



Inclusive Development in India: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

Development Convention
June 24- 26, 2020

1. Concept Note

India is the sixth largest and one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. The Government of India has unfurled a 'Strategy for New India @ 75' that is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to propel India towards a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024. Recent plunges in growth rate combined with dwindling opportunities for employment across states have brought in concerns of inclusive development at centre stage of policy discourse.

Aiming to reap the benefits of economic growth in a politically stable environment, the present government has built upon the inclusive development adopted by the earlier governments in the early 2000s focusing on bringing down regional imbalances and inequities in opportunities. Eventually, the strategy for inclusive development encompasses the alleviation of poverty by increasing productivity and income of farmers on one hand and creation of incremental non-farm employment opportunities, on the other (Chandrasekhar, C.P. and Ghosh, J., 2014). Along with re-invigorating economic activities and creating sources of livelihood, it also emphasises the provision of basic amenities especially drinking water, cooking gas and electricity to take along the marginalised communities in the development process. Recently efforts at encouraging corporates to participate in further social good beyond their usual business interests are steps in that direction. Numerous studies have documented processes, trials and outcomes of the community in governing the resource (Jodha and Bhatia, 1998; Parthasarathy and Jharna Pathak, 2006; Bandi and Viswanathan, 2014). The strategy of inclusive development concerns not only the distribution of economic gains but also the reduction in vulnerability, enhancement in security, equity, empowerment, and promotion of a sense of public participation with the help of effective governance at various levels (Gupta et al., 2015; OECD, 2012). In this trajectory of attaining inclusiveness, governance of resources – land and water – plays a vital role in influencing its use and access, privileges and opportunity of users.

It is well-acknowledged that population growth coupled with urbanisation and industrialisation exerts pressure on natural resources – land and water – adversely affecting their quantity and quality (Gupta et al., 2015; FAO, 2011). The present demographic situation with a large share of population in the working age-group also warrants enhancement of investment in human capital and generation of new economic opportunities to effectively respond to fast changes in technologies and innovations (World Development Report, 2019; World Economic Forum, 2017). Although certain regions and classes have the access to benefits of development, there exist a vast number of people and places which have been excluded from development processes (Deshpande, 2012; Anand and Thampi, 2016). These exclusions are analysed as infirmities of the development trajectories manifested in forms of identities based on religion, caste, community and gender. Dev(2012) argues that the recent technological changes, linkages of agrarian value chains with global market and emphasis on the growth of agriculture have exposed the farm sector to a complex developmental process that demands changes in structure of land use, cropping patterns, adoption of new technologies, increasing labour costs, so on and so forth. But, how the growth-oriented strategies of crop production may be linked to the viability, inclusiveness and other concerns such as distress among farmers and depletion of natural resources across the region warrants discussion to reinvent the policies concerning rural development.

Several scholars (Gupta et al., 2015; Johnson and Anderson 2012; Nussbaum, et. al., 2003) have emphasised the potential of good governance to develop long-term strategies to support growth, employment creation, ecological sustainability and inclusive social development. The changing socio-economic-demographic-political scenario prompts one to understand good governance through the well-functioning customs, norms and practices as well as formal institutional arrangements that aim at creating an egalitarian socio-economic and political opportunities (Lokanadham, Sujatha, 2014). Needless to mention, the concern for inclusive development also addresses the role of patriarchal social structure that has a bearing upon the content of the overall policy-environment in determining accessibilities of opportunities for men, women and the third gender belonging to various socio-economic, geographic and political spheres.

2. Themes

Given this context, particularly when the growth has slowed down and aspirations of people have seen an upsurge, it is pertinent to raise policy-concerns at the micro, meso and macro levels in view with the main three threads of discussion as mentioned hereunder:

- (i). Resource endowment and use in the process of the inclusive development,
- (ii). Formal and informal institutions and inclusiveness during post-reform in India
- (iii). Future possibilities and challenges of inclusive development

The convention proposes to discuss the above mentioned major themes addressing the following questions:

- i. What does inclusive development imply from a policy perspective? How does the federate state operating within diverse socio-economic and political milieu, function to

- extending inclusive development reaching benefits across regions and groups of individuals?
- ii. What are the underlying processes and dynamics as experienced by different groups of individuals through accessing and governing the resources? How are the integrity and functionality of resources (particularly land and water) increasingly being compromised during the post-reform period?
 - iii. How and why do various actors use, claim, negotiate and frame the governance of resources for inclusive development? What differential impacts do such actions have?
 - iv. How are the sources of livelihood evolving in the rural and urban areas? What are the consequences of changes in sources of livelihood on poverty and inclusion?
 - v. How is the development process influencing labour outcomes – employment, income, formation of collectives and migration in both rural and urban areas?
 - vi. How is the marginalised positioned in the process of opportunities being created (through policy) to access resources, enhance human capital, participate in economic activities, so on and so forth?
 - vii. How do actors and institutions influence social, economic, political and environmental transformation across regions and individual identities? Does such a process make individuals vulnerable? What innovative strategies are adopted by the community to reduce these vulnerabilities? What have been their responses in rejecting or adopting such approaches?
 - viii. How are women and the third gender included in the development policy-discourse? How can the future be more gender inclusive (or sensitive) in India?

However, these questions are indicative and they don't restrict the paper writers to address issues beyond those which are mentioned above.

3. Outcomes

The Development Convention aims to bring scholars, policy makers, civil society organisations, and practitioners onto a single platform. The convention would hold special lectures of distinguished scholars that would set the tone for discussions. It would also hold special technical sessions wherein selected papers will be presented by the scholars. At each of these sessions, discussants would discuss the paper and provide suggestions on the same. It is envisaged that all the presentations would have sufficient time for presentation and subsequent discussions.

We are hopeful that this convention will provide a platform for us to learn mutually from scholars, practitioners, bureaucrats, and academia. We believe that this would result in a better collaboration among academic/research institutions, working on varied topics of social sciences. We also hope that findings and analyses discussed in the convention would help in framing policy-inputs. A number of papers from invited experts and selected scholars are expected to be compiled and edited by GIDR in the form of a published volume by a reputed publisher.

4. Instruction to paper writers

Papers to be written in English with word limits ranging between 6000 and 8000 in Times New Roman 12 font size and at least 1.5 lines spacing. Submit the full paper through email at

dc2020@gidr.ac.in on or before the last date of submission. Papers submitted after April 15, 2020 will not be considered for further process of review. The full papers submitted on or before April 15 will be reviewed and based on reviewers' report a number of papers will be selected.

5. Important dates

Last date of submission of full paper: **April 15, 2020**

Intimation about acceptance/rejection of papers: **May 15, 2020**

6. For further queries contact

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7. Travel and other support

Selected paper presenters will be provided with AC 3 tier train fare. Local hospitality will be taken care of by GIDR.