ISSN: 2320-2882

IJCRT.ORG



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

SCALING SPECULATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: AN PRAGMATIC STUDY

Immaculate Joyce Palavi Assistant Professor in Commerce St Aloysius Degree College, Cox town, Bengaluru 560005

Abstract:ImpactInvestingisacommunityofinvestorswillingtocreatesocialandenvironmentalimpact along with financial returns by investing either directly with Base of Pyramid⁵ (BoP)enterprises or indirectly through enterprises that help in creating impact by investing in BoPorganizations. Adoption of SDGs⁶ quantified the expectation paradigm of the global communityfor social, environmental and economic achievable and projected/targeted achievement of SDGsby 2030 made the governments, businesses, institutions daunted with the task in hand hence, it isimperative for investing community to contribute its share as well. With high social need

andunderservedpopulationIndiahasbecomeatestbedforimpactinvesting.However,withincreasingimpactinvesting,I mpactMeasurementandManagement(IMM)gainssignificantimportanceasitallows investors to evaluate impact and channelize fund to most effective solutions. The presentstudy conducted for year 2019 not only attempts to explore impact investing landscape in Indiaand its future dimension but it simultaneously does content analysis of impact report of investorsusing impact value chain⁷ and indicators developed on the basis of SDGs targets and indicators. The analysis aims to establish a link between developed indicators and impact, the link onceestablished, developed indicators will provide agile, cost effective, quantifiable and measurablebasisto impact that has worldwide acceptance.

Key Words: Impact Investing, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Impact Measurement,ImpactMetrics,Indicators.

1. Introduction

Words penned after successful completion of Social Impact Bond 2010 by Ex- Prime Minister ofUnitedKingdomGordonBrownnarratesthebirthandriseofImpactInvestment.Impact investment defined as "investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurablesocial and environmental impact alongside financial return" (Global Impact Investing Network(GIIN), demonstrates that Impact investors follow the philosophy of "doing good while doing well" and doesn't entirely forgo the concept of financial return, like philanthropic fund, while striving for social and environmental impact. Impact investors fall in-between the continuum of philanthropic investors and traditional investors (IRIS & Global Impact Investing Network, 2019). It is different from Socially Responsible Investing⁸ (SRI) as it follows positive investing rather than screening out negative investing and also from Economic, social and governance (ESG)investing in a sense that at the core of its philosophy is intentionality of achieving "measurable" impactinconjunction with financial return. Though "measurability" of impactist hesoled ifferentiator, the questions "what, why, how and how much" emanate different responses acrossimpact investing community. Efforts for standardization of impact industry sprouted the idea offormation of GIIN by The Rockefeller Foundation "to support maturation and professionalizationof impact investing" (Reisman et al., 2018). The efforts shaped interesting metrics by players of industry like Omidyar Network, Acumen, Mac Arthur Foundation and GIIN but standardizationfailedtograbtheattentionofpractitionersas"standardisationdoesnotallowforthecustomizationandcon textualizationnecessarytocapturereal changeinpeople'slives" (Reisman et al., 2018).

Despite all these problems, proliferation of impact investing has not been impeded; Investorscontextualize the impact based on prevalent condition in operating regions and market and striveto develop their own context oriented metrics. Investors kept themselves focused on a promisingbut unproven ideas and thereby support innovation financially technologically and to sustain itsgrowththroughperformanceandriskabsorption(Shamikaetal.,2019)Thisphilosophyresonatesin the preferred option of providing seed funding to investees, which provide support to such uproven ideas by impact investors, guide they not only provide patient capital but also investee a tevery stage until investee developed the scalability and investability to the level where traditional investors construction of the scalability of theiderthemanidealcaseforinvestment.AdoptionofSDGsin2015byallUnited Nations member states quantified the horizon for expectations of global community forsocial, environmental and economicachievable. SDGs are systematically and scientifically defined set of goals and targets. The "goals and targets can be seen as a network, in which linkamong goals exist through targets that explicitly refers to multiple goals" (Le Blanc, 2015). Nowthat published impact reports of investors reflects the idea of impact investment contribution toSDGs, aconversionofSDGstargets and indicators (developed by Inter-AgencyandExpertGrouponSustainableDevelopmentGoals)intoimpactmeasurementindicatorsforimpactinvestors/i nvestees will set up a more credible basis to impact investing (Schonewille, 2018) as it will help to elucidateimpact into tangibleresults.

 $\label{eq:sociallyResponsibleInvestingisaninvestmentinenterprise that does business in positive and responsible way.$

1.1 ImpactInvesting inIndia

In 2001, Aavishkaar initiated the first for-profit fund in India and set in motion impact investing⁹journey in India. Simultaneous entry of Acumen Fund gave impetus to conceptualization andcementation of the idea of impact investing (Shamika et al., 2019). It has got enough momentumafter Companies Act, 2013¹⁰ whereby companies are required to spend 2% of their net profits incorporate social responsibility once they achieved earmark threshold of profit. This mandatemobilized companies to look for collaborative avenues with organisations that can deliver farreaching results, impacting a wider populace like transportation, healthcare, education, wastemanagement etc. India has a pool of 30 Impact investors and eco system players (as per ImpactInvestorsCouncil,India)thatarebusyinchangingthelandscapeofimpactinvestinginIndia.Witha large population having unmet needs and small budgetary support for education, healthcare, social security etc., the impact investing space in India is proliferating, in fact India is going to beatest bed formany suchinvestment.

However, assumption of creating impact and claim of created impact backed by data is altogetheradifferentstory. This study aimst obridge this gap and tries to develop indicators for measurement of impacting a study of the study of th griculture.educationandhealthtakingdirectionfromtargets/indicatorsofSDGsandinternationally developed standardised metrics where available checks applicability and the of same by investors/investees operating in this space. The study also studied the landscape of impact investing in India. Int heforthcomingsectionwewillreviewtheliterature whichwillbefollowedby Research Methodology in section 3, under Research Methodology outline of impact an valuechainandindicatorshasbeenenumerated,Section4willbeAnalysisandDiscussion,Section5isConclusionandse ction6 concludes the paper with Managerial and Societal Implications.

LiteratureReview

2.

The2005UNworldsummitdefineseconomicdevelopment,socialdevelopmentandenvironmentalprotectionasthreed imensionsofsustainabledevelopmentwhichareinterdependent and mutually reinforcing, where environment isa limiting factor,

supportingsocietyandeconomybyyieldingitsfiniteresources(Padeletal.,2015).Withincreasingpopulation and finite resources, humanity needs to rethink the systems it lives with like thetransportation system, the healthcare system, the education system, the food system and thefinancialsystem.Impactinvestingisone suchtoolto changethefinancialsystem(Wendt,2018).

Levine and Emerson (2011) suggested that impact investing gave rise to the idea of chasingfinancialreturns and also develop prospect for solution to meet social and environmental challenges. The deep optimism of impact investors in the roles of business in advancing common good and achieving social impact and of social enterprises in employing financial tools and achieving greater good played role in advancement of impact investing. A report published by Morgan (2010) believed that the lives of poor and vulnerable can be improved greatly by impactinvesting. Impacts investing also aim for larger environmental benefits and the chosen investees have acapability to deliver positive impact through products and processes.

To address the double bottom line (Financial return alongside environmental and social impact), impactinvestors adopted theroute of positive investing insocial enterprise. Chuaetal (2011)

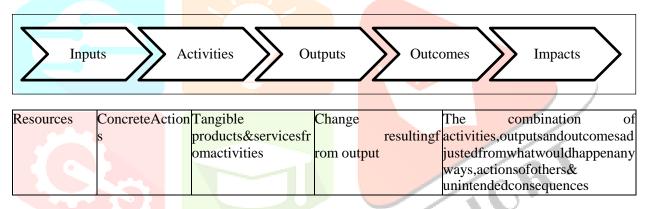
⁹Impactinvestingreferstoablendoftraditionalcommercialinvestingwithphilanthropicinvestment.Itaddscommercialinvestmentobjectivesoffinanc ialreturn withpositive, **measurable** social and environmentalimpact.

¹⁰TheCompaniesAct,2013 consolidatesandamendsthelawrelatingto companies.

outlined the criteria of social enterprise that needs to be targeted by impact investing- "satisfy anexisting have explicit social mission (unmet) market demand. an or have the potential to besustainablebusinessandrealimpact". Investors are desirous of knowing the achievement of social and environmental through their investment, to this end they can use three basic parameters of impact-"enterpriseimpact(socialvalueofgoods, services or other benefits provided by investee enterprise), investment (investor's financial contribution the social impact to value created byinvestee)andnonmonetaryimpact(variouscontributionbesidesdollarthatinvestors,fundmanagers and others may maketo enterprisesocialvalue"(BrestandBorn,2013).

O'Flynn and Barnett (2012) have suggested five criteria for more evaluative approachimpact(effectonsocietyandenvironment).differentialimpact(whobenefitsandwhodoesn't).plausiblecausality(diff erencemade, if yes, how), aggregation of impact (at an investment or portfoliolevel) and accountability (doemployees an dcitizenshaveavoice).ReederandColantonio(2013)whileemphasizing the difficulty in measuring social and environmental raised valid return а point theyquotedthat"thereisno(valid)methodologytomeasureSocialandEnvironmentalReturn¹¹ (SER)that can be instigated by simply processing a button and waiting for a result to appear. The application of techniques requires human assessors with human mind-sets, working in humancontext".

To arrest the impact along entire value chain, Hehenberger et al (2013) developed a value chainknownas"impact valuechain" demonstrated asbelow: -



Vorosmartyetal.(2018)emphasizedonscientificmeasurementandrequirementtodrawknowledgefromother fieldsaswelltomeasureimpact. Theysuggestedestablishingacausallinkchaininoutput, outcomes and impactanddeve lopingacontextbasedmetrics. Theyadvocatedanapproach to combine outputs with outcomes and impacts. Jackson (2012) stated "current practicein evaluation of impact investing still tends to focus on counting inputs and outputs and tellingstories. Mostoffbasetorsinvolvedintheimpactinvesting industry understand thet the processes fachieving.

tellingstories.Mostoftheactorsinvolvedintheimpactinvestingindustryunderstandthattheprocessofachieving meaningful social impact in poor countries is complex, nuanced, dynamic and impact,often uncertain". Highlighting the need for bringing investors and evaluators together Reisman etal.(2018)arguedthatdemonstrationofvaluegeneratedthroughinterventionorimpact

¹¹SocialandEnvironmentalReturns(SER)arenon-financialreturnsandlinked tosocialandenvironmentalbenefitsreceived by impact beneficiaries, as interpreted by impact investors. Impact and SER are conceptually different asimpactisperceivedby investmentrecipientsandthendistilledinto SERbyimpactcreators.

investments, the social impact can be realised in addition to financial return, will require more cooperation from evaluators and investors. Since evaluation of social impact is a developed field and investors can capitalize on evaluator's knowledge.

Interesting metrics were developed to do ex-ante and ex-post analysis till now, Addy et al. (2019) developed a Multiple Money 12 (IMM)" metric "Impact of to assess ex-ante impact new for investment selection by "RiseFund". They advocates ix stepprocesses where relevance and scale, alignment of environmental objectives. economic value outcome social and of and terminal valueplaysanimportantrole. They also emphasized requirement of an anchor study to validate expectations.

Lewis et al. (2016) while raising their apprehension about metric based measurement stated metrics are restricted documenting mainly to changes internal business practice to but offerlimited guidance of whether a company's actions, products and services promote human well being or preserve environmental integrity the external world feeling in real domain. reluctance on thepartofotherwiseenthusiasticinvestors". PerceptionofimpactmayalsovaryasEpstein&Yuthas(2014)statedthatfi nancialreturnsareanobjectiveestimatethatcouldbemadebyfinancialanalystand it remains the same regardless of social return value based and will investor. are varv from investor to rate to rate to rate the investment. Brimble et al. (2013) tried to correlate investing with religious beliefs and found importance of SRI and financial criteria is more or less similar despite of magnitude of religious beliefs.

With the adoption of SDGs, government, business and institutions are daunted with task at hand.DeSilvaLokuwadugeetal.(2020)identifiedthechangingroleofbusinesstocontributepositivelyto whichconsideredacommon sustainability, **SDGs** for measure.Impact investing equallycontributestothischangingscenarioandwithoutpositiveimpactinvesting; achievement of SDG sseems a SDGs, farfetched dream. Since impact investing is aligning itself to Schonewille (2018)hasadvocatedtheuseofSDGindicatorstomatchtheimpactreportreleasedbyinvestmentsfirms, associated business as well as other impact measurement systems and suggested the development of new framework out of SDGs to create effective impact measurement systems for impactinvestors and thus legitimizing impact investingand bringingit in theforefront of SDGs.

2.1 ResearchGap

Impactinvestinghasgainedasign ificanttractioninpastfewyearsamonginvestorslikedevelopment financial institutions, family offices, high net worth individuals, pension funds, privateofficesetc., lackofnimble, costeffective and credible impactmanagement and measurement systemisdri vingmany othersaway. SDGs are galvanising efforts of global community to create a sustainable world and presented its targets as key performance indicators. Schonewille's study has propagated the same idea stating that a reliable indicator framework can be developed from SDGs that will give credible basis to impact investing. Current study is an attempt odevelopindicators for impactmeasurement based on SDGs and its target.

2.2 TheoreticalFramework

Impact investment is a blend of philanthropic and commercial investment philosophy. Whilecommercial investment is guided by financial return (with adjusted risk) philanthropy concernitself with realization of social objective. Yardsticks and data are easily available to measurefinancial return but case is not so with social environmental and impact, hence it becomes imperative to develop yardsticks for measurement of social and environmental impact of interventions.The of change" "theory which refers to the construction of а model that

¹²ImpactMultipleofMoney (IMM)isamethodologydeveloped byRiseFundto estimatetheeconomicvalueofsocialimpactassociatedwitha set of businessoutputs.

specifies(usually)theunderlyinglogic, assumptions, inferences, causallinkages and outcome of a development program is being used to link ingredients of "impact value chain" of Hehenberger.SDGs, globally acknowledged and desired goals, are used as social and environmental impactobjectives. A contextual matrix is being developed by visualising outcome that can be achievedthrough designated outputs and long term outcome that leads to achievement of impact that aredefined in terms of SDGs. Once outcomes and impacts are visualised indicators are developed tocollect data to monitor the accomplishment of same. As per Davis et al. (2012) "An indicator is anamed rank ordered data that purports to represent the past projected performance or of differentunits". These indicators are then used as codes for analyse impact reports of investors to show how impact investi ng is doingasfaras achievementof SDGsis concerned.

3. ResearchMethodology

3.1 Objectives

ResearchMethodologyemployedtoachievetwin objectives: - Tostudythelandscapeofimpact investmentinIndia.

Tofindouttheapplicabilityofdevelopedindicatorstomeasureimpactandasatoolinestablishingthat impactinvestment contributetoachievement of SDGs.

Theresearchconductedisacrosssectionalonewhereprimarysourceofdataisasurveyinstrumentandsecondarysourcei simpactreportrelatedtoyear2019ofinvestorswhoparticipatedinsurveyat particular point of time from Oct'2019 to Mar'2020, the study has quantitative as well asqualitative approach. Questionnaire- survey instrument has both multiple choice and open endedquestions and the purpose of questionnaire is to understand trends of impact investment in India.SurveyissupplementedwithdatafromImpactInvestorscouncil(IIC)ofIndia¹³thatIICcollectedin co-ordination with Duke University in 2017 and Brooking Survey 2019.Secondary sources ofdata are employed to check the feasibility of applying developed/selected indicators to measureimpact and show a positive link between impact and SDGs. Since indicators are developed basedon targets/indicators of SDGs, it has been assumed that availability of data on these indicatorsposits positive contribution of impact investment to SDGs.

Oursurveyinstrument consists of three part and twenty questions-general information of investor, investment information and impact measurement having 6, 4 and 10 questions respectively. Questionnaire has been checked for reliability and validity. To check the applicability of referenced indicators, we used content analysis, it is defined as a "research technique formaking replicable and valid inference from texts (or other meaning ful matter) to the

3.2 SampleSize

ThesampleforstudyisdrawnfromapopulationofimpactinvestorsregisteredwithIIC.Alistof30 members on website includes impact investors and other ecosystem players. Request forparticipationinsurveyhasbeensenttoallimpactinvestorsbutsurveyinstrumenthasbeensenttoonly those who agreed to participate in survey. So our non-probability sampling count comes outto be ten. Impact reports of annual year 2019, of these ten investors having 149 unique investees(as seven investees received funding from more than one investor) have been studied to gatherdataon developed indicators.

¹³ImpactInvestorsCouncil(IIC)isanationalmemberbased industry bodyto strengthenimpactinvesting inIndia,itsmissionistoencourageprivate capitaltobridgethe socialinvestmentgapinIndia.

contexts of their use" (Krippendorff, 2004)."Content analysis is unique in that it has bothquantitative" (Krippendorff, 2004) "and qualitative methodology" (Berg, 2002). Here we usedquantitative content analysis, "facts from the texts are represented in the form of frequencyexpressed as percentage of actual no of key categories" (Berelson, 1952, Krippendorff, 2004, Neuendorf, 2002).

Development of Impact Value Chain and Indicators for Content for ImpactMeasurement 3.3 ImpactMeasurementIndicators are developed for sector-agriculture, education and health care, the sectorselection basis relative importance and influence social has its on of on creating and environmental good. A griculture employs approximately 50% of Indian population impact investment in agriculture enhances the asset performance which in turn contributes positively toecosystem. Educationasourceofempowerment-createsascientificmethodofenquiry, reasoning and questioning ability of people. It has 4.7.With28%populationinIndiain0been given the driving seat in SDG through target 14groupand4.6% budgetallocation for education, this sector is a ripecase for impactinve stment. Pandemic "Covid-19"taughtus

alessonthathealthcareshallnotbeasubjectofnegligence.With50% populationliving inpoverty, increasing cost of healt hcaremay push them down deeper, since public expenditure is not adequate to take care of all, impactinvesting is making acase for itself in this sector.

Todevelopindicatorsforthesesectors, wereliedon Hehenberger"ImpactValueChain"todefinevarious outcome and impact created activities/output these Sector by in sectors. represents the main sector, impact category specifies the subsector and impact the medefines the SDGs affected by outcome and impact the subsector and impaactcreated in that sub-sector. Outcome and impact have been developed with the help of SDGs targets. Impact may take many dimensions, it is internalizing in organizationitself (impact created by investee by employing improving their creating people, live. equitableworkenvironment, promoting innovationetc) and externalize by impacting life of external stakeholder. Since our objective is to deduce what and how of impact investment on SDG, we concerned ourselves with indicators broadly cover external stakeholders. Indicators are a mix ofself-developed, IRIS ¹⁴+ and Global developed Inter Indicator Framework bv Agency ExpertGrouponSustainableDevelopmentGoals(SDGIndicators)andmeasuretheoutcomeandimpactdefinedin impact valuechain(UN SDG 2019). Analysisand Discussion

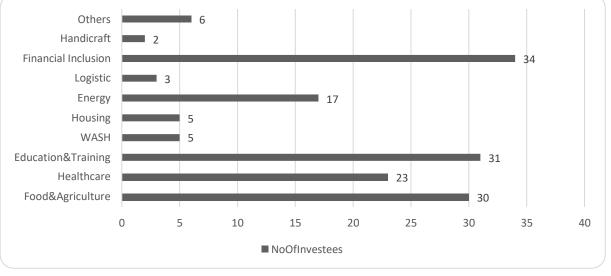
The forthcoming section presents results of study based on survey and impact/financial reports of impact investors and their investees. The section has been divided into two parts. First partinterprets the results of survey while second part deals with content analysis of secondary data ondeveloped impact value chain and indicator to set linkages between impactinvesting and SDGs.

3.4 SurveyResults

Survey shows the demographic presence of impact investors is concentrated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, New Delhi and Tamilnadu. However, investee spread is much wider; also everyinvestor identified itself as impact investor. Impact investors believe in providing seed funding(mostly) and Series-A funding investment but vehicle used for investing is variable with 78% equity, 15 % debt and 7% debt and equity both. Total Asset under Management (AUM) variedbetween \$0.15 mn to \$88.97 mn averaging at \$ 36 mn (Source: IIC data). Priority sector forinvestment is still Financial Inclusion but Education & Training, Healthcare and agriculture arealsonotlaggingfarbehind.Highdependenceonagricultureofbottombillionandroleofeducationand training in uplifting their status may attract а significant impact investment in future in thesesectors.GovernmentofIndiainitiativeinWASHandenergywillalsomobilizeimpactinvestmentinthesesectors. No of investee across sectors are shown in Figure 1.

Figure1:Noofinvesteesoperatingindifferent sectors

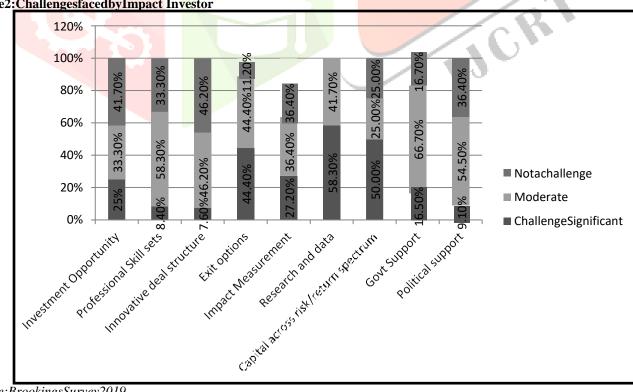




Source: Compiled by Authorson the basis of question naire'responses.

Question of selection criteria of investee received varied response while 70% have pre-identified sectors to select investees, 30% goes with the alignment of objectives. When asked about pre-selected standard metrics measurement 60% for impact in chosen sector. decline. while 40% developed some from experience with other and drawing knowledge from international community. Survey found that80% measure impact but only20% use international standard

metric like IRIS, PRISM¹⁵ etc as reference, remaining 60% use self-developed metrics, rest 20% use international standard metrics reason being lack of experience, knowledge and resources atinvestee level. However, all impact investor believe their investment objectives are aligned withSDG but only 60% shows inclination metrics developed the basis of **SDGs** to use on target. Thebiggesthurdleinimpactmeasurementisavailabilityofdataduetoshortageofresources andtimeandknowledgeandexperienceofinvestee. Thechallenges of impact industryidentified are:-





Source: BrookingsSurvey2019

As visible research and data, capital across risk and return and exit options are considered assignificant challenge by 58.3%, 50% and 44.4 % respectively, government Support, political support and professional skill sets are considered as moderate challenge by 66.7%, 54.5% and 58.3% respectively.

3.5 DisclosureAnalysis

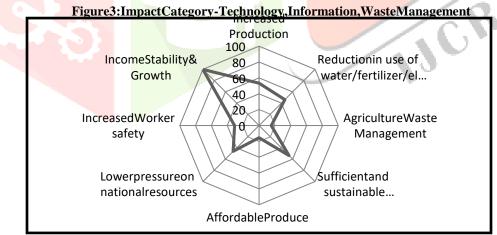
Todocontentanalysis, impact reports of investors have been segmented into three segments; each segment contains information related to chosen sector of agriculture, education and health care. Since deductive reasoning designishes ingused, there is predeveloped list of codes. Developed/selected indic ators have been used as codes and categorised under out come and impact as per developed impact value chain. To ensure the validity of outcome, one coder acted as a primary coder and another checked the result, if any inconsistency is found, it has been resolved by mutual consultation.

Impact reports are wider in scope and contain more qualitative information than quantitative,invariably all investor's impact report have spoken about SDGs and how many SDGs they are contributing to, sector wise analysis is as follows:

Agriculture:

Thirty investees are funded by impact investor in this sector wherein one involved in financialsupport to smallholder farmer, since indicators have not developed for financial inclusion; oneinvestee has been left from analysis. Thirteen investees operate in technology, information, inputsupport; waste management etc. and sixteen are specifically for smallholder farmer. Since impactreports contain information about all portfolio investments/investees, the outcome and impact(figure 3), investees operating in technology, information and waste management category, triedtoachieveareincomestabilityandgrowth(100%),increasedproduction(56.48%),sufficient and sustainable

production (56.8%). Agriculture waste management (15.38%) and affordable produce(15.38%) is the least preferred outcome, the result shows a greater work toward SDG–NoPoverty, Zero Hunger, Responsible Consumption and Production.



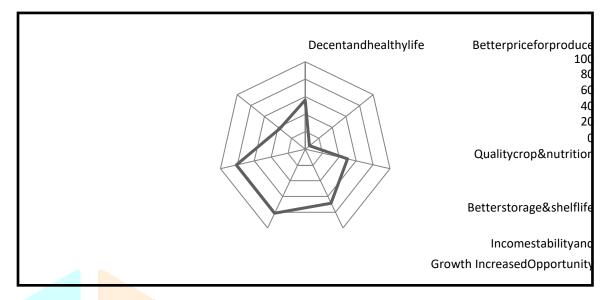
Source: Compiled by Authorson the basis of content analysis of Impact Reports

Theoutcomeandimpact(figure4)achievedbyinvesteesoperatinginmaincategoryofSmallholder Farmer are incomestabilityandgrowth(81.25%),decent& healthylife(81.25%),increasedopportunity(68.25%).Qualityandnutritiouscrop(6.25%)istheleastpreferredoutcome.

¹⁵PRISM(PortfolioRisk,ImpactandSustainability Measurement)isanimpact fundperformanceassessmentplatform, it integrates the fund's performance (measured by fund Sustainability, Intent and Contribution score PSIC)with theperformanceofeachportfoliocompany(measuredby PortfolioImpactAssessmentScore PSIA)

Figure4:Impact Category-SmallholderFarmer

Availability of nutritous food



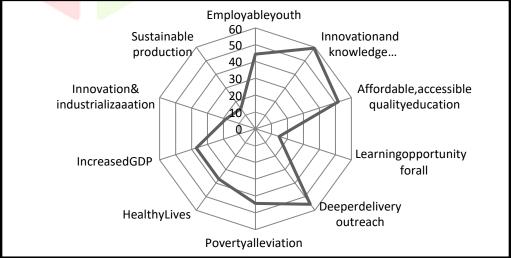
Source: Compiled byAuthorson thebasisofcontentanalysisofImpactReports

Education:

Impact investment in education sector is largely confined in parallel and ancillary education and skill training education segment is mostly regulated (Malani, 2016). K-12 Thirty investees as arefundedbyimpactinvestorinthissectorwhereinthreeinvolvedinfinancialsupport; indicators for this impact categor ywerenotdeveloped, causing to leave out these three investees. The results of contentanalysis for this impact category is given by the second iveninfigure5, category of innovation and knowledged evelopment (59.25%), deeper delivery outreach (55.56%) and affordable. accessible

qualityeducationforall(51.85%) havebeenthepreferredone, whilelearningopportunityforall(14.81%) and sustainable production (14.81%) got fewer mention. Reason being, due to high regulation inK-12 sector, effort to support BoP population has been put in parallel education. With increasing internet connectivity and deeper penetration of mobile connectivity, innovations are happening inonline space which creates a broader delivery outreach without any discrimination being done forage, sexandeconomicstatus.

Figure5:ImpactCategory-ParallelandAncillaryEducation



Source: CompiledbyAuthors onthebasis of content analysisofImpact Report

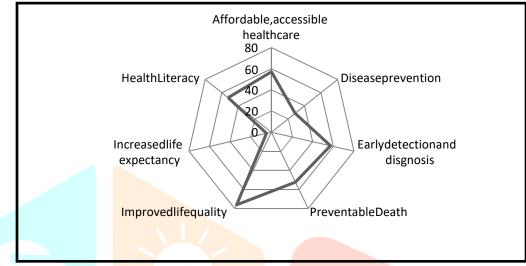
Healthcare:

LargepoorpopulationliveinruralIndiaandaffordableandaccessiblehealthcareisinthepooreststate in this area, making impact investors funding enterprises who are creating inroads in ruralhealthcare. Impact investors have

© 2024 IJCRT | Volume 12, Issue 3 March 2024 | ISSN: 2320-2882

funded twenty-three investees operating in healthcare sector; two were in financial support hence left out from analysis. Improved quality of life (76.19%), affordable and accessible healthcare (57.14%), early detection and diagnosis (57.14%) are the most sought after outcome/impact by investees operating in this sector. Increased life expectancy (4.76%) is the least mentioned category in reports; the probable reason could be it is a long termimpact. The most contributed SDG in this sector is Good health and Well Being.

Figure6:ImpactCategory:PrimaryHealthcareandDiagnostic



Source: Compiled byAuthorson thebasisofcontentanalysisofImpactReports

The study has been conducted to develop an understanding of impact investing market in IndiaandestablishapositivelinkbetweenimpactinvestmentandSDGs.Wehaveobservedthatimpactinvestingismaki ngeveryefforttodriveitselfinthedirectionofachievingsustainabledevelopmentandinvestinginorganisationworking closelywithBoP(baseofpyramid)population. A similar study by Brooking and McKinsey in 2019 and 2017 respectively alsoestablished that impact investing has found its place in India and doing public good with privatemoney.

Impact measurement is still a grey area and requires measurable, cost effective and credible indicators having global acceptance. SDGs targets provided the opportunity for impact investing to measure and manage impact based on these targets. Impact investing has imbibed the SDGs asevident from content analysis but measurement of the scale of its contribution is difficult inabsence of quantified financial data.

4. Conclusion

The argument of McCreless (2017) "in the absence of data, all we have our deeply held personalconviction, the only way to know would be if you had data on impact and data on financial return, and you put them together. To be sure, there have been several reports on financial return of various segments of impact investing, but these reports don't have any actual impact data" highlights the absence of quantifiable yardsticks to measure the impact and assimilation of this impact with the

financial return. Impact is sometimes so loosely defined (Shamika et al., 2019) that it widens thehorizon to such a limit where even perspective of measuring it is not feasible; on the other hand, sometimes it is narrowed to only activities and output of investees and hence fails to capture thereal impact in the lives of other stakeholders, both the views are detrimental to the concept of impact measurement. To measure impact in meaningful way we require a pristine understanding causal links, what our activities are and what are their output and how this linkage created the desired outcome and we are able to observe and tabulate when the aggregation of outcome overthe period created an impact. "Contextoriented metrics are developed to design traceable indicators to quantify external context and impact of investment" (Veros martuatal 2018) In the present study we tried to create link between

rnalcontextandimpactofinvestment" (Vorosmartyetal., 2018). In the present study we tried to create link between SDGs and indicators based on visualised outcomeand impact. Since indicators are established on the basis of SDGs targets and InternationalIndicator Framework of SDGs, their presence in impact report indicates

connectivity betweenimpact and SDGs and demonstrates that impact created by investors and investees is positivelylinked with SDGs. How can be answered from this study but to answer how much, quantitativedataisrequiredonestablished indicators along with baselinedata. Baselinedata for the region and markets can be created when national data is broken into smaller units. But so far we can clearly assume impact investing is a vehicle to fund sustainable development, also it is private investing that can create public good.

5. ManagerialandSocietalImplications

We all surely want to 'sign up' to reach sustainable development goals in the hope that by 2050there will be narrower gap between the lifestyle that privileged societies enjoy and which isavailable to rest of the world (Rees, 2018), impact investors are trying to bridge this gap betweenhave and have-not. How far their efforts achieved this objective will not be deciphered until wehave quantified and measurable indicators, since established indicators are aligned with SDGstargetsandindicators, it gives themacrediblebasis (Schonewille, 2018) and presentstudy proves the possibility of applying the established indicators for impact measurement by investors inquantifiable terms.

6. References

Addy, C., Chorengel, M., Collins, M. & Michael, E. (2019). Calculating the value of impactinvesting.*HarvardBusinessReview*,February2019.Availableatdoi:https://hbr.org/2019/01/calculating-the-value-of-impact-investing

Berelson, B. (1952). Contentanalysisin communicationrese arch. FreePress.

Berg, B.L. (2001). Qualitative research method for social sciences. Allyn and Bacon. ISBN 0-205-31847-9

Brest, P. & Born, K. (2013). When can impact investing create a real impact?. *Stanford SocialInnovation Review*, 11(4), 22-31, Available atdoi:https://ssir.org/articles/entry/impact_investing

Brimble, M., Vyvyan, V., and Ng, C. (2013). Belief and Investing: Preferences and Attitudes of the Faithful. *AustralasianAccounting*, *BusinessandFinanceJournal*, 7(1), 23-41. doi:10.14453/aabfj.v7i1.3

Chua, C., GuptaA., Hse, V., Jimenez, J. & Li, Y. (2011). Beyond the margins: Redirecting Asia's capitalism. *Advantage Ventures*, Hong Kong. the giin. org/research/publication/beyond-the-margin-redirecting-asias-capitalism

Davis, K.E., Fisher, A., Kingsbury, B., & Marry, S.E. (2012). *Governance by Indicators: GlobalPowerthrough Quantification and Rankings*. Oxford University Press. doi:https://doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199658244.001.0001

DeSilvaLokuwaduge,C.S.,Smark,C.,andMir,M.(2020).SustainableDevelopmentGoalsandBusinesses as Active Change Agents. *Australasian Accounting, Business and FinanceJournal*,14(3), 1-5. doi:10.14453/aabfj.v14i3.1

Epstein, M.J., Yuthas, K. (2014). *Measuring and improving social impact: A guide for nonprofits, companies and impact investors*. Barrett-Koehler Publishers. ISBN 978-1-60994-977-8, e-book ISBN 978-1-60994-978-5

IRISand Global Impact InvestingNetwork(2019).https://iris.thegiin.org/metrics

Hehenberger,L.,Harling,A.,Scholten,P.(2013).*Practicalguidetomeasuringandmanagingimpact*. European Venture Philanthropy Association, Brussels, Belgium.https://evpa.eu.com/knowledge-centre/publications/measuring-andmanaging-impact-a-practical-guide,ISBN9789082316087

Jackson, E.T. (2013). Interrogating the theory of change: evaluating impact investing where itmattersmost. *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investments*, 3(2), 95-

IJCRT2403059 International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT) <u>www.ijcrt.org</u> a501

110.doi:https://doi:10.1080/20430795.2013.776257.

Krippendorff, K. (2004). Content analysis: an introduction to its methodology. Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781506395661

LeBlanc, D., (2015). Towards integrational ast? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets. *Sustainable Development*, 23, 176-187. doi: https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1582

Levine, A.&Emerson, J. (2011). Impact Investing-Transforming how we make money while making difference. *Innovation*, 6, 9-18. http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/INOV_a_00077

Lewis, E., Pinchot, A., Christianson, G. (2016). *Navigating the sustainable investment landscape*. World Resources Institute, Washington DC. https://www.wri.org/research/navigating-sustainable-investment-landscape

Malani, S. (2016). *Impact investing in K-12 education in India*. http://www.villgro.org/2016/05/26/Impact-Investing-in-School-Education-in-India/

McCreless,M.(2017).Bonodoesn'tknow-Allofusarestillearning.*StanfordSocialInnovationReview*.

Available

at:https://ssir.org/articles/entry/bono_doesnt_knowan

d_neither_do_the_rest_of_us.

Neuendorf,K.A.(2002). The content tanalysis guidebook. Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781412979474

Morgan, J.P. (2010). *Impact Investments: An emerging asset class*. Rockefeller Foundation &GlobalImpactInvestingNetwork. https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/71352133.pdf

O'Flynn,P.&Barnett,C.(2012).EvaluationandImpactInvesting:Areviewofmethodologiestoassess social impact. Institute of Development Studies & Centre for Development Impact,https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325049649_Evaluation_and_Impact_Investing _A_Review_of_Methodologies_to_Assess_Social_Impact

Padel, F., Dandekar, A., Unni, J. (2015). *Ecologyeconomyquestforasociallyinformedconnection*. Orient Blackswan. ISBN: eISBN 978 81 250 55044.

Reeder,N.&Colantonio,A.(2013).Measuringimpactandnonfinancialreturnsinimpactinvesting:Acriticaloverviewofconceptsandpractice.Workingpaper,LondonschoolofEco nomics & Political Science and European Investment Bank Institute.https://lsecities.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Measuring_Impact-full-

length-Oct-2013.pdf

Rees, M. (2018). On the future: prospect for humanity. Princeton University Press.ISBN:9780691180441

Reisman, J.,Olazabal, V. & Hoffman, S. (2018). Putting the "Impact" in impact investing: Therisingdemandfordataandevidenceofsocialoutcomes. *AmericanJournalofEvaluation*, 20(10), 1-7. doi:https://doi.org/10.1177/1098214018779141

UNSDGIndicators (2019).https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/.

Shamika,R.,Wright,E.G.,Sharma,P.&Jones,I.B.(2019).ThePromiseofImpactInvestinginIndia.BrookingIndia,ResearchPaperNo.072019.https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-promise-of-impact-investing-in-india/

Schonewille, T. (2018). *The use case of sustainable development goals for impact investmentmeasurement* (Paper presentation). 2018 12thI@Q conference proceedings, session VII:money,Queen'sUniversity,Charlotte,USA.doi:https://doi.org/10.24908/iqurcp.11648

Vorosmarty, C.J., Osuna, V.R., Koehler, D.A., Klop, P., Spengler, J.D., Buonocore, J.J., Cak,A.D., Tesseler, Z.D., Corsi,F., Green, P.A. & Sanchez R. (2018). Scientifically assessimpactofsustainableinvestments. *Science*, 359(6375), 523-525.doi:https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aao3895.

