

NEED OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN INDIA: SOME JUSTIFICATIONS

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Abstract *India needs inclusive growth to achieve the overall progress of the country and attain certain targets relating to poverty, employment, education, infrastructure, health, women and children, gender equality, regional equality etc. Inclusive growth is necessary to maintain growth with equity, achieving sustainable development, human development, raise economic growth, equal distribution of income and wealth. India ranks at low 100 among 119 countries with score of 31.4 on Global Hunger Index - 2017, place the country in the "Serious" hunger levels category. India ranks at 37th out of 103 countries in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index - 2017 and accounts that 31 per cent of the world's "Multidimensionally Poor" children live in India. It shows that a high economic growth is no guarantee of food and nutrition security. India has largest number of wasted, stunted, and malnourished children below five years and facing a serious burden of under-nutrition. According to The Global Nutrition Report – 2017, 38 per cent of children under five years are affected by stunting due to lack of nutrients, 21 per cent of children under five years are "Wasted" or "Severely Wasted", and 51 per cent of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia. The government has made inclusive growth as a key element of eleventh and twelfth five-year plans and introduced various policies, programmes and social safety nets to achieve targets. This paper studies need, policies and programmes for attaining inclusive growth in India.*

Keywords: *Inclusive Growth, Poverty, Mortality, Education, Programmes*

JEL Codes Classification: *I1, I2, I3, O15.*

INTRODUCTION

The focus of the government in recent years has been shifted from promoting incredible India for building inclusive India. Inclusive growth needs to be achieved to reduce poverty, social and economic disparities, to sustain economic growth with equity, human development, equal distribution of income and wealth. The planning commission had made inclusive growth an explicit goal in the eleventh five-year plan (2007-2012) and twelfth five-year plan (2012-17). The 11th five-year plan proposed to raise the agriculture and GDP growth target of 9 per cent per annum to make growth more inclusive. The main objective of eleventh five-year plan towards faster and inclusive growth, the broad vision, aspirations which the twelfth five-year plan seeks to fulfil with the aim of faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. The twelfth five-year plan includes twenty-five core indicators which are related to economic growth, poverty, unemployment, education, health, infrastructure, service delivery, environment and sustainability. The government has introduced various policies, programmes and social safety nets to achieve targets. According to the Human Development Report-2016, the public health expenditure (as percentage of GDP) is more than 8 per cent and 7 per

cent in countries like Norway, United states, Germany, Japan and United Kingdom in 2014. On the other hand, the public expenditure on health is low at 1.4 per cent in India. The share of agriculture and allied sectors in GVA declined from 18.2 per cent in 2012-13 to 17.5 per cent in 2015-16 and 16.4 per cent in 2017-18 (1st AE) at current prices but still accounts 54.6 per cent of total employment (Census 2011). The contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the GVA of the country has been declining, the growth was -0.2 per cent in 2014-15 and 0.7 per cent in 2015-16, it declined from 4.9 per cent in 2016-17 to 2.1 per cent in 2017-18 (1st AE).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Suman Kannoujia (2016) explored the problems relating to poverty, employment, agriculture, problems in social development, regional disparities and discussed challenges, suggested measures in achieving inclusive growth in India. She discussed inter-related elements of inclusive growth including poverty reduction, agriculture development, social sector development, poor quality delivery system, and malnutrition among children. She suggested some measures to achieve inclusive growth by enhancing investment in rural areas, rural infrastructure, and agriculture spurts in credit for farmers. The study also suggested that sharp increase in

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public expenditure on education and health care is essential and promote social safety nets to increase rural employment.

K. Prasanna (2016) discussed the meaning and dimensions of inclusive growth in India. The study explored the concept, types, causes of poverty and anti-poverty programmes. This study discussed that the government introduced various schemes, programmes, and social safety to reduce poverty through five-year plans since independence. He also concluded that the appropriate steps have been taken by the government regarding policies and programmes to reduce poverty in India. Despite introduction of several programmes, the government did not achieve the desired targets relating to poverty and income inequality.

Deepak Kumar Behera (2015) examined the link between agriculture development and inclusive growth by farm sector growth driven rural transformation. This study analysed the economic growth performance across various sectors in India and Gujarat from 1997-98 to 2010-11 and used descriptive statistical methods. He found that agriculture sector growth increased at a higher rate in Gujarat than India during 2001-02 to 2010-11. Moreover, the Gujarat facilitated inclusive development in agriculture through the growth of livestock and horticulture sector. It also concluded that agriculture growth is positively related to economic growth and the agriculture growth of Gujarat influenced by the growth of total cereals, total pulses, total food grains, wheat, total oilseeds, groundnut, and tobacco.

Dora Thomson and Manish Tongo (2012) explored that how inclusive growth and demographic dividend of India is complementary to each other. This study found that both social and educational infrastructure are important for the inclusive growth by exploiting demographic dividend of India. Moreover, it required social and intellectual capital, social capital including institutions, relationships and norms that shape the quality and quantity of social interaction of society and intellectual capital refers to human capital with intelligence and skills. For acquiring real time knowledge, education and industrial hub must coexist and cooperate with each other.

Jesus Felipe (2012) analysed that the inclusive growth as growth that allows all members of a society to participate and contribute to growth process on an equal basis as Asian Countries attain relatively high growth rates of GDP, but many citizens do not seem to benefit from it. The multilateral development institutions developed the concept of inclusive growth to solve this problem. The inclusive growth is a policy agenda to achieve the objective of full employment of labour force. There are specific policies to achieve: a) Redress the neglect of agriculture b) Undertake the public investment in basic infrastructure c) Use of industrial policy to accelerate industrialization and structural transformation in general d) Direct fiscal and monetary policies e) Implement job guarantee programs to ensure full employment with price stability.

Devender Kawday (2012) discussed the need for economic reform with equitable development and focused on the inter-related elements of inclusive growth including reduction in poverty, unemployment and regional disparities, increase in agriculture development, and social sector development. He also discussed the poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes and concluded that both rapid growth of the economy as well as desired targets relating to inclusive growth can be possible through the development of efficient infrastructure services. Moreover, expansion and modernization of infrastructure can be done through upgradation of technology and greater use of IT.

Grewal, P. Malhotra & A. Ahmed (2011) investigated the India's record in poverty reduction and outline measures that strengthen that channels through which the benefits of economic growth flow to the poor. For significant poverty reduction, sustained economic growth is necessary condition but, sectoral composition of economic growth also matters. This study discussed that rapid growth of agriculture can generate more employment opportunities for the poor. Moreover, they also concluded that the main thrust of inclusive growth to attain growth and employment in agriculture, increasing public expenditure on education and health, improvement in infrastructure and effective governance.

S. Mahendra Dev (2008) examined the issues, performance and challenges in the inter-related elements of inclusive growth. This study discussed inter-related elements of inclusive growth including agriculture, poverty, employment, food security, social sector, and regional disparities. He also explored the trends in agriculture output, input growth, total factor productivity, labour productivity, international trade, indebtedness and farmer suicides. He suggested that the objective of growth and equity must be pursued simultaneously to attain inclusive growth.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Since independence, India has made considerable progress in education as well as health over the years and significant improvement has been occurred in economic and social development. The India has grown rapidly in the post reform period and improved relating to balance of payments, foreign exchange, service sector, infrastructure, information technology, and stock market, but still inequalities prevail in access and achievement across regions. The desired targets could not achieve relating to poverty, employment, low agriculture growth, regional disparities, gender disparities and malnutrition among children etc. As a large majority of India's population is dependent on agriculture and for better infrastructure facilities, electrification, investment in irrigation in rural areas can be possible through inclusive growth which leads to improve agricultural productivity.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

This paper presents the need of inclusive growth in India and discusses important policies and programmes for attaining inclusive growth during current scenario. This paper is descriptive in nature as it presents current scenario of various aspects pertaining to inclusive growth in India. This paper is based on secondary data and the required data have been collected from various published sources such as National Family Health Survey, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India; Sample Registration System, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India; Human Development Report; Educational Statistics at Glance, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India; Economic Survey etc.

The India's Position on the Global Hunger Index-2017

The India's position on the Global Hunger Index is ranked based on four indicators 1. Undernourishment 2.

Child Mortality 3. Child Wasting 4. Child Stunting. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) released the Global Hunger Index-2017, where India ranks at low 100 among 119 countries with score of 31.4 on Global Hunger Index, place the country in the "Serious" hunger level category. India stood at 97th in 2016 and 80th in 2015 and ranks at 100 is the third-worst in all of Asia but better than Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2017. India ranks lower than all its neighbouring countries such as China ranks highest at 29, Nepal (72), Myanmar (77), Sri Lanka (84), Bangladesh (88), Pakistan (106), Afghanistan (107) in South Asia.

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index-2017

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index-2017 covers 76% of the world's population, it measures the nature and intensity of poverty according to a report released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). India ranks at 37th among 103 countries in the global multidimensional poverty index – 2017, it accounts that 31% of the world's "Multidimensionally Poor" children live in India.

Table 1: Number and Percentage of Poor

Year	Poverty Line (In Rs.)		Number of Poor (Million)			Poverty Ratio (Per cent)		
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
2004-05	446.68	578.80	326.3	80.8	407.1	41.8	25.7	37.2
2011-12	816.0	1000.0	216.5	52.8	269.3	25.7	13.7	21.9

Source: NITI Aayog, Estimated by Tendulkar Method, Economic Survey 2014-15

Above table 1. shows that the number of poor declined from 407.1 million in 2004-05 to 269.3 million in 2011-12. The poverty line at all India level as MPCE is Rs. 816.0 for rural areas and 1000.0 for urban areas as per the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee, NSS 68th round (2011-12). The percentage of people living below poverty line declined from 37.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12.

Table 2: Trends in Nutritional Status of Children Under 5 Years

	Rural	Urban	Total
Total children age 6-23 months receiving an adequate diet (%)	8.8	11.6	9.6
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height for age) (%)	41.2	31.0	38.4
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight for height) (%)	21.5	20.0	21.0
Children under 5 years who are severely wasted (weight for height) (%)	7.4	7.5	7.5
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight for age) (%)	38.3	29.1	35.7

Source: National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India

Table 2 reveals that the proportion of underweight and stunted children below 5 years is 35.7 per cent and 38.4 per cent. Children under 5 years who are wasted and severely wasted at 21.0 per cent and 7.5 per cent and getting an adequate diet between age group of 6-23 months at 9.6 per cent. Further, it is noticed that more children are stunted, wasted, and underweight under five years in rural areas than urban areas.

Table 3: Mortality Indicators in India

	Rural	Urban	Total
Infant mortality rate (Per 1,000 live births)	38	23	34
Death Rate for children aged 0-4 years	10.7	6.0	9.4
Under-five mortality rate (Per 1,000 live births)	43	25	39
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	27	14	24
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	21	11	18
Late Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	6	3	5
Post Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	11	9	11
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	26	14	23

Source: Sample Registration System-2016, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India

Table 3 shows that the death rate for children aged 0-4 years is at 9.4 per cent, it includes 10.7 per cent in rural areas and 6.0 per cent in urban areas. On the other hand, infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate is at 34 and 39,

both infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate in rural areas are more than urban areas. Moreover, neo-natal mortality rate and post neo-natal mortality rate accounts at 24 and 11 in 2016.

Table 4: LFPR, WPR and UR Based on Usual Principal Status (UPS), 2015-16

Parameter	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
LFPR	77.3	26.7	53.0	69.1	16.2	43.5	75.0	23.7	50.3
WPR	74.1	24.6	50.4	66.8	14.3	41.4	72.1	21.7	47.8
UR	4.2	7.8	5.1	3.3	12.1	4.9	4.0	8.7	5.0

Note: LFPR-Labour Force Participation Rate, WPR-Worker Population Ratio, UR-Unemployment Rate
Source: Economic Survey 2016-17

According to the 5th Annual Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS), 2015-16 conducted by Labour Bureau, the unemployment rate and labour force participation rate estimated at 5.0 per cent and 50.3 per cent at all India level based on Usual Principal Status approach. Moreover, the LFPR for females is lower than that males in both rural and urban areas. The LFPR for female accounted low at 23.7 per cent against 75.0 per cent for male in 2015-16. The WPR for females reflected a similar pattern, lower participation rate for females in comparison to males in both rural and urban areas. The government has launched various legislation-based schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) issues related to low labour force participation rate and worker population ratio for females.

Table 5: Literacy Rates and Adult Literacy Rates –2011 (In Percentage)

	Literacy Rates (7+Age Group)			Adult Literacy Rates (15+Age Group)		
	All	SC	ST	All	SC	ST
Total	73.0	66.1	59.0	69.3	60.4	51.9
Male	80.9	75.2	68.5	78.8	71.6	63.7
Female	64.6	56.5	49.4	59.3	48.6	40.2

Source: Educational Statistics at Glance-2016, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India

Above table shows that the literacy rates at 7 +age group and 15+age group estimated at 73.0% and 69.3% where male literacy rate (80.9%) is higher to female literacy rate (64.6%) for 7 +age group and male literacy rate (78.8%) compared to female literacy rate (59.3%) for literacy rates of 15 +age group. The literacy rates of 7 +age group and 15 +age group estimated at 66.1% and 60.4 % for SC and 59% and 51.9% for ST at national level.

Table 6: Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) & Gender Parity Index (GPI) In 2014-15

Level	GER									GPI
	All			SC			ST			
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	
Primary (I-V)	98.9	101.4	100.1	110.7	113.2	111.9	110.6	108.2	109.4	1.03
Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	87.7	95.3	91.2	97.2	105.5	101.0	93.0	95.2	94.1	1.09
Elementary (I-VIII)	94.8	99.2	96.9	105.8	110.5	108.0	104.4	103.7	104.0	1.05
Secondary (IX-X)	78.1	78.9	78.5	81.6	83.9	82.7	71.8	72.6	72.2	1.01
Senior Secondary (XI-XII)	54.6	53.8	54.2	53.5	55.3	54.3	39.8	37.8	38.8	0.99
Higher Secondary	25.3	23.2	24.3	20.0	18.2	19.1	15.2	12.3	13.7	0.92

Note: M - Male, F - Female, T-Total

Source: Educational Statistics at Glance-2016, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

Table 6 presents that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for secondary, senior secondary, higher secondary for all students estimated at 78.5%, 54.2% and 24.3% in 2014 -15 respectively. On the other hand, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled

at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the corresponding number of male students in each level. The GPI for primary education recorded at 1.03%, 1.05% and 0.92% for elementary and higher secondary education level in 2014-15.

Table 7: International Comparison on Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)-2014

Countries	Primary (I-V)	Lower Secondary (VI-VIII)	Upper Secondary (IX-XII)	Tertiary	Public expenditure on Education as % of GDP
India	101.4	89.3	62.5	23.0	4.13
Bangladesh	111.9 ⁻³	76.1 ⁻¹	44.7 ⁻¹	13.4	1.97 ⁻¹
Nepal	135.2	90.4	49.7	15.8	4.71
Pakistan	93.6	55.9	31.1	10.4	2.47
Sri Lanka	101.3	99.7	99.1 ⁻¹	20.7	1.62 ⁻¹
China	103.9	100.4	88.8	39.4	NA
Germany	103.3	101.6 ⁻¹	104.6	65.5	4.93 ⁻²
Russia	98.6	98.7	105.1	78.7	4.15 ⁻²
South Africa	99.7	94.9	93.1	19.7 ⁻¹	6.05
UK	108.2	112.7	138.2	56.5	5.68 ⁻¹
USA	99.5	101.9	93.2	86.7	5.22 ⁻³

Note: A^{-x}- x years back date, the value was A

Source: Educational Statistics at Glance-2016, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

Table 7 shows Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) among the major South-Asian countries, the India's GER for lower secondary, upper secondary, and tertiary level is lower as compared to China, Germany, Russia, South Africa, UK,

and USA. The India's GER ranges at 89.3%, 62.5% and 23% respectively. In terms of the public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP is highest in Nepal (4.71%) and South Africa (6.05%) in 2014.

Table 8: Trends and India's Position in Global HDI

Country	HDI Value 2015	HDI Rank 2015	LEB (Year) 2015	Expected year of Schooling 2015	Mean Year of schooling 2015	GNI Per Capita 2015	GII - 2015 Value Rank	
Norway	0.949	1	81.7	17.7	12.7	67614	0.053	6
US	0.920	10	79.2	16.5	13.2	53245	0.203	43
Germany	0.926	4	81.1	17.1	13.2	45000	0.066	9
UK	0.909	16	80.8	16.3	13.3	37931	0.131	28
Russian Fed	0.804	49	70.3	15.0	12.0	23286	0.271	52
Sri Lanka	0.766	73	75.0	14.0	10.9	10789	0.386	87
Maldives	0.701	105	77.0	12.7	6.2	10383	0.312	64
Brazil	0.754	79	74.7	15.2	7.8	14145	0.414	92
China	0.738	90	76.0	13.5	7.6	13345	0.164	37
South Africa	0.666	119	57.7	13.0	10.3	12087	0.394	90
India	0.624	131	68.3	11.7	6.3	5663	0.530	125
Bangladesh	0.579	139	72.0	10.2	5.2	3341	0.520	119
Bhutan	0.607	132	69.9	12.5	3.1	7081	0.477	110
Nepal	0.558	144	70.0	12.2	4.1	2337	0.497	115
Pakistan	0.550	147	66.4	8.1	5.1	5031	0.546	130
Afghanistan	0.479	169	60.7	10.1	3.6	1871	0.667	154
World	0.717	-	71.6	12.3	8.3	14447	0.443	-

Source: Human Development Report-2016

Above table presents the Human Development Index values and ranks in terms of three basic parameters: to live a long and healthy life, to be educated and knowledgeable, and to

enjoy a decent standard of living. India's HDI value for 2015 is at 0.624 and ranks the country at 131 out of 188 countries of human development index (HDI) - 2016, the lowest

among the BRICS countries, with Russia at 49, Brazil (79), China (90), and South Africa at 119, but slightly ahead of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Among SAARC countries, Sri Lanka and Maldives place in high human development category and ranks at 73 and 105, followed by India (131), Bhutan (132), Bangladesh (139), Nepal (144), Pakistan (147) and Afghanistan (169). On the basis of Gender Inequality Index (GII), India ranks at 125 among 159 countries with 0.530 value.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The share of agriculture and allied sectors in GVA declined from 18.2 per cent in 2012-13 to 17.5 per cent in 2015-16 and 16.4 per cent in 2017-18 (1st AE) at current prices but still accounts 54.6 per cent of total employment (Census 2011). The contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the GVA of the country has been declining. The growth was -0.2 per cent in 2014-15 and 0.7 per cent in 2015-16, it declined from 4.9 per cent in 2016-17 to 2.1 per cent in 2017-18 (1st AE).

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

As per census 2011, only 73 per cent literacy has been achieved in which male literacy at 80.9 per cent and female literacy at 64.6 per cent. The government was enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education RTE Act - 2009 to increase the quality as well as accessibility of elementary education in April, 2010 with the designed scheme of Sarve Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in order to implement the RTI Act - 2009. For the country as whole, only 79 per cent of teachers are professionally qualified as per the latest report by the Unified-District Information System for Education (U-DISE) on 'School Education in India'. The government introduced various schemes like the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, Model School Scheme (MSS) and Saakshar Bharat/ Adult Education to build capacity in secondary schools on par with expanded primary enrolments. Moreover, a new scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with the aims of preventing gender-biased sex selection elimination and ensuring protection, survival and education of the girl child.

TOWARDS A HEALTHY INDIA

Recently, the government approved 20,000 solar power-based water supply schemes under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) across all the states to improve the availability of drinking water in rural areas. The Mission Indradhanush was launched in Dec, 2014 for covering all children who are either unvaccinated or are partially vaccinated against seven vaccine-preventable

diseases including diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles, and hepatitis B by 2020. With the aim of covering 201 high focus districts in the first phase, three rounds have been conducted since the launch of the programme. It immunized 20.8 lakh children and 5.8 lakh pregnant women in the first phase, 17.2 lakh children and 5.1 lakh pregnant women in the second phase, and 17 lakh children and 4.8 lakh pregnant women in the third phase under the coverage of 352 districts of the country of Mission Indradhanush. The government introduced various schemes and programmes like AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Jan Aushadhi Scheme for strengthening the health sector. Moreover, various initiatives have been taken by the government under National Health Mission (NHM), which subsume the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) with a population of more than 30,000 to provide free health care in both rural and urban areas.

CONCLUSION

It is observed that the India has grown rapidly over a decade but could not achieve the desired targets relating to poverty, employment, education, health, regional equality and gender equality etc. In terms of world scenario, among the major South-Asian Countries, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for lower secondary, upper secondary, and tertiary level is lower in India as compared to China, Germany, Russia, South Africa, UK, USA and the India's GER ranges at 89.3%, 62.5% and 23.0% respectively. It is also concluded that the male literacy rates for 7 +age group and 15 +age group is more than female literacy rates. The contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the GVA of the country has been declining and the growth was -0.2 per cent in 2014-15 and 0.7 per cent in 2015-16, it declined from 4.9 per cent in 2016-17 to 2.1 per cent in 2017-18 (1st AE). The public health expenditure (as percentage of GDP) is more than 8 per cent and 7 per cent in countries like Norway, United states, Germany, Japan and United Kingdom in 2014. On the other hand, the public expenditure on health is low at 1.4 per cent in India. India's HDI value for 2015 is 0.624 and ranks the country at 131 among 188 countries, the lowest among the BRICS countries, with Russia at 49, Brazil (79), China (90), and south Africa (119), but slightly ahead of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

However, India needs inclusive growth for enhancing economic growth as well as human development. For ensuring inclusive growth, the government must increase investment on education, health, rural areas, rural infrastructure, agricultural development and promoting rural employment through social safety net, policies, programmes and schemes.

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