

DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON CREATING A FAIRER SOCIETY



SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN INDIA

ISHU CHADDA

Social Sector Development and Inclusive Growth in India

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A fair society is one that is just, inclusive and embracing of all without any barriers to participation based on sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, ethnicity, age, class, ability or any other social difference. One where there is access to healthcare and education, technology, justice, strong institutions, peace and security, social protection, decent work and housing. But how can research truly contribute to creating global equity and diversity without showcasing diverse voices that are underrepresented in academia or paying specific attention to the Global South?

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Social Sector Development and Inclusive Growth in India

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ISHU CHADDA

Amritsar Group of Colleges, India



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*Dedicated to
my dear husband
Mr Gaurav Khanna
and my beloved son
Hiren Khanna*

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Dr Ishu Chadda

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Introduction

Brief summary: The basic research question lurking in the study is whether the growth strategies based on the human development approach, that is, social sector development would render growth inclusive. The present work is very comprehensive considering all components of the social sector in aggregate and also covering both financial and physical aspects of the social sector.

Full book description: Two broad approaches to economic development had been experimented within India, viz. trickle-down approach and human development approach. After independence, India, till the Fourth Five Year Plan, experimented with the first approach which was advocated by Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, P. C. Mahalanobis, and Jagdish Bhagwati. Even when India based its development policy on the Nehruvian approach involving high investment, heavy industrialisation, import substitution, and indigenisation of goods and services, even then employment generation and income growth and redistribution were not kept at the bay. India intended to involve people in its strategic approach to development. Elimination of monopolies, prevention of concentration of economic power, socio-economic justice, and participative growth has all veered around the poorest of the poor. The failures of the trickle-down approach further strengthened India's resolution to reinforce the inclusiveness of growth.

Dr Amartya Sen, Jean Dreze, and Brahmachanda, on the other hand, continued to profess the human development approach to economic development by reinforcing the social sector development; which India started emphasising since Fifth Five Year Plan. The stress had been laid on strengthening and expanding the social sectors with the premise that it would boost the inclusive growth agenda by directly increasing the income and productivity of the people even at the lowest rung, manifesting in equal access to employment and economic opportunities, and equal participation in decision-making and reduction in poverty and inequality. The earlier studies focussed on the development of the social sector and its components in India. Only partial-level studies on the social sector have been done and these have been limited to one or two components majorly.

Both social sector development and inclusive growth are synergetic. Social sector development stimulates the achievement of inclusive growth, while the realisation of inclusive growth manifests in social sector development. Government programmes and policies are framed for bringing the weaker sections into the mainstream. Social sector development in concomitance with inclusive growth came into the limelight

because of the concern of policymakers towards abject poverty and deprivation of masses and to promote democratic-based economic growth.

India emphasised high economic growth, spontaneously eventuating in inclusiveness. Earlier it was realised that literacy, education, health, and maternal and infant mortality rates had shown improvement, but at a marginal pace. The sustained development of India was considered imperative so that growth could be equitable and inclusive.

Subject/topic description: This study considers the various World Bank reports and various views of scholars on this subject to quantify the inclusiveness in India. The study further intends to highlight the major dimensions of inclusive development like poverty alleviation, employment generation, and access to equal participation.

The majority of earlier studies consider the relationship between economic growth and government spending in India. But none of the studies look at the relationship between social sector development and inclusive growth in India at a macro-level. This type of study has been conducted to scrutinise the long- and short-run association between the social sector and inclusive growth in India using the autoregressive distributed lag approach.