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧ್ಯ:**

ಕುವೆಂಪು[26], ಬೇಂದ್ರೆ, ತಿಮ್ಮಪ್ಪಯ್ಯ ಮುಂತಾದ ನವೋದಯ ಕವಿ-ಲೇಖಕರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

3. **ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹೋರಾಟ:**

ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ, ಅನುರಾಧಾ ಮುಂತಾದ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹೋರಾಟ, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಹಕ್ಕಿನ ಹೋರಾಟವನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

[25] ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ವಚನಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್, 2005, ಪುಟ 45
[26] ಕುವೆಂಪು, ನವೋದಯ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಚಿಂತನೆ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶನ, 2008, ಪುಟ 78.

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4. **ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ:**

ಇಂದಿನ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಬರೆದಿದ್ದು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ನೈಜ ಚಿತ್ರಣ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ.

5. **ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಭಾವ:**

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳಗಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದು ಸಮಾನತೆ, ಹಕ್ಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಕುರಿತು ಚಿಂತನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿಮರ್ಶಕರು ಒಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ವಿಧಾನ:

1. **ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ** (ಐಣಜಡಿಚಿಡಿಥಿ ಂಟಿಚಿಟಥಿ):

ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ, ನವೋದಯ, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಚಿತ್ರಣ, ಹೋರಾಟ, ಸಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2. **ದ್ವಿತೀಯಕ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ** (ಖಜಛಿಠಟಿಜಚಿಡಿಥಿ ಖಠಣಡಿಛಿಜ ಖಣಣಜಥಿ):

ಲೇಖನ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಪ್ರಬಂಧ, ವಿಮರ್ಶಾತ್ಮಕ ಲೇಖನಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

3. **ತತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತಿಹಾಸಾತ್ಮಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋಣ** (ಉಘಣಠಡಿಛಿಥಿಚಿಟ & ಅಠಟಿಣಜಟಠಠಡಿಚಿಡಿಥಿ ಂಠಠಡಿಠಚಿಛಿ):

ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಿಂದ ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಕಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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4. **ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ** (ಖಿಜಟಚಣಖಿ ಖಣಡಿತಜಥಿ):

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಷಯಗಳು—ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು—ಎಂಬಂತಹ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

5. **ನಿರ್ಣಯಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ** (ಂಟಿಚಟಥಿಣಖಿಚಟ ಅಠಟಿಥಿಟಣಕ್ಷಾಠಟಿ):

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ತರಬಲ್ಲ ಶಕ್ತಿಯು ಹೇಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮಾಪ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅದರ ಅರ್ಥ:

'ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ' ಎಂದರೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸುವಂತಾಗುವುದು. ಇದು ಕೇವಲ ಹಕ್ಕು ನೀಡುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಅರಿತು, ಅವರ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದ ಮುಖ್ಯಧಾರೆಗೆ ತರಲು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುವ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ:

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಸಮಾಜದ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಬರೆಯಲಾದ ಕಥೆಗಳು, ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳು, ಕವನಗಳು, ನಾಟಕಗಳು ಅವರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ತರುತ್ತವೆ. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮೇಲೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ, ಅಸಮಾನತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶೋಷಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅವರ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಬಹುದು.

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೧. ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು

ಕನ್ನಡದ ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ, ಪೌರಾಣಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ, ತ್ಯಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಬೋಧನೆಗಳ ಸಂದೇಶವಿದೆ. ಅವರ ವಚನಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅಂತರಂಗದ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಹಿರಿಮೆಗೇರಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

೨. ನವೋದಯ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಚಿಂತನೆ

ನವೋದಯ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಅಡಚಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೀಮಿತವಾಗಿರಿಸದೆ, ಸಮಾಜ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯ ಭಾಗವನ್ನಾಗಿ ತೋರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಕುವೆಂಪು, ಬೇಂದ್ರೆ, ತಿಮ್ಮಪ್ಪಯ್ಯ ಮುಂತಾದವರ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

೩. ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಹೋರಾಟ

ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಧ್ವನಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಅನೇಕ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರು ತಮ್ಮ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರೆದರು. ತ್ರಿವೇಣಿ, ವೈದೇಹಿ, ಅನುರಾಧಾ, ಗೀತಾ ನಾಗಭೂಷಣ್ ಮುಂತಾದ ಲೇಖಕಿಯರ ಕಾದಂಬರಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಆಂತರಿಕ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದ ಹಂಬಲ ಮತ್ತು ಹಕ್ಕಿನ ಹೋರಾಟಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

೪. ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ

ಇಂದಿನ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಕೇವಲ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಲ್ಲದೆ, ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಿಕೆ, ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಬರೆದ ಕೃತಿಗಳು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ನೈಜ ಚಿತ್ರಣವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ.

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ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ:

- **ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು** – ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
- **ಸಮಾಜ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ** – ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಂಬಿತವಾದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹೋರಾಟಗಳು ಹೊಸ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತವೆ.
- **ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಪರ ವಾದ** – ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಾನ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
- **ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳ ಪರಿಚಯ** – ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೌರವವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಿರ್ಣಯ: ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ತರಲು ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ, ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಯಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಪಾತ್ರವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ ಕಾವ್ಯದಿಂದ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿ ನವೋದಯ, ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಜೀವನದ ಹೋರಾಟ, ಸಾಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆಶಯಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಕೇವಲ ಹೃದಯಸ್ಪರ್ಶಿ ಕಥೆಗಳ ಕಲೆಯೇ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಇದು ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸುವ, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಲಿಸುವ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಂಗಸಮತೋಲನವನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು, ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಸ್ಥಾನಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಹೋರಾಟಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ, ಸಮಾಜವು ಹೊಸ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆ, ಹೊಸ ಆದರ್ಶ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸ ಸಮಾನತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ದಾರಿ ತೆರೆದಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಈ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪಾತ್ರ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಈ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ. ಸಮಾಜದ ನಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬದಲಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸ ದಾರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವು ಶಕ್ತಿಶಾಲಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಈ ಲೇಖನದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ತೀರ್ಮಾನವಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ಸಂಚಲನೆ: ಒಂದು ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ

ರಾಜಶೇಖರ ಎಸ್
ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ, ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕುವೆಂಪು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಡಾ.ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಈ
ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು,ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕುವೆಂಪು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ,

ಸಾರಾಂಶ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರಣ್ಯವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯವಾದ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ಅರಣ್ಯನೊಂದಿಗಿನ ಸಹಜೀವನದ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಜೇನುತುಪ್ಪ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಸರುವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದಿಮ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಎಂದೇ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾದ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟಿನವರು ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಡಿನ ಹತ್ತಿರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಾಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಮುದಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಂಚಲನೆಯಾಗಲು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ, ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ 1972 ರ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಹೊಳೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ಮತ್ತು ಹುಲಿ ಮೀಸಲು ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಂತಹ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭೂಮಿಯಿಂದ ಅವರ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಜೀವನ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅಪರಾಧೀಕರಿಸಿದೆ, ಅವರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದ ಆಧಾರಸ್ತಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅರಣ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರ ಪ್ರವೇಶವನ್ನು ಕಡಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಂಚಲನೆಯು ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಜೀವನ ಮಟ್ಟ ಅಥವಾ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿರತೆಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿಣಮಿಸಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅನೇಕ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾದ ಭೂಮಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತವಲ್ಲ. ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀನ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳ ಸಮ್ಮಿಶ್ರಣದಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿಯೇತರ ಹೊಸ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು

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ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ, ಕೇವಲ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಲ ಬದಲಾದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳು, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನೀತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಿಂದ ಆಗಿದೆ. ನಗರೀಕರಣ, ವಲಸೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳ ಪ್ರಭಾವ, ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಒತ್ತಡ, ಮದುವೆ, ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಒತ್ತಡ ಕೂಡ ಇವರು ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಕೃಷಿಯೇತರ ಹೊಸ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಸಂಚಲನೆ ಹೊಂದಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿವೆ. ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಂಚಲನೆ ಅವರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಏಕೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಈ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಫಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಯ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸುವ ಒತ್ತಾಯ, ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಗಳು ಅಪಮೌಲ್ಯಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಸೀಮಿತ ಔಪಚಾರಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ತರಬೇತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರಿಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವೆಂದರೆ ಕೈಯಿಂದ ಮಾಡುವ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಆಗಿದೆ..

ಕೀಲಿ ಪದಗಳು: ಆದಿಮ, ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು, ಹಾಡಿ,ಸಂಚಲನೆ

ಪರಿಚಯ

ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನಾಂಗಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜೀವನಶೈಲಿ, ಆಚಾರ–ವಿಚಾರ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಜೀವನದಿಂದ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ವರ್ಗ. ಇವರು ಪರಂಪರೆಯಿಂದಲೇ ಅರಣ್ಯಾಧಾರಿತ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ, ಆಧುನಿಕೀಕರಣ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿ ಇವರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಮೇಣ ಸಂಚಲನೆ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದೆ.ಮೈಸೂರು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವ ಅರಣ್ಯವಾಸಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯವಾದ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬರು, ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವಾದ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಚಲನಶೀಲತೆಯ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯು ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯದಿಂದ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಮತ್ತು ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಅನಿಶ್ಚಿತವಾದ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಬದಲಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ ಗುರುತಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಜೇನುಕುರುಬರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು, ಅವರ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಬಹುಮುಖಿ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು

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ಅವರ ಉದಯೋನ್ಮುಖ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೋಧಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಔಷಧೀಯ ಸಸ್ಯಗಳು, ಗೆಡ್ಡೆಗಳು, ಹಣ್ಣುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಮತ್ತು ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇತರ ಖಾದ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಂತಹ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಶ್ರೇಣಿಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಂತರ ಪುನರುತ್ಪಾದನೆಗಾಗಿ ಪಾಳು ಬಿಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಪರಂಪಾರಗತವಾಗಿ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ಅರಣ್ಯಾಧಾರಿತ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರತರಾಗಿದ್ದವರು, ಕುಮರಿ ಬೇಸಾಯ, ಕೆತ್ಲು ಬೇಸಾಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಡು ಬೇಸಾಯ ಪದ್ದತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಖೆಡ್ಡಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ, ಮೀನು ಹಿಡಿಯುವುದು, ಅರಣ್ಯದ ಕಿರು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ಜೇನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ಕಾಡು ಮೇವು ಹಾಗೂ ಔಷಧೀಯ ಸಸ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ, ಬೇಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಡಿನ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ,ಈ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದವು. 1972 ರ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಹೊಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬಂಡೀಪುರ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳಂತಹ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯು, ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಭೂಮಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶವನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾದರಿಗಳು ಬಲವಂತದ ಹೊರಹಾಕುವಿಕೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪರಾಧೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿವೆ. ಕೃಷಿ, ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೋಟಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ, ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿರುವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ನೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಕುಗ್ಗಿಸಿದೆ. ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಭಾವವು ಹೊಸ ಆಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅದೇ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಹೊಸ ರೀತಿಯ ಅವಲಂಬನೆಯನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಅಗತ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು, ನಗದು ಆದಾಯದ ಅಗತ್ಯವು ಅನೇಕರನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಹೊರಗೆ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಹುಡುಕುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರಣ್ಯವಾಸಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಸಮುದಾಯವಾದ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಚಲನಶೀಲತೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನದಿಂದ, ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯು ಕೇವಲ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ±ÀæªÀÄfÃ«UÀ¼À, ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪುನರ್ರಚನೆಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ನೀತಿಗಳು, ಅರಣ್ಯನಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಏಕೀಕರಣದಿಂದ ನಡೆಸಲ್ಪಡುವ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯದಿಂದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಅವರನ್ನು ಭೂರಹಿತ, ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತ ಕೂಲಿ–ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ತಳ್ಳಿದೆ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮೂಲಭೂತವಾಗಿ

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ಅವರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ರಚನೆ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಅನನ್ಯತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶಾಲ ಸಮಾಜದೊಂದಿಗಿನ ಸಂಬಂಧವನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು:

- ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.
- ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಜನಾಂಗದವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಜಾಗತೀಕರಣದ ಬಹುಮುಖಿ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಮರ್ಶಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುವುದು
- ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಯುವಕರ ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹೊಸ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುವುದು,
- ಪುನರ್ವಸತೀಕರಣಗೊಂಡ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬರ ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯದ ಮಾದರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವುಗಳ ಏಕೀಕರಣದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ–ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ವಿಧಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಗಳು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡದೇವನಕೋಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹುಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ 50 ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ 50 ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿದಾರರನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಮಾದರಿ ವಿಧಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಅವರ ಬಳಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಹೋಗಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶಿಸುವುದರ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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ಅಧ್ಯಯನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಡು ಕೊಂಡ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಅಂಶಗಳು

- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರಲ್ಲಿನ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಚಲನಶೀಲತೆಯ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆಯು ಬಲವಂತದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ–ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರದ ಮಾದರಿಯನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳು ಅವರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯು ಮೇಲ್ಮುಖ ಚಲನಶೀಲತೆಯ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಸ್ವಯಂಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಚಲನೆಯಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯಿಂದ ರಚನಾತ್ಮಕ ಹೊರಹಾಕುವಿಕೆಯ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯೆಂದರೆ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿ, ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ, ಅನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ನಾಟಕೀಯ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ. ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಕಾಡಿನ ಮಾಲೀಕರು, ಅವರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳು ಜೇನುತುಪ್ಪ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ, ಮರಮಟ್ಟುಗಳಲ್ಲದ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಗುವಳಿ ಮಾಡುವಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಕೃತವಾಗಿವೆ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕಾಫಿ ತೋಟಗಳು, ಶುಂಠಿ ಹೊಲಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಯಾರೆ ದುಡಿಮೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದ ಭೂರಹಿತ, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಬಲಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗುವಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಈ ಔದ್ಯೋಗಿಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಚಾಲಕಶಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ನೀತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಅಗಾಧವಾಗಿ ಎತ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. 1972 ರ ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಜಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಹೊಳೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನದಂತಹ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ರಚನೆಯು ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯವನ್ನು ಅಪರಾಧೀಕರಿಸಿದೆ."ಅರಣ್ಯಸಂರಕ್ಷಣೆ"ಯ ಈ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರನ್ನು ಅವರ ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಭೂಮಿಯಿಂದ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ದೂರವಿಟ್ಟಿದೆ, ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಶ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಬೇರೆ ದಾರಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಸಮರ್ಪಕ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಫಲವತ್ತಾಗದ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ವಿಫಲ ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಈ ಅವಲಂಬನೆಯನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಬಣಗೊಳಿಸಿವೆ.
- ಒಂದು ನಿರ್ಣಾಯಕ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯೆಂದರೆ, ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ. ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ಶ್ರೀಮಂತ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣವಾದ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಪರಿಸರ ಜ್ಞಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪರಿಸರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೌಲ್ಯಯುತವಾಗಿದೆ ಆದರೆ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಯ ಬಂಡವಾಳಶಾಹಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಅಥವಾ ಯಾವುದೇ

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ಮೌಲ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿಲ್ಲ. ಔಷಧೀಯ ಗಿಡಮೂಲಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು, ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳ ನಡವಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಕೊಯ್ಲು ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಪರಿಣತಿಯು ಕೈಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಹೊಸ ಪಾತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಷ್ಪಯೋಜಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯರಹಿತ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಅನನ್ಯತೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನದ ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

- ಅವರ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸಮಾಜವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಸಮಾನತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ್ದರೂ, ನಗದು ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅವರ ಏಕೀಕರಣವು ಹೊಸ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಶ್ರೇಣೀಕರಣವನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಿದೆ. ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳನ್ನು (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವೀಕ್ಷಕರಾಗಿ) ಪಡೆಯುವಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಫಲವತ್ತಾದ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಒಂದು ಸಣ್ಣ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರು ಹೊಸ, ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಉತ್ತಮ ವರ್ಗವನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ, ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಜನರು ಏಕರೂಪದ, ಬಡ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಶ್ರಮಜೀವಿಗಳನ್ನು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಇದು ಸಮುದಾಯದೊಳಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಉದ್ವಿಗ್ನತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಸಮಾನತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಕೆಲಸದಿಂದ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯು ಸಾಮುದಾಯಿಕ ಬಂಧಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಬೆಂಬಲದ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ದುರ್ಬಲಗೊಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಜ್ಞಾನವು ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ವೃತ್ತಿಪರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯು ವಿಶಾಲವಾದ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರಕ್ಕೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಆಚರಣೆಗಳು, ಮತ್ತು ಅರಣ್ಯದೊಂದಿಗಿನ ಅವುಗಳ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕವು ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ, ಇದು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ವೈರತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಕೀಯತೆಯ ಭಾವನೆಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
- ಇವರು ಕೃಷಿಕೂಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕೆಲಸಗಳೆಂದರೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಾದರೆ ಶುಂಠಿ ಕಳೆ ತೆಗೆಯುವುದು, ಹೊಗೆ ಸೊಪ್ಪು ಸಸಿ ನೆಡೆಯುವುದು, ಜೋಳದ ತೆನೆ ಮುರಿಯುವುದು, ಹೊಗೆ ಸೊಪ್ಪು ಎಲೆ ಮುರಿಯುವುದು, ರಾಗಿ ಕೊಯ್ಲು, ಹತ್ತಿ ಬಿಡಿಸುವುದು, ಕಾಫಿ ಬಿಡಿಸುವುದು ಮುಂತಾದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಮಾಡುವ ಕೃಷಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಪುರುಷರಾದರೆ ಶುಂಠಿಗೆ ಮಣ್ಣು ಹೊತ್ತರಿಸುವುದು, ತೆವರಿ ಸವರುವುದು, ಜೋಳ ಮುರಿಯುವುದು, ಕಫಾತು ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಮೆಣಸು ಬಿಡಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು ಪುರುಷರು ಮಾಡುವ ಕೃಷಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

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- ಮೂಲ ವೃತ್ತಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಕೂಲಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಬದಲಾದ ಕಾಲಘಟ್ಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಿತರಾಗಿರುವ ಯುವಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಯುವತಿಯರು ನವ ನವೀನ ಶೈಲಿಯ ವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಪುರುಷರು ಗಾರೆ ಕೆಲಸ, ಮಿಕ್ಸಿ ರಿಪೇರಿ, ಮೋಟರ್ ರಿವೈಂಡಿಂಗ್, ಡ್ರೈವರ್, ದಿನಸಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯಕರಾಗಿ, ಸಬ್ ಮರ್ಸಿಬಲ್ ಪಂಪ್ ರಿಪೇರಿಗಾರರಾಗಿ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಹಲವು ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನುಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ ತಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯುವತಿಯರು ಟೈಲರಿಂಗ್, ಚಾಪೆ ಎಣೆಯುವುದು, ಪೊರಕೆ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಈ ತರಹದ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪುರುಷರು 40 ರಿಂದ 50 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೆ ಆದಾಯ ಗಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆ, ಯುವತಿಯರು 30 ರಿಂದ 40 ಸಾವಿರದವರೆಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸಂಪಾದನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.
- ಪಶು ಸಂಗೋಪನೆ ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕಾಯಕವಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಸುಗಳು, ಮೇಕೆ, ಕುರಿ, ಕೋಳಿ, ಇಲಾಚಿ ಹಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಇವರು ಸಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರು ಹಾಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಾಲಿನ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಪಶುಸಂಗೋಪನೆಯಿಂದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ 40 ರಿಂದ 50 ಸಾವಿರ ಆದಾಯ ಗಳಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.
- ಆಧುನಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪಡೆದ ಯುವಕರು ನಗರಗಳತ್ತ ಆಕರ್ಷಿತರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಕೆಲವು ಯುವಕರಿಗೆ ಜೇನು ಕಸಿಯುವ ಈ ವೃತ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಗೌರವ ಕಮ್ಮಿ ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಮೂಡುತ್ತಿದೆ, ಯುವಕರು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಜೀವನ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಅನುಭವಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕರ್ಷಿತರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಯುವಕರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಉಂಟಾಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಗೆ ನವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ರೂಪ ನೀಡಬೇಕು, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪರಂಪರೆ ಮೌಲ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಸಬೇಕು, ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯಮದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಬೇಕು.
- ಈ ಸಮುದಾಯದವರು ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾವುತರಾಗಿ, ಕಾವಾಡಿಗರಾಗಿ, ಬೆಂಕಿ ವಾಚರ್‌ಮನ್, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಹಾಯಕರಾಗಿ,ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ,ಶಿಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರಜೆಗಳು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಾಗಿ, ಅಂಚೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೌಕರರಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಬಳ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪುರುಷರು ನಿರತರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ. ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಟೀಚರ್ ಆಗಿ, ಅಡುಗೆಯವರಾಗಿ, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕಿಯರಾಗಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ (ಬೇಕರಿ, ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಅಂಗಡಿ, ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ)ದಲ್ಲಿಯು

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ತೊಡಗಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಚಿಪ್ಸ್ ತಯಾರಿಕ ಘಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ಸಿದ್ದ ಆಹಾರ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ ಘಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ರಾಗಿ ಮಾಲ್ಟ್ ತಯಾರಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ನವನವೀನ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

- ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಯುವಕರು ಆಧುನಿಕ ವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೆಲವು ತರಬೇತಿಗಳನ್ನ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗಿರಿಜನ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇವರು ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಯುವಕರಿಗೆ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯಾಗಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಂಡು ಇವರ ಶ್ರೇಯೋಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು, ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ಯೂತ್ ಮುಮೆಂಟ್ ಸರಗೂರು, ಇವರು ಯುವತಿಯರಿಗೆ ಬ್ಯೂಟಿಷಿಯನ್, ಟೈಲರಿಂಗ್ ತರಬೇತಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ರೂರಲ್ ಲೈವಿಲಿವುಡ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರದವರು ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬ ಯುವತಿಯರು ತಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸಲು ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಿದ್ಧ ಆಹಾರ ತಯಾರಿಕ ಘಟಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಉಪಸಂಹಾರ

ಜೇನು ಕುರುಬರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸಂಚಲನೆ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆಯ ಸೂಚಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರಣ್ಯಾಧಾರಿತ ಬದುಕಿನಿಂದ ನಗರಾಧಾರಿತ ಬದುಕಿನತ್ತ ಅವರ ಪ್ರಯಾಣವು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯು ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಉಳಿವಿನ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಉಂಟುಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಉದೋಗ ಸಂಚಲನೆ ಆಧುನಿಕೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಚಲನೆಯ ಸಹಜ ಪರಿಣಾಮವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು

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ತಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂಡಾಯದ ಮನೋಧರ್ಮ

ಡಾ.ಶೈಲಜ.ಸಿ.ವಿ.
ಸಹಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಥಮದರ್ಜೆ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಎಚ್.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಲೇಔಟ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವಾಗ 'ತಳಸ್ತರ' ಎಂಬ ಪದವನ್ನು ಕೆಳವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂವಾದಿಯಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜದ ಅಂಚಿನವರನ್ನು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು ಸಿಗದಿದ್ದವರನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ಇದನ್ನು ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಇದು 'ವಂಚಿತರು' ಎಂಬ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರನ್ನು ವಿಶಾಲಾರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ 'ಶೋಷಿತರು' ಎಂಬ ಆಯಾಮವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. 'ತಳಸ್ತರ' ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಬಳಸುವಾಗಲೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅದನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಗೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸುವುದು ರೂಢಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ಈ ಎರಡನ್ನೂ ಎದುರು–ಬದುರು ಇಟ್ಟು ನೋಡುವಾಗ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಹಿನಿಯನ್ನು ಆಧುನಿಕತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕತೆ ಎಂತಲೂ, 'ಕೆಳಸ್ತರ'ದವರನ್ನು ಅನಾಗರಿಕರು ಎಂತಲೂ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.[೧]

ತಳಸ್ತರ ಎನ್ನುವ ಪದವು ತಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ತರಗಳೆಂಬ ಎರಡು ಪದದಿಂದ ಸಂಯೋಜಿತವಾಗಿದೆ. 'ತಳ' ಎಂದರೆ ಮೂಲ, ನೆಲ, ಭೂಮಿ, ಆಳ, ಗಂಭೀರತೆ. ಸಮತಟ್ಟಾದ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಅರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದೆ.[೨] 'ತಳ' ಎಂದರೆ 'ಅಂಗೈ', 'ಅಂಗಾಲು' ಎಂಬರ್ಥಗಳೂ ಇವೆ.[೩] 'ಸ್ತರ' ಎಂದರೆ, 'ವರ್ಗ', 'ಹಂತ', 'ವಿಭಾಗ', 'ಪಾತಳಿ', 'ಪದರ', 'ಘಟ್ಟ' ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಅರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದೆ.[೪] ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಎರಡು ಪದಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದಾಗ 'ತಳಸ್ತರ' ಎನ್ನುವ ಪದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೆಳಹಂತ, ಕೆಳಸ್ತರ, ಮೂಲಸ್ತರ, ಮೂಲಪದರ, ಮೂಲಹಂತ ಎಂದು ಕರೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೀಗೆ ತಳಸ್ತರದ ವಚನಕಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಎಂದರೆ ಮೂಲಸ್ತರದವರು, ಮೂಲ ನೆಲೆಯವರು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗವನ್ನು 'ತಳಸ್ತರ'ದವರು ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಈ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರಾದ ಅಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ, ಅಮುಗೆ ರಾಯಮ್ಮ, ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ, ಕಾಳವ್ವೆ (ಉರಿಲಿಂಗಪೆದ್ದಿಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಮಸಣಮ್ಮ (ಎಡೆಮಠದ ನಾಗಿದೇವಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ),ಕದರಿ ಕಾಯಕದ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆ , ಕದಿರ ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ಕನ್ನಡಿ ಕಾಯಕದ ರೇಮ್ಮಮ್ಮ, ರೇಚವ್ವೆ (ಕಾಳಕೂಟಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಕಾಲಕಣ್ಣಿಯ ಕಾಮಮ್ಮ, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಮ್ಮ (ಕೊಂಡೆ ಮಂಚಣ್ಣಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಕೊಟ್ಟಣದ ಸೋಮವ್ವೆ, ಗಂಗಾಂಬಿಕೆ, ಗಜೇಶ ಮಸಣಯ್ಯ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ (ಆಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ), ಕೇತಲದೇವಿ (ಗುಂಡಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಗೊಗ್ಗವ್ವೆ,

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ವೀರಮ್ಮ (ದಸರಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ದುಗ್ಗಳೆ, ನಾಗಲಾಂಬಿಕೆ, ನೀಲಮ್ಮ (ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಹೆಸರು ನೀಲಾಂಬಿಕೆ), ಗುಡ್ಡವ್ವೆ (ಬತ್ತಲೇಶ್ವರ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಕಾಳವ್ವೆ (ಬಾಚಿಕಾಯಕದ ಬಸವಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯ ಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಬೊಂತಾದೇವಿ, ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಕ್ಕ, ಮೊಳಿಗೆ ಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ರಾಯಮ್ಮ (ರಾಯಸದ ಮಂಚಣ್ಣಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ರೇಕಮ್ಮ (ರೇವಣ ಸಿದ್ದಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕ, ಕಾಳವ್ವೆ (ಸಿದ್ಧ ಬುದ್ಧಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಸೂಳೆ ಸಂಕವ್ವೆ, ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮ (ಹಡಪದಪ್ಪಣ್ಣನ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಗಂಗಮ್ಮ (ಹಾದರ ಕಾಯಕದ ಮಾರಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ), ಕುರಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ಲಿಂಗಾಂಕಿತ, ಮಸಣಯ್ಯ ಪ್ರಿಯ ಮಾರೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗ, ಕದಿರ ತಿಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ಒಕ್ಕಲ ತಿಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ತಿಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ಕೇಶಲದೇವಿ, ಭೀಮವ್ವೆ ಮುಂತಾದವರ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಾಗಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಆಯ್ದ ಕೆಲವು ತಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಧರ್ಮ, ಆಚಾರ ವಿಚಾರ, ಕಾಯಕತತ್ವ, ಬಂಡಾಯದ ಮನೋಧರ್ಮವನ್ನು ಈ ಲೇಖನದಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅಂತೆಯೇ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿವಶರಣರ ಮನೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದ ಅಕ್ಕಿಕಾಳುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ದು ತಂದು ದಾಸೋಹ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಯ್ಯನ ಪತ್ನಿಯಾದ **ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ** 'ಮಾರಯ್ಯ ಪ್ರಿಯ ಅಮರೇಶ್ವರ ಲಿಂಗ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಲಿಂಗಸಗೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಅಮೇಶ್ವರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿದ ಈಕೆಯ 25 ವಚನಗಳು ನಮಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿವೆ.[೩] ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಆ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೋಷಣೆ, ಹಿಂಸೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಚೋದಿಸುವ, ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಾಗಿ ಬಳಕೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಭಕ್ತಿಯ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ವೈದಿಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯು ಸಾಧನವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಮಾನತೆಯನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿದ ಬಗೆಯನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸಿ ಭಕ್ತಿಯ ಮಾರ್ಗದ ಮೂಲಕ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅಂಧಾನುಕರಣೆಯನ್ನು ತೊಡೆದು ಹಾಕುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಉದಾಹರಣೆ ಎಂಬಂತೆ ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ತನ್ನ "ಗರ್ವದಿಂದ ಮಾಡುವ ಭಕ್ತಿ ದ್ರವ್ಯದ ಕೇಡು, ನಡೆಯಿಲ್ಲದ ನುಡಿ ಅರಿವಿಂಗೆ ಹಾನಿ, ಕೊಡದೆ ತ್ಯಾಗಿ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಂಬುದು ಮುಡಿಯಿಲ್ಲದ ಶೃಂಗಾರ, ದೃಢವಿಲ್ಲದ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಅಡಿ ಒಡೆದ ಕುಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಜಲವ ತುಂಬಿದಂತೆ, ಮಾರಯ್ಯಪ್ರಿಯ ಅಮರೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗವ ಮುಟ್ಟದ ಭಕ್ತಿ", "[೩೩] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಜ ಭಕ್ತಿಯು ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರ ಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ತಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯಾದ **ಬೊಂತಾದೇವಿ** ತನ್ನ ಈ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯಲ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೀಮಾತೀತತೆಗೆ ವಿರುದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ವೈದಿಕಶಾಹಿಗಳು ರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸೀಮಾರೇಖೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮೀರಿದ ಚಿಂತನೆಯನ್ನು "ಊರ ಒಳಗಣ ಬಯಲು, ಊರ ಹೊರಗಣ ಬಯಲೆಂದುಂಟೆ? ಊರೊಳಗೆ ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣ ಬಯಲು, ಊರ ಹೊರಗೆ ಹೊಲೆ ಬಯಲೆಂದುಂಟೆ? ಎಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿದಡೆ

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ಬಯಲೊಂದೆ; ಭಿತ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಒಳಹೊರಗೆಂಬನಾಮವೈಸೆ" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೩೮] ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಆ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಯಲು ಎಂಬುದು ಸೀಮಾತೀತವಾದುದು. ಅಂತಹ ನೆಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಜೀವಭೇದವಿಲ್ಲ. ಮನಷ್ಯನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಒಳಗು ಹೊರಗು ಎಂಬ ಭೇದಭಾವವನ್ನು ಬಯಲ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯು ಇಲ್ಲವಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇಂಥಹ ಬಯಲ ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ ಇತರರನ್ನು ಭೇದಭಾವದಿಂದ ಕಾಣುವವರನ್ನು ಈಕೆ ವಿರೋಧಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸಮಸಮಾಜದ ಪರಿಲ್ಪನೆಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ವಚನಕಾರ **ಹಡಪದ ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣನ ಪತ್ನಿಯಾದ ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮ** 'ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣಪ್ರಿಯ ಚೆನ್ನಬಸವಣ್ಣ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿತನಾಮದಿಂದ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಈಕೆ 114 ವಚನಗಳನ್ನಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಂತ್ರಗೋಪ್ಯ, ಸ್ವರ ವಚನ' ಎಂಬ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.[೩೫] ಈಕೆಯ ಆರಂಭದ ಜೀವನದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಈಕೆಯ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖವಾಗಿರುವ ನಿಲುವುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಈಕೆ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದಿಂದ ಬಂದ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತನ್ನ ವಚನಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಪುರುಷ ಸಮಾನತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಬಹುದು. ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮಳನ್ನು ಬೆಡಗಿನ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿ ಎಂದು ಸಹ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ **ಹಡಪದ ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣನ ಹೆಂಡತಿಯಾದ ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮಳು** ತನ್ನ "ಕನಿಷ್ಠದಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದೆ, ಉತ್ತಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದೆ, ಸತ್ಯ ಶರಣರ ಪಾದವಿಡಿದು" ಎಂಬ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೩೫] ಜಾತಿಸೂಚಕವಾದ ಹಣೆಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜವು ಅಂಟಿಸಿರುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕ್ರೋಶವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಇದೇ ರೀತಿ ತನ್ನ "ಹೆದರದಿರು ಮನವೆ, ಹಿಮ್ಮೆಟ್ಟದಿರು ಮನವೆ, ಹಿಡಿದ ಛಲವ ಬಿಡದಿರು ಮನವೆ; ಜರಿದರೆಂದು ಝಂಕಿಸಿದರೆಂದು; ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಸಮಾಧಿ ನೀರು ನೇಣು ವಿಷ ಔಷಧದಲ್ಲಿ ಘಟವ ಬಿಡದೆ..", ಎಂಬ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ[೩೫] ಹತಾಶರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅಂದಿನ ಕಾಲದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಮನೋಬಲವನ್ನು ಗಟ್ಟಿಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ರಾಟೆಯಿಂದ ದಾರ ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಕಾಯಕ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ **ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ ಕದಿರೆ ರೇಮಯ್ಯನ ಪತ್ನಿ.** 'ಕದಿರ ರೆಮ್ಮಿಯೊಡೆಯಗುಮ್ಮೇಶ್ವರಾ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿತನಾಮದಿಂದ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿರುವ ಈಕೆಯ ಕಾಲವನ್ನು ಕವಿಚರಿತ್ರೆಕಾರರು ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ.1160ಎಂದು ಊಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಕೆಗೆ ತಿಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ ಎಂಬ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಹೆಸರುಗಳಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸಮಕಾಲೀನ ವಚನಕಾರರ ವಚನಗಳ ಆಧಾರದಿಂದ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದು. ಶರಣೆಯರ ಸಮೂಹದಲ್ಲಿ **'ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ'** ಎಂಬ ಹೆಸರಿನ ಐದು ಜನರಿದ್ದು, ಅವರೆಂದರೆ ಕನ್ನಡಿ ಕಾಯಕದ ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ಕದಿರ ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಒಕ್ಕಲು ಕಾಯಕ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ. ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆಯು 'ಆದಿಲಿಂಗ'ವೆಂಬ ವಚನಾಂಕಿತವನ್ನು ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆಗೆ ಅಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ಎಂದು ಸಹ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.[೫] ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿಯನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಈಕೆಯ ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಈಕೆಯು

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'ಆಚಾರವೇ ಪ್ರಾಣವಾದ ರಾಮೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗ' ಎನ್ನುವ ವಚನಾಂಕಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿರುವ ಅಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ತನ್ನ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟರನ್ನು, ಆಚಾರ ಹೀನರನ್ನು, ತೀರ ಅಸಹ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಕಂಡಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ವೇಷಾಧಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಖಂಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.

ಶಿವಶರಣನಾದ ದಸರಯ್ಯನ ಮಡದಿ **ವೀರಮ್ಮ.** ಗಂಡ–ಹೆಂಡತಿಯರಿಬ್ಬರೂ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವ ಈಕೆಯ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಆಧಾರಿಸಿ ಹೇಳುವುದಾದರೆ ಇವಳ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವೀರಶೈವಾಚಾರ, ಮನದ ಚಂಚಲತೆ, ಶರಣರ ಒಲವು ನಿಲುವುಗಳ ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿವೆ.[೫೫] ವೀರಮ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ದಸರಯ್ಯ ದಂಪತಿಗಳು ರಾಮಗೊಂಡೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಗ್ರಾಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ಸಮಕಾಲೀನರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಇವರು ಬದುಕಿ ಬಾಳಿದ ಕಾಲಘಟ್ಟ ಕ್ರಿ.ಶ.1160. ಈಕೆಯ ಪತಿ ದಸರಯ್ಯನು 'ದಸರೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿತನಾಮದಿಂದ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದರೆ,ವೀರಮ್ಮ ತನ್ನ ಶಾಂತೇಶ್ವರನನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ವಚನದ ಅಂಕಿತನಾಮವಾಗಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವುದು ಅವರಿಬ್ಬರ ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರ ಮನೋವೃತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕುರುಹಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಯಮ್ಮ ರಾಯಸದ ಮಂಚಣ್ಣನವರ ಪತ್ನಿ. ಇವಳು ತನ್ನ ವಚನಗಳಿಗೆ 'ಅಮುಗೇಶ್ವರ ಲಿಂಗ' ಎಂಬ ಅಂಕಿತವನ್ನಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈಕೆಯನ್ನು ಅಮುಗಿದೇವಯ್ಯನ ಮಡದಿ ಎಂದು ಕೆಲವರು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.[೫೬] ಆದರೆ ರಾಯಮ್ಮಳು ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ಆಪ್ತ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ವಚನಕಾರರಾದ ರಾಯಸದ ಮಂಚಣ್ಣನ ಮಡದಿ. ಈಕೆ ಅನುಭವ ಮಂಟಪದ ಸದಸ್ಯೆಯೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದು ಒಂದು ವಚನ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದೆ.[೫೭] ಈಕೆಯ "ಶೀಲವಂತನಾದಡೆ ಜಾತಿಯ ಬಿಡಬೇಕು"[೫೮] ಎನ್ನುವ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾತಿರಹಿತ ಸಮಾಜ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಆಶಯವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ "ಎನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣೊಳಗಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆಯ ಮುರಿವವರನಾರನೂ ಕಾಣೆ ಎನ್ನ ಕಾಲೊಳಗಣ ಮುಳ್ಳ ತೆಗೆವವರನಾರನೂ ಕಾಣೆ ಎನ್ನ ಅಂಗದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅಹಂಕಾರವ ಸುಡುವವರನಾರನೂ ಕಾಣೆ ಎನ್ನ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿಪ್ಪ ಮಾಯಾ ಪ್ರಪಂಚವ ಕೆಡಿಸುವವರನಾರನೂ ಕಾಣೆನಯ್ಯಾ ಆದ್ಯರ ವೇದ್ಯರ ವಚನಂಗಳಿಂದ ಅರಿದೆವೆಂಬವರು ಅರಿಯಲಾರರು ನೋಡಾ ಎನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣೊಳಗಣ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆಯ ನಾನೆ ಮುರಿಯಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನ ಕಾಲೊಳಗಣ ಮುಳ್ಳ ನಾನೆ ತೆಗೆಯಬೇಕು" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೫೯] ಅಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಅನುಭವಿಸುವ ಯಾತನಾಮಯ ಬದುಕಿನ ಚಿತ್ರಣವನ್ನು, ಶೋಷಣೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಕ್ತರಾಗಲು ಬಯಸುವ ಹೆಣ್ಣಿನ ತವಕವನ್ನು ನಿರೂಪಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿ **ಅಕ್ಕಮ್ಮನೂ** ಸಹ ತನ್ನ "ವ್ರತವೆಂಬುದೇನು? ಮನವಿಕಾರಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಗೊತ್ತು, ಜಗದ ಕಾಮಿಯಂತೆ ಕಾಮಿಸದೆ,ಜಗದ ಕ್ರೋಧಿಯಂತೆ ಕ್ರೋಧಿಸದೆ, ಜಗದ ಲೋಭಿಯಂತೆ ಲೋಭಿಸದೆ,ಮಾಯಾಮೋಹಂಗಳು

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ವರ್ಜಿತವಾಗಿ ಮನ ಬಂದಂತೆ ಆಡದೆ, ತನು ಬಂದಂತೆ ಕೂಡದೆ ವ್ರತದಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಗವಾಗಿ ನಿಂದ ಸದ್ಭಕ್ತನ ಅಂಗವೆ... ವ್ರತವೆಂಬುದೇನು? ವಸ್ತುವ ಕಾಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಚ್ಚಣಿಕೆ"[ಥಖು] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ರತಾಚರಣೆಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ಸರಳಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ನೈತಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿ ಮಸಣಮ್ಮಳು, "ಕಾಗೆಯ, ನಾಯ, ತಿಂದವರಿಲ್ಲ; ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟನ ಕೂಡಿದವರಿಲ್ಲ! ನಾಯಿಗೆ ನಾರಂಗವಕ್ಕುವುದೆ? ಲೋಕದ ನರಂಗೆ ವ್ರತವಕ್ಕುವುದೇ ಶಿವಬೀಜಕಲ್ಲದೆ? ನೀವೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿ ನಿಜಗುಣೇಶ್ವರ ಲಿಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ !"[ಥಖು] ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ, ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಯಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಂದವರಿಲ್ಲ. ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟನ ಕೂಡಿದವರಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಯಿ ತಿಂದವರು, ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟರ ಕೂಡಿದವರು ನರಕಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವರೇ ಹೊರತು ಸ್ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಮುಂದುವರಿದು **ಕಾಟಕೂಟಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ರೇಚವ್ವೆಯ** ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ಬೆರೆಯಲಾಗದು, ಬೆರೆದಡೆ ನರಕ ತಪ್ಪದು ಎಂದು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಆ ವಚನವೆಂದರೆ, "ಬಂಜೆಯಾವಿಂಗೆ ಕ್ಷೀರವುಂಟೆ? ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ಬೆರೆಯಲುಂಟೆ? ನೀ ಬೆರೆದಡೂ ಬೆರೆ; ನಾನೊಲ್ಲೇ ನಿಜಶಾಂತೇಶ್ವರ"[ಥಥ] ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯಾದ ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಯ್ಯನ ಮಡದಿ ಆಯ್ದಕ್ಕಿ ಲಕ್ಕಮ್ಮ ತನ್ನ "ಗರ್ವದಿಂದ ಮಾಡುವ ಭಕ್ತಿ ದ್ರವ್ಯದ ಕೇಡು, ನಡೆಯಿಲ್ಲದ ನುಡಿ ಅರಿವಿಂಗೆ ಹಾನಿ, ಕೊಡದೆ ತ್ಯಾಗಿ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಂಬುದು ಮುಡಿಯಿಲ್ಲದ ಶೃಂಗಾರ, ದೃಢವಿಲ್ಲದ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಅಡಿ ಒಡೆದ ಕುಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಜಲವ ತುಂಬಿದಂತೆ, ಮಾರಯ್ಯಪ್ರಿಯ ಅಮರೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗವ ಮುಟ್ಟದ ಭಕ್ತಿ"[ಥಥ] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಜ ಭಕ್ತಿಯು ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರ ಬೇಕು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಈಕೆಯಂತೆಯೇ **ಕಾಲಕಣ್ಣಿಯ ಕಾಮಮ್ಮಳು** ಸಹ ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟರ ಕುರಿತು "ಎನ್ನ ಕರಣಂಗಳ ಲಿಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟುವೆ; ಗುರುಲಿಂಗ ಜಂಗಮದ ಕಾಲ ಕಟ್ಟುವೆ; ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟರ ನಿಟ್ಟೋರಸುವೆ, ಸುಟ್ಟು ತುರುತುರನೆ ತೂರುವೆ, ನಿರ್ಭೀತ ನಿಜಲಿಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ?"[ಥಥ] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನ ಸಿಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಹೊರಹಾಕಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಈಕೆಯಂತೆಯೇ **ದಸರಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ವೀರಮ್ಮ** ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ, 'ಚರಣಾಯುಧ ವೇಳೆಯನರಿವುದಯ್ಯಾ ಭಕ್ತ ವ್ರತಹೀನನರಿದು ನೆರೆಯನಯ್ಯಾ ನೆರೆದಡೆ ನರಕ ಗುರುಶಾಂತೇಶ್ವರಾ"[ಥಖು] ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ, ವ್ರತಹೀನನಿಗೆ ನರಕ ತಪ್ಪದು ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.

ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯಾದ **ಹಾದರಕಾಯಕದ ಮಾರಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಗಂಗಮ್ಮ** ತನ್ನ "ಆವ ಕಾಯಕವ ಮಾಡಿದಡೂ ಒಂದೇ ಕಾಯಕವಯ್ಯಾ. ಆವ ವ್ರತವಾದಡೂ ಒಂದೇ ವ್ರತವಯ್ಯಾ. ಆಯ ತಪ್ಪಿದಡೆ ಸಾವಿಲ್ಲ; ವ್ರತತಪ್ಪಿದಡೆ ಕೂಡಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾಕಪಿಕದಂತೆ ಕೂಡಲು ನಾಯಕನರಕ ಗಂಗೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ" ಎಂಬ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[ಥಖು] ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು

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ಸಮಾನ ಗೌರವವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿವೆ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ ತಾನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ವೇಶ್ಯಾವೃತ್ತಿಯು ಹೀನವಾದುದಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಗಟ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನಂತೆಯೇ ವೇಶ್ಯಾವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ **ಸಂಕವ್ವೆ** ಸಹ ತನ್ನ "ಒತ್ತೆಯ ಹಿಡಿದು ಮತ್ತೊತ್ತೆಯ ಹಿಡಿಯೆ.ಹಿಡಿದಡೆ ಬತ್ತಲೆ ನಿಲಿಸಿ ಕೊಲುವರಯ್ಯಾ. ವ್ರತಹೀನನರಿದು ಬೆರೆದಡೆ ಕಾದ ಕತ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈ ಕಿವಿ ಮೂಗ ಕೊಯ್ವರಯ್ಯಾ. ಒಲ್ಲೆನೊಲ್ಲೆ ಬಲ್ಲೆನಾಗಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮಾಣೆ ನಿರ್ಲಜ್ಜೇಶ್ವರಾ" ಎಂಬ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ,[೪೫] ತನ್ನ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವ ಅಂಜಿಕೆ, ಆತ್ಮ ವಂಚನೆಯಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿ **ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮ** ಕಪಟತನದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ ಭಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠವೆಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸುವ ವೈದಿಕರಿಗೆ ನಿಜವಾದ ಭಕ್ತಿಯೆಂದರೆ ಏನು ? ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತನ್ನ "ಅರುಹ ಕಂಡೆಹೆವೆಂಬ ಅಣ್ಣಗಳಿರಾ, ನೀವು ಕೇಳಿರೊ. ನಮ್ಮ ಶರಣರ ನಡೆ ಎಂತೆಂದಡೆ; ಐದು ಗುಣವನೆ ಅಳಿದು, ಐದು ಹಿಡಿದು, ನುಡಿವುತ್ತ ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ನುಡಿವರು; ನಡೆವುತ್ತ ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ನಡೆವರು; ಮುಟ್ಟುತ್ತ ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ಮುಟ್ಟುವರು; ಕೇಳುತ್ತ ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ಕೇಳುವರು; ನೋಡುತ್ತ ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ನೋಡುವರು; ಸರ್ವಾಂಗವು ಲಿಂಗವಾಗಿ ಅಂಗಲಿಂಗವೆಂಬ ಉಭಯವಳಿದು, ಮಂಗಳದ ಮಹಾಬೆಳಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಿಂಗವೆ ಗೂಡಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾರಣ; ಅಪ್ಪಣ್ಣಪ್ರಿಯ ಚೆನ್ನಬಸವಣ್ಣಾ""[೪೪] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಈಕೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದನೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಿರಾಕಾರವಾದ ಲಿಂಗದ ಪೂಜೆಯ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂಧಿಸಿಡುವ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬಾರದು. ಶಿವಶರಣನಾದವನಿಗೆ ಅಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗೈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಲಿಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭೇದವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆತನ ಸರ್ವಾಂಗವೂ ಲಿಂಗಮಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಕೆಯಂತೆಯೇ **ಕುಂಬಾರ ಗುಂಡಯ್ಯನ ಸತಿಯಾದ ಕೇತಲದೇವಿ**ಯು "ಹದ ಮಣ್ಣಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಡಕೆಯಾಗಲಾರದು ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ಬೆರೆಯಲಾಗದು! ಬೆರೆದಡೆ ನರಕ ತಪ್ಪದು ನಾನೊಲ್ಲೆ ಬಲ್ಲೆನಾಗಿ, ಕುಂಭೇಶ್ವರಾ ! ಲಿಂಗವಂತರ ಲಿಂಗಾಚಾರಿಗಳ ಅಂಗಳಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಲಿಂಗಾರ್ಪಿತವ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲದಿರಬೇಕು ಅದೆಂತೆಂದಡೆ" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೪೩] ಮಣ್ಣು ಹದವಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಕಲುಷಿತವಾಗುವ ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಮುಕ್ತಿ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದರೆ, "ಭಿಕ್ಷಲಿಂಗಾರ್ಪಿತಂ ಗತ್ವಾ । ಭಕ್ತಸ್ಯ ಮಂದಿರಂ ತಥಾ । ಜಾತಿ ಜನ್ಮ ರಜೋಚ್ಛಿಷ್ಟಂ । ಪ್ರೇತಸ್ಯ ವಿವರ್ಜಿತಃ ॥ ಇಂತೆಂದುದಾಗಿ, ಕಾಣದುದನೆ ಚರಿಸದೆ, ಕಂಡುದನು ನುಡಿಯದೆ. ಕಾಣದುದನು ಕಂಡುದನು ಒಂದೆಸಮವೆಂದು ಅರಿಯಬಲ್ಲರೆ ಕುಂಭೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗವೆಂಬೆನು" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ[೪೩] ಶಿವಶರಣರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ವ್ರತಹೀನರನ್ನು ಸೇರಬಾರದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

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ಬತ್ತಲೇಶ್ವರನ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಗುಡ್ಡವ್ವೆ ವ್ರತಗಳ ಮಹತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಆಚರಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೀನತ್ವಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗಿನ ತನ್ನ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, "ತನು ಬತ್ತಲೆಯಾದಡೇನು, ಮನ ಬತ್ತಲೆಯಾಗದನ್ನಕ್ಕ? ವ್ರತವಿದ್ದಡೇನು, ವ್ರತಹೀನರಾದ ಬಳಿಕ? ನೆರೆದಡೆ ನರಕವಯ್ಯಾ ನಿಂಭೇಶ್ವರಾ"[೪೪೩] ಅಂದರೆ ವ್ರತೆಗಳಾದವರು ಸ್ವರ್ಗಕ್ಕೂ, ವ್ರತಹೀನರು ನರಕಕ್ಕೂ ಎಂಬ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ವಚನಕಾರ ಬತ್ತಲೇಶ್ವರನ ಮಡದಿಯಾದ ಗುಡ್ಡವ್ವೆಯು ಸಹ ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣಶಾಹಿಗಳ ಢಾಂಬಿಕ ಭಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸುತ್ತಾ, "ಮನಸ್ಸು ತನ್ನನ್ನು ತಾನು ತೆರೆದು ಕೊಳ್ಳದೆ, ಸತ್ಯದ ಕಡೆ ನಡೆಯದೆ ತನು ಬೆತ್ತಲೆಯಾದರೆ ಏನು ಪ್ರಯೋಜನ? ಆಂತರ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ವ್ರತಹೀನರಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಲವಾರು ವ್ರತಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಏನು ಲಾಭ? ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ನವಿದ್ದೆಡೆಯೇ ನರಕ" ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ.[೪೪೪] ಈಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ವೈದಿಕರ ಅರ್ಥವಿಲ್ಲದ ಆಡಂಬರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಪಟದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ ಆಚರಣೆಗಳಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನವಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಅಂತರಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುದ್ದರಾಗಿ, ಶುದ್ಧ ಚಿಂತನೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಜೀವಿಸಿದರೆ ನಾವು ಇರುವ ಕಡೆಯೇ ಸ್ವರ್ಗವನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ತಳವರ್ಗದ **ಬಾಚಿ ಕಾಯಕದ ಬಸವಪ್ಪನ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆಯು** "ಕಾಯಕ ತಪ್ಪಿದಡೆ ಸೈರಿಸಬಾರದು ವ್ರತ ತಪ್ಪಲೆಂತೂ ಸೈರಿಸಬಾರದು ಕರ್ಮಹರ ಕಾಳೇಶ್ವರಾ' 'ಕೈ ತಪ್ಪಿ ಕೆತ್ತಲು ಕಾಲಿಗೆ ಮೂಲ,ಮಾತು ತಪ್ಪಿ ನುಡಿಯಲು ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಮೂಲ,ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ನೆರೆಯಲು ನರಕಕ್ಕೆ ಮೂಲ, ಕರ್ಮಹರ ಕಾಳೇಶ್ವರಾ" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೪೪೫] ಕಾಯಕ ನಿಷ್ಠೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಇವರಂತೆಯೇ **ಸಿದ್ಧ ಬುದ್ಧಯ್ಯಗಳ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆಯು** ಸಹ "ವ್ರತಭ್ರಷ್ಟನ, ಲಿಂಗಬಾಹ್ಯನ ಕಂಡಡೆ ಸತ್ತ ನಾಯ, ಕಾಗೆಯ ಕಂಡಂತೆ. ಅವರೊಡನೆ ನುಡಿಯಲಾಗದು ಭೀಮೇಶ್ವರಾ" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ[೪೪೬] ವ್ರತಹೀನರನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಲಿಂಗ ಬಾಹ್ಯರನ್ನು ವಿಡಂಬಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಅಂಥವರೊಡನೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಲಾಗದು, ಅಂಥವರಿಂದ ದೂರವಿರುವುದೇ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು ಎಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದಳು. ಅವರನ್ನು ಕಂಡರೆ, 'ಸತ್ತನಾಯ ಕಾಗೆಯ ಕಂಡಂತೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. **ಕದಿರ ಕಾಯಕದ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆಯು** ಸಹ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ 'ಕದಿರು ಮುರಿಯೆ ಏನು ಇಲ್ಲ. ವ್ರತಹೀನನ ನೆರೆಯಲಿಲ್ಲ, ಗುಮ್ಮೇಶ್ವರಾ' [೪೪೭] ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ ತನ್ನ ಸಮಕಾಲೀನರಂತೆ ಕಾಯಕ ಹಾಗೂ ವ್ರತಾಚರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಹತ್ವ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು.

ಸಸ್ಯಾಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಂಸಹಾರದ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂದಕವನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸಿರುವ ವೈದಿಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಹುನ್ನಾರವನ್ನು ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರನಾದ **ಉರಿಲಿಂಗಪೆದ್ದಿಯ ಮಡದಿ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆಯು** ತನ್ನ "ಕುರಿಕೋಳಿ ಕಿರಿಮೀನು ತಿಂಬವರಿಗೆಲ್ಲ ಕುಲಜ

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ಕುಲಜರೆಂದೆಂಬರು ಶಿವಗೆ ಪಂಚಾಮೃತವ ಕರೆವ ಪಶುವ ತಿಂಬ ಮಾದಿಗ ಕೀಳುಜಾತಿಯೆಂಬರು ಅವರೆಂತು ಕೀಳು ಜಾತಿಯಾದರು? ಜಾತಿಗಳೆ ನೀವೇಕೆ ಕೀಳಾದಿರೊ? ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣನುಂಡುದು ಪುಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಶೋಭಿತವಾಗಿ ನಾಯಿ ನೆಕ್ಕಿ ಹೋಯಿತು ಮಾದಿಗರುಂಡುದು ಪುಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬ್ರಾಹಣಗೆ ಶೋಭಿತವಾಯಿತು ಅದೆಂತೆಂದಡೆ: ಸಿದ್ದಲಿಕೆಯಾಯಿತು, ಸಗ್ಗಳೆಯಾಯಿತು ಸಿದ್ದಲಿಕೆಯ ತುಪ್ಪವನು, ಸಗ್ಗಳೆಯ ನೀರನು ಶುದ್ಧವೆಂದು ಕುಡಿವ ಬುದ್ಧಿಗೇಡಿ ವಿಪ್ರರಿಗೆ ನಾಯಕನರಕ ತಪ್ಪದಯ್ಯಾ."[೫೫] ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಡಂಬನಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು. ಈ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮನುಷ್ಯರ ಆಹಾರ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಸ್ಯಾಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಂಸಾಹಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಂಸಾಹಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಶುದ್ಧರು, ಅದನ್ನು ತಿನ್ನುವ ಶೂದ್ರರು, ಅಸ್ಪೃಶ್ಯರು ಕೀಳು ಎಂದು ಅವರನ್ನು ಊರಿಂದ ಹೊರಗಿರಿಸಿರುವ ವೈದಿಕರ ಕುತಂತ್ರವನ್ನು ಕಾಳೆವ್ವೆಯು ಕಟುವಾಗಿ ಟೀಕಿಸಿದ್ದಾಳೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ "ಯಜ್ಞ ಯಾಗಾದಿಗಳು ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಶ್ರಯಿಸಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ಬಂದಿರುವ ಪ್ರಾಣಿಬಲಿ, ಜೀವಹಿಂಸೆ, ಮೌಢ್ಯ, ಅನಿಷ್ಟ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಗಳು ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಕ್ಕೆ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಗೊಡ್ಡು ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣ್ಯವನ್ನು ಕಾಳವ್ವ ತನ್ನ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟಿಸುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಕೃತಯುಗದಿಂದ ಹಿಡಿದು ಕಲಿಯುಗದವರೆಗೂ ಆನೆ, ಕುದುರೆ, ಹೋತಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಂದು ಹೋಮಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿದ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಯಜ್ಞ–ಯಾಗಾದಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಸಾಧಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶಿವಭಕ್ತನಾದವನು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ ಎದ್ದಕೂಡಲೇ ಗುರು–ಲಿಂಗ–ಜಂಗಮಕ್ಕೆ ಶರಣೆನ್ನದೆ ಇಂತಹ ಜಂಟಿ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಶರಣಾರ್ಥಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಎಂಬತ್ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷ ಯೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂದಿಯ ಬಸುರಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವುದು ತಪ್ಪದು ಎಂದು ಕಟುವಾಗಿ ಟೀಕಿಸಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪರಿಭಾವಿಸಿದಾಗ ಕಾಳವ್ವೆಯ ಬ್ರಾಹ್ಮಣ ದ್ವೇಷ ಎಷ್ಟು ಅಗಾಧವಾದುದು ಎಂಬುದರ ಅರಿವಾಗದಿರದು ಕಾಳವ್ವ ಹೀಗೆ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ ಪಡಲು ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಅವಳದೇ ಆದ ಕಾರಣವಿದೆ. ಈ ಕ್ರೂರ ದ್ವೇಷದ ಹಿಂದೆ ಶತಶತಮಾನಗಳ ಕಾಲದ ನೋವು ಅಡಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಅವಳಲ್ಲಿ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ದಿಟ್ಟತನದಿಂದ ದ್ವೇಷಿಸುವ ಎದೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯೂ ಇದೆ"[೫೬]

ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿ **ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕ** ಸಹ ತನ್ನ ವಚನಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ "ಮೊಲೆ ಮುಡಿ ಇದ್ದುದೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣೆಂದು ಪ್ರಮಾಣಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ" ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಪುರುಷ ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಉದಾತ್ತತೆಯನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿಯುತ್ತಾಳೆ. ಧೂಪದ ಗೊಗ್ಗವ್ವೆಯು "ಮೊಲೆ ಮುಡಿ ಬಂದಡೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣೆಂಬರು, ಮೀಸೆಕಾಸೆ ಬಂದಡೆ ಗಂಡೆಂಬರು ಈ ಉಭಯದ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೆಣ್ಣೊ ಗಂಡೋ ನಾಸ್ತಿನಾಥಾ?", ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ [೫೭] ಪ್ರಾಚೀನಕಾಲದಿಂದಲೂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಸಂಪತ್ತೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಣುತ್ತ ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಪುರೋಹಿತಶಾಹಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಮೆಟ್ಟಿ ನಿಂತು "ಗಂಡು ಮೋಹಿಸಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣ ಹಿಡಿದಡೆ ಅದು ಒಬ್ಬರ ಒಡವೆ ಎಂದು ಅರಿಯಬೇಕು.

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ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮೋಹಿಸಿ ಗಂಡ ಹಿಡಿದಡೆ ಉತ್ತರವಾವುದೆಂದರಿಯಬೇಕು" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೋಹವೆಂಬುದು ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಗಂಡಿಗೆ ಸಮಾನವಾದುದು[೪೪೪೩] ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾಳೆ.

ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ತಳವರ್ಗದ **ಶರಣೆ ನೀಲಮ್ಮ** "ನಾಡನಾಳ ಹೋದರೆ ಆ ನಾಡು ಆಳುವ ಒಡೆಯಂಗೆ ನಾಡೆ ಹಗೆಯಾಯಿತು ಹಗೆಯಳಿದು ನಿಸ್ಸಂಗವಾಯಿತು ನಿಸ್ಸಂಗ ವೇದ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸಂಗಯ್ಯನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಕ್ತಳಾದೆನು ನಾನು" ಎಂಬ ತನ್ನ ವಚನವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ, [೪೪೪೩] ಆಳುವ ಅರಸನಿಗೆ ತಾನು ಆಳುವ ನಾಡೇ ವೈರಿಯಾದಂತೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದಾಗ 12ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದ ಶಿವಶರಣೆಯರು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದರು. ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ ತಮ್ಮ ಗಂಡಂದಿರಿಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದರೆ, 'ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಮೌಲ್ಯವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ವಚನ ಚಳವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪುರುಷರಂತೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೂ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತದು ಮುಖ್ಯವೆನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಶರಣರ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ವಚನ ಚಳುವಳಿಯ ತಾತ್ವಿಕ ನಿಲುವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದರೆ, ಶರಣೆಯರ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ಆ ತಾತ್ವಿಕ ನಿಲುವುಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ವಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಧ್ವನಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವಂತಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅವರ ಈ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನ ವಚನ ಚಳುವಳಿಯ ಮೂಲ ಆಶಯಕ್ಕೆ ಧಕ್ಕೆ ತಾರದ ನಿಜವಾದ ಜನಪರ ಮೌಲ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನೆಲೆ ನಿಂತಿದೆ"[೪೪೪೩].

ವಚನಚಳವಳಿಯ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದ ವಚನಕಾರರಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ "ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರು ಶತಮಾನಗಳ ಮೌನ ಮುರಿದು ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಬದುಕಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾತೊರೆದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ವಚನ ರಚನೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಂವೇದನೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ತಮ್ಮೊಳಗಿನ ಸೃಜನಶೀಲತೆಯ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಗೆ ಹವಣಿಸಿದರು. ಸ್ತ್ರೀವಾದಿ ನೆಲೆಯಿಂದ ಜಗತ್ತನ್ನು, ಬದುಕನ್ನು ನೋಡುವ ಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಹುಟ್ಟು ಹಾಕಿದರು. ಮಹಿಳಾ ಸಂವೇದನೆಯನ್ನು ವೈಚಾರಿಕ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮತೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಿಂಬಿಸಿದರು. ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಕ್ಕನಂಥ ವಚನಕಾರ್ತಿಯರ ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ನಿದರ್ಶನವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದುವರೆಗೂ ಬಾಯಿದ್ದೂ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅಸಂಖ್ಯಾತ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಜೀವಗಳು ಒಮ್ಮೆಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡತೊಡಗಿದ್ದು 'ನೆಕ್ಕೆ ನಾಲಗೆ' ಮೂಡಿ ಬಂದಂತಾಯಿತು. ಸಮಾಜದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸ್ತರಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಬಂದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ವರ್ಣ, ವರ್ಗ, ಧರ್ಮ ದರ್ಶನ ಮೊದಲಾದ ಗಂಭೀರ ವಿಚಾರಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಕ್ತ ವೀರಶೈವ ಧರ್ಮದ ಹಿರಿಯರನ್ನು ಮೂಕಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ"[೪೪೪೪೪] ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಅನುಭವ ಮಂಟಪದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವು ಸಹ ಮುಕ್ತವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸಂವಾದಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ನಿದರ್ಶನಗಳಿವೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಪತಿಯ ಕಾಯಕದಲ್ಲೂ ಪಾಲು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು,

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ಅವರಂತೆಯೇ ತಾವು ದುಡಿದು ಕಾಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಪುರುಷ ಎಂಬ ಯಾವುದೇ ಭೇಧಗಳು ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. "ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರ ಸಮಾನತೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಅದರ ತುತ್ತತುದಿಯನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಟ್ಟುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದು ಪುರುಷ ಮಾಡಿದುದಲ್ಲ. ಪುರುಷನ ಸ್ವೇಚ್ಛಾಚಾರದೊಡನೆ ಇದು ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಯೂ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಎರಡು ಪೂರಕ ಶಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಸರ್ವಾಂಗೀಣ ವಿಕಾಸದ ಸಹಜ ಮಾರ್ಗ. ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ವಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗಿಟ್ಟೆ ಅಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಶರಣರ ಈ ಸರ್ವ ಸಮಾನತೆಯ ಸಾಧನೆಯಿಂದ ಅಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸಗಾಳಿ ಬೀಸಿದಂತಾಯಿತು. ಅವಕಾಶ ಲಭಿಸಿದರೆ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರು ಯಾವ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೇರಬಲ್ಲರೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮಹಾದೇವಮ್ಮನಂತಹ ಅನೇಕ ಶರಣೆಯರು ಸಾಧಿಸಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದರು. ಸಾಂಸಾರಿಕ ಈ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿದರು" ಎಂಬ ತಿಪ್ಪೇರುದ್ರಸ್ವಾಮಿಯವರು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯದಂತೆ,[೫೬] ಈ ವಚನಕಾಲದ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯಪ್ರಿಯರೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಪಡೆದವರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಕಾಲದ ವಚನಕಾರರು ಮಹಿಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಗುಲಾಮರನ್ನಾಗಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲುವ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು, ವೈದಿಕಶಾಹಿಯ ಕುತಂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಂಡಿಸಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿದರು.

ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಈ ಕಾಲಘಟ್ಟದ ಸ್ತ್ರೀವಾದಿ ನಿಲುವುಗಳು ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರವಾದವು. ಪ್ರಗತಿಪರವಾದವುಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದವು. ವಚನಾಂದೋಲನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡರು. ರಾಟೆ ಕಾಯಕದ ಅಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ದೋಸೆ ಪಟ್ಟವ್ವೆ, ರೆಮ್ಮವ್ವೆ, ಸೋಮವ್ವೆ, ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಜಾವ ಶರಣರೆನ್ನಿಭಿಸುವ ಕಾಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರತಳಾದ ತೊಂಗಿನ ಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ಕನ್ನಡಿ ಕಾಯಕದ ರೇವಮ್ಮ, ಕಾಳವ್ವ, ಮಾಡಲದೇವಿ, ಕಾಮಮ್ಮ, ಗಂಗಮ್ಮ, ಸಂಕವ್ವೆ, ನೀಲಮ್ಮ, ಗಂಗಾಬಿಕೆ, ಅಕ್ಕ ನಾಗಮ್ಮ, ಕೇತಲದೇವಿ ರಾಮಮ್ಮ, ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮ, ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕ, ರೇಕಮ್ಮ ಮೊದಲಾದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸಿದರು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಂಡ ಶರಣರು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪುರುಷ ಸಮಾನ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಸಮ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವನ್ನಿತ್ತು, ಪತಿಯ ಕಾಯಕ ನಿಷ್ಠಳಾಗಿ ಮರೆವು ಕವಿದಾಗ ಅರಿವೀಯುವಳಾಗಿ ಬಹುಮುಖ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಪಡೆದ ಸ್ತ್ರೀಗೆ ಸಮನಾದ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಇದರ ಫಲವಾಗಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಅರಿವುಳ್ಳ ಈ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾವಂತೆಯರು ತಮ್ಮ ಶತಶತಮಾನಗಳ ಶೋಷಣೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾದ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸ್ಫೋಟಿಸಿದರು. ಪುರುಷ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ತನ್ನ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಧಕ್ಕೆಯಾಗದಂತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದ ಆದರ್ಶ, ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಮಾದರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಭಗ್ನಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಅವುಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ಬಗೆಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ದೊರಕಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು. ಅಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಬಾಧಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಮಾರ್ಗಗಳನ್ನು ಜನಸಮುದಾಯದ ಮುಂದೆ ಇಟ್ಟರು.

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ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯದ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನೀತಿಬಾಹಿರ ಆಚರಣೆಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಅಂದಿನ ಸಮಾಜದ ಪುನರ್ರಚನೆಗೆ ಹೊಸ ನೆಲೆಗಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಮಾಡಿದರು.

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Digitalization of Political Activities in Karnataka – A Review

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ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion of digital technology has transformed the nature of politics and governance in India, and Karnataka stands as one of the leading states in adopting digital modes of political activity. This paper reviews the growing influence of digitalization in Karnataka's political sphere, encompassing e-governance, election campaigns, party organization, and citizen participation. Drawing from secondary data sources including government documents, academic research, and media analyses, the study explores how technology has reshaped communication, mobilization, and decision-making. While digitalization has improved transparency, accessibility, and citizen outreach, it has also raised concerns regarding misinformation, data misuse, and the widening digital divide. The paper concludes that digital transformation in Karnataka politics is a double-edged process that empowers but also demands strong digital literacy and ethical regulation.

KEYWORDS: Digitalization, Karnataka Politics, E-Governance, Social Media, Political Campaigns, Digital Divide, Misinformation

INTRODUCTION

Digitalization has emerged as a defining force in contemporary politics, influencing electoral strategies, governance models, and public participation. In India, the increasing penetration of the internet and smartphones has led political parties and state institutions to adopt technology-driven mechanisms for outreach and service delivery. Karnataka, a technologically progressive state, has become a notable example of this trend.

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The integration of digital tools from social media campaigning to e-governance initiatives has changed how politics is conducted and perceived. Government platforms such as Bhoomi, Khajane II, and the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) have strengthened administrative transparency, while political actors leverage social media and data analytics to influence voters and mobilize supporters. However, the same technologies also bring challenges such as misinformation, cyber manipulation, and unequal digital access.

This paper reviews the major dimensions of digitalization in Karnataka's political landscape, examining both its democratic potential and its structural limitations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the impact of digitalization on political processes and activities in Karnataka.
- To examine how political parties utilize social media and digital platforms for communication and campaigning.
- To assess the role of e-governance initiatives in improving transparency and citizen participation.
- To identify challenges such as misinformation, data privacy concerns, and the digital divide in Karnataka's political environment.
- To suggest measures for strengthening ethical and inclusive digital political practices.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive and analytical review method, relying exclusively on secondary data sources like Government reports (Centre for e-Governance, KDEM), Election Commission of India publications, research articles, online databases, newspapers, and fact-checking portals. The review covers developments from 2018 to 2024, a period marked by rapid digital transformation in political communication and administration. The data was organized under key themes: digital governance, political campaigning, social media influence, and digital inclusion. Comparative insights were drawn from other Indian states to contextualize Karnataka's

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experience. The study is limited to secondary data and does not include primary field surveys or interviews. Nonetheless, it provides a comprehensive synthesis of existing knowledge and emerging patterns.

DISCUSSION

1. Digitalization in Governance and Administration

Karnataka has been a pioneer in implementing e-governance initiatives aimed at improving transparency and efficiency. Projects such as Bhoomi (land records), Khajane II (digital treasury management), and Seva Sindhu (citizen services) have simplified bureaucratic processes and strengthened accountability.

Political implications of these programs are significant. Digitally enabled governance increases citizen trust, reduces middlemen, and enhances the visibility of government performance. Politicians increasingly use these platforms to demonstrate development achievements and connect with constituents online. However, uneven access to digital resources continues to limit full participation from rural and marginalized communities.

2. Digitalization in Political Communication and Campaigning

The digital revolution has redefined electoral politics in Karnataka. Political parties such as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress (INC), and Janata Dal (Secular) have embraced social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, and WhatsApp to disseminate messages and mobilize supporters.

Digital campaign teams use data analytics to target specific voter segments, spread slogans, and create personalized content. During the 2023 Assembly elections, WhatsApp groups and social media influencers played a critical role in shaping public discourse. While this has increased citizen engagement, it has also led to challenges such as fake news, hate speech, and echo chambers that distort democratic deliberation.

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3. *Role of Digital Media in Citizen Participation*

Digitalization has provided new avenues for citizens to interact with leaders and participate in policy discussions. Online grievance portals, social media interactions, and public consultations on government websites have made politics more participatory. Civil society organizations in Karnataka also use digital tools to promote transparency and accountability.

However, the digital divide persists among rural populations, women, and older citizens often lack digital literacy and access, which limits equitable participation. Thus, while digital tools have expanded engagement, they have not yet bridged socio-economic inequalities.

4. *Challenges and Concerns*

- **Misinformation and Fake News:** Social media is often misused for spreading false narratives and political propaganda, influencing voter behavior.
- **Data Privacy:** The use of personal data for targeted campaigning raises ethical and legal concerns.
- **Digital Divide:** Urban-rural disparities in access to technology hinder inclusive participation.
- **Cyber security Issues:** Political websites and campaign accounts face frequent hacking and phishing threats.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** Lack of comprehensive digital political advertising laws allows misuse of online platforms.

FINDINGS

- Digitalization has enhanced the efficiency of governance and made political communication more immediate and interactive.
- Social media has become an indispensable tool for political mobilization, influencing voter perceptions and election outcomes.
- Digitalization has improved transparency in administration but has not fully addressed the issues of misinformation and unequal access.

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- The younger, urban population benefits more from digital politics compared to rural and marginalized groups.

CONCLUSION

Digitalization in Karnataka's political sphere represents both a progressive force and a potential source of inequality. It has modernized governance and broadened public engagement but simultaneously introduced risks that threaten democratic integrity. To ensure that digital transformation serves democratic goals, the state must invest in digital literacy, enforce data protection laws, and strengthen fact-checking mechanisms. Political parties and institutions must adopt ethical digital practices to ensure transparency and fairness. With proper regulation and inclusivity measures, Karnataka can become a model for responsible digital politics in India.

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"Digital Divide and Empowerment of the Youth"

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"Youth is happy because it has the ability to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old." "The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow". Economic times
"Give me 100 energetic young men and I shall transform India."Swami Vivekananda.

Abstract:

This research paper on the digital divide and youth empowerment examines how the gap in access to and use of technology affects young people's opportunities in education, employment, and social participation. Research shows that the digital divide creates a cycle of exclusion for disadvantaged youth, but bridging this gap through initiatives like digital literacy training and infrastructure expansion can empower them by fostering skills, increasing social and economic opportunities, and enabling civic engagement. The digital divide refers to the gap between individuals and communities that have access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and those that do not. In the modern era, digital access is no longer a luxury but a prerequisite for participation in education, employment, and civic life. This paper explores how the digital divide affects the empowerment of youth—socially, economically, and educationally. It examines the causes and consequences of digital inequality and discusses strategies to bridge this divide through inclusive digital policies, education reforms, and community-based initiatives. The study concludes that digital empowerment is essential for ensuring equal opportunities and fostering innovation among the younger generation.

Keywords: Youth Empowerment ·Digital Literacy, Education, Employment, Information &

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Communication

Introduction

People who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literateto the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as physicaland psychological problems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may leadto consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games bothonline and offline, social media without paying attention to time, accessing pornographicsites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize mediamessages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualisPeople who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literateto the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as hysical and psychological problems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may leadto consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games bothonline and offline, social media without paying attention to time, accessing pornographicsites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize mediamessages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualisPeople who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literateto the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as physicaland psychological problems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may leadto consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games bothonline and offline, social media without paying attention to time, accessing pornographicsites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize mediamessages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualisPeople who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literateto the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as physicaland psychological problems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may leadto consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games bothonline and offline, social media without paying attention to time, accessing pornographicsites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize mediamessages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualis People who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literateto the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as physicaland psychological problems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may leadto consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games bothonline and offline, social media without paying attention

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to time, accessing pornographicsites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize mediamessages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualismThe low literacy culture isseen in everyday life, such as low interest in reading and writing. People prefer watchingTV and listening to music, etc. In this era of gadgets and the internet, the low literacyculture can weaken their identity as students. The low literacy culture today can causestuttering in the face of communication and information technology that has rapid andextraordinary development. The public is easy to access and disseminate hoax news orinformation. The cases, such as ullying, fraud, and pornography/actions start from alack of literacy, both directly and indirectlyThe low iteracy culture is seen in everyday life, such as low interest in reading and writing. People prefer watching TV nd listening to music, etc. In this era of gadgets and the internet, the low literacy culture can weaken their dentity as tudents.The low literacy culture today can cause stuttering in the face of communication and information echnology that has rapid and extraordinary development. The public is easy to access and disseminate hoax news or information. The cases, such as bullying, fraud, and pornography/actions start from a lack of literacy, oth directly and indirectly. People who do not have the readiness to use information technology, and not literate to the information brought by the media, can cause various problems, such as physical and psychological roblems. For students who are not wise to digital media, it may lead to consumptive actions, such as addiction to watching television, playing games both online and offline, social media without paying attention to time, ccessing pornographic sites, and other useless information. Most students are more likely to internalize media messages and integrate them in self-formation so that they can foster individualism. The digital age has evolutionized every aspect of human life, from communication and education to employment and governance. However, this technological progress has not been evenly distributed. The **digital divide** represents disparities in access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy. For the youth, this divide can significantly impact their ability to learn, innovate, and participate fully in society. Bridging this gap is vital for achieving social inclusion and economic development in the 21st century.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the use of digital technologies in the out-of-school learning settings (Harvey, 2016; Ito et al., 2015). Such non-formal education programmes have a potential to recognise and address young people digital skills and needs, which might be omitted at schools or at home (Black et al., 2015). Examples of prior European youth digital inclusion programmes include coding clubs, discussion groups

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(e.g., focusing on issues related to online safety), and hackathons (for more examples see www.digitalyouthwork.eu). However, while the information on why youth digital inclusion is important, the analysis on how to effectively contextualize, organise, and manage a youth digital inclusion project is still limited. Throughout this paper the term digital literacy is used to refer to young people's practical use of digital technologies in everyday life as well as the process of 'translating' these digital activities into beneficial real-world outcomes (Helsper, 2015). I also examine the importance of young people's critical thinking and critical digital participation.

Concept of Digital Divide

Research often categorizes the divide into 3 levels:

1. The gap in access to digital tools and the internet.

2. The gap in digital skills and usage abilities.

3. The gap in outcomes, such as educational achievement or job prospects, those result from the first two levels.

The digital divide is multidimensional—it includes **access divide** (availability of devices and internet), **use divide** (differences in frequency and quality of technology use), and **skills divide** (digital literacy and competency). According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), over one-third of the global population remains offline, with most disconnected individuals living in developing nations. Factors such as poverty, rural isolation, gender inequality, and lack of infrastructure contribute to this divide.

Intersectionality: The digital divide is not a uniform issue but is shaped by other inequalities based on factors like income, geography (rural vs. urban), gender, and ethnicity. For instance, rural youth and girls are often disproportionately affected by the lack of access and skills.

Youth and Digital Empowerment: Youth empowerment involves enabling young people to gain control over their lives, make informed decisions, and contribute meaningfully to society. In the digital era, empowerment increasingly depends on the ability to access and use technology effectively. Digitally empowered youth can:

- Access online education and skill development platforms
- Engage in entrepreneurship and remote employment
- Participate in governance through e-democracy and social media activism

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- Build global networks for innovation and cultural exchange
- Beyond economic and educational outcomes, the digital divide can affect a youth's ability to participate in political discussions and civic life through online platforms.
- A key aspect of empowerment is not just having access and skills but feeling confident to use technology to improve one's life (the "empowerment divide").

However, unequal access prevents many young people from achieving these outcomes, particularly those from marginalized or rural backgrounds.

Impact on education and employment: Lack of digital access and skills can lead to poor academic performance and limited career prospects, especially with the rise of online learning.

Empowering youth with digital literacy is crucial for them to succeed in increasingly digital job markets.

Causes of the Digital Divide among Youth: Several factors sustain the digital divide:

- **Socioeconomic inequality:** Families with limited income cannot afford smart phones, computers, or data services.
- **Geographical disparities:** Rural and remote areas often lack reliable internet infrastructure.
- **Educational inequality:** Schools in low-income areas may lack digital resources and trained teachers.
- **Gender barriers:** In many societies, girls have less access to digital tools and training.
- **Language and content barriers:** Lack of localized digital content restricts access for non-English speakers.

Consequences of the Digital Divide: The digital divide has far-reaching consequences for youth:

- **Educational disadvantage:** Online learning opportunities remain inaccessible for many.
- **Employment exclusion:** Lack of digital skills limits job opportunities in the modern economy.
- **Social marginalization:** Disconnected youth may feel excluded from civic participation and social life.
- **Reduced innovation capacity:** Digital inequality prevents talented youth from realizing their potential in technology-driven fields.

Bridging the Divide: Pathways to Empowerment: Efforts to bridge the digital divide should focus on inclusion, equity, and sustainability:

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1. **Infrastructure Development:** Expanding high-speed internet coverage to underserved areas, including schools and homes, is a fundamental step. Governments and private sectors should expand broadband networks, especially in rural areas.
2. **Affordable Access:** Subsidies and public internet centers can help low-income youth connect. Efforts are needed to make digital gadgets and internet connectivity more affordable for low-income families.
3. **Digital Literacy Programs:** Initiatives that provide training on how to use digital tools and critically evaluate online information are crucial for closing the skills gap Schools and NGOs should promote digital education and skill-building.
4. **Gender-Inclusive Policies:** Empowering girls through ICT training and safe online environments is crucial.
5. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration between tech companies and governments can accelerate digital inclusion.
6. **Localized Content Creation:** Promoting local languages and culturally relevant content can enhance engagement.
7. **Targeted support:** Policies should focus on specific groups, such as girls, rural populations, and low-income families, who are most likely to be left behind.

Case Studies and Best Practices: Countries like **India**, **Kenya**, and **Brazil** have initiated digital empowerment programs for youth.

- **India's Digital India Initiative** provides affordable internet access and promotes digital literacy through the "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan."
- **Kenya's Ajira Digital Program** trains youth for online freelancing opportunities.
- **Brazil's Internet for All project** extends broadband connectivity to underserved regions.

These examples highlight how targeted policies can transform digital inequality into digital opportunity.

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Conclusion

Bridging the digital divide is not merely about providing devices or internet access—it is about empowering youth to participate fully in a digital society. Ensuring equitable access, fostering digital literacy, and promoting inclusive policies are essential for building an empowered, innovative, and globally connected generation. Only

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by closing the digital gap can nations harness the full potential of their youth for sustainable development. Going forward, digitalization will continue to have an impact on education and learning, and the way young children interact, play and engage with wider society. Countries should have clear goals for Early Child hood Education & Care to respond to digitalization, so that it offers a first opportunity to help all young children be safe and flourish in the digital world. These goals should recognize the complexities of the sector, involve all relevant stakeholders, be informed by the best available evidence, and be implemented in a flexible manner. This article presents a number of limitations with regards to theory and its practical application. First, it is important to note that my analysis is based on a section of available literature and is not reflective of all youth digital inclusion policy-making efforts and programmes in any nation. Second, the youth digital inclusion practice considerations presented here are situated within the context and thus might not be entirely applicable to different populations, as well as geographical and cultural contexts. I argue that for digital inclusion efforts to be truly empowering, young people's human rights should be central to any digital inclusion programmes. To this end, young people should not be viewed as passive receivers of digital literacy educational programmes, but as pro-active and critical digital citizens and rights-holders. Therefore, to work towards a more inclusive, ethical, and equal digital society, young people's voices should be central to digital inclusion research, practice, and policy intervention.

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"DESOCIALISATION AS A DYSFUNCTION OF EDUCATION -FROM THE SOCIOLOGICAL EYE"

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ABSTRACT:

Education can be understood as a phenomenon thought to be an essential function of society. It is a process which exists between the educator and the educated. A gap that is filled as per the societal needs. What is more significant is why is there a need for education and how is society related to education or vice versa.

In this context often a conclusion is drawn that the progress of a society is directly related to the process of education. When we speak of education and its context various aspects gain significance namely, education as an institution, its nature, forms , purpose , determinants and so on.

Is formal education a substitute for informal education? If so, formal institutions need to be treated as a primary agent of socialisation.

Modern nuclear families have shifted most of their informal functions to formal agencies. One such shift is seen in terms of the institution of education.

Is this shift resulting in the fold and fault within the core of the family, in turn causing value depletion or extinction? Is it not a matter requiring serious concern? If we are concerned about depletion of natural resources and its impact on the future generations, then why are we still unaltered about the changing values and changing patterns of human relationships and its impact on the future generations ? It is in this context that the key concepts of desocialization, social depletion, educational manipulation, educational detractors etc., have originated.

KEY CONCEPTS : -

1. DESOCIALISATION : It is a process wherein men disassociate themselves from the larger society and admit themselves to social seclusion and isolation. They prioritise aggregation over association.

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2. SOCIAL DEPLETION : The process of depletion of social action, values and norms . Individuals are priortised over the group.
3. EDUCATIONAL MANIPULATION : A process of changing the aims and objectives of education to suit to the needs of the 'vested interest groups'
4. EDUCATIONAL DETRACTORS : An individual or group of people who indulge in the process of manipulation in the field of education. They can also be called educational pirators.

These concepts are used in order to understand the role of education in the society based on its functions and dysfunctions. It as well provides an insight into the problems related to the ongoing process of education and socialisation in the school as a social system.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM: Increasing complexities within the society is invariably causing an increase in the nature of complexities in the educational institutions that contributes to the dysfunction and depletion of 'asocial behaviour'.

CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP : The cause for the dysfunction of education as an institution is the instantaneous urge to create a global market resulting in the commodification of the entire process of education .

HYPOTHESIS : The weakening relationship between education and society is causing social depletion.

AREA OF STUDY : School as a primary agent of socialisation.

POPULATION FOR THE STUDY : PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BANGALORE. (BASED ON ITS ENROLMENT AND NUMBER FOR THE YEARS 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025)

AIM : The main aim of the study is to draw inferences into the internal and external factors of the educational institutions that result in dysfunction.

In this process of influencing and being influenced the social beings either gain or lose the social qualities. While gaining a quality is considered normative, losing can not be considered 'asocial' or normative.

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This is where the actual debate begins : the economics of the means of education, that is HOW TO EDUCATE? , FOR WHOM TO EDUCATE? AND WHAT TO EDUCATE? And most importantly, WHAT NOT TO EDUCATE?

Let us have a deeper understanding of each in terms of the value orientation.

HOW TO EDUCATE?

This framework demands the understanding of the content of education, the methods to be followed and exposing the purpose of education.

WHOM TO EDUCATE?

An understanding of : who the target group is? Who can access education of their choice? Who is enrolled in different sectors of education?

WHAT TO EDUCATE?

What should be the content of education ? Who should decide the content? How to maintain content disparity?

WHAT NOT TO EDUCATE?

Most significant part of all,

Where to draw the line?How to use the Social Filters, Sensors and adaptors to control social depletion and desocialisation?

Socialisation is a process of transforming the biological being into a social being. It is a gradual process of social training enabling the members of the society to understand the nature of social position, roles and social status and being able to perform the same as per the situational demand or the structural functional prerequisites. Randal Collins and others have spoken of the means to construct the social reality.

In a similar sense Durkheim had spoken of social milieu, that is society and social order is maintained on the basis of one's understanding of the society.

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Social objects and conceptualisation is based on general social consensus as was always believed by Auguste Comte. All known human societies and human relationships are bound by this nature. Language becomes the medium to communicate ideas , thoughts and technology from one generation to the other, from one society to that of the other.

These facts are learnt and become the part of continuing human behaviour in the existing patterns of system and subsystem. This is when individual trends become social trends, and individual behaviour becomes collective behaviour. It is thus the collective endeavour which enables an individual to accept the norms of the society.

The collective teaching and learning process enables a biological being to transform into a social being. It is thus a process and not a product, it is a becoming not a being.

We live in a global society which treats knowledge as a capital. It thus operates like a global marketing system. Advancement in technology has enabled media to play a pivotal role in acquiring, disseminating knowledge, communicating and influencing changes at different levels, that is, micro or macro levels. Marriotts understanding of upward and downward mobility speaks in volume of the nature of changes taking place across the globe. Magnitude of changes may vary on the basis of life chances and opportunities available to different individuals at different points of time. Unequal distribution of resources and means to reach the goals often conflict with the existing social system, demanding conceptual changes.

Looking at various instances occurring at different parts of the globe, one is forced to think or rather believe that men are not the way they were: Some substantial changes have been occurring, fostering changes in the existing mode of human acquaintances, communication and relationships. The younger generation in particular are at crossroads, unable to acquaint themselves with the dynamics of the society.

METHODOLOGY : WEBERIAN METHOD OF UNDERSTANDING.

SOURCE : Documentary sources – Both online and offline.

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SOCIOLOGICAL CONCERN :

It is one of the perspectives applied to understand the relationship between the process of education and its impact on human relationships or the society at large. It is the sociological eye as is referred to as by Randal Collins

MODERN EDUCATION :

Education as a process necessarily passes through definite stages of human evolution. One such stage is the modern scientific stage, which Comte often referred to as the positive stage marked by critical and analytical thinking. Modern education is the complex form of education with the intervention of science and technology which is often thought to be an alternative to the human resource.

DESOCIALISATION :

A process of reverse socialisation which may contribute to social isolation, and finally degeneration of human relationships and associations.

SCHOOL AS A SOCIAL SYSTEM:

School is a formal institution wherein the younger generations are trained to build their personality and choose their career. A social system is an unit of the society which performs the essential functions to meet the societal needs. School is treated as a social system as it performs the educational needs of the society. School is often considered the replica of the society, often representing the culture of the larger group namely the society.

THE STURCTURE OF THE SCHOOL :

The Administrative Head, The Academic Head, Teaching Staff, Non -Teaching Staff, Students and The Stakeholders.

Power flows in the top - down order. The network is built on the basis of allocation of power, status and role. Interpersonal and Intrapersonal relationships emerge within the system which is more in the form of aggregation than an association. The most significant form of relationship is that of the teacher and the taught.

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TEACHER-TAUGHT RELATIONSHIP :

The role of teacher is that of the guardian of the society, they are the cultural carriers, rather the torchbearers of the society . In this context they perform a major role in maintaining the cultural standards of the society. In a culturally diverse society like ours the role becomes even more complex as it is difficult to draw cultural uniformities, and generalised practices among the students. The difficulty is more acute because they don't frame the curriculum, nor can they intervene with the modes of evaluation as it is more or less designed by the authoritarian group. The teaching hours and methods of teaching is also pre-designed. They further differ on the basis of the nature of the Institution. The educational institutions thus, vary in terms of its administration, academics, infrastructure, performance, mission, vision and so on. Schools are powerhouse of knowledge and skill, which is considered essential for leading a global life. At the same time students are under stressful situation to find themselves a place in the global market. The instances of child suicide in the urban and rural areas are at an increase, the reason being the shift from family to technological sources to vent out emotions. The helplines, counselling and redressal cells set up in the schools mostly the private ones speak of the formalisation of the social security measures. Hence the family has shifted most of its essential functioins to the school as a social system. The responsibility to carefully transfer the cultural values to the next generation is within this system. The diverse nature of these institutions are causing problems in the process of cultural transformation.

DIVERSE NATURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTONS:

Basically educational institutions can be categorised as follows :

PUBLIC INSTITUTION : Central, State, Municipal, Metropolitan, Corporation, Regional Boards

PRIVATE INSTITUTION : National, International, Global.

AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS.

These institutions perform their educational functions based of their categorisation. These act as mutually exclusive groups performing different roles as per the demands of their administrative and academic structure. Quantitative and Qualitative aspects of education thus varies. Education which is thought to minimise the social

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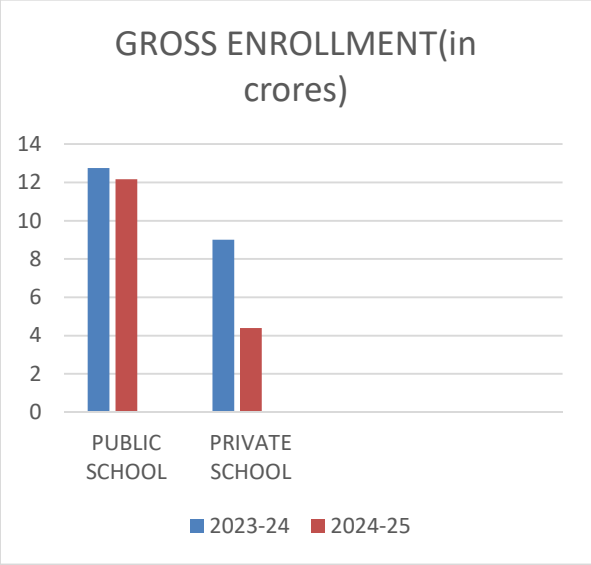
gap is in turn widening the social gap and creating social inequality. The competitors for wealth and power are at an increase. Educational institutions are transforming itself into global markets with education as its capital, the marketing strategy may not accommodate all who embrace it. Hence, many lag behind just because they belong to a different system. Education is commodified and hence is in the verge of losing its essence of maintaining social solidarity. The questions that arise here are of different magnitude, that is., how much of commodification is socially accepted and normative? Is The Right to Education Act legalising educational inequality? Is uniformity possible?

To understand this, let us look into the dynamics of the educational institutions. The number of private instutions are at an increase when compared to the public institutions. The most significant reason would be the output factor. Fee structure though may lure any one towards a public institution, the mobility is often witnessed to be in the reverse order. Relatively poor infrastructure, medium of instruction and so on could be the factors contributing to this change. Every year there is a progressive development in the number of private institutions where as some of the public institutions are at the verge of closing down. Though gender wise improvement is evident in the urban areas yet, in the remotest areas marginalisation continues to be prominent factor in determining the utility of educational opportunities.

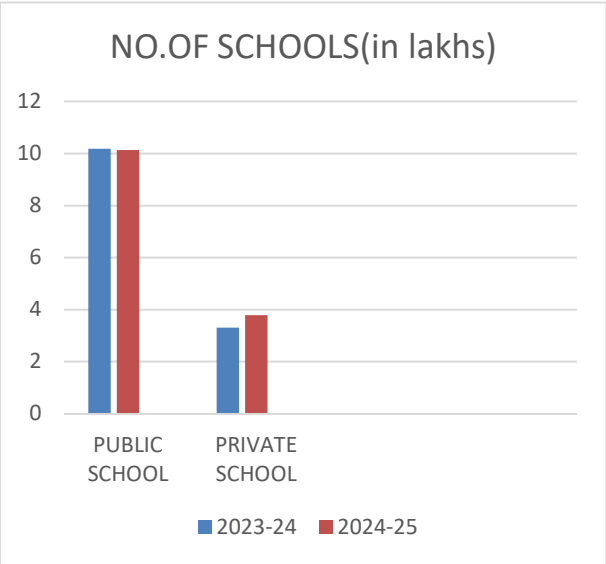
YEAR	**GROSS ENROLMENT (in crores)**		**NO. OF SCHOOLS (in lakhs)**	
TYPE OF SCHOOL	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**	**2023-2024**	**2024-2025**
PUBLIC SCHOOL	**12.75**	**12.16**	**10.18**	**10.13**
PRIVATE SCHOOL	**9**	**9.59**	**3.31**	**3.79**

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The table shows the number of private educational institutions are at the rise; private schools rose from 3.31 lakhs in 2023-24 to 3.79 lakh in 2024-25, there was a decrease in public schools from 10.18 lakh in 2023-24 to 10,13 lakh in 2024-25. There is also a sharp decline in government school enrolment from 12.75 crores in 2023-24 to 12.16 crores in 2024-25. In contrast, Private School enrolment has consistently increased from 9 crores in 2023-24 to 9.59 crores in 2024-25. (source: Education today) Is it related to the underperformance of the public institutions? Or their failure in setting up standards as per the Global Market.



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In this context arise few more questions of how the schools need to perform the basic function of transforming cultural values to the younger generation? Core values practiced in the educational institutions today are respect, compassion, responsibility, gratitude, honesty, empathy, community engagements, ethics, integrity, perseverance, creating a safe and secure environment, fostering reflection and critical thinking, spiritual and cultural exposure and so on. If these are taught as a part of the curriculum then, they lack market, hence it often becomes a part of the non - core curriculum. On the other hand these values are governed by the principle of individual freedom. Capitalist mode of thinking predominates over the rest, and makes it a purely profit oriented system. This is very well understood through the content of the table where there is a surge in privatisation and the effect of which is seen in the marginal decline in the public sectors making the divide very evident. This results in the marginalisation of the marginalized.

Schools are thus representing a social system which is polarised, marginalised, and capitalistic by nature. There is a dynamics of values being taught in the school which may not directly represent the society that they are a part of but, represents a larger social group to which they are forced to belong to. For instance, the core subjects are not taught in their mother tongue or in the regional language but in the global language. This shows an increasing urge to delve with the global society rather than the society that they are a part of.

CHANGING NATURE OF THE INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE SCHOOL:

1. TEACHER ADMI ISTRATOR RELATIONSHIP :

It is a very formalised corporate form of relationship. It is one of the capitalist thinking that fosters work over profession. Very mechanical in its execution so as to satisfy the marketing syrategies. Survival is based on skill and use of power. Hence very little attention is paued on the depletion of social values or deveneration of society. Social responsibility underplays amidst global challenges in education.

2. TEACHER - TEACHER RELATIONSHIP :

The relationship is purely understtood in terms of the global markets and their role within the system. It is often marked by Weak associations and weakening interpersonal relationships. Everyone wants to surpass the others in the competitive world which may only weaken the normative order of the society. Too many roles to be

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performed within the system may not provide them enough space to socialise as is socially expected. A conflicting situation is seemingly evident in terms of their age, gender, role, status, power and so on , which invariably contributes to the distancing of the individuals. Hence, this gap further adds momentum to the process of social degeneration.

3. TEACHER - TAUGHT RELATIONSHIP:

The primary relationship within the school is that of the teacher and the taught. The teacher in the modern context is to impart knowledge and play the role of the facilitator. Complete autonomy is restricted in terms of what to be taught, for what duration to be taught, how to teach and what the outcome should be?. They are evaluated by the administrative head and continuously monitored for their overall performance. This effects their relationship with the students as they most often concentrate on improving their performance and upgrading knowledge for career advancement. A prominent gap emerges in their mutual association. Quality is enhanced in terms of syllabus, infrastructure and so on and very little time is spent to know the quality that each student possess. Based on the nature of the school, the students have to seek the assistance of the external agencies for bettering their academic performance. Extra curricular and cocurricular activities are performed in a way to maintain the standard of the school. Those who perform are promoted and others may be ignored. Marginalisation and inequalities may thus charactrise the system. Formalised relationship may weaken the ability to interact for personality development or for social growth. This may be one of the major dysfunction of the system.

Students on the other hand take advantage of the administrative functioning. The changes is the educational policies have eased the students to make their choice and own meaningful power in the continuity of the system. The system most often performs to retain the student strength and often compromise on the qualitative aspects. Rigid practices have almost ceased to exist in these institutions giving them an autonomy which the teachers may even lack. We see the students growing up, showing least responsibility towards their teachers, school, family and the society. **This is the initial stage of social depletion and degeneration**. If they are the first generation learners, the problem in most cases is very rigorous as they enjoy autonomy at home as well. Socialising agents may not be in a position to influence their personality. They may look out for more powerful agencies to "**explore and gain knowledge".** As per the demand of their age they look out for dormant agencies which gives them

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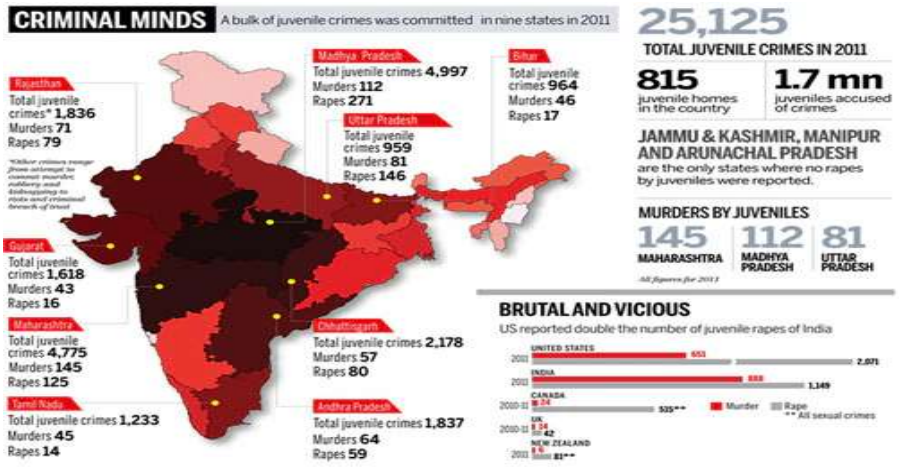
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what they want without questioning them why they want it? This is an evident dysfunction causing social depletion or degeneration.

The changing relationship within the school as a social system is contributing to changes which may have serious consequences on the existence and continuity of human society. There is an unforeseen threat on the continuation of enduring human associations and human relationships. Relationships are no longer social by nature rather they are an aggregate to meet a common goal. The key factor contributing to this change is lack of rigid functioning of the law enforcement agencies.

Social values are taught to them as though it is an alien part of the society. society is thus loosing its sui-generis nature. Society is no longer considered as an evaluating agency. It is most often viewed as an overperforming entity and thus is not given any importance. Substance abuse, smoking and drinking in public, sex abuse, abusing the elderly and so on are all examples for this changed mindset. Every act of deviance is performed as though it is a part of their autonomous existence which ought not to be questioned. There is thus an alarming increase in the rate of juvenile delinquency.

TABLE 2



(SOURCE : INDIA TODAY REPORT)

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Juvenile delinquency is increasing at an alarming rate, this report is taken as an illustration in support of the fact that children for the past few decades have been attracted to various external factors which directly or indirectly contribute to such act of deviance. We need to concentrate on the role of school as an agent of socialisation and also as the carrier of culture. If the agents of socialisation were to perform their roles efficiently and effectively, then there would be no threat to the existence of society. Social detractors who are bent upon capital mode of knowledge transformation, have already treated education as a unit for developing strategies to hold a prominent place in the global market.

ROLE OF MEDIA:

Media as an important agent of socialisation is concentrating more on information explosion rather than carefully handling the social beings involved in this process. Media in the form of cinema, television, internet etc., is influencing the younger generation into the world of fantasy and entertainment. Infotainment as a trending phenomenon encourages them to use the media in a more liberal sense. The more they explore into this world, they become more curious but less inquisitive and creative in nature. They loosen their ties with the immediate social group and become more involved with the virtual world. The problem of language is not that of mother tongue , regional language, national language, there is an exposure into a sophisticated language, which is the digital or virtual language, it is universally accepted and accessible with less intervention from the larger social group. **There is information, but not the economics of information, that is what to use, how much to use, for whom to use, where to use and even what not to be used need to be learnt and taught.**

This is when we see a shift, rather an invisible shift of accepting those values which are convenient and is no longer attributed to the value carriers or the duration for which it was practiced. It is a need based practice. The present day teachers and learners are called as the facilitators and the facilitated. It is almost like a supermarket from where the learners make their choice. There is always a possibility to either learn more or learn less based on the requirement of the learner. During the formative period of the child the responsibility of the school is to carefully nurture them and to make them effective and efficient citizens. In a structured format is there a possibility to provide them informal education? The younger generation is also lured into the world of glamour at an early age, this provides scope for them to loose their innocence and childhood at an early stage. During this

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process values are often compromised, social existence is questioned and individuality is held high. Sui-generis nature of the society loses its prominence. **Nothing is 'for and of' the society but is solely directed towards the individual based on his or her priority. Let us understand the fact that as long as we don't live for the society, we will not have a society to live in.**

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION :

The major sociological concern is in understanding the cause for the dysfunction of education as an institution . Nature of formal and informal education imparted in the institutions shows an nstantaneous urge to create a global market resulting in the commodification of the entire process of education . The members within, are all Stakeholders who are directly or indirectly facilitating the learners to adopt tto the trending global knowledge and culture.

The degeneration of the social order thus stabilises. Institutional norms and values are less evaluated, individual norms and values becomes the popular culture. The younger generation no longer treat respect, morality, empathy etc., as core values. More isolated practices become the order of the society. the increasing instances of child abuse, denying care for the elderly, violence against women, student unrest, youth violence and so on gets normalised. which would question the very identity of the society. Same sex marriages, live-in relationships etc., are evidential sources for social deterioration and social degeneration. The institutions of marriage and family will evolve into a cyclical nature reversing into the nomadic and tribal forms. Today men seek a life of seclusion and isolation. How can we ever be a social animal?

Desoialusation is thus caused because of the ineffective function of school as a social system. School as a social system plays a major role in transforming the culture to the future generation in a more formal way. In the modern context school is assigned the additional role as that of a primary agent of socialisation which was earlier performed by the family. It has an onus to provide the younger generation with the knowledge of the society in addition to the global, general and scientific knowledge. When in school the other agencies of socialisation are also operative namely peer group, media and family. The immediate concern is who plays an influential role, and

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whom are the younger generation looking up to as reference group or as role models for building their character and personality. In the wake of this concern the future generation is posed with the threat of losing their cultural identity as they assimilate into a larger unit. The unit is seemingly of an aggregating nature rather than an associating one. Temporary relationships will replace the permanent ones. Roles expand while status remain constant. The economic determinant predominates in defining the life chances and lifestyles of the individuals. The mode of education, and career advancement of the individual is thus based on the economic system that they are a part of.

At such a situation the child's mind which Durkheim considered as a blank sheet of paper where the society writes remains only a metaphor. The writing part is being done, by multiple writers. Whom and what should the child treat as essential for its mental progress and development? There are multiple sources of knowledge, hence teacher is no longer held in high esteem. Assigned work can be done with the help of technology hence dependence on teacher, members of family, friends and so on have reduced. On the other hand there is an increasing dependence on technology which we can refer to as digital dependence.

Digital dependency may contribute to digital addiction which may cause the lack of concentration, weakening mental ability, diminishing innate talent, inability to make decisions, depression, mood swings, obesity, physical inactiveness and so on. The behavioural changes in the child often goes unnoticed because it is not the sole responsibility of the teacher as he or she is a nominal guardian and in reality is the custodian of the formal structure of the school and its curriculum. The child is left to learn at its own risk. The risk is catered to by various external agencies like the tuition centers, cyber centers, social media platforms, media apps and so on. The divergent teaching and learning tools provides diverse knowledge of a diversified global society. It gradually overpowers the relationships in the neighbourhood and creates a wider digital network narrowing the globe into a small village and at the same time the process of social depletion becomes active but not evident. It will take atleast two generations for this to become socially visible and by then it will be too late. We would have given up most of our values, institutions and relationships which actually goes into the making of the society.

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Increasing complexities within the society is invariably causing an increase in the nature of complexities in the educational institutions that contributes to the dysfunction and depletion of 'asocial behaviour'. It is thus the weakening relationship between education and society that is causing social depletion.

Do we want to picturize such a future where we would have lost everything that was socially constructed and nothing would remain to be called as a social fact or as a social reality?

Alienation and isolaltion are definitely the products of the capitalist economy. Competition and profit making is not the only motive of the society. cooperation and social wellbeing is the core social value. This has to become an institutional practice. **School as a social system has to treat this as its primary function else, there will be population but not demography, there will be man not men.** Cohabitation and Collective behaviour is supreme over the individual actions and behaviour. It is essential for social survival and the continuation of human society.

Let us critically evaluate the situation of whether we want to live together or want to stray as the animals do? Where do we draw the line between MAN AND MEN. Decide now or never. Sustainability is the key to the survival of human relationships, human society and humanity. Thus school as a social system has to revoke and re-establish its strength in structuring the young minds with social values and enhancing their trust in human endeavour and relationships, Media , the most powerful agency of Socialisation has to act responsibly in handling the future generation as they are considered as the major source of knowledge that the younger minds always try to bank upon. As reference group the media also plays a deciding role in transforming the normative order of the society to the younger generation and moulding their personality. The detractors have to own up the consequences of their negating roles and revitalise the system. Lest we will degenate into a lesser known species . Let us awaken and collectively bestow trust upon the educatoon system with all the stakeholders and believe that it will catefully transform the future generation into good human beings and socially responsibile individuals.

SOURCE :

1. MEDIA
2. READINGS
3. OBSERVATION

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The Role of Feminism in Shaping Modern Social Policies: From Critique to Construction

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Abstract

The evolution of modern social policies and the contemporary welfare state is inextricably linked to the insights and relentless activism of **feminist movements** and **theory**. Far from being a niche ideological concern, feminism has played a fundamental and transformative role, moving from an initial critique of the deeply ingrained patriarchal biases within existing social structures to the construction of more equitable, comprehensive, and gender-responsive policies. This article explores the major contributions of feminism in reshaping the policy landscape across various sectors, demonstrating its crucial function in advancing social justice and gender equality.

Introduction:

1. Critique of the Male-as-Norm Welfare State

Early feminist scholars critically analyzed the traditional welfare state, revealing its inherent **patriarchal assumptions**. The foundational model often treated the male industrial worker as the normative citizen, basing social security, pensions, and unemployment benefits on a full-time, uninterrupted, male employment model. This structure marginalized women in several ways:

- **The Public/Private Divide:** Social policies largely ignored the value of **unpaid care and domestic work**, which is disproportionately performed by women, relegating it to the "private" sphere and thus outside the scope of formal economic recognition or social provision.
- **Dependent Status:** Women's access to benefits was often **derivative** or conditional, tied to their status as a wife or mother (e.g., widow's pensions, dependent spouse allowances), reinforcing economic dependence on men.

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- **The Poverty Trap:** Policies designed around a single-earner household often failed to address the distinct needs and vulnerabilities of single mothers, divorced women, and women in precarious employment, contributing to the **feminization of poverty**.

Feminist critique fundamentally challenged the neutrality of social policy, arguing that what appeared to be "universal" was, in fact, **gender-blind** and therefore discriminatory in its effect.

2. Policy Advancements and Legislative Changes

Feminism has been a primary catalyst for landmark legislative and policy reforms, demanding equality in law and practice. Key areas of direct feminist influence include:

A. Economic and Employment Policy

Feminist pressure led to the introduction and enforcement of legislation aimed at equalizing the economic playing field. Examples include:

- **Equal Pay and Anti-Discrimination Acts:** Mandating equal remuneration for equal work and prohibiting gender-based discrimination in hiring, promotion, and training.
- **Maternity and Paternity Leave:** Moving beyond policies that framed maternity purely as a health issue, feminist advocacy pushed for paid leave and job protection, increasingly expanding to include **paternity and parental leave** to promote shared caregiving responsibilities.

B. Family and Care Policy

Feminist influence shifted the focus of family policy from simply maintaining the traditional nuclear family to supporting diverse family forms and **socializing the cost of care**.

- **Child Care and Early Childhood Education:** The demand for high-quality, subsidized **childcare centres** was framed not just as a service for children, but as a critical infrastructure for women's economic participation and equality.

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- **Revaluation of Care Work:** Advocacy has pushed for policies to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work, including better pay and conditions for professional care workers (a highly feminized sector) and incorporating the value of unpaid work into national accounts.

C. Addressing Gender-Based Violence

Perhaps the most profound policy contribution has been the public recognition and state intervention in what was previously considered a "private" matter: **violence against women**.

- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Feminism drove the passage of legislation on domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape shield laws, defining and criminalizing various forms of gender-based violence.
- **Social Support Systems:** Policies led to the establishment of women's shelters, crisis hotlines, and state-funded victim support services, mandating a social response to systemic violence.

3. The Intersectional Challenge to Universalism

Modern feminism, particularly the **Third and Fourth Waves**, introduced the concept of **intersectionality**, recognizing that women's experiences of inequality are shaped not only by gender but also by race, class, sexuality, disability, and other factors. This insight has been critical in shaping contemporary social policy:

- **Targeted Policies:** It has moved policy beyond a monolithic view of "women's issues" to advocate for **targeted interventions** that address the unique challenges faced by marginalized groups of women (e.g., policies for Indigenous women, women with disabilities, or migrant women).
- **Inclusivity in Health and Education:** Policies are increasingly being reviewed for their differential impact, for instance, ensuring healthcare services are culturally sensitive and that educational curricula address diverse female narratives.

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Conclusion

Feminism's role in shaping modern social policies is undeniable. It has provided the theoretical framework to expose structural inequalities, the political engine for legislative change, and the critical lens (via intersectionality) to ensure policy effectively addresses the multilayered realities of gender inequality. The ongoing struggle for equal representation in political bodies, the debate over reproductive rights, and the campaign for economic justice continue to be driven by feminist principles, solidifying its place as a necessary and permanent force in the construction of a more just and equitable social state.

The video below discusses the theoretical underpinnings of this policy impact, focusing on Feminist Theory in Sociology. This video provides a sociological context for the feminist theories that have informed and influenced the critique and construction of modern social policies.

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"ಕೋವಿಡ್ – 19 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಒಂದು ಸಮಾಜ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ" (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರವನ್ನು ಅನುಲಕ್ಷಿಸಿ).

ನಿರಂಜನ್ ವಿ, /ಠ ವಾಸುರಾವ್ ಜಿ ಎಂ ಮತ್ತು ತುಳಜಾಬಾಯಿರವರು
ಸಂಶೋಧಕರು, ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಜ್ಞಾನಭಾರತಿ ಆವರಣ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ – ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560056
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ – 8892484811
ಇಟಚಿಟಟ ಐಆ – ಟಿಡಿಚಿಟಿರಿಚಿಟಿತಛಿಣಡಿಚಿಠ@ಠಟಚಿಟಟ.ಛಿಠಟ
ಣುಣಟಚಿರಿಚಿಛಚಿ1961@ಠಟಚಿಟಟ.ಛಿಠಟ

ಪೀಠಿಕೆ/ಂಛಣಡಿಚಿಛಿಣ

"ಆರೋಗ್ಯವೇ ಭಾಗ್ಯ" ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯವೇ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಸಂಪತ್ತು." ಸದೃಢ ದೇಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದೃಢವಾದ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಇರುತ್ತದೆ" ಎಂದು ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರವು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ನನ್ನ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯು ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಜಗತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗವು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 2019ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಯಿತು. ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ, ದೈಹಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಲವಾರು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಿದರು.

ಈ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು, ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾಯಲಯಗಳು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮುಚ್ಚುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಆನ್ಲೈನ್ ಬೋಧನೆಯ ಪರಿವರ್ತನೆ ತ್ವರಿತವಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಯಾಯಿತು. ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬೋಧನೆಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಯಿತು. ಶಾಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಒತ್ತಡದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರನ್ನು ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ವಜಾ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳು ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಸಂಭವಿಸಿದ್ದವು.

ಕೆಲವು ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ವೇತನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಯಿತು ಅಥವಾ ಪಾಠದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇಂತಹ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ನ್ಯಾಯದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಕೋನದಿಂದ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ

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ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಜೀವನದ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಅವರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ದಾಖಲು ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ನೀತಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಈ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಏಜಥಿ ತಿಠಡಿಜ: ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19, ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು, ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ

ಪ್ರಾಕ್ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಗಳು

1. ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ಭದ್ರತೆಯು ಪೂರ್ಣಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಿಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇತ್ತು.
2. ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಿಗೆ ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ತರಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಬೇಕಾದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
3. ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದ ಅನುಭವವು ವೇತನ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಯಿತು.
4. ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಒತ್ತಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಹೀನತೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾದರು.
5. ಅರೆ ಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಉದ್ಯೋಗವು ಬದಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತು.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳು

1. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅರೇಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸಮಾಜ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಿಸುವುದು.
2. ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸುವುದು.
3. ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಸಾಗಿಸಲು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ದಾಖಲಿಸುವುದು.
4. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ತಂತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ನೈತಿಕ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.
5. ಮುಂದಿನ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣೆಗೆ ಯಾವ ರೀತಿಯ ನೀತಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತಾಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯಿಕತೆ

1. ಎಮಿಲಿ ಡರ್ಖಿಂ ರವರ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ
2. ಮಾರ್ಕ್ಸ್ – ವರ್ಗ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ
3. ಕಾರ್ಲ್ ಮಾರ್ಕ್ಸ್‌ನ ವರ್ಗ ಸಂಘರ್ಷ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ
4. ಪಿಯರೆ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ಯೂ (ಕುಜಡಿಡಿಜ ಃಠಣಡಿಜುಜಣ) ನ "ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಬಂಡವಾಳ" ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತ

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ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿಧಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಗಳು

I. **ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಾಂಶ:** ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ.

II. **ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ದತ್ತಾಂಶ:** ಸುದ್ದಿ ಲೇಖನಗಳು, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವರದಿಗಳು, ಶೋಧನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳ, ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳು

ಮಾದರಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳು: ಕಣಡಿಠಿಥುತಜ , ಚಿಟಠಿಟುಟಿರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಆಯ್ದ 300 ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಾ 300 ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾದ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಪೂರ್ವ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಉತ್ತರ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಪದವಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ವಿಶ್ವ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರನ್ನು ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

"ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು".

– ಕೃಷಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಧಿಕ ಅವಲಂಬನೆ,	– ಮನೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು
– ಉಳಿತಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವಿಕೆ	– ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡುವುದು
– ಸಾಲ ವಸೂಲಿಗಾರರ ಕಿರಿಕಿರಿ.	– ಮನೆ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ದರ್ಪ
– ಪ್ರಮುಖವಾದ ಬಿಲ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಪರದಾಟ	– ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಮತ್ತು ವೇತನ ರಹಿತ ಜೀವನ

ಕೋವಿಡ್ 19 ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ರೀತಿ ವರ್ಣಿಸಬಹುದು

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸ್ಥಿರತೆಯ ಕೊರತೆ (ಐಚಿಛಿಞ ಠಜಿ ಎಠಛ ಖಜಛಿಣಡಿುಣಥಿ):

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ

ವಿವರಗಳು	ಸುದರ್ಶಿತರು	ಶೇ
ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದಿತು (ಎಠಛ ಖಜಣಚಿುಟಿಜಜ)	18	18%

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ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ಕೈಬಿಡಲಾಯಿತು (ಖಿಜಟಠಠಡಿಚಿಡಿಟಥಿ ಆಥಿಠಟಿಣಟಿಣಜಜ) 42	42	42%
ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡರು (ಕಜಡಿಟಚಿಟಿಜಟಿಣಟಥಿ ಐಥಣ ಎಠಥ)	40	40%

"ಕೋವಿಡ್–19 ರ ಸಂಧರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು"

▯ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗಳು	▯ ಒಂಟಿತನ
▯ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಖಿನ್ನತೆಗಳು	▯ ಮಾನಸಿಕವಾಗಿ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಜೀವನ
▯ ಆತಂಕ	▯ ಭಯ
▯ ಉದ್ವೇಗ	▯ ಸಾವು ನೋವು ಕಂಡು ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಅಘಾತ
▯ ಸೋಮಾರಿತನ	▯ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ದೋಷದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು
▯ ಗೊಂದಲದ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ	▯ ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಪರದಾಟ
▯ ದೈಹಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು	▯ ಮನೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಕೊಡಿಸಲು ಪರದಾಟ

ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೋಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಆಲೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿವರಗಳು	ಸುದರ್ಶಿತರು	ಶೇ
1	ಹೌದು	47	15.7%
2	ಇಲ್ಲ	253	84.3%
	ಒಟ್ಟು	300	100%

ಖಾಸಗಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು ಎದುರಿಸಿದ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು

ಬದಲಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ	ವಲಸೆ
ಕೆಲಸದ ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಕೊರತೆ	ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ವರ್ಗದವರು ಲಸಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಪರದಾಟ
ದುಂದು ವೆಚ್ಚ	ಮನೋರಂಜನೆಯ ಕೊರತೆ

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ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ರದ್ದು	ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪೋಷಕರ ಅಸಹಾಯಕತೆ
ಗೃಹ ದಿಗ್ಬಂದನ	ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನಕ್ಕೆ ಅಡ್ಡಿ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಾಯದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು	ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಗಮನ ನೀಡಲು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಯಿತು

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆ

1. ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ನೀತಿ ನಿರ್ಣಾಯಕರಿಗೆ ಉಪಯುಕ್ತ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು.

2. ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸದೃಢ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ವಾತಾವರಣವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಪ್ರೇರಣೆ ನೀಡುವುದು.

3. ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಿ ಇತರ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಇಂತಹ ಅಧ್ಯಯನಗಳ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶಗಳು

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಕೊರತೆ ಬಹುಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು	ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಧೋರಣೆ
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಗಳು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿದ್ದವು	ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಒತ್ತಡ, ಆತಂಕ, ಮತ್ತು ನಿರಾಶೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿತ್ತು
ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯದ ಕೊರತೆ	

ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಸಲಹೆಗಳು

ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಭದ್ರತೆ ನೀಡುವ ಸಮರ್ಥ ನೀತಿನಿರ್ಮಾಣ	ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸಂಘಟಿತ ಶಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತೇಜನೆ
ವೇತನದ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮಾನದಂಡ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸುವುದು	ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ
ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ತರಬೇತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ನೀಡುವುದು	ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಹಾಯ
ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಸಹಾಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ	

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ಆಧಾರ ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವರದಿಗಳು

1. ಗ್ರಂಥದ ಹೆಸರು: ಖಿಜ ಆಠುಠಟಿ ಠಜಿ ಐಚಿಛಠಣಡಿ ಎಟಿ ಖಠಛಿಜಣಥಿ ▯ ಲೇಖಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಇಒಖಐಇ ಆಗಖಏಊಇಖಒ ▯ ಗ್ರಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ವರ್ಷ: 1893 ▯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಈಖಇಇ ಕಖಇಖಖ	**2. ಗ್ರಂಥದ ಹೆಸರು: ಖಟಿಜುಚಿಟಿ ಖಠಛಿಜಣಥಿ: ಖಿಜಟಛಿ ಚಿಟಿಜ ಖಠಛಿಚಿಟ ಛಣಛ** ▯ ಲೇಖಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಓಂಆಇಇಒ ಊಂಖಒಂಖಒ ▯ ಗ್ರಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ವರ್ಷ: 2018 ▯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಕಇಂಖಖಖಔಒ ಇಆಗಅಂಖಖಖಔಒ
3. ಗ್ರಂಥದ ಹೆಸರು: ಊಚಿಟಿಜಛಠಠಇ ಠಜಿ ಖಛಜಚಿಡಿಛಿ ಠಟಿ ಣ ಖಠಛಿಠಟಠರುಛಿಚಿಟ ಇಜಿಜಿಜಛಿಣ ಠಜಿ ಛಠಟಚಿಣುಠಟಿ ಚಿಟಿಜ ಕಿಣಚಿಡಿಚಿಟಿಣುಟಿಜ ಜಿಠಡಿ ಣುಜ ಅಔಗಿಖಆ–19 ಕಚಿಟಿಜಜಟುಛಿ	**4. ಗ್ರಂಥದ ಹೆಸರು: ಅಡಿಛ ಚಿಟಿಜ ಅಠಟಿಣಡಿಠಟ: ಖಿಜ ಖಠಛಿಠಟಠರುಛಿಚಿಟ ಖಟಠಠಚಿಛಿಣ ಠಜಿ ಅಔಗಿಖಆ–19** ▯ ಲೇಖಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಈಖಂಓಐ ಈಗಖಇಆಖ ▯ ಗ್ರಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ವರ್ಷ: 2020 ▯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಕಔಐಖಖಖಜ ಕಖಇಖಖ
▯ ಲೇಖಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಏ. ಒ. ಏಖಖಖಊಓಂ, ಐ. ಖ. ಅ. ಒಜಔಊಂಓ (ಇಆಖಖಖಔಔಖಖ) ▯ ಗ್ರಂಥ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಾದ ವರ್ಷ: 2020 ▯ ಪ್ರಕಾಶಕರ ಹೆಸರು: ಖಉಖಖ ಉಐಜಿಃಂಐ	

ವರದಿಗಳು

1.ಂಟಣಛಚಿಛಿಖಿ, ಕ. ಉ. (2020). ಅಔಗಿಖಆ–19 ಚಿಟಿಜ ಣುಜ ಉಟಠಠಛಚಿಟ ಊಖಉಜಡಿ ಇಜಣಛಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿ ಉಚಿಟಟಜಟಿರಛ. ಖಟಿಣಜಡಿಟಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿಚಿಟ ಊಖಉಜಡಿ ಇಜಣಛಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿ, 102, 1–3.

> ವಿಶ್ವದ ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೋವಿಡ್–19ನ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣೆ. ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಯ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2.ಂಟಜಡಿಛಿಚಿಟಿ ಈಜಜಜಡಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿ ಠಜಿ ಖಿಜಚಿಛಿಖಿಜಛಿ. (2022). ಂಡಿಟಛಿ ಠಜಿ ಖಿಜಟಛಿ: ಂಈಖಿ ಂಜರಿಣಟಿಛಿಣ ಈಚಿಛಿಣಟಣಛಿ ಕಿಣಚಿಟುಣಛಿ ಠಜಿ ಘಠಡಿಇ ಐಜಿಜ ಖಣಡಿತಜಛಿ ಖಿಜಠಠಡಿಣ.

ಖಿಜಣಡಿಖಿಜತಜಜ ಜಿಡಿಠಟ: ೃಣಣಛಿ://ತಿತಿತಿ.ಚಿಜಿಣ.ಠಡಿರ

> ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದ ಅರೆಕಾಲಿಕ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಭದ್ರತೆ, ವೇತನ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯಸಾಧನೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ಅಂಶಗಳ ಸಮಗ್ರ ವರದಿ.

3.ಓಚಿಟಛುಚಿಡಿ, ಆ. (2020). ಖಿಜ ಖಟಠಠಚಿಛಿಣ ಠಜಿ ಔಟಿಟುಟಿಜ ಐಜಚಿಡಿಟಿಔಟಿರ ಜಣಡಿಔಟಿರ ಅಔಗಿಖಆ–19: ಖಿಜಚಿಛಿಖಿಜಛಿ' ಚಿಟಿಜ ಖಣಣಜಜಟಿಣ' ಕಜಛಿಠಿಜಛಿಣುತಜ.

ಖಟಿಣಜಡಿಟಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿಚಿಟ ಎಠಣಡಿಟಿಚಿಟ ಠಜಿ ಖಟಿಜುಚಿಟಿ ಕಥಿಛಿಖಿಠಟಠರಥಿ, 8(3), 783–793.

> ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ಅನುಭವ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಡೆತಡೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಸಮೀಕ್ಷಾ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ.

Cover Page

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4.ಗಉಅ ಉಣುಜಜಟುಟಿಜ (2020). ಗಉಅ ಉಣುಜಜಟುಟಿಜ ಠಟಿ ಇಥಚಿಟುಟಿಚಿಣುಠಟಿ ಚಿಟಿಜ ಂಛಿಚಿಜಜಟುಛಿ ಅಚಿಟಜಟಿಜಚಿಡಿ ಎಟಿ ತುಜತಿ ಠಜಿ ಅಔಗಿಖಆ–19 ಕಚಿಟಿಜಜಟುಛಿ.
ಗಟುತಜಢುಣಥಿ ಉಡಿಚಿಟಿಣ ಅಠಟಟಿುಠಟಿ, ಖಟಿಜುಚಿ.
> ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸದ ಕುರಿತು ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ.

5.ಃಠಣಡಿಜುಜಣ, ಕ. (1984). ಘಣುಟಿಛಿಣುಠಟಿ: ಂ ಖಠಛಿುಚಿಟ ಅಡುಣುಡಣಜ ಠಜಿ ಣುಜ ಎಣಜಠಜಟಜಟಿಣ ಠಜಿ ಖಿಛಿಣಜ. ಊಚಿಡಿತಚಿಡಿಜ ಗಟುತಜಢುಣಥಿ ಕಡಿಜ.