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A FIGHT AGAINST COVID 19

AATAMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN, INDIA

Simran Vats¹, Ar. Nidhi Malik²

Student of MURP¹, Assistant Professor²

Department of Urban Planning and Architecture^{1,2}

P.L.C State University of Performing and Visual Arts, Rohtak, India.

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a severe threat to the economy of the country. To overcome these testing times, India comes up with Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that promotes local economy. A comprehensive economic package of Rs 20 lakh crore, which is equal to 10% of India's GDP, has been announced to bring the economy back on track. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is the new version of "Make in India" which aims to make India "self-resilient" and also "a global Supplier". Five different areas are been discussed which are potential enough to achieve self-resilience in the future. The paper is focusing on the concept behind the Abhiyan which is to make the nation self resilient with local manufacturers and service providers.

Index Terms -Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Covid-19, Self-reliance, 5 pillars.

I. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic, also an ongoing pandemic of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARAC 2), first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China later spread. The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30th January 2020 and a pandemic on 15th March 2020. The outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted nations in an enormous way, especially the nationwide lockdowns which have brought social and economic life to a standstill. According to an early forecast of the International Monetary Fund (INF) 2020, the global economy would contract by about 3 percent in 2020. The contraction is expected to be of far greater magnitude that of the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis. However, in June 2020, the INF 2020 revised the forecast to 4.9 percent contraction in 2020. The following reasons for the updated forecast were first greater persistence in social distancing activities; second lower activity during lockdowns; third steeper decline in productivity amongst firms which have opened up for business; and the last was greater uncertainty. Whereas India due to COVID-19 pandemic experienced declined in economy. The results show that during the lockdown, the Indian economy faced a loss of about 10-31% of its GDP, which gave an idea to achieve self-reliance in some sectors and to become a global supplier. This is not the only time when India is going through such economic crises, it has many times before one of them was during 1991 (the fiscal crisis).

As in 1991 fiscal crisis, BOP (Balance of Payment) crisis, led to invention of a new policy called LPG i.e. Liberalizations, Privatization and Globalization. Even after the formation of planning commission in 1950 the nation has gone through various economy crisis, which later replaced with the formation of NITI Aayog in 2014. Similarly since March, 2020 due to COVID-19 gave a new concept to emerge that is self-reliant India. With the impact of COVID-19, many countries are adopting protectionist policies whereas India is a developing country, where it is very difficult to adopt protectionism policy. But in some sectors in which we have potential to achieve self-reliance, we can impose trade barriers to protect, develop domestic industries and also become global supplier. To overcome the current scenario, India has come up with Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with more benefits for MSME sector, encouraging private participation in various sectors, etc. the Abhiyan aims to make India a self resilient country on the basis of 5 pillars those are Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand. This is one of the largest economic boosts up schemes announced by a nation in the world. Also 5 I's Intent, Inclusion, Investment, Infrastructure and Innovation are very important for India in responding to high growth trajectory which is taken care in ABA. The pandemic has brought a very bad impact over the health and the GDP of the country.

India's real GDP depleted to its bottom in over six years during 4th quarter of 2019-20. India's growth for next year 2020-21 is forecasted in between of 5.3% to 5.7%. The current COVID 19 pandemic could lead to a 4% permanent loss to real Indian GDP. It is estimated for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate to 1.9 per cent for 2020-21. This will be the lowest after India recorded growth rate at 1.1 per cent in 1991-92.

Table 1 GDP of India

Year/Quarter	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2015-2016	7.5%	7.6%	7.3%	7.9%
2016-2017	7.2%	7.4%	7.0%	6.1%
2017-2018	5.9%	6.6%	7.3%	7.9%
2018-2019	7.7%	6.9%	6.3%	5.7%
2019-2020	5.0%	4.5%	4.7%	

Source: Ministry of statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on secondary data collected from different journals, magazines, various books and websites which are clearly mentioned in the references. Need of the study is to understand the concept behind the Abhiyan towards the self resilience nation which built in more confidence and believe in ourselves and to the future of the nation.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Planning Commission which has a legacy of 65 years has been replaced by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog). The utility and significance of the Planning Commission had been questioned for long. The replacement seems to be more relevant and responsive to the present economic needs and scenario in the country. The NITI Aayog was formed on 1 January 2015. It is the country's premier policy-making institution that is expected to boost the economic growth of the country. It aims to construct a strong state that will help to create a dynamic and strong nation. It helps India to emerge as a major economy in the world. The NITI Aayog's creation has two hubs called "Team India Hub" which leads to the participation of Indian states with the central government, and "Knowledge and Innovation Hub" which builds the institution's think tank capabilities. Where at present the pandemic has bad impact over various sectors of the nation.

The pandemic COVID -19 has not only brought us the health crises but also unemployment, hunger, loss of shelters, low economy and much more. Lockdown in a country like India was a disaster as we have a huge population and the rate of unemployment in India rose to 26.2% in the third week of April amid corona virus lockdown. The extended lockdown is expected to hit the unorganized labor market condition which will be a disastrous moment for India to cope up with this situation in the future. The employment rate has fallen from 40% in February to 26%. This is a steep fall of 14% point. This implies that 14% of the working-age population has lost employment. Fourteen Crore people are expected to have lost employment in the lockdown period.

IV. AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN (ABA)

The special economic package would focus on land, labor, liquidity, and laws and it would benefit laborers, farmers, honest taxpayers, SMEs, and cottage industry. The main motive behind ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN is to make individual self-reliant and identified economy and infrastructure as key drivers for it. Earlier people used to search for jobs and are dependent on the others but this package is a motivation for those who want to do something better than others and become self-reliant. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan sights to reduce unemployment, insolvency, and poverty and increase India's per capita GDP. India stands at a poor level in self generating economy, whose most economy connected through international trades.

COVID-19 pandemic taught many countries like India that at times of difficulties where three basic needs like food, health and shelters can become threat, where only you can help yourself. ABA focuses on self-generating and self- sustaining polices which makes India self made and resilient. The crisis has also taught us the importance of local manufacturing, local market and local supply chains. All our demands during the crisis were met 'locally'. Now, it's time to be vocal about the local products and help these local products become global, India has that potential and power to become stronger by standing on its own spine without resting on others shoulders that is why India needs to be Aatmanirbhar i.e. independent for its own good.

V. FIVE PILLARS OF ABA

The nation needs to focus on some areas that are more effective towards making the task successful and work. Similarly ABA stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity.

5.1 Economy

Such as ABA many different strategies have been defined by central government to boost the economy and bring GDP to the two digit percentage. The Strategies and policies include New India @75, An Indian economy Strategy to 2035, etc.

New India @75-On August 15, 2022, independent India will turn 75. In the lifespan of nations, India is still young. India's youthful and inspirational population deserves a rapid transformation of the economy, which can deliver double-digit growth, jobs and prosperity to all. The aim is to define clear objectives for 2022-23 in a diverse range of 41 areas that recognize the progress already made; and challenges that remain; identify binding constraints in specific sectors; and suggest the way forward for achieving the stated objectives.

The strategy disaggregated the 41 sectors under four sections: drivers, infrastructure, inclusion and governance. The first section on drivers focuses on the engines of economic performance – in macroeconomic terms with chapters on growth and employment. The section also discusses strategies for the doubling of farmers' incomes; boosting Make in India; upgrading the science,

technology and innovation eco-system; and promoting sunrise sectors like fintech and tourism. An annual rate of growth of 9 per cent by 2022-23 is essential for generating sufficient jobs and achieving prosperity for all. Four key steps, among others have been spelled out for achieving this GDP growth rate. The second section on infrastructure deals with the physical foundations of growth. A lot of progress has been made across all infrastructure sectors. This is crucial to enhancing the competitiveness of Indian business as also ensuring the citizens' ease of living. The third section on inclusion deals with the urgent task of investing in the capabilities of all of India's citizens. The three themes in this section revolve around the various dimensions of health, education and mainstreaming of traditionally marginalized sections of the population. The final section on governance delves deep into how the tasks/business of government can be streamlined and reformed to achieve better outcomes. It involves a sharp focus on ensuring accountability and a shift to performance-based evaluation. The government will revamp its data systems and analysis so that all policy interventions and decision-making are based on evidence and real-time data. This will yield efficient and targeted delivery of services and justice to those who need them the most.

In **ABA** the economic package that was announced by the Prime Minister along with various packages released during the lockdown period is around US\$ 283.73 billion, which is about **10 per cent** of India's GDP. It is expected to provide support and strength to various sections of the country and give a renewed boost to the development journey of the country in 2020.

In order to prove the determination of a self-reliant India many schemes related to Land, Labour, Liquidity and Laws have all been emphasized in this package like:

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package -Rs. 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus such as : 1 kg pulses for each household, Gas cylinders, free of cost, increase MREGA wages, etc. Front-loaded Rs2,000 paid to farmers under existing **PM-KISAN** to benefit 8.7 Crore farmers.

Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund allowed to be used to provide relief to workers 24% of monthly wages to be credited into their PF accounts for next three months for wage-earners below Rs 15,000 p.m.

Business includes **MSME's** Rs3 lakh crores Collateral free Automatic Loans for Business, including MSME; Rs20,000 Crore Subordinate Debt for MSMEs; Rs50,000 cores infusion through MSME Fund of Funds; New definition of MSMEs; Global tender to be disallowed uptoRs200 cores; Other interventions for MSMEs; Rs2500 crores EPF support for Businesses and Workers for 3 more months, etc. Rs 20,000 crores for Fishermen through **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** (PMMSY)

5.2 Infrastructure

Infrastructure has been a key driver of the economy of India. In 2017, infrastructure spending in the construction industry amounted to about 9% of the country's GDP. In the Union Budget 2020–21, the Government has given a massive push to the infrastructure sector by allocating Rs 1,69,637 Crore (US\$ 24.27 billion) to develop the transport infrastructure whereas Indian Railways has received an allocation of Rs 72,216 Crore (US\$ 10.33 billion) under Union Budget 2020–21. Looking to the current situations due to COVID 19 the GDP of the country was about 3.1 % at the end of March 2020 which is now dragged to 4.2% that is also the low as compare to 2019 (6.1%) and lowest in the decade.

India has one of the good models of the PPP projects and Government / Government companies can capitalize on the strengths they have in the form of Land and Building in premier locations. PPP projects are mainly in infrastructure, long gestation and risk-sharing with the private sector. New models could focus on Resource Sharing, Knowledge Sharing and Risk sharing.

To recover the injury of this pandemic the Abhiyan also focuses on the infrastructure of the country which drives the economy of the country. Infrastructure of the nation should become the identity of the nation. It's should fulfill all the demands in all the fields. Building future-ready, intelligent, resilient and sustainable infrastructure could help restart capital goods production, provide employment and revive private sector confidence.

Poor migrants who could not afford rented housing due to pandemic should provide affordable rental housing. India also faced the major issue in supply of health infrastructure during the peak times of pandemic, which is been said to improve and to build new infrastructure for healthy and secure India. After the COVID-19, sectors like Health care, Education and Community Development created opportunities for collaboration with the various stakeholders.

Investment in infrastructure could prove to be an important way to achieve this objective. The USD1.5 trillion (INR111 trillion) National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) built on Infrastructure Vision 2025 was announced in the pre-covid-19 world in December 2019. The NIP, as the umbrella programme, integrated multi-sector infrastructural projects with the goal to improve overall quality of life. In the attempt to revive the economy post-covid-19, the success of the NIP will be dependent on three critical factors – human capital, innovative funding models and greater technological integration.

5.3 System

India is a developing country and is also developing its system as well but still lacking behind in comparison to other developed and developing countries. Based on 21st century technology driven arrangements nation develops accordingly. Digital technology makes the delivery of public goods faster and governance efficient, by bringing in the element of transparency and accountability. For examples A smart sustainable city is an innovative city that uses information and communication technologies (**ICTs**) and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic and **IOT** (Internet of Things) -It provides the ability to remotely monitor, manage and control devices, and to create new insights and actionable information from massive streams of real-time data.

The first portal worldwide related to Corona virus was out by WHO in public health emergency as it provided all information about the cases of COVID 19 in the world. India also prepared portals watching the dangerous attack of the virus to provide health awareness, related information and help to the poor & helpless people through the online means.

Aarogya Setu app and **JAM Trinity** (Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile) has been acting as cornerstones in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, besides assisting in economic recovery process. The Aarogya Setu app, JAM Trinity and Kisan credit cards present appropriate examples of effective technology adoption at a mass scale. Also a scheme will enable a migrant beneficiary to access Public Distribution System from any Fair Price Shop in the country (**Intra-State portability** introduced in 20 States)

5.4 Vibrant Demography

Vibrant demography is the source of energy for a self-reliant India. India is the world's biggest democracy and vibrant demography, which if harnessed properly, can act as the strongest pillar of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat. As per World Bank, India's working-age population is growing by approximately 1.3 million every month during the years 2015-2025, which necessitates the creation of millions of jobs every year to reap the benefits of being a young nation. An ignited mind can play a critical role in providing exposure, education and the market-ready skills to their family members and create new ventures, which have many tangible and intangible socio-economic outcomes. The main responsibility of the government is to create a skill development ecosystem in the country. The programmes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP) and the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) are the steps in a right direction.

The age sex pyramid of 2020 shows that maximum population is youth with about 9.25% of males and 9.03% of female and will become working population in next 10 years which also focus on the need of jobs in next decade whereas the second highest population with age between 15 to 29 capable to work, are working and shows the vibrant population who is willing to show their potential towards the nation.

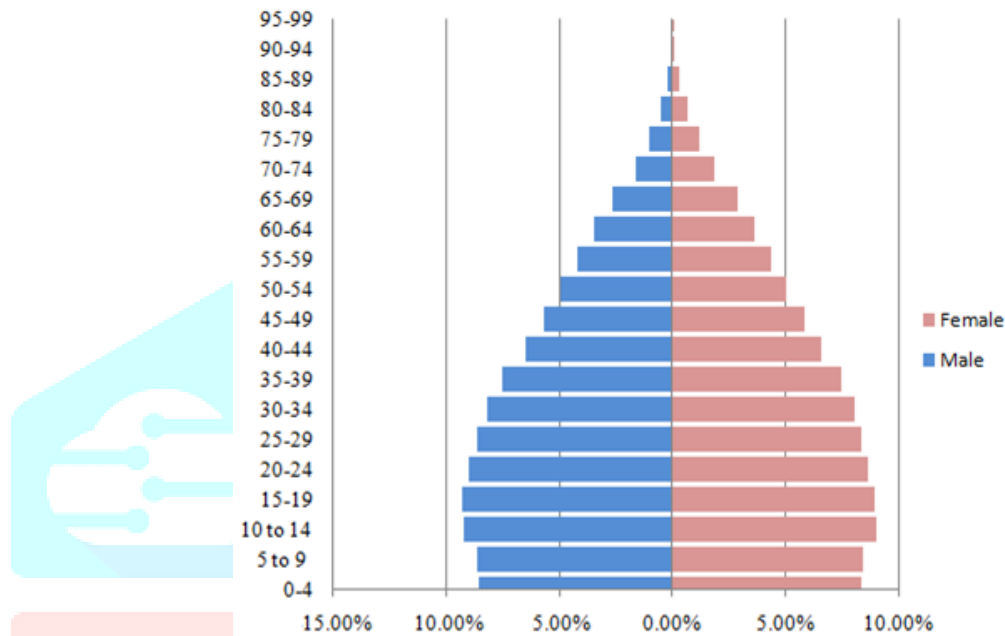


Figure 1 Age sex Pyramid 2020

Source: Census of India, 2011

5.5 Demand

Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated that our domestic market is unable to respond to the huge demand for face masks, sanitizers, PPE kits and other protective equipment, due to the disruption of the global supply chain. The slogan 'Vocal for Local' carries a wider and holistic perspective, if interpreted in the context of the Prime Minister's speech in which he said that all global brands of today were local brands at a point of time. India is blessed with vast natural resources and the local people have mastered the skills to judiciously use these resources to earn their livelihoods, viz.

Global Value Chain is a chain of separate but inter-linked and coordinated activities, which can be undertaken within a single firm or be divided among multiple firms in different geographical locations to bring out a product or a service to complete production and delivery to final consumers. Furthermore, supply chain and travel disruptions caused by COVID-19 might undermine economic integration and encourage self-sufficient economic systems, at least in strategic sectors such as medical equipment and drugs, or the production of inputs for assembling sophisticated machines, the final production of which still occurs in high-wage countries

VI. CONCLUSION

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, trade of goods and migration of people got disrupted and as a result, many countries started preparing for the future pandemics by diversifying supply chains and making themselves self-sufficient. So, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is very much needed for India to transform itself into a self-reliant country and is a good step to revive the economy and to rebuild livelihoods that are affected by the pandemic.

From the above study it is concluded that India has huge potential to achieve self-reliance but it requires proper implementation and monitoring by the government. Not only in urban, but rural sector also have great capacity to develop if proper policies are made and implemented. Government should give all the facilities to develop those sectors which have potential to take innovative steps. This is not only government's responsibility but also consumer's responsibility to consume domestically produced goods because demand is the main determinant to develop any sector. India is not only capable of producing basic products but also have the capacity to produce highly technical products, which helps India to stand globally.

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