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Development of Indian Economy - Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract:

The given paper (explorative-cum-descriptive in nature) covers briefly how the eight main factors affect the five main problems, i. e.

- 1. Poverty
- 2. Unemployment & Underemployment
- 3. Wide disparities in personal incomes
- 4. Wrong philosophy of life & the long spell of foreign rule/Minority rule and
- 5. Corruption in every form

The Father of the Nation, Gandhiji had seen Independence as an opportunity to wipe the tear from every eye and Shri Nehru's 'Tryst with Destiny' has turned out to be 'a date with despair'. It is an empirical research based upon the secondary data collected through study of various academic works in the relevant field.

Keywords: Agriculture produce, capital starvation, collective planning, cooperatives, deprivation infrastructure, land reforms, malnutrition, productivity, proprietorship, purchasing power

1. Introduction

The given eight factors affect the five main problems of India since Independence, i.e. Poverty, Unemployment & Underemployment, Wide disparities in personal incomes, Wrong philosophy of life & the long spell of foreign rule/Minority rule and Corruption in every form, directly or indirectly:

- 1. Promotion of Democracy
- 2. Avoidance of Widening Income Disparities
- 3. Trusteeship: The Middle Path of Self Employment
- 4. Empowerment: A multidimensional approach to poverty reduction
- 5. Concrete Measures for Employment
- Service Sector
- 7. Radical Changes in power structure
- 8. Epilogue (Caste System and Population Control)

We will briefly discuss the factors one by one.

2. Factor 1: Promotion of Democracy

For promotion of democracy, both education and market economy should be analysed effectively.

(A) Education:

- 1. Increases the benefits of political activity because it increases human capital
- 2. Lowers the costs of political activity because the citizens are better able to make decisions
- 3. Lawmakers have schools inculcate democratic values in order to have the students support their system

- 4. Education affects socialization equally, including its manifestation in politics
 - (B) Market economy is all set to play a crucial role in this context in India in the foreseeable future.

India Should Monitor Elections at Local, Intermediate And National Level Keeping Education and Present Market Economy In Mind So That Policies Are Framed In The Right Direction

3. Factor 2: Avoidance of Widening Income Disparities

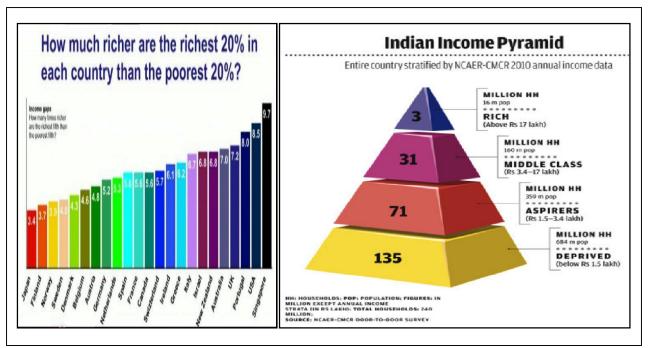


Figure 1

135 Million Indian Population is below poverty line earning less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs annually whereas only three million population is in the rich class earning above Rs. 17 lakhs. There is a wide gap between rich and poor which need to be bridged.

4. Factor 3: Trusteeship: The Middle Path of Self Employment

Gandhiji concept of Trusteeship: Owner of wealth-care taker

As wealth creation requires special skills and instinct, so special abilities need to be honoured and money should be distributed equally, not in the hands of few.

5. Factor 4: Empowerment: A Multidimensional Approach to Poverty Reduction

Society for Development and Community Empowerment (SDC) should conceptualizes empowerment so that disadvantaged persons are empowered to exercise their rights, obtain access to resources and participate actively in the process of shaping society and making decisions.

Poverty Is Not Only About Low Incomes, But Also Emanates From Social Exclusion And The Lack Of Access To Power, Voice And Security.

6. Factor 5: Concrete Measures for Employment

There are emerging signs that rapid growth can result in shortage of high quality skills needed in knowledge intensive industries. One area of concern is that India is losing edge on the tracking of the pure sciences. To continue competitive advantage and ensure a continuous supply of quality manpower, we need large investments in public sector institutions of higher learning. This should be accompanied by:

- 1. Fundamental reform of the curriculum as well as service conditions to attract a dedicated and qualified faculty.
- 2. Skill improvement is one of the important things needed in active labour market policies.
- 3. Expanding capacity through private sector initiatives in higher learning needs to be explored while maintaining quality.
- 4. Conditions of work and promotion of livelihoods are important for raising the incomes of youth workers.
- 5. Since majority is in the informal sector, protective measures are also required. Minimum Level of Social Security like life insurance, health insurance has to be given to unorganized workers.
- 6. Self help groups and micro finance institutes should be encouraged for livelihood promotion.
- 7. Cluster development should be undertaken for improvement in productivity of self employed.

8. Existing self employment programmes (e.g. Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana and wage employment programmes (National Rural employment Guarantee Scheme) should be strengthened.

Employability of youth has to be increased through skill development and vocational training

7. Factor 6: Service Sector

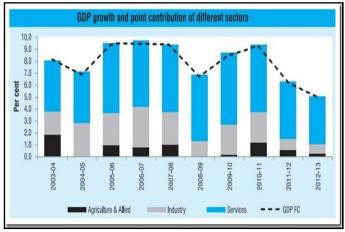


Figure 2

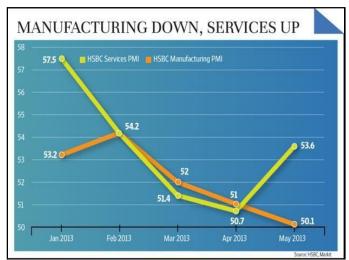
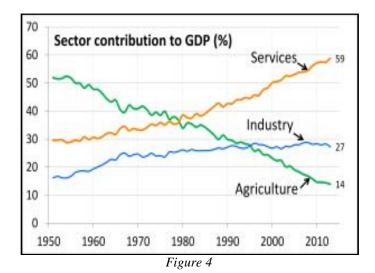


Figure 3



Service Sector is the main driver of growth of the Indian Economy. The share of Agriculture in GDP is decreasing continuously where as share of Service Sector is growing continuously. To increase employment Government needs to focus on the Service Sector.

8. Factor 7: Radical Changes in Power Structure

A sociological understanding of local political processes and the local power structure is a relative rarity in the India context. A particular gap in this regard is the interplay of political dynamics at the local level and its interaction with the state and wider actors. In the past it was dominated by institutions of lineage, Samaj and Union Parishad, and was anti poor – in all aspects.

On the other hand leaders in recent times are younger in age, educated, members of non-influential gosthi, and they have good economic standing based on business and affiliated in the development programs and to implement these programs they maintained link with their higher ups and have had more personal qualities and they maintained a good link with major political parties.

So, the new power structure is pro-poor. The techniques of the rural elite to build and maintain power also diversified, such as constructing business associations, building party networks and involving with non-government organizations etc. NGO

9. Factor 8: Epilogue

9.1. Caste System

India is socially differentiated through class, religion, region, tribe, gender, and language. This Caste system. sole basis of systematic ranking and unequal access to valued resources like wealth, income, power and prestige. The Indian caste system has played a significant role in shaping the occupations and roles as well as values of Indian society.

The present Indian society is moving from its closed systems towards a state of change and progression marked by the assertion of the human spirit irrespective of castes and creeds Numerous movements challenging the injustices associated with the caste system have encouraged individuals in India to be more civil towards other caste members.

9.2. Population Control



Figure 5

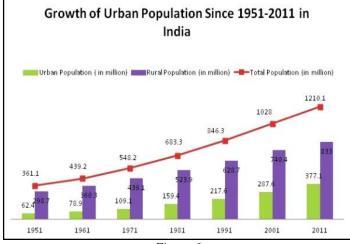
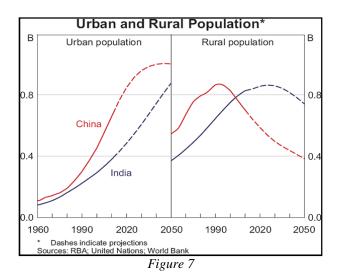


Figure 6



The growth rate of population has decreased but at the same time the share of urban population in the overall population has increased whereas the share of rural population has decreased. This is indicating rapid urbanization of traditionally agrigarian Indian Population.

10. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1. India could be better and more expeditiously served by agriculture which provides food and clothing and domestic or small scale technology which requires an increase and not a reduction in manual labour, uses the simplest device or equipment and is based on purely local materials and local talent. Agricultural land, rivers, mines and forests are forms of national wealth, ownership of which must vest absolutely in the people of India collectively.
- 2. Increasing disparities in income and emergence of monopolies on the one hand and increasing unemployment on the other are largely the result of increasing mechanization and automation of manufacturing industries, construction and services-emphasis on capital intensive projects and industries on the one hand and neglect of cottage industries and other labour intensive enterprises on the other.
- 3. The norms of Non-Interference and Independence of Democratic Governance, which have been watchwords of traditional Indian foreign policy, are still regarded as guiding principles in the protection of national interests.
- 4. Trusteeship provides a means of transforming the present capitalist order of society into an egalitarian one.
- 5. The relationship between caste and hereditary occupations has become less significant now, and there are fewer restrictions on social interaction among castes, especially in urban areas
- 6. Centralization of industrial production that has led to concentration of economic power and unemployment and it is unemployment that has led to poverty.
- 7. The sense of responsibility should come from within every individual. While the educated male should change his attitude towards his female counterpart, granting her the dignity which is of use to her, there is also an urgent need to change the status of the millions of underprivileged, illiterate women who are discriminated.

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