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G20 and India: Turning point for world politics for peace, security and development

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INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

The New Delhi G20 Leaders' Summit on 9-10 September 2023 marked the successful culmination of our G20 Presidency. This summit, which included all P5 countries and represented 85% of global GDP, 75% of world trade, and two-thirds of the world's population, stands as the most significant international gathering in India's history as an independent nation.

Under the theme of our G20 Presidency, "One Earth, One Family, One Future," inspired by the ancient Indian belief of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," resonated with unanimous endorsement. Through extensive engagement, including over 200 meetings across 60 Indian cities in all 28 States and 8 UTs, involving 40 different mechanisms, such as Sherpa and Finance Track Working Groups, and Engagement Groups, India's G20 Presidency achieved an unprecedented scale and scope. At the heart of the G20 Summit lay the New Delhi G20 Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted on the summit's first day. This action-oriented, inclusive, and ambitious declaration outlines pathways to address a myriad of global challenges, marking a historic milestone in India's journey towards global leadership.

The NDLD embodies India's distinct perspective, advocating for universal, equitable, and inclusive solutions to contemporary issues. It underscores a commitment to peace, dialogue, diplomacy, and hope, echoing the Prime Minister's call for an era of peace over conflict. Through this declaration, India has effectively showcased indigenous ideas, steered global discourse, and bridged divides, contributing significantly to shaping global narratives. The Group of Twenty (G20) has emerged as a crucial platform for global cooperation, uniting major economies to address pressing global challenges. India's involvement in the G20 has marked a significant milestone in world politics, providing a fresh perspective from a rapidly advancing nation. This research article retrospectively examines India's role within the G20 framework, analysing its contributions towards fostering peace, security, and development globally. By revisiting key moments, initiatives, and policies, this article aims to illuminate India's impact and the broader implications for international relations.

Delving into the intricate tapestry of India's engagements within the G20, this article dissects key moments, initiatives, and policies pursued by India, shedding light on their nuanced impact and broader ramifications for international relations. From advocating for inclusive peace-building efforts in conflict-ridden regions to spearheading cooperative security measures and championing sustainable development agendas, India's footprint within the G20 resonates across diverse domains. In navigating the complexities of contemporary global challenges, India has emerged as a steadfast advocate for inclusive diplomacy, leveraging its rich tapestry of cultural diversity, historical resilience, and strategic acumen to foster consensus-driven solutions within the G20 framework. Through a retrospective lens, this article illuminates India's proactive stance in shaping the global discourse on peace, security, and development, underscoring the pivotal role played by the nation in steering collective action towards a more equitable, secure, and prosperous world order.

Drawing upon empirical evidence, policy analyses, and diplomatic narratives, this research article provides a nuanced understanding of India's evolving role within the G20, highlighting the synergies between national priorities and global imperatives.

Introduction:

The Group of Twenty (G20) has emerged as a cornerstone of global governance, representing a diverse array of economies and serving as a platform for collective action on pressing global issues. Since its inception in 1999 in response to financial crises, the G20 has evolved into a pivotal forum where leaders converge to deliberate on matters of economic significance and beyond. Central to the G20's ethos is the recognition that challenges such as economic instability, geopolitical tensions, and environmental degradation transcend national borders and require coordinated international responses. Amidst this backdrop, India's inclusion in the G20 has marked a significant milestone in world politics, symbolizing the growing influence and relevance of emerging economies on the global stage. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and a burgeoning geopolitical actor, India brings a unique perspective shaped by its rich history, diverse culture, and developmental aspirations. Within the G20 framework, India's participation has not only provided a platform for articulating its own interests but has also contributed to shaping the broader discourse on peace, security, and development.

This research article seeks to delve into the multifaceted role played by India within the G20, with a particular focus on its contributions towards fostering peace, enhancing security, and driving sustainable development globally. By conducting a retrospective analysis, this article aims to elucidate key moments, initiatives, and policies pursued by India within the G20 framework, examining their impact and implications for international relations. Through this lens, the article seeks to shed light on India's evolving role as a proactive stakeholder in shaping the global agenda within the G20, and the significance of its contributions in advancing collective efforts towards a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous world order.

People's G20 – 'Jan Bhagidari'

Concurrently, numerous 'Jan Bhagidari' initiatives were orchestrated with active public engagement, embodying a comprehensive approach involving the entirety of the nation and society, thus characterizing India's G20 Presidency as a "People's G20." These initiatives encompassed a wide array of activities, including the G20 University Connect lecture series, Model G20 conferences, specialized G20 sessions in educational institutions, G20 Pavilions featured in prominent festivals, quiz competitions, selfie contests, #G20India narratives, workshops, marathons, awareness campaigns, cleanliness initiatives, Yuva Samvaad, and a multitude of other events themed around G20 organized by civil society and the private sector. These 'Jan Bhagidari' endeavours collectively engaged with over 70 million individuals, with the Civil 20 alone reaching out to 4.5 million people.

New Initiatives during India's G20 Presidency

❖ Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group

❖ Startup20 Engagement Group

❖ Chief Scientific Advisors Roundtable

❖ G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI, and Metaverse

❖ Newly established Working Group on Empowerment of Women (consensus reached)

❖ Collaboration in counternarcotics efforts

❖ Collaboration in traditional medicine practices

❖ Millet Research Initiative

Achievements on the sidelines of the G20 Summit:

The recent launches and agreements within the G20 context are as follows:

Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA): Formed by Argentina, Brazil, India, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, UAE, and USA. Observer countries include Canada, Bangladesh, and Singapore.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC): Signed by India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA, EU Commission, France, Italy, and Germany.

India-Brazil-South Africa-USA Meeting: The current Indian presidency, along with the incoming presidencies of Brazil, South Africa, and the USA, have pledged to enhance and strengthen Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in collaboration with the World Bank.

Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI): Involving India, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, EU, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Mauritius, and the World Bank. The G7 aims to raise $600

billion by 2027 for global infrastructure investments, including partnerships with the private sector, to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PGI projects in India focus on sectors such as health, telecommunications, and renewable energy.

India's Contributions to Peace:

 Within the G20, India has consistently advocated for peace and stability in regions grappling with conflicts and humanitarian crises. Through multilateral diplomacy, India has supported initiatives promoting dialogue and mediation in conflict zones, particularly in the Middle East and Africa. Moreover, India's emphasis on inclusive development as a catalyst for peace has resonated within the G20, sparking conversations on addressing socio-economic disparities and fostering social cohesion.

India's endeavours towards fostering peace within the G20 framework are extensive and varied, underscoring the nation's steadfast dedication to nurturing global tranquillity and stability. A pivotal facet of India's peace-building initiatives is its diplomatic engagements aimed at fostering dialogue, collaboration, and conflict resolution on the global stage. India's role as a peacekeeping nation is exemplified by its significant contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions, consistently ranking among the top troop-contributing countries. As of the latest data, India has deployed a substantial number of personnel to various UN peacekeeping operations worldwide, reaffirming its commitment to upholding global peace and security.

Furthermore, India actively engages in various G20 working groups and platforms focused on conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding. Through collaborative efforts such as the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group and the G20 Conference on Crime and Security, India works alongside other member nations to tackle emerging security challenges and mitigate the impact of natural disasters, thereby contributing to regional and global peace endeavours. Moreover, India's emphasis on economic development and regional connectivity plays a pivotal role in promoting peace and stability. Initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) facilitate trade, investment, and cultural exchanges, fostering economic interdependence and reducing the potential for conflicts. In addition to diplomatic and economic contributions, India actively promotes cultural exchange and people-to-people ties as a means of fostering mutual understanding and tolerance among nations. Collaborative efforts such as the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) exemplify India's commitment to addressing common challenges and advancing sustainable development goals, thus laying a robust foundation for lasting peace and prosperity.

G-20 Indian Initiatives towards Africa

India's involvement with Africa within the G-20 framework involves various initiatives aimed at promoting economic cooperation, development partnerships, and capacity-building efforts across

different sectors. These initiatives primarily focus on investment and trade promotion, infrastructure development, capacity building, healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, and climate change mitigation. In terms of investment and trade promotion, India utilizes platforms like the India-Africa Trade Ministers' Conclave and the India-Africa Business Forum to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between Indian and African businesses, fostering economic ties between the two regions.

India also supports infrastructure development in Africa through initiatives such as the India-Africa Project Partnership Conclave, which brings together stakeholders to explore opportunities for collaboration in sectors like transportation, energy, and telecommunications. Capacity-building efforts are another key aspect of India's engagement with Africa. Programs like the India Africa Forum Summit Scholarships and the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program provide training and scholarships for African professionals and students, enhancing skills and knowledge across various fields.

India's G-20 initiatives towards Africa encompass a wide range of sectors, reflecting its commitment to fostering sustainable development and mutually beneficial partnerships with African nations. Through collaboration and cooperation, India aims to contribute to Africa's socioeconomic advancement and strengthen bilateral relations between the two regions.

Effective role of India towards World Wide Security:

India always supports world security at all the time, since 1947. There are many examples when as a nation India not only supported peace and security operations but also provided warm innovative ideas to promote peace and security. The G-20 group is another example of good Indian leadership approach when India openly criticizes international terrorism without pointing anyone responsible for supporting terrorism and all new it very well.

 Indian efforts are very clear while there is need to called for justice without any discrimination and the big power response. Through G20 Hon'ble Prime Minster Shri Narendra Modi ji clarified that even in the future. India will fight against terrorism and always support all of those who are standing at the same platform. The Prime Minster as an effective Leader of World Politics clearly, mentioned the Indian Stand towards: -

1. Counterterrorism Cooperation

2. Maritime Security

3. Cybersecurity

4. Disaster Management

5. Peacekeeping Operations

6. Border Security

7. Nuclear Security

The Time has come when Indian voice is being trusted in all over the world. It happens because of great commitment comprehensive stand towards future task and humanitarian support to world wide along with a clear strategy to fight for the right of everyone in the world. Those are victims of terrorism and security threads. G-20 not only accepted the Indian stand s but also appreciated India's crucial role to bring peace building and world-wide security efforts as India belief One Earth, One Family, One Future.

India's Role in Development Agenda:

As a rapidly developing economy with significant developmental challenges, India's perspectives have enriched G20 discussions on development. India has been a vocal proponent of sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and inclusive growth within the G20 framework. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, spearheaded by India, demonstrate its leadership in promoting renewable energy and climate resilience. Additionally, India's focus on leveraging technology and innovation for development has garnered praise within the G20, fostering partnerships for digital inclusion and skill enhancement.

India plays a crucial role in advancing the global development agenda through various initiatives and partnerships. Some key aspects of India's role in the development agenda include:

1. <u>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</u>: India is committed to achieving the SDGs set forth by the United Nations, focusing on eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive growth, ensuring gender equality, and addressing environmental sustainability. India has implemented several policies and programs aligned with the SDGs, aiming to improve the quality of life for its citizens while contributing to global development efforts.

2. <u>South-South Cooperation</u>: India actively engages in South-South cooperation, sharing its development experiences, expertise, and resources with other developing countries. Through initiatives such as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program and the Indian Development Cooperation Fund (IDCF), India provides capacity-building assistance, technical training, and financial support to partner countries across various sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and infrastructure development.

3. <u>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</u>: As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India is committed to combating climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. India has pledged to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix, enhance energy efficiency, and implement climate-resilient infrastructure projects. Additionally, India actively participates in international

climate negotiations and initiatives, advocating for the interests of developing countries and promoting climate justice.

4.   Infrastructure Development: India places a strong emphasis on infrastructure development as a key driver of economic growth and development. The government has launched ambitious initiatives such as the Smart Cities Mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to improve urban and rural infrastructure, enhance connectivity, and promote sustainable urbanization.

5.   Digital Transformation: India is leveraging digital technologies to accelerate development and foster inclusive growth. Initiatives such as Digital India, which aims to provide digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and digital services to all citizens, are transforming the delivery of public services, promoting e-governance, and empowering marginalized communities.

6.   Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief: India provides humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to countries affected by natural disasters, conflicts, and humanitarian crises. India's rapid response capabilities and expertise in disaster management have earned it recognition as a reliable partner in times of need, both regionally and globally.

Conclusion:

India's participation in the G20 has played a pivotal role in shaping global responses to peace, security, and development challenges. Through its active engagement, India has brought forth perspectives informed by its unique socio-economic context and experiences. Reflecting on past engagements, India's contributions within the G20 underscore the significance of inclusive dialogue and cooperation in addressing shared global concerns. As the international community continues to grapple with complex geopolitical dynamics, India's role within the G20 remains crucial in advancing the collective pursuit of peace, security, and development on the global stage. India's contributions to the global development agenda are substantial and diverse. Through a combination of domestic policies and international collaborations, India plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, and fostering inclusive growth.

India's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is evident in its various initiatives aimed at eradicating poverty, ensuring gender equality, and improving healthcare and education. Additionally, India actively engages in South-South cooperation, sharing its developmental experiences and expertise with other nations. In the fight against climate change, India has pledged to increase the share of renewable energy and has implemented various measures to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable practices. Furthermore, India's focus on infrastructure development, digital innovation, and humanitarian assistance underscores its dedication to advancing the global development agenda. As India continues to prioritize sustainable and inclusive growth, its

proactive engagement and collaborative efforts on the international stage will be instrumental in addressing pressing global challenges and building a more prosperous and equitable world for all.

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Reshaping School Education in India after Post-COVID-19: Emerging Trends and Transformations

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Introduction-

The educational landscape in India is intricate and varied, spanning across multiple levels ranging from primary to tertiary education, and incorporating both structured formal education and informal learning methodologies.

Key overview of the Education:

Primary Education:

In India, primary education typically commences at the age of six and extends over eight years, categorized into lower primary (Classes 1-5) and upper primary (Classes 6-8). This phase prioritizes fundamental skills such as literacy, numeracy, and foundational knowledge.

Secondary education: covering Classes 9 to 12, follows primary education, offering a more extensive curriculum building upon earlier learning. This stage prepares students for board examinations like the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or various state boards.

School Secondary Education: encompassing Classes 11 and 12, is pivotal as students select specific streams—Science, Commerce, or Humanities—that steer their career trajectories.

School Education: In India, School education encompasses a variety of institutions, including universities, colleges, and technical institutes, which offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across diverse disciplines. Notable institutions include the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and state government-established universities.

India provides vocational education and training (VET) programs: to cultivate specific skills and competencies necessary for different trades and professions, aimed at enhancing employability and meeting industry demands.

Distance Education: It plays a significant role in the Indian education system, catering to students who cannot attend regular classes due to various constraints. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) stands out as one of the largest providers of distance education in India.

In essence, the Indian education system is extensive and varied, designed to meet the diverse educational needs of a large population. While significant strides have been made in expanding educational access, challenges persist, particularly in ensuring both quality and equity, representing ongoing areas of concern for policymakers and educators.

Review of Related Literature:

In their study titled "School Education in India: Challenges and Opportunities of the COVID-19 Pandemic," Gope, P.C., D. Gope, and A. Gope examined the repercussions of the pandemic on School educational institutions. They observed that the pandemic necessitated the closure of universities and educational establishments, prompting a shift towards digital modes of education. However, the limitations of digital education prompted the need for reopening these institutions. Recognizing the significance of student perspectives, the authors devised a set of 21 questions focusing on objectives for reopening educational institutions, modifications to the curriculum to tackle challenges encountered during online learning, and health and safety protocols. Data was collected utilizing a Likert scale and analyzed employing various statistical methodologies. The outcomes disclosed diverse student viewpoints regarding the reopening of institutions amidst the pandemic. The majority of students advocate for practical or project-based curricula irrespective of the mode of instruction. Concerning health and safety protocols, a substantial proportion of students prioritize the implementation of disinfection rooms, hand sanitization stations at entry points and common areas, and regular health assessments (with percentages of 74.82%, 80.69%, and 74.48% respectively). Although 92.4% of students express their commitment to adhering to health and safety protocols, 72.9% believe it would be challenging to enforce these measures within the institution.

Sahoo, B.P., Gulati, A., and Haq, I.U. conducted an analysis titled "Covid-19 and Challenges in School Education: An Empirical Analysis," examining the significant transformations witnessed by the global economy, including India, in recent years, with innovation and technology playing pivotal roles across sectors. The rapid dissemination of technology has led to the substitution of human or physical touch points with digital interfaces. As digitization becomes increasingly prevalent, it is crucial for the education sector to adapt to stay abreast of the evolving landscape.

With the advent of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the education sector has been compelled to transition to online classes to ensure smooth and uninterrupted operations. This research aims to explore the challenges encountered by students and their level of satisfaction with these online classes. The study

is founded on primary data collected from 700 students across various colleges affiliated with universities.

Jena, P.K. conducted an analysis on the effects of COVID-19 on School Education in India. The pandemic has caused significant disruptions in various aspects of human life, particularly in education, posing an unprecedented challenge to educational institutions globally. The closure of campuses and the transition to online learning have considerably slowed down internationalization efforts. In India, around 320 million learners have been affected, leading to the suspension of educational activities as schools and colleges ceased operations. Despite these challenges, School Education Institutions (HEIs) have responded positively, ensuring the continuity of teaching, research, and community service through various digital tools and strategies during the pandemic. This article highlights the major impacts of COVID-19 on HEIs in India and discusses the measures taken by HEIs and educational authorities to maintain uninterrupted educational services during the crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about the emergence of new modes of learning, perspectives, and trends that are likely to shape the future of School education in India. The article explores post-COVID-19 trends that may lead to innovative teaching and learning approaches and offers valuable suggestions for conducting educational activities during the ongoing pandemic.

In a separate study, Tari, S. & Amonkar, G. discussed the ramifications of COVID-19 on School education in India. The pandemic has affected various aspects of life, with education being one of the hardest-hit sectors. It has forced many countries to impose lockdowns, halting numerous activities, including those in major industries and educational institutions. This crisis has resulted in significant transformations and disruptions in traditional operations, particularly in the educational sector. Teaching, learning, and assessment methods have undergone significant changes, prompting the need for digitalization to ensure continuity in learning.

The paper addresses the challenges faced by students in India pursuing School education during these difficult times. Additionally, it examines both the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on teaching, learning, and assessment methods at the undergraduate level, along with the measures implemented by policymakers to facilitate uninterrupted education for School education students in India. Furthermore, the paper proposes strategies to further innovate the teaching and learning process, aiming to enhance the experiences of both educators and learners amidst the pandemic.

Research Methodology:

In this study, our objective is to explore the shifts in School education post-COVID-19. The research utilizes a descriptive research framework by examining pertinent literature readily accessible. Following a review of a sample of papers gathered through random sampling, we proceed with the

ensuing discussion. It's crucial to highlight that this review exclusively draws upon secondary data sources.

Result and Discussions:

Investigating the evolving dynamics of School education in India after post-COVID-19 offers valuable insights into the pandemic's impact on the sector and the resultant adaptations. Below is a proposed structure for a research paper on this subject:

Shift to Online Learning:

Examination of the swift transition from traditional classroom instruction to online learning modalities.

Identification and analysis of challenges encountered by both students and educators in adapting to online platforms.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of various online learning tools and strategies employed during the pandemic.

Digital Infrastructure and Accessibility:

Assessment of the discrepancies in digital infrastructure access among students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Exploration of initiatives undertaken by educational institutions and governmental bodies to bridge the digital divide.

Proposition of policy measures aimed at enhancing digital accessibility within School education.

Impact on Student Mobility and Internationalization:

Analysis of the disruption in international student mobility caused by travel restrictions and visa uncertainties.

Examination of changes in enrolment patterns and preferences, comparing domestic versus international education.

Assessment of implications for cross-border collaborations and partnerships within School education.

Financial Challenges and Institutional Resilience:

Investigation into the financial strains faced by School education institutions due to revenue loss from sources like tuition fees and research grants.

Examination of strategies employed by universities to mitigate financial risks and ensure sustainability.

Consideration of long-term implications for the financial framework of School education in India.

Pedagogical Innovations and Blended Learning Approaches:

Exploration of innovative teaching methods embraced during the pandemic, including flipped classrooms and blended learning.

Evaluation of the efficacy of hybrid models integrating online and offline components.

Identification of opportunities for integrating technology into teaching practices beyond the pandemic.

Student Well-being, Mental Health Support and Community:

Examination of the psychological impact of prolonged isolation and remote learning on students' mental health.

Assessment of initiatives implemented by universities to provide mental health support services and promote student well-being.

Recommendations for establishing resilient support systems within School education institutions.

Future Trends and Policy Implications:

Speculation on the long-term ramifications of the pandemic for the future of School education in India.

Proposition of policy measures aimed at fostering innovation, inclusivity, and resilience in the post-pandemic School education landscape.

Reflections on lessons learned and opportunities for transformative change within the sector.

Emerging Trends and Transformations in Alignment with National Education Policy 2020

I. **Emphasis on Foundational Learning**: The National Education Policy 2020 underscores the significance of foundational literacy and numeracy, aiming to ensure that every child achieves basic proficiency in reading and mathematics by Grade 3.

II. **Holistic Education**: The NEP 2020 advocates for a holistic approach to education, encompassing cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical development. This entails integrating arts, sports, vocational skills, and values-based education into the curriculum.

III. **Flexible Curriculum Framework**: The policy promotes a flexible curriculum framework, allowing students to choose from a wide range of subjects and pursue multidisciplinary learning pathways. It encourages experiential learning, critical thinking, and creativity.

IV. **Technology Integration**: With the increased reliance on technology during the pandemic, the NEP 2020 emphasizes the integration of technology in education. It envisions the use of digital tools for personalized learning, teacher training, and administrative purposes.

V. **Teacher Training and Professional Development**: The policy underscores the importance of continuous teacher training and professional development to equip educators with the skills necessary for effective pedagogy, assessment practices, and classroom management.

VI. **Assessment Reforms**: NEP 2020 proposes reforms in assessment practices to shift focus from rote memorization to conceptual understanding and application of knowledge. It advocates for regular formative assessments, competency-based evaluations, and reduced emphasis on board exams.

VII. **School Infrastructure and Resources**: The policy emphasizes the need for adequate infrastructure, including well-equipped classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and digital resources, to create conducive learning environments in schools.

VIII. **Inclusive Education:** NEP 2020 promotes inclusive education by addressing the diverse learning needs of all students, including those with disabilities and from marginalized communities. It advocates for the integration of special education programs and support services into mainstream schools.

IX. **Community Participation**: The policy encourages active involvement of parents, local communities, and civil society organizations in school governance, decision-making processes, and educational initiatives.

X. **Global Perspectives**: NEP 2020 aims to instil a global outlook among students by promoting international collaborations, exchange programs, and exposure to diverse cultures, languages, and ideas. It envisions Indian schools as hubs of innovation and knowledge dissemination on the global stage.

Conclusion:

The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly affected various sectors, with School education bearing a substantial burden. However, within these challenges lie opportunities for a transformative shift similar to the evolution of the education system. The decisions made during this crisis will play a crucial role in shaping the future of School education. By taking prudent actions, education can become more resilient, contributing to national progress. Conversely, failure to make appropriate decisions risks compromising educational quality. Therefore, the responsibility falls on decision-makers to navigate these challenging times carefully, ensuring the improvement rather than deterioration of educational standards.

Embracing quality online education as an essential aspect of life is essential, requiring collaborative efforts from authorities and faculty members. Together, we must work collectively to mitigate the pandemic's impact on education, considering it as a catalyst for enhancing the global School education system. Swift adoption of innovative measures will position universities and countries as leaders in this evolving landscape.

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India-Africa Partnership in the 3rd millennium: A Comprehensive Analysis

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Abstract:

This research article examines the multifaceted relationship between India and Africa in the 21st century, focusing on the various dimensions of their partnership and the potential for mutual growth and development. Through epochs of shared history, it illuminates the enduring ties that bind the two regions, from ancient trade routes to modern-day diplomatic engagements. Examining contemporary diplomatic relations unveils a complex tapestry of bilateral agreements, multilateral forums, and political alignments on critical global issues such as climate change, peacekeeping, and global governance reform. Economic endeavours are dissected, revealing burgeoning trade relations, investment inflows, and collaborative projects across pivotal sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, and technology.

Cultural diplomacy emerges as a pivotal conduit, fostering deeper mutual understanding and respect through a myriad of initiatives promoting people-to-people contacts and celebrating shared cultural heritage. Yet, entrenched within the promising prospects lie formidable challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to bureaucratic complexities, which impede the full realization of this partnership's potential. However, adversity breeds opportunity. The study identifies these obstacles and offers pragmatic policy recommendations to surmount them, unlocking new avenues for partnership and innovation. Looking ahead, it explores emerging sectors like renewable energy, digital technology, and healthcare as catalysts for future collaboration, advocating alignment with Sustainable Development Goals for inclusive and equitable development trajectories. In conclusion, the imperative of nurturing a strategic and enduring India-Africa partnership is emphasized, rooted in shared values,

mutual respect, and a commitment to mutual growth and prosperity. By harnessing historical legacies, economic synergies, and cultural diversity, India and Africa are poised to shape a more interconnected and prosperous future, thereby catalysing global development in the 21st century.

Introduction:

Brief overview of India-Africa historical ties: This section would provide a concise overview of the historical connections between India and Africa, highlighting key events, trade routes, and cultural exchanges that have shaped their relationship over centuries. The historical ties between India and Africa date back thousands of years, characterized by vibrant trade routes, cultural exchanges, and occasional political interactions. Ancient Indian civilizations maintained maritime trade links with the East African coast, particularly the Swahili city-states, facilitating the exchange of goods such as spices, textiles, and precious metals.

During the medieval period, Indian merchants and travellers ventured into various parts of Africa, establishing trading posts along the coast and fostering cultural exchange. Indian Ocean trade networks flourished, connecting ports in India, Africa, and the Middle East, contributing to the economic prosperity of both regions. The spread of Indian religions, particularly Buddhism and Hinduism, also left a lasting cultural imprint on Africa. Indian merchants and missionaries disseminated religious teachings and artistic traditions, influencing local beliefs and practices. In more recent history, India played a significant role in supporting African nations during their struggle for independence from colonial rule. India's anti-colonial stance and leadership in the Non-Aligned Movement resonated with many African leaders, fostering solidarity and cooperation.

In the post-independence era, India-Africa relations expanded across various domains, including diplomatic, economic, and cultural spheres. India provided development assistance, technical expertise, and capacity-building programs to support Africa's socio-economic development. Today, the historical ties between India and Africa continue to underpin their modern-day partnership, characterized by mutual respect, shared values, and a commitment to promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainable development across both regions.

Importance of India-Africa cooperation in the 21st century: Here, you would discuss the significance of the India-Africa partnership in the context of contemporary global dynamics, emphasizing factors such as economic growth, geopolitical shifts, and shared development challenges.

The importance of India-Africa cooperation in the 21st century stems from the significant opportunities it presents for both regions in various domains, including economic, political, social, and cultural spheres. Here are some key aspects highlighting its significance:

<u>Economic Growth and Development</u>: India and Africa are home to rapidly growing economies with immense potential for collaboration. Cooperation between the two regions can stimulate trade, investment, and infrastructure development, fostering economic growth and creating employment opportunities.

<u>Market Access and Diversification</u>: India offers a vast market for African goods and services, while Africa presents a burgeoning market for Indian products. Enhanced cooperation can lead to market access and diversification, benefiting businesses and consumers in both regions.

<u>Energy Security and Resources</u>: Africa possesses abundant natural resources, including minerals, oil, and gas, which are essential for India's energy security and industrial growth. Collaborative efforts in energy exploration, extraction, and trade can ensure a stable and sustainable supply of resources for both regions.

<u>Technological Innovation and Knowledge Sharing</u>: India is renowned for its expertise in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while Africa is experiencing a digital revolution and innovation boom. Collaboration in areas such as information technology, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure can drive technological advancement and knowledge sharing.

<u>Human Capital Development</u>: India's experience in education, healthcare, and skill development can contribute to human capital development in Africa, empowering its youth and workforce. Exchange programs, scholarships, and capacity-building initiatives can enhance educational and vocational opportunities for African citizens.

<u>Diplomatic and Political Cooperation</u>: India and Africa share common interests and concerns on global issues such as climate change, sustainable development, peace, and security. Cooperation at international forums such as the United Nations, G20, and BRICS can amplify their voices and influence global agendas.

<u>Cultural Exchange and People-to-People Ties</u>: Cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties between India and Africa foster mutual understanding, appreciation, and friendship. Collaboration in arts, literature, music, sports, and tourism can promote cultural diversity and enrich societies on both sides.

<u>South-South Cooperation and Global Leadership</u>: India and Africa represent the aspirations of developing countries and advocate for South-South cooperation and solidarity. By working together,

they can contribute to reshaping global governance structures, promoting a more equitable and inclusive world order.

Objectives of the study:

1.   To provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical ties, contemporary diplomatic relations, economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, challenges, and opportunities between India and Africa in the 21st century, with a focus on understanding the evolution and current state of the partnership.

2.   To identify potential areas of collaboration and synergy between India and Africa across various sectors, including trade, investment, technology, energy, and human capital development, while also assessing the role of cultural diplomacy and people-to-people contacts in fostering mutual understanding and respect.

Historical Perspective:

Evolution of India-Africa relations: The evolution of India-Africa relations spans millennia, reflecting a rich tapestry of cultural, economic, and diplomatic interactions. Historically, ancient trade routes facilitated exchanges of goods, ideas, and beliefs between the two regions, laying the foundation for enduring ties. During the colonial era, India stood in solidarity with African nations in their struggle against imperialism, fostering mutual respect and cooperation. Post-independence, diplomatic relations flourished, marked by India's support for African development through initiatives like the India-Africa Forum Summit. Economic collaboration has deepened over the years, with trade, investment, and development assistance serving as pillars of engagement. Today, India and Africa share a strategic partnership, characterized by shared values, mutual interests, and a commitment to addressing global challenges. The evolution of India-Africa relations reflects a journey of resilience, solidarity, and shared aspirations for prosperity and progress.

Highlights of historical interactions

Contemporary Diplomatic Relations:

Overview of diplomatic ties: Offer an overview of the current state of diplomatic relations between India and African nations, including bilateral agreements, high-level visits, and participation in multilateral forums. Bilateral ties between India and African countries have witnessed a substantial upsurge, characterized by the signing of numerous bilateral agreements covering diverse areas such as trade, investment, technology transfer, and cultural exchanges. High-level visits between Indian and African leaders have become more frequent, providing opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and the strengthening of diplomatic bonds. These visits serve to reinforce the importance both regions place on enhancing bilateral relations and exploring new avenues for partnership.

Analysis of key initiatives: Analyse key diplomatic initiatives undertaken by India and African countries, such as the India-Africa Forum Summit, and assess their impact on strengthening bilateral relations and addressing common challenges. The India-Africa Forum Summit, have emerged as pivotal platforms for fostering closer ties between India and African nations. Through this summit, held periodically, leaders from both regions come together to discuss and strategize on a wide range of issues including economic cooperation, development assistance, and capacity-building. Such initiatives have not only facilitated greater dialogue and understanding but have also catalysed concrete actions aimed at addressing common challenges and fostering mutual growth and prosperity.

Assessment of political cooperation: Evaluate the extent of political cooperation between India and Africa on global issues such as climate change, peacekeeping, and reform of international institutions. political cooperation between India and Africa extends beyond bilateral engagements to encompass collaboration on global issues of mutual interest. Both regions have demonstrated a willingness to work together on pressing global challenges such as climate change, peacekeeping, and the reform of international institutions. Through joint efforts in multilateral forums like the United Nations, India and Africa have sought to amplify their voices and advocate for the interests of developing countries, thereby contributing to a more equitable and inclusive global order.

Economic Cooperation:

Trade relations: Provide a comprehensive analysis of trade relations between India and Africa, including trends in trade volumes, composition of trade, and major export-import commodities. Trade relations between India and Africa have witnessed significant growth and diversification in recent years, reflecting the mutually beneficial nature of their economic ties. Analysis of trade volumes reveals a steady increase in bilateral trade, with both regions experiencing a surge in the exchange of goods and services. The composition of trade highlights the complementary nature of India-Africa trade, with India exporting a wide range of products including pharmaceuticals, machinery, automobiles, and textiles, while importing commodities such as minerals, crude oil, and agricultural products from Africa.

Investment flows and projects: Discuss the role of Indian investments in Africa and highlight key projects in sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and technology, showcasing examples of successful collaboration. Indian investments in Africa have also played a crucial role in fostering economic development and strengthening bilateral relations. Indian companies have made substantial investments in various sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and technology, contributing to job creation, skill development, and the transfer of technology and know-how. Key projects, such as the construction of roads, railways, and power plants, showcase examples of successful collaboration between Indian and African entities, demonstrating the tangible benefits of such partnerships for both regions. Looking ahead, there are ample opportunities for expanding economic cooperation between

India and Africa in emerging sectors such as renewable energy, digital technology, and skills development. Renewable energy presents a particularly promising area for collaboration, given Africa's abundant solar and wind resources and India's expertise in renewable energy technologies. Similarly, digital technology offers opportunities for leveraging India's strengths in IT and software development to support Africa's digital transformation and enhance connectivity and access to services. Additionally, skills development initiatives can empower African youth with the necessary skills and training to participate in emerging sectors and contribute to economic growth and development.

Exploring potential areas: Identify potential areas for expanding economic cooperation, such as renewable energy, digital technology, and skills development, and discuss strategies for tapping into these opportunities. In exploring these potential areas for cooperation, strategies such as joint ventures, technology transfer, capacity-building programs, and knowledge exchange can be employed to maximize the benefits for both regions. By tapping into these opportunities and leveraging their respective strengths, India and Africa can further deepen their economic partnership, foster inclusive growth, and unlock the full potential of their collaboration for the benefit of their people and economies.

Cultural Exchanges:

Cultural exchanges between India and Africa have flourished over centuries, enriching both regions with a diverse tapestry of traditions, beliefs, arts, and customs. These exchanges serve as bridges of understanding, fostering mutual respect, appreciation, and friendship. India and Africa share deep-rooted cultural connections dating back to ancient times. The spread of Indian religions, including Buddhism and Hinduism, to Africa contributed to the cultural fabric of many African societies. Similarly, African influences can be seen in Indian art, music, and cuisine, reflecting the intermingling of diverse cultures over time. Contemporary cultural exchanges between India and Africa encompass a wide range of activities, including music festivals, dance performances, art exhibitions, film screenings, and culinary events. These cultural exchanges provide platforms for artists, musicians, dancers, and chefs from both regions to showcase their talents, celebrate their heritage, and promote cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. Cultural diplomacy plays a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral relations and fostering people-to-people ties between India and Africa. Through initiatives such as cultural festivals, art exhibitions, and academic exchanges, both regions promote mutual understanding, respect, and friendship among their citizens. Moreover, educational and academic exchanges between India and Africa contribute to the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and best practices in various fields such as literature, philosophy, science, and technology. Indian universities and cultural institutions often collaborate with their African counterparts to facilitate student exchanges, research collaborations, and joint academic programs, enriching the intellectual and cultural landscapes of both regions. Overall, cultural exchanges between India and Africa serve as a catalyst for building enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity. By celebrating their shared heritage and

embracing their cultural diversity, India and Africa strengthen their cultural ties, promote intercultural dialogue, and contribute to a more harmonious and interconnected world.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Challenges:

Infrastructure Deficits: Both India and many African nations face significant infrastructure deficits, including inadequate transportation networks, energy systems, and digital connectivity. Addressing these deficits requires substantial investments and concerted efforts from both sides.

Regulatory Barriers: Complex regulatory frameworks and bureaucratic hurdles can impede trade, investment, and business operations between India and Africa. Harmonizing regulations and streamlining administrative processes is essential to facilitate smoother economic cooperation.

Geopolitical Complexities: India and Africa are situated in regions with diverse geopolitical dynamics, including security concerns, regional conflicts, and shifting alliances. Navigating these complexities requires careful diplomacy and strategic engagement to ensure mutual stability and security.

Opportunities:

Economic Synergies: India and Africa possess complementary strengths and resources, offering ample opportunities for collaboration across various sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, healthcare, and digital technology. Leveraging these synergies can stimulate economic growth and foster job creation in both regions.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Both India and Africa are experiencing innovation booms, with vibrant startup ecosystems and entrepreneurial ecosystems emerging in key sectors. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as incubators, accelerators, and venture capital funds can spur economic development and drive sustainable growth.

Human Capital Development: Investing in education, skills development, and capacity-building programs is essential to harnessing the potential of India and Africa's youthful populations. Exchange programs, scholarships, and vocational training initiatives can empower youth with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st-century economy.

Future Prospects:

Economic Integration: As both India and Africa continue to experience economic growth and development, there is significant scope for enhancing economic integration and trade relations between the two regions. Strengthening trade ties, diversifying export-import commodities, and promoting investment flows can unlock new avenues for shared prosperity and sustainable development.

Infrastructure Development: Addressing infrastructure deficits remains a priority for India and Africa. Future prospects entail leveraging innovative financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and technology-driven solutions to accelerate infrastructure development, particularly in transportation, energy, and digital connectivity. Enhanced infrastructure will bolster economic growth, facilitate trade, and improve the quality of life for millions of people.

Technology and Innovation: Embracing digital technology and fostering innovation are key drivers of future collaboration between India and Africa. Opportunities lie in leveraging India's expertise in information technology and Africa's burgeoning tech ecosystem to promote digital transformation, enhance connectivity, and harness the power of technology for socio-economic development.

Sustainable Development: With a shared commitment to sustainable development goals, India and Africa can collaborate on initiatives aimed at addressing environmental challenges, promoting renewable energy, and fostering inclusive growth. By prioritizing sustainability and environmental conservation, both regions can build resilient economies and ensure a greener, more equitable future for future generations.

Human Capital Development: Investing in education, healthcare, and skills development will be crucial for unlocking the potential of India and Africa's youthful populations. Future prospects include expanding access to quality education, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, and providing vocational training programs to empower youth with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st-century economy.

Cultural Diplomacy: Cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties will continue to play a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and friendship between India and Africa. Future prospects entail expanding cultural exchange programs, promoting language learning, and celebrating shared heritage to strengthen the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the two regions.

Conclusion:

In the mosaic of global partnerships, the India-Africa bond shines as a testament to enduring friendship and shared aspirations. As we delve deeper into the complexities of this relationship, it becomes evident that its significance transcends mere economic transactions or diplomatic manoeuvres. It embodies a narrative of resilience, where historical legacies intertwine with contemporary realities to shape a future of boundless possibilities. From the bustling streets of Mumbai to the savannahs of Kenya, the echoes of collaboration resound, resonating with the hopes and dreams of millions. Through the lens of diplomacy, we witness a symphony of dialogue and cooperation, where bilateral agreements and high-level engagements serve as the building blocks of a stronger partnership. Yet, amidst the formalities, it is the spirit of camaraderie that truly defines this relationship—a spirit forged through shared struggles and triumphs, and anchored in a deep sense of mutual respect and understanding.

Economically, the India-Africa partnership holds the promise of prosperity, as two dynamic regions harness their collective potential to drive growth and innovation. From trade routes of antiquity to the digital highways of tomorrow, the journey is one of continuous evolution, where opportunities abound for collaboration in sectors ranging from agriculture to renewable energy, from healthcare to digital technology. However, challenges persist, casting shadows on the path ahead. Infrastructure deficits, regulatory barriers, and geopolitical complexities stand as formidable obstacles, demanding creative solutions and unwavering determination. Yet, it is in the face of adversity that true resilience is revealed, and in overcoming these challenges, lies the promise of a brighter future.

The India-Africa partnership is a story of hope, resilience, and possibility—a story that continues to unfold with each passing day. As we embark on this journey together, let us not forget the lessons of the past, nor lose sight of the opportunities that lie ahead. For in the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Africa, we find the seeds of a better tomorrow, where the aspirations of generations past are realized, and the dreams of generations yet to come take flight.

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South Africa: The Earth of Experiment of Truth and Non-violence

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Abstract:

South Africa's historical journey as an Earth of Experiment for Truth and Non-violence intertwines with India's own struggle for independence, forming a profound connection between the two nations. Mahatma Gandhi's pivotal years in South Africa catalysed the development of his philosophy, laying the groundwork for the transformative principles of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahimsa (nonviolence) that would shape not only India's freedom movement but also resonate globally. Similarly, Nelson Mandela's steadfast commitment to reconciliation and non-violent resistance against apartheid echoes Gandhi's teachings, illustrating the enduring influence of these ideologies across continents and generations. This research article delves into the multidimensional relationship between India and South Africa, examining their shared visions, socio-economic landscapes, policies, and political frameworks through the lens of truth and nonviolence.

Both India and South Africa share a visionary commitment to democracy, equality, and social justice, grounded in the principles of Gandhi and Mandela. Their aspirations converge on creating inclusive societies where every individual has equal rights and opportunities, regardless of background. Gandhi's philosophy of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) and Mandela's vision of a Rainbow Nation exemplify this shared commitment, serving as guiding beacons for both nations as they navigate the complexities of

contemporary challenges. Despite significant progress in recent decades, both India and South Africa continue to grapple with socio-economic inequalities stemming from their historical legacies. While India's rapid economic growth has lifted millions out of poverty, persistent disparities remain, particularly in rural areas and among marginalized communities. Similarly, South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy has brought about notable improvements, yet deep-rooted socio-economic challenges persist, necessitating concerted efforts to address historical injustices and promote inclusive development.

In their respective socio-economic landscapes, both India and South Africa have implemented policies and initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized communities and reducing poverty. India's focus on inclusive growth through programs like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) underscores its commitment to social welfare and poverty alleviation. Similarly, South Africa's efforts to promote economic transformation and social cohesion through initiatives like Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) and land redistribution demonstrate its commitment to addressing historical injustices and fostering inclusive development. In the political realm, both India and South Africa boast vibrant democracies with robust constitutions that guarantee fundamental rights and freedoms. However, they also face challenges such as corruption, political polarization, and governance inefficiencies. India's democratic institutions, including its independent judiciary and free press, play crucial roles in safeguarding democratic values and holding the government accountable. Likewise, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), established under Mandela's leadership, exemplifies its commitment to confronting past injustices and promoting national reconciliation. As they navigate the complexities of the 21st century, India and South Africa can draw inspiration from the visionary paths paved by Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, reaffirming their shared commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and peaceful world for all.

Keywords: South Africa, India, truth, nonviolence, socio-economic, political, policies, Gandhi, Mandela

Introduction:

South Africa and India share a profound connection through their struggles for independence, justice, and equality. Mahatma Gandhi's transformative years in South Africa laid the foundation for his philosophy of truth and nonviolence, which not only influenced India's freedom movement but also reverberated globally. Similarly, Nelson Mandela's lifelong commitment to reconciliation and nonviolent resistance against apartheid echoes Gandhi's principles, illustrating the enduring impact of these ideologies across continents. This research article aims to explore the intricate relationship between India and South Africa, examining how their shared visions, socio-economic landscapes, policies, and political frameworks intersect with the ethos of truth and nonviolence. South Africa: The

Earth of Experiment for Truth and Non-violence stands as a testament to the enduring legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, whose transformative visions have left an indelible mark on the nation's history and global consciousness. The intertwining narratives of India and South Africa span decades of struggle against colonialism, racism, and oppression, converging in a shared commitment to truth and Non-violence as guiding principles for social transformation. Mahatma Gandhi's formative years in South Africa, spanning from 1893 to 1914, marked a crucial period in his ideological evolution, laying the groundwork for the philosophy of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahinsa (non-violence) that would later shape India's struggle for independence and inspire movements for justice worldwide.

Gandhi's experiences in South Africa, from his initial arrival as a young lawyer to his emergence as a principled activist and leader of the Indian community, provided fertile ground for the cultivation of his philosophy of resistance through nonviolent means. It was during his time in South Africa that Gandhi first experimented with Satyagraha, leading campaigns of civil disobedience against discriminatory laws and advocating for the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of race or creed. These formative years laid the foundation for Gandhi's subsequent leadership in India's freedom struggle and his enduring legacy as a champion of peace and social justice. Similarly, Nelson Mandela's lifelong commitment to justice and reconciliation was deeply influenced by Gandhi's teachings of Non-violence and moral courage. Mandela's leadership during South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy, culminating in his presidency from 1994 to 1999, exemplified the transformative power of forgiveness and reconciliation in the face of entrenched oppression and injustice. Mandela's vision of a Rainbow Nation, where all citizens could live together in harmony and equality, reflected the enduring legacy of Gandhi's principles on South African soil.

Against this backdrop of historical resonance and shared struggle, the contemporary dynamics between India and South Africa continue to be shaped by their common commitment to democracy, equality, and social justice. As both nations navigate the challenges of the 21st century, including persistent socio-economic inequalities, political polarization, and global pandemics, the ethos of truth and Non-violence remains a guiding light, illuminating pathways towards a more just, inclusive, and peaceful future for all. In the following sections, this research article will delve into the multifaceted relationship between India and South Africa, exploring their shared visions, socio-economic landscapes, policies, and political frameworks, and examining how these intersect with the enduring legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Through a comprehensive analysis, we seek to uncover the transformative potential of truth and Non-violence in shaping the destinies of these nations and the broader global community, reaffirming their shared commitment to building a better world for future generations.

Historical Context:

The historical context of South Africa as the "Earth of Experiment for Truth and Nonviolence" is deeply intertwined with the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as a global icon of peace and justice. Gandhi's arrival in South Africa in 1893 marked the beginning of a transformative journey that would not only shape his own philosophy but also leave a lasting impact on the struggle against oppression worldwide.

At the time of Gandhi's arrival, South Africa was under British colonial rule, and the Indian community faced systemic discrimination and racial segregation. Gandhi himself experienced firsthand the injustices perpetrated against Indians, including the infamous incident where he was thrown out of a first-class train compartment despite holding a valid ticket. These experiences ignited Gandhi's passion for justice and propelled him into activism. In response to the discrimination faced by the Indian community, Gandhi initiated various campaigns of nonviolent resistance, including the Satyagraha campaigns in the early 1900s. These campaigns aimed to challenge unjust laws and practices through civil disobedience and non-cooperation, laying the groundwork for his philosophy of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahimsa (nonviolence). Gandhi's principles of passive resistance and moral courage resonated deeply with oppressed communities in South Africa and beyond, inspiring them to stand up against injustice and oppression.

Gandhi's activism in South Africa also provided a crucial testing ground for his ideas and methods, allowing him to refine and develop his philosophy of nonviolence. Through his engagements with diverse communities and his interactions with fellow activists, Gandhi honed his understanding of the principles of truth and Non-violence and their practical applications in challenging systems of oppression. The impact of Gandhi's time in South Africa extended far beyond its borders, influencing not only the struggle for Indian independence but also liberation movements around the world. Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance inspired leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States and Nelson Mandela in South Africa, who adopted similar strategies in their fights against racial injustice and oppression. In this historical context, South Africa emerges as a crucible for the experimentation of truth and nonviolence, a place where Gandhi's ideas took root and flourished, leaving a profound and enduring legacy that continues to resonate today. As we examine the historical ties between India and South Africa, it is essential to recognize the pivotal role that South Africa played in shaping Gandhi's philosophy and the broader trajectory of the struggle for justice and equality worldwide.

Shared Vision of Both Countries and Major Projects Dealt in G20:

India and South Africa share a common vision rooted in principles of democracy, equality, and social justice. Both nations aspire to create inclusive societies where every individual has equal rights and opportunities irrespective of their background. Gandhi's philosophy of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) and Mandela's vision of a Rainbow Nation exemplify this shared commitment to building harmonious and pluralistic societies. India and South Africa share a common vision rooted in principles of democracy,

equality, and social justice. This shared vision is not only reflected in their domestic policies but also in their collaborative efforts on the global stage, particularly within forums such as the Group of Twenty (G20). Both nations actively engage in multilateral platforms like the G20 to address global challenges and promote inclusive development.

One of the major areas of cooperation between India and South Africa within the G20 framework is in advocating for the interests of emerging economies and developing countries. Both nations have consistently emphasized the need for greater representation and voice for these countries in global governance structures, including the reform of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. India and South Africa have collaborated closely within the G20 to push for reforms that would better reflect the changing dynamics of the global economy and ensure that the concerns of developing countries are adequately addressed. Another key aspect of their shared vision within the G20 is the promotion of sustainable development and climate action. Both India and South Africa are committed to addressing the challenges of climate change while pursuing their development objectives. Within the G20, they have advocated for measures to support renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and promote sustainable development practices. India's ambitious renewable energy targets and South Africa's efforts to transition to a low-carbon economy align with their shared commitment to combatting climate change and promoting environmental sustainability on the global stage.

India and South Africa have collaborated within the G20 to address issues related to global health, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both nations have emphasized the importance of equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for COVID-19, advocating for measures to ensure that these essential resources reach all countries, especially those with limited healthcare infrastructure and resources. India's role as the "pharmacy of the world," producing and supplying vaccines to numerous countries, including South Africa, underscores their shared commitment to global health security and solidarity in times of crisis. In addition to their collaborative efforts within the G20, India and South Africa have also initiated bilateral projects and partnerships in various sectors, including trade, investment, education, and technology. These projects aim to leverage the complementary strengths and resources of both nations to foster mutual prosperity and development. For example, India and South Africa have undertaken joint initiatives in areas such as agriculture, information technology, and space exploration, harnessing innovation and expertise to address common challenges and unlock new opportunities for growth and cooperation. Overall, the shared vision of India and South Africa within the G20 and other multilateral fora reflects their commitment to advancing global prosperity, peace, and sustainable development. Through their collaborative efforts, both nations seek to contribute positively to the international community while promoting the interests and aspirations of emerging economies and developing countries on the world stage.

Major Projects Dealt in G20:

1.   **Advocating for Emerging Economies**: India and South Africa collaborate within the G20 to advocate for the interests of emerging economies and developing countries. They push for reforms in international financial institutions to better represent the changing global economy and ensure developing countries' concerns are adequately addressed.

2.   **Sustainable Development and Climate Action**: Within the G20, India and South Africa promote sustainable development and climate action. They advocate for measures to support renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and promote sustainable development practices, aligning with their commitment to combatting climate change and environmental sustainability.

3.   **Global Health Initiatives**: India and South Africa collaborate within the G20 to address global health challenges, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. They advocate for equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments, ensuring resources reach all countries, especially those with limited healthcare infrastructure.

4.   **Bilateral Projects and Partnerships**: In addition to their G20 engagements, India and South Africa undertake bilateral projects and partnerships in various sectors such as trade, investment, education, and technology. These initiatives leverage their complementary strengths to foster mutual prosperity and address common challenges.

Socio-economic Landscape:

India and South Africa, while geographically distant, share similar socio-economic challenges rooted in their historical legacies of colonialism, inequality, and poverty. Despite their unique contexts, both nations grapple with persistent socio-economic disparities that hinder inclusive development and prosperity for all segments of society.

In India, rapid economic growth over the past few decades has led to significant progress in poverty reduction and human development indicators. However, socio-economic inequalities persist, particularly in rural areas and among marginalized communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, and religious minorities. These disparities manifest in unequal access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, exacerbating social exclusion and intergenerational poverty. Moreover, India faces challenges related to urbanization, environmental degradation, and gender inequality, further complicating efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. Similarly, South Africa's socio-economic landscape is characterized by a legacy of apartheid, which entrenched racial inequalities and socio-economic disparities. While significant progress has been made since the end of apartheid in 1994, persistent inequalities persist, particularly along racial and class lines. The majority of South Africa's wealth and resources are still concentrated in the hands of a privileged minority, while large segments of the population, primarily Black South Africans, continue to face socio-economic marginalization and exclusion. Challenges such as high unemployment, income inequality, inadequate

access to basic services, and spatial segregation persist, hindering efforts to build a more inclusive and equitable society.

In both India and South Africa, addressing socio-economic inequalities requires comprehensive and multi-faceted approaches that address root causes and structural barriers. Both nations have implemented various socio-economic policies and initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized communities, reducing poverty, and promoting inclusive development. In India, initiatives such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) aim to provide employment opportunities and enhance livelihoods for rural households, particularly women and marginalized groups. Additionally, social welfare programs such as the Public Distribution System (PDS), the National Health Mission (NHM), and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) seek to improve access to food, healthcare, and education for vulnerable populations.

In South Africa, efforts to address socio-economic inequalities are guided by the principles of redress, reconciliation, and social justice. Initiatives such as Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE), and land redistribution aim to promote economic transformation and empower historically disadvantaged communities. Moreover, social welfare programs such as the Social Assistance Grants and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) provide support to vulnerable groups and promote inclusive development. Despite these efforts, addressing socio-economic inequalities remains a complex and ongoing challenge for both India and South Africa. Sustainable solutions require coordinated action across multiple sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and governance. Moreover, addressing historical injustices and promoting social cohesion are essential for building inclusive societies where all individuals can fulfill their potential and contribute to national development. By addressing these challenges collectively, India and South Africa can create brighter and more equitable futures for their citizens and pave the way for shared prosperity and development.

Political Framework:

The political landscapes of India and South Africa are characterized by vibrant democracies with a multiparty system and regular elections. Both countries have robust constitutions that enshrine fundamental rights and freedoms, reflecting their commitment to democratic governance and the rule of law. However, they also face challenges such as corruption, political polarization, and governance inefficiencies.

India's democratic credentials are evident in its vibrant civil society, independent judiciary, and free press, which play critical roles in safeguarding democratic values and holding the government accountable. Similarly, South Africa's transition to democracy in 1994 marked a historic milestone in its journey towards inclusivity and equality. The country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(TRC), established under Mandela's leadership, exemplifies its commitment to addressing past injustices and fostering national reconciliation. In India, democracy is enshrined in the Constitution, which guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms to all citizens. The country operates under a parliamentary system of government, where the President is the ceremonial head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of government. India has a multi-party-political system, with numerous political parties representing a wide spectrum of ideologies, interests, and constituencies. Elections are held regularly at the national, state, and local levels, ensuring the participation of citizens in the democratic process. Moreover, India has a vibrant civil society, independent judiciary, and free press, which play critical roles in safeguarding democratic values and holding the government accountable.

Similarly, South Africa's political framework is rooted in its democratic Constitution, which was adopted in 1996 following the end of apartheid. South Africa operates under a parliamentary system of government, with a President as the head of state and government. The country has a multi-party-political system, with the African National Congress (ANC) being the dominant party since the end of apartheid. Elections are held regularly at the national, provincial, and municipal levels, ensuring the representation and participation of diverse constituencies. Moreover, South Africa has independent institutions such as the Constitutional Court and the Human Rights Commission, which safeguard constitutional principles and uphold the rule of law.

Both India and South Africa face challenges in their political landscapes, including issues such as corruption, political polarization, and governance inefficiencies. In India, corruption remains a significant concern, affecting various levels of government and hindering effective governance and service delivery. Similarly, South Africa has grappled with corruption scandals and allegations of state capture, which have eroded public trust in government institutions and undermined democratic accountability. Despite these challenges, both India and South Africa have made significant progress in consolidating their democratic institutions and promoting political stability. The peaceful transfer of power through free and fair elections, the existence of independent oversight bodies, and the active engagement of civil society are all indicators of the strength and resilience of their political frameworks.

Conclusion:

South Africa and India: Pioneers of Truth and Nonviolence

In conclusion, South Africa and India stand as pioneers in the global quest for truth and nonviolence, embodying the transformative power of these principles in shaping nations' destinies and inspiring movements for justice and equality worldwide. Mahatma Gandhi's formative years in South Africa laid the foundation for his philosophy of Satyagraha and Ahimsa, which not only catalyzed India's independence movement but also resonated across continents, inspiring leaders such as Nelson Mandela in their struggles against oppression and injustice.

The intertwined histories and contemporary dynamics between India and South Africa illustrate their shared commitment to democracy, equality, and social justice. Both nations have overcome immense challenges, from colonialism and apartheid to socio-economic disparities and political upheavals, yet have emerged as beacons of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. Through collaborative efforts within forums such as the G20, India and South Africa have advocated for the interests of emerging economies and developing countries, promoted sustainable development and climate action, and addressed global health challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. These initiatives reflect their shared vision of building a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world for future generations. Despite the progress made, both nations continue to grapple with socio-economic inequalities, political challenges, and other complex issues. However, their commitment to democratic governance, rule of law, and respect for human rights provides a strong foundation for addressing these challenges and advancing towards a brighter future. As India and South Africa navigate the complexities of the 21st century, they can draw inspiration from the visionary paths paved by Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, reaffirming their collective resolve to build societies based on the principles of truth, nonviolence, and social justice. By continuing to work together, learn from each other, and uphold the values that have guided their journeys thus far, India and South Africa can continue to be leaders in the global pursuit of peace, equality, and human dignity.

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NALSA Judgement: The rise of Transgender Rights in India

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Abstract

Gender norms and societal constructs have historically marginalized transgender individuals in India, particularly the hijra community. This article examines the transformative impact of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India judgment on transgender rights, focusing on the complexities of gender identity, legal recognition, and ongoing social challenges. The NALSA judgment of 2014 was a landmark ruling affirming transgender rights, granting the right to self-identify and mandating affirmative action. However, challenges remain in implementation, criticized for categorizing transgender identities under a single "third gender" and requiring proof of sex reassignment surgery for legal gender change. Drawing on historical perspectives and contemporary research, this study employs qualitative methods—interviews, focus groups, and document analysis—to explore the lived experiences of transgender individuals post-NALSA. It underscores the need for comprehensive legal reforms that respect gender diversity and promote societal acceptance. This article aims to achieve true equality requires a paradigm shift embracing gender variance and safeguarding self-determination. Addressing these challenges necessitates both legal reform and societal change, ensuring justice and equity for all transgender individuals in India.

Introduction

Gender is a fundamental aspect of social life, categorizing individuals into socially and biologically predetermined roles of male or female. This binary division, however, falters when it comes to transgender individuals, who transcend these traditional boundaries. In India, the hijra community—an umbrella term for a diverse group of transgender and intersex people—has faced historical marginalization, compounded by colonial-era policies and ongoing societal discrimination. Despite recent legal advances, such as the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India judgment, the hijra community continues to experience significant challenges. This article explores the complex interplay between gender identity, legal recognition, and social marginalization, focusing particularly on the impact of the NALSA judgment on India's transgender community.

Gender and Social Constructs

The Gender Binary and Its Limitations

Sex and gender are often conflated but represent distinct concepts. Sex refers to the biological characteristics assigned at birth, categorized as male or female based on physical attributes. Gender, however, is a social construct involving roles and behaviors prescribed by society. While traditional views support a binary division—male and female—this framework does not encompass the full spectrum of gender identities.

Transgender Identity and Fluidity

Transgender individuals challenge the binary gender framework. They may experience a gender identity that does not align with their assigned sex at birth. This can manifest in various ways, from transitioning to a different gender through medical procedures to expressing a non-binary or fluid gender identity. The fluidity of gender identity necessitates a broader understanding beyond the traditional male-female dichotomy.

Historical Context and Colonial Impact

Pre-Colonial Recognition of Gender Diversity

In pre-colonial India, gender diversity was culturally recognized and integrated into various social and religious practices. Hijras, often considered auspicious and endowed with unique rituals and roles, were respected within certain cultural contexts. This acceptance, however, was challenged with the advent of British colonial rule.

Colonial Era and Legal Repression

The British colonial administration introduced Victorian morality, which criminalized non-normative gender expressions and sexual behaviors. This legal framework marginalized the hijra community, subjecting them to harassment and repression. The colonial imposition of Western gender norms created a lasting impact, reinforcing stigma and exclusion that persists to this day.

The Hijra Community: Structure and Socioeconomic Status

Social Organization and Traditions

Hijras often live in organized communities or "jammats," which function similarly to local governance bodies. These communities are hierarchical, with a structure consisting of mentors (gurus), initiated members (chelas), and various gharanas (sub-groups). The initiation process, involving rituals such as emasculation, marks a formal entry into the community. Despite their traditional roles, hijras face significant socioeconomic challenges, with many resorting to begging or sex work due to limited economic opportunities.

Contemporary Challenges

Hijras and other transgender individuals often face severe discrimination in employment, education, and healthcare. Societal stigma and legal barriers exacerbate their marginalization, leading to high rates of poverty, illiteracy, and health issues, including a heightened vulnerability to HIV.

Legal Recognition and the NALSA Judgment

The Landmark NALSA Judgment

The National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (NALSA) case, decided by the Supreme Court in 2014, was a landmark judgment for transgender rights in India. The court recognized the right of transgender individuals to self-identify and mandated the provision of reservations in education and employment. This judgment was a significant step towards legal recognition and inclusion.

Impact and Criticisms

While the NALSA judgment marked a positive development, its implementation has faced challenges. Critics argue that the judgment's broad categorization of transgender identities into a single "third gender" category does not adequately address the needs of all transgender individuals, particularly transgender men. Furthermore, the requirement for proof of sex reassignment surgery to legally change gender status has been criticized for being discriminatory and exclusionary, particularly for those without access to medical procedures.

Literature Review

Historical Perspectives

Research on the hijra community highlights the historical and cultural significance of transgender identities in India. Scholars such as Raewyn Connell and Judith Butler have explored the social construction of gender and its implications for marginalized groups, including hijras (Connell, 2005; Butler, 1990). These works provide a theoretical framework for understanding the intersection of gender identity and societal norms.

Contemporary Issues

Recent studies have focused on the socioeconomic challenges faced by the transgender community in India. Research by scholars like Suraj Yengde and S. S. K. P. Kumar has documented the impact of legal and social reforms on transgender individuals (Yengde, 2019; Kumar, 2020). These studies reveal the ongoing disparities in health, education, and employment, despite legal advancements.

The NALSA Judgment

The NALSA judgment has been the subject of extensive legal and sociological analysis. Researchers such as K. R. S. Choudhury and A. S. Patel have examined the implications of the judgment for transgender rights and its effectiveness in addressing discrimination (Choudhury, 2015; Patel, 2016). Their work highlights both the progress made and the gaps that remain in achieving full equality for transgender individuals.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for studying the experiences of the transgender community in India, with a focus on the impact of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) judgment, involves a comprehensive approach that integrates qualitative research, literature review, and thematic analysis. This approach is designed to provide a nuanced understanding of the intersection between legal recognition, social acceptance, and the lived experiences of transgender individuals.

Research Design

The research employs a qualitative design to explore the complex and multifaceted nature of transgender experiences in India. This design is chosen because it allows for an in-depth exploration of personal narratives, societal attitudes, and the effects of legal reforms.

Data Collection Methods

i) Primary Data Collection

Interviews: Semi-structured interviews are conducted with transgender individuals, community leaders, activists, and legal experts. The interviews aim to capture personal experiences, opinions on the NALSA judgment, and the broader implications for the transgender community. The semi-structured format allows for flexibility in exploring diverse topics while ensuring that key areas are addressed.

Focus Groups: Focus group discussions are held with members of the hijra community and transgender activists. These discussions provide a platform for collective insights and experiences, highlighting common challenges and shared perspectives.

Field Observations: Observations in community settings, such as hijra gatherings and transgender rights workshops, offer additional insights into the daily realities and social dynamics of the transgender community.

ii) Secondary Data Collection

Document Analysis: Legal documents, court judgments, and policy reports related to the NALSA case and transgender rights are analyzed. This includes reviewing the text of the NALSA judgment, subsequent policy changes, and related legal precedents.

Literature Review: An extensive review of academic literature, including journal articles, books, and reports, is conducted to contextualize the research findings within existing knowledge and theoretical frameworks.

Data Analysis

i) Qualitative Analysis

This study employs a qualitative research approach, analyzing primary and secondary sources to understand the experiences of the transgender community in India. Interviews with transgender individuals, community leaders, and activists provide insights into the lived realities and challenges faced by this marginalized group. Additionally, a review of legal documents, court judgments, and policy reports offers a comprehensive understanding of the legal landscape and its impact on transgender rights.

ii) Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis is employed to compare the experiences and perceptions of different subgroups within the transgender community, such as hijras, transgender men, and transgender women. This helps in understanding the diversity of experiences and the specific impacts of the NALSA judgment on various segments of the community.

iii) Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are paramount in conducting research involving marginalized communities. The study adheres to the following ethical guidelines:

● **Informed Consen**t: Participants are provided with clear information about the research purpose, procedures, and their right to withdraw at any time. Written consent is obtained from all participants.

● **Confidentiality**: Participants' identities are protected, and personal data is anonymized to ensure privacy.

● **Sensitivity:** The research approach is designed to be respectful and sensitive to the experiences and challenges faced by transgender individuals.

Submission

The transgender community in India, particularly the hijra community, has a rich history intertwined with both cultural significance and systemic marginalization. The NALSA judgment represents a crucial step towards legal recognition and inclusion, yet significant challenges remain. The requirement for medical proof to change gender status and the broad categorization of transgender identities highlight ongoing issues within the legal framework.

Efforts to address these challenges must be grounded in the lived experiences of transgender individuals and aimed at promoting true equality and acceptance. Legal reforms should be complemented by societal changes

that recognize and value gender diversity. Moving forward, a transformative approach that embraces gender variance and upholds the right to self-determination is essential for achieving justice and equity for all individuals, regardless of gender identity.

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"A study of causes and factors responsible for Napoo Water Bodies in district East of Delhi."

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Background:

Water is one of the fundamental elements of the universe from which early life originated millions of years ago on earth. The most severe threat we face today is the shortage of water - a statement that sounds too absurd to be believed but it is indeed true. How can we run out of water? When the earth is labelled as the "blue planet" about 71 % of its surface is covered by water. However, 97.5% of that water is salty seawater which is unfit for use by the people in their day-to-day activities. It is popularly quoted that "the 3rd world war would be fought for water only". As the data from various reports reveal that our mother earth is running out of fresh water and offers only 0.26% of freshwater to utilize and suffice the needs of about 7 billion populations. In the present times we stand on the brink of a global water crisis (an example can be cited from "day zero" in Cape Town in South Africa). Cities are the epicentres of growth; however, the rising urbanization phenomenon has directly given rise to unchecked resources exploitation. Contamination of fresh water and scarcity of water resources is the first and foremost issues that occur as a result of over-exploitation and mismanagement of the city's water resources and has led to resource overuse and resource use conflict between various users. Every life on the earth is primarily dependent on water which hosts innumerable aquatic species from single-cell creatures to gigantic blue whales. As the evolution of humans took place, civilized humans settled down on the fertile riverbanks. Hence, unplanned development and mismanagement of water resources is the cause of the water crisis in this region. Lack of traditional water harvesting practices in the district

has resulted in inequity in water distribution and growing water scarcity. Irresponsible management of natural resources is evident from

- ❖   The sustained inflow of untreated sewage and industrial effluents;
- ❖   dumping of solid waste (with 70% being organic); and
- ❖   transport of untreated wastewater in storm water drains (water drains are essentially arteries of a landscape supposed to carry rainwater to water bodies)

The problem associated with Napoo water bodies is slowly becoming more and more common in various parts of Delhi, Mainly East Delhi. The eastern part of Delhi not so long ago was full of natural water bodies like lakes and ponds. The future generation will only read them in pages of history. The water bodies are the lifeline of the people around the region. The locals along with the younger generations must be made aware of the importance of these water bodies and fast depleting health. The major issues faced by water bodies in district northeast Delhi and intensive possible revival strategies through which these water bodies can be brought back to a healthy position. The present research would look to bring about community awareness around the Karkardooma DIET along with the participation of 240 D.El.Ed trainees. The future warriors would be made aware of the importance of these water bodies and will be involved to save water and water bodies in the concerned district. Some selected water bodies were visited in order to understand the challenges faced in terms of water conservation and protection strategies. The survey undertaken in 2001 by the Honourable Court ordered to assess the existing situation a field survey conducted by INTACH in association with the several government agencies enjoying jurisdiction over the various water bodies of Delhi. The survey established that there were 508 water bodies in Delhi. Other surveys carried out by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) placed the number of water bodies at 629 a by Tapas along with Court Commissioner over 900 (Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 2013). The major issues faced by water bodies in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi are lack of action plans, encroachments and violations of laws, solid waste deposit and polluted water (Govt. Of NCT of Delhi, 2013). Through an intensive revival strategy, these water bodies can be brought back to health. The main purpose of taking this study is to identify the available traditional water bodies and their protection strategies to restore and give new life to water bodies by involving the D.El.Ed students and community for better knowledge and sustainable development.

Study Area

Delhi is located in India having the latitudinal and longitudinal extent of 28.7041° N, 77.1025° E. The stringent lockdown imposed in March, and lasting for over two months, hit lives and livelihoods across the country. As a result, a greater number of people are expected to slip below the poverty line in India, according to various estimates. Experts believe that it is crucial to focus on the most vulnerable sections

of the society which would require changes in development policies of the Centre, civil society, and corporates. The lockdown led to high rates of unemployment as businesses shut down and suffered due to a lack of economic activities and consumer demand. It also led to reverse migration from cities to rural centres. Report 22 suggests that to thrive, the rural economy has to be put at the forefront along with adequate skill development for vulnerable sections. The pandemic has also put an additional burden on the health sector in the country

Objective:

- To access the knowledge and sensitivity towards water management of the local community.
- To create a more responsible attitude of community people towards saving water.
- To study the factors responsible for defunct water bodies.
- To bring in awareness among the D. El. Ed Students

Database and Methodology:

The study will be descriptive, data would be collected on the basis of descriptive research and in-depth interviews. The database was collected basically through the two most widely used data collection methods i.e. Primary and secondary. The study will also be supplemented by observation and case studies.

Primary data: The primary data was collected with the help of primary sources like questionnaires, interviews, discussions, schedules and personal observations. The questionnaires were filled by using the direct interaction method with the respondents by doing a field visit in the area. The respondents were selected using the simple random sampling procedure. Field visits to more than 10 water bodies were conducted and more than 110 respondents were selected for primary interaction.

- The demographic background of the respondents can be seen from the following (Table 1)

Table 1. Demographic background of the Respondents

Field/Category	Elements/Items	Response %
Gender	Male	61.98
	Female	38.02
Monthly Income	Below 10,000	35.74
	10,000-15,000	25.09
	15,000-20,000	18.25
	Above 20,000	20.92
Occupation	Student	20
	Business	40.14
	Job Holder	25.68
	Unemployed	7.43

	Housewife	6.75
Place of Residence	Slum	18
	JJ cluster	28
	Society	20
	Industrial area	34

Secondary data: The primary database was adequately substantiated using the secondary data. The secondary data was collected from various published and unpublished data related to the water like the district planning map series (DPMS), census.gov.in, cgwb.gov.in, etc. Also, websites like economictimes.com, Delhi Jal Board, rainwaterharvesting.org, downtoearth.org.in, etc have been also used for analysis. To know the background about the problem and issues in the area the literature was accessed in the form of articles and newspaper posts from various newsletters like thetribune.com, timesofindia.com and publication sites like researchgate.com, shodganga.com.

Data Processing Tools: the collected data would be analysed and interpreted using various data processing tools. Mainly there are two ways in which data would be processed i.e. Qualitative and quantitative.

Qualitative analysis usually refers to the analysis that deals with qualitative (qualities/characteristics) the aspect of the research like emotions, intellectual, perceptions, satisfaction, views etc of the people. It was done using narratives of the respondents, experiences of the people, discussion with the villagers, personal observation of the study area and review of the literature including reviews of the various articles, posts and newsletters etc

Quantitative analysis refers to the analysis of the data by quantifying it in terms of figures, ratios and percentages. It is used when we need to quantify a geographical the phenomenon under study in terms of "what" or "how many". Quantitative analysis would be done using the data collected by primary and secondary sources. It was tabulated first using Ms-excel and then converted into charts and graphs using the same. It was then represented in presentation format using Ms-PowerPoint and converted into a research paper in Ms-word. Tabulating it.
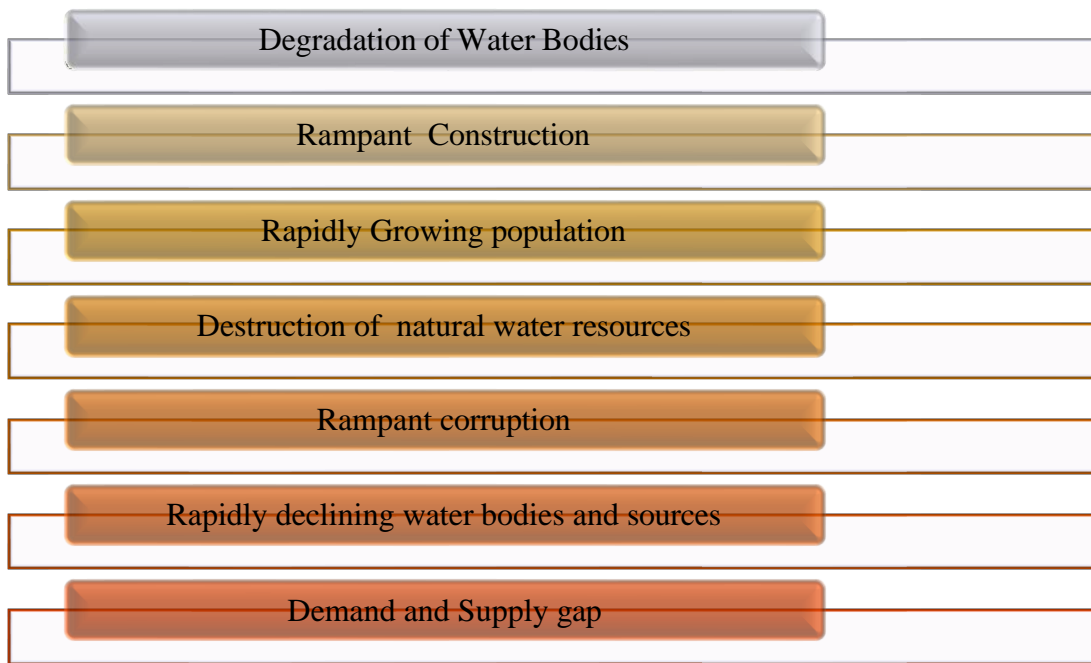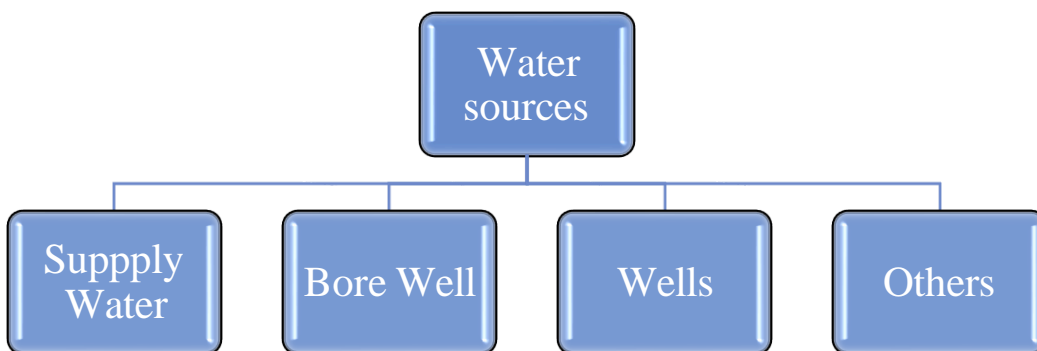
Fig. 1

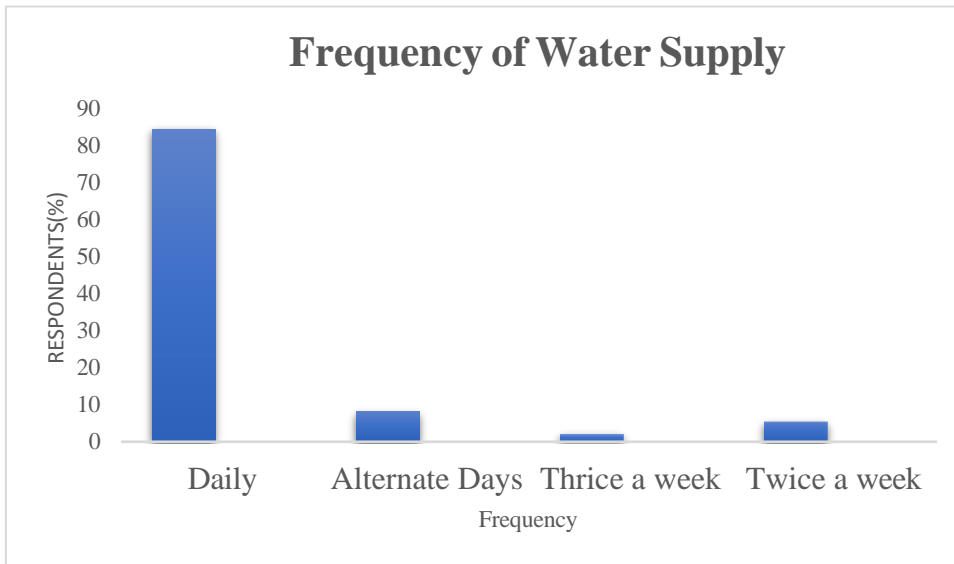Diagrammatic representation of Problem of Water Bodies in East Delhi

Major Findings

It was found that the majority of people (53.81%) get water through a household water supply that reaches them through a well-distributed pipe system, followed by a bore well and a hand pump (14.19%).

b) Frequency of Water

The majority of the locals (about 83.46%) get water on a daily basis, 8.11% get water on alternate days, 5.4% get water twice a week and the ones getting water thrice a week are 2.03%.

Frequency of Water Supply

Frequency also covers the number of hours water is supplied to these households each day. People who receive water for more than 4 hours in a day constitute about 63.51% of the total. 16.9% receive water for 2 to 4 hours in a day. 14.19% of the people are supplied with water for less than two hours and 5.4% get water only once a day.
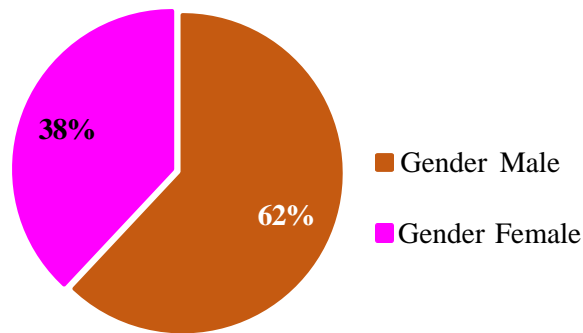

Fig. Proportion of Male and Female (Primary Survey)

The percentage of the male population is almost double that of their male counterpart in the region. It is due to the male-oriented migration in the city and the number of male births is higher than females.
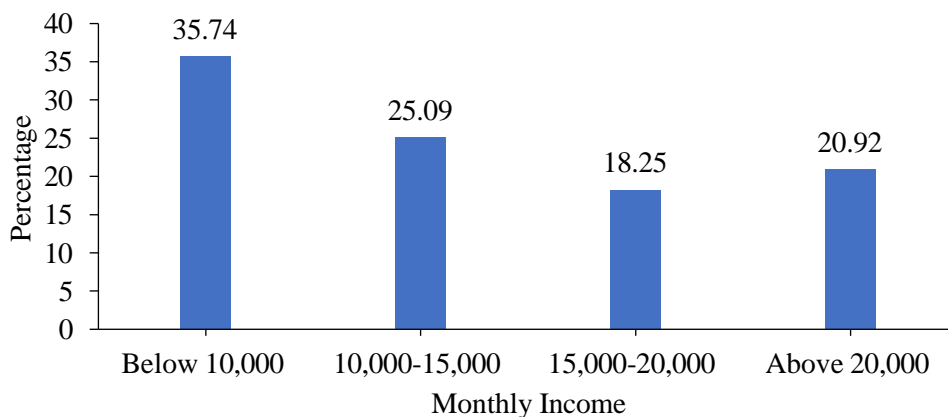

Fig. Respondent's Monthly Income in Percentage (Primary Survey)

It is very difficult to income related data as most of the time it incorrect. Although, monthly income is classified into four categories which starts from below ₹10,000 and ends above ₹20,000. Around 36% respondent's monthly income lies below ₹10,000 following 25% and so on.
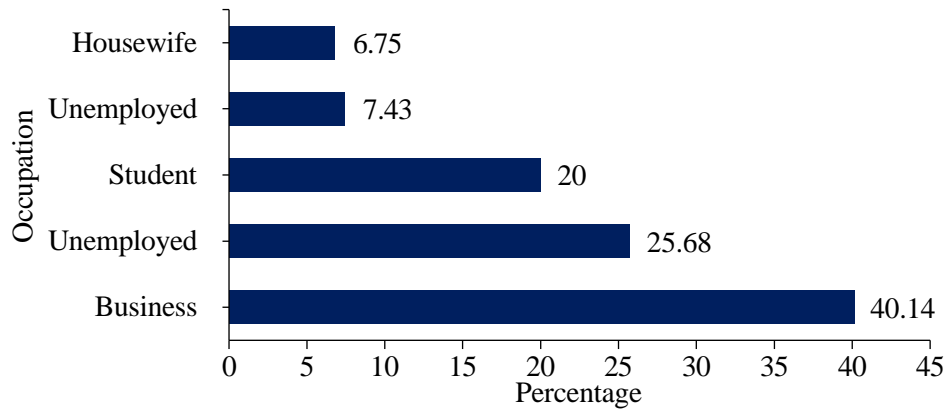

Fig. Respondent's Occupation in Percentage (Primary Survey)

The occupation of respondents is highly diverse because around 40% are from business class while 7% housewives. The unemployment is quite high, which is a grim cause of concern for all in the region. If the unemployment will continue for longer time, then it will give birth to crime.
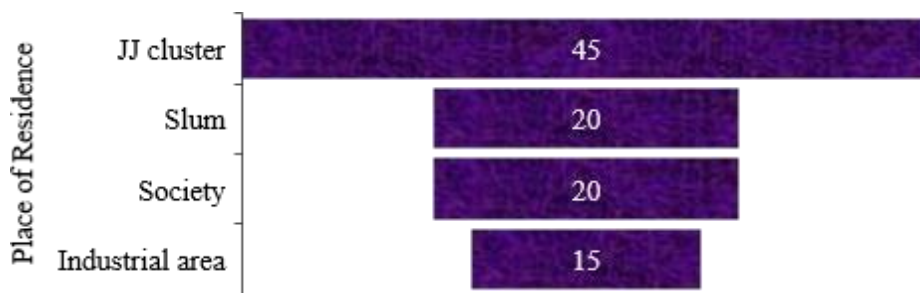

Fig. Percentage of Residence (Primary Survey)

Major Findings

Water is the most important element for the preservation of life after air on the earth. Water is a vital component for all huma beings, hence sensitizing and disseminating awareness about its noble usages is the utmost responsibility of people from all walks of life. Water scarcity affects more a large section of the city population. Drinking water supply is decreasing in each corner of the city. Contaminated water in Delhi is causing several health related adversities like diarrhoea, dehydration and sometime deaths. Kids, especially babies are the most affected due to contaminated water. A mother loses her baby due to polluted water, in every hour across India. Underground water level in the city is going down due to over-exploitation of ground water and illegal underground water drilling. The indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources has led to global environmental consequences including drying of water bodies and groundwater contamination. The massive environmental pollution including poisoning of water bodies and acidification of oceans are caused due to increased

concentration of carbon dioxide (CO_2) in city's atmosphere. According to United Nations, 1 in 3 people don't have access to clean water and 2 in 5 people don't have basic hand-washing facility.

Final Outcomes

Water is considered as one of the most vital elements for the existence of human civilization and plays a key role in the survival of life on the earth. There has been relentless growth in water demand and consumption over the past few decades. Water is fundamental to our economy, societies, and lives. Many organisations don't carry out their activities and life dependent on water cycle. In water cycle water exists in rain, cloud, soil moisture, streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater, springs, seas and oceans.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

- The study area was East Delhi, New Delhi mainly dominated by the migrant population. It was once the house of maximum water bodies in Delhi, but today it battles with water woes.

- It was found that the water bodies and resources are being encroached and exploited constantly while at the same time the demand for water has been increasing due to the constant rise in population.

- The Available water resources fail to cater to the ever-rising demand of people, thus increasing the demand and supply gap.

- The locals acknowledge to rapidly declining water availability, deteriorating water bodies, increasing level of pollution in water bodies.

- They acknowledge various reasons for declining the number and health of water bodies in the region like encroachment, increasing population, careless on the part of administration as well as the community.

- They say that they are slowly becoming aware about deteriorating health of water bodies and its long-term impact in the region, yet they are not able to contribute to its conservation and management.

- Water management is the activity of planning, developing, distributing and managing the optimum use of water resources.

- Delhi being the capital city, sees various long term and short-term policies and programmes initiated by the government at different levels for promotion and conservation of water bodies.

- Various institutional setups, governments, and NGOs are working in this field to sensitize and promote the conservation of water and water bodies.

Suggestions

- We should understand that solution to problems lies within us, whereby our attitude towards natural resources should change.

- The attitude about needing more and more needs to shift to conserving and making the best use of what we have.

- The influx of population and encroachments needs to be checked in order to prevent any further damage to these water bodies.

- The need-based approach should be implemented whereby the needs of the local community is not compromised.

- There needs to be a better implementation of policies, the majority of old age people were unaware of the various plans and policies initiated by the government.

- Major and Minor Research Projects undertaken should look to promote more awareness and preparedness among these community groups.

- It was also suggested that the revival of traditional water bodies should be initiated by various government agencies.

- Traditional rainwater harvesting needs to be promoted, incorporating new technologies to conserve water.

- Water meters should be installed to keep a check on the daily usage of water in each household and water pricing can further keep a check on wastage of water.

- The illegal construction taking place within the vicinity of water bodies' activities need to be stopped with immediate effect, whereby ecology should be preserved as we do not want to disturb the natural equilibrium of the environment any further.

- Finally, we should understand that we need nature and water and not the other way round.

"Access and Retention of Transgender Children in School Education: Issues and Challenges- Role of NGOs"

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Introduction

A *trans*gender literally means someone who is in transition from one gender to another. Looking at the Indian context they are addressed by many names, for example Hijras, Kinnars, napunsak, and in everyday slang chakkas. The word 'Hijra' has the root in the Urdu word 'Hijar'. A Hijar is thus, indicated to those people who left their community. Thus, a Hijra is one who has walked out of the usual ascribed order of men and women and joined a community of Hijras.

Sex and gender are two closely linked variables of human lives which do not necessarily follow the same trajectory. In basic terms sex is something with which an individual is born with, the biological endowments, categorized by the doctor or a nurse as a boy or a girl and in adulthood as man and woman. Gender is a social construct. We perform gender. It is what society expects us to do, as per the function of the position we serve, the roles that we play and the norms that are ascribed to. Gender forms an essential pillar of an individual's identity and affects the psychological makeup. The society places value on certain behavioral aspects of an individual based on his gender and on successful performance of the same the individual feels a sense of belongingness, acceptance and security amongst the group members. The binary division on the basis of gender becomes male and female.

In case of the transgender individual the binary categorization falters as the lines between the two are blurred and instead of two exclusive categories what is arrived at is a fluid sexuality which is undergoing fission and fusion at a dynamic pace. This necessitates a description of the definitions used in the sociopolitical narratives constructed around the individuals of transgender community.

Transgender and School Education

Inequality in Education

In-spite of the commitment by the government in the National Policy on Education, 1986:2002, to spread gender education and to rewrite the curricula in a manner which aims at an inclusive picture w.r.t gender representation in textbooks, there are hardly any efforts seen in this direction. The visible examples of people from transgender community leading a life as equal to the rest of the citizens are far and, few in between the numerous atrocities faced by these individuals on daily basis. Their narratives are, stories full of abject poverty, ill health, illiteracy, high vulnerability and a quest for acceptance standing and staring in the face of an apathetic system, questioning its sky-high position and distant approach adopted by the people in power positions including the law makers.

The violence faced by the Transgender

In the state of Delhi, the transgender is mostly facing the problem of Psychological and physical violence while in Tamil Nadu mostly they are subjected to insult and disgrace. Problems faced by the transgender due to violence are seems to be many dimensional.

Problems Related to Societal Acceptance

Below is the list of problems faced by the transgender, which are explained using the social exclusion frame work. Transgender often face denial and aggression right from home. The issues range from verbal and physical abuse to isolation and rejection as well as denial of family property. Sexuality or gender identity often makes transgender a victim of stigmatization and exclusion by the society.

Literature Review

Transgender community has existed in the world community since time immemorial, the fact being evident in the occurrences of oldest mythologies and folk histories across the globe, for example the Greek character Hermaphroditus, who has the characteristics of both males and females.

The Indian subcontinent has its own share of mythology and folk lore relating to the individuals belonging to transgender community. The researcher also investigates the research gaps found in review of related literature which can be covered through further research.

The reviews are categorised into the following –

I.   Studies related to the socio-economic and educational (especially school education) conditions of the Transgender/Hijras

A study by Ryan and her team from the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University (2010)1 shows that accepting behaviours of parents and caregivers towards their LGBT children are protective against mental health risks.

Gerhardstein (2010) investigated factors that contribute to negative attitudes toward, and discrimination against this consistently marginalized group of people. The sample included 251 heterosexual undergraduate students, including 131 men and 120 women. Participants rated one of two vignettes, which were paired with one of four different pictures.

Statement of Problem

The community is very backward even towards the educational upliftment from the beginning. In India, we see that as soon as a transgender child somehow passed the elementary level and entered into secondary schooling faced a number of problems such as discrimination, making fun of their identity, attitude, behavior life style, family background and even parents of such children have been socially exploited by the surrounding community.

In Delhi, there are very rare N.G.O's working for the transgender community, specially towards the educational promotion of the transgender community. Even a few major NGOs are doing their best yet it is equally important to such NGOs that they must search new acceptable, practical, innovative efforts to Support and promote schooling upliftment o the transgender community.

Research Question-

• How does the social stigma and discrimination affect the Transgender in Access and retention for the educational welfare?

• What role NGOs play for the Transgender Community in accessing and retention for their educational welfare?

• What is the nature of deprivation and related factors affecting educational well-being of Transgender.

Objective -

▪ To assess the role of NGOs in overcoming the socio-cultural stigma towards the transgender school education

• To study the role of NGOs for the Transgender in Access and retention for the educational welfare?

▪ To study the types of discrimination faced by the Transgender in the process of access and retention in school education.

Research Design

The present study is descriptive and attempts to describe the present picture of the phenomenon under investigation.

1) Data would be collected on the basis of Descriptive Research and in-depth interview. There would be participatory group discussion, interview schedule, Close ended- for quantitative data collection.

2) A sample would be selected from the universe. It would be random sampling.

Study area/setting

East district and peripheral of Delhi.

Study duration

July 2021 to March 2022

Study population

Transgender People residing in the district East of Delhi (Transsexuals, drag queens and drag kings, masculine women, feminine men, and others who violate normative gender laws. The term transgender also included cross-dressers, regardless of their gender identity).

Dependent Variable

Socio-cultural problems of transgender will the dependent variables in the study

Independent Variables

Following shall be the independent variable

➢ Age

➢ Education level

➢ Gender

➢ stigma

➢ Discrimination

➢ Skills development

➢ Livelihood opportunity

➢ Abuse –verbal, mental

➢ Welfare scheme

Sampling Techniques:

Random sampling technique has been adopted to validate the data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The data collected will be tabulated and analyzed. Statistical package would be used for proper analysis of data. On the basis of the findings, interpretation, conclusion the suggestions would be drawn.

Sample size and sampling technique

The sample size of 15 was taken for the study. Random sampling technique was used to collect data. (To collect the data the local NGO was contacted as they are working on the issues of transgender in the district north of Delhi.

Study tools and technique

Tools

Self-administered questionnaire was used to collect valid data related to their socio-economic especially the status of education and health. Pre testing of the questionnaire was done and the feed-back taken positively to restructure the questionnaire for qualitative sampling.
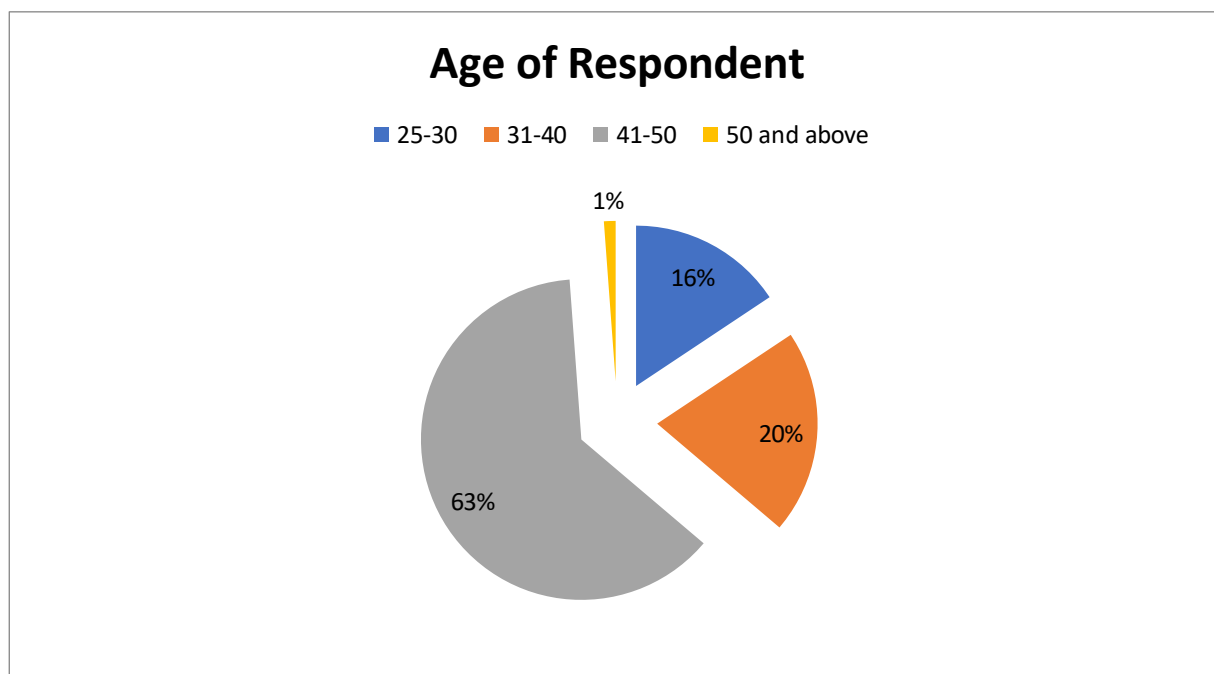
Technique

Interviewing the study subjects was carried out with the permission. The prior accent was taken with briefing of the questionnaire from the Transgender respondent.

Data collection

The data has been collected from representative from the working NGO on transgender and field functionaries. In the beginning of the study, transgender people and transgender support groups were contacted and requested to fix the time for the interaction at organizational level so that the process of collection of data will be easier. Required number of samples was then chosen by simple random sampling.
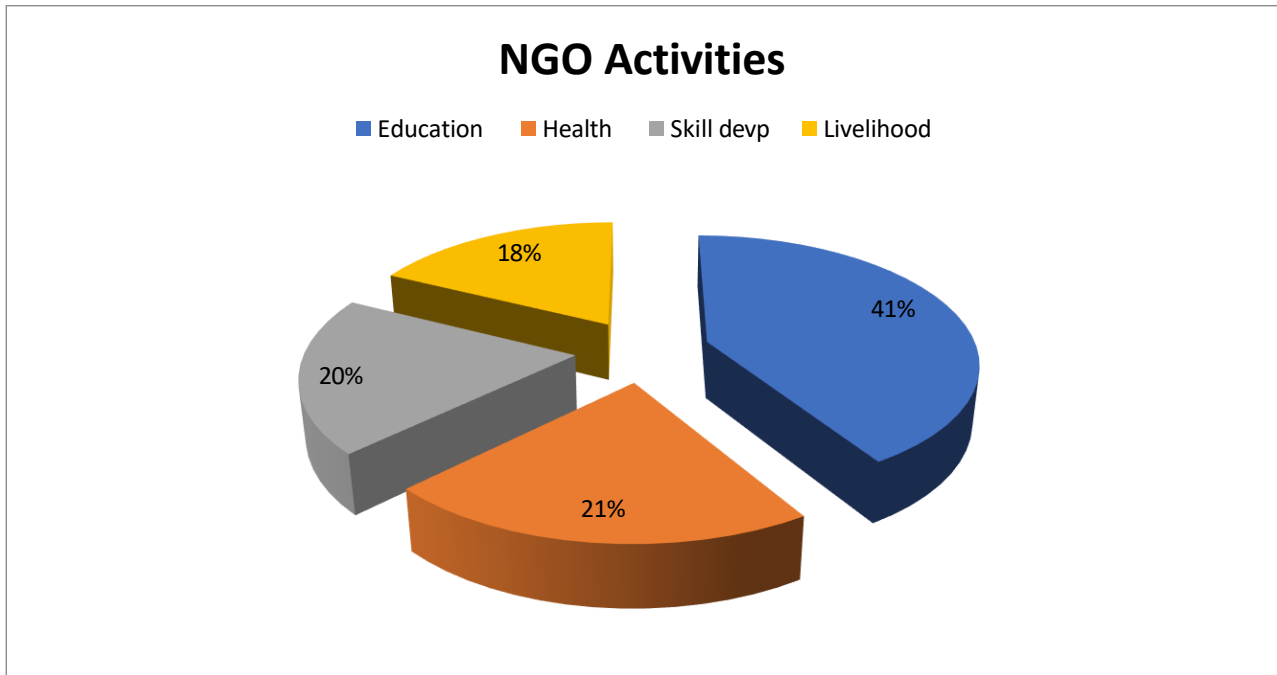
Data Interpretation and analysis

The collected data has been analyses with the statistical analysis using SPSS version - 21 after entering the data in Excel sheet. Descriptive statistics has been used to describe the access and retainsion of socio- economic challenges faced by the transgender in the present context and situation. Total 100 samples were taken to actualize the challenges and opportunities in terms of education, health and welfare scheme of government by random sampling.

Age of Respondent

■ 25-30 ■ 31-40 ■ 41-50 ■ 50 and above

1%
16%
20%
63%

The above table no. 1.1 depicts the age wise percentage distribution of transgender respondents. The highest percentage (63%) observed in the age group of 41to 50 and the lowest (6%) among the age group of 50 and above. The second highest observed between the 31-40 with 20%.

The above presented data shows that majority of the respondents were in the productive and early adolescent age and deprived of basic support system and have been forced to join the unethical practices of begging and sex work.

The above table1.2 describes the percentage distribution of in terms of their gender identity at the time of birth. The highest percentage (72%) revealed for male and lowest for intersex with (8%), the second highest percentage shown for female with about (20%). From the above description it can be concluded that the identity of male was prominent as compare to female. The above diagram 1.3 describe the percentage distribution of aware of their identity. The highest percentage shows in between the age of 16-20 years (37%) and lowest with 12% between the age of 5-10. The second highest percentage observed in the age group of 21 years and above followed by 24% in the age group of 11-15 years.

Scope for future research

Research should be done to analyses these gap and necessary steps to be taken to minimize the gap and thus make the welfare schemes accessible. Many of the schemes were not accessible to the community as they were not equipped with the required documents. Government should assist the community to create or have access to the required documents.

Some others important findings

- All most all respondent said that (97%) it is difficult to identify the transgender in school system in formal education.

- It has been observed that about (93%) of the responded said that they favor the inclusion of transgender in the formal education system.

- In the school system the teacher is not very sensitive (81%) about the gender sensitive of

transgender.

- There are several factors that create barrier in retention of transgender in the school system like peer pressure (75%), School environment (83%), class room environment (76%), curriculum design (67%).

- About the reservation of in education system about 65 respondents said there should be privileged for reservation of seat in the school and higher education system.

- Regarding guidance and counseling there is no provision at school and community level to address the issues of Transgender (82%).

- Around 72% respondents said that there should be skill and vocational training option available in the school system.

Conclusion and suggestions

Moreover, respondents spoken to did not have a bank account or PAN card, they were excluded from schemes of the government in absence of these document. With Ayushman Bharat and the State health scheme health cards linked to BPL ration cards, the community has been deprived of health benefits too in the absence of ration card. The survey, released by the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, was conducted by the Centre for Advocacy and Research. In the category of ration card exclusion, transgender persons were the worst hit, respectively, did not have a BPL ration card. Home-based workers, sex workers (61.1%), and sanitation workers, followed by domestic workers were also excluded in this category. The survey also looked at exclusion of these community members from health services, social security schemes, civic amenities, and social developmental opportunities.

Some Recommendations which have to be seem

❖ To find out the general solution of the problems arising in educationally backward transgender persons (TG), the following actions may help in improving the access:

❖ Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is the responsibility of the State. The fulfillment of this obligation is critical for the improvements in the educational conditions of the transgender community.

❖ Policies may be formulated at the state- and/or district-level to include the transgender community under Economically Weaker Section category to provide them necessary benefits as per the Right to Education Act.

❖ Sensitization towards Transgender/ Hijra should be included in student counseling at schools. The transgender community feels that it is very essential to create an opportunity for students to interact with trained counselors as they experience gender dilemmas very early in their lives.

❖ Advocating with and building capacities of people and organizations working in education sectors (NGOs, education 23 activists, teachers, principals and other authorities) to facilitate the mainstreaming efforts of the alienated TG community can be given much more emphasis.

❖ Awareness and sensitization on the issue and concern of transgender community should be a part of national academic course and curricula by showing transgender as equal to other two gender.

❖ Sensitization programmes and active participation of RWAs, women's club, senior citizen's club, should be undertaken to overcome the gender discrimination and social stigma prevalent in the society.

❖ Family and community should be sensitizing to enhance the acceptance at family level.

❖ Low level of educational attainment and mass level of drop out can be overcome by sensitizing on the issues of transgender to parents, community stakeholder, administrator, school teachers and students.

Scope of the study

❖ We hope that this study will be welcomed by transgender people and they will feel that their voices have been heard. We also hope that the findings of the study will sensitize public bodies and other service providers to commit resources for further understanding and better inclusion of the mental health needs of transgender people. Additionally, we expect to motivate the decision makers to implement changes for improving health and wellbeing outcomes of the transgender population

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"The Study of Education, Health Care and Welfare Schemes for Transgender in District North Delhi"

(A Research Study)

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Background

Transgender is the common term used for the expression, identity of transgender in the present socio-cultural context. The peculiar behaviour that differs from the norms expected from their birth or gender expression which does not match with ones assigned sex at the birth and identify them self with the transgender. The distinctiveness of transgender can be categories as transgender male, transgender female, male-to-female (MTF) and female to male (FTM). It also includes cross-dressers (those who wear clothes of the other), gender queer people (they feel they belonged to either both genders or

neither gender) and trans-sexuals. In India, there are a wide range of transgender related identities which includes the Hijras, Aravanis, Kothis, Jogtas/ Jogappas and Shiv Sakthis.

In the past, they were treated with great respect. 'Hijra' is a Persian word translated as Eunuch which is used in common parlance for transgender community in India. 'Aravani' is a term used for male-to-female transgender who undergo genital modification through SRS (Sex Reassignment Surgery) or perform Nirwaan which is a traditional mode of castration. Kothi is used for those who adopt a feminine role in same sex relationships, but do not live in communes as Aravanis. Jogtas/ Jogappas found in Maharashtra and Karnataka are male to female transgender who devote themselves to the service of a particular god. Shiv Shakthis found in Andhra Pradesh are males who are considered married to gods particularly Lord Shiva. They usually work as spiritual healers or astrologers.

Socio-Economic Profile of the Transgender

Types of Problems faced by Transgender

Transgender people face multiple forms of oppressions and exclusions and human rights violation in their day-to-day life. The high level of exclusion, abuse and neglect affect their self-esteem which leads to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. The findings of the study reveal many factors directly responsible for exclusion so that the appropriate policies and program can be design to address the plight of transgender community at various levels. The following are some of major problems faced by transgender community in India:

Social Exclusion

Transgender people face high levels of stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence and abuse, marginalization and social exclusion. This restricts their access to services, diminish their overall health and wellbeing, lower their self-esteem and puts them at higher risk of HIV/STI and other diseases. Overlapping social, cultural, economic and legal exclusions push them to society's margins and restrict their mainstreaming.

Violence and Abuse

Violence towards transgender community is very common and has been on the rise in recent years. Between 2009 and 2016 there were 2,115 documented killings of transgender people worldwide (Winter, S.2016).

Transgender children are more prone to be dropped out of at early level of their schooling.

Access to Education: The majority of transgender people discontinue their education due to physical and verbal abuse and other discrimination faced in their homes and school because of their feminine behaviour. Transgender children both at school and higher education confront many barriers to access and continue education and are unable to attend school safely with their preferred name and gender identity.

Lack of access to legal services

There is very low level of legal awareness among the transgender population. They face sexual harassment and violence by police and other local goons but find it difficult to approach legal mechanism to seek justice due to lack of awareness about the existing legal mechanism available to provide justice and address their grievances.

Financial Exclusion

The transgender people have not been included in financial inclusion program resulting into deprivation from modern banking practices such as digital and online banking. The awareness about the banking products and services is very low and digital transaction is almost negligible among transgender people.

Social Inclusion of Transgender

Educate people on Gender diversity

There should be structured program to educate people about the transgender issues or third gender to accept, tolerate, and respect gender diversity. Parents/families should be educated and sensitized on gender-nonconforming or transgender children and the needs of their transgender children so that transgender children should live with their parents and community.

Improve Access to Education

Education is the key to empower transgender people and reduce their vulnerability to social exclusion. Parents should be educated on the importance of their transgender children.

Promotion of Health

The capacity of healthcare providers (HCP) on transgender health, their needs and concerns including Gender transition services should be enhanced at medical college level.

Legal Awareness and Education

Considering the low level of legal awareness among the transgender people, some structured and institutionalized legal education program should be designed by NALSA. The program should cover human rights available in Indian constitution, specific rights of transgender, the issues such as legal recognition and its legal implication on gender identity etc.

Source of Income

Majority of the study population belong to the age group of 18-35 years and belongs to the different caste and religion but most of them belongs to the SC/ST community. Most of them were unmarried and living with other transgender friends on rented accommodation. The literacy level among them was low and very few have completed graduation and post-graduation.

In India as well as worldwide most of the studies, survey or programmes on transgender people was focused on the life style behaviour and sexually transmitted diseases considering that they are at high-risk group and source population for HIV/STI/RTIs. The current study has been undertaken to assess the eeducation, health care and welfare schemes for the transgender in District North Delhi with the following objective.

Objectives

1. To assess the educational status of transgender in district north of Delhi

2. To find out the health status and welfare scheme pertaining to the transgender

3. To see the socio-economic condition of transgender

Research Design

Type and design of study

Descriptive and observational study

Study area/setting

North district of Delhi.

Study duration

September to December 2019

Study population

Transgender People residing in the district north of Delhi (Transsexuals, drag queens and drag kings, masculine women, feminine men, and others who violate normative gender laws. The term transgender also included cross-dressers, regardless of their gender identity).

Exclusion criteria

Those who not willing to participate in the study or under 18 years of age or seriously ill.

Sample size and sampling technique

The sample size of 100 was taken for the study. Random sampling technique was used to collect data.

(To collect the data the local NGO was contacted as they are working on the targeted intervention on HIV/AIDs with the high-risk group in the Bhalaswa Diary of north Delhi by the support of State Aids control society Delhi).

Study tools and technique

Tools

Self-administered questionnaire was used to collect valid data related to their socio-economic especially the status of education and health.

Pre testing of the questionnaire was done and the feed-back taken positively to restructure the questionnaire for qualitative sampling.

Technique

Interviewing the study subjects was carried out with the permission. The prior accent was taken with briefing of the questionnaire from the Transgender respondent.
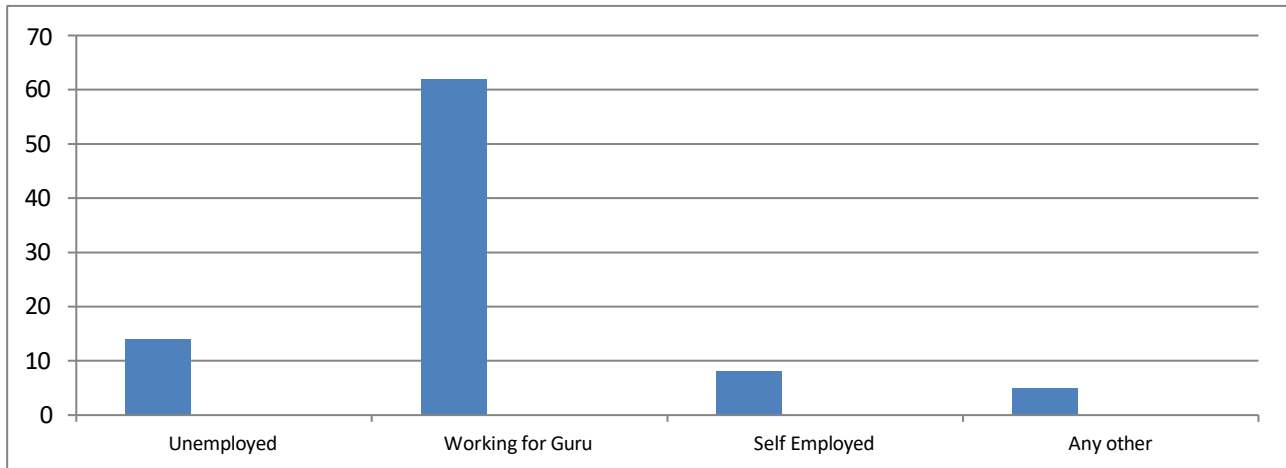
Data collection

The research scholar from the department of Adult continuing education and extension were involved along with the representative from the working NGOs on transgender communities has been taken into the confidence at the planning and execution level of data collection. Required number of samples was then chosen by simple random sampling.

After taking written consent from each respondent a predesigned and pre tested schedule, to assess the socio- economic characteristics, was filled up by the interviewer. During data collection, every effort was made to be non- judgmental and unbiased as the nature of the study involves sensitive issues like sex work engagement and sexual beaviors.

Table 1. The percentage frequency of responses clearly indicates that the educational attainment of the transgender is very low. The highest percentage has been shown for primary education with (75%) followed by secondary with 15% and in higher education the percentage is very minimal with 6% and 4%, means the majority of the respondent drop- out in the early grade with various socio-economic reasons.

Table. 2. Current Employment Status

DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Profile

Educational

Educational scenarios of transgender persons are very unstable. Most of them are socially and educationally back warded. Most of them are forced to earn money for their survival and don't get a chance to complete their basic education. Even after various specific Government schemes and help from different NGO's, they don't want to continue their studies. A case study on three transgender persons was conducted on the backdrop of different bills of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in India.

Lack of Market skill

One of the serious gaps in our education system is the absence of a skill-based education opportunity, especially at the secondary level. In India, as the children move to the higher classes the learning gap increases especially among weaker section/disadvantaged groups, which either results into the higher dropout or creation of an unproductive workforce with little skill to sustain in the Job market.

Monthly Income

Around 50 percent members of the transgender community survive on a monthly income of Rs 6000 or less by the survey while 28.53 percent of the surveyed had a monthly income between Rs. 8,000 and Rs between Rs. 5,000 and Rs.10,000 a month the yearly income is between 2 lakhs to 3 Lakhs. The main source of their income is begging at red-light of the traffic or collecting Badhai on socio-cultural occasion.

Unemployment Rate

While 20 percent of the transgender were unemployed, Majority of them work for their guru and engaged in badhai and begging. A majority of the people who were employed had not disclosed their distinct sexual identity before society of in any official records.

Discrimination

Research shows that 90 percent of transgender people report experiencing discrimination in the workplace, and 26 percent report having lost their jobs due to bias. Considering the needs and preferences of transgender people is an important aspect of creating an inclusive corporate culture.

No bank account

Moreover, respondents spoken to did not have a bank account or PAN card, they were excluded from schemes of the government in absence of these document. With Ayushman Bharat and the State health scheme health cards linked to BPL ration cards, the community has been deprived of health benefits too in the absence of ration card.

RECOMMENDATIONS

▪ To find out the general solution of the problems arising in educationally backward transgender persons (TG), the following actions may help in improving the access:

▪ Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is the responsibility of the State. The fulfilment of this obligation is critical for the improvements in the educational conditions of the transgender community.

▪ Policies may be formulated at the state- and/or district-level to include the transgender community under Economically Weaker Section category to provide them necessary benefits as per the Right to Education Act.

▪ Sensitization towards Transgender/ Hijra should be included in student counselling at schools. The transgender community feels that it is very essential to create an opportunity for students to interact with trained counsellors as they experience gender dilemmas very early in their lives.

- The helpline can be established to work as primary crisis management centres to record the complaints of any harassment of transgender persons at their workplace and report it to the concerned agencies for necessary actions.

- The government may also provide fee-waiver, fee-reimbursements, scholarships, free textbooks, free hostel accommodation and other facilities at subsidized rates for students belonging to this group in order to make higher education and professional education accessible by the community.

- A telephonic helpline can be set up to provide the information regarding opportunities related to employment, jobs, existing schemes of the government, financial schemes of banks.

- In some aspect, Inclusive education plays an important role for transgender persons. The government should give emphasis on a transgender person's education.

CONCLUSION

In the history of India, right from the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, the transgender community was categorized as "criminals" who were "addicted" to committing serious crimes. They were arrested for dressing in women's clothing or dancing or playing music in public places, and for indulging in gay sex. After Independence, the law was repealed in 1949, but mistrust of the transgender community has continued. This has pushed the transgender to the margin without any serious effort to their mainstreaming. The Indian legislation have made no serious attempt to integrate this group in the mainstream population. Despite receiving some recognition and social acceptance very recently, TGs remain an ostracized and differentiated social class in India.

Limitations

There is a chance of self-selection bias as no specific method was applied to confirm the transgender ship of study population.

Scope of the study

We hope that this study will be welcomed by transgender people and they will feel that their voices have been heard. We also hope that the findings of the study will sensitise public bodies and other service providers to commit resources for further understanding and better inclusion of the mental health needs of transgender people. Additionally, we expect to motivate the decision makers to implement changes for improving health and wellbeing outcomes of the transgender population.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION IN THE WORLD PEACE

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PEACE: THE VIEW FROM GANDHI

In Gandhian philosophy, peace is more than the mere absence of violence or conflict. It represents a world with peace and justice, where all the people are respected in their dignity and every other conflict is solved by non-violent tools. The apostle of peace and non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi, preached that real peace must come

through understanding, empathy 'n seeking the truth. His satyagraha (truth-force) and ahimsa, in turn, inspired a wave of civil rights movements across the globe not just acropathy's India but worldwide.

According to the philosophy of Gandhiji, one can find peace within oneself and that would eventually be expressed in every aspect of life. A key point in the book is that life is connected, and how we are meant to live as a one with nature. Such a comprehensive conception of peace is not only timely, in that conflict and violence still plague many parts of the world as global challenges ranging from climate change to nuclear proliferation threaten future generations: it also has been resurfacing for some time.

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA: ATHENAEUM AND NATURE PRIVACY

The long cultural tradition of a land that has shown such reverence for nature and its conservation, depicted in ancient texts like the Vedas. The Vedas, world's oldest scriptures dating some 10,000 years back praise trees animals Rivers Mountains as sacred beings they argue for a symbiotic relationship with every other aspect of nature, seeing in it the manifestation of divinity. The notion of sacred leads to the respect for all forms of life and hence India developed not only a cultural-biodiversity ethic, but also religious tolerance as it is difficult when faith makes difference. INDOLOGY from Sacred Forests - B.C. Shupa Charyulu.

Indian civilization has always celebrated the interconnectedness of all life forms since time immemorial   So great is India's faith in the oneness of humanity that it says, all over world as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"! It is a philosophy that emphasises the peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and collective responsibility for humanity in its entirety at large upon this Planet we all share.

INDIA LEGACY OF NON AGGRESSION

Unlike those countries whose internal narrative is defined by their imperial ambitions or aggressive expansion (Russia, China), India's practice of territorial assertion has always been tempered. And this factor has now become - much like the language differences among states within India itself for instance - both a strength and weakness on its global stage. While most civilizations tried to conquer as much land as possible, India's ancient kingdoms and empires were more inward looking, developing their culture through philosophical thought. The empire of Maurya under Emperor Ashoka are the milestones, India's dedication to peace and ethical ruling. Ashoka, after his adoption of Buddhism in the wake of which he forswore warfare and propagated tolerance, compassion as well as social care across the expanse ot his empire.

That even during the medieval period and after that India was never a land of conquest but always on defensive vis-a-vis foreign invasions. The history of Indian kingdoms repelling one invasion after the other, from Greeks and Persians to Mughals and Europeans, demonstrates a nation that is unwilling to compromise on its features as territorial state with an established culture. That historical legacy has underpinned Indian national identity ever since, and it influences its foreign policy still today.

INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY: PRACTISE OF NEUTRALITY

A foreign policy guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs - tenets championed by Nehru. As a regional power and nuclear weapon state, India follows the policy of

disarmament with regard to non-proliferation while taking into account two-dimensional approaches viz., (a) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty aka NPT; & (b) Assadors or Permanent Representatives for Disarmament. India's nuclear doctrine of 'no first use' is a testament to India's principled position on strategic stability and its pledge not to allow conventional confrontations reach the nuclear threshold.

In South Asia, India has been the anchor in creating regional cooperation and stability. Programmes such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) encourage regional organisations to work together, and promote cultural exchange among member states. Bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka stress mutual respect for security interests amongst others peace resolutions of all disputes encouraging regional cooperation in minimising poverty alleviation schemes climate change environmental pollutions natural disasters etc.

In the background of some border irritants, India-China relations have been marked by efforts to work out a modus vivendi through diplomacy and CBMs. Following the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-aggression as enshrined in 1954's Panchsheel Agreement, this handshake is now an antecedent to Sino-Indian relations. And, despite occasional dust-ups, both have continued to try and resolve their differences peacefully and build equitable economic relationships by working on the trade -and investment - fronts while also stepping up cultural exchanges.

INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS - VIABLE OPTIONS FOR PEACE

Historically contentious, India and Pakistan have had a tumultuous relationship marked by historical rivalries going back decades with territorial disputes in the Kashmir valley at their core. That said, both countries have at times entered into these dialogues presumably to promote appreciation, restore trust and find solutions in nonviolent methods. Agreements like the Simla Agreement (1972) and the Lahore Declaration (1999) re-emphasize on bilateral dialogue, mutual respect of sovereignty, peaceful coexistence pic.twitter.com/zajjjCTIsole - India in Vienna (@IndiainAustria) March 10, 2019

The best example has been civilian exchanges, cultural activities & some civil society initiatives which creates bridges that culminate in peace justice and reconciliation at grassroots level despite occasional hostilities happening on the higher end of escalation ladder. Track II diplomacy: As a matter of facilitating peace relations and collaboration between Indian-Pakistani stakeholders have served as Track-II diplomatic initiatives which consisted NGOs, academia fellows along with ex-diplomats offering rooms to engage on aspirational dialogues implemented through confidence-building measures.

INDIA PLAYS ITS PART IN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING

With one of the highest cases, India has demonstrated its commitment to international peace and security as a major contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping missions. India has been contributing troops, police personnel and civilian experts in UN Missions across the world including in Africa, Middle-East & South East Asia since 1950 following its first deployment with United Nations during the Korean War. Indian peacekeepers are known for their professionalism, dedication and consummate devotion to duty even in the face of demanding circumstances such as those in which they operate UNMISS; where that help protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian assistance and support post-conflict recovery initiatives.

India is committed to the Idea of Peacekeeping for its belief in collective security, multilateralism and peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Indian peacekeepers have played a vital role in calming tempers, minimising disputes and fostering reconciliations among conflicting sides in areas of conflict. India has been credited with international acknowledgment and appreciation for putting its best foot forward as a responsible partner in global stability.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: INDIA'S RESOLVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India has succeeded in being a global leader in science, technology & innovation and it is deeply connected to its ambition of sustainable development as well as environmental stewardship. And being a developing country with the third-largest population and significant energy consumption, India has to tackle many of issues like energy security, environment degradation and global climate change. The response involved a determination by the Indian government to focus on investments in sustainable and renewable energy, clean technologies as well of sustainability initiatives that reduce carbon emissions, save natural resources while promoting ecologic resilience.

India was also signatory to initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and One Sun, One World, One Grid Romeo Power. The ISA, announced at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, seeks to mobilise investments of solar resources across the world for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting universal access to clean energy. An ideal model comes from the mind of our PM Narendra Modi called as OSOWOG where International Solar Grid is established to effectively utilize solar energy and hence make global energy more secure.

India has been dedicated to the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes while remaining committed to its no-first-use policy and is in accordance with international standards on non-proliferation, disarmament across countries. The policy declared by India in 1998, that this is a no first use and it reaffirms to only combating nuclear threats or aggression. India, instead centres its nuclear technology application as a means to an end in areas like power generation (e.g. through the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors), medical applications amongst others for driving socio-economic development and enhancing quality of life.

MORE IMPORTANTLY GREEN INITIATIVES IN INDIA.

The internationally associated efforts that India has made to combat climate change and working towards environmental sustainability, are buttressed by high-level blueprint plans at the national level; policy frameworks in place nationally along with international affiliations. With a realization of the seriousness and adverse effects of global warming, India has proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; increase energy efficiency in power/ transportation / industry sectors, while taking measures towards using improved technologies with greater reliance on solar power (or CSP), wind energy/biomass/hydro/geothermal energies.

India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, agreeing to decrease it carbon intensity and bolster climate resilience by striving towards targets articulated under sustainable development goals (SDGs). Just to throw some more light, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of India under this agreement include actions that will enable the country achieve 40% cumulative electric power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy

resources by 2030 and also create an additional carbon sink of about 2.5-3 billion tonnes CO2 equivalent through afforestation projects and reforestation activities.

To reach these lofty targets, India has rolled out a number of flagship initiatives and campaigns with an emphasis on environmental preservation, pollution-reduction measures as well as the improvement in waste management practices and achieving sustainable urban development. Originally published in Bloomberg | Swachh Bharat Mission, which began for the mission of having millions of toilets built and changing behaviour among communities to achieve universal sanitation coverage; prepared a critical fundraising route based on the success it has displayed since 2014. The Namami Gange Programme, launched in 2014 aims at improvement of water quality that had deteriorated due unregulated inflow and unsustainable conservation practices used by the local agencies/populace directly impacting on public health.

EFFORTS IN INDIA FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Rich in biodiversity, India's myriad ecosystems and its natural habitats act as a crucial ecosystem component which is important to both the tangible anthropological cultural heritage & environmental health of this developed country. India has been proactive in ensuring biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration through various conservation-initiatives, protected-area networks & wildlife-sanctuaries to protect its endangered species from habitat degradation/loss - also encouraging sustainable use of natural resources.

While pursuit such as Project Tiger(1973) and Project Elephant (2ooo5), are targeted towards the protection, management for hoisting of flagship species like Bengal tiger and Asian elephant respectively. These conservation efforts include habitat restoration, anti-poaching activities, community-based conservancy programmes and scientific studies of wildlife populations to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. India is committed toward biodiversity conservation, as manifest in critical legislative measures like the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) for ensuring the protection and nurturing of wild flora & fauna together with their habitats; Forest Rights Act (2006), marking a clear shift from traditional forest management to empowering local communities for participatory wildlife conservation-particularly through sustainable forestry practices.

The recent initiatives such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2023 the Cheetah Reintroduction Project aim to reintroduce cheetahs into their historical range India. This project highlights the proactive conservation measures adopted in India for species recovery, habitat restoration and ecological recovery in order to restore our natural heritage and improve biodiversity.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - INDIA`S SOFT POWER

Cultural diplomacy of India is an important tool in global peace, intercultural dialog and the development of mutual understanding among nations through common values or traditions and cultural exchanges. Being the world's largest democracy and a medley of different cultures, languages, religions and traditions; India reverberates with the richness of its cultural legacy as soft power social connectivity that has resonated through art & culture, spirituality & philosophy across all section worldwide.

Yoga is a practice of ancient origin from India that has spread around the world as a holistic way to improve physical health, stimulate mental well-being and support spiritual awakening. In 2015, adopting the proposal of Prime Minister Narenda Modi during his address to the UN General Assembly referencing yoga's transformative force, The United Nations proclaimed June 21 as International Day of Yoga. The International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June to raise global awareness about the benefits of yoga and highlights the need for integration of physical & mental health into lifestyle.

Such cultural diplomacy initiatives also involve showcasing India classical music, dance, literature, cuisine, cinema and traditional crafts around the world through festivals, exhibitions call with international institutions & artists/scholars. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) that came into being in 1950 is a crucial chapter of this evolution facilitating cultural diplomacy, people-to-people contacts through scholarships, administering other socio-cultural exchange programs and collaborative projects aimed at forging greater mutual understanding and goodwill among nations.

INDIAN VACCINE DIPLOMACY: A GLIMMERING LIGHT OF GLOBAL HEALTH

Driven by altruism India, for long a world trustee in this respect has emerged as the beacon of hope globally in combating COVID-19. Showing its commitment for global peace and solidarity, India has given millions of doses free of charge to various countries around the world.

Even after kick-starting the most ambitious Vaccination drive, India not only focused on its own people but helped many in their need. 'Vaccine Maitri': India has provided vaccines to over 100 countries including nations with vulnerable populations, scarce resources The initiative is a testament to India's abiding faith in collective actions and international cooperation during challenging times.

In view of this, India has been globally acknowledged and appreciated for its benevolent spirit in contributing to global peace through vaccine diplomacy as a responsible stakeholder. Through its support to the Gavi alliance and COVAX facility, India is helping more countries vaccinate their populations.

In summation, India's proactive distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide reflects its dedication to global peace, health and unity.

CONCLUSION

In sum, the exceptional trajectory of India toward peace, sustainability and global concordance draws its sustenance from an age-old wisdom embedded in her ancient culture combined with a steadfast dedication to good governance through non-violence moderated by all-inclusive development. India's global peacekeeping, sustainable development and cultural diplomacy are a testament to its dream of preserving the world in more fairer and greener place for our posterity 'from Gandhian principles of Ahimsa (non-violence) & Sadbhavana', respectively.

Once more - applicants are urged to spend sufficient time and write a comprehensive list of services offered (ie: peace, cooperation multilateralism) by India as it weathers an increasingly complex world in touching upon

issues all nations face together toward international solidarity and collective prosperity. India seeks to address the problems facing humanity globally by way of dialogue, diplomacy and collective action with justice, equality and respect for diversity as guiding principles under badge of peace (shanti), non-violence (ahimsa) and sustainable development.

All of it, a testimony and an inspiration for the entire humanity to how from compassion comes unity leading India - though still in making, on her journey towards peace and sustainable development as conceived by Idea Thinker Gandhi! As Mahatma Gandhi rightly said, "Be the change you want to see in this world. This defining age-old pursuit of peace and global harmony continues to define India's identity, instruct its policy waters, provoke up-and-coming generations in the relentless drive for a better world-for all.

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