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INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: A NEW MILESTONE

***Dr. Urmila Bharti**

****Dr. Rajanikant Verma**

***Dr. Urmila Bharti**, Associate Professor, Commerce Department, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening), (University of Delhi), Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi, Pin-110002.

****Dr. Rajanikant Verma**, Associate Professor, Commerce Department, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening), (University of Delhi), Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi, Pin-110002.

ABSTRACT

The Inclusive Development Philosophy is closely aligned with the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Mantra. Though, it seems impossible to follow this conception in the present scenario of tensions and terrorism but this notion has and is still inspiring India. The Government of India is celebrating 75 years of independence and commemorating its glorious history with the help of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This initiative has been dedicated to those people who played instrumental role in evolutionary journey of India. This initiative further helps in visualising the conception of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam with greater resonance among the people in India as well as in world. Inclusive development guarantee not only the sustainable development but also make certain that the resources are distributed fairly and equally among all the stakeholders. Though, it is not an easy task for a developing and diverse country like India. It needs consistent efforts and hard work to bring all these people in the mainstream and to ensure the growth of all these people in all the parts of the country. An attempt has been made in this research paper to study the elements and dimensions of inclusive development and its relevance in India. The need to embrace the concept of inclusive development and processes have also been discussed in length.

Inclusive development should be the target to achieve. The hindrances like gender inequality, income equality, regional disparities, poverty etc., need to be addressed efficiently and should be given more momentum. Government is already working in this direction and has taken several steps such as reforming governance, setting up new performance benchmarks, creating innovative partnerships and transforming the lives of people by implementing effective policies. These measures along with innovative partnerships at national and international level will definitely lead to the development of human capital, its progress indices and the position of India at global level. So, the need of the hour is frame and implement policies effectively as a step towards achievement of goal of inclusiveness which can ensure equal access to the opportunities and resources.

Keywords: Inclusive Development, Economic Development, Inequality, Disparity

JBL Codes: D63, F63, O10, O40, O43, O44

INTRODUCTION

According to Mahatma Gandhi, “No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.”

Every nation has and is known for its own rich cultural civilisation, ideology and philosophical tradition. Today, the whole world, especially the developing nations are focusing more on the concept of economic development through HRQL (Health-Related Quality of Life) of people. The government has realised the fact that participation and empowerment of each and every individual is the essence of real economic development of a nation. The bureaucrats have understood this fact, even though the problem of disparity and inequalities is a common issue all over the world. It changed the thinking perspective of policy makers and now the bureaucrats are following a holistic approach towards inclusive development and making it an integral part of their policies at the centre level. The term inclusive development has become a buzzword these days and is of utmost significance. The inclusive development is fascinating the sociologists a lot these days. The sociologists are the people who are more interested in studying the different vigorous aspects of development like social disparities and buoyancy of economy.

Though, Inclusive Development is taken as a new phrase these days but it has come a long way from the ancient civilizations across the globe. Inclusive development is not a new phenomenon. It is a lofty vedantic idea that is found deep rooted in the pages of MahaUpanishad. Mahaupanishads are the great ancient Indian scriptures upon which the Hindu philosophy and society is based. In the pages of MahaUpanishads, there is a famous Sanskrit phrase namely ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, which means that ‘The Earth is a one single family’. It means that the Indian society is very much familiar with the all-inclusive perspective, as it was one of the core philosophies of Indian Civilization since ancient times. India’s deep ancient insights treat the entire world as one single family where everyone deserves to enjoy elixir of life. It exhibits that Hindu families have been practicing this underlying belief of togetherness for thousands of years. Also, Indian culture is rich and envisioned by its famous slogan of ‘Unity in Diversity’ which has been considered an extension of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the ancient conception.

The Inclusive Development Philosophy is closely aligned with the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Mantra. Though, it seems impossible to follow this conception in the present scenario of tensions and terrorism but this notion has and is still inspiring India. It is an important part of our societal basic moral values and its existence can be felt in the Constitution of India as well.

The Government of India is celebrating 75 years of independence and commemorating its glorious history with the help of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This initiative has been dedicated to those people who played instrumental role in evolutionary journey of India. This initiative further helps in visualising the conception of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam with greater resonance among the people in India as well as in world.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Saji (2019) analysed various factors affecting inclusive growth from 2004-2017. The results show that with respect to social and development parameters, the inclusive growth is still inferior in comparison to other emerging economies. So, the government is required to take some effective steps in this direction.

Aggrawal (2019) make a comparative analysis of India and 17 other selected developed and undeveloped countries. The current status of all the countries in achieving the inclusive growth and sustainable development has been analysed. It presents the best policies which can be opted by India to achieve success.

Narasagondar (2019) forced that in inclusive growth the participation of all the sections of the society is must. They should get the benefit as a recipient and should be the partners in achieving it. In this inclusion growth process, the inclusion of excluded is an essential requirement.

Aggrawal (2022) studied the concept of inclusive development with the issue of poverty and inequality in some selected states of India. The results found a great divergence among the different states and also there was a decline in the percentage of people living below the poverty line but still people are suffering from absolute and multidimensional poverty.

Sengupta (2014) highlights in the paper main problems like extensive corruption, poverty, Inefficiency of system etc., which work as obstacles in the path of inclusive growth. Further the strategies adopted by government to remove these obstacles have also been circumscribed.

Sumalatha and Roy (2020) Defines the concept and meaning of inclusive growth undertaken by the Indian Government. It further highlighted the different issues and challenges that the country is facing in achieving this goal.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

Inclusive Growth is considered a necessity today that help a nation to reduce the poverty. It is an outcome as well as a process, which ensures the participation of all the segments of an economy. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To conceptualise the need to embrace Inclusive Development.
- To analyse the process of inclusion and its elements.
- To study the different dimensions of inclusive development.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

India is characterized as a nation where several transformations has occurred in the economy after independence with the aim of development. Now one new feather has been introduced in this cluster of transformations i.e., Inclusive Development. The GOI is trying its best to make it successful by introducing and implementing several new schemes and projects. But along with all these innovations, the involvement of private sector is much needed to magnify the goal of inclusive development. Hence, the involvement of both viz. Government and private sector is of utmost importance for the success of inclusive development. They can play imperative roles in making innovations. Also, they can extend cooperation to each other by following a combined approach to evolve inclusive development.

The significance of this concept is clearly depicted by the meaning of this term. The term 'Inclusive Development' comprises of two words- inclusive and development. Inclusive means broad in orientation which include or encompasses all the things. So, inclusive development means a process of developing all the components of an economy. It covers the entire population irrespective of their demographic characteristics. It further develops a sense of belongingness and makes them feel valued without consideration of their level and status. The figure given below clearly shows the relationship between different elements of an economy which are essential to ensure the sustainable development.

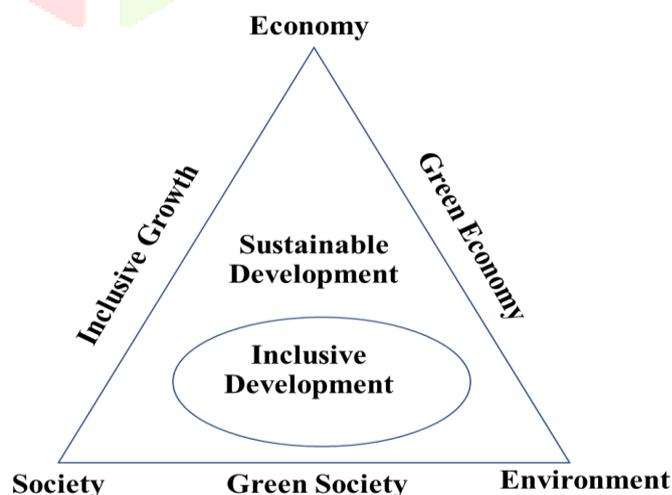


Figure 1: Exhibits the different dimensions of Inclusive Growth with respect to Economy, Society and Environment

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has defined the term inclusive development more precisely. According to it, Inclusive Development is the process on one side and the outcome on the other side. It requires the participation of each and every person in the development, so consider them the partners. Besides this, they also enjoy the benefits of inclusive development equally and thereby considers them the recipients also. It further ensures sustainable growth along with many other benefits like decline in poverty etc. Similar definition has been given by Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD). According to it, Inclusive growth is equally distributed among all the sections of the society and it fairly provides chances to all in the society.

FEATURES OF INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

As the concept of inclusive development is multidimensional, so it still needs a clear-cut definition. All the developments are human aimed because human is the outcome as well as the means of development. So, the main aim of all the development strategies is to improve the quality of life of humans. Similarly, the word Inclusive means 'Inclusion of All', (i.e., all the individuals and groups). Therefore, inclusive development can be defined as a process of social development which incorporates the basic idea of sustainable development and empowerment of all the individuals and groups. It means that inclusive development is aimed at making all the humans the part of mainstream, specifically those who have been earlier excluded. With this, it will also help in achieving the goal of equality, sustainable development, and elimination of poverty. Based on these observations, the following can be considered the salient features of the inclusive development: -



- **Involvement:** India is recognised as a young economy which is growing younger. Inclusive development helps in this growth by ensuring the involvement of every individual in the growth process of the country. Individuals and groups can participate in the social, economic, and political life and are able to design their future. Their participation can be in the form of workers, owners, and consumers.
- **Impartiality:** People are the outcome and means of inclusive development and thus, enjoy the equality and betterment of life. All are benefitted by strategies of inclusive development specifically those who were earlier excluded from the mainstream.
- **Advancement and Growth:** On a larger scale, the benefit is taken by the whole economy. The aim of overall well-being generates more investment and employment opportunities in the market which in turn enhance the economic growth and as a result the national income.
- **Consistency:** People have a greater degree of confidence in their future due to fair and transparent distribution of resources. They can make the approximately accurate projections which provides certainty to their future course of action.
- **Sustainability:** The focus is on optimum use of economic and social wealth along with safety of environment. Inclusive development results in good governance as well as a gender equality sensitized society is created. Inclusive development ensures fulfilment of current needs keeping in view the stake of future generations along with overall social well-being.

NEED TO EMBRACE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Everyone is fascinated by the all-round development and so is the case of an economy. It can ensure the all-round development with the help of inclusive development only. Inclusive development guarantee not only the sustainable development but also make certain that the resources are distributed fairly among all. Though, it is not an easy task for a developing country like India. Indian population consists of different groups, religion, caste and creed living in a big geographical area. It is a challenging job to bring all these people in the mainstream and to ensure the growth of all these people in all the parts of the country.

To achieve the goal, government needs to follow a multidimensional perspective. The authorities are required to focus on talents, education and skill of the people to make it grow. The shortage of talent or skills or any other elements can be sorted through public private collaborations. Though, The India occupies greater part of South Asia and is the second most populous country but the development is not satisfactory in comparison to some other countries (like China) which are growing at a faster rate. The reasons are obviously the rural population, low per capita income, gender and social inequalities, low GDP due to low agricultural income, low literacy level, corruption, regional disparities and many more. The elimination of all these hitches is possible only through the objective of inclusive development and so India should try hard to achieve it.

CONSIDERATIONS IN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

There are several factors which affect the path of inclusive development. It is difficult to mention and analyse each factor. So, some major factors have been explained below:

- **Inequality:** Inequality is one of the major problems that exist in a society which hinders the process of development. Inequality is caused due to socioeconomic and political structure. It is the root cause of human deprivation. Whereas, for inclusive development equality and participation of all the human being is the prime necessity.
- **Social Marginalisation:** Social exclusion prevails in the society due to many factors such as, caste, creed, religion, patriarchy, gender discrimination etc. This social exclusion further promotes inequality and also hinders people participation in social processes. This problem can be overcome with the help of social inclusion which is possible through stricter implementation of constitution democracy.
- **Poverty:** Poverty is the main cause of social exclusion which is becoming a serious threat to the society. Poverty indicates the deprivation of basic needs such as food, shelter, job, income, school, hospitals etc. It trapped the poor people from becoming the part of mainstream. It needs to be addressed effectively in a systematic manner through inclusiveness. It will make them the part of development process by providing basic facilities like education, healthcare etc.
- **Discrimination:** Discrimination is the evil which arise due to poverty, inequality, gender disparity, socioeconomic disparity and due to many other natural differences. Sometimes the policy decisions taken by the government also promotes disparity. It affects the choice and opportunity availability to these sections and their accessibility to education, employment and health facilities. These disparities can be addressed and controlled through inclusive policies.
- **Displacement:** Displacement is a complex phenomenon which act as a hindrance in the process of inclusive development. It should be a choice rather than forceful. Forceful displacement promotes resistance, pain and suffering which creates a hostile environment. This hostility also obstructs the way to development.

ELEMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF INCLUSION

The process of inclusion consists of the following three significant elements:

- **Social Inclusion:** Social exclusion is one of the major and complex problem in India. Social inclusion helps to maintain the dignity of people by removing inequality on the basis of their identity. The main aim is to create and sustain a more efficient, safe and stable society where everyone plays active role with their own rights and responsibilities regardless of their background. These efforts on the one hand guarantees implementation of effective policies that ensures equal access to all the services and on the other hand boosts active participation of all in the decision making. This term has been adopted by the Indian government as a moral to foster development.
- **Economic Inclusion:** Economic inclusion is a multidimensional process in which all the consumers have active participation and access to the economic services. Though lot of efforts have been put by the governments, regulatory institutions in this direction but still it is out of reach of poor people. Opening of a bank account is first step in this direction which will enable the access to all the banking facilities.
- **Political Inclusion:** For a sustainable democracy, no one should be left unheard or behind. Democracy requires participation of each individual irrespective of class, race, religion, gender, ability in all the democratic processes and institutions. The constitution of India ensures this political participation through quotas and castes like Scheduled Caste (SCs), Scheduled Tribe (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Still there exist lot of bottlenecks and challenges and India has a long way to go to achieve the goal of inclusiveness.

DIMENSIONS OF INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Inclusive development helps to solve a number of societal issues faced by Indian economy like poverty, unemployment, inequality etc. It is a multi-dimensional concept which includes human development, political development, ecological dimension and many more significant factors. Though, it is a new term which has a long journey to travel. Still, on the basis of literature available, following can be considered as the main dimensions of inclusive development:

- **Skill Development:** There are twofold main issues that India is facing with respect to skill development. First, the youth which has been trained in conventional ways using conventional tools, is still not employed. And Secondly, although India is considered as a young economy having abundance of young talent but even though there is dearth of trained workforce. This young talent needs to be properly trained through vocational courses, advanced technology and education. The Economic Survey 2017 highlights that more than 30% of young talents are neither in education nor in training or employment. Likewise, the Report of UNICEF in 2019 point out that only 53% of young talent will be able to meet the qualification and skill requirement in 2030. Keeping in consideration these facts, the need of the hour is to speed up the process of inclusive development which can thicken the demographic dividend.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Financial inclusion ensures the availability of financial services to all and provide equal opportunities to access the financial aid and services. It is an important priority of a country for boosting the economic development. Similarly, one cannot imagine the inclusive development without it. It has dawned as a novel paradigm which plays a significant role in tackling income inequality and reducing or eliminating the poverty from the society. It promotes a habit of saving and helps in channelising the funds through investments. Financial inclusion ensures the overall economic development of the marginalized sections by spreading financial literacy so, thereby is necessary and integral step towards inclusive development.
- **Technological Upgradation:** All the world economies are entering the era of fourth industrial revolution (Industrial Revolution 4.0) which conceptualises the high-grade technologies like AI and automation, big data analytics, internet of things, cloud technology etc. One of the main effects of all these technologies is increased human productivity. These technologies are not only making the human life convenient but also has great impact on the commerce and trade. Those businesses which

will be able to adapt and cope up with these contemporary changes are likely to survive in the tears to come. The industrial revolution contributes to inclusive development by creating more job opportunities, innovation, productivity and optimum utilisation of resources. It plays a significant role in decreasing the inequality and regional disparities by increasing the pace of digital literacy.

- **Economic Expansion:** Economic expansion ensures a positive quantitative impact on income. saving, investment along with upliftment of socio-economic structure of a country. Inclusive development ensures a fair economic expansion by making equal distribution of resources. It left no stone unturned to ensure constant and sustainable development. It ensures that fruits of economic development are enjoyed by everyone specifically by the vulnerable sections of the society at utmost priority. Though currently, due to cyclic and structural provocation, the economy of India is facing downtrend but the target is no doubt to convert it into a fastest growing economy. To achieve this target, removal of poverty, inequality, disparities etc., has to be make certain.
- **Social Development:** Social development is instrumental to the development of an economy. It ensures positive qualitative changes in the economy through changes in the structure and framework of the society. It makes certain the positive and emotional development of a country's human and social capital by focusing on their well-being and standard of living. It focuses on empowering the marginalised sections by improving the level of various facilities like health, security, education, employment etc. For ensuring effective social development, the issues like inequality, poverty, exclusion, and susceptibility of the people needs to be addressed.

CONCLUSION

India is characterised as a land of rich and varied culture, natural scenic beauty along with infinite potentials, talented people and incredible opportunities. A nation with these enriched features is able to hitch the wagon to accelerate the sustainable and inclusive development. But a lot is needed to be done in this direction and if India would be able to done it rightly, then its name can be added in the list of most developed nations and it can reach the pinnacle of the world.

The term inclusiveness has become a buzzword today and needs a peaceful and stable environment to develop. Inclusive development should be the target to achieve and hindrances like gender inequality, income equality, regional disparities, poverty etc., need to be addressed efficiently and should be given more momentum. Government has taken several steps such as reforming governance, setting up new performance benchmarks etc. to achieve the goal of inclusive development. It is transforming the lives of people by implementing effective policies which can ensure equal access to the opportunities and resources. GOI is focusing on eliminating poverty, inequality and attempting to attain sustainable development by empowering the underprivileged sections of the society through innovative partnerships. These innovative partnerships at national and international level will definitely lead to the development of human capital, its progress indices and the position of India at global level.

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