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Government of India

NCGG
National Centre for Good Governance
The Torch Bearer of Good Governance

INTERNSHIP COMPENDIUM

3rd Batch'24

NCGG INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2024
Ignite Your Potential, Shape Tomorrow!

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INTERNSHIP COMPENDIUM
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> "India is among the world's most youthful nations. It is our government's endeavour to empower our youth. Through our initiatives, we are channelising their strength and making them self resilient."
>
> – Shri Narendra Modi
> Hon'ble Prime Minister

Forward

Shri V. Srinivas, IAS
Secretary, DARPG & DPPW
and Director General, NCGG

The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has emerged as a pivotal institution in enhancing the standards of public administration and promoting a citizen-centric governance approach within India. As the apex body for governance and public policy, the NCGG not only advocates for effective practices but also plays a crucial role in capacity building for both national and international civil servants.

A significant initiative under this umbrella is the NCGG Internship Programme, which shows our strong commitment to developing the next generation of leaders in governance. This programme is a vital opportunity for students, providing them with the skills they need to succeed in their future careers. By involving interns in hands-on experiences that tackle real issues in governance and public policy, the program helps them gain important skills and encourages creative problem-solving. Interns are immersed in diverse case studies that reflect the multidimensional challenges faced by public administration, thereby contributing to our overarching mission of achieving excellence in governance practices. The NCGG focuses on practical experience, allowing interns to see how government schemes and programs work in real time, bridging the gap between theory and practice.

We take great pride in the continuous influx of motivated and intellectually vibrant individuals who rejuvenate our efforts with their fresh insights and imaginative ideas. It is inspiring to witness the adaptability, collaborative spirit, and critical thinking skills these interns display in their research work. Resulting in empirical research based quality reports that celebrate their dedication, diligence, and innovative contributions. This compendium not only reflects the commitment of interns to public service but also highlights the NCGG's role in nurturing a robust pipeline of future governance leaders.

The thematic research reports cover a wide spectrum of topics, from the integration of behavioral economics in financial literacy initiatives to the implications of digital currency transitions in India. Each paper not only highlights the unique perspectives of the interns but also underscores the critical importance of innovative governance solutions in our rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape. The research conducted by these interns serves as a testament to their ability to engage with complex issues, analyze data, and propose actionable recommendations that can inform policy and practice.

Acknowledgement

Dr. Gazala Hasan
Course Coordinator &
Assistant Professor, NCGG

I wish to place on record my deepest appreciation for the commitment, professionalism, and passion of each individual involved in the team that has worked day and night since its very inception to make the NCGG Internship Programme an operational success.

I wish to express deep and sincere gratitude to Shri V. Srinivas, IAS, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of India, and Director-General, NCGG, for his visionary leadership and guidance in conceptualizing and implementing the programme. His unwavering support and encouragement have truly empowered the team to strive for excellence.

I am deeply indebted to my colleagues Smt. Prisca Poly Mathew, CAO & Consultant; Dr. A.P. Singh, Associate Professor and I/c Admin, Mussoorie Branch, Dr. B.S. Bisht, Associate Professor; Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, Research Associate; Dr. Zaid Fakhar, Consultant; and all the Young Professionals who have been instrumental in making the programme a resounding success.

I would like to take this moment to sincerely thank all mentors who so selflessly contributed time, expertise, and wisdom toward the grooming of these interns; their influence has been forever etched onto their professional journeys. Lastly, I would like to pay my heartfelt gratitude to all the supporting staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the programme. These collaborative efforts by every single person have made the internship programme most enriching, educationally and informationally, for all of us, and I am deeply indebted for their commitment and hard work.

Abbreviation

PM-JAY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
AEPDS	Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System
FAME	Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles
SSA	Singular Spectrum Analysis
PLI	Production Linked Incentive
CAA	Citizenship Amendment Act
NRC	National Register of Citizens
IT	Information Technology
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
FPS	Fair Price Shop
ORON	One Ration One Nation
AI	Artificial Intelligence
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
SVD	Singular Value Decomposition
RGSY	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Youth
CSC	Common Service Centers
LIF	Local Indicator Framework
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
SSA	Social Security Administration
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
UPI	Unified Payments Interface

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Executive Summary

The NCGG Internship Programme provides a valuable short-term engagement opportunity for students across various disciplines, with a duration ranging from a minimum of 8 weeks to a maximum of 6 months. This initiative serves as a platform for students to collaborate with multiple verticals and units within the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). It emphasizes research, critical study, documentation, and the dissemination of best practices aimed at developing a national repository and promoting broader dissemination of information. The program allows young students to learn and contribute meaningfully to public policy.

In its third batch, the programme garnered significant interest, attracting over 3,550 applications from across the country. After a comprehensive seven-round interview process, 17 exceptional interns were selected based on their academic excellence and commitment to their fields. These interns represent prestigious institutions such as the University of Delhi, IIM Shillong, IIT Kanpur, and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, showcasing a diverse array of backgrounds in public policy, law, governance, and climate change.

The internship commenced with an engaging and interactive first week, featuring leading faculty from institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Indian Institute of Public Administration. These sessions provided critical insights into various themes, including climate change, e-governance, and artificial intelligence.

Each intern was encouraged to select a specific domain related to their academic pursuits, further enhanced by mentorship from esteemed academicians. This mentoring significantly enriched the interns' research experiences.

Throughout the internship, the interns worked on 17 thematic research papers addressing pressing issues such as behavioral economics in financial literacy in India, forecasting electric vehicle demand, and factors influencing foreign direct investment. Additional research topics included the transition to digital currency, assessments of the Aadhaar-enabled public distribution system, improvements in public service delivery, localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the challenges posed by urbanization on water resources. These research papers contribute to a deeper understanding of the prevailing governance challenges and societal issues.

The culmination of the 3rd batch of the NCGG Internship Programme is encapsulated in a comprehensive compendium, which compiling the research papers and findings submitted by the interns. This compendium highlights the innovative solutions developed by the interns to address challenges in citizen-centric governance. It acts as a knowledge repository aimed at facilitating progress toward achieving the goals of citizen-centric governance, ensuring that the insights and findings can be widely disseminated for the benefit of policymakers, researchers, and the public at large.

Detailed research papers of the Interns

Paper – I	'From bias to balance: the emergence of behavioural economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives' by Rujula Joshi	**Click to view**
Paper – II	'Forecasting Electric Vehicle Sales in India using Singular Spectrum Analysis' by Yash Aggarwal	**Click to view**
Paper – III	'Investigating the Influence of Governance Quality, Financial Performance, and Policy Frameworks on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows: Evidence from India' by Ishan Kumar Sarraf	**Click to view**
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Paper – V	'Localisation of SDGs, PRIs, and Good Governance: Analytical Study' by Ankita	**Click to view**
Paper – VI	'An Assessment of Effectiveness of Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AEPDS) in Forbesganj Block of Araria District, Bihar' by Aditya Utpal Jha	**Click to view**
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Paper – XIV	'Analysis of Mass Health Insurance Scheme Concerning Ayushman Bharat's-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in Muradnagar District' by Aashi Tyagi	**Click to view**
Paper – XV	'An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies' by Vinayak Gupta	**Click to view**
Paper – XVI	'Strengthening of Local Governance for Cyclone Disaster Management : A case study of Puducherry District' by Bandla Sethuram	**Click to view**
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Paper

1

Rujula Joshi

'From bias to balance: the emergence of behavioural economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives'

"

This study highlights the need to integrate behavioral economics into Delhi's financial education policies to address biases like impulsive spending. It recommends simplifying information and incorporating behavioral insights to promote better financial decisions.

"

'From bias to balance: the emergence of behavioural economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives'

Scope of Study

The research paper titled "From Bias to Balance: The Emergence of Behavioural Economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives" by Ms. Rujula Joshi explores the integration of behavioral economics principles into financial education policies aimed at enhancing financial literacy among citizens of Delhi, India. The study addresses the critical gaps in existing financial literacy initiatives, particularly in recognizing and addressing behavioral biases that influence financial decision-making. By examining the role of these biases, the research aims to identify potential areas for improvement in the design and implementation of financial education initiatives.

Problem Statement

Despite significant efforts to promote financial literacy in India, a substantial portion of the population remains financially illiterate, with only 27% of Indian adults being financially literate and only 24% of women meeting the minimum threshold for financial literacy set by the Reserve Bank of India. The existing financial literacy programs primarily focus on imparting knowledge and skills, often neglecting the influence of behavioral biases that significantly impact financial decision-making. This oversight limits the effectiveness of these programs and hinders the overall financial well-being of individuals. Therefore, there is a pressing need to explore how behavioral economics can be systematically integrated into financial literacy initiatives to mitigate biases and improve financial outcomes
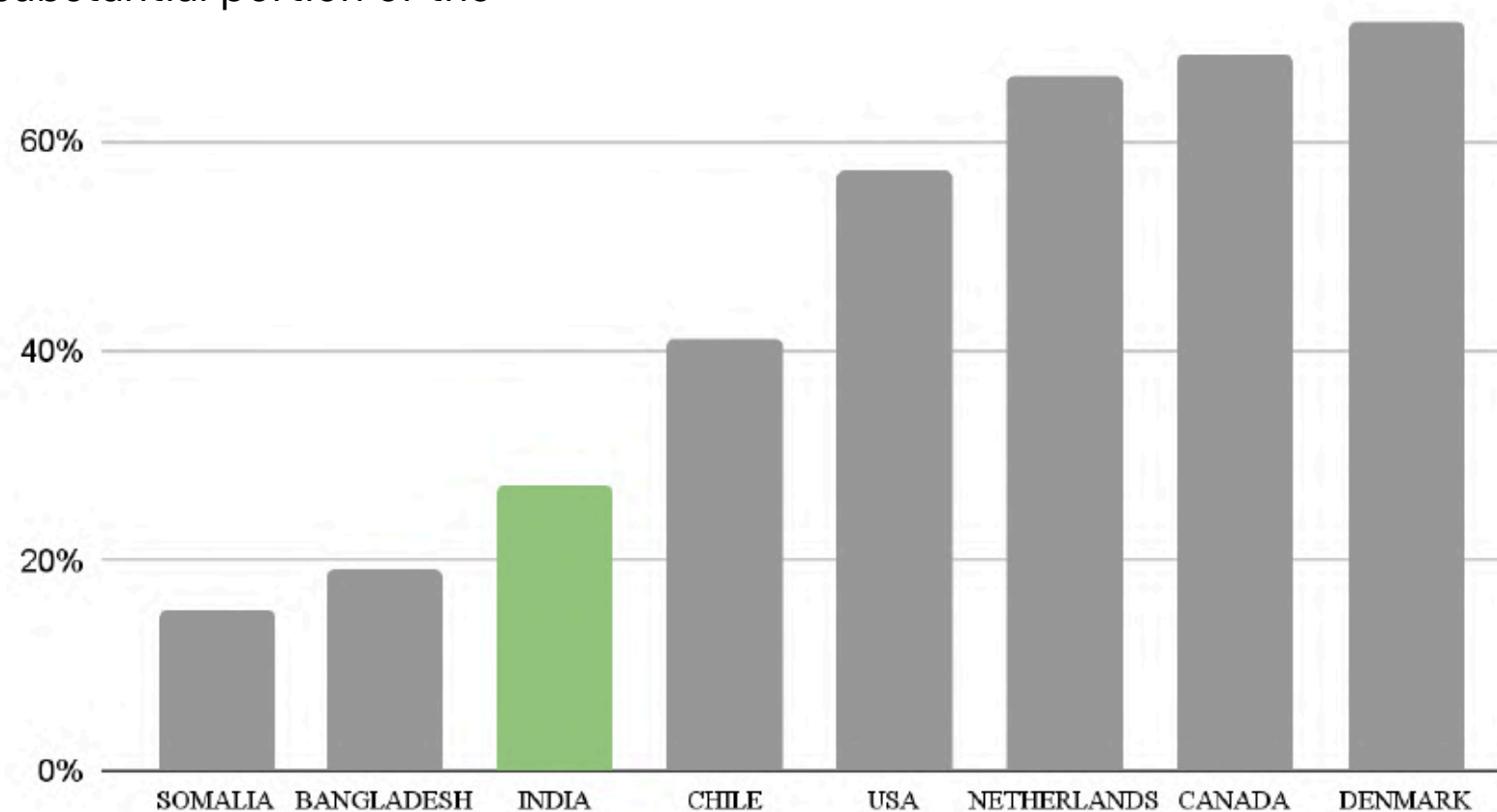

Figure 1: Financial literacy around the globe

'From bias to balance: the emergence of behavioural economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives'

Objectives

The study has two primary objectives:

- To identify potential areas for improvement in the design and implementation of financial education policies targeting citizens of Delhi.

- To evaluate the role of behavioral biases in shaping the decision-making processes of citizens of Delhi, aiming to understand their impact on overall financial decision-making within the community.

Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study consists of two main components: a survey and in-depth interviews.

- Survey: A Google Form survey was designed and distributed to assess the prevalence of biases in consumer decision-making among individuals aged 20-30 residing in Delhi. The survey included questions related to demographic information, awareness of financial education policies, and understanding of behavioral biases. Key biases explored included mental accounting, herd behavior, emotional gaps, anchoring, self-attribution, and social influence.

- Interviews: Following the survey, in-depth interviews were conducted with a diverse group of individuals, including academicians and professionals recognized for their expertise in relevant fields. These interviews provided qualitative insights that complemented the quantitative data obtained from the survey, enriching the overall analysis and interpretation of the findings.

Key Findings

The findings of the study reveal several significant insights into the financial behaviors and literacy of respondents in Delhi:

1. Awareness Levels: The survey indicated that 47% of respondents were aware of government policies or initiatives aimed at promoting financial education, while 54.7% were aware of the concept of behavioral biases in decision-making.

2. Influence of Behavioral Biases: A majority of respondents (59.8%) believed that behavioral biases hinder efforts to improve financial literacy. The study identified several biases that significantly influenced financial decisions:

- Mental Accounting: 76.9% of respondents considered the source of their funds before making purchases, indicating a tendency towards mental accounting.
- Herd Behavior: 70.1% reported feeling pressured by friends or others when making money decisions.
- Emotional Gaps: 79.5% acknowledged that their feelings influenced their money choices.
- Anchoring Bias: 77.8% were prone to anchoring bias, particularly in response to discounts.
- Social Influence: 76.1% often made purchasing decisions based on recommendations from friends or family.

3. Demographics: The demographic analysis revealed that the largest segment of respondents was aged 20-23 (46.2%), with a majority having completed higher education (44.4% with a Master's degree). The income distribution showed that most respondents earned between Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 6 lakh per annum.

'From bias to balance: the emergence of behavioural economics in Indian Financial Literacy Initiatives'

4. Descriptive Statistics: The study highlighted that respondents had relatively low awareness of biases affecting their decision-making processes, while biases were perceived to moderately hinder financial literacy. Many respondents exhibited consistent mental accounting practices and a tendency towards positive saving behavior rather than impulsive spending.

5. Thematic Analysis from Interviews: The interviews provided insights into the roles of various stakeholders in shaping financial decision-making processes in India. Key themes included the need for integrating financial literacy into formal education systems, challenges in integrating behavioral economics, and the importance of private sector innovations and nudging strategies.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations aimed at enhancing financial literacy through the integration of behavioral economics principles:
1. Reactive Measures:
   • Streamline reliable information regarding financial education and stock market initiatives.
   • Recognize and regulate 'finfluencers' to ensure unbiased financial advice.
2. Proactive Measures:
   • Courses on Financial Education: Develop comprehensive courses that cover behavioral aspects of financial decision-making and personal finance planning, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.

3. Integration of Behavioral Insights:
   • Embed behavioral economics principles into existing financial education frameworks to address cognitive biases influencing financial decisions.
   • Conduct regular surveys to assess behaviors using behavioral economics theories, tailoring policies based on the findings.
4. Collaboration with Stakeholders:
   • Foster partnerships with government bodies, educational institutions, and private sector players to enhance the effectiveness of financial literacy initiatives.
5. Awareness Campaigns:
   • Launch nationwide awareness campaigns to educate the public about behavioral economics and its relevance to financial decision-making.

Conclusion

The research conducted by Ms. Rujula Joshi underscores the necessity of integrating behavioral economics principles into financial education policies in Delhi to improve financial literacy. By recognizing and addressing the cognitive biases that influence financial decisions, individuals can make more informed and prudent choices, ultimately fostering a culture of financial well-being and resilience. The study highlights the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders and the need for innovative approaches to engage the population in financial literacy initiatives.

Paper

2

Yash Aggarwal

'Forecasting Electric Vehicle Sales in India using Singular Spectrum Analysis'

"

This study forecasts strong growth in India's EV market due to technological advancements and shifting consumer preferences, despite challenges. It highlights the need for supportive policies and infrastructure development.

"

'Forecasting Electric Vehicle Demand in India'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Mr. Yash Aggarwal focuses on forecasting electric vehicle (EV) sales in India through the application of Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA). The study addresses the growing importance of sustainable mobility in mitigating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in the context of India's severe air pollution and reliance on oil imports. The scope encompasses an empirical analysis of monthly sales data for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers from June 2017 to March 2024, aiming to provide insights for policymakers and industry stakeholders regarding the future trajectory of EV adoption in India.

Problem Statement

Despite the global shift towards electric mobility and the Indian government's initiatives to promote EV adoption, there exists a scarcity of empirical research specifically addressing the demand for EVs in India. The challenges of high costs, limited range, and inadequate infrastructure hinder the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. This research aims to fill the gap in understanding the dynamics of EV sales in India, providing a robust forecasting model that can inform strategic decisions related to infrastructure development, policy formulation, and market strategies.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. To analyze the current landscape of electric vehicle sales in India, identifying trends and patterns in the adoption of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

2. To employ Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA) to forecast future EV sales, capturing the underlying trends, periodic elements, and noise in the sales data.
3. To provide actionable insights for policymakers and industry stakeholders regarding the potential growth of the EV market in India and the factors influencing consumer adoption.
4. To highlight the implications of technological advancements, regulatory support, and shifting consumer preferences on the future of electric mobility in India.

Methodology

The research employs a quantitative approach utilizing Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA) as the primary analytical tool for forecasting EV sales. The methodology consists of the following steps:

1. Data Collection: The study utilizes monthly sales data for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers from June 2017 to March 2024, sourced from the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV).
2. Data Transformation: The raw sales data is transformed into a time series format and logarithmically adjusted to address issues related to non-linearity and heteroscedasticity.
3. SSA Decomposition: SSA is applied to decompose the transformed sales data into distinct components, including trends, periodic elements, and noise. This process involves:
- Constructing a trajectory matrix from the time series data.
- Performing Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) to identify significant components.
- Grouping the singular components to isolate the signal from noise.

'Forecasting Electric Vehicle Demand in India'

4. Trend Extraction and Forecasting: The trend components are extracted and analyzed to understand the systematic growth patterns in EV sales. Forecasting is conducted using the significant components identified through SSA, projecting future sales figures for each vehicle category.

5. Empirical Analysis: The findings from the SSA decomposition and trend analysis are synthesized to provide insights into the dynamics of the Indian EV market.

Key Findings

The study yields several significant findings regarding the future of electric vehicle sales in India:

1. Forecasted Sales Growth: The SSA model forecasts substantial growth in the Indian EV market across all vehicle categories:

- Two-Wheelers (2W): Sales are projected to increase from 145,623 units in March 2024 to 321,915 units by December 2024, indicating a more than two-fold increase.

- Three-Wheelers (3W): Sales are expected to rise from 66,759 units to 86,934 units, reflecting a 30% increase.

- Four-Wheelers (4W): Sales are anticipated to grow from 13,128 units to 28,755 units, representing a significant increase of over two times.

Figure 2: Logarithmic Transformed Sales data of 2W, 3W and 4W

'Forecasting Electric Vehicle Demand in India'

2. Sales Dynamics: The SSA analysis captures the sales dynamics effectively, indicating that technological advancements, regulatory support, and changing consumer preferences are driving factors for accelerated EV adoption.

3. Challenges Identified: Despite the positive growth projections, the study acknowledges challenges such as high retail prices, limited battery range, and inadequate charging infrastructure that could impede widespread adoption.

4. Policy Implications: The findings emphasize the need for continued government support, innovation, and consumer awareness to achieve sustainability goals in the transportation sector.

Recommendations

To enhance electric vehicle (EV) adoption in India, the study recommends:

1. Infrastructure Development: Invest in a robust charging network to mitigate range anxiety among EV buyers.

2. Government Support: Improve initiatives like the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) and the FAME schemes to provide financial incentives for EV purchases.

3. Consumer Awareness Campaigns: Educate consumers on the benefits of EVs, addressing misconceptions and highlighting environmental advantages.

4. Technological Advancements: Promote R&D in battery technology to reduce costs and boost EV performance for greater accessibility.

5. Collaboration with Industry Stakeholders: Encourage partnerships between government, manufacturers, and research institutions to foster innovation in the EV sector.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regularly assess EV sales trends and consumer behavior to adapt policies based on market changes.

Conclusion

The research paper provides valuable insights into the future of electric vehicle sales in India through the application of Singular Spectrum Analysis. The study highlights the potential for significant growth in the EV market, driven by technological advancements, regulatory support, and shifting consumer preferences. By addressing the challenges and implementing the recommended strategies, India can position itself as a leader in the transition to sustainable mobility, contributing to environmental sustainability and energy security. The findings of this research serve as a crucial resource for policymakers and industry stakeholders in shaping the future of electric mobility in the country.

Paper

3

Ishan Kr. Sarraf

'Governance Quality, Financial
Performance, and Policy Frameworks
Impact on Foreign Direct Investment
Inflows: Evidence from India'

" This study analyzes how governance
quality, financial development, and
policies like the PLI scheme affect
FDI inflows into India, highlighting the
importance of strong institutions and
effective governance for attracting
investments. "

'Governance Quality, Financial Performance, and Policy Frameworks Impact on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows: Evidence from India'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Mr. Ishan Kumar Sarraf explores the intricate relationship between governance quality, financial development, and policy frameworks in influencing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India. Given India's position as one of the leading recipients of FDI globally, with an influx of $84.5 billion in 2022, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the factors that enhance or hinder FDI inflows. The scope encompasses a detailed examination of governance indicators, financial development metrics, and significant policy initiatives that have been implemented to attract foreign investments.

The study is particularly relevant in the context of India's economic reforms and liberalization efforts since the 1990s, which have transformed the investment landscape. By employing rigorous statistical methods, the research aims to identify the key drivers of FDI and provide actionable insights for policymakers to enhance India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

Problem Statement

The paper addresses the critical issue of understanding how governance quality, financial performance, and policy frameworks collectively impact FDI inflows in India. Despite the significant role of FDI in driving economic growth, there exists a gap in the literature regarding the specific mechanisms through which governance and financial development influence investment decisions by foreign entities. The study seeks to fill this gap by analyzing the interplay between these factors and their implications for FDI trends in India.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the impact of governance quality on FDI inflows in India: The study aims to assess how various governance indicators, such as political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, control of corruption, and voice and accountability, influence foreign investment decisions.

2. To evaluate the role of financial development in attracting FDI: The research investigates the significance of financial institutional access, depth, and efficiency in enhancing India's appeal to international investors.

3. To examine the effectiveness of policy frameworks in promoting FDI: The study explores key policy initiatives, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, Make in India policy, and Startup India policy, to determine their impact on FDI inflows.

4. To provide actionable recommendations for policymakers: Based on the findings, the research aims to offer insights and recommendations to improve governance practices, financial development, and policy frameworks to enhance FDI attractiveness.

Methodology

The research employs a quantitative approach, utilizing statistical and econometric techniques to analyze the relationship between governance quality, financial development, and FDI inflows. The methodology consists of the following key components:

'Governance Quality, Financial Performance, and Policy Frameworks Impact on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows: Evidence from India'

1. Data Collection: The study utilizes a comprehensive dataset covering the years 2002 to 2023, encompassing various governance indicators from the World Bank and financial development metrics from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). FDI inflow data is sourced from the World Bank.
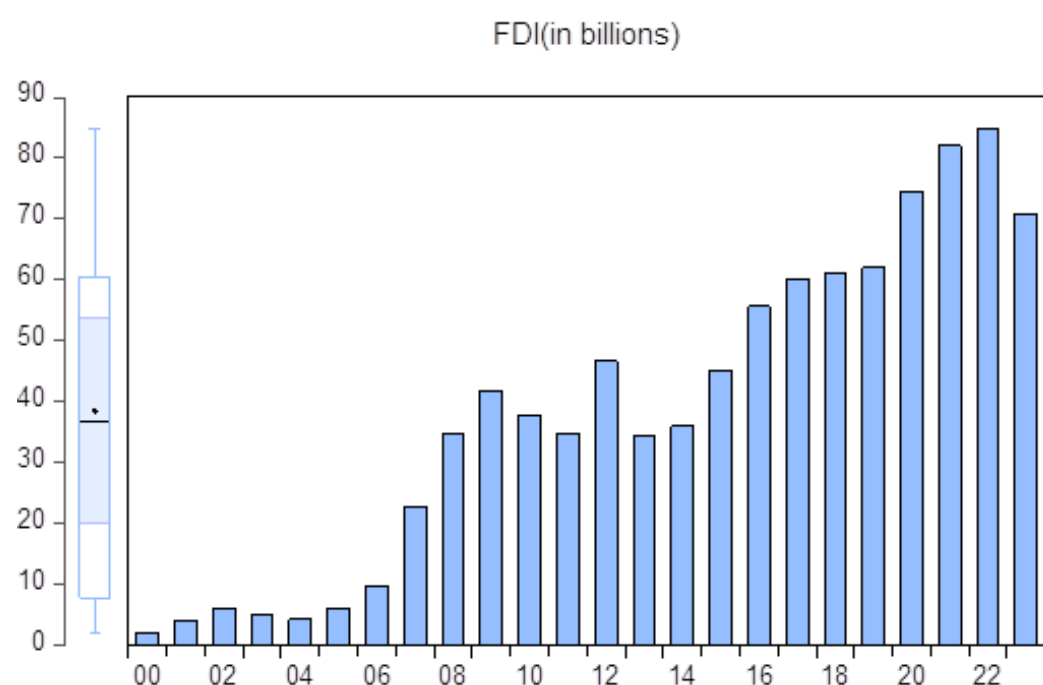

Figure 3: FDI Inflow in India (2000 – 2023)

2. Statistical Analysis: The research employs several statistical methods, including:

- Unit Root Tests: To verify the stability of the data and ensure that the time series variables are stationary.
- Correlation Analysis: To assess the relationships between FDI inflows and the independent variables (governance and financial indicators).
- Regression Analysis: To establish linkages between governance quality, financial development, and FDI inflows, employing multiple regression models to quantify the impact of each variable.

3. Model Specification: The study specifies a model that includes governance indicators, financial development indicators, and policy frameworks as independent variables, with FDI inflows as the dependent variable.

4. Residual Analysis: To confirm the reliability of the regression models, residual analysis is conducted to check for normality and ensure that the models adequately capture the relationships between the variables

Key Findings

The research yields several significant findings regarding the factors influencing FDI inflows in India:

1. Governance Quality: The analysis reveals that governance quality plays a crucial role in attracting FDI. Specifically, Government Effectiveness (GE), Rule of Law (RL), and Voice and Accountability (VA) are identified as key governance variables that positively influence FDI inflows. Strong institutions and effective legal frameworks are essential for creating a conducive investment environment.

2. Financial Development: Financial Institutional Access (FIA) is found to be a significant determinant of FDI inflows. The study demonstrates that broader access to financial services and capital is vital for establishing an environment favorable to foreign investment.

3. Policy Frameworks: The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is highlighted as a successful policy initiative that has contributed significantly to attracting FDI. The study emphasizes the importance of sector-specific reforms and targeted policies in enhancing India's appeal as an investment destination.

'Governance Quality, Financial Performance, and Policy Frameworks Impact on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows: Evidence from India'

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, several recommendations are proposed to enhance FDI inflows in India:

1. Strengthening Governance: The government should focus on enhancing governance quality by improving the effectiveness of public institutions, ensuring transparency, and reducing corruption. Initiatives to promote participatory governance and accountability should be prioritized.

2. Enhancing Financial Access: Efforts should be made to broaden access to financial services, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups. This can be achieved through targeted financial literacy programs and incentives for financial institutions to support underserved sectors.

3. Policy Reforms: The government should continue to implement and refine policy frameworks aimed at attracting FDI. This includes evaluating the performance of existing initiatives like the PLI scheme and making necessary adjustments to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

4. Infrastructure Development: Investment in infrastructure, particularly in transportation and digital connectivity, is crucial for facilitating FDI. The government should prioritize infrastructure projects that enhance the ease of doing business and improve logistics for foreign investors.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of FDI trends and the effectiveness of policy measures are essential. The government should establish mechanisms to assess the impact of governance and financial development on FDI inflows and adapt strategies accordingly.

Conclusion

This research paper provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between governance quality, financial development, and policy frameworks in influencing FDI inflows in India. The findings underscore the importance of strong governance, accessible financial services, and targeted policy initiatives in attracting foreign investments. By addressing the identified challenges and implementing the recommended strategies, India can enhance its attractiveness as an investment destination and drive sustainable economic growth. The research contributes to the existing literature on FDI and offers actionable insights for policymakers seeking to optimize the investment climate in India.

Paper

4

Deepanjali Kumari

'Digital Currency Transition in India: Prospects, Difficulties, and Consequences'

" India is exploring the adoption of digital currency, the e-Rupee, analyzing its feasibility, benefits, challenges, regulatory frameworks, and implications on financial systems to inform policymakers and enhance financial inclusion. "

'Digital Currency Transition in India: Prospects, Difficulties, and Consequences'

Scope of Study

The research paper titled "Digital Currency Transition in India: Prospects, Difficulties, and Consequences" by Ms. Deepanjali Kumari explores the feasibility, benefits, and challenges associated with India's potential adoption of digital currency, specifically the e-Rupee. The study aims to analyze the current landscape of digital currency in India, including regulatory frameworks, financial inclusion, security concerns, and the impact on traditional banking systems. By examining these aspects, the research seeks to provide insights into the implications of transitioning to a digital currency system and contribute to informed decision-making for policymakers, financial institutions, and the general public.

Problem Statement

The transition to digital currency in India presents several challenges, including a lack of awareness and understanding among the general populace, infrastructural limitations, and concerns regarding security and privacy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the launch of the e-Rupee, but the acceptance and scalability of this digital currency remain uncertain. The problem statement focuses on understanding the current barriers to adoption, the public's perception of digital currency, and the implications of these factors on the successful implementation of the e-Rupee.
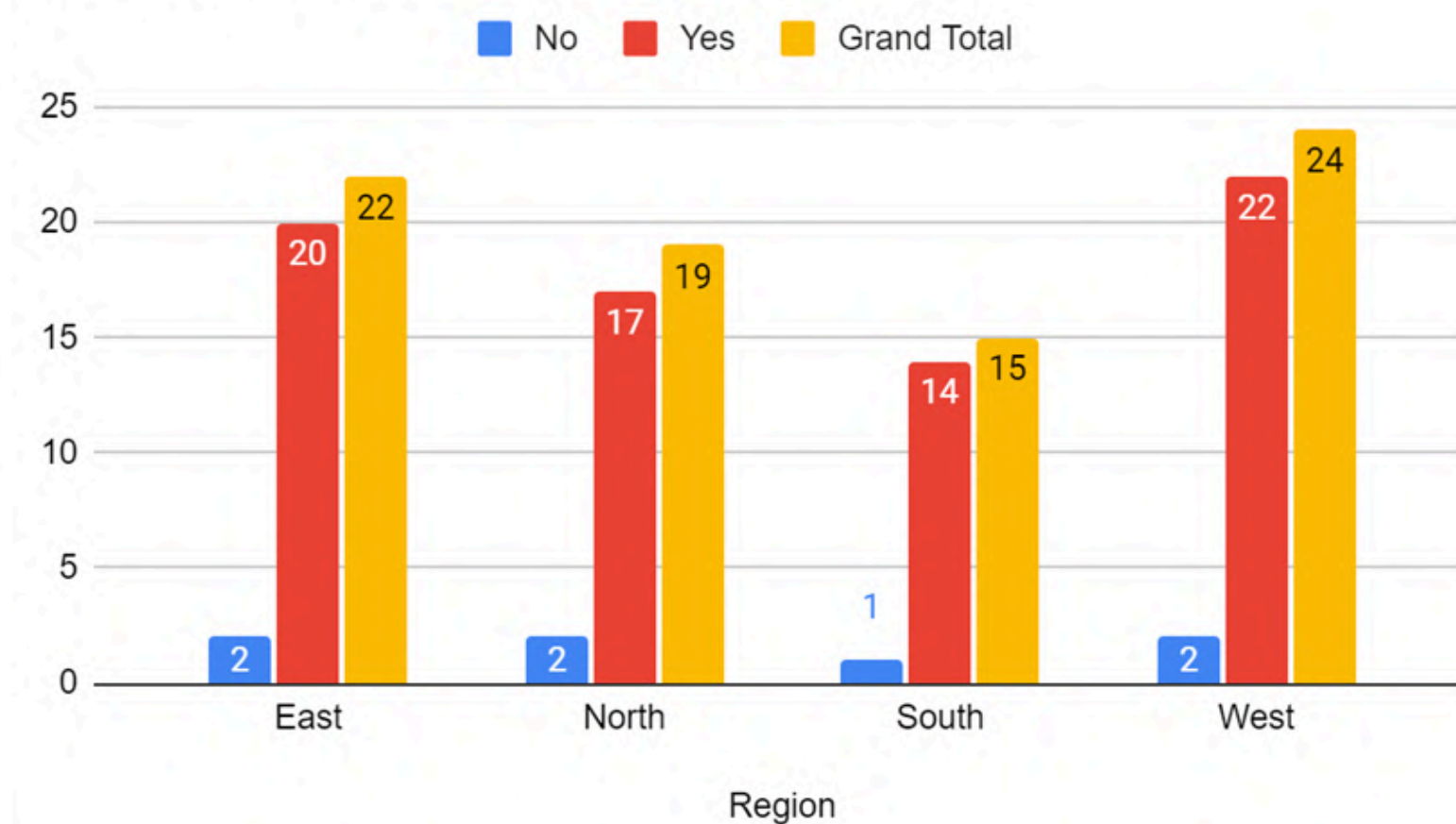

Figure 4: Awareness about digital currency across region

'Digital Currency Transition in India: Prospects, Difficulties, and Consequences'

Objectives

The primary objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To measure the scalability and accessibility of the e-Rupee among the general population.
2. To observe public acceptance of the e-Rupee and identify major challenges to its adoption.
3. To analyze what India can learn from the experiences of other nations in implementing digital currencies.
4. To study the future of digital currency in India and its potential impact on the financial system.

Methodology

The research employs both descriptive and quantitative methodologies to analyze the influence of digital currency on the Indian financial system. The study is divided into several key components:

1. Descriptive Research: This involves documenting and elucidating the characteristics and events related to digital currency adoption in India.
2. Quantitative Research: This includes the collection and analysis of numerical data to draw inferences and identify relationships between variables.
3. Sample Population: The study focuses on a sample size of 80 individuals, primarily targeting the youth demographic aged 18-25 years, with respondents categorized by region, gender, occupation, age, and educational qualification.
4. Data Collection: Data is gathered through a self-structured questionnaire, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. The primary data is analyzed using logistic regression to test the hypotheses related to accessibility and public acceptance of the e-Rupee.

Key Findings

The research presents several key findings regarding the transition to digital currency in India:

1. Awareness and Understanding: A significant portion of the respondents demonstrated awareness of digital currencies, with 75 out of 80 individuals familiar with at least one cryptocurrency. However, awareness of the e-Rupee specifically was lower, with only 37 respondents knowledgeable about it.
2. Scalability and Accessibility: The study identified that scalability and accessibility of the e-Rupee are major challenges. The lack of adequate digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, poses a barrier to widespread adoption. The research indicates that India ranks low in internet literacy, which further complicates the accessibility of digital currency.
3. Public Acceptance: Despite a high level of awareness regarding digital currencies, public acceptance of the e-Rupee remains low. Only 12.5% of respondents reported having used the e-Rupee, with many preferring existing payment methods like UPI due to convenience and familiarity.
4. Concerns About Security and Privacy: Respondents expressed concerns regarding the security and reliability of the e-Rupee. Issues related to data privacy and potential breaches were highlighted as significant deterrents to adoption.
5. Comparative Analysis with Other Nations: The research draws parallels with other countries that have successfully implemented digital currencies, such as China and Nigeria. These nations have established regulatory frameworks and public awareness campaigns that have facilitated the adoption of their respective digital currencies.

'Digital Currency Transition in India: Prospects, Difficulties, and Consequences'

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, several recommendations are proposed to enhance the successful implementation of the e-Rupee in India:

1. Awareness Campaigns: The government and the Reserve Bank of India should initiate comprehensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about the benefits and functionalities of the e-Rupee. This should target both urban and rural populations, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

2. Infrastructure Development: Investment in digital infrastructure is crucial to ensure that all regions of India have access to high-speed internet and digital payment facilities. This will facilitate the scalability of the e-Rupee.

3. Regulatory Framework: Establishing a robust regulatory framework that addresses security concerns and protects consumer data is essential. This will help build public trust in the e-Rupee and encourage its adoption.

4. Collaboration with Financial Institutions: Collaboration between the government, RBI, and financial institutions is necessary to create a seamless integration of the e-Rupee into the existing financial system. This includes ensuring that banks are equipped to handle digital currency transactions.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the e-Rupee's performance and public acceptance should be conducted to identify areas for improvement and adapt strategies accordingly.

Conclusion

The research conducted by Ms. Deepanjali Kumari provides valuable insights into the prospects, difficulties, and consequences of transitioning to digital currency in India. While the e-Rupee presents opportunities for enhancing financial inclusion and streamlining transactions, significant challenges remain in terms of public awareness, infrastructure, and security concerns. By addressing these challenges through targeted recommendations, India can pave the way for a successful digital currency transition that aligns with its broader economic goals.

Paper

5

Ankita

'Localization of the SDGs, PRIs and Good Governance: Analytical Study'

"

The study evaluates good governance in Rayagada's gram panchayats, highlighting progress in e-governance but noting gaps in community participation and resource use, recommending a targeted approach to Localized SDG implementation.

"

'Localization of the SDGs, PRIs and Good Governance: Analytical Study'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Ankita focuses on the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India, specifically examining the implementation of Theme 8: Village with Good Governance in four Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Rayagada district, Odisha. The study aims to assess the current practices, challenges, and opportunities in local governance and the integration of SDGs at the grassroots level. By employing a mixed-methods approach, the research seeks to provide insights into the effectiveness of governance practices and the role of community engagement in achieving the SDGs.

Problem Statement

The localization of SDGs in India faces significant challenges, including inadequate community participation, lack of awareness about SDGs, and insufficient integration of good governance principles within PRIs. Despite the government's efforts to promote decentralized governance and empower local institutions, there remains a gap between policy objectives and on-ground realities. This study aims to address the following key issues:

1. How effectively are the principles of good governance being implemented in the selected Gram Panchayats?

2. What are the barriers to community participation and accountability in the localization of SDGs?

3. How can the integration of technology and transparency enhance governance practices at the local level?

Objectives

The primary objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To assess the status of Theme 8: Village with Good Governance in four Gram Panchayats of Rayagada district using the Local Indicator Framework (LIF).

2. To analyze the incorporation of the 5Ts of good governance—Teamwork, Technology, Timeline, Transparency, and Transformation—within the functioning of PRIs.

3. To identify gaps in community participation and accountability mechanisms in the implementation of SDGs.

4. To recommend strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of governance practices and achieving localized SDGs.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies to gather comprehensive data on the localization of SDGs in the selected Gram Panchayats. The methodology includes the following components:

1. Study Area: The research focuses on four Gram Panchayats in Rayagada district, Odisha, chosen for their diverse socio-economic conditions and progress in implementing SDGs.

2. Data Collection:

- Primary Data: Primary surveys were conducted with key stakeholders, including Gram Panchayat officials, elected representatives, and community members.

'Localization of the SDGs, PRIs and Good Governance: Analytical Study'

- A structured questionnaire was developed based on the LIF parameters to gather perceptions and experiences regarding good governance practices.
- Secondary Data: The study also involved analyzing reports published by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, as well as data from online portals such as e-Gram Swaraj and RGSY.

3. Sampling Method: Purposive sampling was employed to select respondents, ensuring representation from various categories, including women and marginalized communities.

4. Data Analysis: The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis to identify trends, patterns, and correlations between governance practices and the localization of SDGs.

Key Findings

The research yielded several key findings regarding the localization of SDGs and the implementation of good governance principles in the selected Gram Panchayats:

1. Awareness and Training: The study found that awareness of the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) among Gram Panchayat officials and community members was limited. Only a small percentage of respondents reported receiving training related to LSDGs, indicating a need for enhanced capacity-building initiatives.

2. Community Participation: The involvement of –

– Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in the Gram Panchayat Development Planning (GPDP) process was found to be minimal. The lack of effective partnerships with NGOs and CBOs hindered community engagement and ownership of development initiatives.

3. Technology Integration: While some Gram Panchayats demonstrated progress in adopting technology for governance, challenges remained in terms of digital infrastructure and access to online services. The availability of Common Service Centers (CSCs) was limited, impacting the delivery of e-governance services.

4. Transparency and Accountability: The study revealed gaps in transparency practices, with many Gram Panchayats failing to display beneficiaries' lists and progress reports in Gram Sabha meetings. This lack of transparency undermined accountability and citizen participation in governance.

5. Implementation of the 5Ts: The analysis of the 5Ts of good governance indicated that while some pillars, such as Technology and Teamwork, showed promise, others, like Transparency and Transformation, required significant improvement. The study highlighted the need for a more integrated approach to governance that aligns with the principles of good governance.

'Localization of the SDGs, PRIs and Good Governance: Analytical Study'

Figure 5: Training of LSDG in Rayagada. Sources– Instagram handles of Zila Parishad

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, several recommendations were proposed to enhance the localization of SDGs and improve governance practices in the selected Gram Panchayats:

1. Capacity Building and Training: The government should prioritize capacity-building programs for Gram Panchayat officials and community members to enhance their understanding of LSDGs and good governance principles. Training sessions should be organized regularly to ensure continuous learning.

2. Strengthening Community Participation: Efforts should be made to actively involve SHGs, CBOs, and NGOs in the GPDP process. Establishing formal partnerships and signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with these organizations can facilitate greater community engagement and ownership of development initiatives.

3. Enhancing Digital Infrastructure: Investment in digital infrastructure is crucial to ensure that all Gram Panchayats have access to high-speed internet and digital services. This will promote the effective use of technology in governance and improve service delivery to citizens.

'Localization of the SDGs, PRIs and Good Governance: Analytical Study'

4. Promoting Transparency and Accountability: Gram Panchayats should adopt practices that enhance transparency, such as displaying beneficiaries' lists and progress reports in Gram Sabha meetings. Regular social audits should be conducted to ensure accountability and build trust among community members.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of LSDGs and governance practices should be conducted to identify areas for improvement. Feedback mechanisms should be established to gather input from community members and stakeholders.

Conclusion

The research conducted by Ms. Ankita provides valuable insights into the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is a crucial bottom-up approach that necessitates the convergence of all departments to achieve the indicators of LSDG and Good Governance. This approach is particularly significant in the context of Gram Panchayats, where collective efforts from officials and citizens are essential for successful implementation. The study highlights that while Gram Panchayats are making progress in terms of technical enhancement, there is still a need for adequate manpower at every step to ensure the timely completion of goals. Furthermore, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's initiatives, such as the national panchayat awards for achieving LSDG themes, are steps in the right direction, but more effort is required from the monitoring and evaluation side to ensure effective implementation. The involvement of Community–Based Organizations is also identified as a key factor in achieving the themes and eventually the SDGs by 2030. Therefore, it is essential that their role is not overlooked in the localization process. Raising awareness about the concept of localization at every level is crucial, and training programs conducted under the Revamped RGSA are a step towards achieving this goal. However, it is acknowledged that it will take time for this awareness to reach the grassroots level. In conclusion, the localization of SDGs is a complex process that requires the collective efforts of various stakeholders, including government departments, Community–Based Organizations, and citizens. While progress is being made, there is still a need for strengthening measures, particularly in terms of manpower and monitoring and evaluation, to ensure the successful implementation of LSDG and the achievement of Good Governance in Gram Panchayat.

India is a food surplus country; we are working on solutions for global food security.

– Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Paper

6

Aditya Utpal Jha

'An Assessment of Effectiveness of Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AEPDS) in Forbesganj Block of Araria District, Bihar'

"
The study evaluates the Aadhar enabled public distribution system (AePDS) in Bihar using the SERVQUAL model to assess beneficiary satisfaction and identify improvement areas, addressing previous PDS challenges.
"

'An Assessment of Effectiveness of Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AEPDS) in Forbesganj Block of Araria District, Bihar'

Scope of Study

The research conducted by Mr. Aditya Utpal Jha focuses on the effectiveness of the Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS) in the Forbesganj Block of Araria District, Bihar. The study aims to evaluate how the implementation of AePDS has impacted the Public Distribution System (PDS) in terms of service delivery, transparency, and beneficiary satisfaction. The scope encompasses an analysis of the end beneficiaries' experiences, the perspectives of Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers, and the insights from PDS officials. By employing the SERVQUAL model, the research seeks to identify gaps in service quality and areas for improvement within the AePDS framework.

Problem Statement

The Public Distribution System in India has historically faced numerous challenges, including leakages in the supply chain, fake ration cards, diversion of food grains, and issues related to the quality of service provided by FPS dealers. These problems have hindered the effectiveness of PDS in ensuring food security for the underprivileged sections of society. The introduction of the Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS) was aimed at addressing these challenges by leveraging technology for better service delivery and transparency. However, the effectiveness of AePDS in achieving its objectives remains uncertain, necessitating a thorough assessment of its impact on beneficiaries and the overall PDS framework.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To understand the effectiveness of the AePDS system as perceived by the end users in Forbesganj Block, focusing on responsiveness, timeliness, and transparency.

2. To identify the barriers and challenges faced by FPS owners and PDS officials in Araria District regarding service delivery.

3. To provide actionable recommendations for improving the service delivery of AePDS in Araria District.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-method approach, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. The methodology includes the following components:

1. Model Used: The SERVQUAL (Service Quality) model was utilized to measure the satisfaction of end beneficiaries with the AePDS. This model assesses service quality based on five dimensions: tangibles, reliability, responsiveness, assurance, and empathy.

2. Data Collection:

- Pilot Survey: A pilot survey was conducted with 30 households in Forbesganj Block to calculate the standard deviation and determine the sample size required for the research.

'An Assessment of Effectiveness of Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AEPDS) in Forbesganj Block of Araria District, Bihar'

- Questionnaire Design: A structured questionnaire was developed based on the SERVQUAL model, targeting PDS beneficiaries and FPS dealers. The questionnaire included multiple-choice questions to gather demographic information and assess service quality.

- Sampling Method: A multistage random sampling method was employed. The first stage involved selecting 10 FPS shops from a list provided by district PDS officials. The second stage involved randomly selecting 13 beneficiaries from each FPS shop, resulting in a total sample size of 130 households.

3. Data Analysis: The collected data were analyzed using statistical methods, including Cronbach's Alpha for reliability testing and gap analysis to identify discrepancies between expectations and perceptions of service quality.

Key Findings

The study yielded several significant findings regarding the effectiveness of AePDS in Forbesganj Block:

1. Demographic Profile of Beneficiaries: The average age of respondents was over 46 years, with a majority being male (78%). Most respondents belonged to the Hindu religion (93%) and were primarily from the Scheduled Caste (34%) and Other Backward Classes (31%).

2. Awareness and Entitlements: A high level of awareness was observed among beneficiaries regarding their entitlements under AePDS. 97% reported awareness of the grains they were entitled to receive, and 96% were aware of the One Ration One Nation (ORON) scheme.
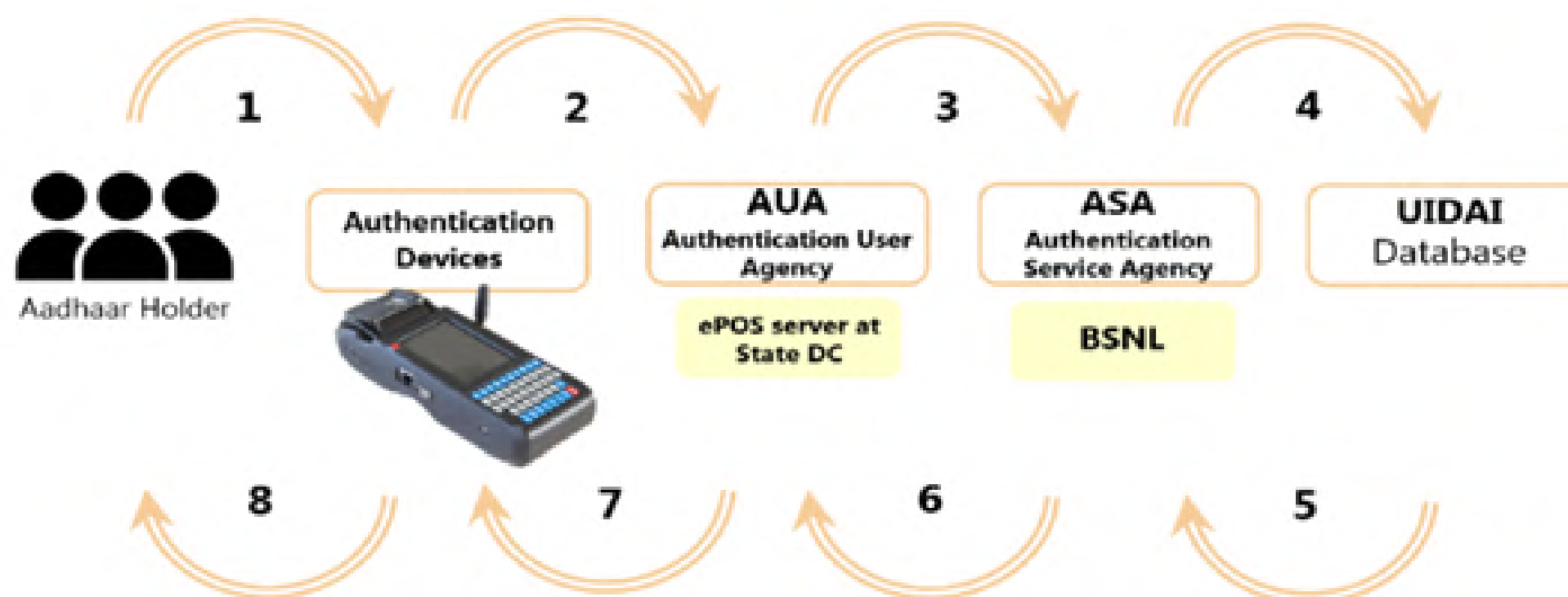

Figure 6: AePDS Architecture (Gupte and Doctor (2022))

3. Service Delivery Satisfaction: Approximately 70% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the service delivery of FPS dealers. However, issues related to underselling and overcharging were reported, with 90% stating that FPS dealers undersell grains either often or rarely.

4. Impact of AePDS: The implementation of AePDS has led to improvements in grain weighing (97% reported improvement), quality (88%), accountability (89%), and transparency (77%). However, a knowledge gap still exists, with 55% of beneficiaries indicating a lack of understanding of the system.

5. Reliability of Responses: The Cronbach's Alpha values for various dimensions of service quality were above 0.7, indicating a high level of internal consistency among the responses.

6. SERVQUAL Model Scores: The gap analysis revealed negative scores across all SERVQUAL dimensions, indicating that the services provided by AePDS have not fully met beneficiaries' expectations. The largest gaps were observed in the tangibles and responsiveness dimensions.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness of AePDS in Araria District:

1. Capacity Building: Organize training for PDS employees and FPS dealers to improve their understanding of AePDS, focusing on technical skills, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory compliance.

2. Digital Infrastructure: Invest in high-speed internet access for all FPS shops to enhance technology use in governance and service delivery.

3. Grievance Redressal: Strengthen grievance mechanisms by establishing online portals, complaint boxes, and toll-free helplines for easy communication between beneficiaries and PDS officials.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuously monitor and evaluate AePDS implementation, utilizing feedback from community members and stakeholders to identify improvement areas.

Conclusion

This research highlights the effectiveness of the Aadhar Enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS) in Forbesganj Block, Bihar. While it has improved service delivery and beneficiary satisfaction, challenges in transparency, responsiveness, and community engagement persist. The study advocates for targeted recommendations to enhance AePDS's effectiveness in ensuring food security for the underprivileged, emphasizing capacity building, community participation, and technology utilization to improve India's Public Distribution System.

Paper

7

Ishmeet Singh

'Reinventing Public Service Delivery: A case of Delhi'

"

This dissertation analyzes public service delivery transformation via the AID model, using the Delhi Doorstep Delivery case, emphasizing accessibility, inclusivity, technology, and collaborative governance for future reforms.

"

'Reinventing Public Service Delivery: A case of Delhi'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Mr. Ishmeet Singh focuses on the transformation of public service delivery in Delhi through the application of the AID (Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Digitalization) model. The study investigates the challenges faced by various demographic groups, including the unemployed, uneducated, elderly, and physically disabled, in accessing public services. It emphasizes the need for tailored interventions to enhance service efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. The research also explores the implications of public dissatisfaction due to service inaccessibility and highlights the government's proactive efforts to address these issues through innovative and inclusive approaches. The findings aim to contribute to the broader discourse on public administration and provide actionable insights for policymakers.

Problem Statement

The study addresses the critical issue of public service delivery in Delhi, where traditional bureaucratic systems often lead to inefficiencies, corruption, and lack of transparency. The introduction of digital platforms has promised convenience but has also widened the digital divide, leaving behind segments of the population with limited digital literacy or access to technology. The research aims to identify the barriers to effective public service delivery, particularly for marginalized groups, and to propose solutions that can enhance the overall effectiveness and inclusivity of public services.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Identify Strengths and Weaknesses: To evaluate the existing public service delivery system in Delhi through a SWOT analysis, identifying its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

2. Explore Experiences: To gather insights from public officers regarding their experiences with service delivery improvements and challenges.

3. Assess Feasibility: To evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of doorstep public service delivery from the residents' perspective.

4. Develop Recommendations: To formulate actionable recommendations for enhancing public service delivery in Delhi, focusing on inclusivity and responsiveness.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive analysis of public service delivery in Delhi. The methodology includes:

1. Semi-Structured Interviews:
   - Allows for flexibility in questions
   - Enables in-depth exploration of topics
   - Provides qualitative data

2. Surveys:
   - Standardized questions for consistency
   - Can reach a large audience
   - Provides quantitative data

'Reinventing Public Service Delivery: A case of Delhi'

Figure 7: Historical Evolution of Public Administration

3. Document Analysis:
- Involves reviewing existing documents
- Provides context and background information
- Can be both qualitative and quantitative

4. Qualitative Analysis:
Thematic analysis to identify patterns Content analysis to quantify certain elements Coding and categorization of data.

5. Quantitative Analysis:
Frequency analysis using software (e.g. Excel) Descriptive and inferential statistics Data visualization for clarity.

6. SWOT Analysis:
Identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Useful for strategic planning and evaluation Integrates both qualitative and quantitative data.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding public service delivery in Delhi:

1. Awareness and Accessibility Gaps: A significant number of residents remain unaware of available public services, with 71.8% facing challenges in accessing these services. This highlights the need for improved awareness campaigns and accessibility measures.

2. Demographic Disparities: Vulnerable groups, including the elderly and physically disabled, face additional barriers to accessing services, underscoring the necessity for tailored interventions and doorstep delivery models.

3. Operational Weaknesses: The lack of proper grievance redressal mechanisms was reported by 41.7% of users, indicating a critical gap in service delivery that needs to be addressed.

4. Technological Integration: The potential for technological solutions to enhance service delivery was emphasized, with recommendations for adopting AI-based systems and improving digital infrastructure.

'Reinventing Public Service Delivery: A case of Delhi'

5. Community Engagement: The importance of community involvement and partnerships with local organizations was highlighted as a means to enhance outreach and support for public services.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for improving public service delivery in Delhi:

1. The AID model—Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Digitalization—enhances public service delivery by ensuring services reach all, especially marginalized groups. It engages diverse communities for feedback and leverages technology to streamline operations and improve efficiency. This approach addresses public service challenges and promotes equitable governance.

2. Local Awareness campaigns (To Promote Digital Literacy).

3. Dashboard for public service should be improved.

4. Samwad Kendra (for Grievance redressal).

5. Promote Technological Integration Usage of AI in document Verification & AI enabled Redressal.

6. Foundation rule of monitoring should be followed.

7. Evidence-Based Decision Making.

8. Expand Capacity Building (Bottom-Up Approach).

9. Effectiveness, Efficiency, Transparency should be monitored.

10. Foster Citizen-Centric Approach.

11. Root Cause Analysis.

Recommendation for Public Officials:

1. Training in Negotiation and Decision-Making: Programmes for public servants.

2. Flexible Work Arrangements: Work-life balance through flexible schedules.

3. Appreciation for Effective Work: Recognition for outstanding performance.

4. On-site Psychologists: Mental health support for public servants.

5. Motivational Activities: Team-building exercises for morale.

Conclusion

The research on "Reinventing Public Service Delivery: A Case of Delhi" provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in public service delivery. By addressing the barriers of accessibility, awareness, and reachability, the study emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to public service reform. The recommendations outlined in the research serve as a roadmap for policymakers to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of public services, ultimately contributing to improved citizen satisfaction and trust in government institutions.

Paper

8

Mallipeddi Bhoomika

'Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore: Challenges and Opportunities'

"

The study analyzes urbanization's impact on Bangalore's water crisis, highlighting challenges like increased demand and environmental degradation, and recommends sustainable management practices for a resilient water future.

"

'Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore: Challenges and Opportunities'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Mallipeddi Bhoomika investigates the intricate relationship between urbanization and the water crisis in Bangalore, India. The study aims to elucidate the challenges posed by rapid urban growth while exploring potential opportunities for sustainable water management. It focuses on how urbanization has reshaped the city's landscape, exacerbating water scarcity and affecting the well-being of its residents. The research encompasses an analysis of environmental degradation, water body pollution, groundwater depletion, and socio-economic consequences resulting from urban expansion. By employing qualitative methodologies, the study seeks to provide valuable insights and recommendations for addressing the pressing water crisis in one of India's fastest-growing urban centers.

Problem Statement

Bangalore, once known as the "Garden City," is facing a severe water crisis due to rapid urbanization, population growth, and inadequate water management practices. The city's water resources are under immense stress, leading to rising demand, depletion of groundwater, and deterioration of surface water quality. The problem is compounded by environmental degradation, including pollution and encroachment on vital water bodies. This research aims to identify the key challenges associated with urbanization that contribute to the water crisis and to explore sustainable solutions for effective water resource management in Bangalore.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Analyze the Impact of Urbanization: To assess how urbanization affects water availability and distribution in Bangalore.

2. Identify Key Drivers and Challenges: To identify the main drivers contributing to the water crisis in the context of rapid urban growth and explore potential opportunities for mitigating adverse effects.

3. Explore Sustainable Water Management Strategies: To investigate strategies for fostering sustainable water management practices that can address the challenges posed by urbanization.

4. Provide Recommendations: To formulate actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance water security and resilience in Bangalore.

Methodology

The research employs a qualitative methodology to analyze the impact of urbanization on the water crisis in Bangalore. The methodology includes:

1. Literature Review: An extensive review of existing literature on urbanization, water management, and environmental issues in Bangalore to establish a theoretical framework.

2. Data Collection:

- Telephonic Interviews: Conducted with key stakeholders, including government officials, water management experts, and residents, to gather qualitative insights into the challenges and opportunities related to water management.

'Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore: Challenges and Opportunities'

- Online Surveys: An online survey was administered to collect data from residents regarding their experiences and perceptions of the water crisis.

3. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns related to urbanization and water scarcity.

4. SWOT Analysis: A SWOT analysis was conducted to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the current water management practices in Bangalore.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the impact of urbanization on the water crisis in Bangalore:

1. Rising Water Demand: The rapid population growth in Bangalore has significantly increased the demand for water, outpacing the capacity of existing water supply frameworks. The city's population grew from 2.9 million in 1981 to 8.4 million in 2011, with projections estimating around 14 million by 2024.
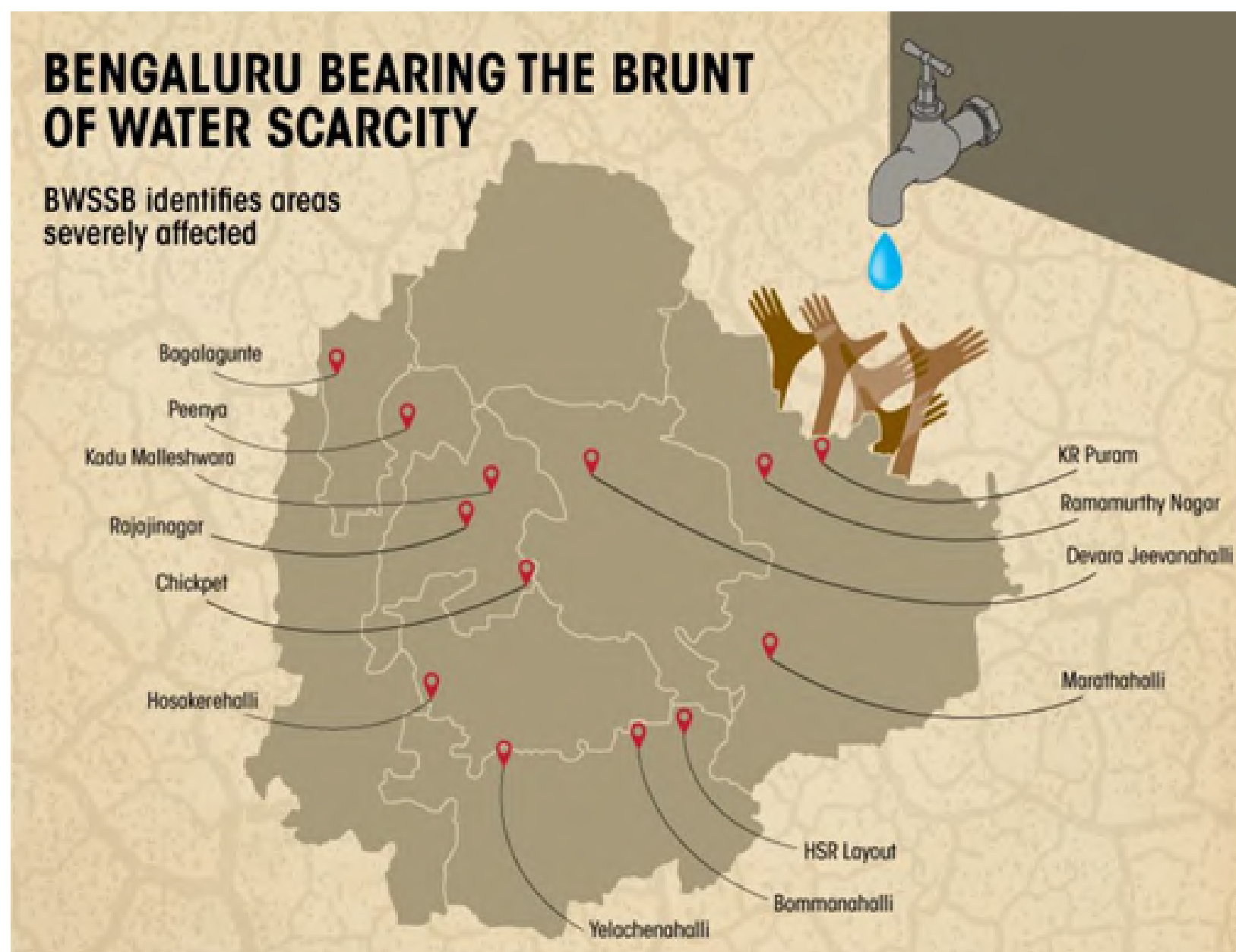

Figure 8: A map showing BWSSB identified areas that are severely affected by water scarcity in Bangalore. (Source: A Down To Earth article by Coovercolly Indresh, published on 13 March, 2024)

'Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore: Challenges and Opportunities'

2. Groundwater Depletion: Urbanization has led to the over-extraction of groundwater resources, resulting in declining groundwater levels. The reliance on borewells for water supply has intensified, with many borewells drying up due to excessive extraction.

3. Decline of Wetlands and Lakes: The transformation of land for urban development has resulted in the degradation and loss of wetlands and lakes, which are crucial for groundwater recharge and maintaining the city's microclimate. The number of lakes in Bangalore has drastically decreased from 400 to 65 over the decades.

4. Poor Surface Water Quality: The quality of surface water bodies has deteriorated due to pollution from industrial effluents, domestic sewage, and solid waste disposal. This has led to increased anthropogenic stress on water bodies, resulting in poor water quality and health risks for residents.

5. Socio-Economic Consequences: The water crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, exacerbating socio-economic disparities. Low-income households often rely on expensive private water tankers, leading to financial strain and limited access to clean water.

6. Water Governance Challenges: The fragmented governance structure involving multiple agencies has led to inefficiencies in water management. Lack of coordination and inadequate funding hinder effective decision-making and implementation of water management strategies.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for improving water management in Bangalore:

1. Integrated Water Management: Implement integrated water management strategies that consider both surface and groundwater resources. This requires collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations to ensure sustainable usage and replenishment.

2. Enhance Awareness and Education: Conduct awareness campaigns to educate residents about water conservation practices, the importance of protecting water bodies, and the need for responsible water usage.

3. Strengthen Grievance Redressal Mechanisms: Establish user-friendly grievance redressal systems to address complaints related to water supply and quality, ensuring transparency and accountability in service delivery.

4. Promote Rainwater Harvesting: Encourage the adoption of rainwater harvesting systems in residential and commercial buildings to enhance groundwater recharge and reduce dependence on external water sources.

5. Restore and Conserve Water Bodies: Initiate programs for the restoration and conservation of lakes and wetlands to improve their capacity for groundwater recharge and enhance biodiversity.

6. Implement Sustainable Urban Planning: Integrate water-sensitive urban planning principles into city development plans to ensure that infrastructure development considers the preservation of natural water resources.

'Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore: Challenges and Opportunities'

7. Foster Community Participation: Engage local communities in water management initiatives to promote ownership and accountability. Community-driven conservation programs can enhance the effectiveness of water management efforts.

8. Invest in Technological Solutions: Leverage technology to improve water management practices, including the use of data analytics for monitoring water usage, quality, and availability.

Conclusion

The research on "Understanding the Impact of Urbanization on the Water Crisis in Bangalore" provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with urbanization and water management.

The findings underscore the urgent need for holistic and sustainable approaches to address the water crisis in Bangalore. By implementing the recommendations outlined in the study, policymakers and stakeholders can work towards enhancing water security, promoting equitable access to water resources, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Bangalore's water supply systems. The research serves as a crucial contribution to the discourse on urban water governance and highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

> "India's goal is to make healthcare accessible and affordable, not only for our citizens but for the whole world."
>
> – Shri Narendra Modi
> Hon'ble Prime Minister

Paper

9

Shruti Agarwal

'e-Governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery: A Delhi based study'

" This study explores e-governance's evolution in tertiary healthcare, emphasizing accessibility inequities, challenges, and benefits, recommending improved training, infrastructure, and enhanced telemedicine for better service delivery and data management. "

'e-Governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery: A Delhi based study'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Shruti Agarwal explores the implementation and impact of e-governance in the tertiary healthcare sector in Delhi, India. The study aims to analyze how e-governance initiatives can enhance healthcare service delivery, improve accessibility, and address the challenges faced by both public and private healthcare facilities. It focuses on the evolution of e-governance services, their applications in healthcare, and the comparative effectiveness of these services in public versus private hospitals. The research also examines the barriers to effective implementation and the potential benefits of e-governance for various stakeholders, including healthcare providers and patients.

Problem Statement

The tertiary healthcare sector in India, particularly in urban areas like Delhi, faces significant challenges related to accessibility, efficiency, and transparency in service delivery. Despite the introduction of e-governance initiatives aimed at improving healthcare services, there remains a substantial gap in awareness, adoption, and effective utilization of these services among healthcare providers and patients. Issues such as digital literacy, infrastructure inadequacies, and privacy concerns further complicate the situation. This research aims to identify the key obstacles to implementing e-governance in healthcare and to evaluate its potential to transform service delivery in the tertiary healthcare sector.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. Assess the Level of Usage and Accessibility: To evaluate the extent of usage and accessibility of e-governance services in tertiary healthcare facilities in Delhi.
2. Identify Barriers to Access: To identify the reasons for the inaccessibility of e-governance services to beneficiaries, with a focus on comparing public and private tertiary hospitals.
3. Explore Potential Areas for ICT Utilization: To explore potential areas for the effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in hospitals to enhance service delivery.
4. Provide Recommendations: To formulate actionable recommendations for improving the implementation and effectiveness of e-governance services in the healthcare sector.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive analysis of e-governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery. The methodology includes:
1. Literature Review: An extensive review of existing literature on e-governance, healthcare service delivery, and related government initiatives to establish a theoretical framework.
2. Data Collection:
   - Field Surveys: Conducted in three significant hospitals in Delhi—Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, AIIMS, and BL Kapoor Hospital—to gather primary data from healthcare staff and patients.

'e-Governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery: A Delhi based study'
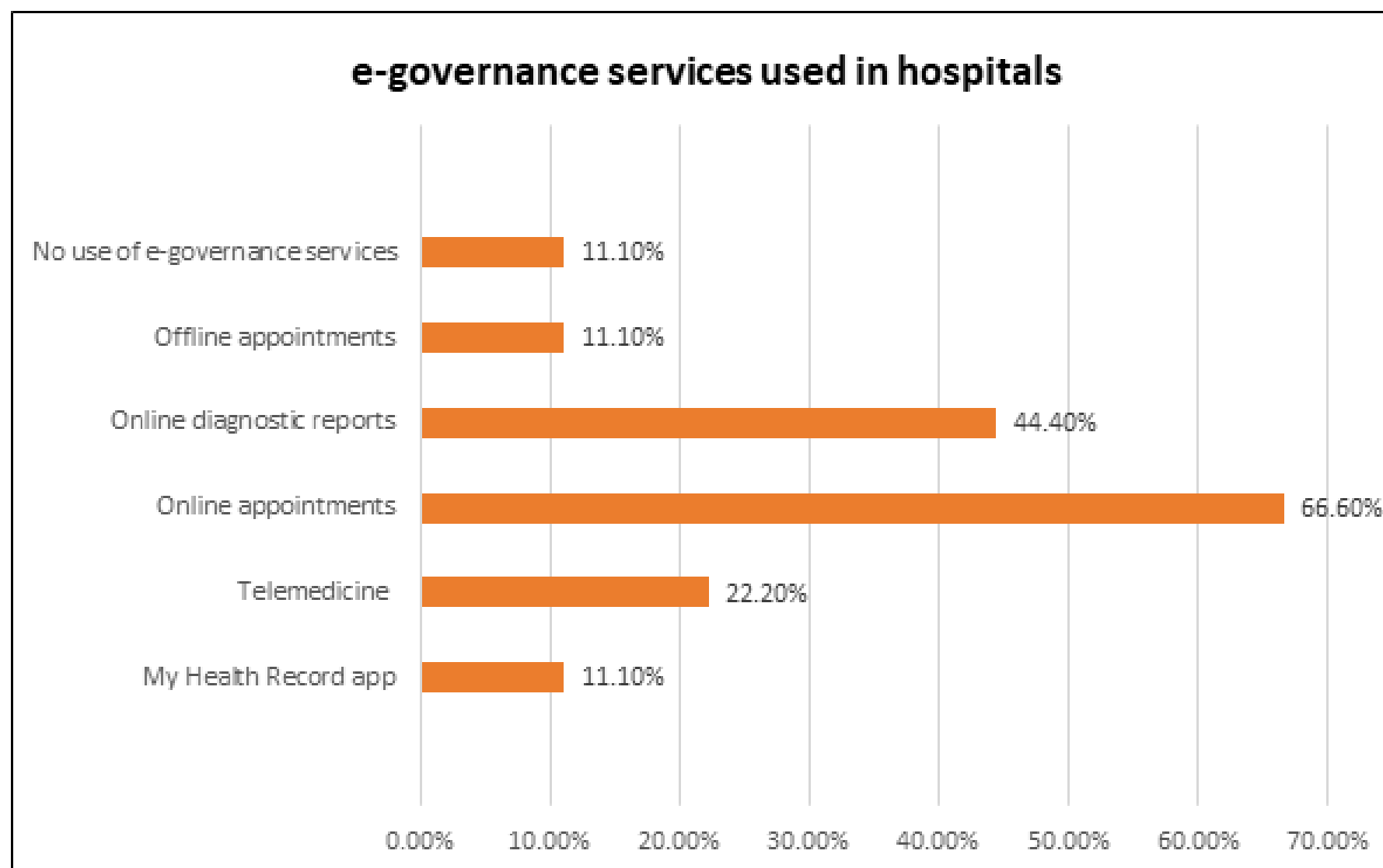

Figure 9: e-Governance services used in hospitals

- Interviews: Semi-structured interviews with healthcare professionals to gain qualitative insights into their experiences with e-governance services.

3. SWOT Analysis: A SWOT analysis was conducted to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the implementation of e-governance in the healthcare sector.

4. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using statistical methods for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data, integrating findings into a comprehensive framework.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the implementation of e-governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery in Delhi:

1. Limited Awareness and Usage: A significant portion of the population remains unaware of available e-governance services, with only 11.1% of patients using the My Health Record app. This highlights the need for improved awareness campaigns.

2. Digital Literacy Challenges: Many patients and healthcare staff lack the necessary digital literacy to effectively utilize e-governance services, leading to underutilization and frustration.

'e-Governance in tertiary healthcare service delivery: A Delhi based study'

3. Infrastructure Deficiencies: Public hospitals often face infrastructural challenges, including inadequate IT systems and lack of trained personnel, which hinder the effective implementation of e-governance initiatives.

4. Privacy and Security Concerns: Concerns regarding data privacy and security were prevalent among both patients and healthcare staff, impacting their willingness to adopt e-governance services.

5. Comparative Effectiveness: The study found disparities in the effectiveness of e-governance services between public and private hospitals, with private hospitals generally exhibiting higher levels of digital adoption and service efficiency.

6. Potential for Improvement: Despite the challenges, the research indicates that e-governance has the potential to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and transparency in healthcare service delivery if implemented effectively.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for improving the implementation and effectiveness of e-governance in the tertiary healthcare sector:

1. Enhance Awareness Campaigns: Implement targeted awareness campaigns to educate patients and healthcare staff about the benefits and usage of e-governance services, utilizing local languages and community engagement strategies.

2. Invest in Digital Literacy Programs: Develop and promote digital literacy programs for both healthcare staff and patients to improve their ability to navigate and utilize e-governance platforms effectively.

3. Strengthen Infrastructure: Allocate resources for upgrading IT infrastructure in public hospitals, ensuring that they have the necessary tools and systems to support e-governance initiatives.

4. Address Privacy Concerns: Establish clear data privacy policies and security measures to build trust among patients and healthcare providers regarding the use of e-governance services.

5. Foster Public-Private Partnerships: Encourage collaboration between public and private healthcare sectors to share best practices, resources, and expertise in implementing e-governance solutions.

6. Monitor and Evaluate Implementation: Establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of e-governance initiatives and make data-driven adjustments as needed.

7. Promote Telemedicine Services: Enhance telemedicine services to improve access to healthcare, particularly for patients in remote areas, and to reduce the burden on physical healthcare facilities.

Conclusion

The research on "e-Governance in Tertiary Health Care Service Delivery: A Delhi Based Study" identifies key challenges and opportunities in implementing e-governance in healthcare. It highlights the need for improved awareness, digital literacy, and infrastructure. By following the study's recommendations, policymakers and healthcare providers can enhance service delivery and patient satisfaction in Delhi's tertiary healthcare system, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing healthcare challenges.

Paper

10

Muskan Manvar

'Analysing the Role of Social Media Campaigns to Educate the Public and Combat Misinformation regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act'

" This study analyzes the Indian government's use of YouTube to counter misinformation about CAA and NRC, recommending enhanced multi-platform strategies for effective citizen engagement and fact-checking initiatives. "

'Analysing the Role of Social Media Campaigns to Educate the Public and Combat Misinformation regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Muskan Manvar investigates the role of social media campaigns in combating misinformation, specifically focusing on the Indian government's use of YouTube to address misconceptions surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The study aims to analyze the effectiveness of multimedia content in educating the public, promoting human rights, and fostering communal harmony amidst the challenges posed by misinformation. By examining the strategies employed by the government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in their social media campaigns, the research seeks to provide insights into the dynamics of misinformation in the digital age and the potential for social media as a tool for public engagement and awareness.

Problem Statement

In the context of rapid digital communication and the proliferation of social media, misinformation has emerged as a significant threat to public discourse and democratic processes. The CAA and NRC have been subjects of intense debate and controversy in India, with widespread misinformation contributing to public confusion and unrest. The challenge lies in effectively countering false narratives while promoting accurate information and fostering a better understanding of these policies. This research aims to identify the tactics used by the government to combat misinformation and assess the impact of social media campaigns on public perception and engagement.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. Evaluate Tactics Used by Government and BJP: To analyze the strategies employed by the Indian government and the BJP in their social media campaigns to combat misinformation about the CAA.
2. Explore Visual Misinformation Content: To investigate the nature of visual misinformation related to the CAA and its impact on public perception.
3. Emphasize Misinformation Literacy: To highlight the importance of misinformation literacy and fact-checking as tools for citizen empowerment and civil society engagement.
4. Provide Recommendations: To formulate actionable recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of social media campaigns in combating misinformation.

Methodology

The research employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing content analysis to examine the Indian government's social media campaigns on YouTube. The methodology includes:
1. Content Analysis: A systematic examination of 15 official YouTube videos from the BJP's channel related to the CAA. This analysis focuses on the structure, themes, and communication strategies used in the videos.
2. Data Collection: The videos were selected based on their relevance to the CAA and their potential to illustrate the government's efforts to address misinformation.

'Analysing the Role of Social Media Campaigns to Educate the Public and Combat Misinformation regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act'

3. Coding Framework: A detailed coding framework was developed to identify recurring themes, strategies, and messages within the video content.

4. Theoretical Framework: The research is grounded in relevant theories, including Agenda Setting Theory, Framing Theory, and Social Network Theory, to analyze the impact of social media campaigns on public perception.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the role of social media campaigns in combating misinformation about the CAA:

1. Strategic Use of Multimedia: The Indian government primarily utilized YouTube as a platform for disseminating information about the CAA, leveraging the strengths of multimedia content to engage viewers and clarify misconceptions.

2. Focus on Human Rights and Education: The content of the videos emphasized themes of human rights, education, and debunking myths surrounding the CAA, aiming to foster a positive understanding of the legislation.

3. Limited Engagement and Reach: Despite the strategic use of multimedia, the research found that engagement metrics for the videos were low, indicating a need for broader dissemination across multiple social media platforms to enhance reach and impact.

4. Visual Misinformation as a Challenge: The study highlights the effectiveness of visuals in spreading misinformation, as well as the challenges posed by manipulated images and videos that can distort reality and mislead the public.

5. Importance of Misinformation Literacy: The findings underscore the necessity of promoting misinformation literacy among citizens to empower them to critically evaluate the information they encounter online.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of social media campaigns in combating misinformation:

1. Enhance Social Media Presence: The government should increase its engagement on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, utilizing daily updates, live Q&A sessions, and visual content to reach a broader audience.

2. Promote Fact-Checking Initiatives: Establish and endorse government-backed fact-checking platforms to verify and debunk misinformation, ensuring that citizens have access to accurate information.

3. Create Short Duration Stories: Develop 40-60 second videos featuring real-life stories of individuals affected by the CAA to highlight its necessity, distributing these via WhatsApp and social media for greater impact.

4. Foster Community Engagement: Encourage community-driven initiatives that promote discussions around the CAA and misinformation, leveraging local influencers and organizations to enhance outreach.

5. Invest in Misinformation Literacy Programs: Implement educational programs aimed at improving misinformation literacy among citizens, equipping them with the skills to critically assess information sources.

6. Utilize Data Analytics: Employ data analytics tools to monitor the effectiveness of social media campaigns and adapt strategies based on audience engagement and feedback.

Conclusion

This research delved into the Indian government's social media campaigns to combat misinformation surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The study found that efforts were primarily focused on YouTube, with limited presence on other platforms like Twitter (now X). The analysis of YouTube content revealed a strategic use of multimedia to engage viewers and clarify misconceptions about the CAA.

Key findings from the content analysis showed that the videos primarily emphasized themes of human rights, education on CAA and NRC, and addressing misinformation. Secondary themes included communal harmony and the positive impacts of the CAA. The videos often featured personal stories, used positive emotional tones, and incorporated national symbols and specific colors to evoke trust and calm. Despite these efforts, the engagement metrics varied, with many videos receiving low views, indicating a limited reach.

The study underscores the importance of choosing the right platforms for effective communication. By focusing on YouTube, the government leveraged the platform's capability to deliver detailed and engaging content.

However, the limited engagement suggests a need for broader dissemination strategies across multiple social media platforms to reach a wider audience.

Incorporating theories like Agenda Setting, Framing, and Social Network Theory, this research highlights how the government's strategic content creation and dissemination efforts aimed to influence public perception positively. Moving forward, it is recommended that the government enhance its social media presence, promote fact-checking initiatives, and create short, impactful stories for broader circulation to effectively combat misinformation about the CAA.

Paper

11

Garima

'Primary Healthcare Delivery, Accessibility and Utilization in North-West, Delhi'

" This study examines healthcare services at Mohalla clinics in Delhi, revealing participant satisfaction, preference over other services, and potential for these clinics to evolve into wellness centers addressing community health needs. "

'Primary Healthcare Delivery, Accessibility and Utilization in North-West, Delhi'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Garima investigates the delivery, accessibility, and utilization of primary healthcare services in the North-West region of New Delhi, focusing specifically on the effectiveness of Mohalla Clinics. The study aims to assess the availability of healthcare services, the perceptions of residents regarding these services, and the overall impact of Mohalla Clinics on public health outcomes. By analyzing the experiences of individuals from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, the research seeks to provide insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the current healthcare delivery system in urban settings, particularly in the context of underserved populations.

Problem Statement

Despite the establishment of various healthcare initiatives, access to quality primary healthcare remains a significant challenge in urban areas of India, particularly for marginalized communities. The North-West region of New Delhi, characterized by a diverse population and varying socio-economic conditions, faces issues related to healthcare accessibility, service quality, and patient satisfaction. The introduction of Mohalla Clinics was aimed at addressing these challenges; however, there is limited understanding of their effectiveness in meeting the healthcare needs of the local population. This research aims to identify the barriers to healthcare access and utilization, evaluate the performance of Mohalla Clinics, and explore the perceptions of residents regarding the services provided.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Evaluate the Availability and Accessibility: To assess the availability and accessibility of various healthcare services provided at Mohalla Clinics in North-West Delhi.

2. Understand Resident Perceptions: To explore the perceptions of residents regarding the functioning of Mohalla Clinics and their effectiveness in catering to healthcare needs.

3. Identify Barriers to Utilization: To identify the barriers faced by residents in accessing and utilizing primary healthcare services.

4. Provide Recommendations for Improvement: To formulate actionable recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of Mohalla Clinics and improving healthcare delivery in the region.

Methodology

The research employs a descriptive research design to investigate the factors influencing the availability, accessibility, and utilization of healthcare services at Mohalla Clinics. The methodology includes:

1. Study Design: A descriptive research design was chosen to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the current state of healthcare services and the experiences of residents.

2. Universe: The study focuses on the North-West region of New Delhi, which is known for its diverse population and unique healthcare needs.

'Primary Healthcare Delivery, Accessibility and Utilization in North-West, Delhi'

3. Participants: A total of 30 participants from different age groups were selected from two Mohalla Clinics—Jahangir Puri and Azadpur (Fruit Mandi). The sampling method used was convenient sampling, ensuring a varied sample that encompasses different demographics.

4. Instruments: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants, lasting 15-20 minutes each. The interviews included pre-determined questions based on previous literature, focusing on participants' perceptions of the clinics, their experiences, and suggestions for improvement.

5. Data Collection: Data was collected through face-to-face interviews, with informed consent obtained from participants. Observations regarding the clinics' infrastructure and services were also noted.

6. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying recurring themes and patterns in participants' responses to understand their experiences and perceptions.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the delivery and utilization of primary healthcare services at Mohalla Clinics:

1. Positive Perception of Mohalla Clinics: Most participants expressed a positive perception of Mohalla Clinics, highlighting their accessibility, location, and the quality of services provided. Many preferred these clinics over other healthcare facilities due to their proximity and free services.

2. Satisfaction with Services: Participants reported high levels of satisfaction with the healthcare services received, including consultations with doctors, availability of medications, and overall infrastructure.

3. Barriers to Access: Despite the positive feedback, several barriers to accessing healthcare services were identified, including:

·Limited awareness of the services offered at Mohalla Clinics.

·Inadequate staffing and medical supply shortages, leading to long wait times.

·Transportation challenges for residents living further away from the clinics.

4. Need for Community Engagement: Participants emphasized the importance of community involvement in the management and operation of Mohalla Clinics. Suggestions included involving local residents in decision-making processes and improving communication about available services.

5. Potential for Improvement: The study indicates that while Mohalla Clinics have made significant strides in providing accessible healthcare, there is room for improvement in areas such as staffing, resource allocation, and public awareness campaigns.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of Mohalla Clinics and improving primary healthcare delivery in North-West Delhi:

'Primary Healthcare Delivery, Accessibility and Utilization in North–West, Delhi'

1. Increase Awareness Campaigns: Implement targeted awareness campaigns to inform residents about the services offered at Mohalla Clinics, utilizing local languages and community engagement strategies.

2. Enhance Staffing and Resources: Allocate additional resources to ensure adequate staffing and medical supplies at Mohalla Clinics, reducing wait times and improving service delivery.

3. Foster Community Participation: Encourage community involvement in the management of Mohalla Clinics, allowing residents to contribute to decision–making processes and service improvements.

4. Improve Transportation Access: Explore options for improving transportation access to Mohalla Clinics, particularly for residents living in remote areas, to enhance overall accessibility.

5. Conduct Regular Assessments: Establish a framework for regular assessments of Mohalla Clinics to monitor service quality, patient satisfaction, and areas for improvement.

6. Expand Services Offered: Consider expanding the range of services provided at Mohalla Clinics to address the diverse healthcare needs of the community, including preventive care and health education programs.

Conclusion

The research on "Primary Healthcare Delivery, Accessibility and Utilization in North–West, New Delhi" provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with primary healthcare delivery in urban settings.

The findings underscore the importance of Mohalla Clinics in improving access to healthcare for underserved populations while highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address barriers to utilization. By implementing the recommendations outlined in the study, policymakers and healthcare providers can work towards enhancing the effectiveness of Mohalla Clinics, ultimately leading to improved health outcomes and greater equity in healthcare access. The research serves as a crucial contribution to the discourse on urban healthcare delivery and the role of community–based initiatives in addressing public health challenges.
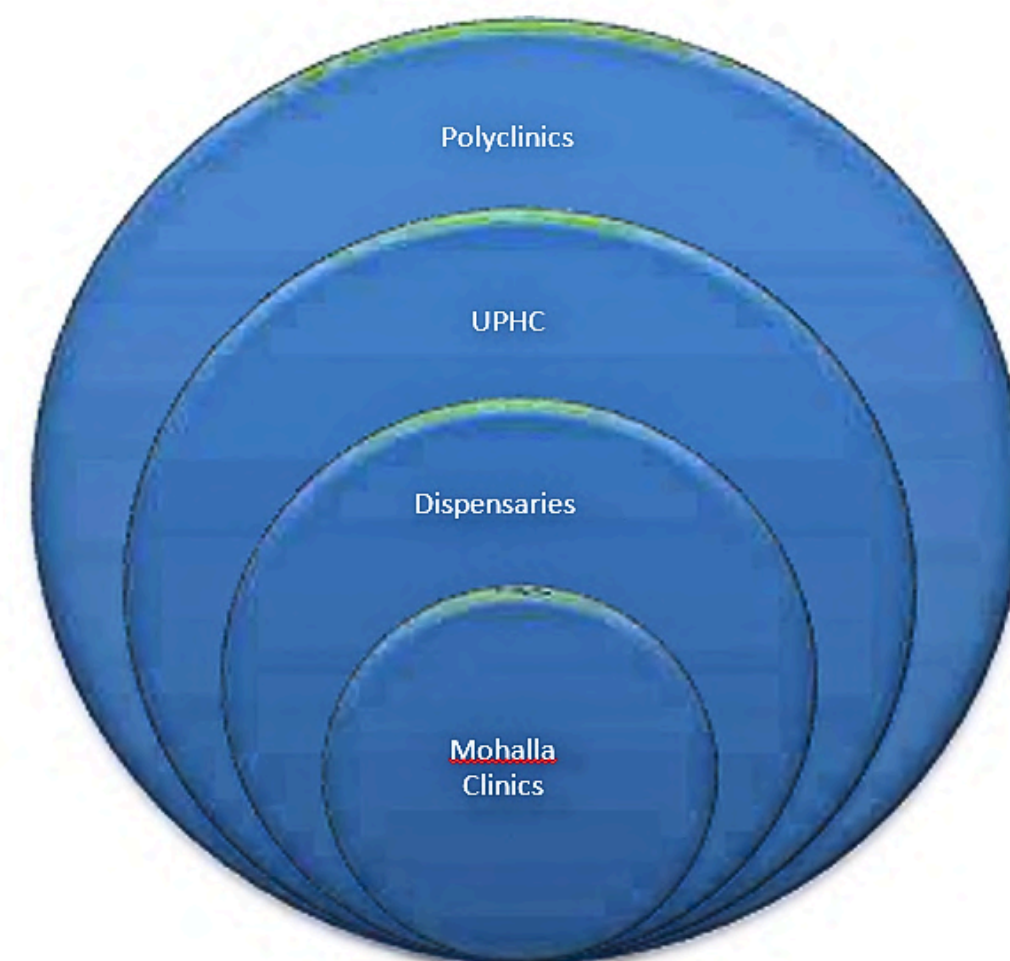

Figure 10: Hierarchy model of existing healthcare delivery services in Delhi

Paper

12

Mangesh Shivaji Jadhav

'Digital Technology Adoption among Farm Households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra: Preferences, Challenges and Implications'

"

The study examines digital technology adoption among farmers in Hiware Bazaar, highlighting its positive impact on yields and resource management, while also addressing challenges like training, infrastructure, and cultural resistance.

"

'Digital Technology Adoption among Farm Households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra: Preferences, Challenges and Implications'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Mr. Mangesh Shivaji Jadhav explores the adoption of digital technology among farm households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra, a village known for its successful transformation from a drought-stricken community to a prosperous one through innovative agricultural practices. The study aims to understand the preferences, challenges, and implications of digital technology adoption in agriculture, focusing on how these technologies can enhance productivity, resource management, and decision-making among farmers. By examining the experiences of local farmers, the research seeks to provide insights into the factors influencing technology adoption and the potential for digital tools to revolutionize agricultural practices in rural India.

Problem Statement

Despite the increasing availability of digital technologies in agriculture, the adoption rates among farm households remain inconsistent, particularly in rural areas like Hiware Bazaar. Factors such as limited awareness, infrastructural deficiencies, and socio-cultural resistance hinder the effective integration of these technologies into farming practices. This research aims to identify the barriers faced by farmers in adopting digital technologies and to assess the impact of these technologies on agricultural productivity and resource management. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing strategies to promote digital technology adoption and improve agricultural outcomes in rural communities.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. Examine Digital Technology Choices: To investigate the preferences and utilization patterns of digital technologies among agricultural households in Hiware Bazaar, delineating between adopters and non-adopters.
2. Identify Challenges Faced by Farmers: To explore the specific challenges and barriers encountered by farmers when considering the incorporation of digital technologies into their agricultural practices.
3. Assess Impact on Income and Productivity: To evaluate how the integration of digital technologies affects income generation and productivity levels of adopters compared to non-adopter farm households.
4. Provide Policy Recommendations: To formulate actionable recommendations for enhancing digital technology adoption among farm households, focusing on education, infrastructure development, and community engagement.

Methodology

The research employs a comprehensive case study methodology, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative approaches to gather detailed insights from local farmers. The methodology includes:
1. Study Area: Hiware Bazaar was purposively chosen as the study area due to its reputation for successful agricultural transformation and the presence of various digital technology initiatives.

'Digital Technology Adoption among Farm Households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra: Preferences, Challenges and Implications'
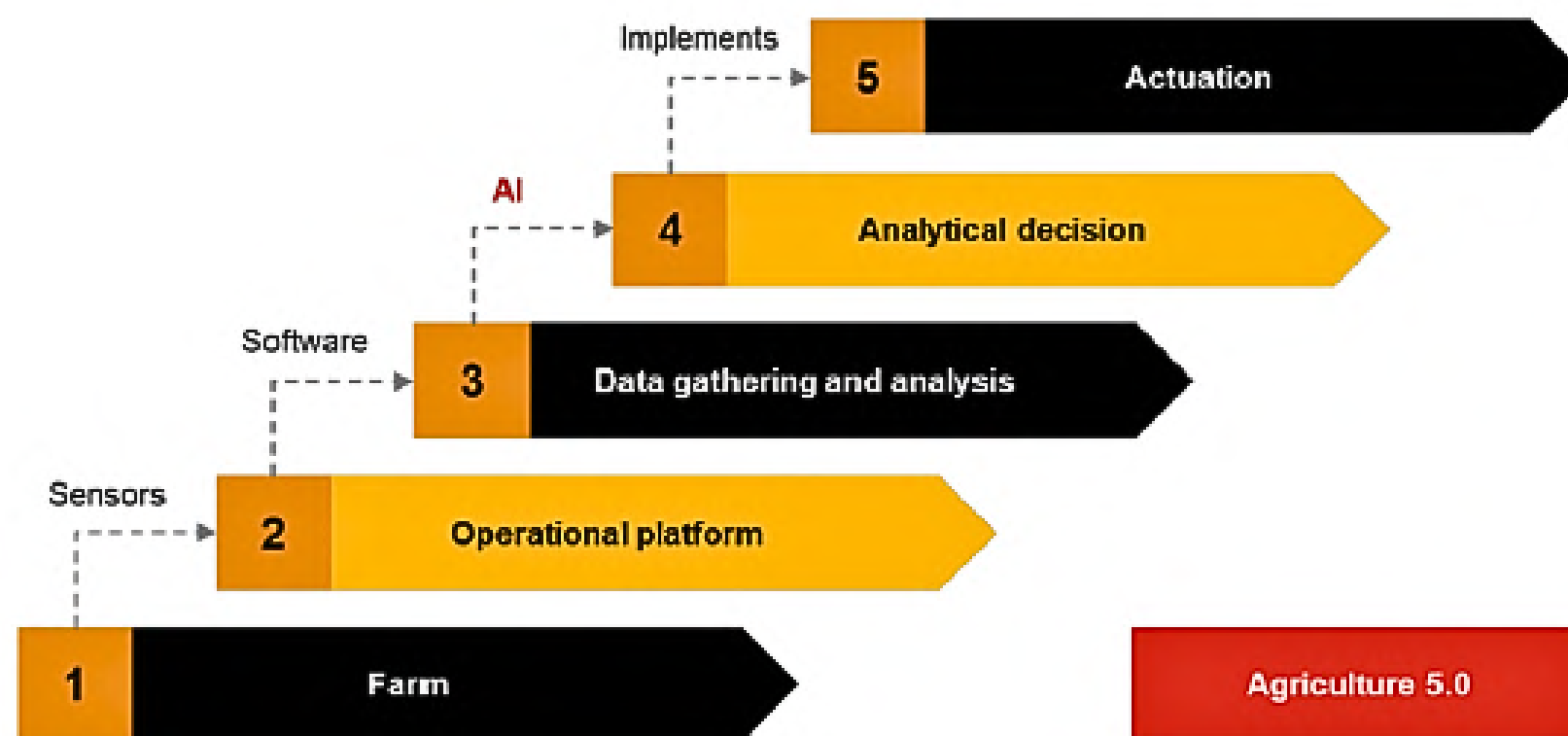

Figure 11: PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Transformative smart farming practices: Introducing AI in Indian Agriculture (PMKSY, 2023)

2. Data Collection: A primary survey of farm households was conducted during May–June 2024, involving interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions (FGDs) with local farmers.

3. Sampling: The study included a total of 26 farmers, randomly selected for FGDs, categorized into adopters and non-adopters of digital technologies.

4. Data Analysis: The analysis was based on descriptive statistics, focusing on the preferences, challenges, and impacts of digital technology adoption among farmers.

5. Theoretical Framework: The research is grounded in relevant theories related to technology adoption, agricultural productivity, and rural development, providing a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing digital technology integration.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the adoption of digital technologies among farm households in Hiware Bazaar:

1. High Awareness and Usage: There is a high level of awareness and use of digital tools among farmers, particularly mobile applications for market prices, weather forecasting, and crop management. These tools have led to significant improvements in crop yields and resource management.

2. Challenges Identified: Despite the benefits, farmers face several challenges in adopting digital technologies, including:
- Limited training and digital literacy, hindering effective usage.
- Infrastructural deficiencies, such as poor internet connectivity and lack of access to necessary devices.

'Digital Technology Adoption among Farm Households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra: Preferences, Challenges and Implications'

- Socio-cultural resistance, with some farmers hesitant to adopt new technologies due to traditional practices and beliefs.

3. Impact on Income and Productivity: The integration of digital technologies has positively impacted income generation and productivity levels among adopters. Farmers utilizing digital tools reported higher crop yields and better resource management compared to non-adopters.

4. Education and Age Factors: The study found a correlation between education levels and technology adoption, with more educated farmers being more likely to adopt digital tools. Additionally, younger farmers showed a greater willingness to embrace technology compared to older generations.

5. Need for Community Engagement: The research emphasizes the importance of community engagement and support in promoting digital technology adoption. Farmers expressed a desire for more training programs and resources to enhance their digital literacy and technical skills.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for enhancing digital technology adoption among farm households in Hiware Bazaar:

1. Enhance Educational Programs: Implement targeted educational programs to improve digital literacy among farmers, focusing on the benefits and usage of digital tools in agriculture.

2. Infrastructure Development: Invest in improving internet connectivity and access to digital devices in rural areas to facilitate the effective use of digital technologies.

3. Training and Support Initiatives: Establish training sessions and workshops to provide hands-on experience with digital tools, enabling farmers to gain confidence in their usage.

4. Community Engagement Strategies: Foster community engagement by involving local leaders and organizations in promoting digital technology adoption, creating a supportive environment for farmers.

5. Integrate Traditional Knowledge: Encourage the integration of traditional agricultural knowledge with modern digital tools to maximize benefits and ensure sustainable development.

6. Policy Support: Advocate for government policies that provide incentives for technology adoption, such as subsidies for digital devices and support for training programs.

Conclusion

The research on "Digital Technology Adoption among Farm Households in Hiware Bazaar, Maharashtra" explores the preferences and challenges of digital tools in agriculture. It highlights their potential to boost productivity while emphasizing the need to overcome adoption barriers. By implementing the study's recommendations, stakeholders can enhance digital technology use among farm households, fostering sustainable agricultural development and improved rural livelihoods. This research contributes significantly to the discourse on technology adoption in agriculture.

Paper

13

Akankshya Swain

'Assessment of the Public Health Implications of Climate Change: A Retrospective Study of Dengue in Delhi'

"

This study analyzes the impact of climate change on dengue prevalence in Delhi (2020-2023), highlighting seasonal trends, especially post-monsoon peaks, and advocating for weather-based forecasting models to manage outbreaks effectively.

"

'Assessment of the Public Health Implications of Climate Change: A Retrospective Study of Dengue in Delhi'

Scope of Study

The paper "Assessment of the Public Health Implications of Climate Change: A Retrospective Study of Dengue in Delhi" by Ms. Akankshya Swain explores the link between climate change and dengue fever in Delhi, focusing on 2020-2023 data. The study examines dengue epidemiology, seasonal patterns, and the impact of temperature, rainfall, and humidity on transmission. It also assesses the public health implications of climate change for vector-borne diseases and aims to develop predictive models for dengue outbreaks to support public health planning and response efforts. This research is crucial for understanding and managing dengue in the context of changing environmental conditions.

Problem Statement

Dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral infection, poses a significant public health challenge in urban areas, particularly in developing countries like India. The increasing incidence of dengue in Delhi has raised concerns about the role of climate change in influencing disease transmission patterns. Factors such as rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and increased humidity create favorable conditions for Aedes mosquitoes, the primary vectors of dengue. Despite the growing body of evidence linking climate change to the spread of vector-borne diseases, there is a lack of comprehensive studies that specifically address the implications for public health in the context of Delhi. This research aims to fill this gap by analyzing the interplay between climate variables and dengue incidence.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. To Analyze Seasonal Trends: To investigate the seasonal patterns of dengue incidence in Delhi from 2020 to 2023.
2. To Assess Climate Impact: To evaluate the relationship between climatic variables (temperature, rainfall, humidity) and dengue transmission.
3. To Develop Predictive Models: To create predictive models for dengue outbreaks based on identified climate variables.
4. To Inform Public Health Strategies: To provide recommendations for public health interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change on dengue transmission.

Methodology

The research employed a retrospective study design, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods. The methodology consisted of the following phases:

1. Data Collection: The study collected dengue case data from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and meteorological data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The data spanned the period from January 2020 to December 2023.

2. Data Analysis: The analysis involved descriptive statistics to summarize dengue incidence and climatic variables. Seasonal patterns were identified, and correlation analyses were conducted to assess the relationship between dengue cases and climate variables.

'Assessment of the Public Health Implications of Climate Change: A Retrospective Study of Dengue in Delhi'

3. Statistical Modeling: Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) and Spearman Rank Correlation tests were employed to analyze the data and develop predictive models for dengue outbreaks.

4. Interpretation of Results: The findings were interpreted in the context of existing literature on climate change and vector-borne diseases, with a focus on public health implications.

Key Findings

The study yielded several significant findings regarding the relationship between climate change and dengue incidence in Delhi:

1. Seasonal Trends: The analysis revealed a clear seasonal pattern in dengue incidence, with peak cases occurring during the post-monsoon period, particularly in November. This trend aligns with the life cycle of Aedes mosquitoes, which thrive in warm and humid conditions.

2. Impact of Climate Variables: The statistical analysis indicated a significant positive correlation between dengue cases and relative humidity ($p < 0.05$). Higher humidity levels were associated with increased dengue transmission. Conversely, temperature exhibited variable effects, while rainfall generally showed a negative correlation with dengue cases.

3. Predictive Modeling: The Multiple Linear Regression model developed in the study predicted approximately 4202 dengue cases for the year 2024, based on specific climatic conditions (temperature = 40°C, relative humidity = 80%, rainfall = 300 mm). This highlights the potential for using climate data to forecast dengue outbreaks.

4. Public Health Implications: The findings underscore the critical role of climate variables in influencing dengue epidemics in Delhi. The study emphasizes the need for proactive public health strategies to anticipate and manage outbreaks, particularly in the context of climate change.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Enhanced Surveillance Systems: Public health authorities should strengthen surveillance systems to monitor dengue incidence and climatic conditions in real-time. This will facilitate timely interventions during peak transmission periods.

2. Climate-Responsive Health Policies: Policymakers should develop climate-responsive health policies that integrate climate data into public health planning and response strategies for vector-borne diseases.

3. Community Awareness Programs: Public awareness campaigns should be implemented to educate communities about dengue prevention measures, particularly during high-risk seasons.

4. Research and Development: Further research is needed to explore the complex interactions between climate change, vector ecology, and public health outcomes. This will inform the development of effective control strategies.

5. Collaboration with Meteorological Agencies: Public health agencies should collaborate with meteorological departments to improve data sharing and enhance predictive modeling capabilities for dengue outbreaks.

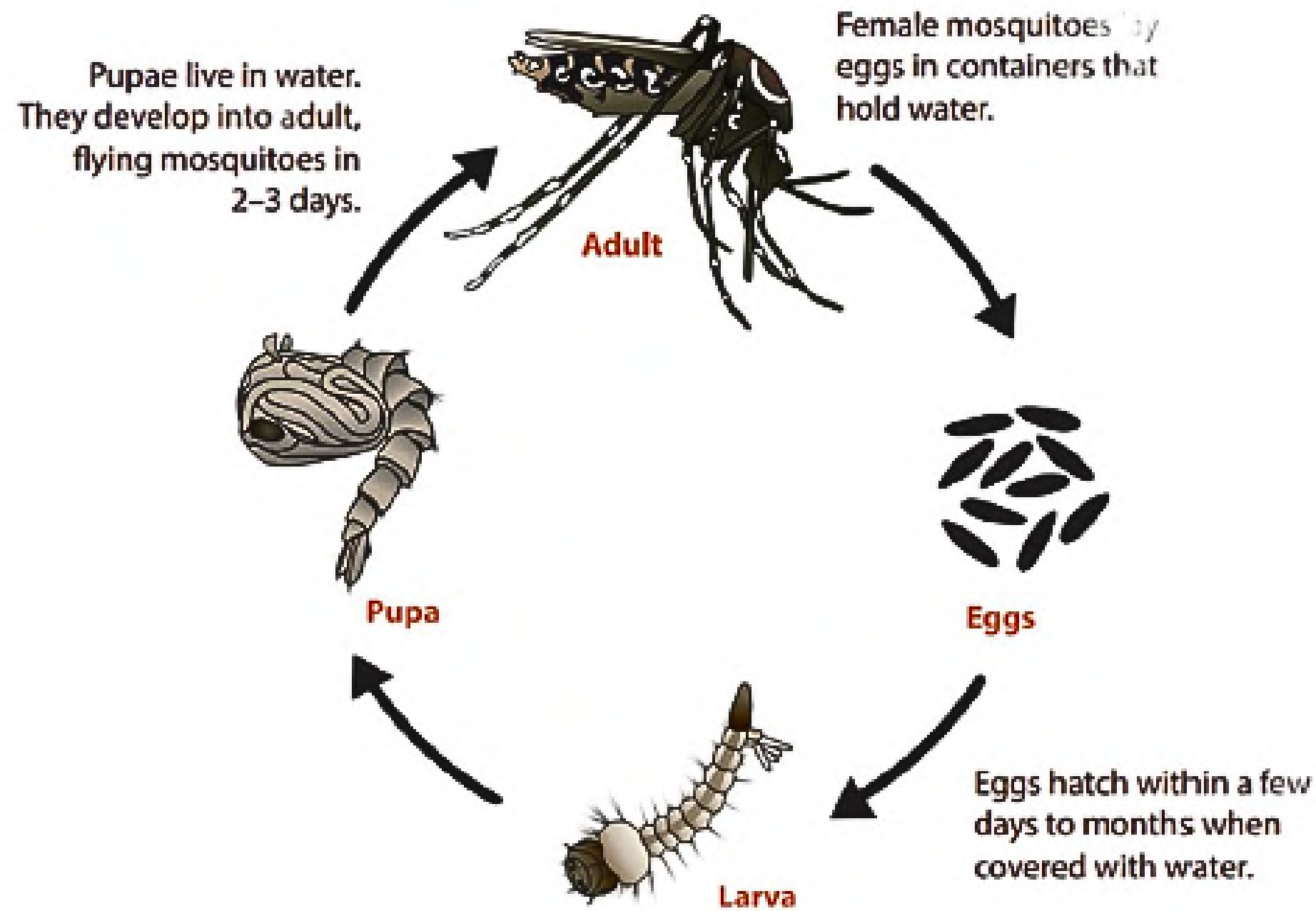# 'Assessment of the Public Health Implications of Climate Change: A Retrospective Study of Dengue in Delhi'

Figure 12: Aedes aegypti life cycle (Source– cdc.gov.in)

Conclusion

The research conducted by Ms. Akankshya Swain provides valuable insights into the public health implications of climate change on dengue transmission in Delhi. The findings highlight the significant impact of climatic variables on dengue incidence and underscore the need for proactive public health strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change on vector-borne diseases. By developing predictive models and enhancing surveillance systems, public health authorities can better anticipate and manage dengue outbreaks, ultimately reducing the burden of this disease on the population. The study emphasizes the importance of integrating climate considerations into public health planning and response efforts. As climate change continues to pose challenges to public health, it is crucial to adopt a multidisciplinary approach that encompasses environmental, epidemiological, and social factors to effectively address the growing threat of vector-borne diseases like dengue.

Paper

14

Aashi Tyagi

'Analysis of Mass Health Insurance Scheme Concerning Ayushman Bharat's-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in Muradnagar District'

"

This report analyzes PM-JAY in Ghaziabad, highlighting its positive impact on healthcare access and expenses, while addressing administrative challenges and suggesting improvements for effective implementation.

"

'Analysis of Mass Health Insurance Scheme Concerning Ayushman Bharat's- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in Muradnagar District'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Ms. Aashi Tyagi provides a comprehensive analysis of the Mass Health Insurance Scheme, focusing specifically on Ayushman Bharat's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) within the urban population of Muradnagar City, Ghaziabad District. The study aims to evaluate the implementation, impact, and challenges of PM-JAY in the local context, offering insights into its effectiveness and areas for improvement. By examining the experiences of beneficiaries and the operational aspects of the scheme, the research seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on health insurance in India and its role in achieving universal health coverage.

Problem Statement

Despite the introduction of various health insurance schemes in India, access to quality healthcare remains a significant challenge, particularly for economically disadvantaged populations. The PM-JAY scheme, launched under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, aims to provide financial protection against catastrophic health expenditures for the bottom 40% of the Indian population. However, there is limited understanding of how effectively this scheme is being implemented at the local level and its impact on the health outcomes of beneficiaries. This research addresses the gap by investigating the challenges faced by the urban population of Muradnagar in accessing and utilizing PM-JAY, as well as the scheme's overall effectiveness in improving healthcare access and reducing financial burdens.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. Evaluate the Implementation of PM-JAY: To assess the operational aspects of the PM-JAY scheme in Muradnagar, including the processes involved in enrollment, service delivery, and claims settlement.
2. Analyze Beneficiary Experiences: To explore the experiences of beneficiaries regarding their access to healthcare services under PM-JAY, focusing on satisfaction levels and perceived barriers.
3. Assess the Impact on Health Outcomes: To evaluate the impact of PM-JAY on health outcomes, including financial protection against healthcare costs and improvements in access to necessary medical services.
4. Identify Challenges and Areas for Improvement: To identify the challenges faced by beneficiaries in utilizing PM-JAY and to propose actionable recommendations for enhancing the scheme's effectiveness.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the PM-JAY scheme's impact. The methodology includes:
1. Study Design: A descriptive research design was utilized to gather data from beneficiaries of PM-JAY in Muradnagar City.
2. Participants: The study involved a sample of 56 beneficiaries, including individuals currently holding Ayushman cards and those expressing willingness to become Ayushman cardholders.

'Analysis of Mass Health Insurance Scheme Concerning Ayushman Bharat's- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) in Muradnagar District'

3. Data Collection Instruments:

- Surveys: A structured questionnaire was developed to collect quantitative data on beneficiary demographics, healthcare utilization patterns, and satisfaction levels with PM-JAY services.
- Interviews: In-depth interviews were conducted with a subset of beneficiaries to gather qualitative insights into their experiences and perceptions of the scheme.

4. Sampling Method: Convenience sampling and random sampling techniques were employed to select participants from designated public and private hospitals in Muradnagar.

5. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and thematic analysis for qualitative data to identify key themes and patterns.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the implementation and impact of PM-JAY among the urban population of Muradnagar:

1. High Awareness and Enrollment: A significant proportion of respondents reported awareness of the PM-JAY scheme, with many successfully enrolling and obtaining Ayushman cards.

2. Positive Impact on Financial Protection: Beneficiaries indicated that PM-JAY significantly reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, providing financial protection against catastrophic health expenditures.

3. Access to Healthcare Services: While many beneficiaries reported improved access to healthcare services, challenges such as long wait times, inadequate infrastructure, and limited availability of empaneled hospitals were noted.
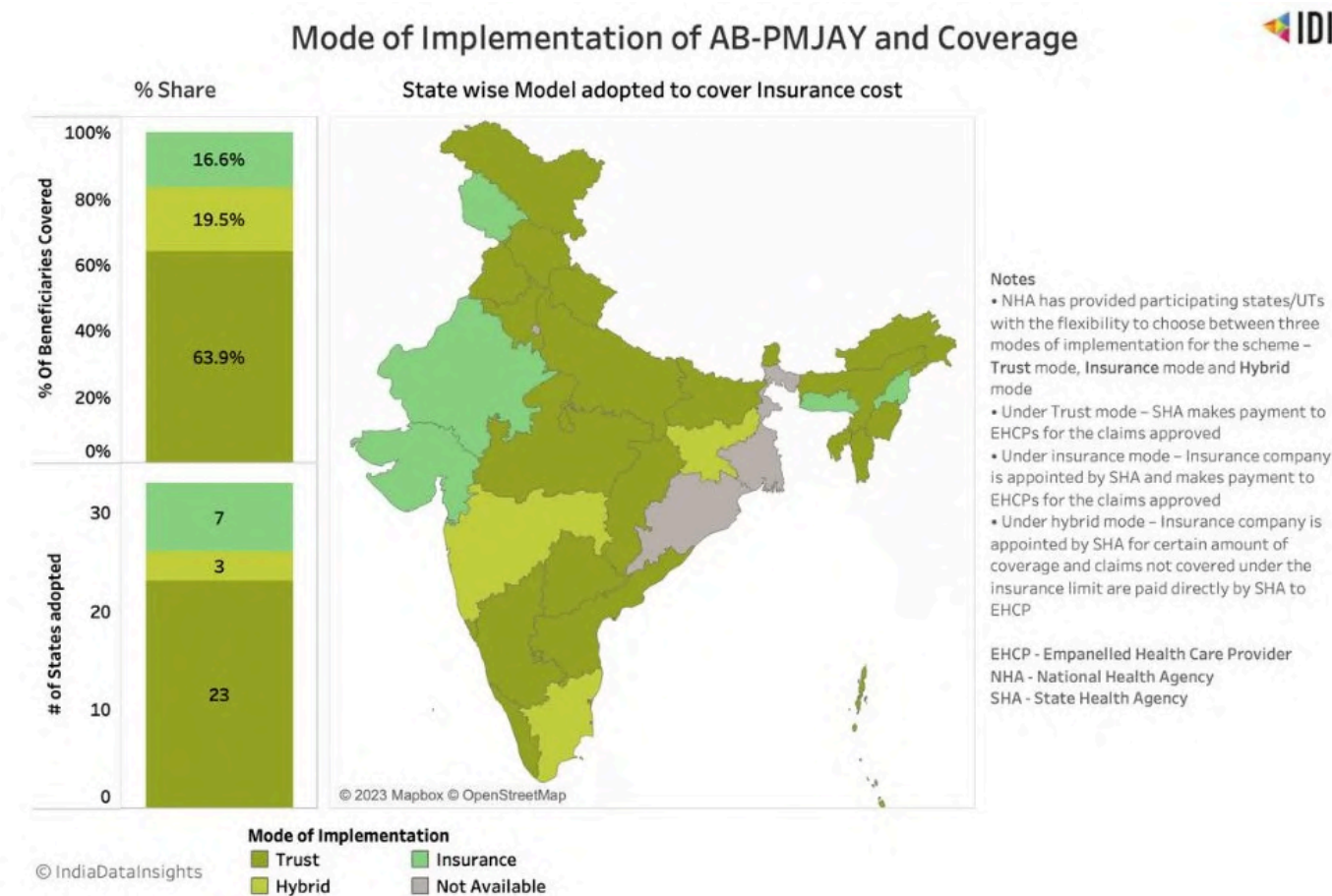

Figure 13: Model adopted for Ayushman Bharat among all states of India

4. Satisfaction Levels: Overall satisfaction levels with PM-JAY services were mixed, with some beneficiaries expressing high satisfaction regarding financial coverage, while others highlighted issues related to service quality and accessibility.

5. Barriers to Utilization: Key barriers to utilizing PM-JAY included lack of awareness about the benefits, difficulties in navigating the claims process, and infrastructural limitations in local healthcare facilities.

6. Need for Continuous Monitoring: The study emphasizes the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation of PM-JAY to address emerging challenges and ensure equitable healthcare access for all beneficiaries.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of PM-JAY and improving healthcare access for beneficiaries:

1. Awareness Campaigns: Implement targeted awareness campaigns to educate beneficiaries about the benefits and processes of PM-JAY, ensuring that they are well-informed about their entitlements.

2. Strengthen Healthcare Infrastructure: Invest in improving the infrastructure of empaneled hospitals and healthcare facilities to enhance service delivery and reduce wait times for beneficiaries.

3. Streamline Claims Process: Simplify the claims process and provide training for healthcare providers to ensure efficient handling of claims and reduce administrative burdens on beneficiaries.

4. Enhance Monitoring Mechanisms: Establish robust monitoring mechanisms to evaluate the implementation of PM-JAY regularly, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring accountability.

5. Community Engagement: Foster community engagement by involving local leaders and organizations in promoting PM-JAY and addressing the specific needs of the urban population in Muradnagar.

6. Integrate Feedback Mechanisms: Create channels for beneficiaries to provide feedback on their experiences with PM-JAY, allowing for continuous improvement of the scheme based on user input.

Conclusion

The research on the "Analysis of the Mass Health Insurance Scheme in Relation to Ayushman Bharat's PM-JAY" in Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, highlights the scheme's potential to enhance healthcare access and financial protection for the economically disadvantaged. However, addressing the identified challenges is vital for maximizing its benefits. By implementing her recommendations, stakeholders can improve the scheme's effectiveness, leading to better health outcomes and greater equity in healthcare access across India. This study contributes significantly to the discussion on health insurance and government initiatives aimed at achieving universal health coverage.

Paper

15

Vinayak Gupta

'An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies'

" The study analyzes emissions reporting of India's top 1000 companies, highlighting discrepancies, sector-specific challenges, and the need for improved BRSR frameworks to enhance sustainability practices and corporate growth alignment. "

'An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies'

Scope of Study

The research paper "An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies" by Mr. Vinayak Gupta critically examines environmental disclosure and emissions reporting among India's top 1000 listed corporations. It focuses on the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework mandated by SEBI, assessing reporting practices for Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The study analyzes sector-specific trends, evaluates the effectiveness of the BRSR in promoting transparency, and compares Indian companies' practices to global standards to identify gaps and areas for improvement relevant to India's sustainable development goals and climate change commitments.

Problem Statement

Climate change poses a significant threat to the environment and human health, necessitating urgent action. India, as one of the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, faces pressure to enhance sustainability practices and reduce its carbon footprint. Despite regulatory frameworks like the BRSR, concerns remain about the quality, completeness, and transparency of emissions reporting among Indian companies. The lack of standardized methodologies and inconsistent reporting practices hampers stakeholders' ability to assess corporate sustainability performance effectively. This research aims to address these challenges by providing a comprehensive analysis of environmental disclosure and emissions reporting among Indian companies.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Evaluate the Current State of Emissions Reporting: To assess the scale, scope, and credibility of environmental disclosures and emissions reporting practices among the top 1000 Indian companies.

2. Identify Sector-Specific Trends: To analyze emissions reporting across various sectors and identify significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Assess the Effectiveness of the BRSR Framework: To evaluate the impact of the BRSR framework on enhancing the quality of sustainability reporting and promoting corporate accountability.

4. Recommend Improvements: To propose actionable recommendations for policymakers, regulators, and corporate leaders to enhance emissions reporting practices and align corporate growth with sustainability goals.

Methodology

The research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques. The methodology consisted of the following phases:

1. Data Collation: The initial phase involved compiling sustainability report disclosures and quantitative emissions data for each company into a comprehensive master database. This included a thorough review of corporate reports, regulatory filings, and publicly available databases.

2. Data Validation: The compiled data underwent a rigorous validation process to ensure accuracy

and consistency. This involved rectifying missing information, identifying outliers, and standardizing units of measurement.

3. Data Analysis: The study utilized descriptive and exploratory data analysis techniques to quantify Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and assess emission intensities within and across sectors. Statistical tools were employed to derive meaningful insights and facilitate a holistic understanding of the corporate sustainability landscape.

4. Comparative Analysis: The research included a comparative analysis of emissions reporting practices among Indian companies and global best practices to identify gaps and areas for improvement.

Key Findings

The research yielded several significant findings

regarding environmental disclosure and emissions reporting among Indian companies:

1. Disparities in Emissions Reporting: The analysis revealed substantial disparities in emissions reporting practices among the evaluated companies. Many companies failed to disclose crucial emissions data, particularly Scope 3 emissions, which represent indirect emissions occurring in the value chain.

2. Sectoral Contributions to Emissions: The Power & Energy, Metals & Mining, and Cement sectors emerged as the most significant contributors to Scope 1 emissions, primarily due to their reliance on fossil fuel combustion and energy-intensive operations. Conversely, the Manufacturing sector exhibited high Scope 3 emission intensity, highlighting the indirect environmental impacts of corporate activities.
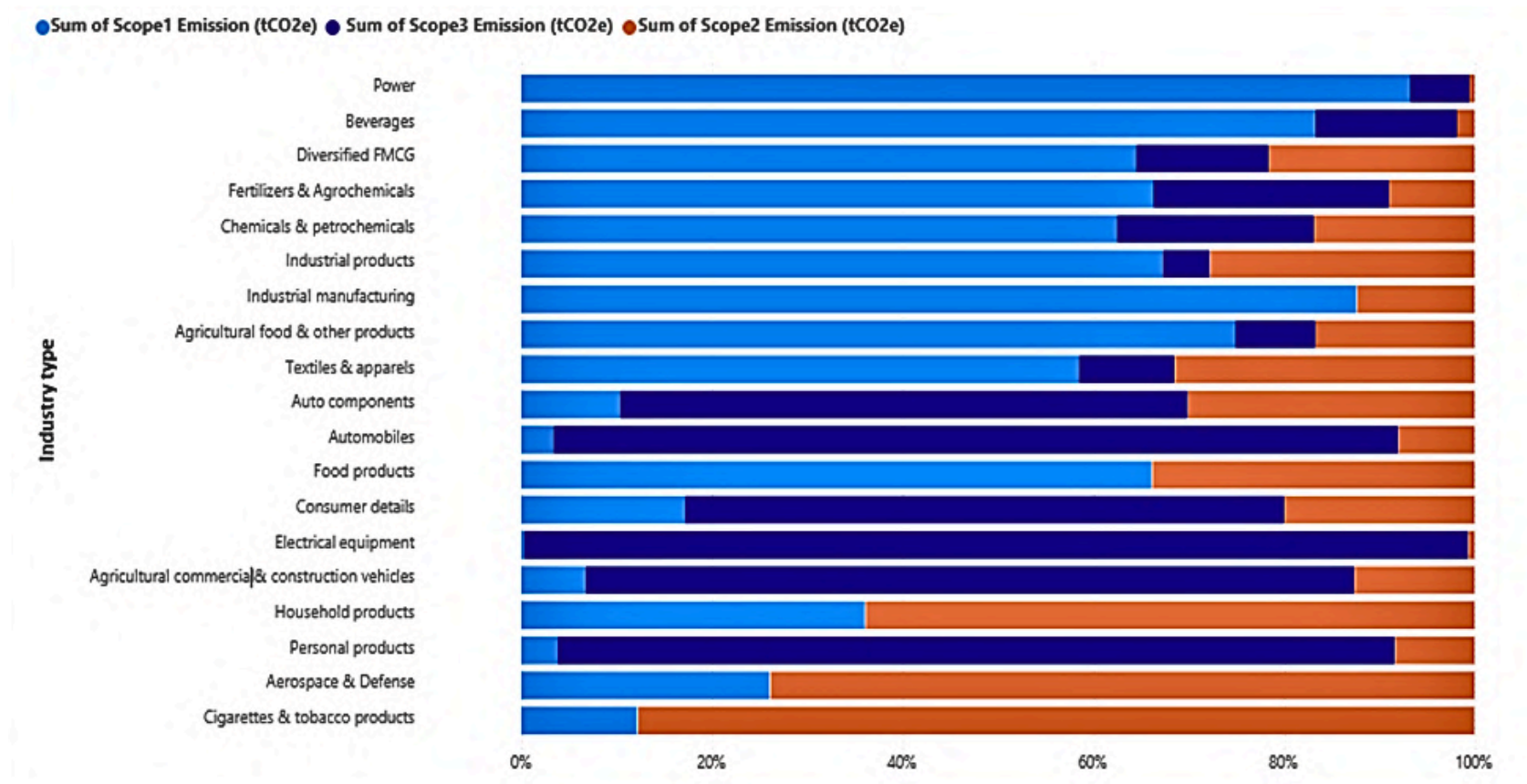

Figure 14: Descriptive Analysis of Emission Intensities across Various Sectors

'An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies'

3. Challenges in Data Management: The study identified several challenges associated with the BRSR template's implementation, including data management difficulties, inconsistencies in data standardization, and variances in comparability and materiality assessments.

4. Regulatory Gaps: The research highlighted the need for enhanced regulatory mechanisms and incentives to ensure comprehensive and transparent emissions reporting. A considerable number of companies lacked adherence to the BRSR guidelines, raising concerns about the credibility of sustainability disclosures.

5. Best Practices and Innovations: Some sectors, particularly renewable energy, demonstrated exemplary practices in emissions reporting and mitigation strategies. The study emphasized the importance of adopting global best practices to enhance the effectiveness of the BRSR framework.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Enhance Regulatory Frameworks : Policymakers should strengthen the BRSR framework by incorporating clear guidelines for emissions reporting, including sector-specific metrics and standardized methodologies. This will promote consistency and comparability in sustainability disclosures.

2. Capacity Building Initiatives: Companies should invest in capacity-building initiatives to enhance their technical expertise in emissions reporting.

Training programs should be developed to educate personnel on best practices and reporting requirements.

3. Incentivize Transparency: The government should introduce incentives for companies that demonstrate exemplary emissions reporting practices. This could include recognition programs, preferential treatment in government procurement, and access to financing options.

4. Promote Stakeholder Engagement: Companies should engage with stakeholders, including investors, regulators, and civil society organizations, to understand their information needs and expectations regarding sustainability reporting. This will foster transparency and accountability in corporate disclosures.

5. Leverage Technology: Companies should explore the use of emerging technologies, such as blockchain and artificial intelligence, to streamline emissions data collection, verification, and reporting processes. This will enhance the accuracy and reliability of sustainability disclosures.

Conclusion

The research conducted by Mr. Vinayak Gupta provides valuable insights into the current state of environmental disclosure and emissions reporting among Indian companies. The findings underscore the critical role of standardized, robust emissions reporting in aligning corporate growth with sustainability goals.

'An Analysis of Environmental Disclosure and Emission Reporting by Indian Companies'

While the BRSR framework represents a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability in sustainability reporting, several challenges remain.

To effectively address these challenges, concerted efforts are needed from policymakers, regulators, and corporate leaders to enhance emissions reporting practices and embed sustainability considerations across all levels of corporate operations. By addressing the identified gaps in the BRSR framework and leveraging the insights gained from this analysis, India can advance its sustainability agenda and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The study emphasizes the necessity of fostering a culture of sustainability within the corporate sector, recommending targeted capacity-building initiatives and the promotion of internal and external collaborations to drive meaningful environmental improvements. Aligning growth with sustainability presents a multifaceted challenge for Indian companies, necessitating a concerted effort to enhance emissions reporting and embed sustainability practices across all levels of corporate operations.

"When it comes to disaster management, a proactive approach is always better than a reactive one.

– Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Paper

16

Bandla Sethuram

'Strengthening of Local Governance for Cyclone Disaster Management : A case study of Puducherry District'

"

This study investigates local governance's role in cyclone preparedness and response in Puducherry, emphasizing community engagement, proactive planning, and resource allocation to minimize cyclone-related impacts and enhance disaster management.

"

'Strengthening of Local Governance for Cyclone Disaster Management : A case study of Puducherry District'

Scope of Study

The research paper by Mr. Bandla Sethuram focuses on the critical role of local governance in managing cyclone disasters, specifically within the context of Puducherry District, India. Given the region's vulnerability to cyclones due to its geographical location along the eastern coast of India, the study aims to explore how local governance structures can be strengthened to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The scope of the study encompasses an analysis of existing governance frameworks, community engagement strategies, and the effectiveness of disaster management practices in mitigating the impacts of cyclones. By examining the interplay between local governance and disaster management, the research seeks to provide actionable insights for policymakers and stakeholders involved in disaster risk reduction.

Problem Statement

Puducherry District is frequently affected by cyclones, leading to significant loss of life, property, and infrastructure. Despite the establishment of various disaster management frameworks at national and state levels, the effectiveness of local governance in implementing these strategies remains a critical concern. The problem lies in understanding the gaps in local governance structures, community participation, and resource allocation that hinder effective cyclone disaster management. This research addresses the need to identify these gaps and propose solutions to strengthen local governance in Puducherry, ultimately enhancing the region's resilience to cyclonic events.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are as follows:
1. Assess the Effectiveness of Local Governance: To evaluate the effectiveness of local governance structures in conducting cyclone preparedness measures, including risk assessments and early warning systems in Puducherry District.
2. Analyze Community Engagement: To analyze the role of community engagement in disaster management, focusing on how local governance can foster active participation among residents during cyclone preparedness and response efforts.
3. Evaluate Post-Cyclone Recovery Efforts: To assess the effectiveness of post-cyclone recovery and rehabilitation efforts in Puducherry District, identifying challenges and successes in restoring normalcy after cyclonic events.
4. Provide Recommendations for Improvement: To formulate actionable recommendations for strengthening local governance and enhancing disaster management practices in Puducherry District.

Methodology

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to provide a comprehensive analysis of local governance in cyclone disaster management. The methodology includes:
1. Study Design: A descriptive research design was utilized to gather data from various stakeholders involved in disaster management in Puducherry District.

'Strengthening of Local Governance for Cyclone Disaster Management : A case study of Puducherry District'

2. Participants: The study involved a diverse sample of stakeholders, including local government officials, community leaders, disaster management personnel, and residents affected by cyclones.

3. Data Collection Instruments:

·Surveys: Structured surveys were conducted among residents in randomly selected locations within Puducherry District to gather quantitative data on cyclone preparedness, awareness levels, and perceptions of local governance effectiveness.

·Interviews: In-depth interviews were conducted with local officials and disaster management personnel to gather qualitative insights into the challenges and successes of local governance in disaster management.

4. Sampling Method: Convenient and random sampling techniques were employed to select specific locations and participants for surveys and interviews, ensuring a diverse representation of perspectives.

5. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data to identify key themes and narratives related to local governance roles in cyclone disaster management.

Key Findings

The study reveals several critical findings regarding the role of local governance in cyclone disaster management in Puducherry District:

1. Proactive Planning and Preparedness: Effective local governance was found to be crucial in proactive planning and preparedness for cyclones. Local authorities engaged in risk assessments and developed early warning systems to alert communities about impending cyclonic events.

2. Community Engagement and Awareness: The research highlighted the importance of community engagement in disaster management. Local governance structures that fostered active participation among residents during preparedness drills and awareness campaigns significantly improved community readiness for cyclones.

3. Coordination Among Government Agencies: The study identified the need for improved coordination among various government agencies involved in disaster management.

Figure 15: M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) launched Training of Trainers (ToT) program called 'Disaster Management for Coastal Communities.

'Strengthening of Local Governance for Cyclone Disaster Management : A case study of Puducherry District'

Effective collaboration between local administrative departments, emergency services, and community organizations was essential for a unified response to cyclones.

4. Challenges in Post-Cyclone Recovery: The research revealed challenges in post-cyclone recovery efforts, including delays in damage assessments, inadequate resource allocation, and difficulties in accessing essential services for affected communities. These challenges hindered the timely restoration of normalcy after cyclonic events.

5. Successful Case Studies: The study presented successful case studies of community-based disaster management initiatives in Puducherry, such as Pillaiyarkuppam and Veerapattinam, which demonstrated the effectiveness of local empowerment and proactive engagement in enhancing disaster resilience.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study proposes several recommendations for strengthening local governance and improving cyclone disaster management in Puducherry District:

1. Conduct timely local body elections to ensure democratic representation and responsive governance.

2. Provide technical and financial resources to local governments for effective disaster management.

3. Involve residents in decision-making processes and community-based preparedness initiatives.

4. Integrate disaster management into Panchayati Raj and urban planning frameworks.

5. Enhance coordination between local, state, and national agencies for a unified disaster response.

6. Implement targeted communication strategies to reach diverse community segments.

7. Amend legislation to formally recognize the role of local governments in disaster risk reduction.

8. Invest in critical infrastructure resilience and early warning systems.

9. Leverage community knowledge and traditional practices to inform disaster management strategies.

Conclusion

The research on cyclone disaster management in Puducherry emphasizes the vital role of local governance in enhancing disaster preparedness. It advocates for proactive planning, community engagement, and coordination among government agencies. By addressing challenges and implementing recommendations, local governance can improve its capacity to protect vulnerable communities from cyclones, contributing significantly to disaster management discourse.

Paper

17

Harshit Jaiswal

'Government of India's e-Learning Platforms: A Study of Online Resources for Competitive Exams'

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This paper analyzes India's e-learning platforms for competitive exams, assessing their effectiveness, challenges, and recommendations to enhance accessibility, inclusivity, and accountability in education for all students.

"

'Government of India's e-Learning Platforms: A Study of Online Resources for Competitive Exams'

Scope of Study

Mr. Harshit Jaiswal's research paper explores India's e-learning platforms, focusing on their role in supporting students preparing for competitive exams like JEE and NEET. The study examines initiatives like SWAYAM, SATHEE, and Prutor@IITK, analyzing their content, structure, and effectiveness. It also assesses the impact of digitalization on educational opportunities, particularly for economically disadvantaged students, and identifies challenges related to accessibility, user engagement, and content quality. The paper proposes strategies to enhance these platforms, aiming to maximize their potential in improving educational access and quality for competitive exam aspirants.

Problem Statement

The rise of digitalization in education has led to the growth of e-learning platforms, enhancing access to educational resources. However, challenges remain, such as limited digital literacy, which hinders effective use, and the digital divide in rural and economically disadvantaged areas that limits access to quality content. Additionally, inconsistencies in content quality and user engagement, along with a lack of interactive features, further complicate learning. This research seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the Government of India's e-learning platforms and offers recommendations to address these issues and improve their overall impact.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the research are as follows:

1. Assess the Impact of E-Learning: Evaluate how digital platforms have improved the efficiency, accessibility, and quality of competitive exam services provided by the government.
2. Examine Citizen Engagement: Investigate the ways in which e-governance facilitates greater citizen involvement in competitive exam policymaking and feedback mechanisms.
3. Analyze Integration of Digital Technologies: Explore the implementation and effectiveness of e-learning initiatives in enhancing the competitive exam experience for students and educators.
4. Identify Challenges and Opportunities: Identify challenges faced in implementing e-governance in the competitive exam sector and explore potential opportunities for improving collaboration and outcomes.
5. Provide Recommendations: Develop evidence-based recommendations for competitive exam institutions and stakeholders to optimize the use of e-governance for a more connected, transparent, and efficient competitive exam system.

Methodology

The research employs a qualitative content analysis approach to study the Government of India's e-learning platforms, specifically focusing on SWAYAM PRABHA, SATHEE, and Prutor@IITK. The methodology includes the following steps:

1. Data Collection: A representative sample of educational content from each platform was collected, including audio-visual materials and user engagement metrics.

'Government of India's e-Learning Platforms: A Study of Online Resources for Competitive Exams'

2. Thematic Analysis: Recurring themes and patterns within the content were identified, assessing pedagogical approaches, comprehensiveness, and alignment with competitive exam syllabi.

3. User Engagement and Feedback: User comments, ratings, and feedback were reviewed to gauge student satisfaction and the perceived effectiveness of the content.

4. Platform Effectiveness Evaluation: The study evaluated how well each platform supports students in preparing for competitive exams, considering factors such as ease of access, content variety, and interactivity.

Key Findings

The research yielded several significant findings regarding the Government of India's e-learning platforms:

1. Accessibility and Reach: The platforms have improved access to educational resources for students, particularly those from economically weaker backgrounds. However, disparities in internet connectivity and digital literacy remain barriers to full utilization.

2. Content Quality: While platforms like SWAYAM and SATHEE offer a wide range of courses and materials, inconsistencies in content quality were noted. Some courses lacked depth and engagement, affecting student learning outcomes.

3. User Engagement: Engagement metrics indicated that user interaction peaked during exam seasons, highlighting the need for timely content updates and targeted resources during critical preparation periods.

4. Interactive Features: The absence of interactive elements such as live Q&A sessions and real-time feedback mechanisms limited the effectiveness of the platforms in fostering a collaborative learning environment.

5. Challenges Identified: Key challenges included technical issues, limited digital literacy, and the need for ongoing content updates to keep pace with changing exam patterns and syllabi.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the research paper provides several recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of Government of India's e-learning platforms:

1. Enhance Digital Literacy: Implement training programs for students and educators to improve digital skills and proficiency in using e-learning tools.

2. Improve Content Quality: Regularly update and diversify content to ensure it aligns with the latest exam patterns and syllabi. Incorporate interactive elements such as quizzes and discussion forums to enhance engagement.

3. Increase Accessibility: Invest in improving internet connectivity and digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to bridge the digital divide.

4. Foster User Engagement: Introduce live sessions and interactive content to promote real-time engagement and personalized learning experiences.

5. Monitor and Evaluate: Establish robust monitoring frameworks to assess the effectiveness of e-learning platforms in improving learning outcomes and exam readiness.

Conclusion

The integration of Government of India's e-learning platforms within the competitive exam sector presents a significant opportunity to enhance educational accessibility and quality for students across the country. While these platforms have made strides in providing valuable resources, challenges related to digital literacy, content quality, and user engagement must be addressed to maximize their potential.

By adopting a comprehensive strategy that emphasizes digital literacy initiatives, equitable access, and inclusive design, the competitive exam system can evolve into a more efficient and collaborative ecosystem. The recommendations provided in this research aim to guide policymakers and stakeholders in optimizing the use of e-learning resources, ultimately contributing to a more equitable education system that empowers all students to succeed in their competitive exam endeavors.

> *India is a youthful country. A country with such a major percentage of youth has the capability to change not only its own, but the fate of the entire world.*
>
> – Shri Narendra Modi
> Hon'ble Prime Minister

Note: _____