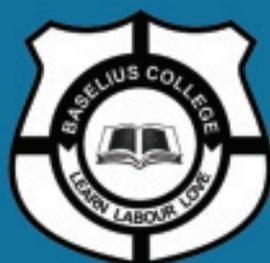


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# Editorial

Writing is a way of putting your thoughts out in the open, susceptible to objections, contradictions and approval from the readers. But untangling the entangled strands of ideas in your head, deciphering them into words and scribbling them down on a paper is not enough. Moreover, what every creative mind yearns for is to be able to reach out to a wider audience with the ideas that well up in their minds, be it a story, a breath taking discovery or an experimental explosion.

Epistemological advances are based on experiences and innovations. It forms an essential aid in our understanding and activities in everyday life. Experience can be a valuable starting point for systematic research and it provides a wealth of questions to be investigated and ideas to be tested. Research needs to be carefully planned in order to achieve its objectives and reach conclusions. It is the responsibility of science to reveal the truth that lies buried deep underneath nature's wondrous complexity.

Baselius researcher is a biannual publication of interdisciplinary research that provides a space for the young minds to break out of the shells that limit them and let their ideas and innovations flow into the midst of discussions.

Regards,

Editors

**Dr. Jalaja J. Malayan**

**Dr. Jyothimol P.**

31-12-17

# From the Principal's Desk

Human mind is characterised by the quest for knowledge. This yearning is the mould for human development. Through search and research, he attempts to answer questions that perplex him. Research activity provides him with a lot of questions and answers which again open up new vistas of knowledge.

Baselius College is releasing the eighteenth edition (No.2) of its research journal *Baselius Researcher* in September 2018. Like Santiago in Paulo Coelho's novel *The Alchemist*, let us also follow knowledge with the hope that "... when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it".

All the best wishes to *Baselius Researcher* and all those who have worked behind it.

**Dr. Jancey Thomas**

Principal

Baselius College, Kottayam

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# **Technical Analysis of Share Price Movements of Selected Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks in India**

**Asha T.A. and Biju M.K.**

## **ABSTRACT**

Banking companies have a strong shareholding foothold in the Indian economy and the stock markets. This sector has undergone significant developments and investments in the recent past. This study is aimed at analyzing the equity market of select public sector and private sector banks and brings out critical factors that affect the value of a stock through technical analysis. This is done by employing models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, classically through recognition of chart patterns. This is an exploratory study and secondary data is used for the analysis.

The final outcome of this study helped to highlight how a market's price reflects all relevant information by analyzing the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. The various technical tools used to identify movements in share prices and trend reversals aims at helping investors make prudent buying and selling decisions on investments as per their risk-bearing capacity.

---

**Keywords:** *Public and private sector banks, Share price behavior, Technical analysis, RSI, Moving averages*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In today's fast developing Indian economy, among the various financial institutions, the share market has become a major source of investment for every category of investors ranging from big institutional investors to small individual investor.

Unlike earlier days when common man used to invest his savings in less risky and well trusted financial institutions and instruments like public and private sector Banks, Government Bonds and policies etc., today's investors have realized that stock market is a crucial source of earning quicker and higher returns on their investments as compared to the returns earned in traditional investment methods.

### **1.1. Introduction to the study**

#### 1.1.1 Equity Analysis:

Stock analysis is a term that refers to the evaluation of a particular trading instrument, an investment sector or the market as a whole. Stock analysts attempt to determine the future activity of an instrument, sector or market. There are two basic types of stock analysis: fundamental analysis and technical analysis.

Fundamental analysis concentrates on data from sources including financial records, economic reports, company assets and market share. Technical analysis focuses on the study of past market action to predict future price movement.

#### 1.1.2 Equity analysis in banking sector:

This study titled "Technical Analysis of share price movements of select public sector banks and private sector banks in India" is about doing a comparative analysis on stocks and suggesting the investor in making a decision to buy, sell or hold. It consists of two types of analysis.

1. Fundamental analysis
2. Technical Analysis

### **2. Security analysis**

Investment success is pretty much a matter of careful selection and timing of stock purchases coupled with perfect matching to an individual's risk tolerance. In order to carryout selection, timing and matching actions an investor must conduct deep security analysis. Investors purchase equity shares with two basic objectives.

1. To make capital profits by selling shares at higher prices.
2. To earn dividend income.

These two factors are affected by a host of factors. An investor has to carefully understand and analyze all these factors. There are basically two approaches to study security prices and valuation i.e. fundamental analysis and technical analysis.

The value of common stock is determined in large measure by the performance of the firm that issued the stock. If the company is healthy and can demonstrate strength and growth, the value of the stock will increase. When values increase then prices follow and returns on an investment will increase. However, just to keep the savvy investor on their toes, the mix is complicated by the risk factors involved. Fundamental analysis examines all the dimensions of risk exposure and the probabilities of return, and merges them with broader economic analysis and greater industry analysis to formulate the valuation of a stock.

### **3. Technical analysis**

In finance, technical analysis is a security analysis methodology for forecasting the direction of prices through the study of past market data, primarily price and volume. Technical analysis employs models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, such as the relative strength index, moving averages, re-

gressions, inter-market and intra-market price correlations, business cycles, stock market cycles or, classically, through recognition of chart patterns.

A fundamental principle of technical analysis is that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so their analysis looks at the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. Therefore, price action tends to repeat itself due to investors collectively tending toward patterned behavior – hence technical analysis focuses on identifiable trends and conditions.

#### **4. Literature review**

**(Varathan N & Tamilenti, 2012)** concluded that technical analysis of securities is a study of past price and volume trends to judge the direction of future price movements of scrips. The goal is to produce predictions of price direction and magnitude such that large gains from the relatively few correct predictions are more than enough to offset the many smaller losses from incorrect predictions, leading to a positive return in the long run through proper risk control and money management with the tools.

**(Dr.Ayyappan & Mr.Sakthivadivel, 2012)** Stated that the private sector Banks are expanding their products and services into various part of the country and are posing a real competition to the public sector Banks. A study was carried out to analyze the growth and trend of certain financial parameters of public and private sector Banks.

**(Jayakumar & Sumathi, 2013)** in their research found that the Indian Banking Sector is one of the wide sectors in the country and the various factors which affect the share prices of Banking Companies. In this result a detailed analysis of the trend in share price movement.

**(Sangeetha & Jain, 2013)** opinioned that banking companies in the service sector exhibit the problem of distinct results in terms of efficiency. This problem is a cause of concern for many big organizations in the service sector like hotels, courier companies, hospitals, banks and so on. In particular, the last decade has observed continuous amendment in regulation, technology and competition in the global financial services industry, and Indian banks are no exception.

**(Dr. Anubha Srivastava, 2015)** in his research found that the capital market goes through brisk changes, investors should look for right opportunities keeping in tune with the dynamics of market environment. Technical analysis gives hints about the buy and sell of the stocks to the investor .Therefore, the small investors and traders should not blindly make an investment rather they should analyze using the various tools to check if the scrip is technically strong.

**(C. Boobalan , 2014)** concludes through his research that “there is only one side to the stock market and it is not the bull side or the bear side but the right side. Technical analysis can be used, when to buy and to when to sell the stock”.

#### **5. Objectives**

1. To study share price movements of select public and private sector banks in India.
2. To do Technical Analysis on select banking stocks and interpret on whether to buy or sell.
3. To analyze and understand trends,their strengths and reversals of stock price movements.

## **6. Methodology**

The study follows descriptive research design. The data used were secondary. Top six banks in India in the public as well as the private sector on the basis of higher market capitalization is selected.

### **7. Time period of the study and tools used:**

Data has been collected for a period of five years from November 2012 to October 2017 for Relative strength Index analysis and a period of one year from November 2016 to October 2017 for analysis using other tools.

The major Tools used in this study are:

1. Exponential Moving Averages. (EMA)
2. Moving average convergence and divergence (MACD)
3. Relative strength index (RSI)
4. Average Directional Index (ADX)

## **8. Analysis**

### **8.1 Moving Averages**

A moving average can help cut down the amount of “noise” on a price chart. Look at the direction of the moving average to get a basic idea of which way the price is moving. Angled up and price is moving up (or was recently) overall, angled down and price is moving down overall, moving sideways and the price is likely in a range.

A moving average can also act as support or resistance. In an uptrend a 50-day, 100-day or 200-day moving average may act as a support level. This is because the average acts like a floor (support), so the price bounces up off of it. In a downtrend a moving average may act as resistance; like a ceiling, the price hits it and then starts to drop again.

As a general guideline, if the price is above a moving average the trend is up. If the price is below a moving average the trend is down.

#### **8.1.1 Types of Moving Averages**

A moving average can be calculated in different ways. A five-day simple moving average (SMA) simply adds up the five most recent daily closing prices and divides it by five to create a new average each day. Each average is connected to the next, creating the singular flowing line.

Another popular type of moving average is the exponential moving average (EMA). The calculation is more complex but basically applies more weighting to the most recent prices. EMA reacts more quickly to price changes than the SMA does, due to the additional weighting on recent price data.

#### **8.1.2 Moving Average Length**

Common moving average lengths are 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200. These lengths can be applied to any chart time frame (one minute, daily, weekly, etc), depending on the traders trade horizon.

The time frame or length you choose for a moving average, also called the “look back period”, can play a big role in how effective it is. An MA with a short time frame will react much quicker to price changes than an MA with a long look back period. A 20-day moving average more closely tracks the actual price than the 100-day does.

The 20-day may be of analytical benefit to a shorter-term trader since it follows the price more closely, and therefore produces less “lag” than the longer-term moving average. Lag is the time it takes for a moving average to signal a potential reversal. A 20-day moving average will provide many more “reversal” signals than a 100-day moving average. Adjusting the moving average so it provides more accurate signals on historical data *may* help create better future signals.

Adjusting the time frame can aid in this temporarily, although at some point these issues are likely to occur regardless of the time frame chosen for the MA(s).

EMA(20) and EMA(100) is used in combination to indicate “ buy(bullish) and sell(bearish)” signals.

EMA(20)— —indicated by blue line.

EMA(100)—indicated by red line.

### **8.2 Relative Strength Index (RSI)**

The RSI aims to indicate whether a market is considered to be overbought or oversold in relation to recent price levels. The RSI calculates average price gains and losses over a given period of time; the default time period is 14 periods. RSI values are plotted on a scale from 0 to 100. Values over 70 are considered indicative of a market being overbought (a sell signal) in relation to recent price levels, and values under 30 are indicative of a market that is oversold (a buy signal). On a more general level, readings above 50 are interpreted as bullish, and readings below 50 are interpreted as bearish.

### **8.3 Moving Average Convergence Divergence (MACD):**

The MACD is primarily used to gauge the strength of price movement. It does this by measuring the divergence of two exponential moving averages (EMAs), commonly a 12-period EMA and a 26-period EMA. An MACD line is created by subtracting the 26-period EMA from the 12-period EMA, and a line showing a nine-period EMA of that calculation is plotted over the MACD’s basic representation as a histogram. A zero line provides positive or negative values for the MACD. Essentially, greater separation between the 12-period EMA and 26-period EMA shows increased market momentum, up or down.

**MACD:** When the black line (MACD) crosses over the red line (signal line), that’s a buy signal. When the MACD line crosses under/below the signal line, then it’s a sell signal.

### **8.4 Average Directional Index**

The ADX 14 is a popular indicator used to help determine trend strength. The ADX is based on the moving average of price range expansion over a defined time period which is typically done over 14 bars. The ADX indicator does not show direction; it simply highlights the trend strength whether in an uptrend or down trend. It is said that the higher the ADX is, over a static 30 line plotted on the indicator, the stronger the trend is.

To mark the beginning of an uptrend analysts watch for the positive directional indicator (+DI) to cross above the negative directional indicator.

To mark the beginning of a downtrend analysts watch for the negative directional indicator (- DI) to cross above the positive directional indicator.

## 9. Analysis and findings

### State Bank of India

Chart 1a-EMA



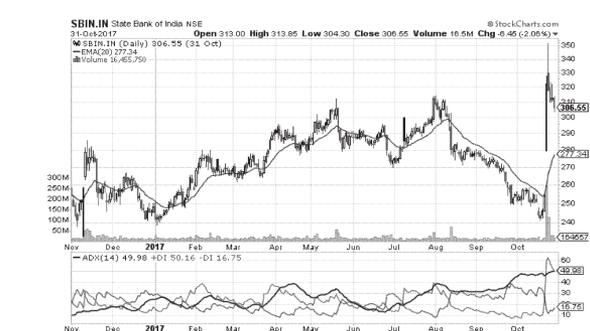
Chart 1b- MACD



Chart 1c- RSI



Chart 1d- ADX



- During most part of the period of study, market was in a bullish mode.
- The RSI indicator provided the trend reversal indication that the stock reached oversold levels (Prediction to buy) in the month of Jan to mid Feb 2016 and overbought (Prediction to sell) in April-July 2014 and Nov 2014.
- Fall in share prices after May 2017.
- Strong bear market is trending since August 2017.
- End of October increase in bullish momentum. This was also confirmed by a weakening histogram towards end of September 2017.

### Punjab National Bank

Chart 2a-EMA



Chart 2b- MACD





- A bullish trend is indicated in mid-Nov 2016, Feb and end of October 2017. Rest of the period there is a bearish trend.
- MACD did not confirm to prices and a bearish divergence is observed in May 2017.
- Prices of shares fluctuated but never reached oversold or overbought levels during the period of this study.
- ADX signaled a bear market after breaking the support level at Rs 153 in mid-August 2017 and shares went as low as Rs.135.
- ADX hooks down at 5 places when it is above 30, indicating a reverse trend. This would help traders take a long or short position.
- There is not much action in the market for 2 months (Sep-Oct 2017) when market is trending sideways.

**HDFC Bank**

**Chart 4a - EMA**



**Chart 4b - MACD**



**Chart 4c - RSI**



**Chart 4d - ADX**



- The ideal time to purchase and retain shares is from mid-Jan 2017 onwards when an uptrend is indicated. In over 9 months shares prices increased from Rs.1200 to Rs.1850 showing an increase of 54%.
- There is a bearish divergence when price make new highs from Aug to mid-Oct, while MACD is in opposition. This clearly signals a fall in prices of shares.

- For a major part of 2017 from April to October the stock reached overbought levels (Sell signal). However, during the entire period of the study there were no oversold levels.
- Market breaks out resistance levels every month from Jan 2017 until August, with the ADX indicating a very strongly trending bull market. Note that ADX stays above 40 and touches even 60 in August 2017 -à Buy Signal.
- From September onwards there is hardly any action in the market and a trader need not change positions.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank**

**Chart 5a-EMA**



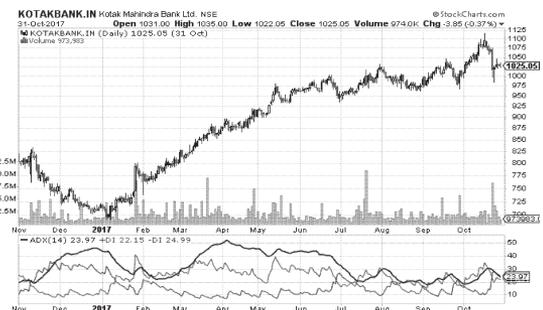
**Chart 5b- MACD**



**Chart 5c- RSI**



**Chart 5d- ADX**



- An uptrend is indicated since Jan 2017 when shorter EMA (20) crosses over longer EMA (100). This an ideal time to purchase and retain shares. In the next 9 months shares prices increased from Rs.750 to Rs.1040 (38%).
- However, there is a bearish divergence with price making higher highs from end of March 2017 to mid-June 2017, while MACD line not confirming to this trend. Prices fell deeply in July.
- The negative shorter histogram in July indicated trend reversal.
- The RSI indicator provided an indication that the stocks reached overbought region (Prediction to sell) during May 2013, Aug, Nov, and Dec in 2014, Jan 2015, between April and July 2017. No oversold region can be seen in the past 5 years.
- ADX starts rising over 30, +DI above -DI and resistance levels breaking out

almost every month since March 2017 shows a strongly trending bull market. A trader can enter a long position.

- However, after mid-July there is not much action in the market wherein a trader does not change positions.

## ICICI Bank

Chart 6a- EMA



Chart 6b- MACD



Chart 6c- RSI



Chart 6d- ADX



- Shorter EMA (20) crosses above longer EMA (100) around mid-Jan 2017 indicating an uptrend. A trader can buy and retain stock till end of September when there is a crossover to a bullish trend. Price increased by 20% from Rs 235 to Rs. 283 during this period.
- Bearish divergence in June-July 2017 when prices showed higher highs and MACD showed lower highs, signaling market going into a bearish mode.
- We can see that prices fell sharply after this point until about third week of Oct.
- The stock of ICICI bank showed oversold levels for a brief period during Feb 2016 (Prediction to buy). The overbought levels can be seen during May 2014 and for a brief period during Nov 2014, indicating a signal to sell.
- ADX is trading below both +DI and -DI lines from March to May 2017. No trading activity is recommended during this period.
- It's a good time for traders to remain in the market for the month of May 2017 when market breaks out resistance levels thrice.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Technical analysis can offer great insight but if used improperly, they can produce false signals. In general, a trader is recommended to use the above mentioned tools in combination with Fundamental analysis to understand the general business and economic conditions before investing in stocks. This would be helpful in increasing the percentage of accuracy in timing the stock market entry and exit, thus yielding him/her maximum profits.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

Technical analysis gives investor a better understanding of the stocks and also gives them right direction to go on further to buy or sell the stocks. Investors must also take into account various factors like Government of India budget, company performance, political and social events, climatic conditions etc. before any decision is made. The scrip should also be fundamentally good. Therefore, the small investors and traders should not blindly make an investment rather they should analyze using the various tools to check if the scrip is technically strong.

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# **A Study on Investors' Perception and Preference towards Derivatives as an Investment Avenue**

Linmer Jaseentha Souz S

## **ABSTRACT**

Innovation of derivatives have redefined and revolutionized the landscape of financial Industry across the world and derivatives have earned a well deserved and extremely significant place among all the financial products. Derivatives are risk management tool that help in effective management of risk by various stakeholders. Derivatives provide an opportunity to transfer risk, from the one who wish to avoid it; to one, who wish to accept it. India's experience with the launch of equity derivatives market has been extremely encouraging and successful. The derivatives turnover on the NSE has surpassed the equity market turnover. The present study focuses on the perception and preference of investors towards derivatives as an investment avenue. The study is based on the primary data collected through questionnaire from the retail investors. The result of present study states that investors considers many factors such as guidance from financial advisor and broker ,referrals from friends and relatives, their own knowledge regarding financial product, and media etc while taking decision to invest in derivatives. Majority of the investors do not have a positive perception regarding the growth of derivative trading in India. This may be due to the present situations in the security market and future uncertainty.

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**Key words:** Derivatives, Investment avenue, Investor, Perception, Preference

## **INTRODUCTION**

In India, generally all capital market investment avenues are perceived to be risky by the investors. But the younger generation investors are willing to invest in capital market instruments and that too highly in Derivatives segment. Even though the knowledge to the investors in the Derivative segment is not adequate, they tend to take decisions with the helpof the brokers or through their friends and were trying

to invest in this market. This study was undertaken to find out the awareness level of various derivative instruments and also to find out the perception and influencing factors of customers regarding the investment in derivatives.

### **Conceptual framework of Derivatives**

The term derivatives, refers to a broad class of financial instruments which mainly include options and futures. These instruments derive their value from the price and other related variables of the underlying asset. Their performance depends on how other instruments perform. Derivative securities have been recently blamed as culprits for huge financial losses at firms like Gibson, P & G, Barring etc. they are sometimes viewed as bad because, they are complex instruments, highly leveraged and difficult to understand. The development of derivatives has occurred in response to a search for higher yields and lowers funding costs and demand for tools to manage risk

Derivatives are risk management tools that help an organization to effectively transfer risk. The Behavioral finance experts have proved it quite well that investment decision making is not a completely rational process. Individuals investment decisions are guided by not only their intellectual aspects but also the emotions, desires, prejudices. Derivatives are new class of investment invention which offers sophisticated management of risk. Financial markets are characterized by a high degree of volatility.

Derivative invention initially emerged as hedging devices against fluctuations in commodity prices. There are three broad categories of participants, hedger, speculator and arbitrageur.. Derivative Markets serves as risk reducing tool. It promotes economic efficiency by directing funds from those who do not have an immediate use for these funds to those who are in need of funds. It also channels money provided by savers and depository institutions to borrowers and investees through a variety of derivative instruments like future options, forward and swap.

### **Forward Contracts**

Forward contracts are the simplest form of derivatives that are available today. Also, they are the oldest form of derivatives. A forward contract is nothing but an agreement to sell something at a future date. The price at which this transaction will take place is decided in the present. However, a forward contract takes place between two counterparties. This means that the exchange is not an intermediary to these transactions. Hence, there is an increase chance of counterparty credit risk.

### **Futures Contracts**

A futures contract is very similar to a forwards contract. The similarity lies in the fact that futures contracts also mandate the sale of commodity at a future data but at a price which is decided in the present.

However, futures contracts are listed on the exchange. This means that the exchange is an intermediary. Hence, these contracts are of standard nature and the agreement cannot be modified in any way. Exchange contracts come in a pre-decided format, pre-decided sizes and have pre-decided expirations. Also, since these contracts are traded on the exchange they have to follow a daily settlement procedure meaning that any gains or losses realized on this contract on a given day have to be settled on that very day. This is done to negate the counterparty credit risk.

### **Option Contracts**

The third type of derivative i.e. option is markedly different from the first two

types. In the first two types both the parties were bound by the contract to discharge a certain duty (buy or sell) at a certain date. The options contract, on the other hand is asymmetrical. An options contract, binds one party whereas it lets the other party decide at a later date i.e. at the expiration of the option. So, one party has the obligation to buy or sell at a later date whereas the other party can make a choice. Obviously the party that makes a choice has to pay a premium for the privilege.

There are two types of options i.e. call option and put option. Call option allows you the right but not the obligation to buy something at a later date at a given price whereas put option gives you the right but not the obligation to sell something at a later date at a given pre decided price.

### **Swaps**

Swaps are probably the most complicated derivatives in the market. Swaps enable the participants to exchange their streams of cash flows. For instance, at a later date, one party may switch an uncertain cash flow for a certain one. The most common example is swapping a fixed interest rate for a floating one. Participants may decide to swap the interest rates or the underlying currency as well.

Swaps enable companies to avoid foreign exchange risks amongst other risks. Swap contracts are usually not traded on the exchange. These are private contracts which are negotiated between two parties. Usually investment bankers act as middlemen to these contracts. Hence, they too carry a large amount of exchange rate risks.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- ◆ To identify the motives and factors which affect the investment decision in derivatives
- ◆ To study investment options preferred by retail investors among various types of derivatives
- ◆ To study the investors' perception towards growth of derivative trading in India
- ◆ To analyse the relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions

### **HYPOTHESIS**

- ◆ H0: There is no significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions
- ◆ H1: There is significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Investment culture among the people of a country is an essential prerequisite for capital formation and the faster growth of an economy. Investment culture refers to the attitudes, perceptions, and willingness of the individuals and institutions in placing their savings in various financial assets, more popularly known as securities. A bewildering range of investment alternative or channels for making investment are available like's real asset, precious metal, insurance, money market instrument as well as capital market instrument. Capital market refers to stock market which is associated with high risk and high return as against money market which provide risk free return. The subprime mortgage crises of 2008, global financial crises of 2009 and recently euro zone debt crises in 2011 have caused investors in financial products serious losses. And during this derivative instruments were largely criticized on account

of their speculative nature. Derivatives are among the forefront of the innovations in the financial markets and aim to increase returns and reduce risk. They provide an out way for investors to protect themselves from the volatility of the financial markets. These instruments have been very popular with investors all over the world.

Derivatives market present wide opportunity to the investors to get better return with hedge the portfolio and equipped to become a dominant player in the market. The problem with derivatives instruments is mainly because of the lack of understanding of their risk/return characteristics by someone. Study has tried to know the preferences and perceptions of investors who are dealing in derivatives along with other investment vehicles.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research work consists of both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through survey. A sample of 150 investors in security market has been selected through convenient sampling method. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, internet etc.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1  
Personal profile

Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
Below 30	21	14
30-40	45	30
40-50	60	40
50 above	24	16
<b>Level of education</b>		
UG	45	30
PG	72	48
Professional	33	22
<b>Occupation</b>		
Entrepreneur	30	20
Government employee	48	32
Private employee	42	28
Professional	30	20

Source: Primary data

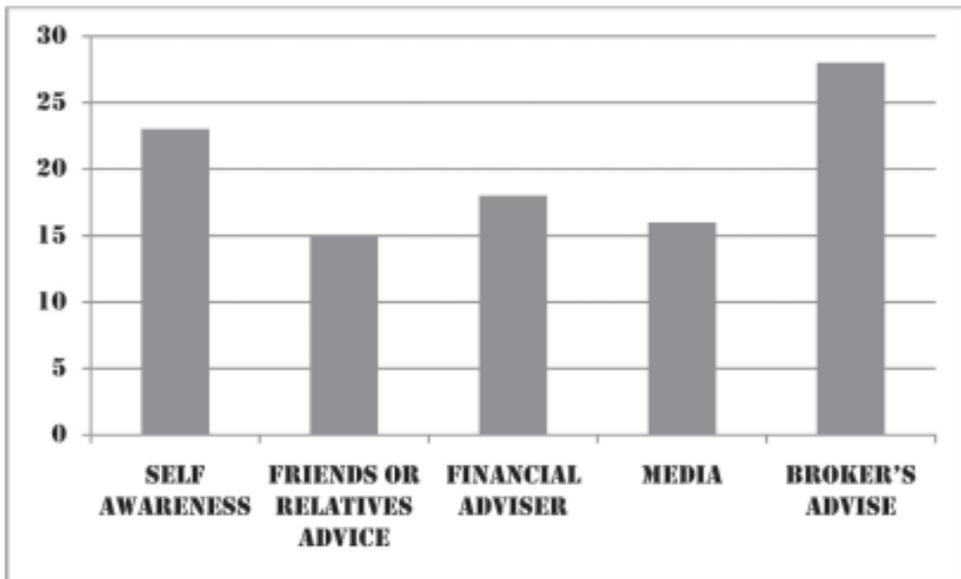
### Inference

The above table shows that 70% of the investors are under the age group of 30-40 (30%) and 40-50 (40%). 70% of investors have the educational qualification of post graduation and above. 30% are qualified with pre degree. 32% of the investors are government employees. 28% are private employees. Entrepreneurs and professionals constitute 20% each.

Table 2  
THE INFLUENCERS THAT AFFECT THE  
INVESTMENT DECISION IN DERIVATIVES

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Self awareness	34	23
Friends or relatives advice	23	15
Financial adviser	27	18
Media	24	16
Broker's advise	42	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Diagram 1  
THE INFLUENCERS THAT AFFECT THE  
INVESTMENT DECISION IN DERIVATIVES



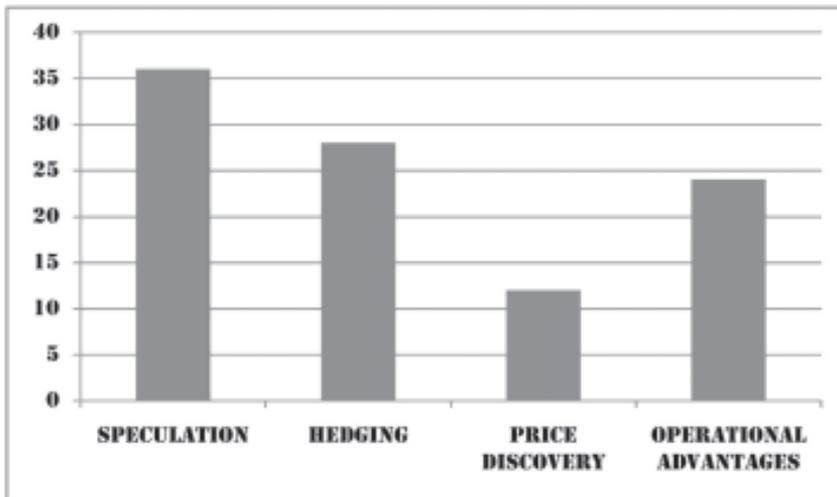
**Inference**

It can be seen from the above chart that 28% investors invest in derivatives on the basis of guidance from their brokers. 23% invest in derivatives as they are aware about it. 18% get expert advice of a financial adviser as a motivation for investment in derivatives. Media influence 16% for the investment. Only 15% of the respondents consider friends or relatives as their motivational factor for investment in derivatives.

Table3  
 MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS BEHIND INVESTMENT  
 DECISION IN DERIVATIVES

Particulars	No. of respondenta	Percentage
Speculation	54	36
Hedging	42	28
Price discovery	18	12
Operational advantages	36	24
Total	150	100

Diagram 2  
 MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS BEHIND INVESTMENT  
 DECISION IN DERIVATIVES



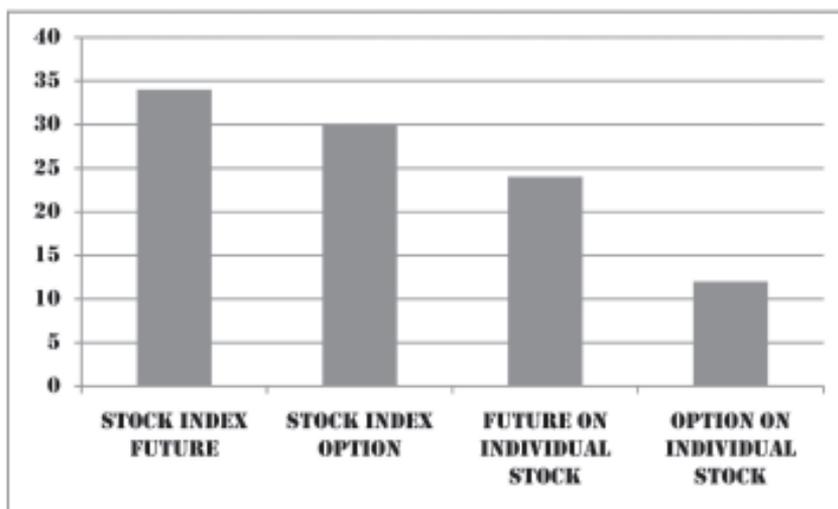
**Inference**

As the above table and diagram shows that majority of investors (36%) trade in derivatives market with speculation motive as they want quick profit. 28% prefer derivatives because they want to reduce their risk ie hedging motive.24% of the investors admit the operational advantages as their motive behind trading in derivatives. Only 12% of the respondents consider price discovery as their objective behind trading.

Table 4  
 TYPE OF DERIVATIVES MOSTLY PREFERRED BY THE RESPONDENTS

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Stock index future	51	34
Stock index option	45	30
Future on individual stock	36	24
Option on individual stock	18	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Diagram 3  
 TYPE OF DERIVATIVES MOSTLY PREFERRED BY THE  
 RESPONDENTS



**Inference**

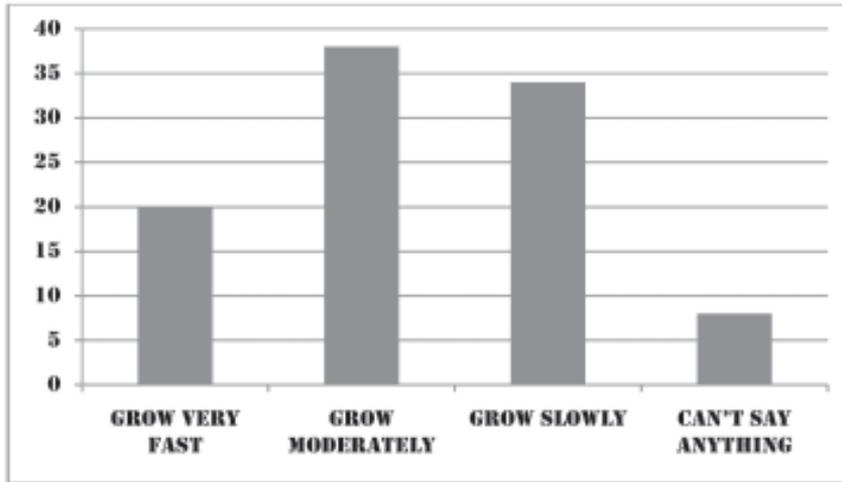
The above diagram reveals that 34 percent of the respondents preferred to invest in Stock index future, 30 percent respondents invested in stock index option, 24 percent of the respondents invested in future on individual stock and 12 percent of the respondents preferred investment in option on individual stock.

Table 5  
 PERCEPTION TOWARDS GROWTH DERIVATIVE TRADING IN INDIA

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentages
Grow very fast	30	20
Grow moderately	57	38
Grow slowly	51	34
can't say anything	12	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Diagram 4

PERCEPTION TOWARDS GROWTH DERIVATIVE TRADING IN INDIA



**Inference**

From the above table and diagram, it is clear that 38% of the respondents think that the growth of derivative trading in India is at a moderate level. 34% of the investors express their perception regarding the derivative trading as it is grow slowly. Only 20% of the respondents have the perception regarding the growth of derivative trading that it grows very fast. 8% of the investors are not ready to express their perception, because of future uncertainty.

**HYPOTHESIS TESTING**

- H0: There is no significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions
- H1: There is significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions

Tool used: Chi- square

Formula:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Table 6

OBSERVED FREQUENCY TABLE SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OCCUPATION OF INVESTORS AND FACTORS AFFECTING THEIR INVESTMENT DECISIONS

Influencing factor	Occupation				Total
	Entrepreneur	Govt. employe e	Private employee	Professional	
Self awareness	7	12	7	8	34

<b>Friends &amp; relatives</b>	5	5	7	6	23
<b>Financial adviser</b>	6	4	12	5	27
<b>Media</b>	4	9	7	4	24
<b>Brokers' advise</b>	8	18	9	7	42
<b>Total</b>	30	48	42	30	150

**Decision rule**

Calculated value of  $\chi^2$  = 10.28  
 Level of significance = 5%  
 Degrees of freedom = (4-1)(5-1) = 12  
 Table value of  $\chi^2$  =21.026

**Inference**

Since calculated value of chi- square is less than the table value, we accept the null hypothesis. Hence there is no significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decisions

**FINDINGS**

- ◆ 70% of the investors are under the age group of 30-40 (30%) and 40-50 (40%).
- ◆ Majority of the respondents (48%) are post graduates.
- ◆ 32% of the investors are government employees.
- ◆ Broker's guidance is the most influencing factor for the investment in derivatives in case of majority of investors (28%)
- ◆ 36% of the investors trade in derivatives with speculation motive.
- ◆ Majority of the investors (34%) prefer stock index future for their investment among different types of derivatives
- ◆ 38% of the respondents think that the growth of derivative trading in India is at a moderate level.
- ◆ There is no significant relationship between occupation of investors and factors affecting their investment decision

**SUGGESTIONS**

- ◆ It is found that the brokers are the most influential persons to pull the investors into the capital market. So the Institutions should develop some referral programs and rewards for referrals, so that the existing investors can actively bring in more number of investors. Also brokers should be duly acknowledged.

- ◆ In Derivatives market, most of the investors prefer stock index futures, followed by stock index options, so the institutions should develop more number of above said products by which it can attract more number of investors.
- ◆ The study reveals that majority of the respondents do not have a positive perception regarding the growth of derivative trading in India. This may be due to the present situations in the security market and future uncertainty. So the authorities should take care of this derivative segment and apply innovative ideas and remedial actions which are capable for removing all the misperceptions among the investors.
- ◆ Majority of the investors prefer trading in derivatives with speculation motive. SEBI should take adequate measures to discourage over speculation as it adversely affect the capital market.
- ◆ There is a need for more innovative derivative instruments as it attracts more and more investors which ultimately results in the development of Indian capital market.
- ◆ There is a need for more awareness programs and seminars on derivatives market, because even educated people also fear for investing in derivatives because of its complexity and lack of awareness.

## CONCLUSION

In the current scenario, investing instock markets is a major challenge ever for professionals. Derivatives acts as a major tool for reducing the risk involved in investing in stock markets for getting the best results out of it. The investors should be aware of the various hedging and speculation strategies, which can be used for reducing their risk. Awareness about the various uses of derivatives can help investors to reduce risk and increase profits. Though the stock market is subjected to high risk, by using derivatives the loss can be minimized to an extent.

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# **Caste Inequality and the Rise of Dalit Studies**

**Sheeja Kuriyakose**

## **ABSTRACT**

Casteism has plagued the Indian social fabric since antiquity stratifying the people by birth on occupational basis. Increasing violence against the minorities and Dalits can be attributed to a large extent to the regressive values being upheld and promoted by the ruling dispensation. In recovering the long history of Dalit struggles against caste violence, exclusion, and discrimination, Dalit Studies outlines a new agenda for the study of India, enabling a significant reconsideration of many of the Indian academy's core assumptions. This piece of work aims at revealing the plight of the oppressed and pointing the importance in undertaking studies on Dalits to overcome discrimination, particularly 'exclusion and discrimination-induced deprivation' and its consequences.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The problem of minorities is a universal phenomenon. In the present day context there is no state in the world has free from some kind of minorities. Although the existence of minorities is worldwide, the nature of minority problem is not always and everywhere the same. It assumes different forms and intensity in various parts of the world at different times and has taxed the brains of statesman, thinkers and social scientists. A number of national and international treaties and agreements have been concluded for the protection of minorities at different intervals of history.

Minority rights function to ensure that minorities can enjoy their human rights on the same basis as other people. These rights are part of the body of human rights standards that protect minorities, including article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Declaration on the Rights of National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Minority rights facilitate equal participation of minorities in the public sphere and in decision-making that affects them. These elements – protection of existence, non-discrimination, protection of identity and effective participation – are the foundations of minority rights.

In India we have minority groups that have been identified in terms of religion, caste, creed and race. Dalits are one among them. First coined by Jotirao Phule in the nineteenth century, the term 'Dalit' has served as a central organizing identity for the anti-caste movements of post-independence India. The term comes from the Sanskrit root *dal*, meaning to break or crack and is often glossed in English as the oppressed, downtrodden, or crushed. Ambedkar first used the term in 1928 to describe one who had experienced degradation and deprivation, but 'Dalit' did not gain popularity and identity until the 1960s. During this period, the dynamic literary culture of Maharashtra gave 'Dalit' the dominant meaning it has today: the designation of the groups officially identified by the Indian state as the "Scheduled Castes" and often glossed in English as "outcastes" or "untouchables," and an identity of one subjected to the most extreme forms of caste oppression who also contests the justifications of that oppression. In transnational campaigns, "caste" is recast as a global phenomenon; it is not unique to Hinduism or India, but rather, is a generalizable category, a form of descent-based discrimination that is found across the world. This article does not take up issues of *varna* or *jati*, but rather focuses on "caste" – as a sociological, anthropological, and political category used to make sense of the social order in India – and "Dalit" – as an epistemological position and category of being explicitly in opposition to inequality based on *varna*, *jati*, or caste. Further it points to the relevance of Dalit Studies in the backdrop of emerging social injustice to them in India.

Dalits constitute nearly 17 percent of India's population – 210 million people as per the 2011 census. They are considered untouchable by orthodox Hindus and Hindu theology because of their association in rural areas with impure occupations such as leather work, sanitary work, removing dead animals, and midwifery. In addition, because Dalit communities have been historically segregated, the practice of untouchability has a distinctive spatial dimension. The practice has moral and religious sanction in Hindu theology.

The Indian Constitution embodies the bulk of the rights which are generally guaranteed to minorities, within the framework of the fundamental rights of Indian citizens in general. With the exception of Article 335, which provides for special consideration being given to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the matter of appointments to services, the special and transitory provisions contained in Articles 336 and 337 for the Anglo-Indian community, and the directive principle contained in Article 46 for the promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections, the only provisions in the Constitution which have been particularly devised to safeguard the interests of minorities are those contained in Articles 29, 30 and 347. The Indian constitution does reserve a proportion of seats in both Union and State assemblies for Scheduled Castes. Despite this, many Dalits are either unaware of their legal rights or don't have the resources to seek redress.

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights is a forum committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. **Dalit Foundation** is a non-government organisation, which is the first grant-making institution in south Asia working for the empowerment of Dalit communities. Despite the scheduled castes and scheduled

tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 came into effect, yet the crime rate against Dalits continues to be higher. Regardless of the existence of different schemes and programs to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the poor and marginalized, the plight of the Dalits still remains largely unchanged.

The dire situation of so many ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities is often exacerbated by numerous and complex factors. Discrimination and inequality circumscribe every aspect of their life opportunities. They are often denied equal access to quality education. Racist notions in the wider community may limit their employment possibilities to the most low-waged and precarious options. When their rights are violated, recourse to institutions of justice is often a distant possibility. Additionally, disadvantaged minorities are commonly poorly represented in political structures and decision making bodies and consequently have little control over decisions that affect them. The right not to be discriminated against is paramount in protecting the rights of persons belonging to minorities in all regions of the world. Minorities everywhere experience direct and indirect, de jure and de facto discrimination in their daily lives. Economic exploitation remains their most acute problem. They are almost all marginal farmers or landless labourers. Large numbers migrate to cities or to labour-scarce rural areas in different parts of India. Many are in debt and are obliged to work-off their debts as bonded labour, despite the fact that this practice was abolished by law in 1976.

The empirical evidence shows that their capability and deprivation with regard to other caste groups is higher. Recent data from Census 2001 shows that the literacy rates for the SCs was as low as 55 percent, compared to a national average of 69 percent. Similarly, the life expectancy estimates for 1998-99 show that at national level, the life expectancy for Dalits was 62 years and 66 for other castes. The infant mortality rate among the SCs was around 83 per thousand live births which was considerably higher than for the other caste (68 per thousand). The percentage of under-nourished children at national level was 54 percent for the SCs, and 44 percent for the non-SCs. An average of 44.15 percent of Dalits households did not have access to health care services, while this figure amounted to 37% for other households.

Similarly, in terms of access to property or resources, such as ownership of agricultural land, 56% of Dalits owned less than one acre (of which 47.5% owned less than half acre). Landless and near landless (that is, those owning less than one acre) put together account nearly 70% of the total Dalits in 1991. Dalits have also witnessed an increase of 2.4 per cent in crime (from 26,252 cases against Dalits reported in 2003 to 26,887 cases in 2004).

The Social Sciences have yet to comprehend, interpret and incorporate the struggles of the Dalit and marginalized communities into the academic discourse. In late nineteen eighties, the phenomena of institutionalising Dalit Studies, with the formal establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs and Centres in different universities and educational institutions, came up as a response to the conscientisation among the subordinated social groups and assertion of identity. This process should not be viewed in isolation but in the background of Dr. Ambedkar's centenary celebration, and the emergence of Dalit politics in the 90s. Social sciences academia has now widened the scope for new disciplines and inter-disciplinary studies to engage the complex issues arising from the socio-economic and cultural injustice meted out by the Brahmanical Caste System and Patriarchy. Thus, academic engagement with the injustice of Caste and the process of conscientisation among Dalits provide the thrust for the new discipline - Dalit Studies. It is similar to creation of Women/Gender Studies.

At the Domestic Level NGOs can encourage changes in domestic legislation and practice in accordance with the principles set forth in the Conventions. *Deshkal Society*, an NGO that has been working among a section of Dalits in Bihar, took the initiative in taking the issue to the doorsteps of higher education for debate. It is noteworthy that the *Deshkal Society* thought to involve the administrators of universities - vice chancellors and pro-vice chancellors - and the teaching community of Bihar to discuss what could form the course material and content of Dalit Studies at the higher education level. Amazingly, the response of the teaching community and the administrators was overwhelming. At Bodh Gaya in Bihar, over 200 college teachers gathered to attend the opening session of the seminar. Some, however, wanted the issues to be debated thoroughly before rushing in to setting up new departments where Dalit Studies could be taught as a discipline of post-graduate research.

Any intellectual effort to revive the historical identity of interests, to view and interpret the differentiated collective existence within a single academic value framework and in this light to re-read the recent socio-political developments of the sub-continent would be at once a significant service to this fraction-driven society and also an advance of intellectual concerns. Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies is a step in that direction.

The Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS) is recognized institution under Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). It was set up in 2003, by academicians and civil service activists to understand the problems of the marginalized groups, identify the causes of their marginalization and suggest policies for their empowerment with a vision to help develop socially inclusive character in the society, economy, governance and development.

### CONCLUSION

Today, much remains to be done to support India's Dalits and victims of similar discrimination worldwide. In contrast to the recent past, however, there has been real advancement on the international scenario. The evils of caste-based discrimination and inequities are today far better known, and major human rights organizations, both non governmental and intergovernmental, have placed the issues on their agendas. Constitutionally mandated rights should be strengthened and the key to ending atrocities must come from domestic political and social processes. The political and social power must be used to achieve social transformation and cultural change for an egalitarian India where Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are available to all.

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# Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation and its implications on Indian economy

Sreeraj S. D.

## ABSTRACT

Inflation is a movement where prices of products increase, which decreases the purchasing capacity and the standard of living of the people. The two main indicators of inflation in India are the Wholesale Price Index (WPI, measuring prices received by producers of goods) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI, measuring prices facing consumers at the retail level). The WPI has traditionally been the most widely used measure for assessing inflationary pressures. Yet, it is being criticized in the sense that it does not reflect the actual price hike that the consumers experience in the retail markets. Accordingly, the monetary policy framework recommended adopting a flexible inflation targeting regime, based on headline CPI inflation. A short scale analysis in regard to switching from 'WPI based' inflation measurement to 'CPI based' as a better and more flexible measure of inflation and its implications in India is carried out through this paper.

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Keywords: Inflation, WPI, CPI.

## INTRODUCTION

**Inflation** is a movement where prices of products increase, which decreases the purchasing capacity and the standard of living of the people. It is one of the burning issues which hinders the economic growth of a country and is more hectic to economists, politicians and even people alike. The recurrent series of persistent inflationary pressure in India has been creating ripples not only within the academic circles but also among the policy makers. But certain questions that are a bit difficult to answer are: (1) if the measures of inflation in India tell us the true story of the movement of

prices, (2) what factors are causing the inflation measures to tell us different stories and (3) What implications can be drawn when there is a transition from the use of one measure of inflation to another to trace the true movements of prices in India.

The two main indicators of inflation in India are the **Wholesale Price Index** (WPI, measuring prices received by producers of goods) and the **Consumer Price Index** (CPI, measuring prices facing consumers at the retail level). Although the WPI has traditionally been the most widely used measure for assessing inflationary pressures, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently conducted a review of its monetary policy framework, which recommended adopting a flexible inflation targeting regime, based on headline CPI inflation. The weighting schemes, coverage of goods and the prices used are very different between the two indices, which can lead to quite different rates of inflation.

This work carries out a short scale analysis in regard to switching from 'WPI based' inflation measurement to 'CPI based' as a better and more flexible measure of inflation in India very recently by the RBI.

#### **DIFFERENT STORIES OF INFLATION**

The WPI measures price changes from the production side and not from consumption side in retail markets. It is being criticized in the sense that it does not reflect the actual price hike that the consumers experience in the retail markets. Both tell the public different stories of inflation as given in the schedule1.

Schedule 1: Divergence between CPI and WPI rates

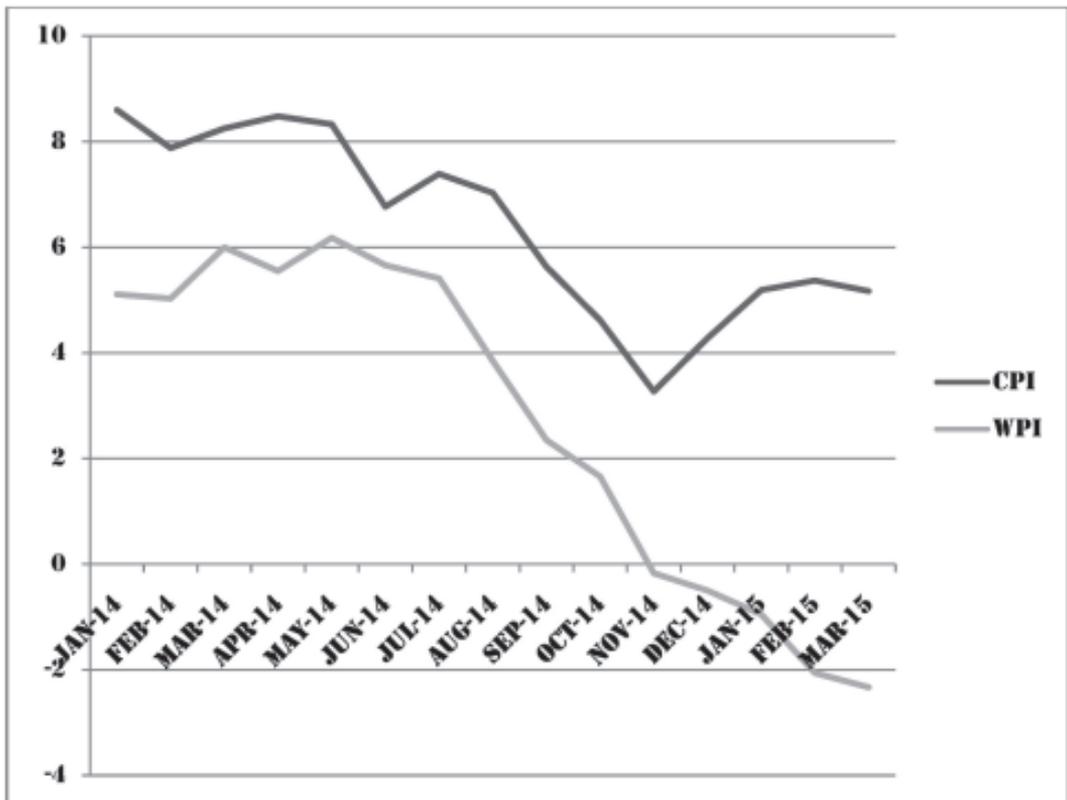
Period	CPI	WPI	Difference
Jan-2014	8.60%	5.11%	3.50%
Feb-2014	7.88%	5.03%	2.85%
Mar-2014	8.25%	6%	2.25%
Apr-2014	8.48%	5.55%	2.94%
May-2014	8.33%	6.18%	2.14%
June-2014	6.77%	5.66%	1.11%
July-2014	7.39%	5.41%	1.97%
Aug-2014	7.03%	3.85%	3.17%
Sept-2014	5.63%	2.35%	3.25%
Oct-2014	4.62%	1.66%	2.96%
Nov-2014	3.27%	-0.17%	3.43%
Dec-2014	4.28%	-0.50%	4.78%
Jan-2015	5.19%	-0.95%	6.14%
Feb-2015	5.37%	-2.06%	7.43%
Mar-2015	5.17%	-2.33%	7.50%

Source: Indian Express, 2015

The schedule 1 traces the rates of inflation in India measured by both WPI and CPI for a period of 15 months. The gap between the rates traced by WPI and CPI initially gets reduced and has been widening since July 2014. This divergence still persists in our economy telling us two divergent stories of inflation.

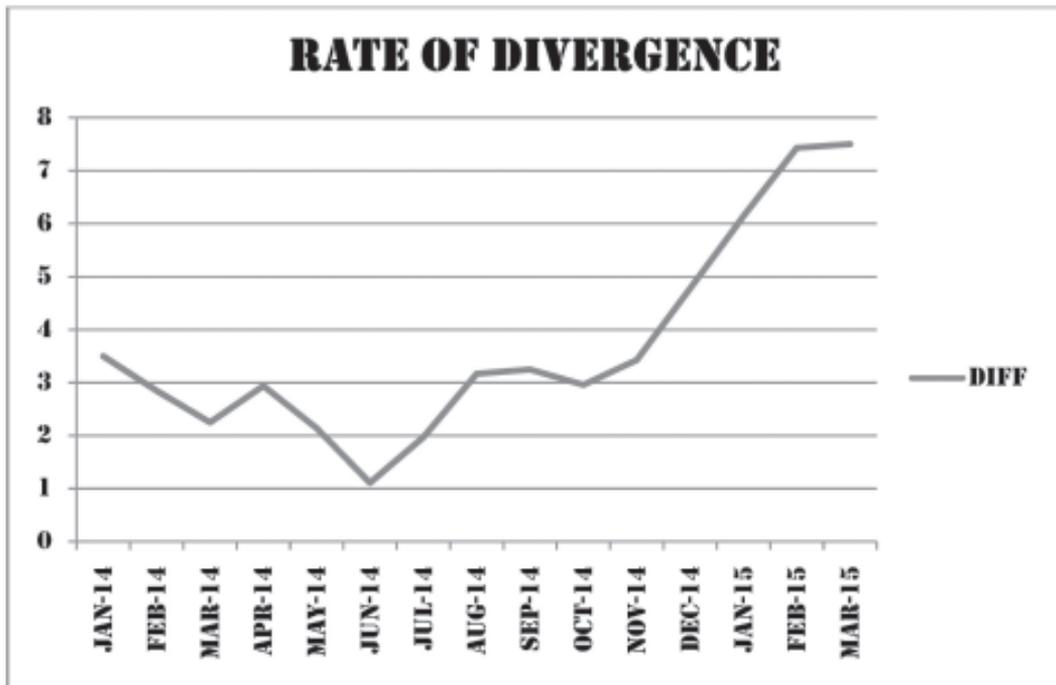
Figure 1 presents the time –series trends of the price movements traced by the CPI and WPI based indices. The thick curve stands for the CPI-based movements whereas the thin curve for the WPI – based movements.

Figure: 1.



In the above figure, it can easily be figured out that the WPI based price movements have been steadily declining since May 2014. This curve crossed the horizontal axis in the middle of November. Towards the first quarter of 2015, WPI traces that inflation rate fell below-2. Nevertheless, CPI shows that prices begin to rise in the same month in which WPI rate crossed the period axis. Later, the divergence begins to continue. The figure below shows the divergence trend over the time under analysis.

Figure: 2



Though initially fluctuating, the rate of divergence increases at an increasing rate. It is worth noting that the difference was the smallest only in July 2014. Toward the end of analysis period, the rate rose up to 7.5%.

#### FACTORS BEHIND THE DIVERGENCE

In the beginning of the nineties, central banks used the WPI as a measure of inflation. In recent years, however, many central banks have given up using the WPI, as it is not deemed an accurate measure of general inflation levels. RBI also used WPI for most of its policy decisions before 2014. But WPI **does not include services**, and it neither reflects the bottlenecks between producer and wholesaler nor between wholesaler and retailer (consumer). Hence from 2014, as part of the reforms initiated by RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, RBI switched to CPI for policy decisions. Consumer often directly buys from retailer. So the inflation experienced at retail shops is the actual reflection of the price rise in the country. It also shows the cost of living better.

Main reason for the difference in rates is due to the **difference in nature of the commodities** included in the baskets and the **weights** given to them. Food items have a larger weight of nearly 50% in the CPI; whereas its weight is just around 25% in WPI (including food items under manufactured category). On the other hand manufactured products have a high share of 65% in WPI.

Exclusion of service sector is a serious shortcoming of WPI that the CPI overcomes. Increasingly, the share of consumption expenditure spent on services has been rising in both urban and rural India. The share of services in India's GDP at factor cost (at current prices) increased from 33.3% in 1950-1 to 56.5% in 2012-13. The diver-

gence has been more due to non-food items, particularly services, than food inflation which normally has been responsible for higher CPI inflation. **Medical care and education** are two items where inflation has persistently remained high. For example, inflation in 'education' has remained around 7 per cent since 2012. These two items have a total weight of 10.8 per cent in CPI.

### IMPLICATIONS ON INDIAN ECONOMY

The WPI has been the main measure of inflation monitored by policymakers in India for several years, but the CPI is now assuming a more important role as the more widely consulted measure. This switch indeed has certain implications as far as our emerging India is concerned. They are:

- 1) If the goal of policymakers in India is to trace a realistic inflation rate, the movement of prices in the service sector which contributes nearly 60% share to the GDP of India is to be included by switching from WPI base to CPI base.
- 2) The use of the CPI in wage contracts and negotiations, and as a reference for the provision of welfare benefits, means that it is relatively well known to the public and therefore more likely than wholesale prices to guide the formation of inflation expectations of workers and consumers.
- 3) As it provides a measure of the cost of living, the CPI more appropriately captures the welfare implications of price changes.

### CONCLUSION

CPI inflation was around 10% up until the start of 2014 despite GDP growth declining from rates exceeding 10% in 2009–10 to around 5% more recently. The principal implication of the RBI's adoption of a flexible inflation targeting regime based on headline CPI is to gradually reduce to 6% by the initial months of 2016 and later to 4% as the ultimate target rate. Because it has been empirically observed in the inflation targeting emerging economies that inflation above 6.2% was harmful to growth and the observation that, historically, estimates of the output gap had been close to zero during periods when average CPI inflation had been around 4%.

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# **Applicability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Inclusive Growth of India**

**Ancy Anthrayose**

## **ABSTRACT**

The Micro Small and Medium Enterprises are very crucial to the economic development of our nation. 95% of MSME units are informal in nature but they constitute a considerable amount of India's GDP. They are considered as the engine of economic growth with unbiased progress. It helps in the growth of employment generation with several supporting systems and thereby increasing the standard of living. Altogether it helps in the inclusive growth of India.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises play a vital role in the economic and social development of the nation. If India need to grow with the growth rate of 8-10 % in the next couple of years it needs a strong micro, small and medium sector. The MSME sector is a kindergarten of entrepreneurship which can be developed by innovation and creativity. It is very important to nurture the MSME sector.

As per the existing statistics this sector employs an around of sixty million persons through twenty six million enterprises. It is also accounted that around 45-46% of the manufacturing output and around 40% of exports of the country are from the MSME sector. The MSMÉs can be considered as the best engines for the inclusive growth. It helps in creating local demand and consumption and fighting with global crisis. The MSME sector in India is highly heterogeneous in terms of the size of the enterprises, variety of products and services produced and the levels of technology

employed. While one end of the MSME spectrum contains highly innovative and high growth enterprises, more than 94 per cent of MSMEs are unregistered, with a large number established in the informal or unorganized sector. Besides the growth potential of the sector and its critical role in the manufacturing and value chains, the differences and the unorganized nature of the Indian MSMEs are important aspects that need to be considered more important in the case of policy making and programme implementation.

The village enterprises are credited with generating the highest rates of employment growth and holds a major share of industrial production and exports. They have a key role in the development of economies with their effective, efficient, flexible and innovative entrepreneurial spirit. The majorities of people living in rural areas draw their livelihood from agriculture and allied sectors. However, the growth and balanced development of other sectors such as industry and services is also necessary to sustain the growth of Indian economy in an inclusive manner. The Government of India is striving to improve the economic and social conditions of rural population and non-farm sector through a host of measures including creation of productive employment opportunities based on optimal use of local raw materials and skills as well as undertaking interventions aimed at improving supply chain; enhancing skills; upgrading technology; expanding the capacity building of the entrepreneurs.

The programmes undertaken by the Government of India and its organizations facilitates

- ◆ Adequate flow of credit from financial institutions/banks
- ◆ Entrepreneurship development and skill up gradation through appropriate training facilities;
- ◆ Support for technology upgradation and modernization and integrated infrastructural facilities
- ◆ Modern testing facilities and quality certification along with access to modern management practices
- ◆ Support for product development, design intervention and packaging keeping in mind the welfare of artisans and workers
- ◆ Assistance for better access to domestic and export markets and
- ◆ Cluster-wise measures to promote capacity building and empowerment of the units.

#### **DEFINITION OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

The MSMED Act, 2006 defines the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises based (i) on the investment in plant and machinery for those engaged in manufacturing or production, processing or preservation of goods and (ii) on the investment in equipment for enterprises engaged in providing or rendering of Services.

The investment in plant and machinery is the original cost excluding land and building and other items specified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries vide its notification no. S.O. 1722 (E) dated 05.10.2006.

The guidelines with regard to investment in plant and machinery or equipment as defined in the MSMED Act, 2006 are:

Nature of activity of the Enterprise	Investment in plant and machinery excluding land and building for enterprises engaged in manufacturing or production, processing or preservation of goods	Investment in equipment excluding land and building for enterprises engaged in providing or rendering of services (loans up to Rs 1 crore)
Micro	Not exceeding Rs.25.00 Lakhs	Not exceeding Rs.10.00 Lakhs
Small	More than Rs.25.00 lakhs but does not exceed Rs.500.00 lakhs	More than Rs.10.00 lakhs but does not exceed Rs.200.00 lakhs
Medium	More than Rs.500.00 lakhs but does not exceed Rs.1000.00 lakhs	More than Rs.200.00 lakhs but does not exceed Rs.500.00 lakhs

The investment in plant and machinery is the original cost excluding land and building and other items specified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries vide its notification.

#### **SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MSME BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

a) Small Industries Service Institutes (SISI)

The institute which functions under the Ministry of SSI, Government of India and it provides services such as preparation of project reports, training programmes in different activities, extending technical assistance and offering guidance on Industrial policy of Government of India. It is a pioneer organisation, to develop small scale industries through different training programmes. It also assists the industries in acquiring quality standards and marketing. At present it has been administering 28 SISIs and 30 branch SISIs working in different parts of the country.

b) National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NBMSME)

In fulfilment of the MSME Development Act, 2006, the National Board for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises consisting 47 members have been constituted. The 20 non-official members on the Board represent industry associations of MSMEs from all over the country while the other 27 members comprise Members of Parliament, Ministers of six State Governments, representatives of RBI, Banks etc. The main agenda of the Board is to solve the various issues relating to development of MSMEs and come out with remedial measures which are undertaken in consultation with the concerned departments/agencies.

c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

For ensuring larger flow of financial and non-financial assistance to the small-scale sector, the Government of India set up the Small Industries Development Bank

of India (SIDBI) under Special Act of Parliament in 1989 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the IDBI. The SIDBI has taken over the outstanding portfolio of the IDBI relating to the small-scale sector for promotion, financing and development of the SSI sector and for coordinating the activities of other institutions. It is the principal financial institution for the promotion, financing and development of industry in the small, tiny and cottage sectors and for coordinating the functions of the institutions engaged in similar activities.

### **ISSUES FACED BY THE MSME SECTOR IN INDIA**

#### **1. Limited access to adequate and timely credit**

Notwithstanding the increase in credit outstanding to the sector, access to adequate and timely credit at a reasonable cost is a critical problem faced by this sector. According to the Statistics revealed that only 5.18% of the units both registered and unregistered had availed of finance through institutional sources, 2.05% had finance from non-institutional sources; the majority of units i.e. 92.77% had no finance or depended on self-finance. Thus, the extent of financial exclusion in the sector is very high. But this is not entirely unexpected because if one looks at the financial exclusion in our country in general, then MSMEs cannot remain unaffected by it. But there is a need to bridge this gap through enabling policies and the Government of India needs to play a catalytic role to cater to the needs of this sector.

#### **2. Limited access to alternate sources of capital**

The ability of MSMEs to access alternative sources of capital like risk capital needs to be enhanced considerably. For this purpose, removing fiscal/regulatory impediments to use such funds by the MSMEs should be considered on priority. Access to equity capital is a genuine problem. At present, there is almost negligible flow of equity capital into this sector. Absence of equity capital may pose a serious challenge to development of knowledge-based industries, particularly those that are sought to be promoted by the first-generation entrepreneurs with the requisite expertise and knowledge. There is a demand for a dedicated Exchange for MSMEs.

#### **3. Sickness of Units**

Increasing sickness of the sector is yet another area of concern. When the sickness prolongs it leads to the closure of units and unemployment. The mortality of the MSE units is high. This has wider implications including locking of funds of the lending institutions, loss of scarce material resources and loss of employment. As on March 2011, the number of units identified as potentially viable as a percentage to total sick MSE units is around 8. The units placed under nursing as a proportion to the total number of sick units stood at 5.22%. The causes of sickness are both internal and external. The major causes are limited financial resources, lack of organisational, financial and management skills and expertise, non-availability of power supply shortage of raw materials, marketing difficulties, delayed and inadequate credit, obsolete technology, inadequate infrastructure, etc.

#### **4. Exit Policies for MSME**

An exit route for non-viable units is necessary to manage sickness. MSMEs are credited with high level of innovation and creativity, which also leads to higher level of failures. Keeping this in view, most of the countries have put in place mechanisms to handle insolvencies and bankruptcies. The present mechanism available in India for MSMEs is not adequate. Business failure in India is viewed as a stigma, which adversely impacts individual creativity and development in the country. The existing

legislations may have to be toned up so as to provide for efficient liquidation of non-viable businesses.

### **ROLE OF BANKS IN THE INCLUSIVE GROWTH OF MSME SECTOR**

Banks have a vital role to play in addressing several problems faced by the sector today. Banks have to view themselves not just as providers of credit but as partners in the growth of these enterprises, through a process of hand holding of first generation entrepreneurs, while they find their feet in the business. In financial management MSE enterprises do not have the size to support the competence they need. Operational skills, including accounting and finance, business planning, marketing and human resource management, etc. can often pose a challenge and necessitate support for the MSE borrowers. Typically, for instance, they operate with a woefully low productivity of capital and have either too little or too much cash. The tools for doing this work are fully developed e.g. cash-flow forecast and cash flow management. The financial management needs of these businesses are predictable. And worldwide they fall into a small number of categories, well-known to any experienced banker. The rewards for building a firm providing these small businesses with financial management might be enormous. Banks should therefore, provide financial consultancy / financial management services to their MSE borrowers to give them holistic guidance and support and nurturing them. Banks could set up special industrial and management consultancy departments to address functional inadequacies and market gaps. Bank branches need to ensure greater participation in the affairs of their MSME clients by convergence of credit services and non credit services. But for this, bank staff should be trained through customised training programmes to meet the specific needs of MSEs such as knowledge of markets, both domestic and global, use of technology, etc. Banks need to innovate to create products specifically suited to the requirements of MSMEs and should take a longer term view of its relationship with such entities while pricing such products. As the availability of timely and adequate credit is a key requirement for this sector, banks should introduce single window facility for providing loans to MSMEs. For this purpose, they can set up Centralized Processing Centres specifically to cater to such clients, which will handle the appraisal, sanction, documentation, monitoring, renewal and enhancement activities. As in any area, there would be a higher failure rate for start-up MSMEs. However, despite the risk, the financing of these enterprises is a must for ensuring inclusive growth. Banks will, therefore, be required to build up their risk assessment and risk management capabilities and provide for any instances of failures as a part of their risk mitigation process. The Top Management of banks to put in place a credible, proactive and a functional monitoring mechanism to review the progress in actual concrete outcomes. Bank staff has to be sensitive to the need to nurture these enterprises and to ensure that they get the necessary support during the initial phase. The performance of branch managers in dealing with the sector should be included as a criterion for evaluation of their performance.

MSMEs should understand that banks are responsible to their depositors and shareholders and, therefore, they, i.e. the MSEs, as customers of bank credit, have certain obligations to fulfill by way of repaying bank loans, maintaining proper books of accounts, submitting information correctly and more importantly, sharing information about financial problems when these arise so that they can work together with the bank in resolving these. It is in the interest of MSEs, to get themselves rated by independent rating agencies, as it could enable them to negotiate with their bankers for interest rate reduction, larger loan size or even obtain faster processing of their

loan applications etc. MSEs need to be aware that if they default and their credit history is poor they will find it difficult to access bank finance, as banks have been mandated by RBI to pass on all credit history of their clients to CIBIL or any other credit bureau registered with RBI.

### **CONCLUSION**

Economic growth after the liberalization has focused primarily on the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the industrial development. However to ensure inclusive growth we cannot ignore the need of tremendous growth in these industries. It has been termed as the engine of growth for the emerging economies like India. There have been major policy changes both at the centre and state level aiming at the consolidating of this sector. Infrastructural constraints and absence of amble market linkages embarrassed the growth of MSME sector. Appropriate access to finance has continued to be another major challenge.

For the MSME sector to fully utilize its potential, it is essential that the entrepreneurs along with the government should take necessary steps for the further development. With all the above constraints also the growth of MSMEs over the period of time in India is creditable but a big push is still needed for the upliftment of MSMEs sector. In this regard it is the need of the hour to take appropriate measures for further improvement of MSME sector.

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# **The Effects of Cooperative Language Teaching on Students' English Reading Comprehension**

**Misganaw Tilahun Tegegne**

## **ABSTRACT**

The primary purpose of this study was to examine the effects of cooperative language teaching program on students' reading comprehension skills and to suggest possible solutions to alleviate the problems of reading skills. To achieve the intended objectives, non-equivalent pre-test, post-test quasi experimental design was employed. The participants were all first year law students in two classes at University of Gondar. The two groups were chosen based on the intact class of the researcher and the groups were assigned into experimental and control groups. The experiment was carried out during a period of two months of the academic year 2009 E.C. Accordingly, it was hypothesized that the students taught through cooperative language teaching instruction would improve their reading comprehension skills better than those taught through conventional language teaching. To examine this hypothesis English reading achievement test was employed. The validity and reliability of the research instruments were validated. Paired sample t-test was used to analyze the results of the study. Results indicate that the reading comprehension skills score in the experimental group improved significantly, and to an extent greater than the control group due to the treatment. Hence, I strongly suggest that instructor's should employ cooperative instruction at University level for teaching EFL reading lessons.

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**Key words:** Cooperative language teaching, English reading comprehension

## **INTRODUCTION**

In reference to the evolution of human mind, it is clear that English has become the most wide spread language in the world, used by more people for more purposes than any other language on earth. English is now an international language, spoken in many countries both as a native and as a second language or foreign lan-

guage. It is taught in the higher institutions in almost every country on this earth (Kachru and Smith,2008).

As Wright(2000) and Johnson (1995), cited in Richards (2008:5), language has both its transactional and interactional functions,Language is used not only as a means of communication but also as a means to relate and build relationship with other people. The expansion of communication,information, and technologies leads the people to join the global era where there are many necessities of high qualification and skills related to the ability in using some foreign languages. As one of the international languages,English plays an important role in this era. Thus, Ethiopia also lives in a world that is nearly using English in many aspects of life.

Problems in teaching and learning English as a foreign language (EFL) are related to both teachers and learners. This problem is partly affected by teaching methods. Chen (1998)

stated that most EFL teachers teach language by lecturing and focusing on grammatical rules instead of language use. It is much more effective to teach language from context and meaning.According to Deutsch (1949), Cooperative Language Teaching approachoffers several advantages by helping learners develop mental processes, creative thinking and problem solving skills. It aims to foster cooperation rather than competition –each person’s success is linked with every other member’s success –and this also to develop critical thinking skills. The learners are thus, becoming direct and active participants in the learning process; they must work collaboratively with other group members on tasks assigned, and must learn to monitor and evaluate their own learning.Kagan (1989) contributes that in cooperative learning the teacher designs the social interaction structures as well as learning activities. Similarly, Johnson and Holubec(1993) state that in cooperative learning students can maximize their own and each other’s learning when they work together.Slavin(1996)argues that a critical element of cooperative learning is group teamwork and team goal. Teachers role also changes drastically from traditional lockstep organizations; he/she speaks less, acts as a facilitator of learning and is responsible for the creation of a highly structured and well organized teaching environment which promotes group-based learning.

English reading materials could be learned through social interaction by undergoing re – definition and re-conceptualization of the materials in order to become internalized. Reading skills are enhanced in alearning environment where learners interact and use language for socially constructing meaning (Wei, 1996). In cooperative language teaching, teacher role should also shift from knowledge transmitter to thought mediators (Calderon ,1990). As effective facilitator, teachers intervene and assist in the problem–solving process, and assess group interactions and monitor how students are developing their language skills, which allows them to adjust their procedures to enhance students learning (Chen,1998) .

### **Statement of the Problem**

It is true that English is growing in importance as an international language of communication. With it, there is also a growing awareness that the mastery of communication skills in English is necessary in academic and non-academic situations. Reading English, in particular, is said to be one of the most widely used modes of communication. As second language researchers believe, reading the language of English is a useful tool for language learning besides the role it plays in communication ( Ramies,1991; Tuan,2010). Attesting to this fact, Saville –Troike (1984) says, “....the language skill which is most likely to develop.....(academic)competence is reading .”

Infact, the ability to read is of paramount importance for academic success.

Cooperative learning is a student-centred, instructor-facilitated instructional strategy in which a small group of students is responsible for its own learning and the learning of all group members (Kagan 1989). Students interact with each other in the same group to acquire and practice the elements of a subject matter in order to solve, complete a task or achieve goal. Similarly, Slavin (1996) indicated that the critical element of cooperative learning is group team and team goals. Most studies on the effectiveness of cooperative learning have constantly indicated that this methodology promotes higher achievement, more positive interpersonal relationships, and higher self-esteem than do competitive or individualistic efforts (Gomleksiz,2007; & Johnson,1994).

Despite this, the mastery of reading comprehension skills by students of English as a foreign or second language remains largely unachieved. The awareness of the existence of this problem has led researchers to suggest different ways of tackling it. From the researcher's observation in the University, most students' reading comprehension skills is not good and most EFL teachers often provide insufficient opportunities for learners to practice the target language. This is reflected in their achievement; their scores are very low due to the problem of reading comprehension skills. From this, the researcher has began to be concerned about the student's low level English particularly in their reading comprehension skills and has to look for solutions to this problem. Therefore, this made it necessary for the researcher to look for another approach to language teaching that enables students develop their proficiency in English language. Cooperative language teaching approach is, thus, chosen and hypothesized to help students develop their reading comprehension skills. Olsen and Kagan (1992) also indicated that cooperative language teaching is an efficient and effective way of language teaching to improve students' language skills.

### **Limitation of the Study**

The following were the limitations of the study. The experiment was conducted in a natural setting where some variables remain uncontrolled. Only reading comprehension skills in academic achievement were included in the study. Thus, the consequence of the study may not be generalized to all other skills of university students all over the country.

### **Hypothesis of the Study**

The hypothesis of the study was that students taught through cooperative language teaching would improve their reading comprehension skills better than those taught through conventional instruction.

### **Research Design and Methodology**

The researcher employed a pre test –post test comparison group quasi-experimental design in terms of using one experimental and one control group. In 2009 E.C, there were two groups of first year law students. These two groups were chosen based on the intact classes of the researcher and the groups were assigned into experimental and control groups. Therefore, quasi-experiment was found to be appropriate for studying the effect of cooperative language teaching on the development of students' reading comprehension skills.

### **Population, Sample size and Sampling Techniques**

In Ethiopia, there are 41 higher education institutions. From these, the researcher selected University of Gondar as a study site. Therefore, the researcher decided to

conduct the study at university level in which he taught and observed the problem. Moreover, improving students reading comprehension ability is crucial and urgent for many higher institution students. Thus, University of Gondar was selected. At University of Gondar, there were first year, second year and third year, fourth and fifth year law students in 2009 E.C. Among these first year students were selected as participants of the study by the researcher because the first year students took the course English for Lawyers in the first semester during the time of the experiment. This course was crucial to examine the effect of cooperative language teaching on the participants' reading comprehension skills. So as to assure the effect of cooperative language teaching on students reading skills, first year students were selected. Hence, the participants of the study were all first year students. The total number of students was 86. Among 88 students, 42 students were selected for section A whereas 44 students for section B.

### **Data Collection Instrument**

The researcher used the following instrument to achieve the purpose of the study.

### **English Reading Achievement Tests**

English reading achievement tests were used to assess whether different instructional methods induce varied performance in English reading comprehension. The researcher developed the reading achievement for the pre and post test. Before the treatment the researcher employed a pre test for the control and the experimental group. After completing four units, students were given a post test examination to assess their overall reading comprehension of the four units in the pre and post test. The researcher was employed pre and post test in the control and the experimental group. A pilot study was conducted. This was crucial to ensure the reliability of the instrument. A pilot study was conducted before one week from the pre- test.

The test item formats were included questions on vocabulary, cloze and short-answer questions. To ensure the content validity of the tests, expert was invited to evaluate and validate them. To ensure good inter-score reliability, all examinations were independently rated by two TEFL (Teaching English as Foreign Language lecturers).

### **Data Collection Procedure**

The study was carried out in the following manner:

1. Consent to conduct the study was obtained from the Head of the Department of Law.
2. Related literature was reviewed to establish the theoretical background of the study.
3. The cooperative language teaching program was prepared and validated.
4. The reading comprehension skill tests were prepared by the researcher and validated.
5. The designed program was applied for a period of two months in order to examine the effect of cooperative language teaching program on students' reading comprehension.
6. The findings of the study were analyzed and discussed.

### **Analysis and Interpretations**

The findings of the study were drawn from the reading comprehension of pre and

post test scores of the experimental and control groups and in the next section, findings are presented.

Table 1. Pairedsample t-test of reading comprehension from pre to-post test scores on the two groups.

Group	N	Pre-test		Post-test		paired difference		T	Df	Sig(2-tailed)
		M	Std	M	Std	MD	MD2			
Experimental	42	2.79	0.34	20.83	3.01	18.04	325.44	-3.81	76	0.000
Control	44	2.88	0.335	2.98	0.577	-0.1	0.01	-1.00	76	0.323

N.B: MD= Mean difference

The above table shows that there was an increment of mean scores in reading comprehension from pre to post – test in the experimental group. For example, the experimental group reading comprehension skill post–test score was increased by 18.04 as compared to their reading pre-test score. In proving the significance of these changes, paired sample t-test computed for the experimental score asserts significant improvement, ( t)= -3.81, P< 0.05 . These results imply that the significant change seen in the experimental group from pre –to- post test on reading comprehension test results because of the treatment.

On the contrary, the control group did not show statistical considerable improvement from pre to- post test on reading test. The paired sample t-test confirms that the difference registered between the pre and post test was not significant ( t)= -1.00, P>0.05.

### Summary of the Findings

The data was analyzed using descriptive as well as inferential statistics such as mean, standard deviation and paired sample t-test. The results show that cooperative language teaching through the designed program based on the procedures and principles of Cooperative Language Teaching improved the students’ reading skills better than the conventional method of teaching. Hence, in the experimental group there was an improvement of students’ reading skills from pre to post –test than the control group due to the treatment.

### CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to examine the effect of cooperative language teaching on students’ reading comprehension skills as well as to explore learners’ improvement in English reading abilities after learning through cooperative language teaching. Based on the findings the following conclusions can be drawn. The experimental group reading test score was greater than that of the control group after the treatment. This can be justified since the students’ of the experimental group were taught through cooperative–based reading instruction in an organized manner. Despite the criticism that the students may be unwilling to read through cooperatively, the results of this research show that through cooperative language teaching participants’ reading comprehension skills have improved significantly.

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# കൂട്ടനാടൻ സംസ്കാരവും മലയാള സിനിമയും തകഴിയുടെ രചനകളെ ആസ്പദമാക്കി ഒരു പഠനം

Dr. Devakikutty P. K.

വെള്ളത്താൽ ചുറ്റപ്പെട്ട സമുദ്ര നിരപ്പിനും താഴെ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രദേശമാണ് കൂട്ടനാട്. കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ കാർഷിക സംസ്കാരവും ഭാഷയും ജീവിത രീതികളും നേരിട്ടനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ എഴുത്തുകാരനാണ് തകഴി ശിവശങ്കരപ്പിള്ള. അദ്ദേഹം തന്റെ രചനകളിലേക്ക് അവയെ സ്വാംശീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ കാർഷിക സംസ്കാരവും ഫ്യൂഡൽ പാരമ്പര്യവും അതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ആചാരാനുഷ്ഠാനങ്ങളും ഭാഷയും സിനിമയിൽ പ്രതിപാദ്യ വിഷയമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

സാങ്കേതികതയിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ ഒരു കലാരൂപമാണ് സിനിമ. മറ്റു പല കലാരൂപങ്ങളുമായും സിനിമയ്ക്ക് ബന്ധമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഏറ്റവും അടുത്തു നിൽക്കുന്നത് സാഹിത്യവുമായിട്ടാണെന്നു കാണാം. സിനിമയുടെ എക്കാലത്തെയും പ്രചോദനമായിരുന്നു സാഹിത്യം എന്നു പറയാം. ആദ്യ കാലങ്ങളിൽ സിനിമയുടെ ഭാഷയും വ്യാകരണവും രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിൽ സാഹിത്യ കൃതികൾ വലിയ പങ്കുവഹിച്ചിരുന്നു. സാമൂഹിക മൂല്യങ്ങളുടെയും മനുഷ്യബന്ധങ്ങളുടെയും ഉദാത്തത എടുത്തു കാട്ടുവാൻ സമൂഹം എന്നും സാഹിത്യത്തെയാണ് ആശ്രയിച്ചിരുന്നത്. പക്ഷേ ഗൗരവമേറിയ സാഹിത്യരചന സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് എത്തുന്നില്ല എന്നത് ഒരു പോരായ്മയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ചലച്ചിത്ര മാധ്യമമാകട്ടെ നിരക്ഷരരിൽ പോലും വേഗത്തിൽ സ്വാധീനം ചെലുത്തുന്നു. സാഹിത്യത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ചലച്ചിത്രത്തിന് കൂടുതൽ ആസ്വാദകരിൽ എത്തിച്ചേരുവാനുള്ള കഴിവുണ്ട്.

സാഹിത്യം, സിനിമ ഇവയുടെ സമാനതകളെപ്പറ്റി ഹെർബർ റീഡിന്റെ വാദം ശ്രദ്ധേയമാണ്. “ നല്ല രചനയുടെ പ്രത്യേകത എന്തെന്ന് ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഒറ്റവാക്കിൽ ഞാൻ ഉത്തരം പറയും ദൃശ്യപരം” എന്നദ്ദേഹം ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാണിക്കുന്നു. സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെ ലക്ഷ്യം വാക്കുകളിലൂടെ ദൃശ്യബിംബങ്ങൾ പകരുകയാണ്. അത് മനസ്സിനെ കാണാൻ യോഗ്യമാക്കുകയും വസ്തുക്കളുടെയും സംഭവങ്ങളുടെയും ചലിക്കുന്ന ബിംബങ്ങൾ മസ്തിഷ്കത്തിന്റെ തിരശ്ശീലയിൽ പ്രക്ഷേപിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. നല്ല സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെയും നല്ല സിനിമയുടെയും നിർവചനം ഇതാണ്.

**ആഖ്യാന സാധ്യത സാഹിത്യത്തിലും സിനിമയിലും**

സാഹിത്യത്തിലും സിനിമയിലും ആഖ്യാനത്തിനുള്ള സാധ്യതകൾ ധാരാളമാണ്. നോവലിൽ കഥാ സന്ദർഭങ്ങളും കഥാപാത്രങ്ങളും നമ്മെ ഒരു സങ്കല്പലോകത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്നു. സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെ പ്രധാന സവിശേഷത ഈ കാല്പനിക ലോകമാണെന്ന് കാണാം. ആഖ്യാനത്തിലധിഷ്ഠിതമായ സിനിമയുടെ പ്രത്യേകതയും ഇതു തന്നെയാണ്. ബാഹ്യലോകത്തെ പ്രതിഭേദിപ്പിക്കുന്ന കലാരൂപങ്ങളാണ് സാഹിത്യവും സിനിമയും. കഥ പറയുന്നതിനുള്ള ഉപാധികളാണ് രണ്ടും. ബാഹ്യ ലോകത്തെ ദൃശ്യ ബിംബങ്ങളാക്കുവാൻ സിനിമയെ ക്യാമറ സഹായിക്കുന്നു. ജോയ്ഗൂൾഡ്ബോയത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ആഖ്യാനത്തിനുള്ള തൊര മനുഷ്യന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാന ചോദനയാണ്. എല്ലാ കലകളിലും ആഖ്യാനത്തിനുള്ള ശ്രമമാണ് നടത്തുന്നത്. സിനിമയും സാഹിത്യവും കലാസൂചകങ്ങളായ കലയായതിനാൽ സിനിമയിലും സാഹിത്യത്തിലും ആഖ്യാനത്തിനുള്ള സാധ്യതകൾ കൂടുതലാണ്.

**അനുവർത്തനം**

അനുവർത്തനത്തെ പ്രതിരോധിക്കുന്നവർ സിനിമയും സാഹിത്യവും തമ്മിലുള്ള സമാനതയിലേക്ക് കാണാൻ വിരൽ ചൂണ്ടുന്നത്. സിനിമ സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെ യുക്തിസഹമായ വിപുലീകരണമാണെന്ന് അവർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. റോബർട്ട് നതാന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ചലച്ചിത്രം കാണാനുള്ള ഒരു നോവലാണ്. ഗ്രിഫിത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ “മറ്റെല്ലാത്തിനുമുപരി ഞാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത് നിങ്ങളെ കാണുവാൻ യോഗ്യരാക്കുവാനാണ്”. ഇവരെല്ലാം തന്നെ കാഴ്ചയുടെ സാധ്യതക്ക് മുൻതൂക്കം നൽകുന്നു. സാഹിത്യ കൃതിയുടെ സിനിമയിലേക്കുള്ള അനുവർത്തനത്തിന് രണ്ട് സമീപനങ്ങളാണ് കണ്ടു വരുന്നത്.

ഒന്നാമതായി സാഹിത്യകൃതിയെ ചലച്ചിത്രത്തിനുള്ള അസംസ്കൃത വസ്തുവായി സ്വീകരിക്കുക. രണ്ടാമത്തേത് സാഹിത്യകൃതിയിലെ എല്ലാ അംശങ്ങളും അപ്പാടെ നിലനിർത്തി അതിനെ ചലച്ചിത്ര മാധ്യമത്തിലേക്ക് മാറ്റങ്ങളൊന്നും കൂടാതെ പഠിച്ചു നടക്കുക. രണ്ടാമത്തെ മാതൃക സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നവർ ഇവയെ രണ്ടിനേയും അധികരിച്ച് ജോൺ ഡ്രൈഡന്റെ പ്രബന്ധം ആധാരമായി സ്വീകരിച്ച് അനുവർത്തനം നടത്തുന്നു.

ഡ്രൈഡൻ വിവർത്തനത്തെ മൂന്നായി തിരിച്ചിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ഒന്ന് പദാനുപദ വിവർത്തനം, രണ്ട് അനുകരണം, മൂന്ന് പരാവർത്തനം. ഇവയിൽ മൂലകൃതിയിലെ വാക്കുകളും വരികളും അതേപോലെ പിൻതുടരുകയാണ് പദാനുപദ വിവർത്തനം. മൂല കൃതിയിലെ എല്ലാ വാക്യങ്ങളും അതേപടി പിൻതുടരാതെയും എന്നാൽ ആശയത്തിനു കോട്ടം തട്ടാതെ വ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങളോടെയുമുള്ള വിവർത്തനമാണ്. രണ്ടാമത്തെ വിഭാഗമായ പരാവർത്തനം. മൂന്നാമത്തെ വിഭാഗമായ അനുകരണത്തിൽ മൂലകൃതിയുടെ ആത്മാവ് നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്താതെയുള്ള സ്വതന്ത്ര വിവർത്തനമാണ്. വിവർത്തനത്തിൽ പൂർണ്ണ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം എടുക്കുന്ന വിവർത്തകന്റെ ആത്മ സത്ത ഇത്തരം വിവർത്തനത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായിരിക്കും.

**സമ്പന്നമായ മലയാള സാഹിത്യം**

സാഹിത്യ സമ്പത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ അനുഗ്രഹീതമാണ് മലയാള സാഹിത്യം. വളരെ മഹത്തായ പാരമ്പര്യം മലയാള സാഹിത്യത്തിന് അവകാശപ്പെടാം. കേരളത്തിലെ എല്ലാ മേഖലകളെയും ഇവിടുത്തെ സാഹിത്യം സ്വാധീനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. നാല്പ്പതുകളിലും അമ്പതുകളിലുമായി ഉടലെടുത്ത പുരോഗമന സാഹിത്യപ്രസ്ഥാനം മലയാള സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെ വളർച്ചയിലെ ഒരു നാഴികക്കല്ലാണ്. അമ്പതോടുകൂടി സമകാലീന ജീവിതത്തെ തൊട്ടറി

യുന്ന പുതിയ പ്രമേയങ്ങളും ആവിഷ്കാര സമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളും പുതിയ സാഹിത്യത്തിന്റെ മുഖമുദ്രകളായി മാറി. താമസിയാതെ നാടകങ്ങളിലും ഈ സ്വാധീനം കടന്നു വന്നു. എൻ. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള, സി. ജെ. തോമസ്, സി. എൻ. ശ്രീകണ്ഠൻ നായർ, തോപ്പിൽ ഭാസി, കെ. റ്റി. മുഹമ്മദ്, ജി. ശങ്കരപ്പിള്ള എന്നീ നാടകകൃത്തുക്കൾ ഇപ്രകാരം നാടകവേദി കയ്യടക്കി.

പുരോഗമന സാഹിത്യ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ സ്വാധീനം തകഴി, കേശവദേവ്, പൊറ്റക്കാട് തുടങ്ങിയവരുടെ നോവലുകളിലും, ചെറുകഥകളിലും എല്ലാം പ്രകടമായി. കേശവദേവിന്റെ ഓടയിൽ നിന്ന് (1942) ബഷീറിന്റെ ബാല്യകാല സഖി (1944) തകഴിയുടെ രണ്ടിടങ്ങഴി (1944), ചെമ്മീൻ (1951), എസ്. കെ. പൊറ്റക്കാടിന്റെ വിഷകന്യക (1948) എന്നിവ അക്കാലത്തെ മികച്ച സാഹിത്യകൃതികളായി അംഗീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ഈ നോവലുകളിൽ പലതും പിൻക്കാലത്ത് ചലച്ചിത്രങ്ങളായി രൂപപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു.

**സാഹിത്യകൃതികളുടെ സാമൂഹിക പ്രസക്തി**

സമകാലീന ജീവിതവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് പ്രസക്തിയുള്ള ഇതിവൃത്തങ്ങളായിരുന്നു അറുപതുകളിലും, എഴുപതുകളിലുമെല്ലാം സാഹിത്യകാരന്മാർ തങ്ങളുടെ സൃഷ്ടികൾക്ക് ഇതിവൃത്തമായി സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത്. അക്കാരണങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഇത്തരം നോവലുകളും ചെറുകഥകളും സിനിമയാക്കുന്നത് ചലച്ചിത്രകാരന്മാർക്കും താത്പര്യമായിരുന്നു. തകഴിയുടെ ചെമ്മീൻ, ഏണിപ്പടികൾ, രണ്ടിടങ്ങഴി; കേശവദേവിന്റെ ഓടയിൽ നിന്ന്, റൗഡി; തോപ്പിൽഭാസിയുടെ തുലാഭാരം, അശ്വമേധം; ഉറുമിന്റെ ഉമ്മാച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയ കൃതികളെല്ലാം സിനിമയാക്കപ്പെട്ടത് അതിന്റെ സാമൂഹിക പ്രസക്തി മൂലമാണ്.

**തകഴിയുടെ തട്ടകമായ കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ ചിത്രീകരണം അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ രചനകളിൽ**

പമ്പയുടെ തീരത്തുള്ള അതി മനോഹരമായ ഭൂവിഭാഗമാണ് കൂട്ടനാട്. നെല്ലും തെങ്ങും മാണ് ഇവിടുത്തെ പ്രധാന കാർഷികോത്പന്നങ്ങൾ. നോക്കെത്താ ദുരത്തോളം ജലപ്പുരപ്പും അതിൽ അവിടവിടെയായി കാണുന്ന തുരുത്തുകളും കൊതുന്ദ് വള്ളങ്ങളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന ഗ്രാമീണരും കൂട്ടനാട്ടിലെ കാഴ്ചകളാണ്. അവിടുത്തെ ഇടത്തരക്കാരുടെയും കുലിപ്പണിക്കാരുടെയും കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളും യാതനകളും ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന സങ്കീർണ്ണ ലോകമാണ് തകഴിയുടെ തട്ടകം.

**കൂട്ടനാടൻ ജനത**

രാജവാഴ്ച കാലത്തെ കൂട്ടനാടൻ സാമൂഹിക ബന്ധങ്ങൾ മറ്റു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് വളരെ വ്യത്യസ്തമാണ്. രാജ ഭരണത്തോടും, രാജ കുടുംബത്തോടും ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട സമ്പന്നരും ജന്മിമാരും അവരെ ആശ്രയിച്ച് കഴിയുന്ന കുടിയന്മാരും അടിമകളായ കീഴ്ജാതിക്കാരും ചേർന്ന ഈ ഗ്രാമീണ സമൂഹത്തിൽ അനേകം ആചാരങ്ങളും അനാചാരങ്ങളും, ദുരാചാരങ്ങളും നിലനിന്നിരുന്നു. കൂട്ടനാട്ടിലെ പണിയെടുക്കുന്ന കർഷകർ ഉത്സാഹത്തിനായി ധാരാളം നാടൻ പാട്ടുകൾ പാടാറുണ്ട്. ആണ്ടിൽ രണ്ട് പ്രാവശ്യം വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടാകുന്നത് സാധാരണമാണ്. കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിന്റെ ചിത്രം തകഴിയുടെ രചനകളിൽ ആവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

തകഴി ശിവശങ്കരപ്പിള്ളയുടെ 1947-ൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ട തോട്ടിയുടെ മകൻ എന്ന നോവലിൽ ആലപ്പുഴയിലെ മൂന്നു തലമുറകളിൽപ്പെട്ട തോട്ടിപ്പണിക്കാരുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ സംഭവിക്കുന്ന മാറ്റങ്ങളുടെ സൂക്ഷ്മ ചിത്രമാണ്. അതേപോലെ തന്നെ 1948-ൽ പ്രസിദ്ധീകൃതമായ രണ്ടിടങ്ങഴി കാർഷിക രംഗത്ത് നാല്പതുകളിലുണ്ടായ എല്ലാ മാറ്റങ്ങളെയും

പ്രതിഫലിപ്പിക്കുന്ന നോവലാണ്. കൂട്ടനാടൻ ജനതയുടെ ജീവിതോപാധിയായ നെൽകൃഷിയും, കൃഷി രീതികളും ആചാരാനുഷ്ഠാനങ്ങളും സങ്കല്പങ്ങളും നോവലിന്റെ ഇതിവൃത്ത ഘടനയുടെ ഭാഗമായിത്തീരുന്നു. ഇന്നും കൂട്ടനാടൻ ഭൂപ്രകൃതിയിൽ വളരെ വലിയ മാറ്റങ്ങളൊന്നും തന്നെ വന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഈ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ തകഴിയുടെ രചനകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയുള്ള സിനിമാ നിർമ്മാണം പ്രായേണ ആയാസം കുറഞ്ഞതാകുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ രചനകളെല്ലാംതന്നെ വായനക്കാരുടെ മനസ്സിൽ കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ പൂർണ്ണചിത്രം പതിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പര്യാപ്തമാണ്. 1956-ൽ അദ്ദേഹം രചിച്ച റൊമാന്റിസിസവും റിയലിസവും തുല്യ പ്രാധാന്യം നേടിയ വിശ്വപ്രസിദ്ധനോവലാണ് ചെമ്മീൻ. തൂക്കുന്നപ്പാഴ്, നീർക്കുന്നം എന്നീ കടപ്പുറങ്ങളിലെ ഒരു കൂട്ടം ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഥ ചില മിത്തുകളുടെയും വിശ്വാസ പ്രമാണങ്ങളുടെയും പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ തകഴി കാവ്യാത്മകമായി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

കാല്പനിക പ്രണയം മുൻനിർത്തി രചിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഈ നോവൽ സിനിമയാക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ദേശീയ തലത്തിൽ ആദ്യമായി സ്വർണ്ണമെഡൽ നേടിയത് തകഴി ശിവശങ്കരപ്പിള്ളയുടെ 'ചെമ്മീൻ' (1965) ആണെന്ന് കാണാം. തകഴിയുടെ പ്രശസ്ത നോവലായ രണ്ടിടങ്ങഴി, ഏണിപ്പടികൾ, ചെമ്മീൻ എന്നിവ ശ്രദ്ധേയമായ ചലച്ചിത്രങ്ങളായിരുന്നു. ചലച്ചിത്രത്തിനു വഴങ്ങുന്ന രീതിയിലാണ് അദ്ദേഹം തന്റെ രചനകൾ നിർവഹിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. കൂട്ടനാടിന്റെ കഥ പറയുമ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം പ്രാദേശിക ഭാഷയ്ക്കും പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകുന്നു. ഓരോ കഥാപാത്രങ്ങളും തങ്ങളുടെ പ്രദേശത്തെ ഭാഷയാണ് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത്. ചെമ്മീൻ കടപ്പുറത്തെ ഭാഷ, ഏണിപ്പടിയിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെയും തോട്ടിയുടെ മകനിൽ തോട്ടിപ്പണിയാളരുടെയും ഭാഷ കാണാം. സിനിമയിലും ഈ ഭാഷയുടെ ജീവാംശം ചോർന്നു പോകാതെ സംവിധായകൻ നിലനിർത്തുന്നു. കൂട്ടനാടൻ സിനിമകളുടെ വിജയ രഹസ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണിത്. വളരെയധികം പ്രത്യേകതകളുള്ള തകഴിയുടെ രചനകളുടെ ആത്മാവ് അൽപ്പം പോലും ചോർന്നു പോകാതെ ചലച്ചിത്രത്തിലൂടെ നമുക്ക് കാണുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നു. ചെമ്മീൻ കിട്ടിയ പുരസ്കാരം ഇത് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു.

സാങ്കേതികതയിൽ അധിഷ്ഠിതമായ ഒരു ദൃശ്യ കലാരൂപമായ സിനിമ പലകലാരൂപങ്ങളോടും ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടു നിൽക്കുന്നു. സാഹിത്യത്തോട് വളരെയടുത്ത ബന്ധം പുലർത്തുന്ന സിനിമ സാഹിത്യ സൃഷ്ടികളെ നിരക്ഷരർക്കിടയിൽപ്പോലും എത്തിക്കുന്നതിൽ മുഖ്യ പങ്കുവഹിക്കുന്നു. തകഴിയുടെ രചനകളിൽ തെളിഞ്ഞുനിൽക്കുന്ന കൂട്ടനാടും കടലോര പ്രദേശങ്ങളും ദൃശ്യബിംബങ്ങളാക്കുന്നതിൽ സിനിമ വിജയം കൈവരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

**ഗ്രന്ഥസൂചി**

- 1. ഇ. എം. അഷറഫ്                      കാഴ്ചയിലെ കലാപം
- 2. മധു ഇറവക്കര                        മലയാള സിനിമയും സാഹിത്യവും
- 3. തകഴി ശിവശങ്കരപ്പിള്ള            ചെമ്മീൻ, രണ്ടിടങ്ങഴി, ഏണിപ്പടികൾ

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# The Representation of the Exile of Emperor Haileselassie in Selected Amharic Novels

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## ABSTRACT

One of the great political events of the Imperial period was the Italian occupation and the resistance movement that took place from 1936 to 1941. A number of political events related to the occupation are represented in some pre and post 1974 revolution novels. *Ariaya* (1948) by Girmachew, *Agazi* (1958) by Woldegiorgis, *Īnidāwāt'ačQārāč* (1956), by Assefa, *AlimotikumBiyāAliwašim* (1947), by MekonenEndalkachew, *Yāmayič'āwQusilāña* (1948), by MekonenZewdie are pre 1974 novels while *BašaQit'aw* (1983), by Sahleselassie, *Adabay* (1982), by Tilahun, *Nās'anāt* (1988), by Zenaneh, and *Īsikādar* (2010), by Dawit are post 1974 novels that deal with the politics. Among the number of political events the controversial politics of the exile of Emperor Haileselassie is the focus of this study.

## INTRODUCTION

Among the pre and post 1974 novels, *Ariaya*, *Agazi* and *BašaQit'aw* are selected for discussion purposely because they are assumed to be representative than the other novels in their respective periods. Since *Ariaya* and *Agazi* were written in 1946, five years after the end of the war, they depict a fairly fresh memory of the authors about the politics of the war and the state of progress observed in the first five years of the post-war period of Haileselassie. *BašaQit'aw* is a post-revolution novel written by an experienced writer who has written a number of novels both in Amharic and English. The selected novels have different perspectives regarding the exile of Emperor Haileselassie to Europe.

Although Italy invaded Ethiopia from different directions of the country – from the north, southeast, and south - the novels, *Ariaya*, *BašaQit'aw* and *Agazi* do not represent the south-eastern and southern fronts. The reason for *Ariaya* not to represent these fronts might be that the story followed the journey of the central character, Araya, who accompanied Haileselassie to the northern front, Maychew. Like *Ariaya*, *BašaQit'aw* sets the settings in Tigre, Wollo and Shawa provinces. Therefore, most of the political events that are represented in the novels and discussed in this study are mainly related to the northern fronts, rather than the southern and southeastern fronts.

The focus of the historians and the novelists in the northern front is Maychew, and not Amba-Allage or Temben or the Shire fronts. The reason probably is that the Maychew front was led by Haileselassie, while the other fronts were led by other lower ranking leaders. Surprisingly, Maychew was the last battle, and only lasted not more than 13 hours (Bahru, 2002: 157). This situation, as New Historicism and Critical Discourse Analysis, here after CDA (the literary theories eclectically employed in this study) hold could be a reflection of the influences of politics and history upon literature (Brannigan, 2001:169-179). The politics influenced novelists to write about the war as related to the experiences of people of the highest rank. The novelists could also have been influenced by the historical narration of the historians, because most history books narrate the history of kings, warlords and top officials rather than the ordinary people. Novels written with such a mode of representation tell so much about politics and power relationships, than mere historical facts that are recorded in black and white. The focus of New Historicism and CDA is on such kinds of representations of concealed power relationships rather than on mere reflection of historical facts in the novels (Brannigan, 2001: 170).

The representation of the political events related to the battle of Maychew could be divided into different phases: First, the preparation for war and the invasion; second, the combat, defeat and retreat of the Ethiopian army; third, the exile of the Emperor, the divide and rule policy of the Italian occupation, and guerrilla war; and fourth, the victory of Ethiopia, and the restoration of independence. The focus of this study is on the exile of the Emperor Haileselassie to Europe.

Italy, forty years after its defeat by Ethiopians under the leadership of Emperor Menilik at the battle of Adwa, (on March, 1896), re-invaded the country in October 1935 during Emperor Haileselassie's rule. Taking a lesson from its defeat, Italy had made preparation in military equipment, war planes, chemicals and manpower armed with modern heavy machine guns. More than 300, 000 Italians and colony soldiers armed with modern guns, artilleries and supported by more than two hundred warplanes attacked Ethiopia from different directions (Paulos, 1987: 34 - 35; Marcus, 1994: 142).

The Ethiopian soldiers and patriots under the leadership of Emperor Haileselassie fought against the Italians in January 1936, four months after Italy controlled some strategic places like Adwa, Adigrat and Mekele in the northern part of the country. However, after some unsuccessful attacks against the Italians, the Ethiopian soldiers were forced to retreat from different war fronts. The Italians were backed by some traitors and landlords who betrayed the Emperor and the country for different reasons. As a result, the Emperor retreated to the capital city, Addis Ababa. A few days later, the Italians approached the capital city and the Emperor together with some of his family members and close officials left the country and went to Jerusalem and Britain (Marcus, 1994: 146; 2003: 19; Berihun, 2000: 229 - 238; Bahru, 2002: 160; Gebrewold, 2008: 105 - 107).

Haileselassie's exile for five years ignited a debate in Ethiopian politics. Berihun (2000: 215) and Gebrewold (2008: 105) believe that the exile took place with the consent of the parliament and was designed to make diplomatic efforts to get support from the League of Nations and some European countries, while others (Andargachew, 1993: 6; Bahru, 2002: 160) state that the Emperor's exile was self-imposed and an escape from potential threats from the colonizer. Berihun (2000: 229) argues that the Darg government used the issue of exile negatively for its political and propaganda purposes. Some patriots like Belay Zeleke, TakeleWolde-Hawariyat and NegashBezabih had objections against Haileselassie's exile and his re-ascending to the throne (Bahru, 2002: 209 - 211). These issues of war and exile are represented in the selected

novels *Ariaya*(1949), by Girmachew, *Agazi*(1956), by Woldegiorgis, and *BašaQit'aw* (1983) by Sahileslassie. The analyses of the representation of the politics in these novels are made in the next section.

## DISCUSSION

*Ariaya* (1969) dedicates chapter 16 of the novel to the exile of the Emperor and the looting of Addis Ababa. The objective of the journey, the state of the meeting held to reach consent and the crew members that accompanied Haileselassie are not reflected at all (1969, pp. 258- 269). The narrator of the novel explains (1969, p. 261):

The whole day the Emperor held an advisory meeting. People said many things. Some said reconciliation shall be reached, some others said that the Emperor will reorganize the army and go to the war front; while some others said the Emperor will go to Harrar. There was unrest around the palace for the whole day, with Ministers and army chiefs going in and out frequently to the office of the Emperor. . .

The journey was not official; there was neither a convenient situation to make it official.

The narrator says that, “people talk many things” (1969, p. 261). But, why do the people of Addis Ababa frustrate and talk many things? The reason probably is that the journey is secret; and the people need the Emperor to organize them for guerrilla war so that they can defend the country as it can be understood from the words of the narrator (1969, p. 242): “yāitiyop’iyahizibnīgusunkalayābādāhīnaayīwagam; māriwīnawrawīnyīfālīgāl” (The people of Ethiopia do not fight courageously unless they have the king with them. The people need the main leader, His Majesty).

Of course, the narrator seems to give hints about the decision of the parliament by saying that ministers and warlords are frequently getting in and out, to and from the office of the Emperor. This description perhaps suggests that a meeting regarding the journey might have taken place. The historians, Berihun (2000, p. 229) and Haileselassie (1973, pp. 233-245) also explain that ministers decided his exile in the meeting held in Addis Ababa.

No further points are discussed regarding the exile or the journey in *Ariaya*. This neglect of representing the politics of the exile of Haileselassie in detail may be deliberately designed as one technique to reveal the position of the author regarding the issue because some regard the exile as a self-imposed escape resulted from fear of danger that the Emperor might have faced (Bahru, 2002, p. 160). Therefore, writing this ‘self-imposed’ issue of the exile of the Emperor overtly in the regime was impossible for the novel could be censored or stopped from publication. The life of the author might fall also in danger. Otherwise, the author or the narrator has rich knowledge about the overall politics of Maychew and Haileselassie as can be grasped from the narration made in the chapters of the novel and other historical documents. The author had first-hand experience of the war. He had been at the northern front for three months as a translator for Swedish experts; he had been in Addis Ababa during the assassination attempt on the life of Graziani and the subsequent massacre. The Italians also detained him in an island called Azinara, Italy, together with other Ethiopians. He had served Haileselassie as minister in different organizations and ambassador of Ethiopia to Europe and Latin American countries (Molvaer, 1997, pp. 62-67).

Therefore, it is possible to say that the author had enough information regarding the exile of Haileselassie. If that is so, one can say that the writer shows his criticism or discontent regarding the exile through the technique of under-representation of the political event. In other words, the author does not want to appreciate the Emperor's exile and the claimed diplomatic effort. This position of the character regarding the exile confirms to the position of Teklehawariyat, whom the character, Araya, represents. Teklehawariyat strongly objected the exile in person to Haileselassie, and recommended that the Emperor should lead the people and fight Italy using guerrilla war strategy. Some people of Dire-Dawa also objected the exile of the Emperor (Teklehawariyat, 2007, p. xxvi).

In addition, the narrator and the character narrator on one side pretend to be a loyalist to Haileselassie and on another side reveal the truth through the comments that they make on some states of events and characters, and situations in which characters are involved. For instance, the narrator of the novel explains the feelings of the people regarding the exile of the Emperor and the occupation of Addis Ababa in the following way (1969, pp. 272- 273):

Like any people in the world, the people of Ethiopia were angry with their leaders and soon felt the yoke of the enemy. They expressed their sorrow and anger, and made the leaders responsible for all this evil situation; gradually, when their anger vanished and started to realize the difficulty and malice and power of the Italians, they wanted leaders that could organize and lead them in the fight against the Italians.

Even though the people were willing to fight the Italians, they could not be successful since there was no 't'äqilaymerri' (central commander) who could coordinate them; besides, the other officials or warlords were not in good terms with each other. These created a good opportunity to the enemy (emphasis mine).

In the quoted paragraphs, the narrator reports that people are disappointed with the leaders and make them responsible for the problems they experienced. However, by understanding through time the seriousness of the problem and the power of Italy, the people patiently think about the situation and decide to find leaders that might organize them to fight the colonizers and rescue their lives and restore freedom. The narrator further tells that the courage that the people showed when fighting the Italians became fruitless for the war leaders do not cooperate with each other, and for the people do not have a "t'äqilaymäri"(general leader, perhaps the Emperor) with them.

The value of the Emperor for the Ethiopians in the war field is also commented by the narrator in his account of the defeat of the war leaders, RasMulugeta and others, at different fronts (1969, p. 242): "manimindämiyawiqäwyäityop'iyahizibnigusunkalayäbädähinaayiwagam;märrwınawrawınyıfäligal. Janıhoyyihınawıqıwtaydäläminrasačäwlämäzimätyäqorät'ut?" (As everybody knows, the Ethiopian people do not fight bravely unless the Emperor is with them. They want the Emperor to be with them. The Emperor had decided to go to the war front because he was aware of this feeling of the people).

Therefore, based on the foregoing arguments one can arguably say that the narrator is not interested in the exile of Haileselassie perhaps for the exile was not done according to the consensus of the parliament, or for it was primarily designed to save Haileselassie and his family. In addition, the narrator, in connection with the exile, says, "nıgusačınımtäsädädu" (our king is exiled), in that the character expresses his feeling as it is discerned in the following statement(Arifaya,1969,p.275): "T'aliyankäqädımojämırosiyadäbabınyänäbäräwt'älatačınbämäsarıyawtämäkıtoqıdısıtägäračınınwärrarat. Nıgusačınımtäsädädu. AdisAbäbatäqatäläčtäbäzäbäzäč.

Abiyatakiristiyanatrakäsübäbombtäqat’älu.”(Encouraged by its advanced weapons, our enemy, Italy, that has been lurking for a long time invaded Ethiopia. Our king is exiled. Addis Ababa is burnt and looted. Churches are defiled and bombarded).

Likewise, the character narrator, when agitating people about the need for guerrilla war says, “mīnīmīniqatoraçinbifätananīgusaçinīmkağärbisädädu...” (However our army is defeated and the king is exiled...) (*Ariaya*, 1969, p. 285). The word “täsadädu” (exiled) indicates that the Emperor is forced to leave the country beyond his will, for political reason and the defeat of the Ethiopian army. Therefore, we use the word “täsadädu” when someone is forced to leave his village or country for reason beyond his control or for a problem that he could not withstand. It does not denote that the journey is done with the consent of the parliament as some historians like Berihun (2000) or other novelists like Woldegiorgis (1969) assert.

Like *Ariaya*, *BašaQitaw* (1983, pp. 122-29) gives little space to the exile of Haileselassie. The issue is raised in the dialogue made between the characters, BashaKitaw, Begashaw and Olana, during the visit that the first two persons pay for the last on their way to Addis Ababa from the war front. The two men intend to meet Olana in order to request information about the city. Amidst their dialogue Olana tells them about the exile of Haileselassie. The dialogue is read as follows (1983, pp. 123 – 124):

“When did the Emperor return after all?” Said, Begashaw.

“Oh! Haven’t you all heard about it?”

“Oh Father Olana, We just arrived now” . . .

“The Emperor returned to Addis Ababa few days before... and went abroad secretly by train after he had done what he had to do, and had consulted his officials.”

“Did he go abroad?”

“Yes.”

“How did it happen?”

“Oh Basha, I don’t know about it. I am telling you what I have heard.”

“I see! ...”

“As I said now, the king went abroad by train, in the dark, the day before yesterday, after he had done what he had to do and had made a consultation with his officials.”

The two characters shocked for a moment by the news they heard about the Emperor. The dialogue does not tell the reason for the exile of the Emperor; and it was a shocking news for the characters; that is why BashaKitaw said “indettädärigo”, literally meaning “how did it happen?” Similarly, when Olana tells the exile of Haileselassie to Bashakitaw the latter says, “agärläqäwkäwät’ubähuwala” (after they ‘left’ the country), an equivalent phrase to the word “täsadädu” (exiled) in meaning. The phrase “läqowät’a”, like “täsadädu”, denotes that the Emperor has left the country perhaps involuntarily for good.

In the speech of Olana, the word “šholäkuallu”, literally, “went secretly”, also indicates that the journey was not official to public perhaps either for security purpose or for he was afraid of being watched run away from the enemy and perhaps the people. In any way, with all these words and phrases the Emperor is negatively expressed; it is his escape rather than diplomatic journey expressed. Regarding this issue, the introduction of the autobiographical book of Teklehawariyat, states that Tekehawariyat and some other people condemn the exile and regard the Emperor as responsible to problems that the Ethiopian people might face (2007, p. xxvi & xxx).

In general, as it can be understood from the discussion made so far, the novel, *BašaQit'aw*, does not represent the exile of Haileselassie positively. The protagonist character, BashaKitaw, considers it as shameful practice that has never and ever happened in the Ethiopian political history. By making reference to the experiences of the historical figures, Emperor Tewodros, who preferred to commit suicide to surrender to British force at the battle of Mekdella, and Emperor Yohannes, who died in the battle while fighting courageously with the Mahadists, the character condemns Haileselassie for the act of “cowardice” (1983, p. 129):

Why does the Emperor go to Jerusalem unless he wants to leave confined in Jerusalem? This is very strange; such an act has not ever been heard and seen in the history of Ethiopians. History proves that an Ethiopian leader is defeated only in death. Emperor Tewodros shot himself when he lost the war. Emperor Yohannes died while fighting the Derbushes. We have never heard of leaders who accept defeat alive– they would rather fight until the last moment.

The techniques used to carry this meaning are dialogue and historical allusion. The dialogue is conducted between two characters that returned from the war front. They have different conceptions regarding the war. The character, Gidey, thinks that once the Ethiopian army is defeated in the conventional war and Haileselassie is exiled, the war is over; so that Italy controls the whole country and governs Ethiopia. But the other character, BashaKitaw, thinks that the war is not completed; patriots continue to fight using guerrilla war technique and he is ready to start it. Meanwhile they discuss the rumor about the exile of Haileselassie, BashaKitaw gives the above explanations. Therefore, by alluding to historical heroes, and bringing into forth two opposite thoughts regarding the war, the author expressed his feeling through the dialogue of the characters, and the foregoing words and phrases. No further reflection or explanation is given about Haileselassie's exile, or consent reached about his exile, or diplomatic effort that he made at the League of Nations.

Regarding the allusion technique, the author further referred to Adwa and Menilik in the first two chapters of the novel. The reference to the victory of Adwa in the novel seems to be for dual purposes. The first purpose is to show that this battle is the revenge of Italy for its defeat at the battle of Adwa; and the second purpose is to make contrast between Emperor Menilik, who got a surprising victory over the Italians at the battle of Adwa and Haileselassie who is defeated and exiled without showing much effort to defend the country and the people. This referent and comparison also reveals the power of words in revealing political sentiments of the author.

Unlike *BašaQit'aw*, *Ariya* does not explicitly condemn the exile of Haileselassie. It rather expresses its criticism, as previously explained, by subtly using reports, commentaries and dialogues of the narrator with such modes as: “Even if people wage war to defend the Italians, they could not be successful since there is no general leader with them to coordinate them” (1969, pp. 272-273). The people have made the leaders responsible for the problem and are disappointed for they do not have the general leader perhaps the Emperor with them.

The character, Araya, however, does not reflect it from the beginning, believes firmly that the Ethiopian army should not fight the modern Italian Army in conventional war. And the Emperor should not go to the war fronts in person to fight. What he must do was to organize the people for guerrilla war and encourages them in all their activity as it reads below (1968, p. 285):

In my opinion, if the Emperor had focused on visiting and encouraging his people in different parts of the country, providing them with arms and rations, and appointing and rewarding local leaders and heroes, rather than directly facing the Italian army in a conventional war, every Ethiopian would engage in guerrilla warfare, put the enemy in disarray, and deny them outlet in a few months time. Through experience, the people and the army would become stronger and learn new strategies. But still, even though our army is dispersed and our Emperor is in exile, the rest of us who are here should wage guerrilla war and trouble the enemy. It is only in this way that we can weaken the enemy and ultimately beat our enemy. Otherwise, we will fall victims to enemy forces.

The character narrator, as a representative of the father of the author, likely reflects the position of his father, Teklehawariyat, regarding the exile. Teklehawariyat had a belief that the Ethiopian army should not use the conventional war since there are imbalances between the army and the technology of the enemy and of Ethiopia. He rather recommends guerrilla war for the Ethiopians to fight within their country and people (Teklehawariyat, 2007, p. XXV). Araya further comments that, it was better for the Emperor to supply guns and rations to the people and patriots so that the people in turn might have begun to fight the enemy.

Therefore, when the positions of Teklehawariyat and Araya, and the commentaries that the narrator makes are taken together into consideration, it is possible to say that the novel, *Ariaya*, is a critique of the exile of Haileselassie. The calm tone of the narrator and the character also do have contribution in making subtle criticism. If the narrator or the character narrator has used bitter and hesitant tone, the destiny of the author and the novel might be different.

Unlike the two novels, *Ariaya* and *BašaQit'aw*, the novel, *Agazi*, regards the exile as a change of a war strategy from the gun battle to diplomatic war initiated by his loyal persons. For the character, these people insist the Emperor to quit the war and be in exile rather than die in the battle field (1969, p.70):

Haileselassie was saved for he was chosen to resurrect Ethiopia. The aristocrats, the cardinals of the church, the learned people came together and begged the Emperor, their light, not to fade and thus he went to Europe to change the war strategy.

In this illustration, in one way, the nobility seems to push the Emperor to stop the war and flee the country in order to keep his life safe from the Italians. In another way, it seems that the nobility wants his exile to encourage the Emperor appeal to the League of Nations.

The novel, *Agazi*, seems to be in favor of the Emperor. Apparently no criticism is made against his retreat and exile. Rather he is praised by the character narrator in every activity reflected in the novel. What is more surprising is that Haileselassie is compared to god in different situations as it is observed in the quotation, “kulohadäginäwätälonakä”, (we left all and followed you) (1969, p. 62) alluded to the Bible, Luke, 5, 11: “and when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him”. Like the disciples followed Jesus, his loyal people followed him (Haileselassie). The whole idea is read in the following paragraph (1969, p. 62):

Our lion has returned with all the charisma. His loyalists followed him, as the disciples followed Jesus saying “we left everything, and followed you”. All of them left their villages and went to the forest saying that the world was nothing in his absence. The rest felt sad and deeply hurt. It is for this reason that I realized his victory. (1969: 62).

Following the style of the Psalms 131:1 (of the Geez version), that is read as “täzäkäröigiziolädawitwälakuluyäwihatu” (Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions), the majesty is described as: “täzäkäröigiziolädawit (lähayiläsilasse) wälakuluyäwihatu” (Lord, remember David (Haileselassie) and all his afflictions) (1969, p. 76). The narrator puts the name, ‘Haileselassie’, in bracket perhaps to equate Haileselassie to David. On another page of the novel, Haileselassie is described as “lion” and “cub” (1969, pp. 62 & 64) as David is described in the Bible in different books of the Old and the New Testaments. The following quotation is from the novel, *Agazi* (1969, p. 92):

After being named a ‘cub’ (using the term that Jacob used to describe David) the lion of Judah (the Emperor) was blessed as one who is superior to his enemies, and when he arrived in Khartoum in June 1940, Ethiopia told its people to beat the “negarit” (drum) and go to the war-front. (The clarification is mine).

The narrator compares Haileselassie to a lion not only to tell readers that he is a hero but also to show that he is a descendant of David. It is obvious that the official title of the Emperor includes, “His Imperial Majesty Haileselassie I, King of Kings, elect of God, Conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah” as it is written in his seal of the government (Berihun, 2000, p. 147). Haileselassie also wrote that he is a descendant of King Solomon and Queen Sheba (1965, p. Introduction).

Haileselassie is again described as “God” and “light”. As Jesus Christ resurrected to life after death and saved the world (Acts 1:1- 3; Mathew 27: 62 - 66), Haileselassie also brought Ethiopia to life from her death: “yäitiyop’iyatinsaeyihonuzänd” (Haileselassie being a resurrection to Ethiopia). As Jesus is symbolized as light (Joan, 1: 4 - 9), Haileselassie is symbolically described in the novel as light by his loyal supporters that are considered as his disciples as: “mäbiratačinatit’ifabän” (Don’t go off our light (1969, p.70) that literally means “don’t die, our genius leader.”

Haileselassie is addressed in the novel (1969, p. 77) as: “yähayiläsilassenfiqrun man yastäwänal” (who separates us from the love of Haileselassie) as Jesus is addressed by Paul (Roman, 8: 35): “who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” The Biblical reference is used in the novel with a deliberate intention to regard Haileselassie as God and Holy.

From these and other points expressed in the novel, we can arguably say that *Agazi* was primarily written to show the author’s respect to the Emperor rather than showing the Maychew historical event by means of fiction. The author seems to be very apologist, as one can understand from the evidences given. He portrays the Emperor as “god” or/and “holy” figure using different Biblical referents drawn from his experiences of religious education (Molvaer, 1997, pp. 35-37). Therefore, we can say that it is not a plausible representation of the Maychew event. The author’s use of Biblical languages and references in the literary discourses likely reveals his concealed feeling he has towards the Emperor; and this in turn shows the power of words in revealing ideologies of authors (Fairclough, 1995, pp. 17 – 18; Wodak, 2002, p. 11).

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### Symbols

The following symbols are used for the transliteration of Ethiopian words

Vowel	Symbol	Example
1 <sup>st</sup> order	ä	ጾ' zäfänä
2 <sup>nd</sup> order	u	G<K< hulu
3 <sup>rd</sup> order	i	H>É hid
4 <sup>th</sup> order	a	^^ rarra
5 <sup>th</sup> order	e	u?f bet

6 <sup>th</sup> order	ĩ	Ó´	ĩgĩr
7 <sup>th</sup> order	o	JÉ	hod
Consonant	Symbol	Example	
g	š	gg	ššššä
k	q	qp	qoq
†	č	t{t{	čäräččärä
-	ñ	™™	ñoñño
¶	ž	Ń»	gāž
¾	y	Ä•Ä	yittay
Ē	j	ÉÓ´	jägna
Ö	t	Ö×	t'ä't'a
Ú	č'	Ÿ"ŸŸ	tänč'ač'č'a
â	p'	ä~<KAe	p'awlos
i	s'	iiƒ	s'äs'ät

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# **Assessing Reading Habits of Students in Higher Institutions of Ethiopia: A Prime Implication for Sustainable Development**

**Misganaw Tilahun Tegege**

## **ABSTRACT**

The main purpose of this study was to assess the reading habits of university of Gondar students.

The participants were some selected third year students at university of Gondar. To achieve the intended objective, descriptive survey design was employed. Purposive sampling was used to select university of Gondar as research site. The validity and reliability of the research instruments were validated. Questionnaire and interview were employed as a data collection instrument. For data analysis, quantitative and qualitative techniques were employed. Results indicate that students' reading habit is very discouraging and many of the students do not have good reading habit. Recommendations are therefore made, hence reading materials and reference books should be incorporated in the university library in order to make fruitful reading and reading clubs should be established in the universities.

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**Keywords:** Reading, Habit, Reading habit, Sustainable –development

## **INTRODUCTION**

Reading means plucking out all the subtle threads of meaning from sentences, paragraphs and pages and weaving them into your own personality (Sterl A. 1953). According to Goodman (1970) reading is a complex process by which a reader reconstructs, to some degree, a message encoded by a writer in graphic language. People read materials, which might help them, to learn more about their day to day activities, occupations or about their hobbies. Students use reading to acquire knowledge which is related to scholastic success; indeed young people view this as the primary

motive for reading.

Reading has been, thus, the passion of the greatest personalities of all times. Humans have been reading since ages and thus words of knowledge have been passed on through generations. The reading habit influences the promotion of one's personal development in particular and social progress in general. Regular and systematic reading sharpens the intellect, refines the emotions, elevates the tastes and provides perspectives for one's living and, thereby, prepares a person for an effective participation in the social, religious, cultural and political life. Reading fires the imagination of the person and it adds new sight to eyes and new wisdom to mind. Reading also loads the mind with new software (Satija, 2002).

Because of all these important reasons, reading should be a habit. As Nssien (2008) points out, reading habit is the use of reading as a regular activity. It is the cultivation of an attitude and a possession of skills that make reading a pleasurable, regular and constant activity. Reading habit is identified as the single most important determinant of a student's success in education in our modern complex society.

In line with this, leading world nations pride themselves on their promotion of reading. They see a high level of literacy as a major source of their competitiveness and social maturity. The absence of a widespread culture of reading in a nation acts as a powerful barrier to development and international competitiveness. The economic, social and political health of a nation today depends on building literate citizens that are able to read widely and apply it practically for development (Kingsley 2011). Canisius (2012) also notes that the cultivation of a reading culture, especially among the youth in tertiary institutions will boost their academic excellence and ultimately the growth in the prospects of their countries'.

Although reading has all these significances, and to make it a habit is a good act for the development of a nation, the people of Africa are not good readers. In relation to this, Sangkaeo (1999) clearly states that "we are not a reading society in Africa but chatting society, the background of learning through culture; the cultural habit of people ... prefer to listening and chatting more than reading" (p.2).

Different factors affect the reading habits of the people. For instance, Abioye (2010b: 46) identifies globalization as one of the major challenges in effective reading. She argues further that the technology that has revolutionized communication resulting in globalization includes television, the internet, mobile phone and so on. Adenyinka (2007) also explains that inadequate book availability, lack of interesting children's literature, and watching television are identified as factors hindering pupils from developing reading habits.

Similarly, students and lectures in Ethiopian higher institutions are losing interest, as the researcher observed. Thus, the focus of the present study was to assess the reading habits of university of Gondar (one of the higher institutions of Ethiopia), of the students in based on the level reading, amount of time they spend on reading, availability of reading materials and the major factors hindering students from reading.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The main motivation for conducting this study spring from my reading experience, my observations of reading habits and environments in Ethiopia, students' performance on in-class written or oral presentations, and home assignments that demonstrate little reading experience. In addition, as Weller (2010) notes a reading

culture is at the heart of learning at higher education level and it allows students to capably interpret and draw conclusions from their reading. This implies that a reading culture within tertiary education would enable students to read, write, and think more critically.

Moreover, teachers, educators, students and even laymen themselves also complain about the reading habits of students in Ethiopian higher institutions. In addition, they suggested their own reasons for the problem. Therefore, the present study was designed to assess the reading habits of students in University of Gondar students and to propose recommendations to enhance the students' reading habits so as to produce enlightened citizens who can move the country forward.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study was to assess the reading habits of university of Gondar students.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- investigate the level of reading habits of students
- find out the amount of time the students spend in reading
- investigate the availability of reading materials and
- identify the major factors hindering students from reading.

### **Significance of the study**

It is anticipated that being based on the findings, the students in higher education institutions in Ethiopia in general and university of Gondar students in particular can be benefited in improving their reading habits depending up on the causes of their problems. By using this information, actions may be taken to improve the students' reading habits based on the causes of their problems and it can help the development of the country. Finally, since researcher on the reading habits in the Ethiopian context have been limited, this study is expected to serve as a springboard for further studies in the area.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design**

The main purpose of this study was to assess the reading habits of university of Gondar students. Hence, descriptive survey was used as it enables the researchers to describe the current status of an area of study that is reading habits of the students.

### **Population**

As the purpose of this study was to assess the reading habits of University of Gondar students, Hence, the target population of the study was third year university of Gondar students, who have been attending their education in the academic year 2017/2018. First, Second, fourth and fifth year students were excluded from the research.

### **Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

As it is too difficult to manage conducting this study on all universities of Ethiopia, the researcher has decided to undertake the study at one university. The university was purposely selected out of 41 universities. Therefore, using purposive sampling, university of Gondar was selected for the research purpose since the students in this university had the problem of reading habit as the researchers' experience of

teaching in the university showed and, thereby, believed that they obtained rich data from the subjects. In addition, all the colleges under the university were included in the research.

On the other hand, simple random sampling is used to select the sample departments and students from the university. Simple random sampling is the basic sampling technique where we select a group of subjects (a sample) for study from a large group (a population). Each individual is chosen entirely by chance and each member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample (Valerie J. A. and John M.H.)

In an attempt to assess the reading habits of University of Gondar students, who are randomly selected across all colleges and departments, were asked to respond freely to the questions asked in the questionnaire and interview. As a result, the researchers selected 73 third year students from the total of 6000 students and 7 departments: the college of social sciences and the humanities; Geography, College of Business and Economics; accounting department, the Institute of Technology; electrical and computer engineering department, college of natural and computational chemistry department; the college of veterinary medicine; veterinary department, college of agriculture and rural transformation; rural development department and college of medicine and public health; midwifery and public health departments who attended their education during the academic years of 2017/2018.

Moreover, the researcher selected 7 instructors from the selected departments, who have the experience of teaching Gondar University students. Therefore, the instructors were selected primarily on their willingness to participate in the study using purposive sampling. The researcher felt that they would get detailed information from the instructors about the reading habit of students and the factors hindering students from reading.

### **Instruments and Procedures of Data collection**

Questionnaire and interview were used to collect data about the reading habits of students.

#### **Questionnaire**

The questionnaire survey was used to generate the data pertaining to an assessment of the reading habits of students. A modified questionnaire tagged 'Children's Reading Habits Scale' was used. The items in the instrument/questionnaire were adapted from (Panigrahi and Panda, 1996) Reading Interest Scale and Darko (2005), Reading Habits Pilot Survey (see appendix A). All the modifications in the questionnaire were made for the purpose of clarity and relevance to the reading habits of students. For this purpose, both open and close-ended types of questions were prepared and distributed among the students.

#### **Interview**

In addition to the questionnaire, the researchers used interview as a method of data collection to triangulate and enrich the data that were obtained through questionnaire. It helped the researchers to identify the reading habits of students. To this effect, two sets of interviews were designed and administered to the instructors and students. Accordingly, 12 students were selected from four departments. As Seliger and Shohamy (1989) pointed out, in semi-structured interview there are specific core questions determined in advance from which the interviewer branches off to explore in-depth information, probing according to the way the interview proceeds, and al-

lowing elaboration, within limits.

The researcher took careful notes in all interviews. The interview process was varied in length

from 25 minutes to 30 minutes. The interviews were informal and open-ended.

### **Validity and Reliability of Instruments**

Once these data collection instruments were developed in a manner discussed above, different procedures have been employed to get evidences of the validity and reliability of these instruments. In this section, evidences of these qualities obtained from the validation team of experts and the pilot study are discussed.

### **Validity and Reliability of interviews**

To validate the interview items, the researcher used the following procedures: before the actual data collection, the questions were given to colleagues, who have the expertise on research. The validation, thus, was made to get some evidence on whether the content of the items was relevant in helping to answer the research questions as well as to check the clarity of the questions. Wiersma (2000) maintains that the reliability of interviews can be endangered by conscious or unconscious bias the interviewer may induce in the procedures. This can be reflected in differential treatments of subjects (for example, with respect to the length of time given and asking questions out of sequence). Gray (2004) suggests that the use of more than one interviewer and using the same protocol for different interviews can minimize this bias.

### **Validity and Reliability of Questionnaires**

The content and face validity of the questionnaire used to collect data from students and instructors was ascertained by the colleagues who validated the interview schedules. The researcher gained useful insights from these colleagues, especially about the content validity and clarity of questions and instructions in the questionnaire. On the basis of their comments, the researcher revised the contents of the questionnaires before they were used in the pilot study while students' questionnaire originally consisted of a total of 13 items, was as reduced to 12 items after it was learnt from the validation team that two items were repetitive.

In order to make questionnaire items generate the data needed for the study, it was also important to get some evidence of reliability. In this regard, the pilot study helped the researcher to check the internal consistency of the questions used in the questionnaires. Hence, in the case of the student questionnaire, the internal consistency reliability of items coined in Likert scale format was checked and found to be 0.80 Cronbach's alpha.

### **Data analysis**

In this study, both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques were employed. The data collected through questionnaire survey were analyzed quantitatively by using simple mean percentage.

On the other hand, the data obtained through interview were analyzed in qualitative data analysis method. That is, the researcher followed the following data analysis procedures of Ritchie and Spencer (1994). First, the researcher compiled the data that were obtained from interview. Then in order to familiarize with the obtained data, the researcher read the respondents' responses repeatedly. Second, by creating a thematic framework, a category system was employed. That is, the responses were categorized based on the research questions. Third, the researcher sorted out the quotes

of respondents by giving more emphasis for keywords and phrases and made comparisons both within and between the cases. Fourth, lifting the quotes from their original context put similar ideas together by rearranging them under the newly developed thematic content. Finally, the data were mapped and interpreted in narrative form in order to make intellectual and philosophical sense. Finally, results obtained from such analyses were discussed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Findings and Discussions on the students' Reading Habits

To identify the level of students' reading habits, the questionnaire and interviews of students as well as instructors were analyzed. There are various standards for measuring reading habits. Among them, one of the most common ones is the standard set by the American Library Association, which is preferred in this study: (1) Those who read below five books per year are called *seldom readers*, (2) Those who totally read between six and twenty books per year are called *moderate readers*, (3) Those who totally read above twenty books per year are called *constant readers*.

Therefore, University of Gondar students were asked how many books they read over the last years in order to determine their reading habits. The answers are listed in Table 1 below:

**Objective1** Identify the level of reading habits of students

**Table 1a. Level of reading over the last one year**

	Item	Response %
:1	None	4.2
2	1 -5	67.6
3	6 – 20	19.7
4	More than 20	8.4
	Total	100

As it is clear from table 1, about 67.6 % of the students are seldom readers; 19.7% of the students are moderate readers and 8.4% of the students are constant readers. This indicates that most of the students' reading habit is very poor. Regarding the students' reading habit, the students' and the instructors' interviews also showed that the students' reading habit was very poor. For instance, for interview question number 1:

Q. 1. What can you say about your reading habit?

One of the students responded, "I have not a habit of reading for pleasure." Similarly, another student said, "My reading habit is poor so that I haven't the experience of reading for a long time" In support of the student's idea, one of the interviewees from the instructors also responded to question number 1 as follows:

Q.1. Do you think that your students have good reading habit?

He said, “No. The students’ reading habit is not good that they haven’t participated actively when they are asked questions that need the students’ additional knowledge” In support of this idea, Amberbir (2010) found that current Ethiopian reading habit is different from that of the 1970 due to various reasons such as technology.

**Table 1b Purpose of reading**

	Items	Responses %
1	To pass exam	56.3
2	For pleasure	4.2
3	For personal development	38
4	To pass time	1.4
	Total	100

**Table1b** shows the purpose of the students’ reading. This shows that 56.3 % of the students have the perception that reading is done only for passing exam and that of 38 % were for personal development. The response further indicated that about 4.2 % read for pleasure and 1.4 % of them read for time pass.

In addition to the questionnaire, the interview reveals the purpose of the students’ reading as follows:One of the participant students responded, “*I have been reading to pass examinations*”. Likewise another student replied, “*I have been reading to score good grade*”

**Table 1c. Distribution of the respondents reading material in order of significance**

	Item	Response %
	Newspapers	7
	Academic books	77.4
	Fiction	5.6
	Religious books	4.2
	Magazines	2.8
	Others	2.8
	Total	100

**Table 1c** shows that most of the students (77.4 %) felt reading academic books most significant and 7% of the participant’s thought reading newspapers is significant. This is followed by fiction 5.6% participants, religious books 4.2%, magazines 2.8% and others 2.8% participants in this order.

**Objectives No. 2** To find out the amount of time the students spend in reading

**Table 2 Hours spent on reading daily**

	Time/Hours spent per day	Response %
1	Less than an hour	4.2
2	1 -2 hours	19.7
3	2 - 3 hours	14
4	3 - 4 hours	4.2
5	4 – 5 hours	2.8
6	More than 5 hours	1.4
7	When get time	53.5
	Total	100

**Table 2** reveals that 4.2% participants spent less than an hour on reading per day. While 19.7% read for 1-2 hour and 53.5% of participants read when they get time; whereas, 2.8 % of the participants read 4 – 5 hours per day. Only 1.4% of participants read more than 5 hours per day. This shows that most of the students read when they get time that the reading habit of the participants is not encouraging.

In line with this, one student from the interviewee responded, *“I haven’t a program to read”*. Similarly another student says, *“I read when I have time”*

Likewise, one of the instructors explained, *“the reading habits of our students are encouraging.”*

**Objective 3:** To find out the availability of reading materials

**Table 3: Students’ perception of availability of reading material**

	Items	Yes	No	Total
1	Do you feel that the resources in your library are adequate?	25.3	74.6	100
2	Are you satisfied with the present library services of your university?	19.7	80.2	100
3	Do you have opportunities to borrow books from your university library?	30.9	69	100

Table 3 shows that 74.6% felt existing reading materials in their library are not adequate. 80.2% of participants indicate that they are not satisfied with the present services of the university library. 69% participants said that they do not have opportunity of borrowing books from the university library.

In relation to this, one of the students responded interview question no 2 as follows:

1. To what extent are the reading materials in the libraries sufficient for the students?

*“There is lack of reading materials in the library”*

One of the instructors also responded, “Since the university is new there is scarcity of books in the libraries”

#### 4.2. Findings and discussions on factors hindering students from reading

**Objectives 4:** To identify the major factors hindering University of Gondar students from reading

**Table 4: Hindrances to reading**

S.N.	Hindrances	Responses	
		F	%
1	Playing sports/ games	4	5.6
2	Watching TV	9	12.6
3	Home assignments given by teachers	14	19.7
4	Non availability of books	8	11
5	Absence of reading habits	15	21
6	Lack of time	3	4
7	Increasing price of books	4	5.6
8	Using social media like face book	6	8.4
9	Absence of models regarding to reading	2	2.73
10	Household jobs	3	4.2
11	Lack of early reading experience	2	2.73
12	The education system	3	4.2
	Total	73	100

Table 4 reveals that among the factors indicated as hindrances to the students' reading habit, absence of reading habits was rated higher with 21.1% of participants. This is followed by home assignments given by teachers with 19.7 % while watching TV as the next factor by 12.6 % of students. About 11.2 % students felt the non availability of books as hindrance. Using social media such as facebook and twitter is a hindrance identified by 8.4 % students. About 5.6 % students believed playing sports/ games and increasing price of books are the hindrances. 4.2 % of participants felt lack of time, household jobs and the education system as barriers. 4.2 % of the participants thought absence of models regarding to reading and lack of early reading experience were the hindrances. Regarding the factors that affect the students' reading habit, the students and instructors' responses in their interviews are discussed below:

### **Q. 3. What do you think are the major factors hindering you from reading?**

One of the interviewee students responded, *"Well! The main hindrance of reading for me is absence of reading habits. This is due to the lack of models in home and school during my childhood." "Home assignments given by teachers are also one of the factors that affect my reading" said one of the interviewee students.*

In support of the student's idea, one of the instructors also responded question number 2 as follows:

### **Q.3. what do think are the major factors hindering students from reading?**

*The major factors hindering students from reading are lack of reading habit, watching TV, household jobs, absence of models regarding to reading and lack of early reading experience said one of the instructors. Another instructor responded that the social media, absence of reading habit, lack of models and watching TV are the main factors that affect the students' reading habit.*

In connection with this, Abioye (2010b: 46) identifies globalization as one of the major challenges in effective reading. She argues further that the technology that has revolutionized communication resulting in globalization includes television, the internet, mobile phones, etc. affected reading habits.

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Summary**

The objective of the study was to assess the students' reading habit, to find out the level of their reading habits to investigate the amount of time the students spend in reading, to find out the availability of reading materials and to identify the major factors hindering students from reading. In order to achieve these objectives, data were gathered from the subjects. The subjects of the study were third year university of Gondar students, who attended their education in 2017/2018. The data were gathered using questionnaire and interview. The data gathered by using questionnaire was analyzed quantitatively and the data gathered by using interview were analyzed qualitatively. The major findings of the study were that the students' reading habit was poor. The result also indicated that their poor reading habit was due to the absence of reading habits, home assignments, watching TV, non availability of books, attraction to social media such as facebook and twitter, playing sports/ games, increase in the price of books, lack of time, household jobs, the education system, absence of models regarding to reading and lack of early reading experience.

### **CONCLUSION**

The following are the major observations that could be made from the study on the reading habits of university of Gondar students.

1) The students' reading habit is very discouraging that many of the students do not have good reading habit. Only a few students have good reading habit and these students also read for academic purpose and for personal development. Most of the students preferred to read academic books and newspapers, while some of them read fictions, and a few among them have interest to read religious books and magazines.

2) On the number of hours an average student spends on reading daily, it was revealed that 53.5% read when they got time i.e. not a fixed time while 19.7% were reading for 1-2 Hours. This shows that reading habits in this part are not good.

3) The other result reveals that the students are not satisfied with their library services and have not obtained enough reference books. In addition, it is difficult to borrow books from the library.

4) Furthermore, the results reveal that the students used most of their time doing home assignments given by instructors. Watching TV and playing sports/ are the other factors identified as those hindering them from developing good reading habits.

### Recommendations

1. Different reading materials and reference books should be incorporated in the university library in order to make fruitful reading.
- 2) The copies of leading newspapers and magazines should be procured in the university libraries in such a number as to meet the requirements of the students.
- 3) The university librarian should encourage the trainee teachers to read more books, newspapers, magazines regularly.
- 4) The university should provide internet facilities in the library.
- 5) The university can arrange reading- based conferences and discussions, which help trainee teachers to develop personal reading interests.
- 6) Reading clubs should be established in the university .

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# A Review on the Strategy for Selective Design of Supramolecular Metal Organic Frameworks (SMOFs)

Jintha Thomas Gipson

## ABSTRACT

Considering the importance of Metal Organic Frameworks (MOFs), herein, we present an overview of the synthetic strategy to obtain a related but new family of MOFs called Supramolecular Metal–Organic Frameworks (SMOFs) based on metal–nucleobase discrete entities as an alternative to more conventional Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs). Metal–nucleobase based SMOFs can be designed by (i) the use of rigid building units, (ii) the establishment of predictable and rigid synthons between the building units, and (iii) the non–coplanarity of functional groups involved in the predictable synthons. A suitable system that would fulfil all the above described requirements for obtaining SMOFs are the discrete metal–nucleobase systems, especially those based on purine nucleobases.

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**Key words:** *Photocatalysis, Metal biomolecular framework, Supramolecular metal organic framework*

## INTRODUCTION

Metal Organic Frameworks are well studied because of their structural beauty, diversity of properties, structural and functional tunability, and large number of applications.<sup>1,2</sup> For the past few years researchers are focusing to develop MOFs with high surface areas,<sup>3</sup> high hydrogen storage capacity,<sup>4</sup> selective heterogeneous catalysis,<sup>5</sup> magnetic sorting,<sup>6</sup> channels capable of conducting polymerization,<sup>7</sup> selective capture of carbondioxide,<sup>8</sup> host dependent luminescence<sup>9</sup>, proton conduction<sup>10</sup> and artificial photosynthesis and photo–catalysis.<sup>11</sup> Their crystalline nature, high and per-

manent porosity, uniform pore sizes, extraordinary surface areas, and finely tunable pore–surface properties have made these materials an attractive target for further study.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, these easily modifiable materials were well studied and new methods have been developed to create novel porous flexible materials,<sup>13</sup> and MOF nanoparticles.<sup>14</sup> Likewise, simple synthetic strategies have been developed to produce these materials in industrial scale and thus boosting their potential impact in the market.<sup>15-18</sup>

Porosity is considered as the hallmark physical property of the metal–organic frameworks.<sup>19</sup> Nowadays, MOFs possess the highest surface areas ever reported.<sup>20</sup> The recently reported MOFs named as NU-109E and NU-110E exhibit the highest surface area ever reported, 7110 and 7140 m<sup>2</sup>/g, respectively.<sup>21</sup> NU-110E consists of dicopper paddle-wheel SBUs connected by the BTTEI (BTTEI = 5,52,52,2-(((benzene-1,3,5-triyl-tris(ethyne-2,1-diyl))tris(benzene-4,1-diyl)tris(ethyne-2,1-diyl))triisophthalate)ligand with a solvent accessible volume of 93.0%.<sup>22</sup>

MOFs can have potential applications in biological areas including drug delivery, intracellular imaging and many proposed applications may require them to be built from non-toxic building materials and that are biologically and environmentally compatible.<sup>23</sup> This can be achieved by using biomolecules as the building blocks to construct Metal–Biomolecule Frameworks (MBioFs), which are defined as MOFs constructed from at least one biomolecule which serves as an organic linker.

In the present work we report a review on the designing of a new family of MOFs based on first row transition metal and nucleobases as ligands where secondary building blocks are connected by means of hydrogen bonds, which are also directional and predictable interactions,<sup>24</sup> to sustain the 3D crystal building. Nucleobases are considered as best candidates for this purpose due to their multiple binding positions and capability to establish doubly and triply hydrogen bonded complementary base pairing interactions. By employing discrete metal–nucleobase complexes in which the nucleobase is tightly anchored to the metal centres but exposing, at the same time, several hydrogen bond donor and acceptor positions to establish base pairing interactions, could sustain a robust supramolecular synthon. It was also found that the geometrical restrain imposed by the base pairing interactions could lead to an inefficient space occupation giving rise to a new family of porous materials. This novel family of complexes are named as Supramolecular Metal Organic frameworks (SMOFs)<sup>25</sup> where conventional node connector concept in the MOF chemistry has been replaced by intermolecular interactions like base pairing. The minimum requirements proposed for obtaining SMOFs includes (i) the use of rigid building units, (ii) the establishment of predictable and rigid synthons between the building units, and (iii) the non-coplanarity of functional groups involved in the predictable synthons. Various synthetic approaches were experimented using pyrimidine and purine nucleobases to meet the foresaid goals to design SMOFs are discussed in the following sections.

## METAL-PYRIMIDINE SYSTEMS

Pyrimidine bases were first employed for SMOF design owing to their high solubility in water and other organic solvents. Different complexes of cytosine were synthesised where they formed monomeric entities with Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> metal ions. The figure below shows few examples of cytosine complexes (Figure 1).

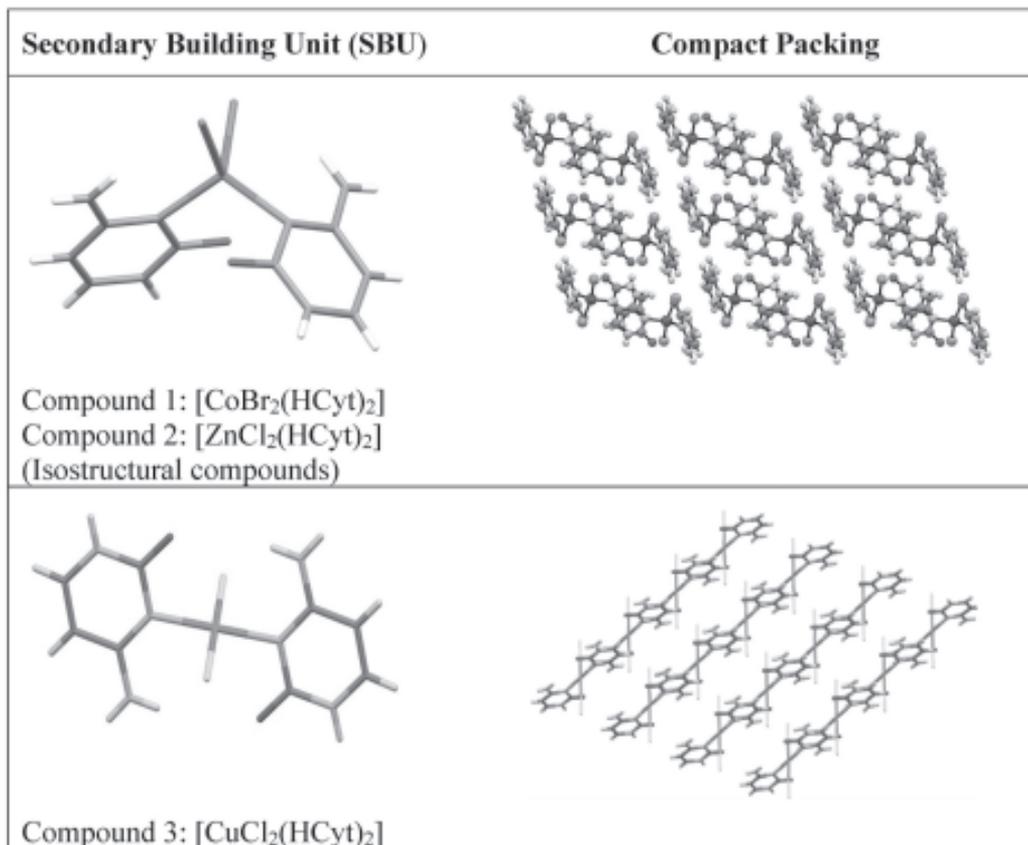


Figure 1: Examples of Metal-Cytosine complexes

Compounds 1, 2 and 3 shown above<sup>26</sup> could not meet the requirements for SMOF formation and hence resulted in compact packing with no accessible voids. Cytosine has less available donor positions in comparison to puric bases. In the above mentioned compounds, cytosine is coordinated through single donor sites to the metal ion, making it a less rigid building unit. Apart from that, there are only two coordinated cytosines and they could not extent base pairing interactions in 3D space. All these factors together make them non-porous materials.

### METAL –PURINE SYSTEMS

Puric bases have the advantage of multiple available donor positions leaving the possibility for coordination through more than one donor site at a time making the SBU a rigid building unit. The crystal structure of the first complex prepared with purine,  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-ade})_4(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ <sup>27</sup>, (compound 4) consists of paddle-wheel shaped  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  complex cations, chloride counterions and disordered water molecules. The structure of the dimeric complex cation is shown in Figure 2. The two copper(II) centers are bridged by four adenine moieties through their N3 and N9 nitrogen atoms resulting in a paddle-wheel like structure which is a rigid building unit. Being rigid, this structure meets the first requirement for the formation of SMOFs. However, the objective of obtaining a rigid synthon that could lead to robust su-

pramolecular arrays could not be fulfilled as water molecules disrupt the desired direct hydrogen bonding interactions between the nucleobases. The  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  units are held together by hydrogen bonding interactions mediated through the crystallization water molecules, that are in fact disordered altogether with the chloride counterions, giving rise to a complex network of hydrogen bonds. The crystal structure can also be described as layers of dimeric entities held together by means of water mediated  $\text{Cl1}\cdots\text{O}\cdots\text{O}\cdots\text{Cl1}$  and weaker  $\text{C8-H}\cdots\text{N1}$  hydrogen bonds. Among these complex sheets,  $^w$ disordered chloride and crystallization water molecules are placed. This leads to lesser stability of the compound and the crystal structure may collapse on removal of the solvated water molecules<sup>28</sup>.

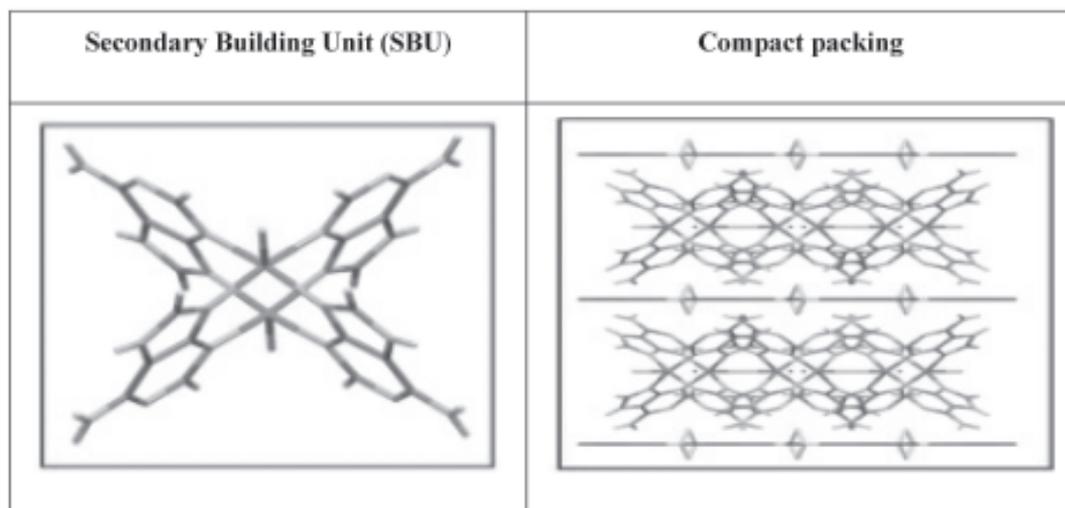


Figure 2: The structure of the dimeric complex cation  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  (compound 4) and the resulting non-porous network.

Figure 2: The structure of the dimeric complex cation  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  (compound 4) and the resulting non-porous network.

From these observations, it was assumed that the presence of strong hydrogen bonding solvents in the reaction media can disrupt the desired direct complementary base pairing interactions between the adenine moieties. Therefore, we focused to avoid the presence of water molecules during the following syntheses and, instead of water, alcohols were employed as solvent. Adopting this synthetic approach resulted in two compounds<sup>29</sup>  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Cl}_2] \text{Cl}_2$  (SMOF-1) and  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{Br}_2] \text{Br}_2$  (SMOF-2) which are isostructural and their crystal structure consists of windmill-like  $[\text{Cu}_2(\mu\text{-adenine})_4\text{X}_2]^{2+}$  complex cations, along with chloride or bromide counterions respectively, and disordered alcohol molecules.

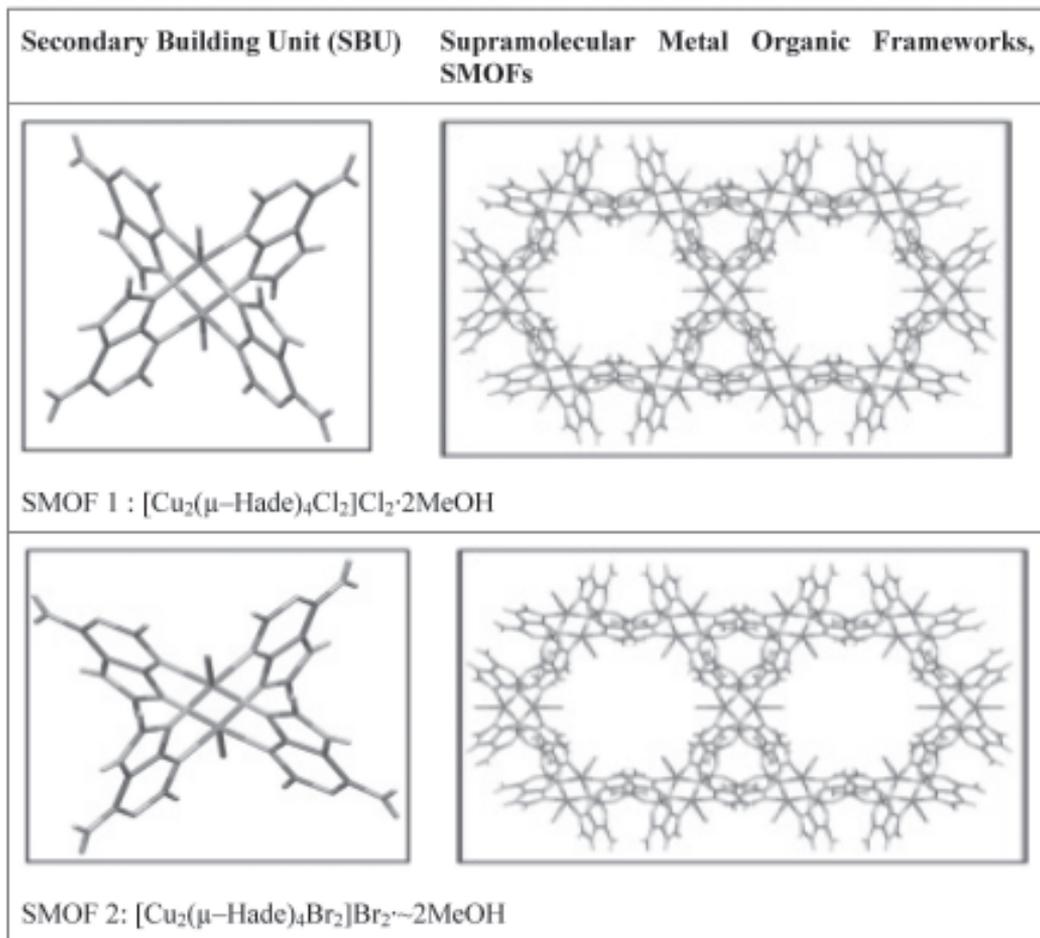


Figure 3: A perspective view of the dimeric entities of SMOF-1 and SMOF-2 together with the resulting porous networks.

The resulting porous structure consists of 1D tubular channels that run along the crystallographic *c* axis with a diameter of  $\sim 6.0$  Å (distance between van der Waals surfaces of opposite bromide anions). These channels represent 30% of the total crystal volume<sup>29</sup> and they are occupied by solvent methanol molecules in a highly disordered manner. Due to the greater size of bromide anion these values are somewhat lower than those found in the case of (SMOF-1) where the pore diameter is 6.3 Å and the accessible volume is 36%. Figure 3 shows a perspective view of the dimeric entity together the resulting porous network.

On examining the above discussed structures, it becomes clear how a combination of rigid tectons with rigid synthons spreading at least in three non-coplanar directions is a well suited route to obtain porous supramolecular networks. In this context, the metal-nucleobase complexes can be good candidates to fulfill both requirements when the nucleobase is anchored to the discrete entity by at least two positions to provide a rigid building unit. This anchoring and the aromatic nature of the nucleobase provide rigid supramolecular building units. On the other hand, the well-known complementary hydrogen bonding established between the nucleobases en-

sure the necessary rigidity of these synthons. Therefore, as it has been proved here the chances to obtain 3D supramolecular metal–organic frameworks based on metal–nucleobase systems are high. However, it is necessary to take care of the synthetic conditions in order to ensure the presence of the required direct hydrogen bonding interactions between the nucleobases.

## CONCLUSIONS

Herein, we have presented an overview of the synthetic strategy to obtain Supramolecular Metal–Organic Frameworks (SMOFs) based on metal–nucleobase discrete entities as an alternative to more conventional Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs). This can be achieved by (i) the use of rigid building units, (ii) the establishment of predictable and rigid synthons between the building units, and (iii) the non-coplanarity of functional groups involved in the predictable synthons. The rigidity of the building units can be achieved using rigid ligands bonded through multiple positions. It means, in most common cases, a double anchoring of the ligand by means of double coordination bonds or the combination of a coordination bond and an intramolecular hydrogen bond. The predictability and rigidity of the synthons requires the presence of adjacent functional groups, incorporated into the rigid ligands, able to establish complementary hydrogen bonding interactions. Finally, the requisite of non-coplanar arrangement of the synthons comes from our objective of obtaining three–dimensional extended systems that are achieved by the presence of at least three non-coplanar synthons. The use of complexes with non-planar coordination geometries makes this last condition easy to accomplish.

It has become clear that a suitable system that would fulfil all the above described requirements for obtaining SMOFs are the discrete metal–nucleobase systems, especially those based on purine nucleobases. These ligands provide, at one hand, the advantage of the increased rigidity of the supramolecular building block due to the coordination through multiple positions, and, on the other hand, they present more edges capable of establishing complementary hydrogen bonding interactions. Secondary building units that could fulfill all the three requirements resulted in the formation of Supramolecular Metal Organic Frameworks.

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# **Women in the works of the Eastern Church Fathers- John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa**

**Fr. Dr. Thomson Robi**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The second half of the fourth century witnessed the flowering of what can be called the Golden age of the Church Fathers. The period depicts the greatest writers and thinkers of Christian antiquity, both in Greek East and in the Latin west. They were all great and powerful personalities. John Chrysostom and the Gregory of Nyssa were the most influential Eastern Church fathers. Actually their writings became the source of early church in formulating the early Christian doctrines. They had great respect for women and applauded their contributions. The church fathers have been seen to some extent is responsible for the exclusion of women from playing important role in church and society. However, with regard to the contribution of women the Church Fathers have little mention of it and to a certain degree undermined women's contribution to church and society. In this paper I would like to present the Women in the works of the Eastern Church Fathers - John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa.

But from second century onwards due to the high culture of Greco-Roman world Greek philosophy made a profound impact upon Christianity and especially early Christian writers used the writing of Plato for their conceptual frame work. All of them have common phenomena that the Church Fathers were talking against the Gnosticism and Heresies aroused in those times. Even though they fought against them; they used Greek philosophy to establish their arguments that resulted in dualistic anthropology and male adorned paradigms. Hence a dualistic cosmology and a dualistic anthropology started playing a key role in the writings of church fathers. According to Rosemary Radford Ruether a "male monotheism" has been taken for granted in Judeo- Christian culture.<sup>1</sup> Male monotheism reinforces the social hierar-

chy of patriarchal rule through its religious system and its literatures. These patriarchal concepts got its sufficient space through the Greek language and the Roman imperial power.

## 2. John Chrysostom

John Chrysostom is one of the famous and most influential Eastern Church father. His life gives a sense of the awesome cost of Christian discipleship and of the truth that with God all things are possible. This teacher, on account of the fluency and sweetness of his eloquence, obtained the surname "Chrysostom" which means "Golden Mouth". He was presbyter at Antioch, later Patriarch at Constantinople and one of the foremost champions of truth in the early church.<sup>2</sup>

**Early Life-** He was born at Antioch, in the year 347; his parents were distinguished people in Antioch. His father Secundus was an officer of high rank in the Syrian Army. His mother Anthusa was of good birth and pious intelligent woman. His father died soon after his birth and was raised by her widowed mother who later became the inspiration in his moral and religious training.<sup>3</sup> In his treatise "On the Priesthood" John tells how much he owed to the care and self sacrifice of his mother.<sup>4</sup> The life of Chrysostom can be divided into five periods. 1) To the age of 23, when he was a layman at Antioch (347-70). 2) From his conversion at the age of 23 to the age of 34, when he lived as a monk (370-81). 3) From 34 to 51, when he worked and preached as a presbyter at Antioch (381- 98). 4) 51 to 57, when he was bishop of Constantinople (398-404). 5) And from 57 to 60, when he was in exile (404 to 407).

It was very decisive turning point in the life of Chrysostom when he met bishop Meletius. He captivated Chrysostom in such a way that he soon began to withdraw from classical and profane studies and devoted himself an ascetic and religious life. He pursued theological studied under Diodorus of Tarsus, one of the leaders of the lat Antiochian school. In the spirit of 381 St. Meletius ordained him as deacon. In the year 387 he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Flavian. He was consecrated as Arch bishop of Constantinople in 398 by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria. In 404 he was exiled to Comanan in Pontus. He died on 14<sup>th</sup> September 407 and buried at Comanan. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 438, his body was brought to Constantinople with great pomp and entombed in the church of the Apostles where Eudoxia had been buried in the year 404.<sup>5</sup> His understanding of the place and function of women can be seen as a result of his direct affiliation to his writings where he attempt to outline the connection of sexuality and holiness code.

### 2.1 Celibacy and marriage

**Widow:** Didascalia, the early church order illustrates different strategies early churches used to regulate Christian widows. Throughout ancient times, early Christian communities vacillated between helping widows and regulating widows' power and behavior. Widows were also a potential threat to the church that needed to be controlled. With the influence of didascalia Chrysostom simultaneously portrayed widows as needed to support and controlled<sup>6</sup>. Besides the series of homilies on I Timothy 13; 2- 15:1, a long homily on I Timothy 5:9-10 on the homily non widows has been preserved. Chrysostom believed that everything should be done to prevent them from "making trouble" by remarriage<sup>7</sup>. Chrysostom prescribed instead that a young widow should occupy herself with prayer. She should, moreover, refrain from responding to questions of faith which might be put to her "lest by uttering something unlearned she might inflict blasphemy on the word"<sup>8</sup>.

Chrysostom says in the same vein that because our life consists of two spheres, the public and the household, God has imparted to each sex its own — to the women the care of the household, and to the men all concerns referring to the city and the agora, administration of justice, strategy. The woman cannot throw a spear or shoot an arrow, but she can sew and spin. She cannot vote in the city council, but can act in household affairs. She cannot order the affairs of the people. So God has neatly divided everything; no one is superfluous, no one can be proud as though he were capable of both roles. The more necessary and honorable God has given to the male, the slighter and less honorable to the female. Thus the man, because he is needed, will be the more diligent, and the woman through the inferiority of her service will not be rebellious toward her mate.

**Virginity:** Chrysostom like many other church fathers made extensive comments about virgins. He eloquently praises virginity/chastity and its heavenly rewards, arguing that true virginity can be achieved only if the celibate life is chosen freely. Chrysostom elaborates: It is not enough to be unmarried to be a virgin. There must be spiritual chastity, and I mean by chastity not only the absence of wicked and shameful desire, the absence of ornaments and superfluous cares, but also being unsoiled by life's cares<sup>9</sup>. His opinion on the practice of virginity is that, it posed a direct challenge to the city. Through out his sermons, Chrysostom insisted that young men and women were no longer married, so that their sexual energies might contribute to the city by producing children. He also present that the sexual drives of women are weaker compared to men.<sup>10</sup> Chrysostom notes that not just the one point of never having had sex defines, virginity: she who is careful for things of the world cannot be a virgin' and evil' is not in cohabitation but in impediments to the strictness of life. He articulated and emphasized a much greater concern for the fitness of behavior in virgins.

**Marriage:** Chrysostom understood marriage as a garment fit for mortals or slaves. In continued of that he said where there is death, there is marriage.<sup>11</sup> He also likened marriage to slavery to women and set to work also to weaken their natural inclination towards children. He also stated that, originally marriage had two purposes "of procreation and the passion of nature", but now — there is only one reason remaining for it, the prevention of indecency and licentiousness.<sup>12</sup> Chrysostom insisted that marriage was no longer meant for producing children but to help each other to control their own bodies. He averred that marriage was no longer appropriate to this age "as the present time hasten to its end and the resurrection is at the door, it is not the time for marrying and piling up possession."<sup>13</sup>

In the following sermon Chrysostom says that a woman who believes may instruct her husband, although Paul wishes it otherwise in his letters, where it is said that a woman may not teach. In a mixed marriage, however, the roles are turned about: there the wife instructs her husband. Thus it follows that the slavery of a woman arises not from her nature but from sin. Therefore it is true also of slaves (in the narrower sense): if they believe, they are no longer slaves, but freed men of the lord. In that case "slave" is from now on an empty word (øéëíí ðííñá). Therefore Paul too says (1 Cor. 7, 21): if you can be free, then "rather remain so," which means "remain rather in slavery." So even as it was a much greater miracle to protect the three youths unharmed in the furnace than to quench the furnace fire, so too is it a much greater miracle to attain freedom while slavery endures.<sup>14</sup> It is well known that there are two tendencies among the Fathers in the explication of 1 Cor. 7, 21. The one says: if you can become free, use this opportunity. The other: even in such a case,

rather be a better slave. Chrysostom follows here the second explication, as he does in his homily on 1 Cor. 7, where he says that he knows well that other people interpret differently, but he himself rejects the first meaning.

## 2.2 Subjection of Women

**A transgressor through Eve:** In his interpretation to I Timothy 2:11-15 he states "The women (=Eve) taught once, did ruined all. On this account therefore he saith, let her not teach. But what is it to other women, that she suffered this? It certainly concerns them, for the sex is weak and fickle and he is speaking of the sex collectively. For he says not eve, but women which is the common name of the whole sex, not her proper name, was then the whole sex included in the transgression for her fault? As he said Adam "After the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come"(Rom 5:14), so here the female sex transgressed and not male"<sup>15</sup> The male sex is of higher honor, for the man was created first; once woman did instruct man, and she brought everything to confusion; and she brought him to disobedience. Therefore God made her subject, because she had misused her preeminence — or better, her equal value. Thereupon he explained how Paul could say that Eve was seduced, but not Adam. For the Old Testament states that Eve said "The snake seduced me," but Adam said, "She gave me to eat, and I did eat." Moreover Eve was deceived by a lower being, Adam by a free being. And it is not written of Adam that he saw that the fruit was good to eat. He was thus not seized by sensual desire. Then he proceeds: the prohibition on teaching is intended for all women, even now; "For the sex (as such) is weak and frivolous." And Paul does not say that Eve was seduced, but that the woman was seduced. Even Chrysostom still testifies that in Paul's time women spoke publicly: "There are men and women who spoke prophetically, for women too at that time had this charisma, as the daughters of Philip, like others before and after them," as Joel (2, 28) and Peter (Acts 2, 17f.) have said.<sup>16</sup>

Slavery came only through sin. The first is the slavery by which men rule over women. After sin that was necessary. Before sin woman was equal in value (ἴσους) to man. Chrysostom demonstrates this from the texts of Genesis, especially from the words "a helpmate who corresponds to him" (Gen. 2, 18), which is not said of the animals. After sin however it was said: He will rule over you. Thus God says: I have created you equal, but you have not used your ruling position well; descend to subjection. You have not borne freedom; accept slavery. You were unable to rule; then become one of the ruled, acknowledge the man as lord. Then Chrysostom cites the famous Pauline text and asks further: Why is woman subjugated, why may she not teach? Once she taught Adam falsely, once she dominated. And for that reason God removed her from the seat of teaching. God has indeed moderated the slavery: Men, love your wives (Eph. 5), but you women should not direct your attention so much on that but rather on the fact that the nature of slavery was brought about through sin.<sup>17</sup>

**Salvation in Child bearing:** The Early Church Fathers regarded woman as a problem because, they said, it was through her that sin entered the world. Chrysostom made it clear that, Eve's deception affected all women. It should be clear that while many of the Fathers regarded woman as a problem because of Eve's sin, because of Eve's deception women lost their divine image. The only chance of salvation and redemption for women is by the upbringing of children. Chrysostom brings forth his explanation in his homily on I Timothy 5:10 by saying that women are not to be cast down but he encouraged them that, God has given them another opportunity. He meant to say that salvation for them comes through child bearing than through

the Christian soteriological scheme of the death and resurrection of the son of God.

**Women: Silence Enjoin:** As Paul enjoins on women, and Chrysostom enjoins on women to respect teachers, fathers and the general assembly of the church. When women were honoured, Chrysostom states that, Paul might have specific reason for being honoured. In the case the silence of women he strongly affirmed on the statement of Paul. John Chrysostom, in his commentary on 1 Tim., Homily 9, says, after an elucidation of the text, that in Paul's time the women were in fact silent, but now there is much noise, more than in the marketplace or in the baths. But Paul said not only that the women should be silent on day-to-day affairs but also on spiritual affairs. In order to cut off any possibility of speech, he further said that they should not teach. Through their silence, women show their subjection. "For somehow the [female] sex is given to chatter; therefore he does not permit it to utter a single word."<sup>18</sup>

A similar statement he made in his Homily on I Timothy 11:11-15. "Let the women learn in silence", that is let her not speak at all in the church and the reason is that the law has made them subject to men. And again elsewhere "— to such a degree should women be silent, that they are not allowed to speak not about worldly matters, but not even about spiritual things, in the church".<sup>19</sup>

### 2.3 Women in the church

**Segregated from Authority and teaching:** John Chrysostom segregated from authority and teaching. In his homily on *the Kind of Women who ought to be taken as wives*<sup>20</sup> wrote: "To woman is assigned the presidency of the household, to man all the business of the state; the market place, the administration of justice, government, the military ... Indeed this is the work of God's love and wisdom that he who is skilled at the greater things is downright inept and useless at the performance of less important ones, so that the woman's service is necessary ... If the more important, more beneficial concerns were turned over to the woman she would go quite mad ... God maintained the order of each sex by dividing the business of human life into two parts and assigned the more necessary and beneficial aspects to the man and the less important inferior matters to the woman"<sup>21</sup>

Regarding teaching, Chrysostom says "but let them join in the rank of learners"<sup>22</sup> He commented the women already talked too much and teaching he believed would make them proud. "Thus they should show their submissiveness by their silence, as the sex is in a certain way loquacious"<sup>23</sup> And again, "Let her not teach ... for the female sex is weak and vain". They could lead men away, Chrysostom even mooted that they be denied freedom of speech because certain women had found fault with church authorities. Chrysostom resisted the tendency to accept the leadership of women.<sup>24</sup> Chrysostom accepted that women ministered in leadership in the church at the beginning but he himself believed that only when "the angelic condition" would be restored could women be permitted to work in the service of the Gospel, to prophecy and be called disciples or apostles. He did not totally deny women's preaching ministry, but he meant those women who were involved in the ministry of teaching were not priest. For him it was just a kind of exhortation and advice in private.

For Chrysostom women placed a lower role both in the church and society. It is astonishing for Chrysostom part that all through his life women ( like his mother, and Marcella his companion etc) became an inspiration and I feel he regard them emotionally and intellectually as a guide at the same time due to the influence of the society and tradition he always considered them weaker and light minded. Chrysostom clearly pictures out the difference between male and female. He quite Paul, for the

man ought not to be veiled, for he is the image and glory of God. But woman is the glory of man (1 Corin 11:7). Therefore she ought to have a veil on her head. He emphasized clearly that a wife is the second authority, for which she cannot demand equality. "The wife is a second authority, let not her then demand equality for she is under the head, nor let him despise her as being in subjection, for she is the body and if the head despises the body, it will itself also perish".<sup>25</sup>

**The office of Deaconess:** Chrysostom favoured the office of the deaconess and encouraged their work, but he did not feel the need to speak of the institution of deaconess. Olympias was prominent deaconess in Constantinople and a friend of Chrysostom. During his exile he wrote about 238 letters of which 17 are addressed to the deaconess Olympias.<sup>26</sup> He for only an instant lingered with the women in the passage on deacons in the I Timothy.( 3:11).

**Conclusion:** St. John Chrysostom as orator, exegete, essayist, educationalist, witness to and confessor of the faith all has relevance for the church today. For bishops he is an example of valiant defence of church rights, fearless in correcting abuses and tireless in pastoral labours, especially for the poor and sick. He personally had great respect for women and applauded their contribution, but in his homilies there is found limited place for women both in church and society. He considered women as weaken being and light minded. He did not recognize women doing priestly ministry.

### 3. Gregory of Nyssa

In the role of the Nicene Fathers there is no more honoured name that of Gregory of Nyssa. Besides the praises of his great brother Basil and of his equally great friend Gregory of Nazianzen, the sanctity of his life, his theological learning, and his strenuous advocacy of the faith embodied in the Nicene causes, have received the praises of Jerome, Socrates, Theodoret and many other Christian writers. Indeed such was the estimation in which he was held that some did not hesitate to call him 'the Father of Fathers' as well as 'the Star of Nyssa'.<sup>27</sup>

**Early Life:** Gregory of Nyssa was a native of Cappadocia, and was born most probably at Caesarea, the capital, about A.D.335 or 336. No province of the Roman Empire had in those early ages received more eminent Christian bishops than Cappadocia and the adjoining district of Pontus. The family of Gregory of Nyssa was one of considerable wealth and distinction, and one also conspicuously Christian. Gregory's father Basil died at early age, leaving a family of ten children, five of whom were boys and five girls, under the care of their grandmother Macrina and mother Emmelia. Gregory of Nyssa was the third son, and one of the youngest of the family. All the sons and daughters appear to have been of high character.

Besides the uncertainty as to the year and place of his birth it is not known where he received his education. His great master is his brother Basil. He constantly speaks of him as the revered 'Master'. Throughout his life his older sister Macrina and brother Basil were major influences on his religious development and education. He married Theosebia, a woman of high intellectual standing and greatly beloved, said to have been a sister of Gregory of Nazianzen. Certainly the tradition of Gregory's marriage received such credit as to be made in after times a proof of the non-celibacy of the bishops of his age.<sup>28</sup> He was settled for several years at his brother's monastery in Pontus, and devoted himself to the study of the Scripture and the works of his master Origen. About A.D 365, Basil succeeded Eusebius as the Metropolitan of Caesarea in

Cappadocia. To strengthen himself in his position, and surrounded himself with defenders of the orthodox faith, he obliges his brother Gregory, in spite of his emphatic protest, to undertake the Bishopric of Nyssa, a small town in the west of Cappadocia, about A.D.371.

Gregory of Nyssa gave a striking proof of the extreme simplicity and unreflectiveness of his character. The Bishopric of Nyssa was indeed to Gregory no bed of roses. The enthusiasm of his faith on the subject of the Trinity and the Incarnation brought upon him the full weight of Arian and Sabellian hostility, aggravated as it was by the patronage of the Emperor. In fact his whole life at Nyssa was a series of persecutions.<sup>29</sup> He refuses to attend the synod at Gregory's own see of Nyssa, convened by Demosthenes and deposed from his Bishopric. He retires to Seleucia. In A.D.376 Gregory returned to Nyssa during the time of Gratian.

He took a prominent part in the second ecumenical council at Constantinople in 381 and he became one of the foremost champions in the Church of the East. Gregory is nominated as one of the Bishops who were to be regarded as the central authorities of Catholic Communion.

Scarcely anything is known of the latter years of Gregory of Nyssa's life. The last record we have of him is that he was present at a Synod of Constantinople; summoned A.D.394. It was there that Gregory delivered the sermon which was probably his last, wrongly entitled '*On his Ordination*'. His death (probably 395) is commemorated by the Greek Church on January 10, by the Latin on March 9.

### 3.1 His General Character as a Theologian:

The first who sought to establish rational considerations by the whole complex of orthodox doctrines. This marks the transition from ante-Nicene times. Now, that there is a 'complex of orthodox doctrine's to defend, philosophy becomes the handmaid of theology. Gregory of Nyssa in this respect has done the most important service of any of the writers of the church in the fourth century. Against polytheism he does indeed seek to defend Christianity by connecting it apologetically with Plato's system. He develops the truth of the Resurrection as much by the fulfillment of God's promises as by metaphysics. Evil with Gregory is to be found in the spontaneous proclivity of the soul towards matter: but not in Matter itself. He is very clear upon the relations between the three factors; body, matter, and evil. Gregory laying it down as a principle, that everything created is subject to change. Man, however, still looked to God and was filled with blessings (this is the ideal man of Gregory). He speaks of the division of the human race into male and female as a 'device', implying that it was not the first 'organization'. God is spirit i.e. the soul is spirit, and spirit is incomposite and indestructible.<sup>30</sup>

In his great treatise *On the Soul and the Resurrection*, he rests a great deal on the parallel between the relation of man to his body, and that of God to the world. 'The soul is as a cord drawn out of mind; God draws to Himself what is His own.' He calls the human spirit 'an influx of the divine in-breathing. In the treatise *On Virginity*, he is describing the development of his own moral and religious life. His treatment of the Sacraments in the *Oratio Catechetica* is noteworthy. Holy Spirit is actually given in Baptism. It is the same proof, to start with, as that which establishes that God came in the flesh when Christ came. A resurrection to a new life is begun in Baptism. He says he does not know if the Angels receive the souls of the unbaptized. In treating the sacrament of the Eucharist, Gregory was the first father who developed the view of transformation, for which transubstantiation was afterwards substituted to suit

the mediaeval philosophy.<sup>31</sup> Men and women were poised between an original, lost prototype of human nature, created by god *in his own image*, and revealed to the visible world in the shimmering “angelic” majesty of Adam and a fullness of humanity that would come about, through the restoration of Adam’s first state, at the resurrection.

### 3.2 Women and Ascetism:

In the late third and fourth centuries monastic life arose as the new vehicle for ascetic life. During the fourth and fifth centuries these shifting relations between asceticism, monasticism, and the clergy were still fluid. This period also show a remarkable flowering of female ascetics<sup>32</sup>. Gregory’s *On Virginity*, he strove to persuade his readers, small town intellectuals of rhetorical culture that the sexual renunciation with which so many men and women in Cappadocia had begun their stormy ventures in the new ascetic life could be spoken of in public in elevating, old fashioned term. Though female monasticism in particular had not yet hardened at a time when clerical control over monasticism in general. A remarkable women like Marcella (scion of the highest Roman nobility), Melania (the Elder), and Macrina, sister of Gregory were the self-starter who shaped their own forms of monastic life for themselves and other women. Gregory himself was married but he give credits to his sister as being the font of the ascetic life and architect of monastic community for his family and for his philosophical life. This is an indication of women’s co-existence with other male priests in monastic or ascetic life.

### 3.3 Sexuality and the Image of God:

Sexuality existed in human nature as the result of a merciful afterthought. Like the *garments of skin*, with which God had gently clothed Adam and Eve, so that they might endure their long exile from Paradise. Sexuality had been added to the original serene undifferentiation of human nature, along with, after Adam’s fall. Far from being a punishment, sexuality was a privileged sign of God’s abiding care. For God had foreseen that Adam would have need of it: in that sense, He had created human nature both *in his own Image* and also as *male and female*.<sup>33</sup> Like Philo and Origen, Gregory understands the term “image of God” of Gen.1:27 as being a purely spiritual, intellectual being, brought forth by God at the beginning as the created reflection of the divine logos. This intellectual being was incorporeal and immortal, lacking mortal body and gender. Yet God also gave this intellectual being free choice and anticipated that it would choose disobedience. Thus gender dualism as male and female was “added” by God from the beginning, not as an expression of the divine image itself, but as a non divine and alien characteristic in anticipation of the fall.<sup>34</sup> The virgin body was an exquisitely appropriate mirror, in which human beings could catch a glimpse of the immense purity of the *image of god*. In his opinion “virginity of body” was no more than s “method,” “devised to further a disposition of the soul”.

Gregory had no doubt the division of the sexes into male and female formed part of the present anomalous condition of human beings. This division made sexuality possible. Sexuality was designed for marriage and childbirth and it enabled human being to continue its forlorn attempt to stem the tide of death by producing progeny.<sup>35</sup> Sexuality, for him, meant reproduction and the continuity of the human race through reproduction was accepted by him as a sad, but faithful, echo of the abiding purposes of God. Sexuality and Marriage spoke of God’s gentle persistence in carrying the human race to its appointed fullness.<sup>36</sup> An exegetical study of the idea of the Image of God would clarify the doubts that are raised about the so called “Gender Dualism”. This is rather a one-sided view of human sexuality thereby decrying the component of pleasure associated with sexuality and the sexual act in particular. The

other aspect is the unawareness of the multiplicity of sexual orientations that are entwined with human sexuality.

### 3.4 Virginité and Marriage

Throughout his life Gregory's main exposition focuses on virginité and marriage. His treatise *On Virginité* is also a straight forward paean of virginité that emphasizes the virtues and benefits of the single life in part by pointing out the pitfalls and disadvantages of marriage.<sup>37</sup> Gregory's deliberate exaggeration of the Pains and problems of marital and family life served a deeper end, namely, to extol the superiority of marriage through a nontraditional understanding of its virtues. Gregory warns of the sheer difficulty in balancing God and family life. His early treatise *on virginité*, Gregory the church man and a married man, refuses to condemn marriage and its joys summarily and he knows how to describe them vividly. He comes in this way to blame marriage, because in most of the marriages that he was known, this virginité of the soul is conspicuously absent. But he does not blame the married state in itself; as he himself distinctly tells us. The virginité he seeks may exist even there, and it is not by any means the same thing as celibacy. However, only the life of chastity can really do justice to man's ultimate destiny, life in the freedom and power of the absolute holiness which embraces the soul as well as body. All destroying death lurks behind all the joys of the earth and the senses.<sup>38</sup>

The difficulties are twofold: on the one hand, marriage can lead to distraction and vulnerability to such vices. "It was by the accumulation of wealth, by the retaining of power, above all, by marriage and the search for direct and palpable continuity in the form of sons and daughters, with all the social arrangements which dynastic continuity implied for members of the upper classes, that human beings sought to remedy the discontinuities inflicted on them by death. As a result, Gregory's thought tended to glance off the individual body into the extended body of a human society forever braced against death."<sup>39</sup> Marriage, sexual intercourse and procreation then came about, both as the expression of bodies fallen into corruptibility and as the remedy for mortality, through the production of children. It requires necessary compromises that make it difficult to attain the goal of a single-minded focus on God.

To Gregory, the goal of virginité is to see God. Virginité is a means to restore the self to its original nature as image of God that can grow through voluntary obedience into the "likeness of God," the increasing approximation of the divine nature. Through virginité, as the renunciation of all ensnarement of the soul by bodily lusts and its increasing purification in union with God, the human being, approximates the redeemed life that will be completed through the joining of the soul to the resurrected body.<sup>40</sup> "Virginité is the practical method in the science of the divine life, furnishing men with the power of assimilating themselves with spiritual natures. Virginité of the body is devised to further such a disposition of the soul; it aims at creating in it a complete forgetfulness of natural emotions; it would prevent the necessity of ever descending to the call of fleshly needs. Purity of the heart, that master of our lives, alone can capture them."<sup>41</sup> Spirit must be freed, so as to the divine spirit and to be so freed a virginité of the soul is necessary. In this redemptive reascent to their divine source, women in their spiritual capacities stand as equal to men. The woman untouched flesh was both a mirror of the purity of her soul and a physical image of the virgin earth of the Garden of Eden<sup>42</sup>. Gregory does not envision women taking public leadership roles as priests or bishops. Women are not fully equal with men as fellow travelers, but, in the person of a holy sister like Macrina, can be both model and teacher for their weaker brothers.<sup>43</sup>

**Conclusion:** Gregory's transitions in his personal life situations appear not to have reviewed his stance on the concepts of virginity and marriage. Therefore it becomes difficult for one to develop a consensus on the subject. However, from another angle it can be argued that there is no connection between his definition of virginity or even marriage for that matter and the "single minded focus on God". It is rather illogical to connect the two diverse categories within a philosophy of "seeing God". His Compartmentalization of spirituality based on whether the woman is a virgin or not is a question.

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# The Performance, Challenges and Future Prospects of Life Insurance Sector in India a Study with Special Reference to Kerala

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## ABSTRACT

Life insurance has emerged as an important industry in the complex modern world, since risk which can be insured has increased enormously in every walk of life. This has led to the growth of insurance business and evolution of various types of insurance products and theories of life insurance. Its importance varies with the economic, political and social conditions of each nation. In general, the more economically advanced a country is, the greater the role played by insurance. The Life Insurance Corporation of India remained the only business firm for providing life insurance in India since 1956.

However, the liberalization in life insurance sector in India in 1999 led to tremendous transformation from monopoly business to a vibrant sector. The entire sector has started to show significant changes right from increasing life insurance penetration, life insurance density to changing the customers mindset about the life insurance. Creative practices in marketing and innovative policies have changed the entire dimensions of the life insurance sector. The present study *The Performance, Challenges and Future Prospects of Life Insurance Sector in India A Study with Special Reference to Kerala* is an analytical study that examines in detail the life insurance sector in India in terms of its performance, the impact of liberalization in the performance of life insurance sector, problems of life insurers and the future prospects of life insurance sector in Kerala.

**Key words:** *life insurance sector, performance, impact of liberalization, life insurance penetration, life insurance density, performance efficiency, challenges, future prospects, private insurers, public insurer*

**Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To evaluate the performance efficiency of life insurers.
2. To identify the factors that enabled the performance efficiency of life insurers.
3. To identify the major challenges or problems faced by the life insurers.
4. To analyze the future prospects of life insurance sector

**METHODOLOGY**

Sources of Data

The study has used both secondary and primary data. The secondary data collected to study the Performance of life insurance in India’ pertains to the period from 2006-07 to 2013-14. The secondary data were collected from the official publications like the Annual Reports of IRDA, Annual Reports of Life Insurers, Insurance Journal, Economic review, Economic survey and books.

The primary data were collected using structured interview schedules from the managers of insurance companies as well as the policyholders. Separate interview schedules were prepared for both the managers and the policy holders.

**Sample framework**The target population was the Policy holder of life insurance and the managers of Life insurers in Kerala. Sample size consisted of 330 policyholders and 120 managers.

Tools used

**Data Envelopment Analysis** is used to measure performance efficiency of the life insurers.

**One sample t-test** is used to compare the actual mean value of the responses with a prefixed mean value.

**Friedman’s Test** is used to find out the most dominant or influencing factors from among a large number of variables factors.

Data analysis

Objective 1 To evaluate the performance efficiency of life insurers

Data Envelopment Analysis was used to measure performance efficiency of the life insurers. In order to conduct data envelopment analysis, three inputs viz., (i) labour cost ( $x_1$ ), (ii) operating expenses ( $x_2$ ) and (iii) commission paid ( $x_3$ ) and two outputs viz., (i) premium earned ( $y_1$ ) and (ii) income from investments ( $y_2$ ) were used. Mean value of **one** shows production on the frontier or most efficient method of production and **zero** measures the least efficient performance. Mean Value of Efficiencies of the Insurers under the Constant Returns to Scale (CRS) & Variable Returns to Scale (VRS) situations and scale efficiency (SE) is given below.

**Table 1 Mean Value of Efficiencies of the Insurers under the CRS & VRS Situations**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
CRS	0.727	<b>0.532</b>	<b>0.709</b>	<b>0.732</b>	<b>0.733</b>	0.716	<b>0.911</b>	0.862
VRS	0.906	0.933	0.895	<b>0.865</b>	<b>0.905</b>	<b>0.904</b>	<b>0.931</b>	0.875
SE	0.695	0.563	0.792	0.828	0.800	0.779	0.974	0.971

Source: Compiled from Researcher’s calculations

Table 1 shows that the efficiency of the industry average increased during the period 2007-08 to 2012-13 from 0.727 to 0.911 under the CRS situation. But there was a reduction in the efficiency during 2013-14.

As far as the VRS situation is concerned, the efficiency of the industry increased 0.695 in 2006-07 to 0.931 in 2012-13. There was a reduction in 2013-14. The scale efficiency increased from 0.695 2006-07 to 0.971 in 2013-14. The industry thus experienced improvement in efficiency during the period.

**Objective 2 To identify the factors that enabled the performance efficiency of life insurers.**

In order to identify the factors responsible for the better performance of life insurers 13 variables were selected on the basis literature review. They are given under three heads:

**Innovative Services in Insurance Business:** These include (i) participation of commercial banks in insurance business, (ii) insurance penetration, (iii) development and effective use of new distribution channels, (iv) insurance awareness with increased level of advertisements and (v) easy mobilization of funds for infrastructural development.

**Factors in Quality Improvement:** These include (i) elimination of monopolistic business by the LIC, (ii) better customer service, (iii) introduction of new range of products, (iv) improvement in variety and price of insurance products and clearly laid price structure and differentiation.

**Factors for Growth Orientation:** These include:(i) Decline in market share of LIC,(ii) Tremendous growth in life insurance business. The opinion of managers of public and private life insurance companies was sought on these variables in a five point Likert’s scale. The variables with mean score more than three are identified as the important areas influential in increasing efficiency. Afterwards, Friedman’s test was applied to find out the most important factors which led to the improvement in efficiency.

**Table 2 Factors responsible for better performance of life insurers**

Factors	Mean score	Mean rank	Chi-square value	p-value
Elimination of monopolistic business by LIC	3.91	6.28		
Introduction of new range of products	4.13	7.06		
Better customer service	4.27	7.60		
Improvement in variety and price of insurance products	4.07	6.73		
Insurance penetration	3.97	6.34		
Easy mobilization of funds for infrastructural development	4.11	6.97		
Participation of commercial banks in insurance business (bancassurance)	4.19	7.22	48.939	<0.000**
Clearly laid price structure and differentiation	4.28	7.95		
Decline in market share of LIC	3.81	6.04		
Product innovation and flexibility	4.20	7.33		
Tremendous growth in life insurance business	4.13	7.00		
Insurance awareness with increased level of advertisements	4.10	6.93		
Development and effective use of new distribution channels	4.28	7.55		

Source: Field Survey

Note: \*\* denotes significant at 1% level of significance.

Table 2 shows that the most important factors which lead to improvement in efficiency after liberalization are i) better customer service (mean rank 7.60), ii) development and effective use of new distribution channels (mean rank 7.55), iii) Clearly laid price structure and differentiation (7.95) iv) product innovation and flexibility (mean rank 7.33) v) participation of commercial banks in insurance business (mean rank 7.22).

Objective 3 To identify the major challenges or problems faced by the life insurers.

In order to identify the problems faced by life insurers 13 variables were selected under three heads:

**Distribution Problems;** These include (i) product customization, (ii) creating insurance awareness among the customers, (iii) maximization of wealth, (iv) brand building, (v) establishing distribution channel, (vi) increasing customer expectation, (vii) expanding product portfolio, (viii) tapping niche market and (ix) product positioning,

**Factors causing Inefficiency;** These include (i) non-existence of long term development strategies, (ii) shortage of trained insurance personnel, (iii) difficulty in integrating insurance products, (iv) falling premium income, (v) intense competition, (vi) difficulty in designing marketing mix .

**Technological up gradation Problems;** These items are concerned with (i) problems of rural marketing and, (ii) relentless technological progress.

The opinion of the managers of public and private life insurance companies was sought on these variables in a five point Likert's scale. The variables with mean score more than three (average of five points in the Likert's scale) were identified as the problems or challenges. Afterwards, Friedman's test was applied to find out the most dominant problems or challenges faced by the life insurers.

**Table 3: Problems and challenges of life insurers**

Problems	Mean score	Mean rank	Chi-square value	p-value
Elimination of monopolistic business by LIC	3.91	6.28		
Introduction of new range of products	4.13	7.06		
Better customer service	4.27	7.60		
Improvement in variety and price of insurance products	4.07	6.73		
Insurance penetration	3.97	6.34		
Easy mobilization of funds for infrastructural development	4.11	6.97		
Participation of commercial banks in insurance business (bancassurance)	4.19	7.22	48.939	<0.000**
Tremendous employment opportunities	4.28	7.95		
Decline in market share of LIC	3.81	6.04		
Product innovation and flexibility	4.20	7.33		
Tremendous growth in life insurance business	4.13	7.00		
Insurance awareness with increased level of advertisements	4.10	6.93		
Development and effective use of new distribution channels	4.28	7.55		

Source: Field Survey

Note: \*\* denotes significant at 1% level of significance.

Table 3 shows that on comparison of the mean rank, five variables are identified as the dominant problems or challenges faced by the life insurers. They are (i) expanding the product portfolio (mean rank 11.64), (ii) continuous increase of customer expectation (mean rank 11.63), (iii) problems of product positioning (mean rank 11.61), (iv) establishing new distribution channels (mean rank 10.93), and (v) creation of awareness among the people or educating the customer (mean rank 10.76).

**Objective 4 To analyze the future prospects of life insurance sector**

The future prospects of life insurance business was analysed by means of 12 variables. They were grouped under the following:

**Growth Potentials:** These items are concerned with the (i) long term savings instrument at low risk, (ii) strong growth potential of the country, (iii) huge population base and untapped market, (iv) increased life expectancy and (v) high demand for protection and investment.

**High Sales Opportunities:** These items are associated with the (i) high savings ratio and scope for micro insurance, (ii) limited social security from the government, (iii) reduced dependence on tied agents and (iv) lowest insurance density.

**Improvement in Productivity:** These items are concerned with (i) increased focus on sales quality, (ii) improvement in sales force productivity and emergence of new distribution channels and (iii) shift in product mix,

The opinion of the managers of public and private life insurance companies was sought on these variables in a five point Likert’s scale. The variables with mean score more than three were identified as the most important areas on which the future prospects of the life insurance business lies. Afterwards, Friedman’s test was applied to find out the most important area in which the life insurance business has future prospects.

**Table 4: Future Prospects**

Factors	Mean score	Mean rank	Chi-square value	p-value
1. Huge population base & large untapped market	4.14	7.01		
2. Strong growth potential of the country (about 80% of the human beings have not been insured in the changing economic global era)	4.21	7.43		
3. Long term savings instrument at low risk	4.23	7.51		
4. Increased life expectancy	4.11	6.97		
5. Limited social security from the government (less than 4% of the population is covered under any social security scheme)	4.04	6.76		
6. Shift in product mix (customer profiling, product innovation and distribution)	4.06	6.70		
7. Increased focus on sales quality (low awareness among the customers, poor training of the sales force and short term performance focused incentives)	3.90	6.08	90.407	<0.000**
8. Reduced dependence on tied agents (increasing contribution from non-agent channels like bancassurance, brokers and direct selling)	3.63	5.17		

9. Improvement in sales force productivity & emergence of new distribution channels	3.80	5.50
10.Lowest insurance density indicating significant growth opportunity	4.00	6.25
11. Cutbacks in spending and high demand for protection and investment	3.98	6.21
12.High savings ratio and scope for micro insurance	4.01	6.42

Source: Field Survey

Note: \*\* denotes significant at 1% level of significance.

Table 4 depicts that on comparison of the mean rank, five variables are identified as the principal areas in which the future prospects of life insurance business lie. They are (i) long term savings instrument at low risk (mean rank 7.51), (ii) strong growth potential of the country (mean rank 7.43), huge population base & large untapped market (mean rank 7.01), increased life expectancy (mean rank 6.97) and limited social security from the government (mean rank 6.76).

### CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the life insurance sector has been successful in improving the productive efficiency of life insurers after liberalisation. The important factors which lead to improvement in efficiency after liberalization are i) better customer service, ii) development and effective use of new distribution channels,iii) clearly laid price structure and differentiation iv) product innovation and flexibility v) participation of commercial banks in insurance business .

The important challenges that need to be effectively managed are expansion of the product portfolio, continuous increase of customer expectation, dealing with the problems of product positioning, establishing new distribution channels and educating the customers.

The principal areas in which life insurance business has got its future prospects are (i) long term savings instrument at low risk, (ii) strong growth potential of the country, (iii) huge population base & large untapped market, (iv) increased life expectancy and (v) limited social security from the government.

The findings and suggestions of the study shall help the insurers increasing a better awareness about life-insurance business. expand their product portfolio, meet the customer expectations, and overcome the problems of product positioning.

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# **Pomegranate Peel-a Low Cost Adsorbent for the Removal of Cationic Dyes from Waste Water**

**Suma Bino Thomas & Anu Ramakrishnan**

## **ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the potential of Pomegranate peel as a low cost adsorbent for the removal of cationic dyes namely Malachite Green (MG), Methylene blue (MB) and Crystal violet (CV) from simulated waste water. The morphology and chemical structure of the adsorbent were investigated by characterization techniques such as Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopy. The adsorption kinetics was studied using the pseudo-first order and pseudo-second order models. The adsorption isotherms were studied using the Langmuir and Freundlich models. The Pseudo second order model was the more adequate to represent the adsorption kinetic, while the equilibrium was well represented by the Freundlich model.

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**Key words:** *Adsorption, Methylene Blue, Malachite Green and Crystal Violet.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Environmental pollution due to industrial effluents is of major concern because of their toxicity and threat for human life and the environment. The discharge of textile effluents to the water bodies has raised much concern because of potential health hazards associated with the entry of toxic components into the food chains of humans and animals. Synthetic dyes are extensively used for dyeing and printing in a variety of industries. Synthetic dyes usually have a complex aromatic molecular struc-

ture such as benzene, naphthalene, anthracene, toluene, xylene, etc. The complex aromatic molecular structures of dyes make them more stable and difficult to biodegrade. Most of these dye wastes are toxic and may be carcinogenic. Many of these organic dyes are hazardous and may affect the aquatic life and even the food chain.

There are a whole range of physical/chemical methods which have been effectively employed for colour removal, namely adsorption, membrane filtration, chemical oxidation, dissolved air floatation, coagulation/precipitation and electrochemical methods. Adsorption is the most effective and non-destructive technique that is widely used for the removal of dyes from aqueous solutions. Adsorption has been found to be superior to other techniques for water re-use in terms of initial cost, simplicity of design, use of operation and insensitivity to toxic substances. Adsorption has been used extensively in industrial process for separation and purification. The removal of coloured and colourless organic pollutants from industrial wastewater is considered as an important application of adsorption processes.

At present, there is a growing interest in using low cost, commercially available materials for the adsorption of dyes. A wide variety of materials such as potato peel, peat, various silica, activated clay, banana pith, natural manganese mineral, shale oil ash, goat hair, alum sludge, natural zeolite, and mixtures of fly ash and soil have been investigated as low-cost alternatives to activated carbon. Many studies have been conducted to evaluate adsorption of dyes onto a wide range of natural and synthetic, organic and inorganic sorbents.

The aim of the present work is to evaluate the feasibility of using pomegranate peel as low cost adsorbents for the removal of cationic dyes namely Methylene blue, Malachite green and Crystal violet. The study of effect of contact time, adsorbent dosage, and concentration on adsorption is also included. Kinetic and equilibrium models were studied in order to elucidate the adsorption process.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Three different dyes namely Crystal violet, Methylene blue and Malachite green were bought from Nice Chemicals, Kerala. The stock solution of these dyes were prepared in distilled water.

The adsorbent, Pomegranate peel were collected and washed with distilled water. The collected Fruit peel of Pomegranate was cleaned dried in a hot air oven at 50°C for 48 hours. Dried peels were powdered using a grinder and sieved. The adsorbents were characterized by IR spectroscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy.

### **Effect of adsorbent dose**

The study was carried out with different dose of adsorbent of 400 µm average particle size ie; 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5 g. The concentrations of samples were 100mg/L and treated at room temperature for one hour.

### **Effect of agitation time**

The experiments were carried out by taking 50 ml samples of dyes (concentration 100 mg/L) in separate flasks and treated with 0.05g of adsorbent dose at room temperature and was shaken well in an automatic shaker. The time period was varied from 10 min to 60 minutes and after each 10min, adsorbent was removed by filtration and absorbance of the filtrate was measured.

### Effect of concentration

The samples were treated with constant dose of adsorbent (50mg) for one hour at room temperature. The concentrations of the adsorbate were 25, 50, 75, 100,125 and 150 mg/L.

### Adsorption Isotherm

Batch adsorption experiments were carried out in a shaker using 250ml-shaking flasks at room temperature for 60 min. The adsorbent (0.5 g) was thoroughly mixed with 50 mL of dyes solutions. The isotherm studies were performed by varying the initial dyes concentrations from 25 to 150 mg/L. After shaking the flasks for 60 min, the reaction mixture was analyzed for the residual dyes concentration.

### Kinetics studies

Adsorption studies were conducted in 250-mL Iodine flasks and was thoroughly mixed individually with 50mL of dyes solution (100 and 125 mg/L) and the suspensions were shaken at room temperature. Samples were collected from the flasks at required time intervals viz.10, 20,30,40,50, and 60 min by filtration. The clear solutions were analyzed for residual dyes concentration in the solutions photometrically.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

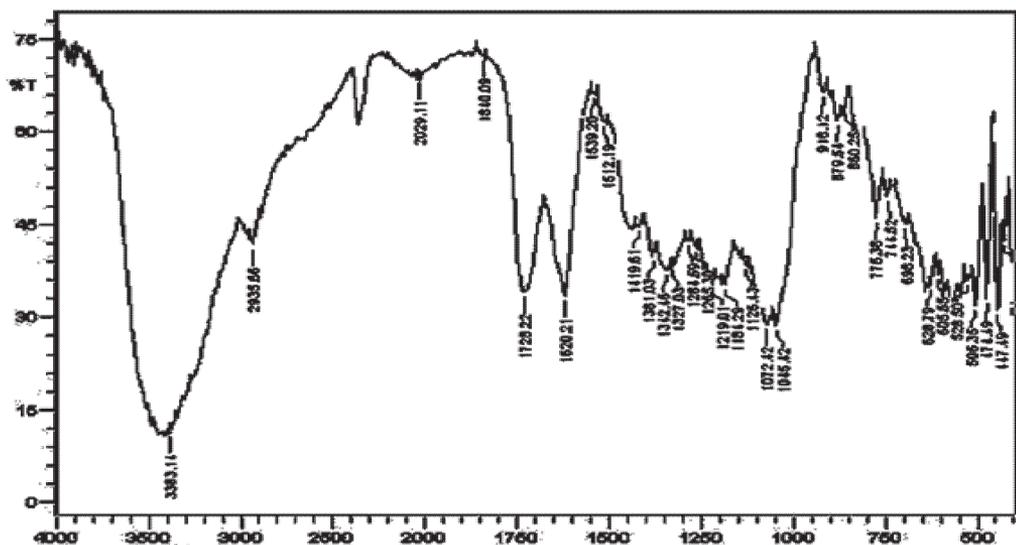
Adsorption of dye, methylene blue (MB), malachite green (MG) and crystal violet (CV) which are cationic in nature, were studied on Pomegranate peel as a function of amount of adsorbent, agitation time and concentration of adsorbate.

### IR-characterisation of the adsorbent

In order to gain better insight into the surface functional groups available on the surface of the different investigated adsorbents, the IR spectra of adsorbent before and after adsorption of dye were recorded.

The IR spectrum of pomegranate peel shows peaks at 3383.01 and 2935.11cm<sup>-1</sup> which refers to group (-OH), identical alkyl group (-CH<sub>2</sub>-) and aldehyde group (-CHO),

Fig. 1. FTIR Spectrum of Pomegranate peel powder

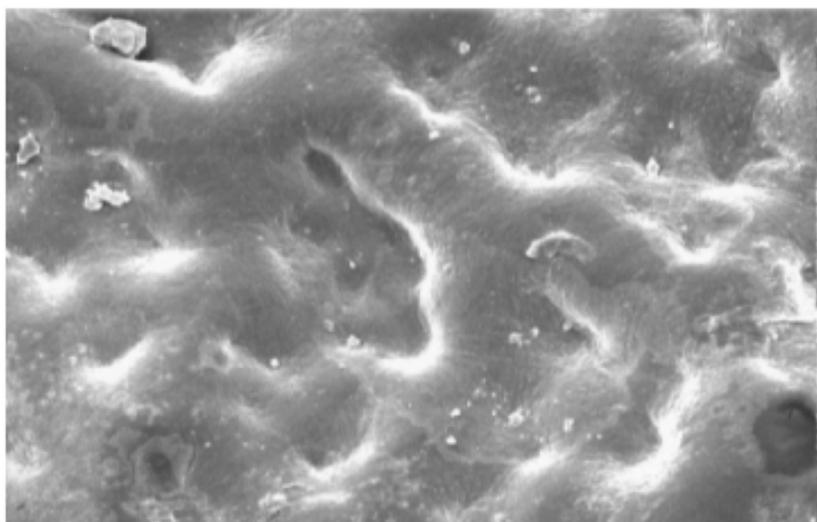


respectively. Also, the spectrum shows bands at 1720.77 and 1015.60  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were to be the presence of (C=C) and (C-O), respectively. The surface IR characterization of Pomegranate peel indicated the presence of many functional groups which were able to bind with the cationic dyes. The band at 3383.01  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was attributed to the surface hydroxyl groups and chemisorbed water.

An examination of the adsorbent before and after sorption reaction possibly provides information regarding the surface a group that might have participated in the adsorption reaction and also indicates the surface sites on which adsorption has taken place. It was found that the spectra of treated sorbents did not differ significantly from the spectrum of the "parent" (untreated) material, suggesting that the treatment procedures did not change substantially the peel structure.

### **Scanning Electron Microscopy**

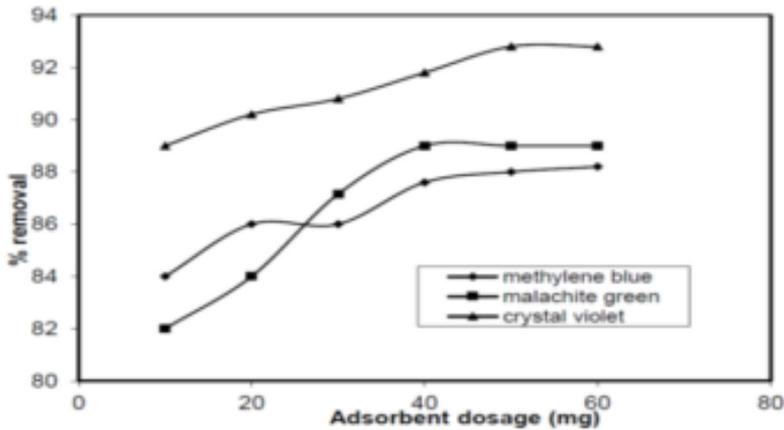
SEM analysis is another useful tool for the analysis of the surface morphology of an adsorbent. The porous and irregular surface structure of the adsorbent can be clearly observed in SEM images shown in Figure 2. It clearly reveals the porous surface textures which endorse the adsorbent with increased surface area and high adsorption capacity. The heterogeneous pores and cavities provided a larger exposed surface area for the adsorption of metal ions.



**Fig.2. SEM of Pomegranate peel**

### **Effect of adsorbent dose**

The effect of adsorbent dose was also investigated for the removal of dyes from aqueous solution. The experiments were carried out with adsorbent dose varied from 10 to 60 mg with keeping other parameters constant. The removal of dyes was found to be 82-89%, 84-88.2% and 89-92.8% in case of malachite green, methylene blue and crystal violet respectively (Figure.2). The increase in removal of dyes with adsorbent dose is due to the introduction of more binding sites for adsorption.

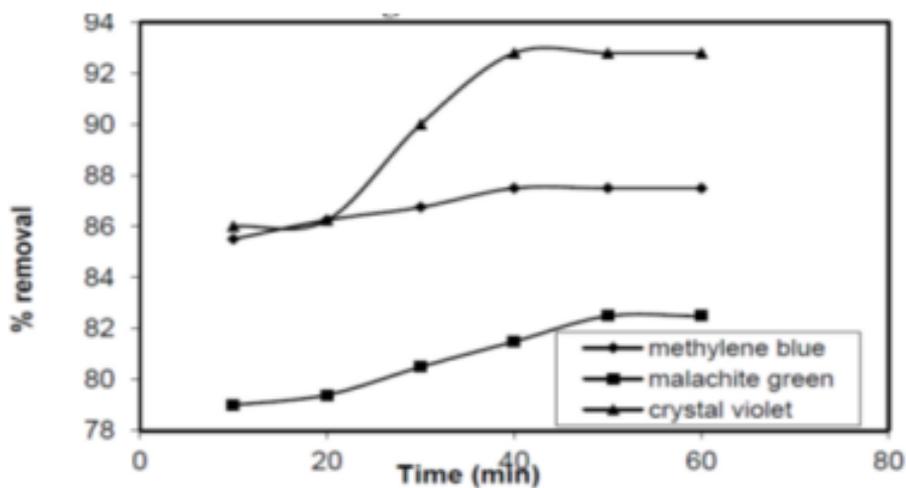


**Fig.3. Effect of adsorbent dosage**

The peel consists mainly of cellulose and lignin. Numerous hydroxyl groups in the molecules of these compounds represent main active sites for binding of ionic compounds, usually by an ion-exchange mechanism. However, some other binding mechanisms may occur on the peel sorbents, such as hydrogen bonding or hydrophobic interactions on the non-polar moieties of the peel matrix. Peel is effective for removal of dye ions from water because of its high content of polyhydroxypolyphenolic groups that are capable of chelating dye ions. In addition, peel contains carboxylic groups, which can bind dye ions by ion-exchange mechanisms.

#### Effect of Shaking Time

The time-dependent behaviour of dye adsorption was examined by varying the contact time between adsorbate and adsorbent in the range of 10-60 min.

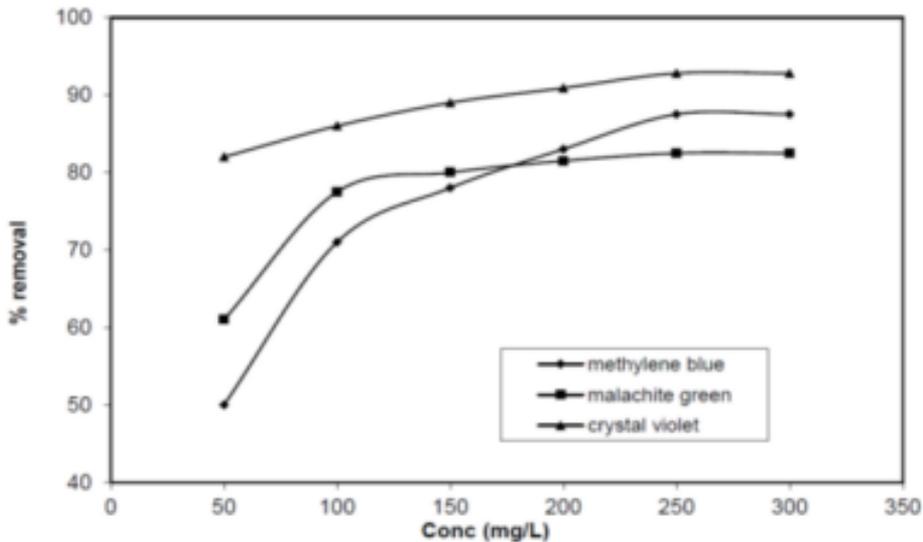


**Fig.4. Effect of time**

The concentrations of dyes were kept as 200mg/L while the amount of adsorbents added was 0.06 g. The dyes remaining plotted at a function of contact time (Figure.3.) showed that the equilibrium between dyes and the adsorbents was attained within 40 min.

**Effect of initial concentration**

The effect of concentration of dyes (50 to 300 mg/L) has been also tested with constant dose of adsorbent. The removal of dyes increased first from 83.5 to 87.5% in case of MB, 78.5 to 82.5 in case of CV and 85.75 to 92.8% in case of MG, reached a maximum value and remains constant (Fig.3). The results indicated that the adsorption of dyes is much dependent on concentration of solution.



**Fig.4. Effect of initial concentration**

**Isotherm data analysis**

The parameters obtained from the different isotherm models provide important information on the adsorption mechanisms and the surface properties and affinities of the adsorbent. The most widely accepted surface adsorption models for single-solute systems are the Langmuir and Freundlich models.

**Table.1. Kinetic parameters for Freundlich Isotherm**

Dyes	Statistical parameter constant		
	R <sup>2</sup>	K	n
Malachite Green	0.8839	158.48	1.5
Methylene Blue	0.9851	177.82	1.8
Crystal Violet	0.9544	178.27	1.9

Langmuir and Freundlich isotherms are used for fitting the experimental data in adsorption studies to understand the extent and degree of favourability of adsorption. According to the obtained data for the model parameters it is obvious that Freundlich equilibrium model is favourable. Taking into consideration the values of the coefficient of correlation as criteria for goodness of fit, for most investigated Systems the Freundlich equation gives a better correlation between the theoretical and experimental data for the whole concentration range when compared with Langmuir equations.

The Freundlich constant,  $n$  also indicates the degree of favourability of adsorption. The Freundlich constant,  $n$  have values lying in the range of 1 to 10 for classification as favourable adsorption. A smaller value of  $(1/n)$  indicates a stronger bond between adsorbate and adsorbent while a higher value for  $K$  indicates rate of adsorbate removal is high. Hence it should be noted that the Isotherm constants are important in understanding the adsorption mechanism and their subsequent application for prediction of some important design parameters. **3.7. Kinetic models applied to the adsorption of MB, MG and CV**

Several steps can be used to examine the controlling mechanism of adsorption process such as chemical reaction, diffusion control and mass transfer; kinetic models are used to test experimental data from the adsorption of MB, MG onto CV. The kinetics of dyes adsorption onto pomegranate peel is required for selecting optimum operating conditions for the full-scale batch process.

The kinetic parameters, which are helpful for the prediction of adsorption rate, give important information for designing and modelling the adsorption processes. Thus, the kinetics of MB, MG and CV adsorption onto pomegranate peel were analyzed using pseudo-first-order and pseudo second order kinetic models. The conformity between experimental data and the model-predicted values was expressed by the correlation coefficients ( $R^2$ , values close or equal to 1). The relatively higher value is the more applicable model to the kinetics of dye adsorption onto pomegranate peel.

**Table.2. The rate constant for Pseudo-second order adsorption**

Dyes	Statistical parameter constant		
	K	$q_e$	$R^2$
Malachite Green	$3.570 \times 10^{-5}$	2000	0.9991
Methylene Blue	$3.429 \times 10^{-5}$	1800	0.9963
Crystal Violet	$3.840 \times 10^{-5}$	5100	0.9943

## CONCLUSION

Adsorption was an effective process for decolourisation of textile waste waters. Although activated carbon was the most effective sorbent, other low cost sorbents could be used for colour removal. The final choice of the sorbent is a matter of economics. Batch studies confirm that pomegranate peel used as low cost adsorbent can be used as a substitute for high cost adsorbents. The removal of Malachite Green, Methylene Blue and Crystal Violet dye using pomegranate peel as adsorbent was systematically investigated under different experimental conditions. The adsorption capacity of pomegranate peel decreased in the order crystal violet (CV) > malachite green (MG) > methylene blue (MB), the % adsorption is almost having the same range. i.e. 89-92.8%.

The pseudo second-order reaction rate model adequately described the kinetics of dyes sorption with high correlation coefficients. A good fitting of dyes sorption equilibrium data is obtained with Freundlich model in all the range of dyes concentrations studied. The present study concludes that they could be employed as low-cost adsorbents as alternatives to commercial activated carbon and other costly adsorbents for the removal of dyes from wastewater over a wide range of concentrations.

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