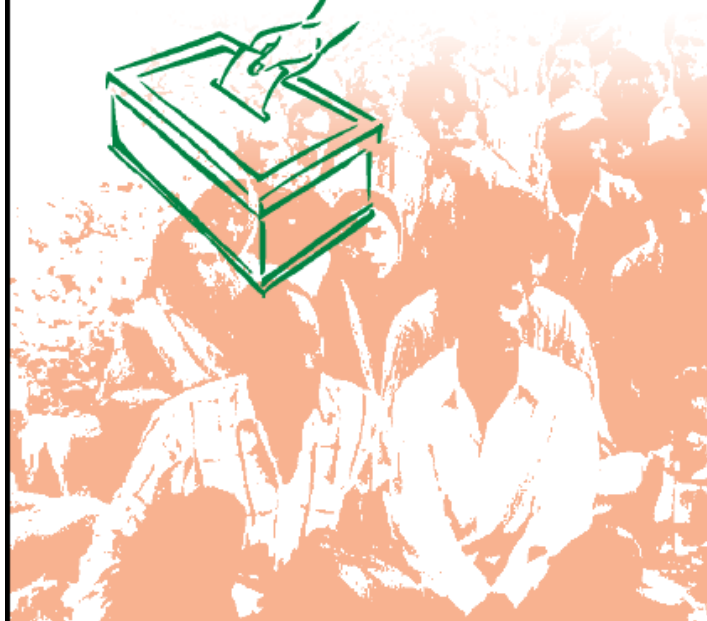




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Democracy and New Public Management

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DECENTRALIZATION AND FISCAL DEVOLUTION IN INDIA: AN ANALYSIS

Yatindra Singh Sisodia¹

Finance is the first and foremost necessity of any institution for its successful working. It is important to make panchayat raj institutions financially sound and self-sufficient. Panchayats have two resources – funds from government and local tax collection. It is observed that majority of the panchayats depend on funding from state government but do not levy local taxes for political reasons. The State Governments allocate the money to the three tiers meant for rural development. These bodies are provided finances to implement government schemes. The State Governments have been attentive to the need of financial efficacy of the panchayat raj institutions. These institutions have been empowered by the Act to levy many new taxes. The State Governments also constituted State Finance Commissions and many of their recommendations were accepted with regard to distribution of financial powers to the panchayats. Yet the panchayat raj institutions cannot be regarded as financially self-reliant. The paper makes an attempt to analyze the basic philosophy of fiscal decentralization, how the State Finance Commissions are working, and what are the areas of conflict and concern.

Keywords

Fiscal, Decentralization, Panchayat Raj Institutions

Devolution and Constitution

The development of rural areas and the people have been of primary concern in the economic planning and development process of the state. It is now very much realized that to emerge as a strong and healthy nation, sustainable development of rural areas is an essential pre-requisite for India and rural development requires bottom up planning. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1993 ushered in a new era of democratic decentralization, in which both powers and responsibilities are devolved upon elected Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Village levels. The Eleventh Five-Year Plan (Planning Commission, 2002), which has identified Inclusive Growth as the overarching objective, seeks to 'substantially empower and use Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as the primary means of delivery of essential services that are critical to inclusive growth. The Plan asserts that 'it is absolutely critical for the inclusiveness of our growth process that these large numbers of elected representatives in our PRIs are fully involved in planning, implementing and supervising the delivery of essential public services.

The spirit of Part IX of the Constitution is that the panchayats are expected to be constituted and function as units of rural local self-government. The emphasis is to empower them with certain functional

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INCLUSIVE GROWTH OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN KARNATAKA – STRENGTHS, WEAKNESS AND AREAS OF CONCERNS FOR SSA INITIATIVES IN KARNATAKA¹

K. Prabhakar²

The Constitution of India in Directive Principles of State Policy has enshrined universal and compulsory education up to the age of 14. However, the Principles unlike the fundamental rights lacked legal guarantee and for a long time it was not implemented. In 1975 under the 42nd amendment, education was brought under the concurrent list – making both the Union and State Governments responsible for the same. Thus Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) became a well accepted concept and national project. The aspects/indicators used for assessment in most of these studies are more objective like access to schools, number of teachers in schools, availability of classrooms, toilets, presence of learning teaching material etc. But tangible aspects which are more subjective in nature like quality of teaching, class room interactions, behaviour of teachers etc. are not adequately addressed in most of these studies, especially from the perspective of the 'end-user'. There is thus a compelling need to undertake a comprehensive study which covers both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the initiatives from an end-user perspective to understand their success in a better way. The current study is an attempt to address this gap.

Keywords

Universalisation of elementary education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Quality of education, Equity of education.

Background

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is an effort to universalise elementary education by community-ownership of the school system. This flagship programme seeks to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6 to 14 years age group by 2010. Karnataka is one of the states that have been actively implementing SSA ever since its inception. There are 10 major interventions and 104 programmes or activities within these interventions in Karnataka state.

The present scenario in Karnataka is that about 98% of the population has been provided lower primary schools within 1 km distance and higher primary schools within 2 km distance. The number of schools

1 This article draws heavily from a recent report (©2009 Public Affairs Centre) published by PAC based on a study carried out for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Karnataka State and UNICEF Hyderabad, the authors of which are Dr. SitaSekhar Dr. Meena Nair, Dr. K. Prabhakar and Ms. Prarthana Rao

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MOBILIZING RESOURCES AT SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL: A CASE STUDY OF BIHAR

Reena Kumari¹

This paper aims to analyse fiscal imbalance and resource mobilisation from the higher levels of government to the lower levels of government, a unique feature of any federal set-up owing to the inherent vertical and horizontal imbalances. It also examines the trend and composition of fiscal indicators at sub-national level such as Bihar, the most backward state of India. Though, Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is showing an upward trend and highest growth across the states, however, its position in fiscal indicators is not viable. The resource mobilisation is uneven especially in terms of socio-economic expenditure and their major heads. There is call for hour to transfer resources at more disaggregated level along with considering the need to enhance social sector expenditure as a criterion for horizontal sharing.

Keywords

Resource mobilisation, Fiscal, Socio-economic expenditure

Introduction

Mobilising resources for the backward and disadvantaged states is an exercise in balancing current revenue and overall growth of the economy. Mobilising resources through reforms in tax and non-tax sources have a positive impact on economy, for example, it solves a rational structure as well as generating greater means to achieve economic growth. In this regard, the concern over the deterioration in public finances at both, the centre and the state levels, has increased during the past couple of years as spending deficits have worsened, debt-GDP ratio has increased, and the financial resources available for public investment to support growth have dwindled. What happened in Bihar?, all the fiscal indicators have declined especially in terms of social and economic heads. It has one of the lowest utilisation rates of central assistance programs¹, one of the targeted objectives of fiscal imbalance. Bihar's urgent need for social and economic development makes the effective use of all public funds a fiscal priority. Similarly, Fiscal stress and weak linkages between expenditure and social outcomes are factors that undermine education and health service quality in Bihar. Linking public resources to improvement in social outcomes, and increasing targeted spending on road improvement, schools, public health clinics, rural electrification etc., are necessary for achieving Bihar's development objectives. This is a major challenge for Bihar that is suffering from acute poverty, poor infrastructure facility, low health outcome and overall fiscal and economic backwardness.

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STATUS AND ROLE OF URBAN INFORMAL WORKERS IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: A STUDY ON RAG PICKERS IN HYDERABAD CITY

K. Chandra Shekar¹

India has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. But many of unemployed workers are economically active in the informal economy of India to meet their minimum means of life. Today, the economic growth in developing countries is more or less attributed to the growth of informal sector. Therefore, this results in greater interest among scientists, researchers, social development activists and policy makers. Thus the study specifically focused on the recycling activities that are indulged in informal sector in urban areas. Waste picking in India is mostly driven by the urban informal sector. The study describes how waste pickers earn their livelihood through picking waste and turning that waste into recyclable raw materials and converting into wealth by deriving income from collected solid waste. The objective of the study was to look at the challenges faced by the waste pickers through their research profile and their work place, weaknesses in the work and other legislation issues that are subject to government efforts to address the problems and efforts of waste pickers and other NGOs, private cooperatives to organize them to obtain the sustainable livelihood of waste pickers. The study has found that livelihood of urban informal sector recyclers is miserable, harsh, unsafe, injurious and unrecognized. So it recommends that informal sector recyclers to be recognized as stakeholders of the solid waste management, so that they can obtain socio-economic objectives and their occupational health hazards can be minimized by adhering to safety precautions.

Keywords

Economical equity, Urban informal sector, Solid waste management, Waste pickers, Informal sector recyclers, Recyclables, Stake holders.

Introduction

Today, the economic growth in developing countries is more or less attributed to the growth of informal sector. Therefore, this results in greater interest among scientists, researchers, social development activists and policy makers. It is generally argued that the rapid growth of the industry can be influenced by the fluctuation in employability especially in developing countries like India. Myriad studies have been assessed the several dimensions of informal sector. Apart from economics, it has also gained attention in development studies and sociology. According to the ILO, lack of jobs in the formal sector and lack of skills in a large part of the labor force have resulted in the growth of a large informal sector, where most workers are employed at low-wage, poor and unregulated working conditions. Therefore,

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DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO BASIC AMENITIES ACROSS CASTE, ETHNICITY AND CLASSES IN RURAL AND URBAN INDIA

Arjun Kumar¹

This paper examines the changes in access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, electricity and drainage arrangement in Rural and Urban India using data sets from Census of India (2001 and 2011) and National Sample Survey Housing Condition Round for 1993 and 2008/9, with special focus on disparities across caste and ethnic groups and consumption expenditure classes. With respect to all the indicators of basic amenities, an improvement in access by households was observed in percentage terms between 2001 and 2011 as per Census data and between 1993 and 2008/9 by NSS data, with acceleration during 2002 and 2008/9. However, Census data also showed an increase in the absolute number of deprived households in case of drinking water, latrine facility, and closed drainage connectivity for waste water outlet in the premise in both Rural and Urban India. Results highlight the need of immediate action towards access to basic amenities, with attention towards rural India and of bringing in inclusive policy measures (to reduce the increasing disparities) for weaker sections (socio-economic) of the society for raising the overall standard of life and well-being of the people, and attaining the objective of India's Twelfth Five Year Plan, i.e. inclusive growth.

Keywords

Basic amenities, Caste and Ethnic group, Socio-economic groups, Well-being, Inclusive growth

Introduction, Motivation and Review of Literature

Access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, electricity, housing, drainage and others are crucial to the well-being as they contribute to decent quality of life, ensuring better health and environment, providing opportunities for other useful activities and enabling the household to save foregone hours spent to arrange when these are not available in day to day life.

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ENDING EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RAJASTHAN: A FEMINIST APPROACH

Anupma Kaushik¹

Social exclusion refers to processes in which individuals or entire communities of people are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of society and which are key to social integration. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment etc are key indicators of social exclusion and result from lack of equal opportunity. In Rajasthan with patriarchy females are denied equal opportunity resulting in poverty, illiteracy and unemployment among females. This phenomenon can be termed as social exclusion of females. Exclusion of women impacts negatively upon the women themselves as they lag behind men. Such women are typically illiterate, unskilled, poor, dependent, unhealthy, ignorant and unaware. They are unable to take care of themselves and also unable to make informed choices and differentiate between good and bad practices. Exclusion of women is also bad for their families, children, economy, society and the country. Rajasthan has some positives in its favour such as peaceful environment; less population density; rich cultural heritage such as folk arts and crafts, old palaces; and respect for women. The need is to transform these into real opportunities for women and men of Rajasthan by ending exclusion of women and making them equal partners in search of a more prosperous and developed Rajasthan.

Keywords

Exclusion, Women, Feminism, Rajasthan, Gender, Development

Introduction

Social exclusion refers to processes in which individuals or entire communities of people are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of society and which are key to social integration. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment etc are key indicators of social exclusion and result from lack of equal opportunity.¹ In Rajasthan with patriarchy females are denied equal opportunity resulting in poverty, illiteracy and unemployment among females. This phenomenon can be termed as social exclusion of females.

Feminism

The word feminism originated from the French word 'feminisme' in the nineteenth century, either as a medical term to describe the feminization of a male body or to describe women with masculine traits. Later it came to denote a political stance of someone committed to changing the social position of women. The term has taken on the sense of one who believes that women are subjugated because of

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REGULATORY CONTROL OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDI): A CASE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR IN INDIA

Payal Dey¹

Regulatory control is defined as "government's supervision over the obligations and rights of an industry or enterprise for the purpose of providing the public with services that are considered important, vital or necessary to most members of a community" (European Environment Information and Observation Network, n.d.). In this paper, one of the traditional approaches of regulatory control - command and control (C&C) has been revisited to analyse the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regulatory mechanism in India. In the backdrop of growing concerns over economic regulation and need for more standardised regulatory practices for sectors of international relevance - the pharmaceutical industry in India has been studied as a case. The qualitative indices used for assessing FDI regulatory practices are legalism, enforcement, capture and standard-setting. The findings reveal both merits and demerits of these indices, which are further analysed with the help of an adapted 'degrees of intervention' model by Ogus (2004).

Keywords

FDI regulation, Command & Control, Brownfield and Greenfield investments in pharmaceutical sector, Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)

Introduction

The wave of deregulation, privatisation and liberalisation in the last two decades of the 20th century have given rise to the concept of 'regulatory state'. Having originated in the industrialised world, the terminology has different approaches even within the given countries. While in the US, the subject is more focussed towards politics and administration; in Europe and Britain, it has attracted a more interdisciplinary understanding. As a result of wide outreach of the study of regulation, the subject has become more generic in nature spanning across various policy domains. The field received special attention during the financial crisis of 2008, after which its prominence rose even in the developing world due to regulatory reforms, 'policy diffusion' as well as a prevalent tool for oversight and control over an expanding private sector.

Due to the predominance of centralised planning and administration in most developing countries, state interventions still play a crucial role in controlling information asymmetries and institutional weaknesses which lead to negative externalities. For pursuing public policy objectives, basic instrumentalities and simplistic strategies such as use of law or rules are adopted for regulatory control in developing countries. For analysing these regulatory tools, the literature based on developing countries majorly covers areas on networked regulation, however, in areas where there is movement of international capital, such as FDIs, studies on regulatory control are clustered in the field of economics and law.

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GLOBALIZATION: CONCEPTS, CURRENTS AND CRITIQUE

Kazi S. M. Khasrul Alam Quddusi¹

Globalization is a spacecraft, the direction of which has to be influenced by humans of all corners of the globe to make the universe look rosier not only for the ones who are well on board but also for the ones who are struggling to get on board. By its nature, globalization covers a multitude of disciplines, communities, and cultures. This, of course, allows for a variety of viewpoints, be they economic, social, or political. The definitions are thus supposed to reflect some of those viewpoints. This paper is an attempt to delve into various dimensions and implications of globalization. The measurement scale provided by KOF for measuring worldwide globalization trends has also been touched upon so that the best globalized countries can be viewed.

Keywords

Modernization, Capitalism, Pro-globalization, Anti-globalization, Post-globalization.

Introduction

Globalization cannot be explained with certainty and be applicable to all people and in all situations as it involves economic integration; the transfer of policies across borders; the transmission of knowledge; cultural stability; the reproduction, relations, and discourses of power; it is a global process, a concept, a revolution, and an establishment of the global market free from socio-political control. Globalization has been defined variously over the years, with some connotations referring to progress, development and stability, integration and cooperation, and others referring to regression, colonialism, and destabilization (Al-Rodhan 2006).

This term points to a huge amount of hidden agendas as well and an individual's political ideology, geographic location, social status, cultural background, and ethnic and religious affiliation is likely to shape the context that determines how globalization is interpreted. The debate surrounding globalization is a large part of its lifeblood. It calls for a healthy yet exhaustive debate. The matter of defining globalization can be deemed useless because of its shifting nature, its ambiguity, and its influence from the perspective from which one views it (Al-Rodhan 2006).

Globalization: Grobalization and Glocalization

According to Ritzer (2006 239), the concept of glocalization touches most contemporary analysts associated with globalization theory that think about the nature of transnational processes. Glocalization can be defined "as the interpenetration of the global and the local resulting in unique outcomes in different geographic areas" (239). The concept of grobalization focuses on "the imperialistic ambitions

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WHISTLE BLOWING AND COMPANIES ACT, 2013 - BRIDGING THE GAP FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

Sowmya S¹ and H Rajashekar²

The provisions of New Companies Act, 2013 is considered as the bridging gaps for better corporate governance. Most of the good corporate governance practices are suggested and included for companies in the provisions of this Act. The well defined system is the reason for successful implementation, unless the system is implemented. The Companies Act 2013 has strived in this regard by defining the provisions for better governance, which can be considered as well defined system for successful implementation and working of Companies. Whistle blowing mechanism is one such practice for good and effective corporate governance. Whistle blowing is mostly identified as the voluntary act, but the mechanism and procedure mentioned in Companies Act 2013 remembers the related person as his duty, right and responsibility. Hence whistle blowing is not the mere voluntary act, but the real responsibility. In the light of the above statement the paper highlights the concept of whistle blowing, significance of whistle blowing in Public Sector Enterprises, the related whistle blowing provisions laid out in Companies Act 2013 in comparison with Companies Act 1956.

Keywords

Public sector enterprises, Whistle blowing, Companies Act-2013, Governance

Introduction

The importance of whistle blowing has been seriously concerned with public safety, protection of individuals and the environment and as an employee's moral responsibility in discharging his duty. Mistakes or errors happen in the process of achieving the organizational goals, knowingly or unknowingly. These can be corrected by rechecking and effective internal control mechanism. Knowingly making the mistake can be termed as wrongdoing or fraud or unethical behavior or even can be termed as crime, as these can be considered as intentional activities. The fraudulent activities in the organizations will continue if no one identifies and questions. There should be someone who can point out or identify these fraudulent activities and who can question those unethical practices.

Whistle blowing mechanism is highly recognized act in curbing the corrupt practices in both public and corporate sectors. But there is requirement for support and protection of whistle blowers. In this connection there is need to understand the extent of support given by the government and organizations in promoting whistle blowing mechanisms. Though the government has not mandated whistle blowing policy in organizations, most of the corporate sectors have included as part of their corporate

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THE GOAT TRUST: SKILLING THE UNSKILLED

Vivek Rai¹

In developing countries, small livestock is an asset for the weaker section of society which provides a necessary livelihood to the excluded majority. But low productivity in goats, shrinking greenery, a lack of awareness and unorganized efforts poses severe challenges towards these micro-entrepreneurs.

In this backdrop, Sanjeev Kumar and his team at The Goat Trust is strengthening entire ecosystem of small livestock especially goats in India. The Goat Trust offers various innovative products and services which are exclusively designed for micro entrepreneurs in India. Its schemes are operational in various parts of India.

The Goat Trust started in 2008 with self-funding. This enterprise began its first training in 2009. Since then it has trained over 249 livestock nurses in partnership with 26 NGOs across the six states. This enterprise postulated the concept of livestock nurses Pashu Sakhies and it trained 100 Pashu Sakhies. These livestock nurses are unleashing changes in various pockets in India. This paper shows that how this enterprise in skilling the unskilled in India.

In next five years, the Goat Trust is willing to reach out 50,000 goat farmers with help from 100 grass root partners in various states. It will train 1,000 Pashu Sakhis and 200 certified livestock managers. It will establish a small livestock development bank.

Acknowledgement: Writing this case study has been made possible by unstinted support from Sanjeev Kumar, The Goat Trust.

Keywords

Goat, Small livestock, Skilling, Pashu sakhies, Micro entrepreneurs

A Beginning

In the last couple of years, the population of small live stocks like goat and sheep are shrinking very fast in India. Occurrences of disease, shrinking greenery, a lack of awareness and unorganized efforts pose severe challenges towards the micro-entrepreneurs who are involved in this segment.

According to the 19th Livestock Census, "The Goat population has declined by 3.82% over the previous census and the total Goat in the country is 135.17 million numbers in 2012."

In this backdrop, Sanjeev Kumar and his team at The Goat Trust is strengthening entire ecosystem in

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