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EXAMINING "INDIA AT 75"

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KALYAN BHASKAR,
FACULTY ADVISOR OF COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC
POLICY RESEARCH

On Indian's most significant achievement in the past 75 years...

'The most significant win for India which deems celebration after 75 years of independence is the fact that the country has continued to remain a democracy. All the predictions stated otherwise. If we glance at the history of this region of the subcontinent one did not have a functional democracy except India. Pakistan and Bangladesh were failing as democracies, Nepal and Bhutan were monarchies, China was going through a transition but never a democracy, Sri Lanka was struggling and Iran was not a democracy then. India before the British too was not a democracy. There were feudal and princely states fused together into a monolith called India, and this democracy was supposed to fail. British Prime Minister said that India is too complex a country to remain a democracy. Most of the democracies that emerged were mostly homogenous, such as in Europe. It was an experiment that was bound to fail. Today too, Nepal is trying to toy with its own vision of democracy, Bhutan is flirting with its individualised conceptualisation of the idea, Sri Lanka also has a mixed experience with it and so the very fact that we have still remained a democracy is commendable. Whether failed or successful on the other hand is a matters of perception.

It is something of a miracle that not once in those 75 years any other state instrument felt the need to acquire the absolute power. Looking at the way the military of Pakistan functions, apparently with a lot of public support it is not as if the Indian diaspora is anti-military but even in the precarious situation of Emergency, no other state function: judiciary or military felt that it was time to try something else, something new, something other than democracy. This is the most fundamental strength India has which India should relish and celebrate.'

On Indian Business School Students pursuing a career in Public Policy...

'Indian Business Schools are Schools of Managements and not Schools of Business. Business is a subpart of Management. Once you learn management skills, you can apply them in different settings be it business, government or civil society. If you restrict yourself to business, what role do you see yourself playing in public policy? But if you see yourself as a management student, then things would be quite the contrary. When students start their career post MBA life, there is a realisation, sooner or later, that public policy is going to affect them directly and indirectly. This has led to a demand for certification programmes in Public Policy to understand how governance works. For many companies, government is the biggest client. Because we are a democracy, it is not a unitary tier of government that companies have to deal with, they have their hands full from the sarpanch to centre. What do we know of the government processes and system, which are a part of public policy? How to influence public policy? If you are bringing disruptive technology, like Uber, Paytm, crypto, policies are catching up to that. Google, Facebook, Twitter are still finding it out how to deal with these public policy issues. No policy can survive without public policy. If tomorrow, the government was to ban Google like China, Google has no option but to shut down its business. Often when we teach students about marketing, finance, maybe there is an impression that the government is a silent or mute spectator, but everything that happens, whether legal or otherwise, it is defined by public policy. Take example of Crypto exchanges in India. Suddenly a directive from RBI and everything stops. This can happen across sectors. Hence, you cannot escape Public Policy.



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By: Aastha Vanwari
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Abstract

Economic corridors are a very crucial tool for stimulating growth, development, and long-term sustainability among various regions of the world. This article delves into the concept of economic corridors, their importance in promoting economic development, and fostering regional integration. The article touches on topics such as the concept, examples, advantages, limitations and concerns related to economic corridors.

Introduction

In the present times where various regions of the world are interconnected it is imperative for countries to collaborate for their growth and development. Economic corridors are therefore considered to be a very effective tool which helps to promote growth and development, knowledge exchange between different regions. Such corridors which are known to be integrated networks of infrastructure and economic activities of a particular geographically defined area have an aim to connect production and consumption centres, enhance regional cooperation which in turn will lead to inclusive development.

What are Economic Corridors?

Economic corridors along with being transportation networks also cater to economic development of many nations. They are a perfect blend of infrastructure facilities with suitable policy frameworks and activities which are focused on the interest of larger public. Economic Corridors can prove to be extremely helpful in driving sustainable growth and reducing poverty by enhancing productivity, providing better access to market and services and promoting economic clusters.



Benefits of Economic Corridors

1. Economic corridors provide numerous benefits which can result in sustainable growth and development. Some of them include:
2. Better integration and facilitation of trade: Economic corridors mitigate transportation cost, travel time which makes movement of goods, services and people more convenient. This results in improved trade and investment, job creation and increased economic activity.
3. Enhanced economic productivity and competitiveness: Economic corridors promotes the making of industrial clusters and special economic zones (SEZs), which results in enhanced product efficiency and better quality of products, which makes regions more attractive for investments.
4. Inclusive development and poverty reduction: Economic corridors can help boost underdeveloped regions by creating employment opportunities, making connectivity to market and services easier and by uplifting the regional communities. This can help in mitigation of poverty and inclusive development.
5. Enhanced regional cooperation: Economic corridors helps to develop alliance and exchange of ideas between different countries and regions, which leads to mutual benefit and joint success. This can lead to better resolution of conflicts, more efficient resource management.

The Challenges and the Considerations

Keeping the benefits in mind there are also certain challenges and that need to be looked at to leverage the benefits of economic corridors:

1. Funding large scale infrastructure projects: A substantial number of investments in the direction of infrastructure like roads, railways, ports etc need to be made for the development of economic corridors. Raising of adequate funds for the completion of these tasks is also a major challenge.
2. Looking into social and environmental concerns: During the development of economic corridors necessary measures should be taken to minimize environmental footprint and to maximize positive social impacts. The projects should follow the necessary laws in order to avoid any hazardous impact to the society and environment.
3. Guarantying equal dissemination of benefits: There should be equal sharing of benefits of economic corridors among all the stakeholders. Necessary measures should be taken to ensure the same.

Famous Examples of Economic Corridors

1. The New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor
2. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
3. East African Community (EAC) Northern Corridor
4. North-South Economic Corridor in India
5. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in China
6. Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Corridors

Economic Impact

The role of economic corridors is very significant in enhancing connectivity between regions and lowering transport costs. Better transportation facilities result in growing trade, investment, as well as creation of new, which in turn leads to eradication of poverty and improved living standards.

At the same time, it is also important to draw a line between economic benefits and evident social and environmental considerations.

Socioenvironmental Considerations

There is no doubt that economic corridors offer various economic benefits but at the same time they have certain social and environmental drawbacks too. Degradation of the ecological system and a rise in carbon emissions are a few considerations which need to be addressed and have taken place earlier. Spreading awareness among people for the same, and engaging communities in the same, creating laws and regulations to address concerns for the same are some measures to be taken into account in order to increase the viability of economic corridors.

Policy Implications

Governments and policy makers play a major part in the success of economic corridors. Governments should ensure effective planning and implementation of the policies that can be led to success of economic corridors. While formulating policies environmental, social and economic concerns should all be equally prioritized by the policy makers.

Conclusion

Economic corridors show us a great picture for attaining growth which can be worthwhile by way of boosting connectivity between regions, improving trade, and by prioritizing economic development. With increasing investments in economic corridors by various nations it is crucial to understand that nations should look at economic corridors not only as commercial activities but also as opportunities for inclusivity and sustainable development. To ensure success of economic corridors it is important to plan policies and frameworks for the same with utmost care keeping in mind that the policies should be able to leverage the benefits and do away with the challenges and considerations that have been faced earlier.

By: Anant Jain

Institute: SIBM, Pune

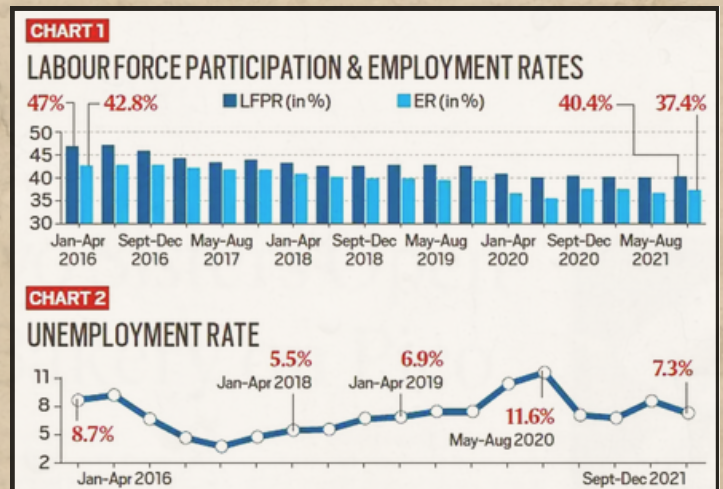
India, known as Bharat in its constitution, is at a pivotal juncture in its development journey. As the nation celebrates its 75th year of independence, it stands on the threshold of transitioning from a developing to a developed country by its centenary of independence. This transformation is underscored by a myriad of social, economic, and political strides, as well as challenges that define its path forward.

Societal Dynamics and Challenges

India's societal fabric is woven with diversity and complexity. As per the 2011 census, tribals make up 8.6% of the population, with over 700 tribal groups. Despite constitutional protections and legal provisions like the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006, tribals and other marginalized communities continue to face societal inequalities, as indicated by rising crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Addressing these societal disparities is crucial for India's development trajectory.

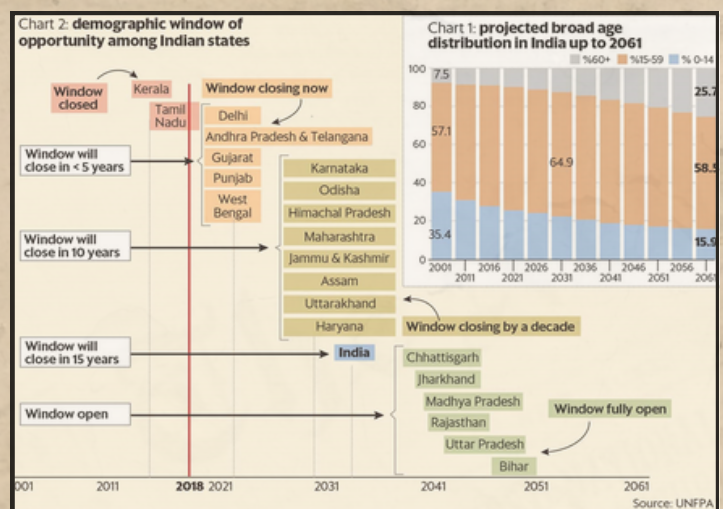
Women, constituting nearly half of India's population, are central to the nation's growth. Challenges ranging from underage marriages to domestic violence and underrepresentation in the workforce continue to impede their progress. However, initiatives like the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and programs aimed at increasing female labor force participation indicate a commitment to women's empowerment. The economic contribution of women in India is around 17% of the GDP, highlighting the untapped potential in achieving gender parity.

Children and youth represent the future of India. Ensuring their well-being is essential for sustainable development. Programs and policies focusing on reducing child labor, improving education, and healthcare are steps towards securing a better future for the younger generations.



Demographic Dividend and Urbanization

India's demographic dividend, with 62.5% of its population in the age group of 15-59 years, presents a unique opportunity. Capitalizing on this requires policies that enhance education, skill development, and job creation. Urbanization is another facet of India's growth, with the urban population expected to nearly double by 2050. Efficient urban planning, infrastructure development, and sustainable practices are pivotal in managing this urban transition.



Economic Growth and Inclusivity

India's economy has shown remarkable resilience and growth over the decades. The focus has shifted from agriculture to more diversified sectors like manufacturing and services.

However, challenges such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment persist. The Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022 highlights the extent of poverty, while efforts through various five-year plans and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 aim to alleviate these issues.

Inclusivity and efficiency is vital in ensuring that the benefits of growth reach all sections of society. Programs like the Good Governance Index 2021 assess and encourage states to improve governance, which is instrumental in effective and equitable development.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Concerns

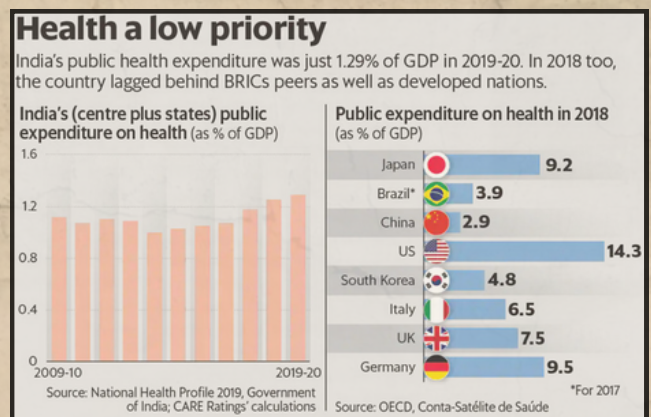
As India strides towards economic growth, sustainable development remains a priority. Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident in various national policies addressing poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water, and sanitation. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and its international commitments under the Paris Agreement reflect its dedication to environmental sustainability.



Health and Well-being

The health sector in India has witnessed a transformative journey. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has successfully been brought down to below 100 per lakh

live births by 2020, marking a significant achievement against the National Health Policy 2017's target. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 30 per 1000 live births in 2019, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin of the Registrar General of India (RGI). However, challenges persist, with over half of Indian women aged 15-49 years being anaemic, and a rise in anaemia since 2016 from 52.6% to 53% in 2020. Malnutrition continues to be a formidable challenge, with reports indicating that more than half of the children and women are anaemic in 13 of the 22 States/UTs. The COVID-19 pandemic has further stressed the healthcare system, underscoring the need for robust healthcare infrastructure and preparedness for public health emergencies.



Governance and Political Will

Effective governance is pivotal for India's development trajectory. The country's governance model, emphasizing efficiency and inclusivity, is reflected in its performance in various indices. For instance, in the Good Governance Index 2021, states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa have shown significant improvements, covering 10 sectors. Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index and the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report are also indicative of the strides made in governance reforms.

The Indian model of secularism, which respects and integrates a vast diversity of cultural, religious, and ethnic identities, is a testament to its strong democratic framework. Constitutional provisions like Article 14, 15, 16, and 51A promote secular and egalitarian values, ensuring participatory governance. The addition of the term 'Secular' to the preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976 further solidifies this commitment. Judicial pronouncements, such as in the SR Bommai vs Union of India case (1994), affirm secularism as a basic structure of the Indian Constitution. However, to meet the dynamic needs of its burgeoning population, continuous efforts in enhancing governance structures and political will are indispensable.



Challenges Ahead

While the strides are commendable, the journey from developing at 75 to developed at 100 is fraught with challenges. Addressing the ever-growing population and ensuring equitable resource distribution, managing urbanization, mitigating climate change impacts, reducing inequalities, and ensuring participatory and effective governance are among the myriad tasks ahead. In conclusion, as India envisions its transformation into a developed nation by its centenary of independence, it embarks on a path of accelerated development, inclusive growth, and sustainable practices. The journey will require a multifaceted approach involving robust policy frameworks, innovative solutions, and unwavering commitment to the nation's core values and objectives. The road ahead is long and winding, but with collective resolve and effort, Bharat can emerge as a beacon of developed democracy, upholding the spirit of 'Sarvodaya' - the welfare of all.

Developing the Country: India's Path of Human Resource Development Towards the Year 2047

By: Chinmay Danawat

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Introduction

As India has celebrated its 77th Independence Day on 15th August 2023, the country stands on a very crucial moment in its progressive journey. The journey from becoming a post-colonial state to the emerging global leader is truly impeccable. It also should be noted that after the vision for the next 24 years of India, reaching its 100 years of independence, will be even more ambitious. The essential part of this vision is to become from developing nation to developed nation, the goal which hangs critically on Human Resource Management. The article will aim to explore the strategies, challenges and opportunities that India has to hold to realize its dream of becoming a developed nation by the year 2047.

Historical Overview

India's history in HRD is one of notable breakthroughs and revolutionary changes. The country has launched many skill development initiatives and expanded access to primary education in an effort to achieve the full potential of its citizens. The current state of India's human resources is one of both achievements and enduring challenges. With one of the world's largest youth talent pools, India has the potential to become a worldwide HRD powerhouse. However, policies need to change all the time to take into account new local and global circumstances in order to accomplish this.

Important HRD Plans for Upcoming Development

India's progress in large part depends on overhauling its instructional system. Redesigning academic curriculum with a focus on creativity, innovation, and sensible competencies is India's top priority as it prepares for the demands of a extra expertise-driven global financial machine. It is vital that the curriculum include current topics like global citizenship, environmentalism, and artificial intelligence. This approach will not best make the educational device more relevant and reducing facet, but it will also produce a staff that is professional at trouble-fixing and bendy.

In order to make sure equitable boom, ability development ought to be accelerated and focused on not best city kids but additionally rural and bad populations. A comprehensive framework for expertise improvement at the national degree that consists of apprenticeships, entrepreneurial development, and vocational schooling is desired. Growing industries that could propel future task development encompass renewable power, digital generation, and healthcare. These must get unique attention.

It is vital that generation be covered into HRD. By utilising technologically facilitated talent training, virtual classrooms, and e-learning platforms, the divide between urban and rural regions can be bridged, allowing even the most remote parts of the country access to high-quality education and skill development. A government-mandated virtual infrastructure obligation, the National Optical Fibre Network is likely utilised to enable universal access to virtual mastery.

Partnerships with international academic institutions and business leaders may further benefit India's HRD obligations by imparting foreign knowledge and exemplary practises. Additionally, such collaborations may afford Indian professionals and students the chance to experience and benefit from global acclaim and pleasure.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 sets an exemplary precedent by aiming to modernise the academic apparatus of India. In accordance with the requirements of the present market, it emphasises adaptability, interdisciplinary learning, and skill integration. The successful execution of the NEP could be critical to India's HRD aspirations being come true.



Complications and potential solutions

India's HRD panorama is marred via using demanding situations collectively with neighborhood disparities, gender gaps, and ranging best of schooling and training across states. To triumph over those, the country needs inclusive and diversified HRD policies that cater to the particular wishes of different regions and groups. Decentralized planning and execution of HRD projects, with lively participation from neighborhood governments, can make sure extra tailor-made and effective implementation.

Function of Public and Private Sectors

The improvement of HRD signs has been notably aided by way of the Indian authorities. Prominent endeavours which include "Skill India" and "Digital India" have done extensive development in improving digital literacy and employability.

However, the position of the private location is in addition vital. Corporate involvement through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) responsibilities, internships, and employer-precise training programs can offer sensible exposure and employment-equipped talents to the teenagers. This symbiotic relationship a number of the authorities and private entities is essential for a holistic HRD method.

The end is the way forward

As India movements towards its centenary of independence, its human resources will be the cornerstone of its improvement tale. A sound HR method is not best approximately building a professional body of workers but additionally approximately fostering a society that is progressive, inclusive and geared up for the challenges of the 21st century. The journey from 'Developing@seventy five' to 'Developed@100' requires a collective effort, in which authorities policy, non-public region and public engagement meet. The project beforehand is hard however practicable, and the following 25 years might be critical in documenting this variation.

The Keystone of India's Journey from Developing@75 to Developed@100

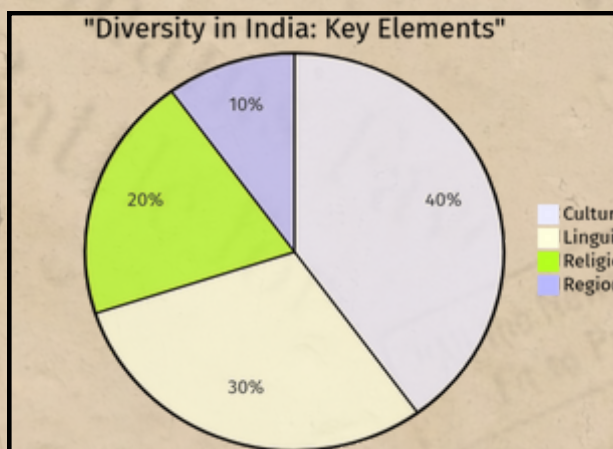
By: Vanamamala Giridhar

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Introduction

As India marks its 75th anniversary of independence, it finds itself at a defining juncture, envisioning a bold leap towards being recognized as a developed nation by its 100th year of freedom. This aspiration is not merely a chronological milestone; it's a transformative quest anchored in the profound realization of diversity and inclusion. These elements transcend their conventional roles as socio-cultural concepts, emerging as pivotal catalysts for national progress.

In this context, diversity and inclusion are not just about celebrating varied cultures and identities. They represent the cornerstone of India's developmental strategy, infusing vibrancy and multiple perspectives into every sector. This paradigm shift positions diversity and inclusion as strategic assets, essential for fostering innovation, creativity, and comprehensive growth.



Source: Proportional Representation of India's Diverse Elements; created by the author based on common demographic themes.

India's trajectory from its 75th year of independence towards a developed status by its centenary hinges on effectively leveraging its rich tapestry of diversity. By embracing the full spectrum of its societal fabric and ensuring inclusive opportunities for all, India is poised to redefine its developmental narrative, shaping a future where the collective strength of its diverse population propels it towards a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable tomorrow.

Diversity as India's Strength

India's mosaic of diversity, with its kaleidoscope of languages, religions, cultures, and traditions, stands as its most defining trait. Far from being just a socio-cultural showcase, this multifaceted diversity is a cornerstone in the nation's march towards development. It represents a confluence of myriad perspectives, ideas, and innovations, each adding unique value to the collective wisdom of the nation. This rich tapestry is not merely ornamental but instrumental in shaping India's growth narrative. It fosters a creative and dynamic environment, where diverse thoughts blend to spark innovation and drive progress, propelling India on an upward trajectory of holistic and inclusive development.

Inclusion: The Path to Harnessing Diversity

The true potential of diversity can only be harnessed through inclusion. Inclusion in this context refers to the equitable opportunities for education, employment, and political representation for all sections of society. It's about creating an environment where every voice is heard, and every potential is nurtured.

Inclusive Policies for Sustainable Development

For India to transition from developing@75 to developed@100, inclusive policies are non-negotiable. These policies should address the educational and skill gaps that hinder sections of society from contributing to and benefiting from economic growth. Initiatives like Skill India and Digital India need to be more inclusive to reach the grassroots levels.



Source: *India's Roadmap to Development; conceptualized by the author to illustrate the article's strategic framework."*

Inclusive Economy: A Pillar for Development

An inclusive economy, where there's equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities, is pivotal for sustainable development. This involves supporting small and medium enterprises, promoting entrepreneurship among marginalized communities, and ensuring fair labour practices across industries.

Social Inclusion and National Harmony

Social inclusion is the symphony that orchestrates national harmony. In a society where diverse cultures are not just acknowledged but celebrated, unity flourishes amidst diversity. Such an inclusive society lays the foundation for peace and progress,

creating a tapestry where differences weave strength rather than discord. This harmonious blend is crucial in positioning the nation as an attractive hub for global investments. It radiates a message of stability and cohesiveness, essential in nurturing a fertile ground for development. In this environment, every citizen, regardless of background, contributes to and benefits from the nation's growth, embodying the true essence of inclusive progress.

Conclusion

As India marches toward the milestone of a century of independence, the imperatives of embracing diversity and fostering inclusion transcend ethical considerations, becoming strategic linchpins in its developmental narrative. This is not merely a moral endeavour; it is a pragmatic strategy for national advancement. The rich tapestry of India's diverse populace is its most potent resource – a crucible for ideas, perspectives, and innovation. The nation's ascent into the echelons of developed countries hinges on harnessing this collective dynamism.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision of "unity in diversity" is more than an ideal; it's a blueprint for India's future. It underscores the belief that the confluence of varied cultures, languages, and traditions is where India's true strength lies. This unity, woven through the threads of diversity, is not just the aesthetic of India's societal fabric but its structural integrity.

The transition from Developing@75 to Developed@100 is a journey that transcends the mere passage of time. It's a saga of transformation, where growth is measured not just in economic metrics but in the strides made toward an inclusive and harmonious society. In this narrative, every citizen, irrespective of their background, contributes to and partakes in the nation's progress, crafting a story not just of development but of shared prosperity and collective pride.

Sports

By: Aseem Jain

As Bharat has celebrated more than 76 years of independence, there is a strong sense of national pride and the goal of being a major global sports nation by the time it turns 100 years old. Even while Indian sports have a rich history filled with Olympic gold and cricket victories, there have also been hardships, mostly due to a lack of adequate infrastructure and organised support. But the country is currently going through a paradigm shift—an infrastructural revolution that is bringing cutting-edge stadiums and training centres to both the rural hinterlands and urban areas. This change goes beyond just building physical venues; it's about cultivating an environment that naturally supports and elevates athletic achievement.

The development of sports infrastructure is one of the keystones in the transition of sports from developing to developed. Modern training centres, stadiums, and sports academies are springing up all throughout the nation. This is about building an ecology that supports brilliance, not just about constructing venues. World-class sports facilities are becoming more prevalent in both remote rural locations and major cities. Through the democratisation of sports infrastructure, talent is allowed to flourish throughout all of Bharat, not just in urban areas.

Any country that is competitive in sports has its foundational development programmes. Acknowledging this, Bharat is making significant investments in spotting and developing potential at an early age. Future sports stars are increasingly being raised in local clubs, colleges, and schools. Increasingly, mental training, dietary assistance, and specialised coaching are essential parts of grassroots development. Programmes such as "Khelo India" are serving as stimulants, not just in terms of spotting potential but also in terms of giving young athletes a stage on which to demonstrate their abilities.

Simultaneously, leagues, corporate sponsorships, and a change in perspective are transforming the idea that sports can be a successful vocation. Sports participation is now accepted as a valid and respectable career route rather than an alternative. Athletes serve as role models, influencers, and advocates for an active and healthy lifestyle in addition to being on-field heroes. The goal of the shifting mentality is to promote a cultural revolution in which all children view athletics as an essential component of their education and personal growth, rather than just producing sports stars.

Beyond the glitzy stadiums and famous athletes, the crucial path in sports from Developing@75 to Developed@100 is essentially about establishing a culture. Also, Bharat is a cricket obsessed nation. The days of concentrating only on cricket are passing, allowing other sports to grow. As new sports and backgrounds are recognised and celebrated for their greatness, the playing field is growing more inclusive. Being inclusive is more than just a catchphrase; it's a tenet that shapes how sports are portrayed in India.



Not only is the country competing internationally, but it is frequently winning competitions abroad. Athletes gain tremendous exposure on this international stage. Not only are multinational coaching staffs, worldwide competitions, and joint ventures with major sports brands raising the bar for Indian sports, but they are also fostering a winning mindset. The goal to reach the developed level is about adopting a philosophy of ongoing evolution and learning from the best in the world, not only about winning medals.

The incorporation of technology into training approaches is fundamental to this concept. Performance tracking, data analytics, and sports science are becoming essential elements. In order to improve, athletes are using data-backed methods in addition to their physical prowess. Virtual reality training, biofeedback systems, and wearable technology are no longer sci-fi ideas; rather, they are tools of the trade that help athletes get stronger and more intelligent. Furthermore, the scholarly domain is pivoting. It's not just about working out physically; it's also about cultivating the brains that plan and create behind the scenes. Universities and sports academies are working together more frequently to ensure that the country's intellectual wealth enhances its athletic potential.



The route forward is obvious but difficult, according to Bharat's vision of the sports department's transition from Developing@75 to Developed@100. It's about persistent work, ongoing innovation, and resolute support from all societal classes. The aim isn't only about taking home medals; it's also about creating a culture of sports where kids grow up playing football, badminton, or cricket with their bats. It tells the story of a country that is obsessed with sports and doesn't just enjoy them.

In this vision, sports serve as a light of excellence, unity, and a happier, healthier future for the country, rather than merely being a part of the national identity. Not only is Bharat growing, but it's also changing, and it's ready to make a mark in sports.

A Comprehensive Analysis of Human Resource Development

By: Sanskriti Agarwal

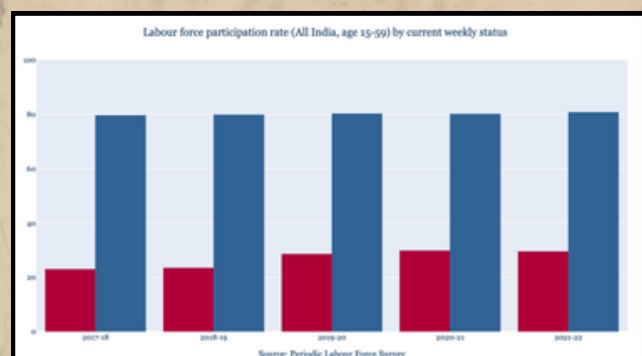
Institute: St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata (SXC)

Introduction

In the trajectory of Bharat's journey towards becoming a Developed Nation by its centennial, the role of Human Resource Development (HRD) emerges as a pivotal force. This submission embarks on an extensive exploration of HRD, meticulously examining the strategies, challenges, and initiatives necessary to transform Bharat's human capital landscape. By leveraging comprehensive statistical analyses, we aim to provide a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted dimensions of HRD as Bharat aspires to reach Developed@100.

Educational Landscape: A Statistical Odyssey

The foundation of HRD lies in education. This section undertakes a comprehensive statistical analysis of Bharat's current educational landscape. Key indicators such as literacy rates, enrolment figures, and regional disparities are meticulously examined. Time-series data and trend analyses provide insights into the progress made and gaps that need attention. The discussion revolves around evidence-based policy interventions to enhance educational access, improve quality, and ensure inclusivity.



Skill Development: Navigating the Workforce Evolution

The evolving needs of industries demand a skilled and adaptable workforce. Statistical models are employed to evaluate the effectiveness of existing skill development programs. The analysis delves into the correlation between skill acquisition and employability, shedding light on the areas where targeted interventions can enhance workforce readiness. The article advocates for a dynamic, data-driven approach to tailor skill development initiatives, ensuring they align with the ever-changing demands of the job market.

Entrepreneurial Resilience: Fostering Innovation & Job Creation

The entrepreneurial spirit plays a vital role in the economic fabric of a nation. Statistical insights into the startup landscape, success rates, and funding dynamics offer a comprehensive view of Bharat's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The submission advocates for evidence-based policies to support and nurture startups, leveraging statistical evidence to identify areas of improvement. By fostering innovation hubs, easing regulatory frameworks, and enhancing access to funding, Bharat can pave the way for a robust entrepreneurial landscape that contributes significantly to job creation and economic growth.

Women in the Workforce: A Statistical Examination of Gender Dynamics

Gender parity is not only a matter of social justice but a fundamental economic imperative. Statistical analyses illuminate the current state of gender dynamics in the workforce. This section explores the economic benefits of achieving gender parity and presents evidence-backed strategies to encourage more women to participate in the labour market. From targeted education initiatives to fostering a conducive work environment, statistical insights guide recommendations for inclusive growth.

Digital Transformation: Revolutionizing HRD through Technology

The intersection of technology and HRD is explored through statistical lenses. An in-depth analysis of the adoption of digital tools for education and skill enhancement provides insights into the impact of technology on HRD. The article discusses the effectiveness of remote learning, the penetration of digital platforms in education, and the potential of technology to democratize access to learning opportunities. Statistical evidence guides recommendations for leveraging technology to create a more accessible, flexible, and inclusive HRD ecosystem.

Conclusion

As Bharat charts its course from Developing@75 to a vision of Developed@100, the comprehensive analysis of Human Resource Development (HRD) unravels a narrative intertwined with challenges, opportunities, and strategic imperatives. The multifaceted dimensions of HRD, meticulously explored through statistical lenses, present a roadmap for fostering a human capital landscape that aligns with the nation's aspirations.

The statistical odyssey through Bharat's educational landscape reveals not only progress but also persistent disparities. This calls for evidence-based interventions aimed at enhancing access, improving quality, and fostering inclusivity. Education, as the cornerstone of HRD, holds the power to transform individuals and, consequently, the nation. Policy decisions grounded in statistical insights can pave the way for an educational ecosystem that nurtures the diverse talents of Bharat's youth.

In navigating the evolving workforce landscape, the statistical analyses of skill development initiatives underline the importance of aligning training programs with industry needs. The dynamic nature of skills demand requires a nuanced, data-driven

approach to ensure that the workforce remains agile and adaptive. By understanding the statistical correlations between skill acquisition and employability, policymakers can craft interventions that empower individuals to contribute meaningfully to the economy.

The entrepreneurial resilience of Bharat, as depicted through statistical examinations of the startup ecosystem, demands strategic attention. Evidence-backed policies can catalyze innovation, reduce barriers to entry, and create an environment conducive to job creation. By fostering an ecosystem that supports risk-takers and visionaries, Bharat can unlock the full potential of its entrepreneurial prowess.

Gender dynamics in the workforce, as illuminated by statistical insights, underscore the urgency of achieving gender parity. The economic benefits of an inclusive workforce are clear, and evidence-based strategies can dismantle barriers and create opportunities for women to contribute significantly to the nation's growth. From education initiatives to workplace policies, statistical analyses guide the way towards a more equitable future.

Finally, the intersection of technology and HRD, explored through statistical lenses, reveals the transformative power of digitization. Statistical evidence showcases the impact of technology on remote learning, digital platforms in education, and the potential for democratizing access. As Bharat embraces the digital age, evidence-based decisions can harness technology to create a more accessible, flexible, and inclusive HRD ecosystem.

In essence, the conclusion drawn from this extensive statistical analysis is a call to action. As Bharat endeavors to transition from Developing@75 to a Developed Nation at 100, the roadmap is illuminated by data-driven insights. The journey ahead requires collaborative efforts, evidence-based policies, and a commitment to inclusivity. HRD, as a linchpin for national development, must be nurtured and shaped by the wisdom gleaned from statistical analyses. Through a concerted and strategic approach, Bharat can sculpt a future where its human capital not only propels economic growth but also reflects the values of equity, innovation, and inclusivity. In the realm of HRD, statistical analysis serves not only as a compass but as a guiding light towards a Developed Bharat by its centennial.

By: Anmol Shahi

Institute: NTPC School of Business, NOIDA

Introduction

Energy is the Lifeline for all activities. The major energy-intensive sectors are Power Generation, Industry, Transportation, and buildings (Residential and Commercial). The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced ambitious climate change targets for India during Cop26 at Glasgow. India Aims to Achieve Net Zero GHG Emissions by 2070. Our updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Communicated to UNFCCC are:

- Reduce the Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from the 2005 level
- Achieve 50 percent Cumulative Electric Power Installed Capacity from Non-fossil fuel-based Energy Resources by 2030.

Also, under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), India aims to install a Solar PV Capacity of 100 GW (60 GW-Ground Mounted 40 GW-Roof Top) by 2022.

As per Central Electricit

As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Report, the Installed Capacity of India as of 31-05-2023 is 4,17,668 MW, out of which Fossil Fuel Share is 2,37,269 MW (56.8%) and Non-Fossil Fuel Share is 1,79,322 MW (43%).

In order to achieve India's Climate Goals and also to reduce emissions voluntarily, a massive transition should happen from Fossil Fuel to Non-Fossil fuel-based Energy.

This Transition Poses some real challenges like Huge Upfront Capital Investments, lack of Technical and Managerial Bandwidth, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Renewable Energy(RE) based Assets, Regulatory Challenges, etc.

Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS) / Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO)

EaaS / RESCO Model is a One Stop Solution for entities aiming to reduce their Scope-2 Emissions by Consuming Green Power, without any challenges. This is a typical subscription Model in which the consumer utilizes Green Power without purchasing and managing the RE-generating assets outrightly.



EaaS can be offered through both 'On-site' and 'Off-site' Solutions. On-site, the RESCO installs the Solar Panels / Wind Turbines on the Premises of the Consumer. Consumers may avail 'Net Metering' Facility also in order to Sell the Excess Power generated from the RE Assets to the power Distribution Utility.

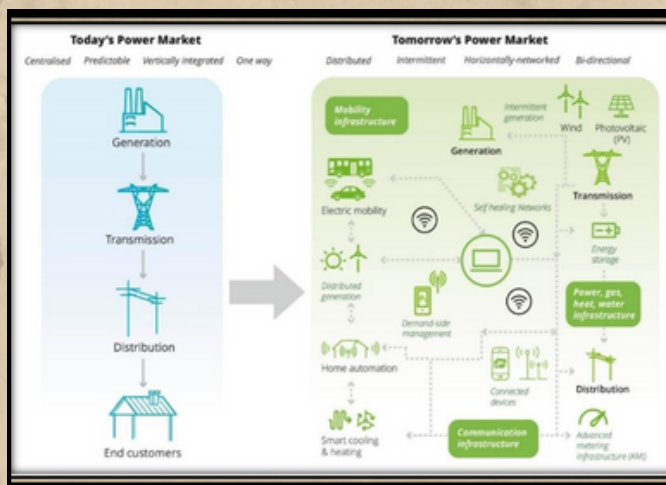
It is also referred to as OPEX Model / BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer) Model. The Service provider will Own, Operate and Maintain the Assets for the Entire Agreement period. During this period, the RESCO and Consumer Enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) which specifies the Quantum of Energy, Tariff, and other related terms. At the End of the Agreement period, the Service Provider Transfers the Ownership of Assets to the Consumer.

Various Analogies of EaaS:

- EaaS can be compared with availing catering services for meals, instead of preparing them yourself (Buying Vegetables, Kitchen Equipment, Managing Manpower, etc.), where you pay for the number of Servings Consumed. Similarly, Consumers pay for the number of Units (kWh) Consumed at an Agreed Price.
- Also, EaaS is Similar to SaaS (Software as a Service) in Cloud Computing wherein the Users were provided with readymade Software without the need to Own, Maintain and Upgrade required Hardware and Software Assets.

By Transferring the Risks and Challenges to the Service Provider, the user can focus and utilize their resources on core business activities. This Model Provides a Win-Win Scenario for Both Producer and Consumer:

- The producer is Assured of Steady Revenue.
- Consumers are Benefited through Reduced Energy Costs, Improved Accessibility of Green Energy, reduced Emissions, and Avoided Risks / Challenges.



Source:

<https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/energy-and-resources/articles/energy-as-a-service.html>

Advantages with EaaS:

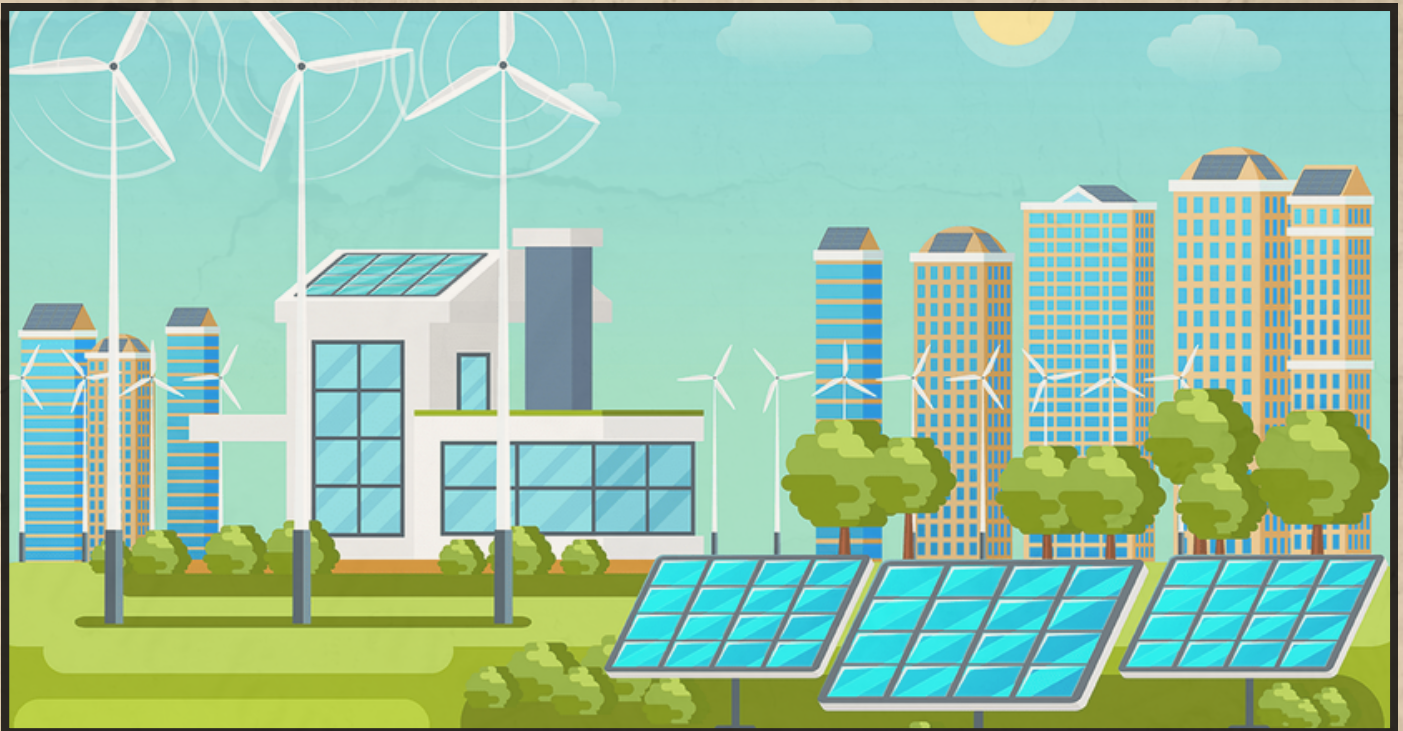
- **Reduced Upfront Costs:** One of the main advantages of the Energy as a Service Model is that it helps Customers avoid the High upfront costs associated with purchasing and installing Energy Systems. Instead, Customers pay a regular fee for the energy service, which can make it more affordable and accessible.
- **Reduced Maintenance and Operational Costs:** EaaS Providers typically handle the Maintenance and Operation of Energy Systems, which allows consumers to focus on their Core Business activities and reduce the burden on end users.
- **Improved Energy Efficiency:** EaaS providers often specialize in energy efficiency solutions, which help customers reduce their energy Consumption and Costs. This can be particularly beneficial for Commercial and Industrial Customers that have high energy demand. This not only lowers emissions but also unlocks system-wide benefits by reducing energy demand and easing grid congestion.
- **Flexible Tariff Setting:** EaaS providers offer a variety of Customized tariff mechanisms to suit the Financial Obligations of Consumers. Typical tariff options are:
 - Grid linked i.e., at a Fixed % of Grid Tariff - Tariff Varies along with Grid Tariff.
 - Fixed Tariff for the entire PPA Duration.
 - Tariff for a Specific Duration (e.g., Entire Billing in Initial 10 Years) etc.
- **Access to New Technology:** EaaS providers are often at the forefront of Energy Innovation, and can provide Customers with access to the Latest Energy Solutions and Technologies. Lower upfront Costs for New Solutions makes them more Agile and Adaptable, allowing them to more easily unlock new revenue streams, increase their competitive advantage and remain future-proof. It also helps their Customers Reduce Costs and Carbon Emissions.

Risks related to EaaS

- **Credit Risk:** EaaS providers are vulnerable to the Credit Risk of Consumers. It attracts legal disputes and delays the revenue streams. Which may impact the Cash Flows of the Company. Hence, EaaS providers should be dispassionate in choosing their clients.
- **Regulatory Risk:** Certain Regulatory Provisions Might Hamper the Growth of the EaaS Business Model in certain States.
- **Supply Chain Risk:** Manufacturing of Solar Panels and Wind Mills requires Rare Earth Metals which are mostly imported by India. Geopolitical and Climate Risks may Hamper the Supply of Raw Materials.
- **Paradigm Shift Towards Short-Term PPAs:** These Days, the Management are Preferring Short Term PPAs (10-15 Years) instead of Long-Term (25 Years). Since the Life of Solar Panels is 25 Years, a Short Term PPA will not assure the full realization of Capital Incurred.

Conclusion

With Numerous Benefits, EaaS is a Potential Tool to enable Decarbonization and Electrification of End Use. It also helps in Easing grid Congestion and deterring the need for Capacity Upgradation. With Energy-as-a-Service, the Asset-focussed, Fossil Fuel Based, Centralised Power Generation Approach can be shifted towards a Non-Fossil Fuel based, Decentralized, and OPEX Approach, which will ultimately address the Three Elements of Energy Trilemma i.e. Energy Accessibility, Energy Security and Energy Sustainability.



By: Ram Barath

Institute: IMI, New Delhi

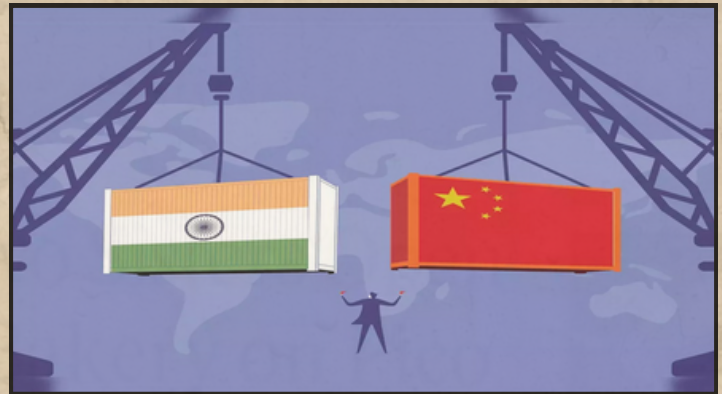
Introduction

While the world was witnessing the Bipolar power structure, a glimmer of optimism arose from the Unlikeliest of places: India. In the backdrop of the Asian environment, where global economic competitive currents are raging, India is on the edge of a historic moment—its advancement into the sphere of manufacturing domination. While the world witnesses India's rise, the question still stands: Can India overtake China to become the world's leading manufacturing hub?

"The world is changing, in many ways", an excerpt from *The Global Economy* by Gabriel Cruz comes alive. Beating all odds, India is positioning itself as a formidable contender. It is no more a narrative about historical supremacy; rather, it is a scrutiny of supply networks, infrastructure, and policy advances. The article embarks readers on a journey to discover how nuts and bolts can help India dominate— Literally.

The Rise of India

India has a new and refined hero— Its manufacturing sector. Recent data adds more weight to this story, revealing a growth in the Gross Value Added (GVA) from manufacturing—exhibiting a remarkable 11.2% gain in 2022. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has long been drawn to India's industrial capabilities, with a significant surge of 70.97 billion USD in the previous fiscal year. The nation's 'Make in India' campaign has carefully positioned itself as an appealing offer, particularly in areas such as automotive, electronics, and medicines. The NIP has attracted a colossal US\$1.5 trillion (Rs. 102 lakh crore) in cumulative investment since its launch in 2020. This astronomical sum paints a compelling picture of the project's scale and its potential to transform India's infrastructure landscape. Yet, amidst these statistics, challenges persist.



India Vs China

India and China have emerged as key actors in the global industrial arena, each bringing particular capabilities to the economic environment. China remains the world's manufacturing superpower, dominating industries including electronics, textiles, and consumer products. The country's manufacturing output, which exceeds 4.88 trillion dollars each year, demonstrates its unrivaled scale and efficiency. China's well-established manufacturing ecosystem and supply chain infrastructure allow it to provide cost-effective solutions, adding to the country's standing as a global manufacturing powerhouse. India, on the contrary, demonstrates agility and adaptation, presenting itself as a software development and IT services powerhouse while also embracing sustainability in its manufacturing sector. The country's emphasis on green and sustainable manufacturing methods is reflected in a 9.3% growth in renewable energy use in the manufacturing sector by 2023 (Source: Economic Times). As India and China manage the complicated dynamics of global manufacturing, it is apparent that they are not in direct rivalry in every domain. India has to leverage its growing skilled labor force to keep China at bay in areas of competence.

Challenges & Obstacles

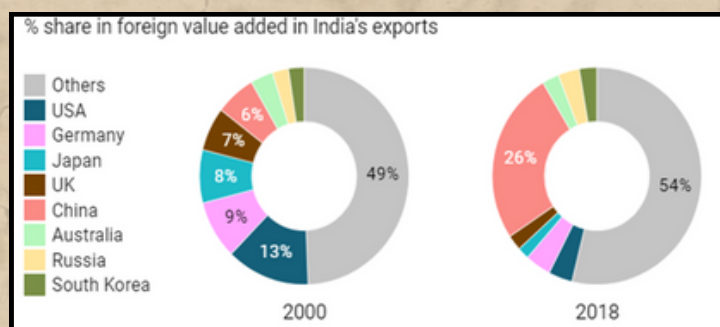
Untangling the web of global trade is no easy feat, and when it comes to China, the threads run deep. China's industrial behemoth, built on a foundation of low cost and infrastructure might, casts a long shadow across the world, including India. This section delves into the intricate challenges India faces in loosening its grip on the dragon's embrace, unveiling the economic realities that make a complete decoupling a distant dream.

- China still holds a commanding position in the global value chain due to its extensive infrastructure, low cost and vast scale.
- Countries like Japan, the U.S, Australia and India rely heavily on Chinese inputs for their exports.
- A staggering 25% of India's export value-add is attributed to China.
- While reducing reliance on China is desirable, economic realities make it difficult and expensive.
- Although India boasts of lower production costs than most nations, the ease of doing business, the infrastructure and regulations hinder its manufacturing potential.

The key is to create an environment that continues to nurture strong domestic companies like Tata Motors & Reliance industries. These companies can play a crucial role in technology transfer, supply chain development and in attracting foreign investment. This is where India lacks currently due to skill shortages, limited financing access and regulatory uncertainties.

1. Unbreakable Chains: India's deepening reliance on China

Since 2000, India's export dependence on China has grown steadily, casting a long shadow over its global trade aspirations.



2 Global Apparel Sector - Market Share by Country(2023)

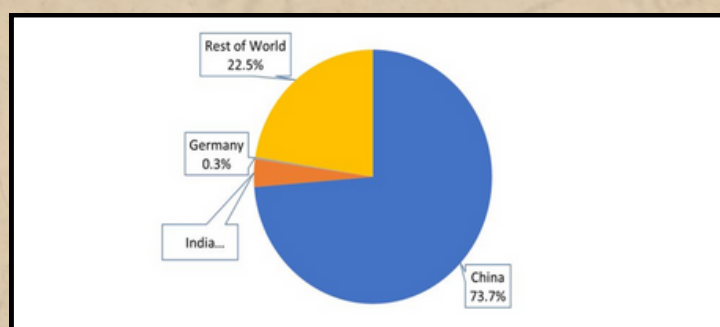


Image Interpretation: The shadow of China looms large even in areas such as Apparel & Fashion. China's Apparel & Fashion industry dwarfs India with a \$500 billion value, capturing nearly 75% of the global market compared to India's mere 35% (\$24 billion). In essence, progress and potential coexist with stark realities for India's manufacturing ambitions.

Policies to Overtake China

India's quest of manufacturing dominance over China demands a sophisticated and empirically led approach that understands the complicated dynamics of both economies. The seamless integration of Industry 4.0 technologies has the potential to improve industrial efficiency and global competitiveness. Data-driven insights demonstrate a noticeable 54% increase in the use of intelligent manufacturing techniques, indicating a good trajectory (Source: PWC). The requirement of strategic infrastructure investments emerges as another crucial factor in India's drive. While China has built a large and efficient manufacturing environment, India can close the gap by improving logistics and supply chain infrastructure. Sustainability, as a central concept, has the potential to distinguish India in the global industrial arena. Aligning environmental consciousness with economic success might help India gain a favorable international reputation as a conscientious and responsible manufacturing base. Overall, India's aspiration to surpass China in manufacturing demands a multidimensional strategy grounded in data and pragmatism.

Conclusion

In an era of ambition and industry, India's quest to outperform China in manufacturing resonates like a sonnet written on the canvas of development. In this grand finale, India stands in front of the entire world, not just as a contender, but as a protagonist. While the preceding reasons provide an element of hope for India to surpass China in the long run, proactive steps must be taken to shorten this long run. The ambition is tangible, the challenges are pragmatic, and the outcome remains uncertain.

By: Shivendu Kumar
Institute: IIM Rohtak

India, as a vibrant and diverse nation, has always upheld the principles of unity, diversity, and patriotism. In the pursuit of these principles, the idea of mandatory armed force service as a fundamental duty of Indian citizens has gained traction. While some argue that such a requirement infringes on individual freedom, it is important to consider the broader benefits that mandatory armed force service can bring to India – not just in terms of national security, but also in terms of personal development, social cohesion, and a deeper sense of citizenship.

Conscription, as a word, has been seen with a negative connotation when it's actually about serving the nation. Conscription is the compulsory enlistment of people in some sort of national service, most often military service. Conscription dates back to antiquity and continues in some countries to the present day under various names. The modern system of near-universal national conscription for young men dates to the French Revolution in the 1790s, where it became the basis of a very large and powerful military.



It may not be doubted that the very conception of a just government in its duty to the citizen includes the reciprocal obligation of the citizen to render military service in case of need and the right to compel. Countries like UAE, Switzerland, North Korea, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Iran, Norway, Greece, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, Israel, etc. are where the conscription system is followed, and on top of that, there are some countries like Norway, Sweden, North Korea, Israel and Eritrea where even females must serve for the country.

Why should India implement compulsory military service?

India being a democracy, its constitution has not provided for compulsory military training. In a democracy, anything "compulsory" is seen as being against the democratic principles of "freedom to choose". Hence the concept of compulsory military training has many nay-sayers. But this is not the exact case NCC was established in 1948 and in 1962 after a loss from China Indian government took the initiative to give weapons training to students in the summer holidays which was compulsory and continued till 1970. There are many other democratic countries like Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Switzerland which are the top 6 countries in the Quality of democracy index but they still have conscription systems. Although these countries do not have major threats from their neighboring countries, then why not India can have such a system where there is a threat from countries like Pakistan and China?

We have seen growing tension between China and Pakistan the Galwan Valley Conflict was the fiercest border conflict with China to have occurred after the 1962 war. The relationship between India and China is currently going through a critical phase. In 2020, the country's soldiers faced each other in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley, and several fatalities were reported daily, we hear news about the India and Pakistan conflict some of the recent examples are of Uri and Phulwama. China has the largest military in the world and Pakistan has the seventh largest military to tackle them and protect the security of the country the time has come when India needs to think of a compulsory conscription system. Although India has the second largest military but policy of security suggests that one should be prepared for the worst possible scenario.

It's a good idea to have a well-trained civilian as well as a trained army. Compulsory military service can give a person a sense of discipline and patriotism. The army also offers numerous chances for basic as well as higher education. Compulsory military training can be taken up after graduation and should be completed anytime before graduation. The training period can be 6-12 months depending on which branch the person shows a capacity for. After military training, the person should be given a choice of joining the armed forces or doing 6 months of compulsory social work. This will provide the armed forces with trained volunteers and the volunteer will get valuable experience that can count for school credit as well as an impressive resumé.



In Norway, 20% of the trainees remain in the military by their own choice. However, many think that we don't need bigger armed forces. Every year, there's a huge rush of youths competing with each other to enter the armed forces. And why not? The army offers good education opportunities, good salaries, and housing for the officer as well as his family, and don't forget the army canteens which provide essentials at discount prices. For India's vast collection of unemployed youth, the military is a good calling. So there is currently no shortage of soldiers, but a shortage of educated officers. The educated youth don't prefer the army as a profession as they know they have a ready market for their talent.

Conclusion

In conclusion, compulsory armed force services should not be viewed as a threat to individual freedom but rather as an opportunity for personal growth and a means to secure the collective freedom and security of a nation. Through structured skill development, discipline, and fostering a sense of citizenship, compulsory service can empower individuals to be more capable and responsible citizens. Promoting unity and social cohesion strengthens the foundations of a democratic society. When designed with flexibility and fairness, compulsory service can be a valuable investment in both individual and national freedom. Compulsory military service could instill discipline and a high sense of patriotic fervor in our youth. This offers a structured platform to deliver tertiary education and skills-based learning modules to our youth. Military training is not necessarily linked to combat or the ideology of war; it is rather "service to the nation". And therefore, a service of this nature is a good social-impact investment. Or call it "long-term impact investment". A concept such as this not only reminds the citizens of their roots but also lets them understand their obligations as citizens for the nation-building cause. And to see the nation without any "isms" or bias or get carried away by fancy acronyms or smart hashtags. As a stark reminder of the Covid-impacted world, this idea could help bring back the sense of motivation and to use a formal system of developing "good citizens" for the future. This surely will be value-accretive to our economic development as well as societal values.

Can "Sarvajanik Sainik Shikshan" be a reality in years to come?

Khel ke maidan mein, Bharat ka junoon,
75 se 100, ek naya sapna, ek naya tyohaar.

Har kona har chhat, rang layega,
Khiladi banenge sitare, khwab honge haqiqat.

Cricket ka junoon, balla chhune ka maza,
Football ke maidan mein, har kadam hoga tez raftar.

Hockey ka jazbaa, badminton ka junoon,
Olympics mein tiranga lehrayega, hai yeh mera iraada.

Sab milke saath, khelenge hum ek saath,
Har maidan mein chamakenge humare sitare.

Khushiyaan baatenge, jeet ka jashn manayenge,
Bharat badhega, 75 se 100 ka safar tay karenge.

Khel mein hai junoon, himmat se hai bhara,
Bharat ko lekar chale, ek naye safar mein hum saath hain.

Khelenge hum dil se, khelenge hum pyaar se,
Bharat: 75 se 100, yeh hai humara sapna, humara iraada.



BONUS CONTENT





ENERGY: LAW AND THE LAND

By Akanksha Prasad

Energy has always been a very critical factor in crucial areas like development and managing pollution levels. Its importance has only increased in recent years due to its role in economic recovery from COVID-19, rapid developments in novel technologies, and the increasing awareness of the impact of policy-making in mitigating climate change. We are at a fascinating point where many variables must be considered while designing appropriate energy policies.

One, the world is shifting to renewables and technologies, employing the same quicker than ever anticipated. Hence a radical change in policy-making shall be witnessed in the coming years. Two, India is uniquely positioned in the ongoing geo-political scenario, which affects the global energy-sharing dynamics; hence each decision has to be taken with prudence and a long-term vision that balances internal and external interests. Three, India is still a developing economy, and considering the vastness and population of the country, providing equal access to clean energy to all while ensuring financial and technical feasibility can be challenging. Fourth, energy transition requires massive funds for initial capital investments, which developed countries are unwilling to share. The cost of capital is also soaring in developing countries, adding to the misery.

"India should display utmost caution while while designing energy policies"

It is currently challenging to count on investments in the sector due to poor ROI in the initial years, frail energy infrastructure mainly owing to the DISCOMs, volatile commodity markets, etc. Fifth, we have committed to lofty emission reduction targets in front of the world. Such a target can only be achieved by focusing on research and development, again an expensive affair. We can only benefit from this situation by leveraging the business opportunities associated with the energy transition.

Thankfully, India has realized this and is planning to use the mantra of self-reliance in developing its technology and infrastructure backbone to cut costs. It is thrilling to look at the interdependence of all these and many other variables and study how changes in one affect the other. Observing how taxation policies shall be leveraged to manage the current negative trade balances in energy and will be used to fund the energy transition, the alignment of energy subsidies with the larger government policy objectives, the impact of monetary policies, especially the ones targeted toward public financial institutions that lend to energy businesses, design of incentives to develop energy infrastructure and supply chains which can manage diverse sources like solar and wind power and scale up rapidly in response to exponentially increasing demand, the effectiveness of leveraging public-private partnerships and management of environmental and social costs in the process is going to be interesting.

Diplomacy through the ages

The fast-changing world with continuous disruptions by infectious diseases, growing rivalries, and threats of impending and ongoing wars with global implications has added massive uncertainties to even short-term foreign policy for India to stay relevant and meet aspirations. However, the situation for India@75 could be navigated by taking inspiration from the past and anticipating a broad shift of power centers in global politics.*

By Rutwik Borkar

The Past -A Game of Shifting National Interests

In the Nehruvian era (1947-1964), the critical focus remained on high idealism and securing external aid to build a foundation of a strong India. The key characteristic was a staunch emphasis on 'Nuclear Disarmament' to transform Global Order. Further, India followed a binding interest in 'Multilateral Institutions' with a special focus on Global Peace, creating an anticolonial world and using non-Alignment to balance rising US-USSR power centers. The dominant paradigm of welfare and advocacy of world peace was observed in initiatives like NAM and enlisting Panchasheel principles. The second phase, which overlapped with the tenure of Lal Bahadur Shastri, was a strategic dependence on the Soviet Union to enable faster nation-building. The third phase (1971-91) was about establishing an Indian Regional Assertion via India's display of hard power by liberating Bangladesh in 1971. India also refused to be bulldozed by pressure from the West, stood up via rejection of NPT, and refused to vote on Israel Issue. Further, in the fourth phase (1991-98), the post-collapse of the USSR and the economic crisis in 1991 compelled India to relook at choosing its strategic partners, initiating higher engagement with the West, ASEAN, and Israel. In the fifth phase (1998-2013), India emerged as a Balancing Power, especially against the rise of China for the West. (Seen in India-US nuclear deal - 123 Agreement). At the same time, India could establish a common cause with China on climate change and trade and consolidate further ties with Russia to realize BRICS Development Bank, CRA, and Remote Sensing Satellite. At the same time, Indian Foreign policy has been a champion on issues like terrorism and democratization of institutes at multiple forums, along with starting to project soft power in Yoga, Ayurveda, Bollywood, etc.

Present Day – A game of dehyphenation and vaccine diplomacy- India@ 75*

Today, the global order is far different than it was 50 years ago, with the development of a multipolar world and the slow declining clout of the West. The India of 2020 has aspirations of becoming a key global power with the ability and vision to project its influence far beyond its borders. India's deep engagements and high level of connections with almost all global powers also make it harder to take a side in disputes (Azerbaijan- Armenia, Russia- Ukraine, etc.), and often delicate balancing of forces seems to be the only way out. India's foreign policy promotes a greater understanding of the legitimate needs of all developing countries. It is challenging to pursue enlightened approaches to development in a world where protectionism is on the rise, terms of trade favor the rich, debt burdens have spiraled, corporate governance needs urgent re-definition, and the volatility of international capital transfers has affected productive investment flows to the South. Indian Foreign policy has pursued vaccine diplomacy over vaccine nationalism. India pledged in QUAD & G20 to provide

1 billion & 5 billion doses of Indian vaccine, respectively. However, during India's COVID-19 crisis in early 2021, India's advantages in using vaccines for humanitarian and geopolitical purposes evaporated. Efforts of China and the US to fill in the void left by India rendered India's return to vaccine diplomacy additive rather than distinctive. Notably, through broader global engagement and leading initiatives like Solar Mission and Raisina Dialogue, India envisions being a rule-maker and not merely a rule-taker in the future global order.

The Future – Flexible and Strong Stance driven policy driven by "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

The larger Indo-Pacific region is where Indian interests are at stake and need to be secured in the future. Indian Ocean Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) are considered among the most important in the world, with 60% of the world's seaborne traffic having thoroughfare. China's growing clout nudges India to build closer relations with Indian Ocean region (IOR) islands via IFC-IOR and IOC on white-shipping information transfer and building maritime domain awareness. Shedding its old diffidence, New Delhi must proclaim that it is no longer Non-Aligned and willing to align but instead based on shared interests and for world order. From the QUAD to BRICS to SAARC/BIMSTEC, India holds a long list of strategic memberships and has to manage its interests even in case of conflicts between countries.

Further, MEA's recent decision to create a division called NEST (New and Emerging Strategic Technologies) will aid in the long run, given the tech-driven realities. To harness the skill of Indians and get proportionate representation in global issues, technology diplomacy via collaboration in emerging fields like 5G, cloud computing, and AI is the way forward. It will help improve India's domestic stakeholders' interests and safeguard India's national security goals. Historically, it can be noted that significant changes in India's foreign policy have only happened in response to endogenous or exogenous shocks. For example, the reappraisal of security policies toward Beijing after the conflict with China in 1962.

Similarly, the pandemic shrunk India's economy by 23 % in Q3 2020, laying bare the country's inadequate health systems. However, as a global leader, India must practice envisioning changing times a priori and adapt the policy to have global stakeholders as its focus. India's reputation for ideating new ways for local and sustainable development can act as a model and intellectual resource for improving the lives of the poor and mitigating climate change. India @75 is well equipped to engage its diverse and talented diaspora to bring meaningful impact, consensus, and relations with nations to chart its course to become a global leader.



Defence Hour

Make In India: For the Jawans

For long India has been an importer of armaments, but now its time we look beyond and be the producers for ourselves

By Param Mehta

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (EAC-PM) released The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 on 30th August 2022, leading India to transition to a high-income country by 2047. The roadmap is based upon the 4S principles, and as per the press release - "The "4S" guiding principles redefine our approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by social progress, to be shared across all regions within India, to be environmentally sustainable, and to be solid in the face of external shocks."

Resilience to external factors is one of the goals of the competitiveness framework; the defence sector becomes a crucial area in accomplishing the goal, especially for a country like India. Multiple factors point to an increased role for India on the global stage. Firstly, India is pushing for non-alignment with either of the two principal axes and promoting the acceptance of its stance with foreign policy on international matters. India has successfully navigated the Russia-Ukraine war diplomatically by not taking a rigid view but instead calling for effective dialogue instead of war while protecting its national interest - managing relations with Russia, securing cheap crude oil, and avoiding sanctions from the US. Secondly, India has also been pushing for its permanent membership via the expansion of the UN security council, with four permanent members backing India's bid to the UNSC.

The Indo-Pacific region is a crucial area, with some 80% of the world's maritime oil trade flowing through the three narrow passages of water, known as choke points, in the Indian ocean. Considering India's proximity to the region, India will have to

"The NavIC developed by ISRO is a classic example of indigenous system that reduces foreign dependency"

play a crucial role in the region. Lastly, with the hypothesized Chinese "String of Pearls" strategy already under execution with multiple strategic points in the Indian Ocean region taken up by the Chinese military, India must play an offensive role in protecting itself while maintaining the area's stability.

A robust Indian military would help navigate the factors mentioned above and aid in achieving the goal. Such a need cannot be sustained with imported defence platforms, creating a high degree of dependence. A prime example of this is the need for India to buy fighter jets with open-source software that would allow integration with other weapon systems since India has a unique combination of weapon systems. There is also the dependency on foreign nations whose support might not be guaranteed in hostile situations, like the US not allowing India to use GPS during the Kargil war. The NavIC developed by ISRO is a classic example of an indigenous system that reduces foreign dependency.

There have been multiple successful indigenous projects undertaken by the defence establishment in India, namely INS Vikrant (India's first indigenous aircraft carrier), Tejas multirole fighter jet, Dhanush, INS Arihant (nuclear-powered submarine), Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher, Brahmos missile, Arjun Tank, the latest one being the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) – Prachand, the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) to name a few. These projects are examples of excellent project execution by various defence PSUs operating in this space. These projects were also marred with issues such as INS Vikrant being delayed by nearly seven years and plagued by a six-fold cost overrun to Rs 20,000 crore. Although Tejas has been a success for India, it has been marked by substantial delays, and the first squadron became operational in 2019, which marks over 30 years from the program's initial start.

The Indian Defence space has multiple stakeholders who play their part in both making the system efficient and laborious. Firstly, the defence public sector is unusually powerful since India has not focused on the involvement of the private sector in the defence space, which has led to the creation of state monopolies in multiple cases. Secondly, it is the Armed services themselves. There have been instances of poor planning and unreasonable requirements. For example, INS Vikrant has two SAC lifts that bring the aircraft from the lower deck onto the main deck, and the lifts were designed primarily keeping the LCA-Navy program as a reference. The LCA-Navy program was subsequently scrapped. The dimensions make it a close call for the F-18E/F Super hornet and cannot accommodate the Rafale M. Using Rafale might have been advantageous since the Air Force already operates the same platform and provides the necessary operational know-how. Even under Project-75I, wherein India plans to build 6 advanced submarines, interested parties have withdrawn from the project, citing they cannot meet the terms and conditions of the armed forces.

Thirdly, it is the Ministry of Finance since defence indigenisation is an effort that requires considerable long-term investment rather than constant short-term realignment. Our defence budget, especially the capital expenditure, is reducing while we cannot offset significant R&D expenditure with major exports. Lastly, the political leadership is plagued by the lack of expertise in this area, and they also lay their

decisions on the public's perception regarding the same.

With the modernization of the armed forces and the movement from conventional warfare towards unmanned systems and electronic warfare, the need for indigenisation is more significant than ever. With crucial projects underway, work on critical Tejas MKII and the development of Indian Aircraft Carrier 2 (IAC2) – INS Vishal, the need for strategic alignment of all the key stakeholders, is crucial for the successful and timely completion of such upcoming critical projects.

To build a better ecosystem for defence indigenisation in India, firstly, the role of the private sector needs to be expanded, and they need to be roped into the defence sector. This can be done by ensuring the predictability of the requirements by the armed forces along with clarity on the need and quantity that can be expected for the said project. A more comprehensive budget investment roadmap can improve the private sector sentiment, increasing competition, cost reduction, and innovation. The key players need to understand that the defence sector need not be able to reach the usual economies of scale since there can be a limited need for a particular defence platform. Only by creating export partners can help address specific cost concerns; hence, policy formulation and foreign relations should be managed accordingly. There needs to be a clear prioritization regarding cost, quality, and timelines. All three cannot be met simultaneously; hence, the factors must be focused based on the need and impact.

Lastly there, the concept of indigenisation needs to be better understood. Indigenization means self-reliance and is falsely equated to self-sufficiency; hence not, complete development be done in India. Instead, strategic tie-ups with critical players in the global defence space can be crucial in making rapid advances. The project to procure 114 multirole fighter aircraft (MRFA), which is going ahead with a "Buy global Make in India" route, can be an excellent example of said partnership. With multiple successful indigenous projects under its belt, the Indian Defence space is only expected to strengthen and proceed faster in the coming years. Going forward, long-term investments, leveraging the expertise of the private sector, especially the startup ecosystem and stakeholder management, would allow India to transition from one of the major defense equipment importers to a defense equipment exporter.



Human Resource Development: Educational status of the rural India and its impact on the young demographic dividend

Getting left behind

India has been a renowned seat of learning and excellence with a rich tradition of imparting knowledge. It has 'Nalanda,' the oldest university in the world. Many branches of study have their origins in India. Education was of high stature in ancient India. With the advent of the British and the colonialization of India, the education system suffered a great setback. English ways of teaching were introduced, which replaced age-old systems of education in our country. There has been a drastic improvement in the literacy rate from a meager 12% in 1947 to 80% today. Many policies have been introduced to promote the educational infrastructure of the nation and the propagation of digital learning. But still, for rural India, quality education is a distant dream. The primary source of education in rural India is government schools. Although in current times, the accessibility of schools has increased, the quality of education is still sub-par. There is a lack of infrastructure maintenance, which affects the school life of students. There is a scarcity of teaching staff in these institutions. Many cases have been reported wherein the faculty made the students run errands for them during class hours, where students were made to clean the premises and help in cooking midday meals, a scheme which successfully attracted turnout at schools. This paints a very gloomy picture of the future of our country since about 64.61% of our country is inaccessible to even basic education. This directly affects our country's literacy rate. The new education policy (NEP 2020) emphasizes digital education, whereas there is hardly any infrastructure required to implement this in government schools in rural areas. There is still some time left before the gap is bridged between the envisaged education landscape and reality.



The sad picture of Indian education can be detailed in a visit to the government school of Kundrijhor village in Tondanghatu Gram Panchayat of Chaibasa district, Jharkhand. One can see the sorry state of the school building, the lack of washrooms, the lack of teaching staff, and the clueless children with only two teachers responsible for both schooling and administrative work. These students cannot understand Hindi or English, languages taught in the school, though they have successfully graduated the 8th grade, owing to the "No fail till class 8" policy of the government. This policy looks different in newspapers and media. But seeing the ground reality creates concern regarding the future of these students. Needless to say, rural students face a number of socioeconomic circumstances. They lack access to quality early reading opportunities because of financial crunch or lack of awareness. There has been a conscious effort to introduce digital learning, and for that, having a compatible infrastructure is a must. This has come a long way in ensuring a wider bandwidth of knowledge exposure to the students. Government policies like mandating education, mid-day meals, and illegalizing child labor are fundamental steps to ensure that kids at that age attend school. The aforementioned school in the Chaibasa district had an online attendance register, which ensured that student turnout was officially and systematically tracked.

What is clearly visible is that the lack of proper training at school translates into the wastage of the young demographic dividend. As per reports, India has spent almost a decade wasting its young demographic dividend. The unemployment crisis need not be only due to the scarcity of jobs. It could also mean a lack of the required skillset and competency in the candidates. Certainly, education plays a vital role in making people fit to take up jobs or learn skills for earning a living. Sheer numbers of young people do not ensure economic growth. It's the quality of talent that is required and has an actual impact. An IMD Business School report showed that India stands at the 62nd spot in terms of public expenditure per student and fares unimpressively in measures of the quality of education, such as student-teacher ratio and others. While on paper, India's literacy rate has crossed 74%, several studies have shown that over 50% of students lack basic literacy and numeracy skills even after five years in school. It is commonly said, "The rot sets in early," precisely during the school years. Inadequate infrastructure, poor quality or an insufficient number of instructors, and outdated curriculum, all add up to a skewed education system that produces incapable youth unfit for employment. This issue of wasted talent is a huge loss to the country. It needs to be monitored so as to produce efficient young people who can earn for themselves.



As the nation steps into the 75+ years since our independence, there is a sense of encouragement from the progress achieved so far. The government has rolled out policies like the New Education Policy, 2020 to create quality education guidelines and incorporate digital education. The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme to arrest the dropout of students after class 8 by giving them scholarships to study in secondary education schools; the Samagra Shiksha Scheme for students from pre-school to class 12 to ensure their quality and equitable education; the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan to encourage girls for secondary education; and others. These are aimed at encouraging education and giving incentives to the unprivileged section to come forward and become on par with the other sections of society. Many organizations like P&G (P&G Shiksha), ITC, Ultratech Cement, Pidilite Industries, Aurobindo Pharma, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Tata Chemicals, Welspun India and Grasim Industries help in promoting education, skill development, and financing educational institutions through their Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR. It is important that these schemes are implemented with the utmost diligence, and the importance of education is highlighted. Children and their parents should acknowledge the role of literacy and skill development so that they can ask for the benefits they are entitled to and utilize them.

"Human resources are the backbone of a country, and helping it develop is very important. It is the biggest asset a nation has. The youth are the future leaders on whom lies the onus of making our country a developed nation."

By Vandana Veer



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